



HUD AND PRESERVE AMERICA

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HUD AND PRESERVE AMERICA— WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In November 2008, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) recognized the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with an award for its leadership in promoting Preserve America. The Preserve America program supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy their historic resources and enhance economic vitality through historic preservation and heritage tourism.

Since the program's inception, HUD has played an active role in the development and implementation of Preserve America. HUD's commitment to Preserve America is consistent with the agency's enduring mission, its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, and other government-wide historic preservation policies.

PRESERVE AMERICA

Preserve America is a federal program that supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage. It seeks to increase knowledge about the nation's past, strengthen regional identity and pride, increase local participation in preserving our cultural and

natural heritage assets, and support the economic vitality of our communities. The Preserve America Executive Order (E.O. 13287) was issued in 2003, and the program was fully authorized through legislation that was signed into law by President Obama on March 30, 2009.

Preserve America Communities. Preserve America recognizes communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. More than 750 communities in all 50 states and one U.S. territory have earned the Preserve America designation.

Preserve America Grants. Since 2006, Preserve America has made more than \$17 million in matching grants available through the National Park Service to 228 projects throughout the country. The funds support community efforts to demonstrate sustainable uses of their historic and cultural sites, focusing on economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism.

Other Preserve America Components. The Preserve America program also includes presentation of Preserve America Presidential Awards to exemplary projects and programs;

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DODONA MANOR, LEESBURG, VA

HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to sustaining homeownership; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities, and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation's fair housing laws.



CITY OF LEESBURG

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PRESERVING AMERICA'S HERITAGE



designation of volunteer organizations as Preserve America Stewards; annual recognition of outstanding history teachers in each state and a national Preserve America History Teacher of the Year; coordination of federal stewardship and heritage tourism activities under the Preserve America Executive Order; and other educational activities. A Preserve America Summit in 2006 examined 40 years of progress in the national historic preservation program and made recommendations for future improvement.

HUD'S ROLE IN ADMINISTERING PRESERVE AMERICA

A key to Preserve America's success is the cooperation among its partners throughout the federal government. In fulfilling its own mission, HUD has been an enthusiastic and valuable partner in Preserve America's efforts to revitalize communities while preserving their cultural and natural heritage.

HUD is a member of the ACHP, an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. The department also serves on the interagency Preserve America Steering Committee that assists the ACHP and the Department of the Interior in administration of the Preserve America program.

HUD was an active participant in the Preserve America Summit and is a lead player in implementing the Summit recommendation on providing technical assistance to local communities seeking to promote historic preservation and heritage tourism. The department has developed a Webcast training program and a toolkit to help HUD recipients comply with historic preservation requirements. In 2008, HUD also sponsored a mayor's forum in Mississippi that featured a discussion of using historic preservation as a community revitalization tool.

HUD is also a strong partner in recognizing newly designated Preserve America Communities and their accomplishments. The department has developed internal procedures to facilitate HUD planning and participation in local Preserve America recognition events. In 2007 and 2008, HUD helped to organize 33 Preserve America recognition events across the country.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One of HUD's most important contributions to advancing Preserve America has been to link its hallmark Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program with local efforts to promote historic preservation and heritage tourism. Since 1974, CDBG has been a key federal resource to promote local community development activities such as affordable housing and public improvements. To encourage states and local communities to use CDBG for historic preservation and heritage tourism projects, HUD developed a 10-page guide entitled *Preserving America*. This attractive guide describes how this long-standing block grant program can support the work of Preserve America as part of a broader strategy of community development and economic revitalization.

And it's working! Many Preserve America Communities are using CDBG funds for a variety of preservation and revitalization efforts. The following is just a sample of the creative projects.

