

Preserve America Community Profiles

CONGRESSIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION CAUCUS EVENT

November 9, 2005, Washington, DC

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SITKA, ALASKA

Sitka, Alaska (population 8,835), is located on Baranof Island in Southeastern Alaska and originally was a Tlingit Indian village. Russian explorers and traders seized control of the settlement following a battle with the Tlingit in 1804, and the site of the battle is now protected as part of Sitka National Historical Park. (Descendants of the Tlingit are now members of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska.)



During the early 19th century, the community flourished under Russian rule as a fur-trading outpost. In 1867, Russia sold Alaska to the United States, and the transfer ceremony took place in Sitka, which then served as the territorial capital until 1906. During the 20th century, important industries included fisheries, canneries, and saw mills, and the military was a significant presence during World War II at Sitka Naval Air Station.

Today, tourism is a major economic generator; with 250,000 cruise ship passengers visiting Sitka annually to experience its rich heritage of three distinct cultures. Historic sites range from Tlingit archeological and cultural sites, to early 19th century buildings of the Russian period, to World War II properties.



The former Sitka Naval Air Station is one of eight National Historic Landmarks and the proposed site of a new maritime heritage center. The city is leasing the historic Japonski Island Marine Ways Building to the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society, which is spearheading implementation of the project. When completed, the new museum will be the only site providing World War II and maritime heritage interpretation in southeast Alaska.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City and Borough of Sitka: www.cityofsitka.com
Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau: www.sitka.org
Sitka Tribe of Alaska: www.sitkatribes.org

SPRINGERVILLE, ARIZONA



Springerville, Arizona (population 1,972), is located in the Round Valley of the White Mountains in northeastern Arizona. The valley first was home to Native Americans, and Springerville's Casa Malpais Archeological Park preserves the remains of one of the largest and most complex ancient Mogollon (Western Pueblo) communities in the United States. In 1540, Spanish explorer Coronado passed through the area, and today's tourists follow his general route through Springerville when traveling the Coronado Trail Scenic Byway.

Spanish and American settlers did not make the valley their home for another 300 years, first arriving in the 1860s, and Springerville was formally established in 1879. Cattle and sheep ranching were early economic activities that have been gradually replaced by agriculture, construction, forestry, and tourism.



Springerville is among the communities featured on the Trail of Many Tracks, an audio-guided automobile tour of northeastern Arizona, as well as a locally developed driving tour of Round Valley called Pistols, Plows, and Petticoats. To further promote heritage tourism, the town is currently in the process of rehabilitating the former Springerville Elementary School (1880; 1927) into offices and a heritage center.

Scheduled for demolition as recently as 2002, Springerville Elementary School was saved following a grassroots "Save Our School" campaign. It will be used as a museum, community meeting space, small conference center, and offices for the Chamber of Commerce, White Mountain Historical Society, and Town of Springerville.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Town of Springerville: www.springerville.com

Springerville-Eager Regional Chamber of Commerce: www.springerville-eagar.com

WILLIAMS, ARIZONA

Williams, Arizona (population 2,842), is named for Bill Williams, one of the trappers known as “Mountain Men” who first explored the area in the early 19th century. The coming of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1882 jumpstarted growth of the community, and Williams quickly became a center for the railroad, ranching, and lumber industries. Because of its proximity to the Grand Canyon, the community also developed a flourishing tourism industry.



Completed in 1901, the 60-mile Santa Fe Railway spur line to the Grand Canyon established Williams as the “Gateway to the Grand Canyon.” In 1926, U.S. Highway 66 was constructed through Williams and served the automobile-touring public as part of the “Main Street of America.” Williams became the last “Route 66” town to be by-passed by U.S. Interstate 40 in 1984.

The historic downtown of Williams is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. Historically appropriate streetlights were recently installed in the district, and the city is working with a private developer to renovate Arizona’s oldest hotel, the Grand Canyon Hotel (1892). To assist visitors to Williams, the historic railroad depot (1901) is now a visitors center jointly operated by the local Chamber of Commerce and the National Forest Service. (Williams is surrounded by Kaibab National Forest.)

Reflecting the importance of the railroad to the community’s history, Williams is home to the Arizona State Railroad Museum, which is slated for a major expansion. Partially funded by Federal Transportation Enhancement dollars, the expanded museum is expected to have a major impact on the local economy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Williams: www.williamsarizona.gov
Williams-Grand Canyon Chamber of
Commerce: www.williamschamber.com

BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS



Blytheville, Arkansas (population 1,972), is located in the Round Valley of the White Mountains in northeastern Arizona. The valley first was home to Native Americans, and Springerville's Casa Malpais Archeological Park preserves the remains of one of the largest and most complex ancient Mogollon (Western Pueblo) communities in the United States. In 1540, Spanish explorer Coronado passed through the area, and today's tourists follow his general route through Springerville when traveling the Coronado Trail Scenic Byway.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Town of Springerville: www.springerville.com

Springerville-Eager Regional Chamber of Commerce: www.springerville-eagar.com

HELENA, ARKANSAS

Helena, Arkansas (population 6,323), county seat of Phillips County, is located on the Mississippi River and was an important early river port in Arkansas's Delta region. The heritage of Helena and the Delta is showcased at the Delta Cultural Center.



Exhibits at the Delta Cultural Center interpret the natural and human history of the Delta region, including the 1863 Battle of Helena, and Helena's important role in the development of blues music. King Biscuit Time, the longest-running blues radio show in the nation, is broadcast from the Center. The Center is housed in several historic buildings, including the Missouri Pacific Train Depot (1912).

Other Helena attractions include a large collection of antebellum and Victorian homes, including the Pillow-Thompson House (1896), which is one of the finest Queen Anne-style homes in the South. Many of Helena's historic properties are protected by local ordinance, and the community has an active Main Street Program that was one of the earliest in the State.

