

First Lady Laura Bush Designates Brownville a Preserve America Community, Gov. Heineman Applauds

Brownville, Nebraska was recently honored when First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of the Preserve America initiative, designated it as one of the nation's newest Preserve America Communities. Brownville's Village Board Chairman Martin Hayes received the acknowledgement, "This designation showcases Brownville's preservation and heritage tourism efforts. Our village of less than 150 people has been dedicated to historical preservation for more than half a century."

"Preserve America Communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "I commend you for your commitment to preserving an important part of our nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors, and, most importantly, for children."

"This is an outstanding honor for Brownville," said Governor Dave Heineman. "Like so many communities across our state, Brownville has a rich history of both cultural and natural heritage. I applaud this community and the work put in by those who helped achieve this special designation."

Only two Nebraska communities are currently enrolled. Plattsmouth was designated earlier this year. "Nebraska's 'Preserve America' communities showcase a long commitment to historic preservation," said Bob Puschendorf, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the Nebraska State Historical Society. Preserve America Communities are featured in National Register Travel Itineraries and in "Teaching With Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

The "Preserve America" initiative encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and promote their priceless cultural and historical heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving historic and cultural assets; and support for the economic vitality of communities.

"Sustainable historic preservation is a wise investment in the future, not a cost for maintaining the past. Communities and the nation receive significant economic, educational, and cultural benefits, including heritage tourism, in return for their preservation efforts," said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which administers Preserve America programs for the White House in cooperation with the Department of the Interior.

For more information on Brownville's designation, contact Nora Tallmon at 402-825-3992 or visit www.brownville-ne.com. Information about the initiative and its programs is available at <http://www.preserveamerica.gov>.