



The *Preserve America* Presidential Awards are part of a White House initiative that highlights the efforts of President and Mrs. Bush to celebrate and preserve our Nation's cultural and natural heritage assets. Each year two awards are given for heritage tourism and two for historic preservation. The 2005 *Preserve America* Presidential Awards were presented at a White House Rose Garden event on May 2, 2005, by the President and First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of *Preserve America*.



Explore and Enjoy Our Heritage

2005 CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

The *Preserve America* Presidential Awards are annual awards given to organizations, businesses, government entities, and individuals for:

- exemplary accomplishments in the sustainable use and preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets;
- demonstrated commitment to the protection and interpretation of America's cultural or natural heritage assets; and
- integration of these assets into contemporary community life, combining innovative, creative, and responsible approaches to showcasing historic local resources.

The recipients are chosen through a national competition administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in cooperation with the Executive Office of the President and in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Education; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; and the President's Council on Environmental Quality. Further information and the 2006 nomination form are at www.PreserveAmerica.gov.

*Cover: President and First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of Preserve America, present the 2005 Preserve America Presidential Awards May 2, 2005, in the White House Rose Garden, Washington, DC. Photo by Eric Draper.
Inside: Fort McKavett, Texas.*

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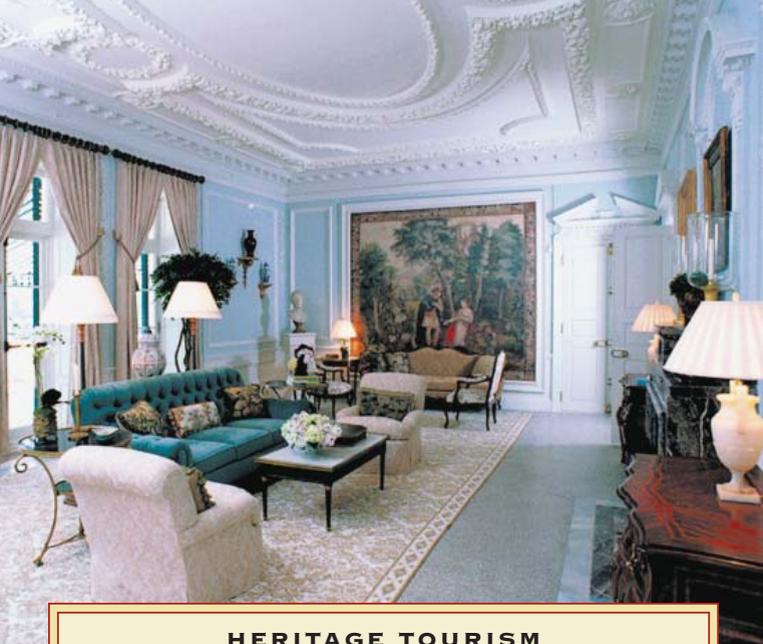
2005 PRESERVE AMERICA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNERS



THE HIGHEST NATIONAL AWARD



HONORING HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT



HERITAGE TOURISM

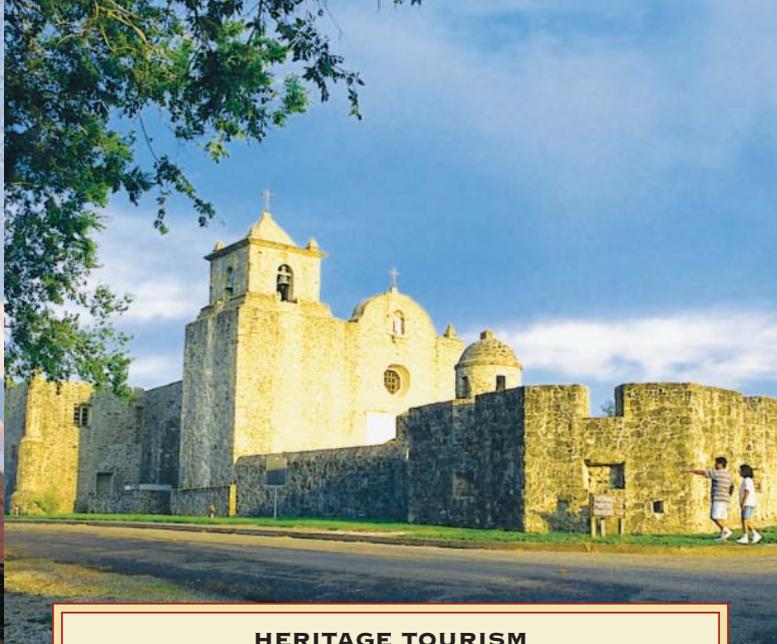
Restoration of The Mount

Lenox, Massachusetts

The Mount, the country estate of renowned author Edith Wharton, fell into such disrepair that it became an eyesore and embarrassment to the local community. Edith Wharton Restoration, Inc. gave it new life by forming creative partnerships and raising \$11.4 million for its restoration. In 2002, the estate reopened as a meticulously restored villa. Visitation has increased more than three-fold and the economic impact has been substantial on the immediate and surrounding areas.