Heritage tourism is an important focus, particularly since two national scenic byways pass through the community – the Great River Road and the Crowley's Ridge Parkway. Helena is actively involved in both the Delta Byways Tourism Association and the Delta Rivers Regional Tourism Council.

Further capitalizing on Helena's potential for heritage tourism is a key component of the community's recently crafted strategic plan. The plan offers a blueprint for developing needed infrastructure to support increased tourism.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Main Street Helena: www.mainstreethelena.org

Phillips County Chamber of Commerce:

www.phillipscountychamber.com

Delta Cultural Center: www.deltaculturalcenter.com

OSCEOLA, ARKANSAS

Osceola, Arkansas (population 8,875), was established in 1837, making it one of the earliest settlements in this part of the Mississippi River Delta. The community was named for the famous Seminole Indian chief Osceola, who came to the area in the 1830s to explore an exchange of Arkansas land for Seminole land in Florida.



Osceola was the original county seat of Mississippi County and remains one of two county seats, after Blytheville was named a dual county seat in 1901. Osceola features a beautiful 1912 Neo-Classical courthouse with a copper roofed dome. The courthouse is bordered by the Hale Avenue Historic District and other structures listed in the National Historic Register of Historic Places. Visitors will also find the Mississippi County Historical Center located in a 1904 building that once housed a dry goods store.

Osceola is famous for its role in the development of blues music, and many famous blues musicians either came from Osceola or performed there. To celebrate this heritage, Main Street Osceola has been hosting the Osceola Heritage Festival since 1998.

Osceola's historic preservation program was also launched seven years ago with passage of a historic preservation ordinance. Current projects of the Osceola Historic Preservation Commission include survey work to expand the historic district and a feasibility study for preserving the Borum Building (1902), which is one of the community's oldest structures.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Osceola Chamber of Commerce: www.osceolachamber.net

GEORGETOWN, COLORADO

Georgetown, Colorado

(population 1,088), was first settled by prospectors lured to the area by the discovery of gold and silver. The town was incorporated in 1868 and became known as “The Silver Queen of the Rockies.” In 1884, the Georgetown Loop was constructed, a narrow gauge rail line linking Georgetown with the nearby community of Silver Plume. During the 1880s and through the early 1900s, the area’s spectacular scenery made Georgetown and the Georgetown Loop a center for tourist railroad excursions.

The town’s fortunes began to wane, however, with the advent of the automobile, and the Georgetown Loop was dismantled in 1938. This was followed by closing of the mines in the 1940s. In subsequent decades, however, new emphasis on the community’s heritage assets has helped reinvigorate tourism.

The Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966, and Georgetown passed the State’s first historic preservation/design review ordinance in 1970. In 2003, the new Gateway Visitor Center opened at the Georgetown exit from the interstate and greeted more than 230,000 visitors in its first year of operation.

Heritage tourists can visit the restored Hotel de Paris (1875), long famed as one of the West’s most elegant inns, and the Hamill House (1879), home of silver baron William A. Hamill. Also, the Georgetown Loop has been reconstructed and reopened by the Colorado Historical Society as part of a larger railroad and mining park that interprets these important themes in the State’s history.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Town of Georgetown: www.town.georgetown.co.us
Historic Georgetown, Inc: www.historicgeorgetown.org
Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau:
www.clearcreekcounty.org

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Norwalk, Connecticut (population 82,951), located on Long Island Sound, was first settled in the 1640s. During the Revolutionary War, the town was burned by Hessian and British forces. After the war, the citizens of Norwalk rebuilt the town, adding coastal trade, manufacturing, and shipbuilding to their farm businesses.



By the mid-19th century, Norwalk had become a major schooner and steamboat port as well as a thriving manufacturing center, producing clocks, watches, paper, pottery, nails, and hats. Oystering was and continues to be an important economic generator. Typical of many cities, the city's urban core deteriorated during the decades immediately after World War II.

But in the 1970s, Norwalk became a pioneer in the preservation of historic downtowns, and much of the decline has been reversed through redevelopment based on adaptive use of historic properties.

Considerable redevelopment has occurred in South Norwalk, or SoNo, and two projects illustrate the city's commitment to preservation. The Lock Company Building, a mid-19th century industrial building, has been transformed into the Lock Arts and Technology Center, providing retail space and office space for firms in the creative technology fields.

On a much smaller scale, the city also worked to ensure that the Dr. Robert Wolfe House was relocated rather than demolished and successfully incorporated into a rental housing development.

Norwalk works with neighboring communities to attract heritage tourists through the Coastal Fairfield County Convention and Visitor Bureau. An annual draw for visitors is the Norwalk Seaport Association's Oyster Festival, which celebrates the city's maritime heritage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Norwalk: www.norwalkct.org

Coastal Fairfield County Convention and Visitors Bureau: www.coastalct.com

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS



Leavenworth, Kansas (population 35,420), located on the Missouri River, became the first city in Kansas when it was incorporated in 1854. It served as the springboard for the settlement of the rest of the State and the support base for the opening of the West.

Built largely to support Fort Leavenworth (founded in 1827) and the settlers heading west, it was home to freight companies, meat packers, provisioners, stove makers, and furniture manufacturers.

Leavenworth continues to have a strong Federal presence. In addition to Fort Leavenworth, it is the location of the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary (founded 1895) and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Affairs Medical Center (founded in 1865). Under a recent agreement between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and a private developer, 38 historic buildings at the medical center will be leased, rehabilitated, and adaptively used.

Before settlement of the community, Lewis and Clark passed through the area during their epic journey of discovery. Leavenworth has joined with nearby communities to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial with special events in 2004 through 2006, including recognition of the first Fourth of July celebration held in the Louisiana Territory.

Reflecting the community's later history, Leavenworth has eight historic districts in the National Register of Historic Places, more than any other city in the State. Important sites are highlighted in Leavenworth's Historic Wayside Tour, where interpretive wayside stations provide visual information and audio narration about each site.

