

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION
IDAHO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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Professional Services Contributed to Assist Federal Agencies in
Discharging Their Statutory Historic Preservation Obligations

In a cooperative program of state and federal shared responsibility for statutory historic preservation activities, professional services donated by dedicated participants have gained substantial financial significance. This kind of activity has been traditional in state and local historical agency operations. So long as a core professional staff, supported by state or local government appropriation, is available to provide essential basic services, additional volunteer professional (as well as non-professional) programs are operated effectively. After 1966, when a number of state historical agencies were designated to assist in federal historic preservation programs, some of them extended their volunteer services to this area of operation. Idaho is one of those. Developed and adapted from an Ohio model, Idaho's program of donated professional historic preservation services has grown to amount to \$380,000 annually in 1980. Some of that total consists of grant participants' architectural planning preservation services. But at least \$240,000 was in professional services contributed toward assisting federal agencies in carrying on historic preservation compliance activities for federal programs. This kind of volunteer effort has made federal agency compliance programs much more effective.

In order to allow such state-based assistance to continue, federal allocations of funding to help maintain state historic preservation programs must also continue. Without at least some federal reimbursement for state expenditures to underwrite federal historic compliance activities, states like Idaho will be unable to support effective donated professional service programs of this kind. As in all long term volunteer service projects, a regular professional staff is required to keep such an operation going. Federal agencies are receiving substantial benefits and dividends from state funding allocations to cover partial costs of their federal historic preservation program. Reimbursement of a portion of state expenditures should be continued in order to assure continuation of those benefits.

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