



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

SOUTHWEST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Newsletter from the National Trust's Southwest Office

November 2006

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Southwest Office

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Arkansas, New Mexico,
Oklahoma and Texas

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Denise Alexander, Program Officer
Wendy Ossoinig, Program Assistant
Beth Wiedower, Field Representative
Sandra Smith, Director, Villa Finale

Calendar:

October

5-7 Daniel & Denise in Hot Springs, AR
16 Daniel in Blythville, AR
25-26 Daniel in Amarillo, TX
30-31 National Preservation Conference

November

1-4 National Preservation Conference
9-10 Daniel in Brownsville, TX
16 Denise in San Antonio, TX
17 Daniel in Oklahoma City, OK
21 Daniel in Albuquerque, NM

December

4 Daniel & Denise in Dallas, TX
5 Daniel in Albuquerque, NM
7-8 Denise & Daniel in Austin, TX
13-14 Daniel & Denise in Las Cruces, NM

January

11-13 Daniel in Arkansas
18 Coalition Meeting in Fort Worth

Southwest Advisors

AR: Cheri Nichols, Debbie Shea

NM: Mary Jane Garcia, Ernest Ortega

OK: John Mabrey

TX: Sam Collins, Marcel Quimby

Statewide Partners

[Historic Preservation Alliance Arkansas](#)

[New Mexico Heritage Pres. Alliance](#)

[Preservation Oklahoma](#)

[Preservation Texas](#)

Main Street

[Main Street Arkansas](#)

[New Mexico Main Street](#)

[Oklahoma Main Street](#)

[Texas Main Street](#)

Living the Legacy

In December of last year, Walter Nold Mathis, one of Texas's great preservationists, passed away, leaving an extraordinary legacy and the city of San Antonio changed forever. In the late 1960s, when his home was demolished to make way for a free-way, Mathis turned his eye toward a dilapidated Italianate home in the King William district. Once a great neighborhood, King William had fallen onto hard times by the time Mathis decided to make his home there. He meticulously restored the house over two years, called it Villa Finale, and set about filling the home with the many artworks and furnishings he collected.

But what makes Walter Mathis so remarkable is that once he had finished his own home, he turned that same meticulousness toward the restoration of the neighborhood as a whole. One by one, he bought more than a dozen homes in King William, performed basic restoration work, and then sold the homes to other preservation-minded individuals, often carrying the note on the property himself, when banks shied away from

such risky ventures. Is it any wonder Mathis received the Louise DuPont Crowninshield Award from the National Trust in 2006?

Nearly forty years later, King William is a vibrant and beautiful neighborhood, a testament to the vision of one man. And if this legacy weren't enough, Mathis transferred his home and all its collections to the National Trust, so that it would one day be open to the public as a museum.

In the ten months since Mathis' death, the National Trust has been working toward developing a museum that tells the story of a pres-



ervationist who had a vision – that through hard work and determination, one person can make a difference. The staff is currently cleaning, numbering, and cataloguing each of over 10,000 pieces in the extensive collection, which includes a number of Napoleonic pieces and items related to Texas history. In future e-letters, I'll provide updates on the transition of this remarkable museum!

Sandra Smith, Director, Villa Finale

October Preservation Fund Grants Announced

OKLAHOMA

\$1,000 (Mayo Fund) to the Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture for the production of a publication to celebrate Central Oklahoma's Architecture over the past 100 years. The book will focus on Central Oklahoma and will demonstrate the architectural history and architectural diversity of Central Oklahoma.



\$1,500 (Mayo Fund) to the Town of Boley for a detailed analysis of the needed repairs and cost of restoring the Boley Water Tower after ninety five years of standing as a symbol of the tenacious strong people that built the town.



\$3,000 (Mayo Fund) to the City of Vinita for a feasibility study to help determine space allocation, structural requirements, and cost estimates for the rehabilitation & restoration of the Craig County Courthouse for new use.



\$3,000 (Mayo Fund) to the Saline Preservation Association for detailed architectural documentation of the National Register listed Saline Courthouse and the adjacent Springhouse.



\$1,500 (Mayo Fund) to Preservation El Reno for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Masonic Orphanage Building for future educational use as well as maintaining its historical significance.



TEXAS

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to Preservation Texas to help facilitate the preparations for the 2008 Preservation Summit. The 2007 gathering will use focus groups to develop topics and priorities for the Summit.



\$4,580 (Mayo Fund) to the El Reno Carnegie Library for construction documents that will be used in the stabilization of the roof structure for the El Reno Carnegie Library Building.