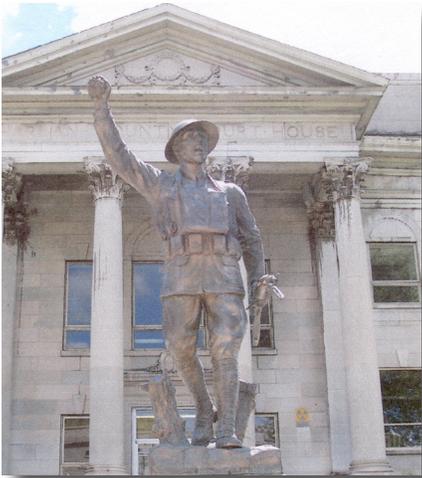
FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Leavenworth: www.lvks.org

HARLAN, KENTUCKY

Harlan, Kentucky (population 2,081), county seat of Harlan County, is located at the forks of the Cumberland River and was first settled around 1796. The community was known as Mount Pleasant, for a local Indian mound, when it became the seat of the new county in 1819, but it was renamed Harlan in 1865.

Located in the heart of the Appalachian coalfields, the community is steeped in coal mining history and was once known as the “Coal Capital of Kentucky.” With the decline of the area’s coal industry in recent decades, Harlan has had to diversify its economy. Tourism is an important component as the community works to make potential visitors aware of its historic and natural assets.



Harlan’s historic commercial area is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district, and the Harlan Revitalization Association is working as part of the Main Street Program to enhance the district. The organization recently worked with local government and an arts organization, The Artists’ Attic, to reuse the third floor of the historic county courthouse as an artists’ gallery and history center.

The community also promotes heritage tourism through a historic walking tour and participation in a regional tourism program, the First Frontier Corridor. In recognition of its mountain heritage, Harlan also hosts the annual Poke Sallet Festival, which combines modern entertainment with a celebration of traditions, including pokeweed recipes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Harlan Tourist and Convention Commission:
www.harlanonline.net/tourism
Harlan Renaissance: sweb.uky.edu/~mjmcco0/harlan/harlan-renaissance.html
Harlan Online: www.harlanonline.net

LONDON, KENTUCKY

London, Kentucky (population 5,692), is the county seat of Laurel County. The community began as a settlement on the Wilderness Road running north from the Cumberland Gap. The town was formed and named for London, England, in 1826. Due to its position on the Wilderness Road, London was along the route of warring armies during the Civil War, and the Battle of Camp Wildcat took place a short distance from town. It was the first Union victory in Kentucky.



The Camp Wildcat Battlefield has become a focal point for London's promotion of heritage tourism. Now part of the Daniel Boone National Forest, the battlefield has some of the best-preserved Civil War battlefield trenches in the Nation. Local, State, and Federal partners have joined to maintain and interpret the site, hold an annual reenactment, and bring visitors to the battlefield as part of the annual Central Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trail showcase.

London's heritage tourism will receive a further boost through development of the planned Kentucky Hills Heritage Park, which is being developed by the London-Laurel Tourism Commission. The park will house museum buildings devoted to local history and will be connected to London's historic downtown by a hiker/biker trail. Efforts to revitalize London's historic commercial core are led by London Downtown, a Kentucky Main Street organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of London: www.londonky.com/cityoflondon
London-Laurel County Tourist Commission:
www.laurelkytourism.com

CAMDEN, MAINE



Camden, Maine Camden, Maine (population 5,254), which is located at the foot of the wooded Camden Hills on a picturesque harbor, was first settled in 1769. Camden prospered during the 18th and 19th centuries, with important local industries including shipbuilding and woolen manufacturing. By the turn of the century, wealthy families began to “summer” in Camden, building magnificent summer homes and funding major public improvements in the community.

Tourism became increasingly important as the 20th century progressed, and the cruise schooner business was launched in the 1940s, leading to the development of the current Windjammer Fleet of historic ships. Today, Camden vies with Kennebunkport and Bar Harbor as one of the most popular tourist destinations in Maine.

Camden has two historic districts, and a number of notable preservation efforts are underway or recently completed. The Camden Opera House has been restored to serve not only as performance space, but also for use as town offices and other community uses.

Three historic landscaped spaces – the Village Green, the Camden Harbor Park, and the Camden Amphitheatre – that were donated to the community in the 1930s by a local philanthropist have been restored through public-private partnerships.

These landscapes at the head of the harbor are the focal point for Camden’s heritage tourism. The original designs by noted landscape architects Fletcher Steele and the Olmsted Brothers have been reinvigorated. They are the sites of many annual events, including Windjammer Days, when the historic Windjammer Fleet returns to port for a celebration of Camden’s maritime heritage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Town of Camden: www.town.camden.me.us
Camden-Rockport-Lincolntonville Chamber of
Commerce: www.camdenme.org

GARDINER, MAINE

Gardiner, Maine (population 6,198), was founded in 1754 by Dr. Sylvester Gardiner, who acquired the rights to develop the land at the confluence of the Kennebec River and Cobbosseeconte Stream. Dr. Gardiner exploited the 130' drop during the last mile of the stream by erecting several mills. Following on these early industrial ventures, ship building and trading became the basis of the community's economy from the early 1800s until the Civil War.



Beginning in the 1860s, numerous paper mills were located in Gardiner, and the ice industry flourished between the 1880s and 1920s. Starting in the 1960s, many of the mills began a slow process of decline and eventually closure, and the community is now principally a service and retail center.

Gardiner's downtown is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district and is the focus of the community's Main Street Program revitalization efforts. A Façade Improvement Program has leveraged over \$160,000 in private funds, and in 2003 alone the district saw \$253,000 in private reinvestment and the opening of 16 new businesses. The city is partnering with non-profit and private interests to rehabilitate Johnson Hall Opera House (1864), which will permit expanded use of this functioning arts center.

