MDAH Awards $2 Million in Preservation Grants

Sixteen preservation and restoration projects from Corinth to Summit have been awarded $2 million in the seventh round of the MDAH Community Heritage Preservation grant program. The program, authorized and funded through the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government communities, other historic properties.

“This program has been crucial in preserving historic structures across the state, and we are grateful to the Legislature for continuing to fund it,” said MDAH director H.T. Holmes. “With over $14 million in requests and only $2 million available, it was difficult choosing from such a competitive group.”

The awards are as follows:

- **Civil War Statue**, Corinth, Alcorn County—$19,800. For repair and restoration of the monument.
- **Curlee-Veranda House**, Corinth, Alcorn County—$266,000. For restoration of the exterior of the house.
- **Bolivar County Courthouse**, Rosedale, Bolivar County—$300,000. For wall and foundation repair and stabilization.
- **Carrollton Town Hall**, Carrollton, Carroll County—$26,100. For stabilization and restoration of the back three walls of the building.
- **Governor A.M. Scott Monument**, Jackson, Hinds County—$92,928. For stabilization of the monument.
- **L o w r y - F l a n n e g a n House**, Jackson, Hinds County—$92,928. For exterior restoration.
- **Prentiss Institute Rosenwald School**, Prentiss, Jefferson Davis County—$164,000. For exterior and interior renovations.
- **Ventress Hall**, University of Southern Mississippi—$164,000.
- **L e b e n d i r e r House**, Mascouche, Concordia County—$45,000. For stabilization of the monument.
- **Lowery-Flannegan House**, Jackson, Hinds County—$92,928. For exterior restoration.
- **Bolivar County Courthouse**, Rosedale, Bolivar County—$300,000. For wall and foundation repair and stabilization.
- **Prentiss Institute Rosenwald School**, Prentiss, Jefferson Davis County—$164,000. For exterior and interior renovations.

Katrina Recovery Theme of 2010 MHS Meeting

The Gulf Coast and its recovery after Hurricane Katrina’s devastation is the focus of the Mississippi Historical Society’s 2010 annual meeting in Gulfport.

The meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, with a public reception at the reconstructed historic home Grass Lawn in Gulfport. On March 5–6 at the Courtyard Marriott presentations will be made about the photographic restoration of Beauvoir, the centennial celebrations at the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and the ongoing work of Gulf Coast historical societies and museums.

James Pat Smith, professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi–Gulf Coast, will give the banquet address, “Katrina: the Mississippi Tsunami.” Since 2005, Dr. Smith has worked with the University of Southern Mississippi’s Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage gathering interviews to document the impact of Katrina on the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He is working on a book for the University Press of Mississippi with the title *Tsunami: The Katrina Story from Ground Zero on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*.

At the Friday luncheon Jefferson Davis impersonator George Buss will present “Jefferson Davis at Beauvoir.” A tour of Beauvoir will follow at 3 p.m. The winner of the McLemore Prize for best book of 2010 will be announced at the Friday luncheon. The Bettersworth Award for best history teacher of 2010 will be given Saturday at the awards luncheon.

“We are all very excited...
Humor Focus of Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration

“Humor in the Deep South” is the theme of the 21st annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, which will take place Feb. 25-28, 2010, in Natchez. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Archives and History.

“This conference couldn’t come at a better time,” said NLCC founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith. “With the economy as it is, and with so many other serious pressures all around us, we hope the conference will let us slow down, laugh a little, and leave refreshed.”

The Olympic Award–winning conference will feature four days of presentations, movie screenings, readings, and more, including:

• Programs by outstanding authors, historians, and film experts, including James C. Cobb, Thad Cochran, Trudier Harris, Mary Donnelly Haskell, Sam Haskell, M. Thomas Inge, Mark LaFrancis, John Mayfield, Scott Dixon McDowell, JoAnne Prichard Morris, Marshall Ramsey, Clifton Taubert, Charles Vahlkamp, Sarah McLaurin Vahlkamp, Jerry W. Ward, Jr., Jane Feltus Welch, Rebecca Wells, Diane Williams, Charles Reagan Wilson, Gerald Wood, and others.
• Screening and discussion of Robert Harling’s Steel Magnolias and Horton Foote’s The Trip to Bountiful.
• Premiere screening of Mark LaFrancis’s documentary Now! That’s Funny! Jokes, Stories, and Other Musings from the Deep South.
• Premiere screening of Scott Dixon McDowell’s documentary Horton Foote: Regional Voice, Universal Vision, about the Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright and screenwriter.
• Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards ceremony honoring authors Robert S. McElvaine, Jr., of Millsaps College and Steve Yarbrough of Emerson College in Boston.
• Horton Foote Award for Special Achievement in Screenwriting ceremony honoring the screenwriter and playwright Robert Harling.
• Thad Cochran Humanities Achievement Award ceremony honoring Jerry W. Ward, Jr.
• The play The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, in cooperation with the Natchez Little Theatre.

