



For Immediate Release

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**Preserve America Grants in 25 States Announced;
Deadline for 2008 Round Two Applications in June**

WASHINGTON— Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, along with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman John L Nau III, today announced 43 Preserve America grants in 25 states totaling \$2.9 million. The application period for round two of 2008 is now open with a deadline of June 30 to apply for grants of \$4.3 million to be awarded in September.

The Deputy Secretary made the announcement on behalf of Mrs. Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of Preserve America. Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our nation's heritage. Scarlett and Nau co-chair the Preserve America initiative.

"Preserve America ensures that historic properties, artifacts, and communities throughout the nation are preserved to be enjoyed by future generations," Mrs. Bush said. "These grants promote cultural and natural preservation, and encourage greater appreciation of our national heritage."

The Preserve America co-chairs also announced today that the maximum size of each grant has been increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000. In 2006 and 2007, \$9.8 million was awarded to 140 projects. In FY 2008, a total of \$7.2 million was available. The most recent grants totaling \$2.9 million leave a balance of \$4.3 million for a second round of grants to be awarded in September.

The Preserve America grant program, which began in 2006, is administered by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service in partnership with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The competitive matching grants fund Preserve America Communities, State Historic Preservation Offices, and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to support their preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education and historic preservation planning.

“These Preserve America grants help weave cultural and natural heritage into the economic, educational, and social fabric of communities by promoting heritage tourism,” said Scarlett.

“Preserve America grants help communities learn about their history and share it with visitors. These grants make the story of America come alive and create a better understanding of our diverse and rich cultures,” said Nau.

More information on Preserve America, including a complete list of grant recipients, criteria and application forms for various initiative programs, can be found at www.PreserveAmerica.gov.

A list of the 43 projects follows.

2008 Preserve America Grants

Round 1

(By State)

Downtown Anchorage Historic Walking Tour and Education Project

Anchorage, Alaska

\$20,000

As Anchorage prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Alaska’s statehood in 2009, the city and its partners will launch a new website, develop a walking tour, install historical markers, and create an education program that provides materials to teachers. In completing these tasks, Anchorage seeks to provide visitors with consistent, free, and easily accessible options to explore Anchorage’s history and enhance heritage tourism.

Hualapai Heritage Trails Projects

Hualapai Tribal Nation, Arizona

\$40,000

The Hualapai Tribe will preserve and promote five existing cultural heritage trails for the benefit of the local tribal community and visiting tourists with the expectation of an expanded economic tourist base for the Tribe. Funding will provide archeological and ethnographic surveys of the trail sites and create interpretive signage, a brochure, and map.

Santa Monica Beach Cultural Mapping Project

Santa Monica, California

\$100,000

Capitalizing on its greatest asset – its beach, Santa Monica’s goal is to highlight people and events that shaped the history and culture of the Southern California beach that significantly influenced popular culture in America and abroad. Stories from the days of Jim Crow relate how use of the beach was the subject of racial tensions as African-Americans fought for equal access. Later the beach provided the backdrop for the birth of beach volleyball, the international physical fitness movement launched at Muscle Beach as well as the American Skateboarding revolution. Funds will support an experienced historian to survey key sites, events, and individuals to create an inventory of resources and materials. This will provide the foundation for the future development of cultural markers and interpretive plaques, walking tours, and exhibits.

Southern Otero County Rural Resources Survey

Otero County, Colorado

\$50,000

Otero County will survey private lands in Southern Otero County in an effort to develop heritage tourism with the involvement of local ranchers – the primary landowners. The survey will include an historic context and thematic study based upon the archeological and architectural findings of the survey teams and will result in the listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

Redstone Coke Ovens Education and Interpretation Program

Pitkin County, Colorado

\$25,000

Pitkin County will develop an education and interpretive program for the Redstone Coke Ovens Historic Park. The program will educate the public, direct foot and car traffic, and promote the site throughout the community.

Using Historic Theaters to Promote Southeast Colorado Historic Sites

Prowers County, Colorado

\$50,000

Prowers County, in partnership with the Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Taskforce representing several other Southeast Colorado Preserve America communities, will develop a series of film shorts on the heritage sites in the region. Featured sites will include Camp Amache National Historic Landmark, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, and Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. The films will be shown prior to first-run commercial films in the historic movies theaters in the region, and will encourage audiences to visit the historic sites located in their backyards.

Historic Wethersfield Wayfinding Signage and Gateway Enhancement

Wethersfield, Connecticut

\$90,000

This project will enable the Town of Wethersfield to utilize the recommended sign design from the Historic Wethersfield Master Plan. It will proceed with the recommended placement of signs, the installation of directional and informational signs, and the implementation of recommended improvements to the main gateway from the interstate to the historic area.

