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## Heritage Matters- January 2007

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Joyner, Brian D.; Bomar, Mary A.; Snyder Matthews, Janet; and Lee, Antoinette J., "Heritage Matters- January 2007" (2007). *U.S. National Park Service Publications and Papers*. 70.

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# HERITAGE MATTERS

NEWS OF THE NATION'S DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Gullah/Geechee Region Becomes a Cultural Heritage Corridor

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Brian D. Joyner  
National Park Service

The significance of the Southern United States coastal culture of African peoples known as Gullah and Geechee has been portrayed in film and theater, documented in academic studies, and celebrated through heritage tourism. Now, after a Congressionally mandated National Park Service (NPS) Special Resource Study, and legislative efforts by Congressman James E. Clyburn, heritage preservation organizations such as the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition, and others, the contributions of Gullah/Geechee culture have been recognized with the designation of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor through the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-338). NPS Director Mary A. Bomar announced the creation of the Heritage Corridor and nine other National Heritage Areas on October 19, 2006.

The region associated with the Gullah/Geechee culture stretches from the coastal counties of the Carolinas to northern Florida, leaving a distinctive mark on the historical traditions in the coastal region. The Gullah people possess linguistic traits, artisan skills, and agricultural and cultural practices attributable to African knowledge systems retained by those descendants. This survival is due to the relative isolation of the areas and the continuous influx of Africans from the same cultural zone. Despite the recent efforts to preserve lifeways and practices, commercial development and out migration of young adults

now threaten to diminish Gullah/Geechee culture.

In addition to the Heritage Corridor designation, the National Heritage Area Act also establishes a Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission to develop and implement a management plan for the Corridor. NPS will coordinate the solicitation and recommendations of members with

the State Historic Preservation Offices in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina to create this Commission.

Information on the nomination and selection process will be finalized and made public in 2007.

For more information on National Heritage Areas, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas>.

*Vera Manigault of Mount Pleasant, SC, is seated among examples of the one of the traditions associated with the Gullah/Geechee culture, sweetgrass basket making. The baskets are a staple of the cultural expression and economic well being that the Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor seeks to preserve. Photos below and opposite courtesy of Deirdre Laird.*



Closeup of a sweetgrass basket bottom.



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JANUARY 2007

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INITIATIVES

### Highlighting Inupiaq Heritage in Northwest Alaska

Becky Saleeby  
National Park Service

For the past three summers (2004–2006), young people from five villages in northwest Alaska participated in the Archeological Mentorship Program, funded by a National Park Service (NPS) Shared Beringian Heritage Program grant. Besides providing training and archeological fieldwork opportunities, the program also required the teenagers to create projects of local cultural interest to share with their home communities. The villages of Anaktuvuk Pass, Noatak, Kiana, and Point Hope, and the town of Kotzebue, were involved in the program. The majority of residents in each community are of Inupiaq Eskimo heritage.

The Shared Beringian Heritage Program celebrates the exchange of resources and heritage by Russia and the United States on both sides of the Bering Strait, and funds

international participation in a variety of projects. This unique NPS program, administered by the Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage, provided the funds to hire the teenagers as well as village coordinators to supervise the students in their home communities.

Susan Bender and I, archeologists at the NPS office in Anchorage, served as the archeology mentors for the students—planning their curriculum, instructing them during week-long training sessions in Kotzebue and Anaktuvuk Pass, and participating in their fieldwork in 2004 and 2005. While we provided suggestions for possible projects, the decision on what to do as a project was left to the students.

The student projects varied widely, from the documentation of cultural traditions and sites of memory as a display in Noatak, to the design and construction of a historically accurate sod house by five students in Point Hope, using extant examples found in the village. In Kiana, two students decided to map the old village

of Kiana using techniques they learned during training sessions with NPS staff. With the assistance of NPS historic architect Grant Crosby, their drawings and descriptions were transferred into a CAD computer mapping program. Their finished project provided updated historic survey information on the village for the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and was presented to the Kiana village council.

Martina Riley summed up the experience by observing, “We visited the old village of Kiana, which was occupied until the late 1960s, and mapped it out using a compass and measuring tape. Eileen Devinney [NPS anthropologist] helped us do the mapping of the village. We found one cabin, two caches, and a cache on stilts still standing. The rest were either depressions, or just the depressions sometimes containing the sill logs, and a few fallen in buildings. . . . Thanks for the opportunity to learn more about the old village and my history.”