\$5,000 (Fondren Fund) to the City of Sinton to perform an analysis and assessment of the Rialto Theatre, addressing safety, potential uses of the property, and costs associated with restoring the building.



Preservation Fund Grants

Deadline **02/01/07** for Grant Applications. For information, contact SWO at 817-332-4398 or swro@nthp.org

Rural Heritage Development Initiative

Greetings from the Delta! The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity – from consultations and assessments to workshops and technical assistance for communities up and down the Arkansas Delta region. So far this year, the Arkansas Delta RHDI has hosted a Visitor Experience assessment, Imaging and Branding consultation, “White Elephant” workshop, Economics of Historic Preservation seminar, Entrepreneurial and Small Business analysis, and an Eco- and Agri-tourism workshop. In Pittsburgh, at the National Preservation Conference, the RHDI session drew 150 people interested in rural preservation. As we enter the final quarter of the Rural Heritage Development Initiative’s (RHDI) first year, we are on track to complete the Year One workplan and readying ourselves to move into Year Two at full blast.

Two early successes include the receipt of a \$100,000 Preserve America grant awarded to the RHDI for development and implementation of the Delta Music Heritage Trail, and our selection to participate as one of six organizations in the Association for Enterprise Opportunity’s (AEO) *Regional Flavor* grant program.

The Preserve America grant is matched with \$100,000 locally through in-kind and financial support from Arkansas State University’s Delta Studies Program and RHDI partner Arkansas Delta Byways, giving us \$200,000 towards the Delta Music Heritage Trail. If you are interested in participating in the Heritage Trails Taskforce of the RHDI, please contact Beth via email, elizabeth_wiedower@nthp.org or at 870.816.0774.

AEO’s *Regional Flavor* grant program provides both technical assistance and programming funds for the development of local initiatives aimed at supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as capitalizing on the products, services, and heritage which make a region unique. The RHDI will focus its *Regional Flavor* award on the creation and promotion of the DeltaMade branding program.

The RHDI is a new and innovative approach to rural heritage preservation and economic revitalization. For more information, or to learn how you can become involved, please contact Beth Wiedower, RHDI Arkansas Delta Field Representative, 870.816.0774 or elizabeth_wiedower@nthp.org.

Southwest Retreat

The Southwest Office took a much needed time-out earlier this fall to sit down, take stock and plan for our future. Thanks to a generous offer from friend and National Trust Council member, Charles Butt of San Antonio, the Southwest Office convened our colleagues from the Rural Heritage Development Initiative and Villa Finale (our new historic site in San Antonio) for a two-day strategic planning retreat. We met off the coast of Corpus Christi; the venue was perfect. For the first time in the region's history, we brought together all parts of the National Trust working in the Southwest.



Charles Butt recently restored the c.1857 lighthouse and keeper's quarters at Lydia Ann Pass...with such a peaceful and inspirational setting, we slipped into flip flops and tank tops and went to work.

Beth Wiedower, Field Representative for the Arkansas Delta and Sandra Smith, Director of Villa Finale, helped us think about how we might better work as a team to promote preservation and the National Trust in the region—not just taking care of our own work plans in separate silos. As a result, we outlined a series of mutually held goals that will foster working across artificial boundaries. We agreed to publicize the work of the Delta Initiative and Villa Vinale through this e-letter...you will read updates from Beth and Sandra four times a year. Also, we spent time discussing our strengths and weaknesses in terms of time management and how we might better collaborate and communicate the Next Trust message.

Our Goals for 2007

- Promote the message of preservation as being relevant to everyday life
- Prove that preservation and community revitalization go hand-in-hand
- Be key participants in cross-Trust partnerships at historic sites (Villa Finale)
- Complete planning for opening of Villa Finale and new Visitors' Center
- Play an important role in saving 6 historic places in the region
- Have breakthroughs with major initiatives: historic schools, teardowns, recent past
- Brand the National Trust and RHDI in the Arkansas Delta
- Diversify our Southwest Board of Advisors
- Strengthen our State and Local Partners in the Southwest Region

Mark Your Calendars for Lobby Day 2007

Join the National Trust and its partners—Preservation Action, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, our Statewide and Local Partners and National Trust Advisors for Lobby Day 2007 in Washington, DC.

Preservationists come to Washington, DC, to lobby Congress on matters impor-

tant to historic preservation, and the national organizations provide lobby training and information on current legislative issues. Lobby Day gives a united voice to preservation issues with each member visited. Lobby Day will be **Wednesday, February 28, 2007.**

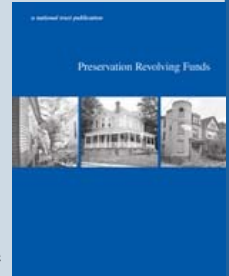
Look for more information in the upcoming months to find out about your state delegation and issues facing historic preservation. Your voice matters!

