

Defining Historic Maritime Resources

The grants program is designed to support various maritime heritage education projects and preservation projects which focus on three broad categories of historic maritime resources: **Historic Maritime Properties, Maritime Heritage Collections, and Traditional Maritime Skills**. Ensure that your application demonstrates how one or more these three categories of resources will benefit from proposed grant-assisted activities.

Historic Marine Properties

Historic maritime properties are defined in accordance with the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places and refer to those properties relating to, or bordering on, the sea or inland waters; or relating to navigation or commerce of the sea or inland waters; and consist of:

- Maritime Districts which make up a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of maritime sites, buildings, structures or objects united by past events or by plan or physical development.
- Maritime Sites such as submerged or terrestrial maritime-related archeological sites or other maritime sites which are the location of a significant event or activity, buildings or structures where the location itself maintains historical or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.
- Maritime Buildings such as lighthouses, lifesaving stations, custom houses, warehouses, hiring hall, sailors homes, marine hospitals or other maritime buildings created to shelter any form of human activity, or maritime buildings comprising a historically related complex such light stations or lifesaving stations;
- Maritime Structures where a work is made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization such as stationary waterfront cranes, locks, canals. Maritime structures, constructed by man, are often large scale engineering projects; and
- Maritime Objects such as vessels, shipwrecks and hulks, floating drydocks, piers or cranes, or other maritime objects that are by nature moveable yet related to a specific setting or environment;

and which are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture at the national, state, or local level and possess integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feelings, and association. To be considered significant, a maritime property must meet one of the four National Register criteria:

- A. be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of American History; or
- B. be associated with the lives of persons significant in our nation's past; or
- C. embody characteristics that are distinctive of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. In general, maritime properties must be 50 years of age or older to be considered historic and therefore eligible for funding considerations under the Grants Program.

However, a maritime property which has achieved historical significance within the past 50 years may also be considered eligible for funding considerations if it is of exceptional importance. Historic maritime properties can also consist of archeological resources which include the submerged or terrestrial remains of historic or prehistoric shipwrecks, hulks, vessels, lighthouses, lifesaving stations as well as canals, piers, docks, waterfront properties and other maritime districts, sites, structures, buildings, or objects (as defined above).

Maritime Heritage Collections

Maritime collections consist of assemblages of objects, documents, and archeological resources pertinent to the understanding of the maritime heritage of the United States which are collected according to a rational scheme and maintained so they can be cared for, studied, and interpreted for public benefit.

- **Objects.** An object when used within the context of a maritime collection has a different meaning from its use as a historic maritime property category. In this case, an object is considered a material thing possessing functional, aesthetic, cultural, symbolic, or scientific value, usually portable by nature or design. Objects which are part of a maritime collection shall be comprised of those material things which embody events, work, thought, arts, and institutions reflective of human activity associated with the sea and inland waters and may include prehistoric and historic maritime artifacts, models, works of art, and fragments or components of maritime buildings, maritime structures or maritime objects which are obtained or collected through non-archeological methods or techniques.
- **Documents.** A document when used in the context of a maritime collection refers to recorded information that will contribute substantially to the understanding and interpretation of maritime heritage in the United States. These records should be directly linked to those human activities associated with maritime history and culture and shall be organized in a manner which facilitates access, especially for research and reference use. Such recorded information consist of assemblages of archival records, manuscripts, or published materials. Documents may include archival materials of a maritime organization or institution, manuscripts comprised of textual, electronic, sound, or visual formats, as well as published materials including books, reports, journals, pamphlets, electronic media, microforms, photographs, film, graphic, and audio documents related to maritime heritage of the United States.
- **Archeological Resources.** Archeological resources within the context of maritime collections consist of those submerged or terrestrial material remains that have been excavated or removed in connection with an archeological investigation of prehistoric or historic maritime properties. Archeological resource shall also consists of associated records that are prepared or assembled in connection with the archeological investigation of prehistoric or historic maritime properties. Classes of material remains may include excavated fragments or components of shipwrecks (pieces of ships hulls, rigging, armaments, cargo, etc.), and other historic maritime properties, as well as excavated artifacts of human manufacture such as tools, weapons, and other materials related to maritime heritage. Classes of associated records include all records relating to the investigation of a resource such as research proposals, permits, field notes, etc., records relating to the identification of a resource using remote sensing methods and equipment, and public records and archival records essential to understanding the resource such as deeds, historical maps, drawings, photographs, manuscripts.

Traditional Maritime Skills

Traditional maritime skills consist of activities associated with the naval, commercial, and navigational activities of, or relating to, the sea or inland waters which are handed down from generation to generation, by word of mouth or by practice. These traditional activities pertain to recognizable, though not necessarily identical, practices which are transmitted across at least two successive generations and shall include those maritime skills, arts, crafts, trades, techniques, or occupations generally thought of as requiring the use of hands or special training.