Gardiner also recently completed its link to the new Kennebec River Rail Trail. The trail will become part of the Kennebec River Historic Waterway, which was created by the State of Maine to coordinate the management and promotion of recreational, scenic, and historic lands along the Kennebec River.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Gardiner: www.gardinermaine.com/Public_Documents/index
Gardiner Main Street: www.gardinermainst.org

EASTON, MARYLAND

Easton, Maryland (population 11,708), was founded in 1710 when the General Assembly of Maryland decreed that a courthouse for Talbot County should be built at the headwaters of the Tred Avon River. The courthouse formed the nucleus of a community that was named Easton in 1788. Starting in 1817, steamships began to ply routes across the Chesapeake Bay to Easton, and the steamship industry became a mainstay of the community's economy for over a hundred years.

Arrival of the railroad in 1869 also created a boom in the seafood and agricultural markets, which is reflected in the community's many stately Victorian homes. Today, Easton is known for its medical facilities, small and medium-sized businesses, county airport, and the fine restaurants, boutiques, and specialty shops in its historic district.



Easton's historic downtown has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district since 1980. Each year, a portion of the historic district is closed to traffic during the Waterfowl Festival, a showcase of waterfowl art that has been held in Easton for 33 years. Several historic buildings are used as exhibit venues, and the event brings 18,000 to 20,000 tourists to Easton's historic downtown.

Throughout the year, visitors can tour historic Easton through a self-guided walking tour or on docent-led tours sponsored by the Historical Society of Talbot County. The Society has also created a driving tour of sites in Easton and Talbot County associated with abolitionist Frederick Douglass. A group of public and private partners that call themselves "Fred's Army" are raising funds to erect a monument to Douglass in Easton.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Town of Easton: www.town-eastonmd.com

Talbot County Office of Tourism: www.tourtalbot.org

CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI

Cleveland, Mississippi (population 13,841), the county seat of Bolivar County, is located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta region halfway between Memphis and Vicksburg. First settled in the mid-1800s, the community experienced an economic boom following the coming of the railroad in 1884. As the surrounding swamps were drained and the land cleared for timber, more and more settlers came in with the railroad, and Cleveland prospered.



In 1915, Delta Teachers College was established, which grew to be Delta State University. The Delta Center for Culture and Learning on the Delta State campus promotes the study of the Delta's history and culture, including the birth of blues music. Dockery Plantation near Cleveland was the home of several influential blues musicians such as Charlie Patton during the early 1900s.

Downtown Cleveland is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district, and a portion of that area is also protected by local ordinance as the Crosstie Historic District. The name of the district reflects the importance of the railroad to the community's history, and the city has partnered with the Bolivar County Library System to rehabilitate the historic railroad depot (1915) for use as a library and literacy center.

A recent expansion project at the depot has augmented its use by community organizations, and the building also serves as the community's tourist information center. Cleveland further promotes heritage tourism by participating in the Blues Highway Association, a volunteer group working to promote Mississippi Delta heritage to visitors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cleveland Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce:
www.clevelandmschamber.com

Cleveland Tourism Council: www.visitclevelandms.com

HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hooksett, New Hampshire (population 12,807) is located in south-central New Hampshire, just north of Manchester, the State's largest city, and 8 miles south of Concord, the State capitol. First known as Chester Woods and Rowe's Corner, this town was called Hooksett for nearly 50 years before being incorporated in 1822. There were several ferries located here for crossing the Merrimack River, as well as lumber mills and a brick-making establishment powered by the falls. In 1794, the lottery-funded Hooksett Canal became part of the transportation facilities of the Amoskeag cotton mills in Manchester.

Since 1822, a general merchandise market has operated at the site of Robie's Country Store and the present building, constructed in 1907, has remained virtually unchanged since that time. Robie's has long been a "must stop" for presidential candidates every four years and the site of lively political gatherings. From 1887 until 1997, the store was operated by a member of the Robie family, and when the last family operators retired, a group of local citizens mobilized to save the store, maintain the structure, and create a living history museum. The building and its contents were purchased, and then leased to a party committed to preserving the historic aspects of the property and continuing to operate it as a county store. The store has been listed in both the State and National Registers of Historic Places and designated as an official Save America's Treasures project.

The non-profit Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corporation has no professional staff and is run by dedicated volunteers. Thanks to partnerships with the New Hampshire Rural Development Council, the Small Business Administration/Service Corps of Retired Executives, the local Historical Society and Heritage Commission, and New Hampshire's Political Tradition, Inc., Robie's Country Store continues to contribute to Hooksett's economy and provide cultural continuity.



The Hooksett Heritage Commission has also undertaken an oral history project, as well as a program to refurbish Head Chapel, built circa 1839 as the town's first one-room schoolhouse. Though the historic building has been open to the public since some renovations in 1965, it has been underutilized and is in need of repair and interpretation.

In May 2005, in recognition of National Historic Preservation Month, the Hooksett Heritage Commission, Historical Society, and Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corporation invited the public to celebrate Hooksett Heritage Day. Open Houses were held at three of Hooksett's most historic buildings: Arah Prescott Library, Head Chapel, and Robie's Country Store.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Town of Hooksett: www.hooksett.org
Preservation Case Study: Robie's Country Store:
www.nationaltrust.org/primer/list.asp?i=28

KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Keene, New Hampshire (population 22,780), county seat of Cheshire County, is located on the Ashuelot River. Glassmaking and textiles were early industries, and Keene was once the site of well-known pottery works. Chartered in 1753, the town features an impressive collection of Georgian buildings, including the 1762 Wyman Tavern, now maintained as a house museum representing the period from 1770 to 1820.

Built by Captain Isaac Wyman and operated as a tavern by his family for 40 years, the tavern was the site of the first meeting of the trustees of Dartmouth College in 1770. It was also from this tavern that 29 minutemen started their march to Lexington and Concord in April of 1775 under the command of Captain Wyman, a veteran of the Indian Wars. In summer months, Revolutionary War re-enactments are held on the tavern grounds.

