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## Missouri Preserve America Communities Honored in St. Louis

**August 14, 2008**—At a special presentation today at the Busch family's Grant's Farm outside of St. Louis, seven Missouri communities were honored with Preserve America Community recognition.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Chairman John L. Nau, III, Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt, and Preserve America Co-Chairman Lynn Scarlett, deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior, honored the communities of Arrow Rock, Cape Girardeau, Florissant, Jefferson City, Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve and Weston. Scarlett and Blunt sit on the ACHP representing the Department of the Interior and the nation's governors, respectively.

Preserve America is a Bush Administration initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy the country's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities. Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, is the Honorary Chair of Preserve America. These eight communities have demonstrated efforts which made them excellent examples of the goals of Preserve America in the Show Me State.

Representatives of the communities attending the ceremony and community information follows:

**Arrow Rock:** Mayor **Diana Dickey** and **Michael Dickey**, site manager of Arrow Rock State Historic Site. Set on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, Arrow Rock was named for the flint that Native Americans took from the bluff to make projectile heads. Lewis and Clark noted the bluff on their journey, and it was a prominent landmark for many travelers passing westward on the Santa Fe Trail. Twentieth century preservation has brought new life to Arrow Rock as visitors come to experience a wealth of 19th century buildings.

**Cape Girardeau:** **Ken Eftink**, director of development services. Founded more than 200 years ago, Cape Girardeau began as a tiny trading post along the Mississippi River. With the arrival of the steamboat in 1835, Cape Girardeau became a regional trading and distribution center, the largest between St. Louis and Memphis. Cape Girardeau has 23 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and five listed historic districts.

**Florissant:** Mayor **Robert Lowrey**. Located 20 miles north of St. Louis, Florissant remained a quiet village until the 1950s, when it was affected by St. Louis' post-war suburban sprawl. Florissant was founded in 1786 as a primarily French settlement, although the Spanish changed the name to St. Ferdinand in 1796. Old Town Florissant is a coalition of four non-profits—the St. Ferdinand Shrine, Historic Florissant, the Florissant Valley Historical Society, and Florissant Old Town Partners—that work together to promote the preservation of Florissant history.

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**Jefferson City: Councilman Ken Ferguson.** As a result of its central location and access to the Missouri River, Jefferson City was founded in 1821 as the state capital. In 1896, a bridge was built across the Missouri River, securing Jefferson City's place as the permanent seat of state government. The city has three historic districts, and an annual ice cream social at Memorial Park features a different historical theme each year, presenting memorabilia and displays.

**Soulard neighborhood, St. Louis: Don Kirby,** president, Soulard Restoration Group. The Soulard neighborhood is the oldest residential district in the city of St. Louis. Around 1840, St. Louis expanded southward, and one landowner, Julia Soulard, donated land for and established a public market. Today the neighborhood is still anchored by this market, a city landmark and St. Louis's only remaining public market. A failed urban renewal plan to level the neighborhood in the 1960s was the catalyst for the designation of Soulard as a federal and local historic district in 1972 and the creation of the Soulard Restoration Group in 1976.

**Sainte Genevieve: Mayor Richard Greminger.** Sainte Genevieve is on the Mississippi River 65 miles south of St. Louis and was first settled between 1735 and 1750 two miles south of its present location. It was one of the important French communities in the "Illinois Country" and was considered the breadbasket of French Louisiana. Much of historic Sainte Genevieve's charm is due to the remarkable preservation of features of the colonial settlement period. Today, the Sainte Genevieve National Historic Landmark District offers tours of historical houses such as the 222-year-old Bolduc House, winner of a Preserve America Presidential Award in 2005.

**Weston: Mayor Cindy Seward.** Weston was founded in 1837 and was the first settlement in the Platte Purchase, a six-county area ceded to Missouri by the Sac and Fox Indian tribes. A steamboat port on the Missouri River across from Ft. Leavenworth, the community was an important point of departure for travelers headed west. Weston received Missouri's first Preserve America Grant in 2006. The grant of \$54,055 was awarded for the creation of a historic sign plan, a school curriculum on local history, a Lewis and Clark exhibit, and historic tour materials, all part of a comprehensive heritage tourism program.

**ABOUT THE ACHP:** *The ACHP, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that impact historic properties. In addition, the ACHP has a key role in carrying out the Administration's Preserve America program. See [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov) and [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov) for more information.*