

PRESERVE AMERICA

COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: 2007 COMMUNITY APPLICATION Application Form

1. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Communities must consult with their State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) during the development of this application and send a copy of the completed application to the SHPO when it is submitted.

✓ **Check this box to signify that you have completed the above instructions.**

SHPO names and addresses can be found at www.ncshpo.org or by calling (202) 6245465.

Applications must be submitted in hard copy and will not be returned. **Please provide an original and one copy of all materials and three to five related images as described on page 5.** Submission well in advance of one of the quarterly deadlines (**March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1**) will facilitate timely review.

Submit applications to:

Preserve America Communities
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Sources of additional information:

Office of Preservation Initiatives
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
(202) 6068584
Web site: www.PreserveAmerica.gov

2. COMMUNITY INFORMATION

All incorporated or unincorporated communities, are eligible to seek designation as Preserve America Communities.

Name of community seeking designation ___City of Rockville_____

City X _____ County _____ Other _____

This community is in ___Montgomery_____ County, ___Maryland_____ State or Territory.

Congressional District ___8th District_____ Representative ___Chris Van Hollen_____

3. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Application for designation can only be submitted by one of the following:

- Mayor or equivalent elected governing official of an incorporated community; or
- County executive or equivalent elected governing official of a county or of the appropriate jurisdiction of an unincorporated community

Applicant's Name: ___Susan Hoffman_____ Title: ___Mayor_____

Mailing Address: ___111 Maryland Avenue_____

City: ___Rockville_____ State: ___Maryland_____ Zip: ___20850_____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Street/Delivery Address (No Post Office Boxes): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Attn: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

For more information, contact: ___Jeffrey Winstel, AICP_____ Title: Lead Preservation Planer_____

Phone: ___240-314-8232_____ Fax: ___240-3148210_____ Email: ___jwinstel@rockvillemd.gov_____

4. DESIGNATION CRITERIA AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

A community will qualify for designation as a Preserve America Community if:

A. The community has supported (within the last three years) a historic or cultural preservation project that promotes heritage tourism or otherwise fosters economic vitality. The project must have involved a public-private partnership between government entities and at least one civic association, nonprofit organization, or business enterprise. ***(Please provide a written description of a specific project, documenting how it fulfills these requirements. Do not exceed 500 words.)***

Rockville, Maryland's participation in the 2007 Montgomery County Heritage Festival was a three-organization effort designed to showcase local heritage tourism. Previously, the City of Rockville participated by hosting an information table regarding the city's historic preservation program. The Montgomery County Heritage Area challenged us to "ramp up" and take the lead on developing a Rockville heritage tourism event. The City of Rockville, with the Montgomery County Historical Society and preservation non-profit, Peerless Rockville, used Rockville's motto: "Built Upon A Rock" and developed an event that highlighted the geology, history, sculpture and masonry architecture of Rockville.

Public service announcements were run on Rockville's community access channel. Event posters and brochures were displayed at City Hall, Recreation and Parks facilities and other venues. Peerless Rockville and the Montgomery County Historical Society promoted the event in their newsletters and websites.

The Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS) is a membership based nonprofit organization encouraging County residents to discover their heritage. MCHS, headquartered in Rockville's 1815 Federal style Beall-Dawson house, featured a 19th century gold mining exhibit for the festival. Children tried their hand at prospecting with a demonstration sluice and mining pans. An archeological pit was open for exploration and excavation and a rocking chair maker demonstrated his craft. First person interpretive enactor of 19th century Dr. Stonestreet consulted with visitors at his 1852 office building.

Peerless Rockville, a nonprofit, community based historic preservation organization, also participated. Visitors to the Historic Baptist Cemetery did charcoal rubbings of the tombstones. Their popular walking tours focused on historic masonry architecture and included geological information about the building materials.