Keene is known for its wide main street and the fact that many of the town's earliest structures have remained unchanged for more than two centuries, including the 1795 doctor's house, the 1791 home of Keene's most prominent attorney, and the 1805 home of its postmaster. Keene is also the birthplace of one of America's earliest environmentalists, Henry David Thoreau. The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Keene one of its "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" in 2003, calling the town a "Currier & Ives landscape come to life."

Since 2000, Keene has compiled an inventory of nearly 200 historic properties, and established a Heritage Commission and a Downtown Historic District and Commission.

As part of a complex environmental cleanup and redevelopment of its abandoned rail yard as an Industrial Heritage Corridor, a circa 1900 city-owned factory is being restored and converted for housing by a private developer, and new recreational spaces are being created, including trails with interpretive signs that follow the old rail bed.



Keene enjoys one of the best-preserved and most architecturally rich downtowns in New England. Economic prosperity over time is reflected in richly decorated commercial blocks and large private homes now used for commercial purposes.

The restoration of the Faulker & Colony mill complex and the Colonial

Theatre are two of the projects that are helping keep the community historically sound and economically viable. Because of their successes, Keene's historic preservation leaders are often asked to lead workshops and training sessions for land use boards and preservation advocates around the State.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Keene: www.ci.keene.nh.us

Historical Society of Cheshire County: www.hscnh.org

OCRACOKE ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA



Ocracoke Island, one of the barrier islands of the Outer Banks of North Carolina, is accessible only by water or air. The village of Ocracoke (population 769) at the southwestern end was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and includes the 1823 Ocracoke Lighthouse as well as several historic commercial buildings and over 100 homes. It is the oldest lighthouse still in operation in North Carolina, and one of the oldest on the Eastern coast of the United States.

Other historic attractions include the British Cemetery and the restored David Williams House (circa 1900), now home of the Ocracoke Museum and Visitor Center. On the eastern flyway of many migrating water and land birds, the area is a birdwatcher's paradise.

The island, inlet, and village called "Ocracoke" all were known as "Wokokon" at the time early English explorers came this way en route north to Roanoke Island. At least one of Sir

Walter Raleigh's expeditions first made landfall on Ocracoke. Many years later, Edward Teach, a young man from a fine English family, began his nefarious career in Ocracoke as the dreaded pirate "Blackbeard." He is said to have had a residence on the island and was killed nearby in a naval battle on November 22, 1718.

Fort Ocracoke was built during the Civil War over batteries erected to guard the inlet during the Revolutionary and 1812 Wars. During World War II, a Navy base was built on Ocracoke Island. Nearby waters became known as Torpedo Junction as German U-boats sank merchant ships carrying vital war supplies. On the mainland, old fire towers built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s served as observation points for spotting planes and submarines. Great hurricanes as well as wars have played a part in Ocracoke's history, and more than a thousand shipwrecks lie off its coast. Remains of Fort Ocracoke were recently discovered and are being excavated and interpreted.

In 1937 most of Ocracoke Island was put under the protection of the National Park System, and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, stretching from Nags Head to Ocracoke, was the first in the country when it was dedicated in 1953. After the ferry system was established in the 1940s, Ocracoke

began to see an influx of travelers and today the tourism industry is the basis of the island's economy. As the island's economy has changed from maritime to tourist related ventures, the distinctive brogue spoken by the island's natives has become an endangered dialect.

The Greater Hyde County Chamber of Commerce has an innovative way of sharing the county's history using AM radio broadcasters at several historic attractions. Signs direct visitors at specific sites to tune their AM radio to a pre-selected frequency for further information. Visitors are welcome to enter the site if it is open; otherwise, they can sit in the comfort of their vehicles and learn about the heritage of the area.

The Village of Ocracoke also participates in the Historic Albemarle Tour, founded in 1975 and one of the oldest heritage trails in North Carolina, as well as the North Carolina Civil War Trail. A Scenic Byways committee works with nearby counties and the State to jointly promote and support heritage tourism.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ocracoke Preservation Society:
www.ocracoke-nc.com
Ocracoke Civic and Business
Association:
www.ocracokevillage.com

GEORGETOWN, OHIO



Georgetown, Ohio (population 3,786), is the county seat and largest village in Brown County in the Cincinnati metro area. It was incorporated in 1832.

Georgetown's Historic District was placed in the National Register as a U.S. bicentennial project in 1976, after façade restorations and a signage ordinance were completed. It is centered on the 1851 Greek Revival courthouse, which was restored after a devastating fire in the late 1970s.

One block away is the boyhood home of Ulysses S. Grant, a National Historic Landmark. Built by his father, the home was Ulysses S. Grant's residence for 16 years. Another related site is the schoolhouse attended by Grant, built in 1829. Both sites are owned and operated by the Ohio Historical Society. Trained volunteers interpret Georgetown's 19th century homes and businesses for visitors, including more than 800 school children annually.

Marketing itself as the "Land of Grant," Georgetown hosts an annual U.S. Grant Celebration and Living History program that attracts 1,500 visitors and boosts the local

economy. Reenactments include the arrival of Morgan's Raiders, a Civil War wedding and ball, and demonstrations of period skills.

Main Street's Commercial Row features Victorian Italianate buildings, and nearby Federal Row contains buildings constructed between 1828 and 1850. Georgetown's historic theater, first opened in 1907 as a vaudeville house, was the first place in town to show "talkies" and remained in use as a movie theater until 1962. Now beautifully restored to its original splendor, the Gaslight Theater is a cultural hub for the region.

