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*Preserving America's Heritage*

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## **Department of Energy, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Recognized for Precedent-Setting Solution**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) gave its Chairman’s Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation to a Prototype Programmatic Agreement that streamlined and speeded compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for a series of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act programs and projects administered by the Department of Energy.

Sharing the award with the Department of Energy were the nation’s State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), who largely administer provisions of the NHPA in each state and territory.

Accepting the awards were LeAnn Oliver, Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Manager, Department of Energy; and Ruth Pierpont, President, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and New York Deputy SHPO.

“When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act became law, the sudden influx of projects threatened to overwhelm the capacity of SHPOs to provide timely historic preservation reviews,” said ACHP Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, who presented the awards. “Thanks to the proactive work of SHPOs and federal agencies—notably the effort we are recognizing today—we found appropriate ways to get essential projects underway while considering the importance of historic places.”

The agreement forged between SHPOs and the Department of Energy expedited preservation reviews while improving coordination among state energy agencies and SHPOs representing 57 states and territories. The agreement related to three programs administered by the Department of Energy. They are Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, State Energy Plans, and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

**About the ACHP:** An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the economic, educational, environmental, sustainability, and cultural values of historic preservation and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also influences federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic and cultural properties. See [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov) for more information.

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