



40th Anniversary

preservation
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Preservation Pennsylvania Receives National Grant

Funding will support development of a statewide program to protect and preserve historic African American cemeteries

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July 19, 2022 (Harrisburg, PA) -- **Preservation Pennsylvania**, in partnership with **Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds**, has received \$50,000 from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a program from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The proposal, to create a **Pennsylvania African American Cemetery Stewards Network**, was one of 33 selected from a highly competitive national pool of more than 600 applicants.

This funding, along with a matching grant from the 1772 Foundation, will support the long-term preservation of Pennsylvania's African American cemeteries by aiding the cemetery stewards who manage these sites. Over one hundred African American cemeteries have been identified in Pennsylvania telling an underrepresented part of our history, yet they are threatened by underfunding, development, and changing demographics. These sites are also the final resting place of Black veterans, including many of the 8,612 Pennsylvania men who served with the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War.

With the development of the **Pennsylvania African American Cemetery Stewards Network**, Preservation Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds will be able to pilot methods of direct support as well as offering training and technical assistance to the larger community of cemetery stewards. It will also help build public awareness and identify additional funding to preserve this heritage.

Preservation Pennsylvania is one of 33 organizations to receive a total of \$3 million in grant funding to advance ongoing preservation activities for historic places such as sites, museums, and landscapes that represent African American cultural heritage. With more than \$80 million in funding, the Action Fund is the largest U.S. resource dedicated to the preservation of African American historic places.

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About the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Now in its fifth year, the Action Fund has supported 160 places through its National Grant Program for a total investment of \$12.4 million. This year's list further demonstrates the beauty and complexity of African American life, and includes historic sites tied to Black arts, culture, civic engagement, entrepreneurship, sports, medicine, education, religion, and social justice. These often-overlooked places hold aspects of history that must be protected—and used to draw inspiration and wisdom for the benefit of all Americans.

About Preservation Pennsylvania

Preservation Pennsylvania is the Commonwealth's only private statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people protect and preserve the historic places that matter to them.

Preservation Pennsylvania was established by the Commonwealth's General Assembly in 1982 as the Preservation Fund of Pennsylvania, a statewide revolving fund to assist in the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties. Since then, Preservation Pennsylvania has grown into its role as a private, nonprofit membership organization with a statewide mission to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's irreplaceable historic places.

Whether as a leader, partner, or advisor, Preservation Pennsylvania works to secure the future of the past through educational outreach workshops and events, legislative advocacy, advisory and technical assistance in the field, and other special initiatives. The organization is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2022.

About PA Hallowed Grounds

The mission of the Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds (PAHG) is to honor, interpret, and preserve African American cemeteries and the burial sites of Civil War African American Sailors and United States Colored Troops in America.

PAHG connects and builds the capacity of stewards of these cemeteries and burial sites, and supports conservation, documentation, education, and training. Working collaboratively with other groups and organizations, PAHG provides tangible encounters with memory and enriches the public understanding of history.