In 2006, the mentorship students chose to create individual rather than group projects. Samples of the students’ projects will be highlighted at the annual Beringian Days celebration held in Anchorage in September 2007.

*(Left) Millie Booth and Deron Smith, mentorship students from Noatak, display a poster board of their photos and writings during Beringian Days in 2004. Courtesy of NPS. (Right) Students and community coordinators from Point Hope and Kiana pose with NPS archeology mentors for a group shot in Kotzebue in 2005. Courtesy of NPS.*





## Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program: Another Successful Class

Turkiya Lowe  
National Conference of State Historic  
Preservation Officers

The Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program completed its eighth summer season with 13 diverse interns placed in national parks, National Park Service administrative offices, and private nonprofit organizations. The summer season culminated in the annual Career Workshop from August 9-11, 2006, in Washington, DC. During the Career Workshop, the interns gave presentations of their work experiences to NPS managers and invited guests. They also visited museum and preservation organizations, including the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

For the summer of 2006, the intern sponsors included the Northeast Regional Office, NPS; National Register of Historic Places; National Parks Conservation Association; Heritage Documentation Programs; Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program; National NAGPRA Program; National Center for Preservation Technology and Training; National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program; Booker T. Washington National Monument; Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site; Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Women's Rights National Historical Park; and Independence National Historical Park.

The National Park Service administers this program in partnership with the Student Conservation Association. Contact: Turkiya L. Lowe, 202/354-2266, [turkiya\\_lowe@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:turkiya_lowe@contractor.nps.gov).



*This year's CRDIP interns worked on cultural resources/historic preservation projects in NPS regional offices and national parks, as well as with partner organizations such as the National Parks Conservation Association. Courtesy of Sue Waldron.*

## Historic Trees, the National Park Service, and Public History

Priya Chhaya  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

What do the Burnside Bridge American Sycamore, the National Mall Jefferson Elm, and the Andrew Jackson Southern Magnolia have in common? Each tree serves as a witness to important events in of American history. The Sycamore, Elm, and Magnolia are three in a collection of "witness trees" being documented for the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS).

In the summer of 2006 HALS initiated the Witness Tree Protection Program to identify and document 24 historically and biologically significant trees in the greater Washington, DC

metropolitan area. Each of these trees has special characteristics that make it nationally significant. The Burnside Bridge Sycamore, a sapling at the time, was present at the clash between Union and Confederate forces at Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, Maryland; the National Mall Jefferson Elm was part of the landscape architectural vision of the McMillan Plan and is a genetic anomaly, having survived the Dutch Elm disease outbreak of the early 20th century; the Southern Magnolia at the White House was planted by President Andrew Jackson the grounds in memory of his late wife Rachel.

NPS's Heritage Documentation Program draws the connections between history and places with its documentation of structures as part of our nation's cultural legacy. Every structure recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey

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(HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Survey (HAER) tells a story of the American past. Buildings and structures provide visual and physical evidence of our nation's history. In 2000, NPS created HALS to document and record another aspect of human

intervention: historic landscapes from gardens to battlefields.

Like monuments and memorials that are placed on a particular landscape, trees convey a deep relationship with the events and history that surrounds them. Their place in that history depends on

the humans that shape them—and ultimately what these visitors take with them when they leave.

Priya was a CRDIP intern with the HABS/HAER/ HALS/CRGIS programs in the summer of 2006. She currently works for the National Trust and recently received her M.A. from American University.

*Only a sapling at the time of the Battle of Antietam, the Burnside Bridge American Sycamore (far right), now over 100 feet high and 200 inches around, is the last remaining "witness" on the battlefield and an ideal subject for the HALS Witness Tree Protection Program. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Collection.*





## STATE INITIATIVES

### National Register of Historic Places Listings

Caridad de la Vega  
National Conference of State Historic  
Preservation Officers

Rustin Quaide  
National Park Service

#### *Ridge Trail Historic District*

Significant in the areas of archeology, commerce, ethnic heritage, and transportation, the Ridge Trail Historic District encompasses a series of oxcart trail segments 8 to 10 feet wide, located in Walsh and Pembina counties in northeastern North Dakota. Demarcated by the continual passage of wooden carts across the area, the trails served as important arteries for the transport of people and commercial goods throughout much of the 19th century between St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Selkirk settlement in Manitoba, Canada.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 17, 2006, the site and trail were used by the Métis, a distinct ethnic group created through the intermarriage of Native American and French settlers to the area, which played an important role in the economic development and settlement of the Old Northwest and Upper Plains. Like many other oxcart trails, the Ridge Trail traversed for many miles on ancient lake ridges and beaches in near the Red River, creating the first “permanent overland highways throughout the region.”

