The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office received a $500,000 grant to prepare National Register nominations for African American historic properties throughout the state. By the completion of the project in 2018, eight Rosenwald Schools were successfully nominated to the National Register, including the former Canetuck Rosenwald School (above), now the Canetuck Community Center, in Currie, North Carolina.

PHOTO COURTESY NORTH CAROLINA HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The Underrepresented Community Grant Program is a small but important program that enables the National Park Service (NPS) to better recognize, preserve, and interpret the stories of historically disenfranchised and underrepresented groups. Grants support projects to survey, inventory, and nominate new sites or amend previous listings to increase diversity represented in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and as National Historic Landmarks (NHL).

As our nation struggles to reconcile the difficult moments in our history and create a more inclusive future, this grant program can be used to identify and protect the places that tell the stories of all Americans.

**Underrepresented Community Grant Program**

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**FY 2022 Appropriations Request**

Please support $1 million for the Underrepresented Community Grant Program in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

**APPROPRIATIONS BILL:** Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
**AGENCY:** National Park Service  
**ACCOUNT:** Historic Preservation Fund  
**ACTIVITY:** Competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks associated with communities currently underrepresented

**Recent Funding History:**
- FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $750,000  
- FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $750,000  
- FY 2021 Enacted Funding: $1 million  
- FY 2022 President’s Budget Request: TBD  
- FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation: $1 million

**JUSTIFICATION:** Increased funding for the Underrepresented Community Grant Program will further protect and interpret America’s diverse heritage and support economic opportunities in local communities. It would also allow for more nominations to the National Register or NHL, or amendments to existing nominations to be more inclusive.
Underrepresented Community Grant Program: Highlighted Projects

New York City LGBT Historic Sites Survey and Nomination Project, New York
FY 2019 $25,000; FY 2018 $25,000; FY 2016 $49,999; FY 2014 $49,999
Over the years, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has received multiple grants to support the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Program, an effort to expand public recognition of sites associated with LGBTQ communities in New York City. As of January 2021, seven properties have been successfully added to the National Register and 310 sites across the city have been documented. The most recent round of funding will support efforts to nominate women’s history sites to the National Register.

Filipino American Statewide Context and Survey, Washington
FY 2019 $50,000
The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation is undertaking an inventory of Filipino-American sites along with a historic context development. The Filipino community has been an integral part of Washington’s history and immigrants often married Native American women with descendants having both Indian and Filipino connections and heritage. The agency, working with the Filipino American National Historical Society, hopes this study will raise awareness of the places associated with our Filipino American citizens.

Spanish and Mexican American Sites in Tucson Nomination Project, Arizona
FY 2017 $42,760
The National Historic Landmark-eligible, Barrio Viejo is a neighborhood located in the traditional Hispanic area of Tucson, parts of which date back to the 1860s. It contains Barrio Libre, a National Register-listed historic district, significant for its collection of Sonoran row house architecture. The Arizona Department of Parks is using grant funds to update the inventory of Barrio Libre and the broader Barrio Viejo neighborhood and provide context development in support of the National Historic Landmark nomination.

Cupeño Traditional Cultural Landscape Nomination, California
FY 2018 $49,531
The Pala Band of Mission Indians was pleased to receive an Underrepresented Community Grant to prepare a National Register nomination for a deeply significant part of the traditional territory of the Kuupangawichum (Cupeño) people. The Pala Band of Mission Indians in California received a $49,531 grant to nominate a deeply significant part of the traditional territory of the Kuupangawichum (Cupeño) people, including portions of the village of Kupa, from which the Cupeño were forcibly removed by the federal government in 1903. The land surrounding Kupa includes the Kupa cemetery, the chapel of St. Francis of Assisi, and numerous cultural, historic, and sacred sites.

The NN Cannery History Project, Alaska
FY 2015 $33,153
The NN Cannery History Project was created to preserve the stories of the diverse and often underrecognized cannery workers who labored at the old NN Cannery, Alaska’s most important salmon fishery. This grant was used to nominate the Diamond NN Cannery Maritime Historic District to the National Register and organize a Digital Storytelling Workshop in Naknek with Bristol Bay High School students.

Historic Context for Women’s Suffrage and Social History in Nevada, Nevada
FY 2018 $46,415
The Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer (NVSHPO) will use this grant to conduct archival research and outreach to women’s organizations in Nevada to draft a report of women’s history in the state, with an emphasis on suffrage and women in leadership. They will also use this report to identify places that tell a woman’s story with the goal to nominate a site to the National Register. The NVSHPO is currently seeking subgrant proposals to complete this important work.

New York City LGBT Historic Sites Survey and Nomination Project, New York
FY 2019 $25,000; FY 2018 $25,000; FY 2016 $49,999; FY 2014 $49,999
Over the years, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has received multiple grants to support the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Program, an effort to expand public recognition of sites associated with LGBTQ communities in New York City. As of January 2021, seven properties have been successfully added to the National Register and 310 sites across the city have been documented. The most recent round of funding will support efforts to nominate women’s history sites to the National Register.

African American Resources in North Carolina Nomination Project, North Carolina
FY 2015 $70,000
The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office used this grant to prepare National Register nominations for African American historic properties throughout the state. By the completion of the project in 2018, a number of properties were successfully listed in the National Register, including eight Rosenwald School sites, two historic African American cemeteries, and the College Heights Historic District near North Carolina Central University, an HBCU in Durham. The recognition of the Rosenwald properties and the College Heights Historic District supports local preservation efforts to enhance fundraising and leverage federal, state, and local rehabilitation tax credits. The preservation of the cemetery sites helps to celebrate the thriving post-Civil War freedman villages and serves as a physical reminder of the important contributions made by African Americans in the state.

For additional information, contact Shaw Sprague, Vice President of Government Relations and Policy, SSprague@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6339 or Tom Cassidy, Senior Advisor, TCassidy@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6078.