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## Preserve America News | March 2013

### Preserve America Celebrates a Milestone; Looks for Feedback

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The Preserve America program celebrated its 10th anniversary on March 3. Now with 887 designated communities, 38 stewards, and numerous awards, millions of dollars in grants, and improved historic preservation in communities across the United States, Preserve America is a successful endeavor. This anniversary opens up the opportunity to see what else can be done and what accomplishments have taken place in your communities. [Please read more and send us feedback!](#)



2005 Presidential Award winner Isaiah Davenport House Museum, Savannah, Ga.

### New Preserve America Community Designations

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First Lady Michelle Obama recently signed and sent designation letters recognizing five new Preserve America Communities. They are Tucson, Ariz.; Windsor, Colo.; West Palm Beach, Fla.; Howard County, Md.; and Colorado City, Texas—bringing the nationwide total to 887. [Read more.](#)



Windsor, Colo. Whitehall schoolhouse

### First Lady Designates New Preserve America Stewards

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Since the last Preserve America e-newsletter, First Lady Michelle Obama has designated two new Preserve America Stewards.

The New Bedford Historical Society works to preserve and celebrate the heritage of African Americans, Cape Verdeans, Native Americans, West

Indians and other people of color in New Bedford, Mass. Volunteers are the backbone of the group, and the Preserve America Steward designation recognizes their efforts to restore and interpret the Nathan and Mary Johnson House, an Underground Railroad site. [Read more details.](#)



The volunteers of the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad preserve and interpret the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad as a living museum. It has been featured in a number of movies including *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. A 64-mile segment of the original Denver & Rio Grande Western narrow gauge rail line, the scenic railroad runs through stunning mountain scenery in Colorado and New Mexico. The historic importance of the railroad led to its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 2012. [Read more details.](#)

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad preservation

## Proven Tools for Sustainable Growth and Heritage Tourism

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Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Preserve America program with an exciting day of presentations and idea sharing with some of the best thought leaders in the industry.



The Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) Partnership, the ACHP and the National Park Service have developed a dynamic educational track during the JTHG Partnership's 2013 Annual Conference entitled, "*More Bang for the Buck: Tools for Sustainable Growth and Heritage Tourism.*" Sessions will focus on project management, best practices, economic development opportunities, grant administration and heritage tourism.

If you are a preservation or economic development planner, tourism professional, elected official, preservation activist, historian or educator, join us in Gettysburg, Penn. on May 21 and consider staying for the full conference. [Read program and registration details.](#)

Gettysburg's Shriver House Museum

## Registration Open for National Main Streets Conference

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Want to help save the heritage and character of your downtown while making it vibrant and profitable? The 2013 National Main Streets Conference April 14 -16 in New Orleans is the ideal place to learn new skills and discover innovative strategies. [Check out the conference program and register online.](#)



## Familiar Faces Emerge at Secretary's Award Ceremony

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When Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar decided to use the ACHP quarterly business meeting March 1 for his Historic Preservation Award presentation, one of the honorees turned out to be a longstanding friend of the Preserve America Community (PAC) program.



Michelle Pierce, Lake City, Colo., received the Secretary's most recent award that is presented annually to a person who has made outstanding contributions to the National Park Service's Certified Local Government (CLG) program. When the ACHP heard Pierce was receiving the award both she and Lake City sounded familiar to ACHP staff members. Sure enough, Pierce had nominated Lake City to be a PAC early in the program's history.

The Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Awards program was established relatively recently. Yet, of the first three CLG recipients, two have been PACs. William Morgan, of Muncie, Ind., was given the award in 2011. There also have been three years of awards presented to an individual serving as a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). One of the former recipients, Kelly Jackson, is THPO for the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Wisc., whose tribe is a designated PAC.

It will be interesting to see if the Secretary's Award trend holds with PACs rising to the top of the recognition pyramid in years to come. Congratulations to Pierce, Jackson, Morgan and to Lake City, the Lac du Flambeau Band and Muncie for their outstanding preservation accomplishments.

