



Support Historic Preservation

Objective:

Ensure that efforts to preserve America's historic sites, buildings, and artifacts have strong federal government support.

Background:

The National Coalition for History advocates for policies and programs that impact historic preservation, many of them under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. These include:

- National Recreation and Preservation Programs, which provide financial support for local efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources. The National Register of Historic Places and federal tax credits for Historic Preservation are administered under this program.
- Heritage Partnership Programs, which provide financial and technical assistance to 49 National Heritage Areas across the country. In heritage areas, natural, historic, and cultural resources are conserved together as part of a cohesive landscape.
- The Historic Preservation Fund, which supports preservation offices in states, territories, and tribal lands for the preservation of historically and culturally significant sites.
- The American Battlefield Protection Program, which provides land acquisition grants to preserve Revolutionary War, Civil War, and War of 1812 battlefield sites.

In 2015 and 2016, NCH joined our member organization The Civil War Trust in successfully advocating for the preservation of 14.85 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield land at Princeton, NJ, preventing the Institute for Advanced Study from developing the land as they had originally intended.

Why it matters:

Historic places are indispensable for education, bringing history to life for visitors of all ages in a unique way. While enormous progress has been made in the last fifty years, many historic properties still lack the legal protections and financial resources necessary to ensure that they remain intact.

President Trump's FY2018 budget request proposed the elimination of the Heritage Partnerships Program and considerable cuts to the other NPS programs. Without these key streams of federal funding, many historic places would fall into disrepair or be lost due to private development.

The National Park Service is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.