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First Lady Michelle Obama Designates Pleasant Home Foundation a Preserve America Steward

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Pleasant Home Foundation was honored recently when Mrs. Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States, designated it as one of the nation's newest Preserve America Stewards.

"Preserve America Stewards are committed to preserving America's diverse physical and cultural heritage, and their work demonstrates how individuals who care deeply about serving their country and their communities can make a difference," Mrs. Obama said. "I thank and commend the volunteers of Pleasant Home Foundation for protecting our nation's historic treasures, both for your fellow citizens as well as visitors from near and far. You set a wonderful example for our young people, who are the future stewards of our heritage, while also improving the quality of life and economic vitality of our nation."

Laura Thompson, Executive Director of the Pleasant Home Foundation, received a letter February 12, 2010, and will receive a certificate of designation signed by Mrs. Obama announcing that Pleasant Home Foundation] is now a Preserve America Steward. Designation as a Preserve America Steward provides national recognition for programs that successfully use volunteers to help care for our historic and cultural heritage. Benefits include use of the Preserve America logo on educational and promotional materials and listing in a Web-based directory that showcases Pleasant Home Foundation's volunteer efforts to care for important historic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

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. 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 (ACHP) administers Preserve America programs with the Department of the Interior, in cooperation with 10 other federal agencies. For more information visit www.achp.gov and www.preserveamerica.gov.

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