



WYOMING STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE NEWS

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Wyoming Receives \$33,000 for Preservation Training

Twenty communities across the state will soon be the recipients of preservation and heritage tourism training made possible through two national grant awards. In June and July 2007, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was awarded \$25,500 through a Preserve America grant and \$7,500 through a Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation grant. These funds will provide for individualized training sessions for each Certified Local Government (CLG) across the state. Sessions will involve the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Wyoming Main Street Program, the National Park Service, and other organizations with knowledge of western preservation issues.

The Wyoming SHPO is honored to be a recipient of two such prestigious awards and is excited to have the opportunity to help many communities across the state. According to Audrey



US Senators John Barrasso and Mike Enzi receive a Preserve America grant on behalf of the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office from First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of the Department of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

York, CLG Program Coordinator at the SHPO, "This is such a great opportunity because we will be able to bring training to each community instead of asking them to gather in a centralized location or travel to a national event." With most of the boards and commissions made up entirely of volunteers, it is very difficult, both financially and

logistically, for members to travel for training. Also, many of the national events are not as relevant to the needs of Wyoming preservationists. Preservation commissions in this region have different issues to deal with than the rest of the nation, and could benefit from specialized training. In Wyoming, as in other western and plains states, we struggle with the affects of energy development, a small population, deteriorating yet relatively young historic buildings, and a general lack

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A Certified Local Government (CLG) is a city or county that is certified by the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service (NPS) as a community with historic preservation commitments. CLGs are eligible for matching grants to carry out preservation activities. The CLG program seeks to:

- Develop and maintain local historic preservation programs that will influence the zoning and permitting decisions critical to preserving a sense of time and place through historic properties.
- Ensure the broadest possible participation of local governments in the national historic preservation program.

Currently, there are over 1000 active CLGs in the United States working to enhance local preservation efforts nationwide. There are many communities in Wyoming that could benefit from becoming certified.

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of preservation knowledge.

Another benefit of this training will be the creation and availability of basic preservation training materials. "Many of the commissions have high turnover rates, so it becomes difficult to keep everyone educated. It is our hope that the sessions will be designed in such a way that the materials can be used each year to educate new commission members and interested citizens," said York.

Each CLG with an active historic preservation board will host a preservation and heritage tourism training session. Sessions will include topics such as the National Register nomination process, tactics for explaining the importance of preservation, building a constituency for design review,

learning to highlight important local resources, and the role of an historic preservation commission in a community. Sessions are tentatively planned for Spring and Summer 2008. Participating communities include: Albany County, Casper, Cheyenne, Douglas, Evanston, Fremont County, Glenrock, Green River, Kemmerer, Mills, Natrona

County, Park County, Platte County, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Sheridan County, Sublette County, Teton County, Washakie County, and Weston County.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Audrey York, Certified Local Government Program Coordinator, at either 307-777-6357 or ayork@state.wy.us.

Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation began in 1994 with a gift to the Trust in honor of the 80th birthday of Johanna Favrot. Awards, which range from \$2,500 to \$10,000, provide public agencies and nonprofit organizations grants for projects that emphasize preserving an authentic sense of place. For more information on the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation, and other National Trust For Historic Preservation grants, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.

Preserve America is a White House initiative that provides matching grants to assist communities with marketing, planning, and educational efforts that strengthen regional identities and local pride, increase local participation in preserving cultural and natural heritage assets, and support the economic vitality of communities. The Honorary Chair of Preserve America is Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States. Detailed information on all aspects of this initiative can be found at www.preserveamerica.gov.