

Mississippi History NEWSLETTER

MDAH

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Presidential Award for Preservation

On May 12 Corinth and Alcorn County's efforts to preserve Civil War history and beautify the community earned the **nation's highest award for historic preservation achievement**. In a ceremony at the White House, First Lady Laura Bush recognized Corinth and Alcorn County as a 2008 **Preserve America Presidential Award winner**. Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission chair **Rosemary Williams** accepted the award along with Alliance of Corinth and Alcorn County president **Gary Chandler** and Corinth mayor **Jerry Latch**.

In addition to Corinth, three other preservation efforts were honored: the African Burial Ground Project and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, both in New York, and the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.

Williams hopes the recognition will be a boon to local tourism. She said the honor is a tribute to how local groups including the city, county, Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, Main



Alliance president Gary Chandler and Commission chair (and MDAH Board of Trustees vice-president) Rosemary Williams with the 2008 Preserve America Presidential Award in the White House Red Room (photograph courtesy Preserve America).

Street, ACTION, and others have worked together to enhance heritage tourism in Corinth and Alcorn County.

Begun as an effort led by the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission and its partners to preserve a single remnant of a Civil War battleground, this initiative grew into a comprehensive, multi-faceted heritage tourism effort. Included are mo-

tor tour packages, twenty miles of affiliated hiking and biking trails, public accommodations and arenas, educational displays, and improvement of a local unit of the Shiloh National Military Park that includes an interpretive center. Other achievements include preservation and interpretation of the 1857 Verandah House (a National Historic

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Legislature to Meet in Restored Old Capitol

The Mississippi Legislature will hold the opening day proceedings of the 2009 regular session in the historic House and Senate chambers of the restored Old Capitol. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 620, adopted during the last session, notes that the Mississippi Legislature convened its first session in the Old Capitol Building 170 years ago in 1839. The resolution reads, "When the Old Capitol was built, it sat in the middle of a small town of less than 1,000 residents, indicating that early Mississippians possessed real confidence in their state government. The classic Greek Revival design by William Nichols, with its large open galleries allowed citizens to watch legislators in action, an open government concept perfectly suited to the Capital city named for the father of 'Jacksonian Democracy.'"

The resolution also commends the restoration and future plans for the Old Capitol to "return to a thriving museum and landmark that continues to inspire and symbolize the State of Mississippi today."

The concurrent resolution was necessary, as Section 57 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 provides that neither the House nor Senate may adjourn to any other place than where they usually meet without the consent of the other house.

Civil War Camp at Historic Jefferson College



Participants at the 2007 Civil War Camp at Historic Jefferson College, Washington, get instructions on military drilling with arms from Chip Landry. Children also learn about firing black powder weapons, cavalry tactics, artillery, and Civil War surgery. This year's camp will be held July 9-11. Parents must register children by Wednesday, July 3. For a registration form or more information, call 601-442-2901.

MDAH Awards Grants

MDAH has awarded grants totaling more than \$63,000 to eleven preservation projects in **Certified Local Government communities** across Mississippi. Amounts range from \$2,250 to prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination for a Vicksburg neighborhood to \$10,000 to repair stucco at Natchez's historic Magnolia Hall.

"These preservation projects will help communities throughout the state," said Historic Preservation Division acting director Jim Woodrick. "We encourage all municipalities to enroll in the Certified Local Government program and take advantage of this annual grant program."

The 2008 grants are as follows:

Baldwyn, \$3,750, for a survey of historic resources in Baldwyn and formation of a historic district.

Claiborne County, \$7,500, for stabilization of the rear masonry wall and replacement of the roof of the circa 1840 J.H. Lee Building.

Columbia, \$8,000, for a survey of historic resources in north Columbia to form a historic district and the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Greenwood, \$6,201, to make interior and exterior repairs and mechanical upgrades to the Greyhound Bus Station.

Jackson, \$5,000, for the hiring of a consultant to create custom design review guidelines for the downtown area.

McComb, \$3,500, for the preparation of design review guidelines for the McComb Historic Preservation Commission.

Natchez, \$10,000, for repair of missing and cracked exterior stucco on Magnolia Hall.

Oxford, \$3,500, for the updating of a previous survey of historic resources and preparation of a National Register nomination for the South Lamar Historic District.

Tupelo, \$7,500, for a study to determine the feasibility of converting the former Carnation Milk Plant to a museum facility to house the existing Oren Dunn Museum collection.

Vicksburg, \$2,250, for the preparation of a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Glenwood Circle area.

Yazoo City, \$6,201, for the preparation of a historic structure report for the circa 1906 city hall.

For information on the CLG program, contact Susan Tietz at 601-576-6578 or stietz@mdah.state.ms.us.

MDAH EVENTS

Jackson

Manship House Museum
420 East Fortification Street
Information: 601-961-4724.

Tuesday, June 3, through Thursday, July 31, Manships Abroad. The Manship family toured parts of Europe in 1874. This exhibit examines what travel was like for middle-class southern families of that era. Free of charge, reservations required for groups of ten or more.

William F. Winter Building,
200 North Street
Information: 601-576-6920.

Lobby exhibit "**Uniquely Mississippi**" uses forty key original artifacts from the MDAH collection to recall major themes or events in the history of the state. Showing through 2008.

History Is Lunch Series
Information: 601-576-6857

Wednesday, June 11, noon–1 p.m. Reenactor Bryant Boswell will present a program on the **Lewis and Clark expedition** and its Mississippi connections.

Wednesday, June 18, noon–1 p.m. David Dockery, Mississippi Office of Geology, will talk about **major land features** of Mississippi, with emphasis on materials used in construction of the Old Capitol.

Washington

Historic Jefferson College
Information: 601-442-2901

Monday–Thursday, June 9–13 Pioneer Week: The Way It Was. Children ages eight to twelve learn pioneer skills. Free.

Natchez

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.
Information: 601-446-6502.

Monday–Friday, June 16–20 Discovery Week. Daily sessions introduce children ages eight to eleven to Native American culture, archaeology, and nature studies. Registration fee.

Award, cont'd

Landmark), revitalization of a historic downtown with the creation of a National Register Historic District, development of a local museum in a historic railroad depot, and preservation and interpretation of the African American story of the Corinth Contraband Camp that included formation of a local African American historical society. The recipients are chosen through a national competition administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior. For more information, please visit www.preserveamerica.gov. (*Acknowledgements* Daily Corinthian.)