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Preserve America Communities Total 895 Nationwide With New Illinois, Kentucky and North Carolina Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Three new Preserve America Communities—Woodstock, IL; Middlesborough, KY; and Matthews, NC—have been designated by First Lady Michelle Obama, raising the total nationwide to 895.

Woodstock becomes the 11th Preserve America Community in Illinois. Middlesborough is the 75th designation in Kentucky, a state that is second in the nation only to Texas with 76 communities. Matthews is North Carolina's 30th designated community.

“Preserve America Communities are committed to preserving their past by using their heritage to build a better future,” said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, chairman of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). “It is good news for the nation when communities demonstrate that they want to enjoy and share the economic, educational, environmental and sustainability benefits preservation provides, while creating more vibrant and desirable places to live, work and visit.”

Some historic preservation and heritage tourism highlights in the three new communities:

The Woodstock Square Historic District is anchored by the Woodstock Opera House, featuring year-round performing arts programs, and the 1857 Old McHenry Courthouse. Its ambiance made it a perfect setting for the filming of the 1993 movie, *Groundhog Day*. An annual weeklong series of events attracts throngs of visitors to commemorate Woodstock's starring role in the Bill Murray film.

Middlesborough is part of Tour Southern and Eastern Kentucky, a regional group promoting heritage tourism, adventure tourism, agri-tourism, arts, and culture in a 50-county area. The Wilderness Road Heritage Highway, a National Scenic Byway, begins in Middlesborough and largely follows the trail blazed by Daniel Boone through the Cumberland Gap and into the area in 1775. More than 250,000 settlers followed the Boone Trace in their journey west.

Despite being faced with tremendous development pressure as a suburb of Charlotte, Matthews has created historical festivals, downtown walking tours, home and garden tours, and, in 2013, opened the Matthews Heritage Museum. Housed in the restored 1880s Massey-Clark House in the middle of Downtown, the museum has succeeded in turning an unused, distressed property on the main street into a popular and appreciated attraction, keeping memories alive and providing an economic boost to local merchants.

The Preserve America Community program recently marked its 10th anniversary. The program recognizes a select group of communities that use their heritage resources in sustainable ways and share the myriad benefits of historic preservation with residents and visitors.

Preserve America Communities, great places to live, visit and explore, are located in all 50 states and several overseas U.S. territories. A full list of Preserve America Communities can be found at www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html linking to profiles and contact information for each community, including the three new designations.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Applications from prospective new Preserve America Communities are accepted quarterly. Preserve America is administered by the ACHP with assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior. For more information, including community designation criteria and application forms, see www.preserveamerica.gov/communities.html.

Illinois' designated communities in addition to Woodstock are Blue Island, Lemont, Lockport, Moline, Oak Park, Palestine, Plainfield, Rock Island, Riverside, and Will County.

Kentucky's designations in addition to Middlesborough are Anchorage, Ashland, Augusta, Barbourville, Bardstown, Bell Court neighborhood (Lexington), Bellevue, Benham, Boone County, Bowling Green, Cadiz, Campbellsville, Carrollton, Cloverport, Covington, Cumberland, Cynthiana, Danville, Dawson Springs, Dayton, Elizabethtown, Erlanger, Flemingsburg, Fort Thomas, Frankfort, Franklin, Georgetown, Glasgow, Gratz Park neighborhood (Lexington), Greensburg, Harlan, Harrodsburg, Hart County, Henderson, Historic Portland neighborhood (Louisville), Hodgenville, Hopkinsville, Horse Cave, LaGrange, Lawrenceburg, Lebanon, Letcher Count, Liberty, London, Lynch, Madisonville, Maysville, Midway, Morehead, Mount Sterling, Mount Vernon, Munfordville, Murray, New Castle, Newport, Nicholasville, Paducah, Paris, Richmond, Russellville, Scottsville, Shelbyville, Springfield, Stanford, Versailles, Warsaw, West Main Street Preservation District (Louisville), West Point, and Winchester.

North Carolina designations predating Matthews are Asheboro, Asheville, Banner Elk, Beaufort, Boone, Burlington, Cleveland County, Edenton, Fayetteville, Gaston County, Gastonia, Greenville, Hatteras Village, Hendersonville, Hillsborough, Kinston, Lincoln County, Lincolnnton, Manteo, New Bern, Ocracoke, Shelby, Thomasville, Transylvania County, Waxhaw, Waynesville, West Salem Historic District (Winston-Salem), Wilkes County, and Wilmington.