Other historic attractions include an 1870s jail, home to the Historical Society Museum, and the New Hope Road Bridge in Georgetown, the longest single covered bridge still standing in Ohio.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Village of Georgetown: www.villagegeorgetown.com

Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area: www.ohiohillcountry.org/index.php

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, South Carolina, (population 107,337), one of America's most historic and livable cities, was founded by English colonists in 1670 and served as the capital city of the Carolina Colony. Site of the first major naval battle of the Revolution and the opening shots of the Civil War, Charleston has become a leading tourist destination and has used its historic assets to reinvigorate the local economy. The city is recognized nationally and internationally for its leadership in historic preservation and cultural heritage tourism. Revitalized historic structures contribute to the housing market and retail scene, enhancing the quality of life for Charleston residents.

examples of exterior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and compatible new construction in the city.

Over the last decade, development in Charleston's Upper Peninsula has boomed. In 2004 the city, the Historic Charlestown Foundation, and the State Historic Preservation Office undertook an extensive survey of historic architectural resources in the area with an eye towards protecting them from demolition, inappropriate alterations, and insensitive new construction as the area evolves. Community meetings were held to get input, discuss local history with residents, and build community pride in Upper Peninsula resources.



Charleston boasts many museums, archives, and other interpretive facilities, including America's first museum, founded in 1773. An elementary school curriculum called "Heritage Education" and an extensive program of educational field trips for students and training workshops for teachers integrates Charleston's historic and cultural resources into local education. Local colleges teach historic preservation and related crafts.

Heritage tourism efforts include walking tours in the Old and Historic District and an on-line National Register travel itinerary for the city. Charleston participates in a regional heritage tourism effort as part of the South Carolina

National Heritage Corridor.

Charleston protects its historic and architectural legacy, an irreplaceable part of its heritage, through planning, zoning, historic district status, and an active Board of Architectural Review.

Charleston pioneered preservation planning in America, and its 1931 preservation ordinance was the first in the nation to regulate property specifically based on historic significance. Since 1953, more than 1,250 awards have been presented by the Preservation Society of Charleston for outstanding

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Charleston National Register travel itinerary:

www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/charleston

South Carolina National Heritage Corridor:

www.sc-heritagecorridor.org

Charleston County Public Library online historic tours, images, articles:

BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Brookings, South Dakota, (population 18,504), located on the Big Sioux River, was platted in 1879 after the Chicago and North Western Railroad decided to establish a station there. In 1881 the Dakota Agricultural College, today South Dakota State University, was established and two years later the city was incorporated. Immigrants from Europe and Scandinavia flocked to Brookings, which continued to develop as a diversified agricultural area and a seat of learning.



The South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, located on the campus of South Dakota State University, is dedicated to preserving the area's rich agricultural history and rural heritage. Its collections and exhibits depict technology, crops, and livestock and examine human experiences, institutions, and cultures that were shaped by the State's rural landscape and diverse environment.

Today Brookings is the county seat of Brookings County. This college town has four historic districts, including the commercial district, the central historic residential area, the University's historic residential district, and the Sexauer Seed Company complex. In recent years Brookings has seen the creation of a preservation non-profit organization,

and has updated its historic preservation ordinance. Downtown Brookings, Inc., the City's Main Street program, has also created design and maintenance guidelines for the historic downtown.

The Brookings Historic Preservation Commission has produced walking tour brochures, runs guided tours, and participates in a radio show about the community's historic resources during National Preservation Week. An annual History and Garden Festival includes hands-on historic preservation workshops. Mayor's Awards recognize property owners who restore and preserve their historic structures in categories including sympathetic additions or infill, historically appropriate landscaping, and restoration.

After the failure of a bond issue to restore the 1921 Brookings Middle School, vacant since 1998, the County decided to raze it. Local volunteers opposed to the demolition collected enough signatures to send the decision to a countywide vote. Thanks to public support for preserving the school, the city transferred ownership to a private developer, who worked with a non-profit Economic Development Corporation and used a Housing and Urban Development loan to renovate the building. Other support for the project came from the Save America's Treasures program, the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit, and State grants and tax incentives. The former school now houses a mixture of government offices, commercial space, and 18 apartments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Online tours of historic areas:
cityofbrookings.org/slideshow/tour.php
South Dakota Agricultural Heritage
Museum: www.agmuseum.com

LEAD, SOUTH DAKOTA

Lead, South Dakota, (population 3027), developed as the company town serving the Homestake Mine, and took its name (pronounced “lead”) from the term for a ledge of ore. The Homestake, discovered in 1876 and in operation through 2001, was the longest continually operated gold mine in the Western Hemisphere.



By the time South Dakota was granted statehood in 1889, Lead was the State’s largest city, home to thousands of immigrants in search of prosperity. This diverse population worked side-by-side mining ore, cutting timber, and establishing a business community that dominated the economy of western South Dakota.

From its construction in 1914 until a catastrophic fire in 1984, the Opera House in Lead was the center of community life. In addition to a theatre, it housed a bowling alley, billiard rooms, a swimming pool, library, and social rooms.

Lead citizens rallied to restore their historic building, obtaining funding support from Community Development Block Grants, the

Save America’s Treasures program, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the South Dakota State Historical Society. Matching funds were raised, and soon the restored Opera House will once again serve as a cultural and educational center and community landmark.

Lead has an active Historic Preservation Commission and a community-wide preservation plan. Today Lead’s historic business district is witnessing changes that are restoring, rebuilding, and revitalizing the community. Many local landmarks are receiving facelifts, and most of the town of Lead is a National Register of Historic Places District.

At both the Black Hills Mining Museum and the Homestake Visitors Center tourists and residents can explore Lead’s mining heritage through tours and exhibits. People from all over the Black Hills region, including people from Wyoming and Montana, travel to Lead for an annual event during Historic Preservation Week each May.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lead Area Chamber of Commerce:
www.leadmethere.org

Historic Homestake Opera House:
www.leadoperahouse.org

VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA



Vermillion, is a community of 10,000 atop a bluff on the Missouri River in the southeastern corner of South Dakota. Its name is derived from the original Sioux name meaning “red stream.” The junction of the Missouri River and Vermillion River had for generations been the camping ground of a band of the Yankton Sioux Indians.

