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## First Lady Designates Four New Preserve America Stewards

Washington, D.C.—First Lady Michelle Obama has signed designation letters for four new Preserve America Stewards, bringing the total nationwide to 54.

The newest to join the honor roll are Friends of Oberlin Village; Jack Jouett House Historic Site; Moravian Historical Society; and the Weir Farm National Historic Site.

“Preserve America Stewards are volunteer programs that have demonstrated success in saving historic places, in the best tradition of the national historic preservation movement,” said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) which administers the federal program. “Preservation has always depended upon motivated, active volunteers who band together to ensure that significant historic places remain to enrich and instruct present and future generations.”

**Friends of Oberlin Village (North Carolina)**—The mission of Friends of Oberlin Village is to preserve the legacy and remains of Oberlin Village, which was settled in the late 1860s by African Americans recently freed from slavery. Oberlin Cemetery, traditionally considered the heart of the village, is the largest African American cemetery in Wake County. Among the work of this all-volunteer organization, there are two or more volunteer cemetery clean-ups annually, with participants including Boy Scouts, local university students, and high school students.

**Jack Jouett House Historic Site (Kentucky)**—The Jack Jouett House, owned by Woodford County, was the home of a prosperous planter who is known as the “Paul Revere of the South” for his ride through the backwoods of Virginia to warn Governor Thomas Jefferson of the approach of British troops during the American Revolution. The Jack Jouett Archaeology Project was launched in 2014 to excavate the site of Jouett’s late-18th century bourbon distillery. Team members of the all-volunteer project are participating in every stage of the archaeological investigation.

**Moravian Historical Society (Pennsylvania)**—The Moravian Historical Society, the third oldest historical society in Pennsylvania, was established to present the story of Moravian contributions to American history. The Society preserves and interprets the 1740 Gray Cottage and the 1740/1743 Whitefield House, the oldest Moravian structures in North America. Volunteers play a key role, and 10 committees of 76 volunteers donate approximately 2,534 hours annually toward tours, outreach, maintenance, exhibits, publications, and other activities.

**Weir Farm National Historic Site (Connecticut)**—The Weir Farm National Historic Site, home to three generations of American artists, is the only National Park dedicated to American painting. Through the National Park Service Volunteers-in-Parks Program, volunteers provide public interpretation for two historic art studios at the site. Visiting these studios is at the core of the park’s visitor experience and is made possible through the commitment of the volunteer docents who provide more than 1,560 volunteer hours per season.

For more information on the Preserve America Stewards program, please see [www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html](http://www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html)

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