#### *Emery Hall, Old Wilberforce University Campus*

Wilberforce University, founded in 1856 in Green County, Ohio, is the oldest African American private institution of higher learning in the nation. The university was one of the major African American cultural and educational centers in Ohio and the nation. W.E.B. DuBois taught at Wilberforce in the late 1800s; Dr. Hallie Q. Brown, an accomplished teacher, author, lecturer, and political activist, was a long-time professor; William Scarborough, a prominent classics scholar, served as president of Wilberforce University from 1908 to 1920; and Charles H. Wesley, was a founding scholar in the field of African American history.

Emery Hall was constructed in 1913 with a large donation from the American industrialist Andrew Carnegie and Miss E.J. Emery, a philanthropist living in England. Emery Hall is also associated with the fundraising efforts of Dr. Brown, a founder of the National Association of Colored Women, from the late 1800s to her death in 1949. Emery Hall helps frame the western end of the historic Wilberforce campus, and along with the Carnegie Library it constitutes the only pre-1920 buildings remaining on the Wilberforce campus. Built in the Colonial Revival style, the building consists of a 2 1/2 story, side gabled central block attached to flanking, gable-fronted pavilions by narrow, two story connected brick walkways. Emery Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 4, 2005.

#### *Ponca Agency*

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 12, 2006, the Ponca Agency is significant as an historic archeological site consisting of remains from the Indian agency and its associated Indian village in Boyd County, Nebraska. The Ponca were a semi-sedentary tribe who lived along the Missouri River in northeastern Nebraska, until the Treaty of 1858 between the Ponca and the United States government relocated the group onto the reservation as part of the acculturation program for American Indians during that period. The site is significant in the areas of ethnic heritage, social history, military, and historic aboriginal and non-aboriginal archeology.

The site consists of five artifact scatters; three areas are associated with the agency building, school house and graveyard, while the remainder are associated with the stockade. The remains at the stockade site itself consist of three foundations, three depressions, a cistern and three piles of rubble. The Ponca Agency archeological site remains have the potential to yield further information on the interactions between Euro-Americans and the Ponca people.

#### *Ohio Theatre*

The Ohio Theatre in Toledo, Ohio, was built in 1921 and has a long and close association with Toledo's Polish community, called Lagrinka. From its opening on February 28, 1921, to its closing in 1975, the Ohio Theatre was owned or managed by residents of the Polish community. In addition, the small businesses housed in the theatre building storefronts served the needs of the Lagrinka neighborhood. Still in operation and standing in its original location with much of its architectural integrity intact,



the Ohio Theatre offers a unique glimpse into the culture and history of the surrounding Polish Village and greater Toledo area, as well as American theatrical, social, and cultural history.

From its inception, the building served as a neighborhood theater, playing American and Polish silent movies. In 1920, five Polish Village community members—President Rosa Bialorucki, Vice President Stephen L. Gurdzinski, Secretary Nicholas J. Walinski, Walter L. Gurdzinski, and Walter J. Nowak—banded together to form the Lagrange Street Amusement Company to build and operate the Ohio Theatre. However, the demand for the theater's ethnic fare diminished and by 1953, the Ohio Theatre showed only 208 films a year (compared with 600 a year at its height). Attendance continued to dwindle through the 1960s, and in May 1975, the Ohio Theatre closed its doors. The Ohio Theatre, Inc., a non-profit organization, purchased the theater in November 2004, and began showing movies and hosting cultural events.

Designed in a commercial Neoclassical style, the building is primarily of masonry construction with steel roof trusses, covering three lots of approximately 10,800 square feet in total area. The Ohio Theatre was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 29, 2006.

#### ***Hydaburg Totem Park***

Located in southern Southeast Alaska, Hydaburg Totem Park is located in the center of the city of Hydaburg on a 125 by 250 square foot-area established in 1939 for the preservation of totemic art of the Northwest coast Haida people. The park site features 21 totem poles,

3 of which were relocated from abandoned Haida villages to the park upon its creation.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 16, 2006, the site includes a carved stone figure and represents the establishment of the park through the end of the totem pole project in 1942. As a Civilian Conservation Corps project, the U.S. Forest Service hired Native carvers to relocate abandoned totem poles to the park, carve replicas of those poles that could not be relocated, and create new poles; 5 poles are repaired originals while 16 are carved replicas.

