

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Interior And National Park Service Announce \$3.2 Million In Historic Preservation Grants To U.S. Territories And Freely Associated States

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The U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service this week announced \$3.2 million in historic preservation grants specifically for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, along with the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republics of Palau and the Marshall Islands.

"The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service are committed to preserving U.S., island, and tribal history heritage," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "Fees collected from drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf help fund

important conservation tools like these grants. Through valuable partnerships we are able to assist communities across the U.S., tribes, and the U.S.-affiliated islands in the Pacific and Caribbean in ensuring the diverse historic places, culture and traditions that make our country unique are protected for future generations."

"The U.S. territories and the freely associated states are rich in historical sites of both cultural and natural significance such as the Columbus Landing site in the Virgin Islands; the House of Taga in the Northern Mariana Islands; Latte Stone Park in Hagåtña, Guam; Papaloa Petroglyphs, in American Samoa; the Nan Madol Ruins in Pohnpei; Peleliu in Palau; the historic DeBrum Estate on Likiep in the Marshall Islands, and more," said Doug Domenech, assistant secretary of Insular and International Affairs. "The preservation and protection of historical and cultural resources is vital for our island communities to thrive."

Administered by the National Park Service, these funds are appropriated annually by Congress from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Since its inception in 1977, the HPF has provided more than \$1.8 billion in grants to states, tribes, local governments, the U.S. insular areas, and non-profit organizations to mitigate the loss of a non-renewable resource and benefit the preservation of other irreplaceable resources.

American Samoa	\$ 399,210
Guam	\$ 413,040
Northern Mariana Islands	\$ 414,877
U.S. Virgin Islands	\$ 419,485
Puerto Rico	\$ 666,772
Federated States of Micronesia	\$ 429,730
Republic of the Marshall Islands	\$ 249,048
Republic of Palau	\$ 249,048