



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND



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## Locating and Documenting our Historic Places

*The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is a fund established by Congress in 1976 to help support our Nation’s historic preservation program. Each year, a small fraction of Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues (\$150 million) is to be used for both State and Tribal Historic preservation programs to help cover the cost of locating and documenting historic resources, reviewing federal projects, writing and assisting with National Register nominations, and awarding grants to local communities. Congress has yet to keep that promise.*

Locating and documenting historic resources as well as analyzing the impact of federal projects on those resources are key responsibilities of both State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs and THPOs). Accurate data and information makes it possible to consider and evaluate what historic resources are important and the impact of federal projects on places important to our Nation’s history.

As a result of annual HPF under-funding, States and Tribes are struggling to adequately locate, document, digitize and make available the records of America’s historic resources (see box below). With increased pressure to “streamline” project delivery times, road-builders, energy producers, developers and and other job

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### The Numbers:

- Only 55% of surveyed historic resources have been digitized
- 29.4% - Average of each state surveyed for historic buildings
- 5.8% - Average of each state surveyed for historic landscapes.
- 9.9% - Average of each state surveyed for archaeological resources.
- 71% - of states have more than 10,000 resources in need of re-survey.
- 66% of states report it would take 3 or more years to complete survey & digitization efforts (see map).
- 76% of states report their survey and digitization programs are piecemeal, with some elements working better than others.
- 95% of states report lack of digital records hampers their ability to conduct project reviews.

creators rely on data and technology to help them make sound decisions. Too often, many States and Tribes lack adequate and accessible data and reliable Geographic Information Systems (GIS) necessary to make informed and efficient decisions. Furthermore, large areas of our county have either never been surveyed or have not been surveyed in 30 years - making the current information woefully inaccurate.

Good decisions require good information. It’s time for the HPF to be used for its intended purpose - to find and save and properly utilize America’s historic resources.