Book Spotlight

Contact:
Wendy Ossoinig at
wendy_ossoinig@nthp.org
for ordering information

Preservation Revolving Funds (Updated)

Old buildings are sometimes jokingly referred to as a "money pit" -- money just disappears. With preservation revolving funds, however, the dollars spent on rehab projects revolve and go on to pay for additional rehabs. Today, preservation organizations are using their revolving funds to create affordable housing, revitalize communities, and save endangered buildings. A new edition of [*Preservation Revolving Funds*](#) is now available from Preservation Books. It explains how revolving funds operate and outlines considerations for organizations contemplating the start or expansion of a revolving fund.



Order No. 2178
Price: \$8.00 plus S&H [Forum or Main Street Member \$6.00 / National Trust Member \$7.20]

Identify this Historic Structure...



Keep up with the Southwest Office!

Sign up to receive our e-letter send an email to swro@nthp.org OR Visit our website: <http://www.nationaltrust.org/southwest/index.html>

National Trust Loan Funds

National Trust Loan Funds is pleased to announce a recent loan closing to support historic rehabilitation efforts in Fort Worth, Texas.

LaSalle

Apartments, Ltd., an entity of The Carillon Group of Dallas, will use a \$195,000 loan from the Inner City Ventures Fund in connection with its rehabilitation of the LaSalle Apartments in Fort Worth, Texas. The ICVF financing bridges



the National Trust Small Deal Fund's federal historic tax credit equity investment in the sixteen unit residential project. Carillon Group will use the loan proceeds to support the development of another project, the Sawyer Grocery buildings (ca. 1905) on Main Street in Fort Worth. Once rehabilitated, this vacant property will house ground floor retail and fourteen upper floor residences. The two adjoining properties that comprise the LaSalle Apartments project were built in 1927 and contribute to the Fairmount-Southside National Register Historic District and the City of Fort Worth's Historic and Cultural Landmark sub district.

YOUR TOWN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO HOST WORKSHOP

We are pleased to announce that the National Endowment for the Arts will be funding four *Your Town: The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design* workshops and are seeking partners in the Southwest to produce a workshop between now and November 2007. This is an opportunity to bring design professionals to your community to help you tackle critical regional planning and design issues. Up to \$22,000 will be available from the Endowment for each workshop.

The Faculty of Landscape Architecture at SUNY Syracuse directs *Your Town: The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design* in partnership with the Carl Small Town Center at Mississippi State University and consultant Shelley Mastran.

If a town is selected to produce a Your Town workshop, the funds will be provided through a fee-for-service contract with SUNY Syracuse. Although \$22,000 should cover most expenses, workshop organizers should demonstrate a match for the Endowment funds. Past successful applications have included matches of approximately \$10,000. The contribution may take the form of funds raised or donated by local organizations, including goods and services (food, printing, space, staff time, etc.). You will be expected to maintain budget records for all expenditures. If substantially fewer than 30 participants attend the full workshop, funding from the Endowment will decrease accordingly. Securing committed attendance at the workshop is critical.

If you need more information about Your Town, you may contact one of the following previous workshop coordinators.

Glenna Booth, Eureka Springs, Arkansas – ACE@cityofeurekasprings.org
Shelley Mastran, Consultant— shellmast@comcast.net

Funding Opportunities...

As the **federal government** improves its electronic grants procedures, the www.grants.gov site gets more useful. Check out the links, and consider signing up for the "Receive Grant Opportunity Notification" option.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), has grant programs that preserve the state's historic resources.

For more information:

www.arkansaspreservation.org/preservation/grants.asp

Heritage Tourism Grants

Government and nonprofit organizations within active Texas Heritage Trails Program regions can apply for matching grants when funds are available.

For more information:

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/graht.html>

The National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

is accepting applications for Preservation Technology and Training Grants. The maximum award is \$50,000, and the deadline for submission is December 1, 2006.

For more information go to

<http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>

Donate to the National Trust Southwest Office

As the only private, national organization dedicated to historic preservation, the National Trust relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. When you donate to the National Trust, you'll be joining thousands of preservationists who enable our staff to save historic places and revitalize communities.

Gifts to the National Trust are tax-deductible in accordance with the law.

For more information contact:

Wendy Ossoinig at

wendy_ossoinig@nthp.org