



...the Voice of Cultural Resources Management



## THE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY: Providing Critical Support for Building our Nation's Infrastructure through Expertise in Historic Preservation

### Cultural Resources and Infrastructure in the United States

Since its passage in 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act<sup>1</sup> has required Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Most of these undertakings involve maintaining and building our nation's infrastructure. Historic properties are cultural resources (buildings, districts, objects, and sites) listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

For example, in 2011, more than 180,000 Federal actions (undertakings) complied with the National Historic Preservation Act. As a result of information collected during these undertakings, decisions were made on the historical significance to the Nation of nearly 110,000 historic buildings, districts, objects, and sites.<sup>2</sup>

### What is "Cultural Resources Management"?

Cultural Resources Management (CRM) is the discipline of "**managing historic places of archaeological, architectural, and historical interest and considering such places in compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws.**"<sup>3</sup> Today, most CRM investigations are carried out by **private businesses**, both for private industry and for Federal, state, and local governments, so that these organizations can efficiently meet their legal obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act and related laws and regulations.

### The American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA): The Voice of the CRM Industry

**We are ACRA: the trade association for private businesses engaged in CRM.**

#### ACRA's goals are...

- *to help CRM firms thrive by excelling at what they do best: identifying and evaluating historic properties*
- *to make ACRA membership a recognized standard of quality*
- *to be a responsible advocate for the CRM industry*



Using free-market business practices, CRM firms deploy skilled teams of cultural resource professionals to identify and evaluate historic properties and expedite review and permitting processes for our clients. ACRA member firms adhere to our **Code of Ethics**, which defines responsibilities to the public, and to our clients, employees, and professional colleagues.

## The Scope of the CRM Industry

### The most recent survey<sup>4</sup> indicates that...

- *there are about 1,300 CRM firms nationwide*
- *these firms employ some 10,000 CRM professionals: archaeologists, architectural historians, historians, and architects. These professionals generate work for an increasingly diverse group of other specialists and support staff, including engineers, planners, environmental scientists, cartographers and geographic information systems (GIS) specialists, information technology professionals, graphic artists, writers/editors, word processors/layout specialists, human resource professionals, accountants, and other administrative staff*
- *these firms generated over \$1 billion in revenue in calendar year 2012*



## ACRA: A Resource for You

In addition to being experts in identifying historic properties, CRM firms are small, private, for-profit businesses that understand budgets, jobs, and how our economy works.

This combination gives ACRA a unique perspective on historic preservation issues, especially those related to Federal and state laws, regulations, and programs.

From our national headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, we will quickly put you in touch with our government relations and legal counsel in Washington, D.C., with our experienced officers and board members, and with ACRA firms all across the country.

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<sup>1</sup>Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

<sup>2</sup>2011 Historic Preservation Fund Annual Report. Historic Preservation Grants Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

<sup>3</sup>Thomas F. King, *Cultural Resource Laws and Practice: An Introductory Guide*, 3rd ed. Altamira Press, 2008, p. 6

<sup>4</sup>Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC, 2013