Learn more about the [CLG program](#). Read more on the [March 1, 2013 ACHP business meeting](#).

ACHP Chairman Wayne Donaldson, Michelle Pierce, Secretary Ken Salazar

## New ACHP Members Sworn In

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At the March 1 meeting of the ACHP, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar swore in two new ACHP members: Teresa Isabel Leger de Fernandez and Dr. Lynne Sebastian, both of New Mexico.

Leger de Fernandez is a partner at Nordhaus Law Firm and serves as General Counsel to several Indian tribes. She also works in various capacities to serve the Latino community. More information on her life and career is available on the [ACHP Web site](#).

Sebastian is Director of Historic Preservation Programs at the SRI Foundation. She is an archaeologist, anthropologist, and long-term cultural resource management practitioner. More information on her life and career is available on the [ACHP Web site](#).

## New Co-Chair of the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus

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U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) has signed on as the new Co-Chair of the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus. Holt joins Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), the other Co-Chair. The caucus brings together Members of Congress who understand and appreciate the value of America's historic places. Caucus members support and encourage the preservation and thoughtful economic development of historic places in their districts, states, Indian reservations and as a matter of national policy.



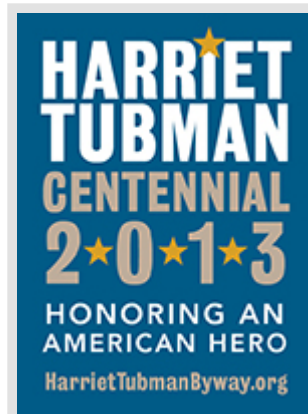
Holt represents Princeton and a number of other historic communities in central New Jersey. Turner's district includes Dayton, a Preserve America Community. Is your Representative a member of the Historic Preservation Caucus? If not, perhaps they would be interested in joining. You may suggest they contact Turner (202-225-6465) or Holt (202-225-5801) for more information.

U.S. Rep. Rush Holt

### **Preserve America Community Dorchester County Celebrates Harriet Tubman**

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One of the first designated Preserve America Communities in the United States, located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is recognizing the centennial of the death of well-known African American abolitionist and Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman throughout 2013. Tubman was born into slavery in Dorchester County around 1822. On March 9, 2013, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley —along with several hundred national, state and local supporters— broke ground for the 17-acre Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center, commemorating her life and legacy. The park is projected to open in 2015. The 125-mile [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway](#) traverses Dorchester as well as adjoining Caroline County. [Read more information.](#)



### **Hurricane Sandy Recovery Funding**

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On Jan. 28, the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 152, a package of measures aimed at assisting victims of Hurricane Sandy in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. The President signed the bill into law the next day, since the House had passed the measure earlier. Included in the bill was \$50 million in grants from the Historic Preservation Fund for states and

tribes to pay for historic resource repair and rehabilitation projects, and such grants will not require a non-federal match. A portion of the money may also be used by the states to defray the costs of National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance activities and program administration.

Several hard-hit areas have been featured in widespread news reports, including the New York City area, the New Jersey shore, and eastern Long Island. We are also aware of a number of Preserve America Communities that were affected by the storm up and down the coast, such as Lewes, Del., Wall Township, N.J., New London, Conn., Newport, R.I., and Falmouth, Mass. Some areas had downed trees, power outages, flooding and beach erosion; others more extensive structural damage. All affected communities and states are continuing their property assessments and planning for repair and rehabilitation work over the widely affected storm area.

### **Come to Indianapolis!**

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The ACHP has proposed an affiliate session for the National Trust's annual Preservation Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 2013. The theme of the conference is "Preservation at the Crossroads," and the title of the proposed session is "Historic Communities and



Tourism: How Do We Connect the Dots?," in partial recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Preserve America program. The session would be a two-hour forum similar to what the ACHP has been sponsoring for the last several years. We will be circulating more information in the next couple of months, but if you want to be contacted about the session please submit your name and contact information to [Judy Rodenstein](#).

The Irvington neighborhood of Indianapolis is a Preserve America Neighborhood.

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