Photos clockwise from top: The Mount's restored drawing room; the restored exterior; L to R, Mrs. Bush, Edith Wharton Restoration co-chair and board of trustees member Barbara de Marneffe and president and CEO Stephanie Copeland, and the President, in the Oval Office. White House photo by Eric Draper



HERITAGE TOURISM

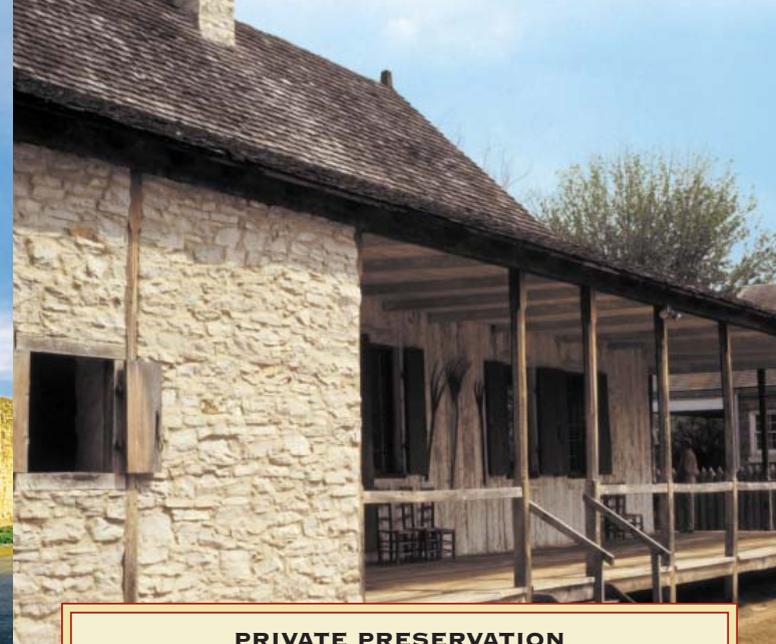
Texas Heritage Trails Program

Texas

The Texas Heritage Trails Program markets 10 heritage-themed automobile tours as corridors and destinations for focusing regional tourism. It also provides training and financial assistance to local communities for historic site development and conservation. As a result of this highly replicable Texas Historical Commission initiative, all 254 Texas counties are receiving heritage tourism assistance, and communities that once competed for visitors are now combining efforts to increase overall tourism. Participating sites have experienced an average annual visitation increase of 20 percent.



Photos clockwise from top: Mission Presidio La Bahia, Goliad, Texas; Norwegian culture in Texas; L to R, Mrs. Bush, Texas Historical Commission executive director Larry Oaks and commissioner Diane Bumpas, and the President, in the Oval Office. White House photo by Eric Draper



PRIVATE PRESERVATION

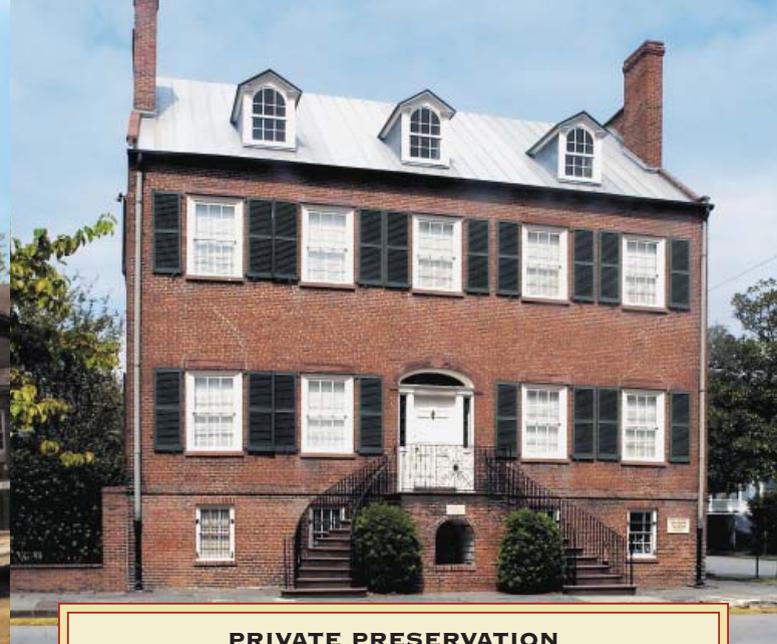
Bolduc Historic Properties Operational Enhancement

Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

Bolduc Historic Properties maintains three houses in a French Colonial settlement along the Mississippi River that document and interpret the French experience in North America. Among them is the circa-1785 Bolduc House Museum, a National Historic Landmark in the care of the Colonial Dames of America, which has been restored and furnished with rare French furnishings, some original to the house. The 10-year restoration of all three structures and associated properties, including vegetable and decorative gardens, was completed in August 2004.



Photos clockwise from top: Louis Bolduc House; restored herb cottage; L to R, Mrs. Bush, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America president Agnes Chouteau, Bolduc Historic Properties director Lorraine Stange, and the President, in the Oval Office. Louis Bolduc House photo by Missouri State Historic Preservation Office; White House photo by Eric Draper



PRIVATE PRESERVATION

Isiah Davenport House Museum

Savannah, Georgia

The restoration of the 1820s-era Isiah Davenport House Museum has been cited as the initial project that spurred Savannah's preservation ethic, saving the 1733 city plan and hundreds of structures now encompassed in a National Historic Landmark District. In 2000, after successful private fund-raising efforts, a three-year, three-phase restoration project of the Davenport House began. The museum is now operationally self-funded through innovative revenue sources, including the annual Savannah Garden Exposition. Tourism today produces \$1 billion annually for the city.



Photos clockwise from top: The restored Isiah Davenport House Museum; "living history" interpreters; L to R, Mrs. Bush, Historic Savannah Foundation president and board of trustees member Zelda Tenenbaum, Isiah Davenport House Museum director Jamie Credle, and the President, in the Oval Office. White House photo by Eric Draper