• Writing workshops for adults and grade school children
• Book signings and other informal times with authors.
• Live music.
• Festive social events in two of Natchez’s most beautiful mansions, Greenlea and Stanton Hall.

Because of major support from the four co-sponsors as well as the Mississippi Humanities Council and other agencies, most of the NLCC is free of charge, Smith said. “There are only three ticketed events,” she said.

Information and tickets are available at www.colin.edu/nlcc; by calling toll-free 866-296-6522; or by emailing NLCC@colin.edu.

Sponsors of the NLCC are Copiah-Lincoln Community College, MDAH, Natchez National Historical Park, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Co-chairmen are Smith, representing Co-Lin; Kathleen Jenkins, NNHP; Jim Barnett, MDAH; and Sherry Johnson, MPB.


Preservation, continued from p. 1

of Mississippi, Lafayette County—$40,724. For repair and restoration of the stained glass window.

(Old) Matty Hersee Hospital, Meridian, Lauderdale County—$300,000. For asbestos abatement.

(Old) Carthage Elementary School, Carthage, Leake County—$134,400. For preservation of the building.

Elizabeth Cottage, Brookhaven, Lincoln County—$98,260. For stabilization of structural components and restoration of exterior architectural features.

Tennessee Williams House, Columbus, Lowndes County—$108,000. For repair of floor and framing, reproduction of fireplaces and chimneys, and roof replacement.

Amory (Old) National Guard Armory, Amory, Monroe County—$132,775. For roof replacement.

Liberty-White Depot Museum, Summit, Pike County—$56,843. For restoration of depot.

Tallahatchie County Court-

house, Sumner, Tallahatchie County—$205,000. For replication of windows and doors.

The Board of Trustees determined the grant recipients at a special meeting on December 4 in Jackson. To learn more about the CLG program, contact Mingo Tingle in the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH, 601-576-6952.
Governor’s Mansion Docents Honored

First Lady Marsha Barbour hosted a luncheon for the Governor’s Mansion docents on December 7, 2009. Retiring MDAH trustee and Mansion Committee chair Lynn Gammill was recognized for her 22 years of service. Three retiring docents were recognized for their service: Frances Kees (22 years), Sue McRoberts (10 years), and Barbara Magoun (3 years). Eight docents were recognized for giving the most service this year: Pauline Akers, Ruth Byars, Janis Roberts, Clytice Gardner, Judy Lacy, Freda Spell, Janet McLaurin, and Andi McDaniel.


Not pictured are Lynn Gammill, Mansion Committee member Henri Burnham, Mansion administrator Cora Gee, and docents Jane Baird, Peggy Dawson, Buena Lee Huff, Jane Jones, and Sue McRoberts.

AmeriCorps Team To Work at Winterville Mounds in Jan.-Feb.

In mid-January a team of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps workers from around the country will arrive at Winterville Mounds to undertake a mound-clearing project. About a dozen AmeriCorps team members will live and work on site from January 13 through February 5.

“We are grateful to the AmeriCorps program for choosing Winterville as one its projects, and we look forward to having the workers here,” said Winterville Mounds director Mark Howell. “I know the Greenville community will help make them feel welcome.”

A m e r i C o r p s NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18–24. Members are assigned to one of five campuses, located in Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Vinton, Iowa.

The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with non-profits—secular and faith-based, local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national or state parks, Indian Tribes, and schools—members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.
For more information or questions about the application process, contact Maurine Jackson at 601-353-7762 or at mjackson@mdah.state.ms.us.

WASHINGTON
Historic Jefferson College
Highway 61 North
601-442-2901
info@jeffersoncollege.com
Saturday, January 16, 10–11:30 a.m. (ages 6–8) and 2–3:30 p.m. (ages 9–12). EXPLORE! Weaving. Students will learn the art of weaving using paper and cloth, as well as how pioneers used looms. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to stay and learn. $10 pre-registration fee.

WASHINGTON
Historic Jefferson College
Highway 61 North
601-442-2901
info@jeffersoncollege.com

NATCHEZ
Grand Village of the Natchez Indians
400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.
601-446-6502
info@natchezgrandvillage.com
Saturday, January 30, 24 p.m. Eleventh Moon Storytelling. Local and regional storytellers spin tales about Native Americans and nature. Of interest to ages nine to adult. Free of charge.