Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of our nation’s diverse historic resources and advises the President and the Congress on national historic preservation policies.

Background
The ACHP oversees administrative rulemaking for preservation programs, assists in resolving conflicts arising from Section 106 reviews of federal undertakings, identifies efficiencies in the review process of infrastructure projects, and engages in other preservation issues. It is also responsible for advising the Administration, Congress, and state agencies on legislative, regulatory, and administrative policies related to historic preservation and tribal consultation.

In FY 2022, the ACHP will continue its work to develop efficiencies for Section 106 review of federal undertakings. It will also advance actions identified through its “Leveraging Federal Historic Buildings Working Group” that identified opportunities to lease federal buildings for adaptive reuse. The ACHP will implement findings from its “Digital Information Task Force” that can bring 21st century mapping tools into greater use to identify and protect historic resources in more efficient agency planning. And the ACHP will advance the work of its “Preservation Trades Training Task Force” that will enable future skilled craftsmen to learn preservation trades while contributing to the maintenance of federal historic properties.

The ACHP also performs a critical role in the long-range planning necessary to respond to natural disasters as well as in the emergency response and recovery from disasters.

FY 2022 Appropriations Request

Please support $8 million for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Recent Funding History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$6.890 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>$7.400 million</td>
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<td>FY 2022 President’s Budget Request:</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation:</td>
<td>$8.000 million</td>
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JUSTIFICATION: An increase in funding would enhance the ACHP’s performance of its essential roles in ensuring that the nation’s historic and cultural resources are protected, including implementing the Administration’s commitment to racial equity, while also advancing timely delivery of major infrastructure projects, and enhancing consultation with Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and intertribal organizations.
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Section 106 Success Stories

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI VA MEDICAL CENTER, WISCONSIN

In 1865, President Lincoln signed a law creating the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to care for Union soldiers disabled during the Civil War. Established in 1867, the Northwestern Branch was the second such facility for veterans. The “Homes” provided both medical and residential services for veterans along with employment, educational, and recreation opportunities.

After multiple periods of expansion, the facility was transferred to the Veterans Administration, the precursor to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and was renamed the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center (VAMC). The most historic section of campus was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011.

In 2010, the VAMC wanted to build a new Community Living Center (CLC). The project, however, would require demolishing contributing structures and altering the historic landscape. Consultation with local, state, and national organizations also identified that two of the most prominent structures—Building 2 “Old Main” and Building 41 Ward Theater—were endangered. To address Buildings 2 and 41 and the potential impacts of the CLC project, the VAMC consulted with the ACHP, the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer, the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and other stakeholders.

In 2012, the VAMC executed an agreement for the CLC that provided for design review to minimize the new construction’s impact on the historic landscape as well as document and interpret the historic properties. Simultaneously, Buildings 2 and 41 were stabilized.

Subsequently, the VAMC nominated several historic buildings to the VA’s Enhanced Use Lease program, which seeks developers to rehabilitate historic buildings for housing for homeless or at risk veterans and their families. “Old Main” was selected for redevelopment and benefited from more than $12 million in federal and state historic tax incentives. The VAMC also established protocols for expedited reviews, a training program, and a reuse protocol for other vacant properties. This consultation highlights the important role Section 106 can play in identifying opportunities for reuse and turning potential preservation losses into successes.

WATERBURY STATE OFFICE COMPLEX, WATERBURY, VERMONT

Following severe flooding in 2011, state and federal officials undertook a massive rehabilitation of the state office complex in Waterbury, Vermont. The project restored and reused 13 historic core buildings and added new, resilient office space and a heating and cooling plant. A successful Section 106 consultation process helped preserve the character of the historic campus while enhancing energy efficiency and climate resilience. Increasing resilience to future flood events required changing the interior of most buildings, including filling basements and old heating tunnels and elevating first floors. Demolished buildings have given way to courtyards and open spaces.

According to the ACHP, the completed project has increased public awareness of the historic complex and illustrated how disaster recovery activities and flood mitigation best practices can be used to foster local redevelopment sensitive to historic preservation.

For additional information, contact Shaw Sprague, Vice President of Government Relations and Policy, SSprague@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6339.