

Fran Mainella, Director, National Park Service
Preserve America Community Designation Event
November 9, 2005
2203 Rayburn House Office Building
9:30 – 10:30 am

- Thank you, Congressman Miller. This is indeed exciting news.
- America's cultural resources embody a rich heritage of human experiences, architectural and intellectual achievements, and cultural identities.
- The Department of the Interior's National Park Service has served as a leader in preserving nationally significant natural and historic resources for present and future generations of Americans for quite some time.
- Historic preservation is often capsulated as solely "brick and mortar" restoration.
- What is often excluded from public perception is everything the phrase "historic preservation" holds.
- Such examples are: research, interpretation, planning, collaboration, living historians, and accessible documentation for the public, to name a few.

- Through its Preserve America initiative, the Administration is encouraging community efforts and partnerships to, as you are aware, preserve our heritage.
- To date, nearly 300 communities have taken the steps you have to be designated a Preserve America community.
- The buck does not stop there.
- Congress, for the first time, has recently appropriated \$5 million dollars for the Preserve America grants program.
- Preserve America grants offer a new type of competitive historic preservation funding.
- Awarded projects require a dollar-for-dollar match for grant-assistant work.
- The grants will focus on encouraging States, Indian tribes, and communities to realize the potential of their outstanding heritage assets as both educational and economic assets of benefit to the America public.
- With the assistance of this new grant program, local communities and partners can work to determine their heritage needs to promote heritage development and effective coordination.
- The overall Preserve America initiative links to and complements both the Save America's Treasures grant program and various other programs related to our Nation's vast historic resources.
- Preserve America grants will allow communities across the nation to determine which strategies best suit their heritage needs for restoring, repairing, conserving, preserving, and promoting their heritage.

- Preserve America matching grants will support projects that preserve and support America's heritage and cultural assets to foster public appreciation for American history and values.
- This grant program encourages:
 - Planning to advance economic development using heritage tourism and historic preservation;
 - Development or enhancement of innovative activities and programs in heritage tourism;
 - Heritage education through curriculum development and living history programs;
 - Surveys of local historic resources and tourism assets to document for public use; and
 - Marketing of interpretation and documentation that tells a story to enhance the local visitor experience.
- In addition, this grant program strives to highlight public-private partnerships that can serve as models to other communities.
- Sustainable management strategies will be encouraged for communities to practice to ensure the future longevity of our historic resources.
- I encourage you to apply.
- The deadline is December 16 and information can be found on www.PreserveAmerica.gov.