City of Lewes Off-Season Maritime Historic Tourism Plan

Lewes, Delaware

\$35,000

The City of Lewes's downtown historic district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and was designated as one of a Dozen Distinctive Designations in 2006 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With a population of 3,000, the city contains an impressive number of historic homes, structures, and sites focused on the City's maritime history, including the historic Overfalls Lightship, which is one of only 17 remaining lightships in the country. Lewes will use funds to increase heritage tourism through planning for a better visitor experience year-round. The plan will develop an integrated multi-media approach that includes audio tours, brochures with detailed maps, interpretative signage, and radio broadcasts. This will provide off-season visitors the opportunity to learn about the many significant places and events that have taken place over the nearly four centuries of Lewes' maritime history.

Downtown Directional Wayfinding Signage Program

Kennesaw, Georgia

\$50,000

The City of Kennesaw boasts a rich heritage dating to the 1830s when the town was founded in conjunction with the construction of a rail line through Cobb County. The keystone of the downtown historic district is the Railroad Depot which now houses museum exhibits, artifacts, and photographs related to the history of Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw will develop and design a consistent, comprehensive and uniform system of directional and way-finding signage with enhanced pedestrian, vehicular, parking and gateway features.

City of Boise Local Landmarks

Boise, Idaho

\$20,000

The City plans to research and write city landmark nominations for 30 properties (that are not well documented nor locally designated) and publish a Boise City Local Landmarks brochure and a walking tour brochure in order to expanding heritage tourism and bringing awareness of historic resources.

Tour de Lafayette

Lafayette, Indiana

\$21,750

The City of Lafayette will develop interpretive and educational materials using technology such as podcasts and the Internet to digitally link the nine historic districts located within Lafayette. This endeavor will enable the City of Lafayette to encourage preservation of oral traditions, provide updated information on their historic resources and equip visitors with the necessary tools to better appreciate the City's heritage and cultural resources.

“Hollywood in the Heartland”

Iowa State Historic Preservation Office

\$45,300

The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office will engage the public in Iowa's movie legacy through several heritage tourism activities designed to stimulate interest in this aspect of the state's history. The “Hollywood in the Heartland” initiative will celebrate Iowa's relationship with the movie industry through an examination of the people and places related to the development and consumption of motion pictures.

Junior Main Street Program

Oskaloosa, Iowa

\$90,000

The Junior Main Street Program will bring students and teachers together in collaboration with various community organizations to develop heritage tourism and preservation projects within the community as a focus for cross-curricular education. The projects, such as the development of self-guided walking tours, are envisioned to promote community sustainability through an understanding and awareness of the community's heritage, build future leadership from participating students, and be a model for other communities and states.

Louisiana Main to Main: A Cultural Roadshow

Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

\$150,000

The Louisiana State Preservation Office will work in partnership with the Louisiana Main Street program to identify, showcase, and promote cultural assets unique to Main Street communities, and expand promotion of the annual Cultural Road Show initiative. The project will include involvement from Louisiana's Main Street and Preserve America communities.

Conference for Local Preservation Commissions of Preserve America Communities

New Orleans, Louisiana

\$20,480

In continuing to revive New Orleans's tourism and convention industry, the City will develop workshop sessions and tours showcasing New Orleans's heritage tourism efforts. The project will provide local preservationists tools and information for protecting historic resources and enhancing their heritage tourism. Sessions and tours will be offered by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' biennial National Commission Forum and are envisioned to grow into a full conference track at future Forums. This will be the first time the over 500 Preserve America communities will be invited to a national gathering and offered training.

Point to the Past Heritage Interpretation Project

Portland, Maine

\$62,000

The City of Portland will expand and enhance the interpretation of Portland's landmarks and history by using GPS devices to provide information and interpretation of historic resources to visitors and residents. This pilot program will focus on specific historic resources to determine if this type of technology will enhance the visitors' experience.

Public History in Public Places for Saco Bay Cities

Saco, Maine

\$37,500

The City of Saco will promote heritage tourism in the region, improve local history instruction in the schools, and create a new awareness of local and regional history in the community and the Saco Bay region. Funds will pay for the creation of three history exhibits (two stationary and one traveling) on local and regional history, and an interpretative regional history guide and traveling truck for use by teachers in the classroom.

Annapolis City Hall Restoration

Annapolis, Maryland

\$75,000

The City of Annapolis will conduct a Historic Structures Report, including paint analysis, development of architectural drawings, and other planning documents needed for the restoration of the Annapolis City Hall. The City Hall is a contributing structure in a National Register Historic District, is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places, and is a designated local landmark.

