

First Lady Michelle Obama Designates the Town of Clayton a Preserve America Community

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Town of Clayton was honored recently when Mrs. Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States, designated it as one of the nation’s newest Preserve America Communities.

“President Obama and I want to congratulate all of the Preserve America Communities and thank them for their commitment to protecting and strengthening America’s cultural and natural heritage,” Mrs. Obama said.

Town Supervisor Taylor received a letter and will receive a certificate of designation signed by Mrs. Obama announcing that the Town of Clayton is now a Preserve America Community. Communities designated through the program receive national recognition for their accomplishments. Benefits include use of the Preserve America logo on educational and promotional materials; eligibility for Preserve America Grants; listing in a Web-based directory that showcases the Town of Clayton’s preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations. Many Preserve America Communities are featured in “Discover Our Shared Heritage” National Register Travel Itineraries, as well as in the “Teaching With Historic Places” curricular materials created by the National Parks Service.

The Preserve America program became an authorized part of the national historic preservation program when President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 on March 30, 2009. More than 750 Preserve America Communities have been designated in all 50 states and one U.S. territory, including historic neighborhoods within large cities and tribal communities.

The Town of Clayton is now eligible to apply for Preserve America Grants, which help local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies, sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets, and create related history-centered educational efforts. Further information on these grants is

available at www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/preserveamerica.

The Preserve America program is a federal effort to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America'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.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation administers the Preserve America program with the Department of the Interior, in cooperation with 10 other federal agencies. For more information visit www.achp.gov and www.preserveamerica.gov.