



# Federal Grant Program #

## Summary ##

### Save America's Treasures Grant Program

The Save America's Treasures grant program was established in 1998 to celebrate America's premier cultural resources. This grant program focuses on preservation projects for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places for national significance or designated as a National Historic Landmark.

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### **Save America's Treasures Grant Program – National Parks Service**

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### **Wisconsin Historical Society National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark Properties:**

The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) has 35 buildings totaling 407,089 GSF listed as National Register buildings or qualifying buildings within a National Historic Landmark district. The estimated replacement value of the buildings is \$117,736,200.

In October 2016 the Wisconsin Historical Society's Department of Facilities Planning and Management created a historic site initiative. The Historic Site Initiative's purpose is to implement the following at National Register buildings and National Historic Landmark districts:

1. Prioritize funding to address health, safety and environmental issues, facility and property improvements, structural improvements, increased security measures, public access and signage, property boundary marking;
2. Provide increased opportunities for public education, conservation, and recreation; and,
3. Increase public awareness and accessibility to statewide facilities.

At the time the Wisconsin Historical Society identified over \$26,429,800 in capital projects impacting National Register and National Historic Landmark properties. The Wisconsin Historical Society pledged over \$17,349,800 in capital funds over ten years to the Historic Site Initiative, which includes a funding deficiency of \$9,080,000.

The Wisconsin Historical Society actively pursues gifts and grants to fund this deficiency making Federal grant funds critical to the program's success.

### **Current Approved Grant Work - Save America's Treasures Grant Program Recipient (Ringling Office and Winter Headquarters):**

Ringling Brothers winter headquarters has been a National Historic Landmark since August 4th of 1969. The landmark district consists of 9 contributing buildings dating from the period of the Ringling circus operation.

The Wisconsin Historical Society was awarded \$499,999 in NEH American Rescue Plan Grant funds. In support of the grant award, the Wisconsin Historical Society will contribute at least \$1,013,977 in capital funds.

The preservation of the business office at Ringling Brothers Circus Winter Headquarters has two goals:

1. Complete a Historic Structures Report for all seven winter headquarters buildings maintained by Circus World Museum: and,
2. Restore the Building Office to the 1915 era, within the period of significance for the National Historic Landmark District.

### **March Application Waiting Approval - Save America's Treasures Grant Program (Animal House Restoration):**

The Wisconsin Historical Society submitted a Save America's Treasures grant in March 2022. The grant is currently under review and competing with projects nationwide.

The Wisconsin Historical Society is seeking \$499,999 in NEH American Rescue Plan Grant funds. In support of the grant award, the Wisconsin Historical Society will contribute at least \$1,253,300 in capital funds.

Grant funds would be used to repair and restore one building, the 1901 Animal House, to the 1915 era, within the period of significance for the National Historic Landmark. The 1901 Animal House was a critical piece of the Ringling brothers' circus empire. Today, the 1901 Animal House has critical stabilization and repair needs that must be addressed before it can be used for any programmatic or interpretive purposes. The preservation of this building will allow visitors to better explore the broader operations, diversity, and off-season preparations that made this massive circus so successful.

**Future Applications - Save America's Treasures Grant Program:**

The future of the Save America's Treasures grant program is a critical resource for the Wisconsin Historical Society to meet our aggressive program goals and address our deficiencies. Please maintain and support this critical program.

Wisconsin Historical Society

Wild Animal House #2 at Circus World Museum

Other Name: Wild Animal House  
Location: Baraboo, Sauk County, Wisconsin  
DOA Building Number: 245060044  
Building Type: Historic  
Date Constructed: 1901  
Gross Square Feet: 6160

Bronze Casting



79 North & East



80 North End



81 North & West



101 South & West



102 North & East





## Wisconsin Historical Society

### Ringling House & Garage at Circus World Museum

Other Name: Ringling Office  
Location: Baraboo, Sauk County, Wisconsin  
DOA Building Number: 245060043  
Building Type: Historic  
Date Constructed: 1899  
Gross Square Feet: 3520