Conspiracy! Port Tobacco and the Plot to Assassinate President Lincoln

Charles County, Maryland

\$60,000

Charles County will collect information through detailed archival and archaeological research on the setting in which conspirators planned the abduction and assassination of President Lincoln, Vice President Johnson and Secretary Seward in March 1865. The final report will provide vital information for interpretation, nomination and possible acquisition of properties in Port Tobacco related to this nationally significant event in American history.

Catoctin Mountain Scenic Byway Gateway/Wayfinding Project

Frederick, Maryland

\$150,000

The City of Frederick will develop a comprehensive wayfinding and gateway signage system in Frederick that will serve as a prototype for other communities located along the Catoctin Mountain Scenic Byway in Maryland.

Rockville Historic Building Inventory Catalog

City of Rockville, Maryland

\$20,000

The City of Rockville will utilize Preserve America funds to update their Historic Building Inventory and Catalog to reflect the resources excluded from the catalog since the last update eighteen years ago.

Back-in-Time: Tales of the Village

Douglas, Michigan

\$23,265

In partnership with local schools and District library, the City of Douglass will create educational and interpretive materials in order to provide better information on the City's historic and cultural resources.

Ferndale Heritage Tourism and Wayfinding Project

Ferndale, Michigan

\$120,000

The City of Ferndale will create a marketing project that will incorporate wayfinding signage, plaques, and self guided tours to promote Ferndale's downtown historic resources.

Montana Places: Expanding the Cultural and Historical Record of Montana

Montana Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office)

\$149,979

The Montana Historical Society will provide subgrants to several communities with a strong need to survey and inventory historic resources so that they have proper documentation for preservation of their historic resources. Funds will also be used to hold a Tribal Heritage Resource Summit for Montana's Indian Tribes for the purpose of identifying potential areas of survey and specific undocumented landscapes and historic cultural resources important to Montana's Native American history.

Marketing Campaign for Historic Downtown Cortland's Cultural Events

Cortland, New York

\$105,000

The City of Cortland will develop a marketing campaign that integrates its historic downtown with its cultural events in order to find the most effective message, target market and media delivery. The end result will be a planning document that guides future marketing efforts of historic downtown Cortland.

The Tappan Zee Bridge: Transforming Rockland County

Rockland County, New York

\$150,000

Rockland County will develop an educational and interpretive program chronicling the rich and dramatic history of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Elements of this project will include the fabrication of an exhibit to be displayed at the Historical Society of Rockland County as well as the development of a curriculum for Rockland County schools.

The Gilded Age of Roxbury

Roxbury, New York

\$66,750

The Town of Roxbury will promote their heritage tourism programs and expand upon their current interpretive materials to engage visitors. Roxbury is the birthplace of railroad magnate Jay Gould and naturalist John Burroughs. The hamlet of Roxbury retains its seminal 19th Century architecture, which has resulted in the entire hamlet being listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Village of Owego Heritage Tourism and Education Program

Owego, New York

\$20,000

The Village of Owego will develop signage, walking tour brochures, historic information kiosks, maps, additions and improvements to interpretive markers, and training for tour guides. Through a coordinated effort with its many private and public partners the Village seeks to establish an organized heritage tourism program that will highlight heritage assets and educate youth, citizens, and visitors to their rich cultural and architectural history.

Preserve the Grove: Adaptive Use Study and Site Plan

Putnam County, New York

\$23,180

The Grove, an Italianate villa designed by the eminent architect Richard Upjohn, is located in the Village of Cold Spring along Route 9 Scenic Byway and is an important cultural landmark of Putnam County. The objective of this project is two-fold: first, prepare an adaptive reuse study, and second, develop an appropriate

site plan. It is envisioned that The Grove could become an information center for historic attractions, local businesses, and outdoor activities; therefore, tying in all tourism aspects of the area.

Culturally Connecting America’s Hometown: Fayetteville/Cumberland County Wayfinding Initiative

Fayetteville, North Carolina

\$150,000

The City of Fayetteville’s primary objectives for this project are to plan, design, and implement a complete wayfinding signage system throughout Fayetteville/Cumberland County, with an emphasis on historic and cultural resources.

Recent Past Historic Context and Dayton-Area Pilot Survey Project

Ohio Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office)

\$87,656

The Ohio Historical Society plans to stem the tide by developing a historic context document that outlines the important social, political, and economic trends that shaped land use decisions, architectural styles, and building technology during the mid-20th century in Ohio. Significant resources associated with the “Recent Past” (1940-1970) are under-identified, under-appreciated, and beginning to disappear. With Dayton, Ohio serving as a case study, this context will provide all of Ohio’s communities, State, and Federal agencies with important information for heritage tourism, education, and economic development projects involving the valuable historic resources of the “Recent Past.”