#### ***Sunrise Mine Historic District***

The Sunrise Mine Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 23, 2005. Beginning in 1898, the iron-ore industry flourished locally for 80 years. The 225-acre district is located in eastern Wyoming, and consists of 3 areas: the company town, the railroad and maintenance yard, and the mining area, which collectively contain a total of 34 contributing resources. Some of the extant resources within the district include former housing for the laborers, bachelor's quarters, and a laboratory for the testing of ore samples at the mine.

The weekly camp newspaper published by the company reflects the diversity of the labor force at the Sunrise Mine through its multilingual editions in Italian, German, Spanish, and English. The ethnic makeup of the workforce included people of Italian, Greek, Syrian-Lebanese, Japanese, Scandinavian, and English origin, with Greeks constituting half of the immigrant population at the Sunrise Mine.

*Renowned as proficient carvers, Haida people created the the totem poles at Hydaburg Totem Park in Alaska as artistic manifestations of the ancestors and supernatural beings. Courtesy of Doreen Witwer.*





#### ***Pilsen Historic District***

The Pilsen Historic District is significant for its associations with Chicago's Bohemian-American and Mexican-American ethnic heritage, social history, industry, and architecture. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 1, 2006, the district is located about 2 1/2 miles southwest of Chicago's downtown, encompassing 4,405 contributing resources and including a wide array of residential and commercial buildings. Roughly bounded by Halsted Street on the east, Cermak Road on the south, Western Avenue on the west, and the railroad viaduct north of West 16th street on the north, the community was created by Czechs in the 1870s, with



*(Above) Casa Aztlán on South Racine Avenue is a visual marker of the multicultural neighborhood that is Pilsen Historic District in Chicago, IL. Courtesy of Lydia Brant. (Below) The Shower and Changing Room and the Boiler House are just two of many supporting facilities erected for the daily operations of the local iron-ore industry at Sunrise Mine. Courtesy of Richard Collier.*



Mexicans settling it in the post-World War II period.

The district's architectural style reflects the cultural heritage of the Bohemian immigrants, with a large portion of the district's buildings having construction dates between the 1880s and 1890s. Stylistically, the district's buildings include representations from the late 19th- and 20th-century Revival Movement, late 19th- and early 20th-century American Movement styles, including structures in the Craftsmen and Bohemian Baroque styles. Buildings such as the Skala National Bank, Thalia Hall, and the Gothic style St. Paul Roman Catholic Church, are just some of the individual structures that contribute to the district's distinctive aesthetic and ethnic qualities.

## TRIBAL INITIATIVES

### **NAGPRA Develops New Outreach Initiatives**

Maria Elena Frias  
Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) has been responsible for the repatriation of over one-half million Native American cultural items and has enabled documentation of many more. According to the Act, objects of cultural patrimony, sacred objects, funerary objects, and human remains that can be traced to a federally recognized Indian tribe, a particular lineal descendant, or a Native Hawaiian organization must be repatriated if a claim is made. Since 1994, costs for repatriation (up to \$15,000) and the documentation (up to \$75,000) of items which are or potentially could be subject to NAGPRA have been eligible for federal funding under the NAGPRA grants program.

Within the National NAGPRA program of the National Park Service, there are noticeable trends in the tribes, museums, and geographic areas that have or have not received funding. Therefore, the program developed an outreach plan to aid under-funded groups and institutions. National NAGPRA developed a brochure describing the grants program to provide further assistance to those entities that have either applied and not received funding or have not applied at all.

One of the outstanding projects featured in the brochure is a FY 2004 documentation grant to the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma. Representatives

of the Caddo Nation viewed and documented archeological collections at the American Museum of Natural History, which were recovered from a gravesite in the early 1900s. These funerary objects are the subject of a book that the Caddo published, titled *A Rediscovering of Caddo Heritage*.

The National NAGPRA program is also developing a website to provide museums and tribes with examples of projects that have used NAGPRA funding successfully. Some of the more compelling and diverse final projects are highlighted on the website. Each example will include a project summary and an explanation as to why the particular project is unique and effective in carrying out NAGPRA objectives. Some of the chosen projects will feature PDFs of selected materials the applicants submitted for their applications, to better demonstrate how the most effective projects are conducted.

The website and brochure describe NAGPRA grants and other similar grant programs, and provide examples of projects that NAGPRA has funded. Their intent is to encourage more grant applications from the under-funded tribes and museums. The purpose of the website and brochure is to provide a quick resource for interested parties seeking different funding opportunities and show the breadth of projects that NAGPRA funds.