The present site of Vermillion was first visited by French fur traders at the close of the 18th century. On August 24, 1804, Lewis and Clark camped at the mouth of the Vermillion River and from there made their trek to Spirit Mound. Afterwards, numerous trappers and fur traders went up and down the river, and the Columbia Fur Company established a trading post at the river’s mouth. John James Audubon, the famous artist, visited the Vermillion ravine in 1843 to enjoy the abundance of bird life.

On August 8, 1844, the first white settlers to the area were a group of Mormons seeking a new home after

being driven out of Illinois. This group eventually moved down river near Omaha, and from there they continued to points west until they arrived in Utah in July of 1847.

By 1860 the Yankton Sioux Indians were moved to government lands and Dakota Territory was opened to homesteaders. In this area many were of Scandinavian descent. Vermillion grew and became a thriving community. The University of South Dakota was established in 1862 at the first meeting of the Territorial Legislature and is central to modern day Vermillion.

The town was incorporated in 1873 and did well until a huge flood in 1881 washed three-fourths of Vermillion away. Merchants immediately relocated to the top of the bluff and began building new stores. One major local attraction is the Austin-Whittemore House Museum, a home that was built atop a bluff along the river after the disastrous flood. This Italian-style villa is filled with Victorian furnishings and items of local historical interest.

Other local historic destinations include the W.H. Over Museum, which interprets the region’s historical heritage, and the nearby Spirit Mound Historic Prairie visited by Lewis & Clark. Vermillion commemorates the 1804 Corps of Discovery visit

each August in cooperation with the Native American community.

Since 2000, Vermillion has renewed its commitment to downtown revitalization and the protection of its historic resources. The community has developed a cultural plan and a historic preservation plan, and surveyed its properties. As a result, historic downtown Vermillion was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 and design guidelines for façade improvements were developed. New park facilities and traffic lights were designed to blend with their historic surroundings, and a draft historic preservation ordinance is under development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Vermillion: www.cityofvermillion.com

Vermillion history and attractions:

www.vermillionchamber.com

Clay County Historic Preservation Commission:

historicclaycounty.org/cchpc

JONESBOROUGH, TENNESSEE

Historic Jonesborough (population 4391), the oldest town in Tennessee, is in a region known as America's First Frontier and serves as the Washington County seat. The area declared itself independent from Great Britain five years before the Declaration of Independence and was the capital of the State of Franklin, losing by one vote becoming the 14th State in the Union. Andrew Jackson opened a law practice in Jonesborough, and become a judge. As President, he spent time at Jonesborough's Chester Inn on his way back to the Hermitage in Nashville.

Jonesborough is the home of the National Storytelling Center in the heart of the downtown historic district near the Washington County Courthouse. A National Storytelling Festival has taken place here annually for over 30 years, and has brought significant economic benefits to the community and the region.

The Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum, located in the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center, interprets local history from the 1770s to the present. It also serves students through its educational programs, including a day at the 1886 one-room Oak Hill School. Participants

take a step back in time and walk in the shoes of students from over 100 years ago. This program won the Tennessee Association of Museums' 2000 Award of Excellence.

As a result of community planning, laws and zoning, and cooperative work with property owners since the 1970s, the historic downtown has been successfully restored. Jonesborough's Historic Zoning Commission and its Heritage Alliance reevaluate every property within the National Register Historic District every five years. The town also has an ordinance to prevent demolition of historic resources by neglect.

Volunteers with the Heritage Alliance provide preservation expertise to residents and maintain a warehouse of hard to find historic architectural materials taken from structures demolished in nearby communities for use by those doing restoration.

The town is an active member of the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Cooperative and participates in a "Tales and Trails" program with other area historic communities. Jonesborough has recently been listed on National Geographic's "Discover Appalachia" Geotourism Map and their web-based Event and Attraction map. It has also been named one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations."

Jonesborough Days, a heritage festival held every 4th of July weekend for 35 years, celebrates 225 years of local history, including reenactments of an Indian village, a pioneer encampment, a Civil War hospital, a 1940s USO show, and a time line parade.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jonesborough/Washington County Heritage Alliance
www.jwcheritagealliance.org

Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum
www.jonesboroughtn.org



GALVESTON, TEXAS



The land upon which Galveston was built was part of the original Austin Colony until Michel Menard and his associates bought the site from the Republic of Texas. Town lots were made available in 1838, and the city was incorporated in 1839. Galveston's harbor became an active port with ships from all over the world importing goods.

Galveston Island has been a home to Akokisa Indians, the base of operations of the infamous pirate Jean Lafitte, a major immigration port, "the Wall Street of the Southwest," the richest city in Texas, and the site one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history, the great hurricane of 1900. The island recovered and became a major resort from the 1920s-1940s.

The city of Galveston (population 57,240) has one of the largest intact collections of turn of the century buildings in America, including two National Historic Landmark Districts, two additional National Register Historic Districts, and 61 individually

listed properties. It actively promotes and protects historic places and maintains a vibrant heritage tourism industry in partnership with local preservation partners.

A number of preservation projects have had a major positive economic impact on the city.

The economic benefits of these efforts have been documented in a 1996 case study by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a 1999 study called "Historic Preservation Policy at Work for the Texas Economy."

To support the productive reuse of heritage resources, one cent of the hotel/motel bed tax goes to the Arts and Historic Preservation Commission and tax reinvestment zones have been created throughout the city. Galveston recently adopted an updated historic preservation plan, and the city's comprehensive plan incorporates detailed preservation objectives and strategies.

Galveston's city government and the Galveston Historical Foundation partner to produce the annual "Dickens on the Strand" festival, raising funds to preserve and celebrate the architectural, cultural, and maritime heritage of the city. Over 50,000 participants enjoy tours of the Strand/Mechanic Historic Landmark District's historic buildings and a host of special events recreating Victorian times.