Downtown Salem Historic Marker Program

Salem, Oregon

\$70,000

In order to promote preservation and increase citizen awareness of their historic downtown, the City of Salem will create a unique downtown logo, a template for historical markers, and the install 50 markers. In addition, the City’s existing downtown walking tour brochure will be redesigned and printed and a website created, allowing both residents and tourists to explore downtown Salem’s historic treasures.

Cheltenham Township “Richard Wall House Museum Collections Project”

Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

\$20,000

The Township of Cheltenham will hire a consultant to document, inventory, and catalog the costume, clothing, and textiles collection of the Richard Wall House Museum. This endeavor will enable the Museum to better interpret Cheltenham’s three hundred years of local history.

Preserving Pennsylvania’s African American Heritage: An Initiative for Education, Community Revitalization & Economic Development

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

\$142,250

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) will develop a comprehensive survey and context study on African American historic and cultural resources throughout the state of Pennsylvania. This study will provide guidance for public programs and nominations for resources to local, state, and National inventories. The funds will also enable PHMC to allow Pennsylvania communities to develop and implement African American heritage tourism projects through a sub-granting program.

Fairmount Park Sculpture Interpretive Project

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Fairmount Park Commission)

\$50,000

With a large concentration of public art, possibly the largest collection of outdoor sculpture in the nation, located along Philadelphia’s “museum mile,” the City and Fairmount Park Commission will use funds to promote and cultivate an understanding of the many pieces of public art and sculpture found along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and Fairmount Park corridor through interpretive signs coupled with a brochure and an online presence.

Historical Inventory, Interpretive Signage, and Historical Interactive Displays

East Providence, Rhode Island

\$25,000

The City of East Providence will conduct a historical inventory, background research, and the installation of interpretive signage for Hunt's Mills, a site that displays Rhode Island's contribution to the Industrial Revolution.

Historic Sites Coalition of Rhode Island - Business Planning Project

Rhode Island Preservation and Heritage Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

\$35,434

The Rhode Island Preservation and Heritage Commission will improve and implement the non-profit business practices of Rhode Island's historic sites by creating business plans for volunteer historic sites, developing a methodology and model for historic site business planning, and recommending a business strategy for the Historic Sites Coalition of Rhode Island. The Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Office has determined that many of the State's historic sites do not consistently operate at a level of excellence in visitor services or preservation practices. Organizations that do not operate effectively jeopardize the resources they protect. Effective management will result in increased visitation, and more comprehensive resource protection.

Birth of a City: The History of Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Oak Ridge, Tennessee

\$150,000

The City of Oak Ridge, a government town built under a cloak of secrecy during World War II as part of the Manhattan Project, is approaching its fiftieth Anniversary as an incorporated city. Historical records pertaining to its founding and development are known to be scattered throughout the community. Funds will assist with completing an inventory of existing records, files, and other historical materials; conducting oral history interviews of key city officials and community leaders; developing an interpretive exhibit on Oak Ridge's history; and creating educational materials for curricular and scholarly use.

Gateway to Historic Galveston

Galveston, Texas

\$30,000

The City of Galveston will promote its historical resources through an improved system of marketing, gateways, wayfinding, and interpretation. This system of interpretation is needed in order to better market historic Galveston to tourists and visitors.

Osceola Heritage Awareness and Marketing Program

Osceola, Wisconsin

\$36,000

The Village of Osceola is a small community of 2,700 residents located on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Originally settled in 1844, the village maintains a collection of buildings dating from the 1880s that form the core of the downtown. The Downtown Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Village of Osceola will develop a public awareness campaign and create marketing materials in order to better promote and increase visitation to the village. The ultimate goal of the project is to further economic growth and cultural vitality.

Wisconsin Historic Building Image Digitization Project

Wisconsin Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office)

\$150,000

This project will complete the digitization of approximately 175,000 photographs of historic buildings for Wisconsin's online Architecture and History Inventory database located at www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi. The visual record of these historic buildings will greatly enhance user experiences by bringing the raw building data to life and will make information easier to access for efforts to promote heritage tourism and education throughout the state.

Cheyenne Heritage Education Project

Cheyenne, Wyoming

\$52,500

As the capital of Wyoming, Cheyenne serves as one of the primary gateways to the State; however, it lacks signage that interprets and educates the public of its important heritage. Funds will be used to research and write interpretative and educational materials, design and install twenty-one historical markers, and print both walking and driving tour pamphlets for free distribution to the approximate 1.5 million yearly visitors to Cheyenne.

Evanston's Historic Roundhouse & Rail Yards Visitor Center Planning Project

Evanston, Wyoming

\$30,000

The City of Evanston will develop a comprehensive architectural design plan which will enable the City to plan for the preservation and adaptive reuse of the "Oil House" as a visitor center.

—www.PreserveAmerica.gov—