For more information, contact Michelle Joan Wilkinson, [michelle\\_j\\_wilkinson@nps.gov](mailto:michelle_j_wilkinson@nps.gov); phone: 202/354-2203.

Maria Elena Frias was a CRDIP in the National NAGPRA Program offices in Washington, DC, during the Summer 2006 session. She is currently completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

## Current THPO Listings

As of November 7, 2005, the Native American tribes with officially-recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Offices include:

- Absentee Shawnee Tribe (Oklahoma)
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (California)
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (California)
- Bishop Paiute Tribe (California)
- Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe of Indians (California)
- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians (Minnesota)
- Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma (Oklahoma)
- Catawba Indian Nation (South Carolina)
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (South Dakota)
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation (Montana)
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Oklahoma)
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (Montana)
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Washington)
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation (Oregon)
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon (Oregon)
- Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation (Washington)
- Coeur D'Alene Tribe (Idaho)
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (North Carolina)
- Elk Valley Rancheria, California (California)
- The Ho-Chunk Nation (Wisconsin)
- Hualapai Tribe (Arizona)
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (Michigan)
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Wisconsin)
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Michigan)
- Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (Minnesota)
- Lummi Nation (Washington)
- Makah Tribe (Washington)
- Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation Three Affiliated Tribes (North Dakota)
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Mescalero Apache Tribe (New Mexico)
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians (Minnesota)
- Narragansett Indian Tribe (Rhode Island)
- Navajo Nation (Arizona)
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe (Montana)
- Onieda Nation of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Passamaquoddy Tribe (Maine)
- Penobscot Nation (Maine)
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians (Alabama)
- Pueblo of Zuni (New Mexico)
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas (Wisconsin)
- San Carlos Apache Tribe (Arizona)
- Seminole Tribe of Florida (Florida)
- Seneca Nation of Indians (New York)
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (South Dakota)
- Skokomish Indian Tribe (Washington)
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians (Utah)
- Smith River Rancheria (California)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (Washington)
- Squaxin Island Tribe (Washington)
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota)
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians (Wisconsin)
- St. Regis Mohawk (New York)
- Table Bluff Reservation-Wiyot Tribe (California)
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe (California)
- Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana (Louisiana)
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (North Dakota)
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Massachusetts)
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Nevada)
- White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa (Minnesota)
- White Mountain Apache Tribe (Arizona)
- Yurok Tribe (California)

For more information on THPOs, contact James Bird at 202/354-1837, e-mail: james\_bird@nps.gov





*US/ICOMOS will hold an international symposium in San Francisco April 18-21, 2007. The conference theme will be "Balancing Culture, Conversation, and Economic Development: Heritage Tourism In and Around the Pacific Rim." Photo courtesy of Marcia Axtmann Smith Design•Communication, Alexandria, Va.*

is dedicated to the theme of "American Values." "The universal values that the United States holds dear and has used to justify its existence have morphed into American values, used to define our nation while including or exclude members of the American populace, depending on who's defining them. With the peculiar development of those values, it is not clear how or if they impact our national or personal practices and behaviors."

For more information about conference proceedings and registration, visit the OAH meeting website at <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2007/index.html>.

## CONFERENCES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND EVENTS

### Conferences

**March 2007**  
**VAF Annual Meeting: Savannah and the Lowcountry**

On March 28-31, 2007, the Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) will host its annual conference in partnership with the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia. This year's theme, "Savannah and the Lowcountry," explores aspects of the cultural landscape of the city, lowcountry rice and cotton plantations, German Lutheran settlement patterns, post-bellum African-American communities, and coastal livelihood and recreation. Established in 1733, the city has one of the largest historic

districts in the United States with a significant urban plan and remarkably intact 19th-century urban fabric.

Conference tracts include "High and Low, Ideal and Real," "African American Identity," and "Coastal Landscapes."

For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.scad.edu/academic/majors/arlh/vaf/contact.cfm>.

**OAH Centennial Meeting: American Values, American Practices**

The 100th annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on March 29-April 1, 2007. In addition to commemorating the centenary of the organization, the meeting

**April 2007**  
**10th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium: Heritage Tourism**

US/ICOMOS, in conjunction with affiliated organizations, will host "Balancing Culture, Conversation, and Economic Development: Heritage Tourism In and Around the Pacific Rim," in San Francisco, California, on April 18-21, 2007. The 10th annual international symposium was organized with US/ICOMOS by Architectural Resources Group.

