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Contact: Bruce Milhans
bmilhans@achp.gov
(202) 606-8513

First Lady Designates Five New Preserve America Communities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama has signed and sent designation letters to five new Preserve America Communities—four in New York and one in California—bringing the total nationwide to 872.

“Preserve America Communities are committed to preserving their past by using their heritage to build a better future,” said Wayne Donaldson, chairman of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). “It is good news for the nation when communities demonstrate that they want to enjoy and share the economic, educational, environmental, and sustainability benefits preservation provides, while creating more vibrant and desirable places to live, work and visit.”

The newly designated communities are:

California:	Historic Filipinotown (Los Angeles neighborhood)
New York:	Auburn
	Brookhaven
	Kinderhook
	Ogdensburg

These new designations bring California to a total of 36 and New York to a total of 40 participating communities. A full list of Preserve America Communities, along with profiles and contact information, can be found at www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html.

With the addition of Historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles, there are now 20 neighborhoods that are part of larger urban communities that have received Preserve America Community designation status. Under the program, municipalities, distinct neighborhoods in urban centers, counties, and Indian tribes meeting certain criteria can be designated.

The program recognizes a select group of communities that use their heritage resources in sustainable ways and share the myriad benefits of historic preservation with residents and visitors. The program began in 2003 and Preserve America Communities, great places to visit and explore, are now located in all 50 states and several overseas U.S. territories.

Preserve America is administered by the ACHP with assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior. For more information, including community designation criteria and application forms, see www.preserveamerica.gov and www.achp.gov.