- ▶ Caldwell, Idaho, used \$500,000 in CDBG funds for the construction of a marketplace plaza and parking facilities at the recently restored historic train depot.
- ▶ New Albany, Indiana, restored the 1884 Division Street School into a period school room and exhibit space. CDBG funds helped install a new roof on the school and make needed foundation repairs.
- ▶ Rockland, Maine, used CDBG funds to institute a Downtown Façade Improvement Grant Program. As a result, 16 businesses participated in the program, which helped to preserve the historic character of Rockland as part of its community revitalization plan.
- ▶ Lincoln, Nebraska, combined Urban Development Action Grant and CDBG funds toward adaptive reuse projects in the Haymarket Landmark District. The city also utilized Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for the project.
- ▶ Galveston, Texas, surveyed two historic neighborhoods, San Jacinto and Kempner Park, using CDBG money. The survey resulted in an inventory of more than 4,000 properties.
- ▶ Leesburg, Virginia, completed the interior stabilization of the National Historic Landmark Dodona Manor using CDBG funds. This former home of General George C. Marshall is the headquarters of the George C. Marshall International Center.
- ▶ In Little Italy, downtown San Diego's oldest continuously operated neighborhood business district, HUD funds were



ROCKLAND, ME, DOWNTOWN BUSINESS

used to help create the Piazza Basilone, a public gathering space and war memorial.

HOUSING

Historic buildings provide affordable housing opportunities to many American families. Reclaiming and rehabilitating these structures contributes to the economic vitality of historic neighborhoods and the businesses and institutions that serve them. HUD participated in the drafting of the 2007 ACHP Policy Statement on Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation, which recognizes that, “rehabilitating historic properties to provide affordable housing is a sound historic preservation strategy.” This policy statement also provides guidance on streamlining federal historic preservation reviews in order to facilitate the creation and retention of affordable housing.

HUD and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are partners in recognizing organizations that aggressively pursue historic preservation while providing affordable housing and/or economic opportunities for lower income persons. Each year, HUD and the Trust select an exemplary project for the prestigious *National Trust for Historic Preservation/ HUD Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation*.

For example, Minneapolis was recognized for its innovative Midtown Exchange project, which rehabilitated the one million-square-foot 1928 Sears, Roebuck and Company Warehouse and Retail building. The project created spaces for office, residential, commercial, and community-oriented uses, including a large health care facility and a food market, thus increasing employment opportunities for the community. It also became a catalyst for positive change in the surrounding area.

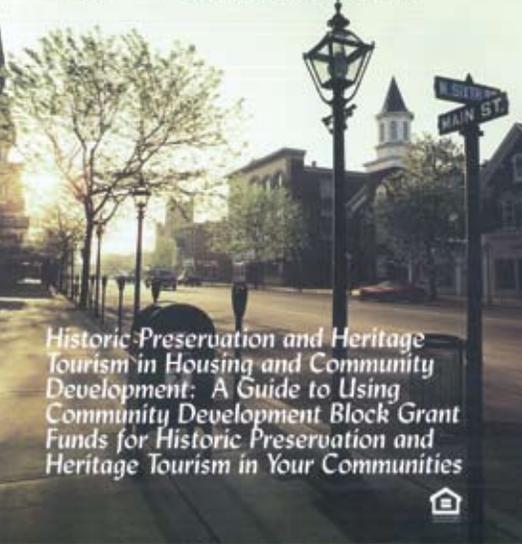
Other Preserve America Communities also have used their historic assets to help address local housing needs with HUD assistance:

- ▶ Fort Collins, Colorado, rehabilitated the historic Northern Hotel into 47 senior affordable housing units using CDBG funds. The total cost of the project was \$11.7 million and included additional funding from the National Development Council, the City of Fort Collins, and the Colorado Historical Society.
- ▶ St. Albans, Vermont, rehabilitated a condemned building in its downtown commercial district. The total cost of the rehabilitation was \$1.1 million in CDBG funding and resulted in six affordable housing units and on-street commercial space.



Community Development Block Grant Program

Preserving America



Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism in Housing and Community Development: A Guide to Using Community Development Block Grant Funds for Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism in Your Communities



PRESERVING AMERICA

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WWW.PRESERVEAMERICA.GOV

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HUD PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE
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[WWW.HUD.GOV/OFFICES/CPD/
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IN CONCLUSION

HUD's mission and its funding capabilities make the agency an important force in many communities, thus making HUD uniquely positioned to promote the Preserve America program and historic preservation. Productive use of historic properties is an important tool for providing affordable housing and supporting economic development. HUD's active participation in Preserve America leverages the agency's ability to use preservation as a critical component in fulfilling its mission and in improving the quality of life for people throughout the country.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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