Heritage tourism is increasingly identified as a principal means through which to conserve cultural sites by promoting, presenting, and interpreting those sites to the public. This approach has brought about increased opportunities for preservation, restoration, and development of historical and cultural sites, but it also has entailed some negative consequences and

challenges. Such complicating factors include competing interests among stakeholders; protection of resources undergoing tourism development; varying treatments of rural and urban sites; and the wide financial cultural and value-based differences that frequently exist between the host community, site managers, and visitors.

For more information regarding registration, accommodations, and the program overview, visit the symposium website, [http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/Symposium/SYMP07/2007\\_Symposium\\_Program\\_Overview.htm](http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/Symposium/SYMP07/2007_Symposium_Program_Overview.htm).

**Arkansas Historical Association Conference: Not Just Black and White—The Fight for Civil Rights in Arkansas.**

The Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) will hold its 66th annual conference in Little Rock, April 26-28, 2007. The conference theme is “Not Just Black and White: The Fight for Civil Rights in Arkansas.”

The year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1957 desegregation crisis at Little Rock’s Central High School. The 2007 conference will focus on the individuals and groups who have fought for civil rights in Arkansas.

For more information, contact Laura A. Miller, program chair, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, 2125 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202; phone: 501/374-1957; email: [laura\\_a\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:laura_a_miller@nps.gov).

**May 2007**

**AAM Annual Meeting: Why Museums Matter**

The American Association of Museums (AAM) will host its annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on May 13-17, 2007. This year’s theme is “Why Museums Matter.” Museum professionals and volunteers understand how and why museums matter, but need to do a better job communicating this to others. “What are the most effective ways of conveying the value of museums to the public, the media, policy-makers, and funders?”

What are the key messages that the museum community should be communicating? Individual museums tell compelling stories about how they serve their communities. How do they work together as a field to unite this narrative into a powerful message about the valuable roles museums play?”

For the 2007 annual meeting, AAM invites the field to submit proposals that demonstrate how they measure and communicate their value—educational, social, creative, financial—in their communities. “What research do they undertake to measure the results of what they do? What communications strategies work to convey to supporters the value of their efforts? How do you adjust their messages for their various audiences?”

For more information on the conference, visit the meeting website, <http://www.aam-us.org/am07/index.cfm>.

**October 2007**

**National Trust 2007: Twin Cities National Preservation Conference**

On October 2-October 6, 2006, the National Trust of Historic Preservation will host its annual conference in St. Paul, Minnesota.

For more information, contact the Trust at 866/805-5725, or visit its conference website, <http://www.nthpconference.org/>.

**Announcements**

**NPS Accepting Applications for Preserve America Grants**

The Preserve America Grant program recognizes and designates communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. The applications

for the 2007 round of grants are due February 14, 2007.

Benefits of designation include White House recognition; eligibility to apply for Preserve America grants; a certificate of recognition; a Preserve America Community road sign; authorization to use the Preserve America logo on signs, flags, banners, and promotional materials; listing in a Web-based Preserve America Community directory; inclusion in national and regional press releases; official notification of designation to State tourism offices and visitor bureaus; and enhanced community visibility and pride.

For additional information about the Preserve America initiative, see <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/overview.html>.

**SAT Grant Application Season to be Announced in January**

The Save America’s Treasures grant program announcement of the application deadlines for the 2007 granting period is pending. For more information, visit the SAT website at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures/index.htm>.

**Events**

**Preservation-related Commemorations**

- African American Heritage Month (February)
- Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May)
- Historic Preservation Month (May)
- Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)
- American Indian Heritage Month (November)





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*The Gullah/Geechee region, famous  
for its basket weaving, has been  
named a Cultural Heritage Corridor.  
See page 1.*

# HERITAGE MATTERS

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## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and the values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service also cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

*Heritage Matters*, sponsored by the Cultural Resources Programs of the National Park Service, is published twice-a-year and is free of charge. Readers are invited to submit short articles and notices for inclusion. (Limit submissions to fewer than 600 words and include author's name and affiliation. Photographs or slides are welcome.) Please submit newsletter items in writing or electronically to: Brian D. Joyner, Editor, *Heritage Matters*, DOI/National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW (2280), Washington, DC 20240. Phone: 202/354-2276, email: [brian\\_joyner@nps.gov](mailto:brian_joyner@nps.gov).

This material is based upon work conducted under a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. Views and conclusions in this material are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.