



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Columbia Receives White House Designation as a Preserve America Community**  
*Press Conference to be Held on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>*

The City of Columbia recently was awarded status as a Preserve America community. Mayor Steve Benjamin, along with City Council members and representatives from the Historic Columbia Foundation will hold a press conference on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 to discuss the impact of this distinct honor on our city and the importance of historic preservation. The press conference will be held at the Seibels House, located at 1601 Richland Street, and will begin at 4:30pm.

The Preserve America designation includes White House recognition, increased community visibility through inclusion in national and regional press releases and notification of the designation to state tourism offices and visitors' bureaus in addition to opportunities for Preserve America grants.

This federal award goes to those communities which:

- \*protect and celebrate their heritage
- \*use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization
- \*encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs

Immediately following the press conference, guided walking tours of the Robert Mills Historic District will be led by representatives from the Historic Columbia Foundation. Tours will begin at 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. The tours will last approximately 30 minutes. In addition, attendees will be able to experience the Community History project through virtual tours and self-guided print brochures of Old Shandon, Arsenal Hill and Lower Waverly.

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