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## **With Addition of Albany and Collierville, Preserve America Community Roster Swells to 892**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two more Preserve America Communities—Albany, N.Y. and Collierville, Tenn.—have been designated by First Lady Michelle Obama, raising the total nationwide to 892.

Albany becomes the 42nd Preserve America Community in New York, and Collierville is the 10th in Tennessee. Mayor Kathy Sheehan of Albany and Mayor Stan Joyner, Jr., of Collierville were formally notified and congratulated in letters signed by the First Lady on July 14.

“Preserve America Communities are committed to preserving their past by using their heritage to build a better future,” said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, 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 Preserve America Community program recently marked its 10th anniversary. 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.

Preserve America Communities, great places to live, visit and explore, are located in all 50 states and several overseas U.S. territories. A full list of Preserve America Communities, along with profiles and contact information, can be found at [www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html](http://www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html).

Applications from prospective new Preserve America Communities are accepted quarterly; the next deadlines for submission are September 1 and December 1, 2014. 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/communities.html](http://www.preserveamerica.gov/communities.html).

**Editor’s Note:** Because full community profiles may not yet be available on the Web site at the time of designation, the following information regarding the newly designated communities is provided.

**Albany, New York** (population 97,904) is celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2014, making it one of America’s oldest cities. Founded by the Dutch in 1614, Albany was a center for the North American fur trade in the 17th and 18th centuries, the hub of many early roads, the terminus of the Erie Canal, and the origination point of the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad, the first steam-powered passenger railroad in the USA. The capital of New York, Albany has a rich assemblage of governmental, commercial, and residential architectural landmarks. Among other notable accomplishments, its Preserve America Community application highlighted the rehabilitation of six abandoned historic buildings that were formerly slated for demolition as part of a mixed-use development. The project is credited with creating 145 local construction jobs. The centerpiece of the redevelopment is the 1926 DeWitt Clinton Hotel. Located a short walk from the Capitol, the hotel was the site of many important political deals. Closed in 1975, it will reopen soon as a Renaissance by Marriott hotel and will seek to become one of the National

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Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Hotels of America. A brief documentary on the history of the hotel is being developed, as well as a self-guided walking tour.

**Collierville, Tennessee** (population 45,967) was founded in 1838 and is the only town in Shelby County that retains a historic town square. It is considered one of the leading communities in Tennessee in leveraging its historic assets for economic development and community revitalization. The community's application featured the renovation and adaptive reuse of the Collierville Christian Church building, now home to the Morton Museum of Collierville History, and also serving as a visitors' center for the historic downtown. Other recent accomplishments include improved public accessibility of historic property survey data via an online Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map and a local Civil War walking tour. Collierville is a Certified Local Government, a Tennessee Main Street Community, and was recently voted a finalist in a national *Parade* magazine contest seeking the best Main Street in America. The winner will be announced in a cover story later this summer.

The other Preserve America Communities in Tennessee are Blount County, Columbia, Franklin, Jonesborough, Oak Ridge, Pittman Center, Rugby, The District neighborhood (Nashville), and Victorian Village (Memphis).

The other Preserve America Communities in New York are Albion, Auburn, Beacon, Beekman, Binghamton, Brockport, Brookhaven, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Clayton, Cortland, Dutchess County, Great Neck Plaza, Halfmoon, Highland Falls, Hunter, Ithaca, Kinderhook, Liberty, Newburgh, North Castle, Ogdensburg, Oyster Bay Hamlet, Ossining, Owego, Peekskill, Pittsford, Putnam County, Ramapo, Rensselaer County, Rochester, Rockland County, Roxbury, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Schenectady County, Shelter Island, Southampton, Syracuse, Troy, and Waterford.