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The National Historic Preservation Act and its resulting cultural, educational, and economic benefits over the past 40 years, have been vital to fostering a preservation ethic across the nation.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

FUNDING FOR PRESERVE AMERICA

Federal Support for Community Economic Development and Education with Historic Resources

February 2007

STATUS

In the President's FY2008 budget recommendations, Preserve America received \$10 million from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The Preserve America program received its first appropriation in 2005 -- a \$5 million set aside within Save America's Treasures' appropriation.

REQUEST

Support the President's request for \$10 million.

BACKGROUND

In 2003 President Bush launched the 3-part Preserve America program:

1. Executive Order 13287 directing federal agencies to be good stewards of their historic property
2. Preserve America Presidential Awards, and
3. Preserve America Communities

The Preserve America Communities program provides White House recognition for historic preservation achievement in cities, towns, counties and neighborhoods. Currently over 400 communities nationwide have earned the Preserve America designation.

The Preserve America grants program is designed to support a variety of activities related to heritage tourism and innovative approaches to the use of historic properties as educational and economic assets. Preserve America grants go beyond the bricks and mortar grants available under Save America's Treasures. Eligible recipients for these matching (50/50) grants include State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, designated Preserve America Communities, and Certified Local Governments that are applying for Preserve America Community designation.