Educational field trips and a camp exploring the island's historic treasures are among the extensive offerings of the Galveston Historical Foundation, as are tour itineraries, exhibits, and even demonstration classes on preservation techniques. A partnership with the Galveston Independent School District produced "Galveston Island: Adventures Beyond the Classroom" a resource catalog for students, parents, and teachers that describes opportunities for heritage education at sites throughout Galveston. Thousands of schoolchildren each year participate in overnight educational programs on Galveston's maritime heritage at the Texas Seaport Museum and attend reenactments of Pioneer Days and Buffalo Soldier Encampments.

The ELISSA, one of nine historic square-rigged vessels preserved in the United States, has received funding from the Save America's Treasures program. In addition to being open to the public for tours, those interested can train and participate as working volunteer crew members, gaining a deeper understanding of Galveston's maritime culture, seafaring practices, and maritime preservation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Galveston Historical Foundation: www.galvestonhistory.org

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

Suffolk's rich history dates back to 1608 when the English settled in the area and traded with the Nansemond Indians. Captain John Smith noted the potential of the oyster beds in the Nansemond River, but was driven away by the native population. Eventually commerce grew along the river and John Constant founded an important trading center and village known as Constant's Wharf, which would become the Town of Suffolk in 1742, after Governor William Gooch's home in Suffolk County, England.

Burned by the British in 1779 and damaged by other fires throughout the next century, Suffolk survived to become a city in 1910. In 1912, an Italian immigrant named Amedeo Obici moved from Pennsylvania to Suffolk and founded the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company. Today, Suffolk remains a major peanut processing center and transportation hub in the heart of the Hampton Roads region. In 1974, the City of Suffolk expanded to consolidate with the towns of Holland and Whaleyville and the County of Nansemond. This action made Suffolk (population 73,515) the largest city by land area in Virginia, encompassing a total of 430 square miles.

Suffolk offers visitors a wide array of cultural and historical sites, some of which are promoted as

part of Virginia's Civil War Trails program. The Old Nansemond County Courthouse, a Greek Revival building rebuilt after the fire of 1837, served as part of the headquarters for Major General Peck of the Union Army. Riddick's Folly (1837), a 20-room Greek Revival house, also briefly served as Union Headquarters and is now a museum and cultural center. Cedar Hill Cemetery (1802) houses the Confederate monument dedicated in 1889 and many other historic sculptures.

Six historic districts and seven individual properties in Suffolk are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In order to maintain Suffolk's historic resources, many property owners are taking advantage of Federal and State tax credits, and a sense of renewal is attracting people to older sections of the city. The Historic Landmarks Commission has been instrumental in the revitalization of downtown Suffolk, where many historic buildings have put back into productive use, and the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society also works to preserve Suffolk's history with the aid of grants and local support.

The Historic Prentis House (c.1800), one of the oldest standing homes in Suffolk, has undergone an extensive restoration in cooperation with the Association for the Preservation of

Virginia Antiquities and now serves as the Suffolk Visitor Center and offices for the Suffolk Division of Tourism. The Seaboard Passenger Train Station (1885), in continuous use until the mid-20th century, has been renovated as a railroad museum featuring a two-room HO-scale model of Suffolk in 1907. The deteriorating 1922 Suffolk High School is currently being restored and repurposed to serve as a cultural arts center with community meeting space and services in the downtown historic district.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Suffolk history: www.suffolk.va.us/aasfk/history.html
Suffolk historic attractions: www.suffolk.va.us/aasfk/history2.html

BEVERLY, WEST VIRGINIA

One of the earliest settlements in the Alleghenies, Beverly was founded in 1790 as the first county seat of Randolph County, Virginia. With the completion of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike in 1847, it became a major crossroads, providing access across the mountains. As such, it was a crucial prize in the First Campaign of the Civil War. General McClellan's 1861 victory at nearby Rich Mountain and capture of Beverly led to his appointment as commander of the Army of the Potomac. It gave Federal forces control of northwestern Virginia and led to the formation of the State of West Virginia two years later.

Post Civil War development centered in the nearby railroad town of Elkins, enabling Beverly to remain a quiet village that preserves many historical treasures. Beverly (population 649) had its first historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. In 1999, and a complete survey of the town's historic resources was updated. The non-profit Historic Beverly Preservation partners with the Beverly Historic Landmarks Commission and West Virginia Historic Preservation Office to develop interpretive materials including a Web page, a walking tour brochure, and on-site descriptive signs for key buildings.

Housed in the 1828 Blackman-Bosworth Store, the Randolph County Museum has a large collection including early settlement tools, Civil War artifacts,

belongings of early citizens, and store and business collections. Behind the museum is an original subscription school relocated from rural Randolph County. This small schoolhouse originally housed a school "subscribed" by parents who banded together to hire a teacher before public education was universal. It features an extensive collection of one-room school artifacts and memorabilia.

Four adjoining buildings in the heart of Beverly, including the 1808 Randolph County Court House and McClellan's Headquarters (currently the Rich Mountain/Historic Beverly Visitor Center) are being

developed as the Beverly Heritage Center, an interpretive museum and visitor center. Funding to date has included a federal Scenic Byways grant, a State Cultural Facilities Grant, development grants from the State Historic Preservation Office, a National Endowment for the Humanities interpretive grant, and over \$200,000 in private donations.

The Center will anchor other interpretive and commercial development throughout the historic district, providing a key attraction for the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike Byway, as well as contributing to heritage tourism development for

Randolph County and the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area. While contributing to economic development in the region, the Heritage Center will also educate the local community about Beverly's heritage and culture and foster local pride.

Abiennial Beverly Heritage Day featuring historic home tours, heritage crafts, food, music, and living history raises awareness of local history and historic resources,



raising funds for future preservation work. Beverly also participates actively in a West Virginia Civil War Task Force, and the Rich Mountain Battlefield and Historic Beverly are listed on the national Civil War Discovery Trail of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Beverly history, virtual tour:
www.historicbeverly.org