As part of the "Live It Up, 101 Days of Celebration", the City of Rockville hosted activities in the New Town Center plaza. Sculptor and Corcoran Gallery instructor John Jayson Sonnier demonstrated his art and gave children a chance to try stone sculpting. A scavenger hunt challenged participants to match carved rocks with the correct buildings and win a free ice cream cone from Town Square Plaza merchant, Gordon's Ice Cream. Visitors learned about Rockville's Stone Age cultures at a staffed exhibit from the Montgomery County Planning Department's Archeologists, and City preservation staff manned an exhibit on the Rockville's Historic District Commission. Free shuttle bus service between the sites was provided and the Rockville Library developed a prehistory and history children's reading list for the event. The day ended with DinoRock! in concert, sponsored by Aggregate Industries, parent company of the Rockville Quarry. These award winning life-size puppets sang and danced, introducing children to the world of the science through the magic of dinosaurs.

Approximately 500-600 people attended the heritage festival event. Questionnaires were filled out by attendees indicated over 75% included shopping and dining as part of their festival attendance. The same percentage said it was the first time they attended the county heritage festival. Frequently stated suggestions for next year were more advertising and increased hours.

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- B.** The governing body of the community has recently adopted a resolution indicating its commitment to the preservation of its heritage assets. ***(Please include a signed and dated copy of the resolution.)***
- C.** The community meets at least five of the criteria outlined below (with at least one from each specified category). ***(Please check the criteria below under which you are seeking Preserve America Community designation. For each criterion, please provide a written description of no more than 250 words explaining how your community meets the criterion.)***

Category 1: Discovering Heritage Through Historic Places

- ✓ An ongoing, publicly available inventory of historic properties
- ✓ A community supported museum, interpretive facility, archive, or local history records collection (private or public)
- Active citizen volunteer involvement, such as a docent or guide program for interpretation of local history and culture, or volunteer participation in improving the condition of heritage assets within the community
- Opportunities for children to learn about local heritage in the schools, through either established curriculum or special outreach activities

An ongoing, publicly available inventory of historic properties:

The City of Rockville website features a “Historic Preservation” option on its drop-down menu. Clicking on this item leads to comprehensive information on the city’s historic preservation program, including a list of inventoried sites and site histories. After locating the name of a historic site the visitor is lead to a picture of the historic property, a brief description of its significance, and a location map.

In addition, the City of Rockville has a Historic Building Catalog that contains pictures and information on the structures. This small flipbook was produced with CLG grant money in 1986 for the purpose of encouraging walking and driving tours of Rockville’s historic sites. This year’s work plan includes updating this publication.

Inventoring Rockville’s historic properties is an on-going process. As part of neighborhood master planning projects, areas are inventoried and potentially significant historic properties are identified. This was done for the Lincoln Park African American neighborhood, the Post WWII suburban Twinbrook neighborhood, and the late 19th early 20th century Rockville Park neighborhood. In addition, properties are inventoried and assessed for historic significance at homeowner request or when a demolition permit is applied for and the subject structure is at least 50 years old.

A community supported museum, interpretive facility, archive, or local history records collection (private or public).

The Mayor and Council of Rockville annually awards a grant to Peerless Rockville for an agreed upon scope of services. The work performed by Peerless Rockville falls under three headings: 1) Provide Community Service; 2) Operate and Enhance Visitors Center, Research Library, and Community Museum of Rockville History; and 3) Promote Rockville’s History and Historic Places through Educational Programs, Tours, Special Events, Awards, and Exhibits.

Peerless Rockville’s Visitor Center, Research Library, and Community Museum of Rockville History are located in a visible location in the Town Center – the 1891 Romanesque Revival County Courthouse. They are open to the public 5 days a week (including weekends). Peerless actively accessions documents, photographs, and research materials into their library collection. They stress professional and community involvement in the management and collection of materials on Rockville history.

Additional historic interpretive facilities run by the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Recreation and Parks Department include The Glenview Mansion/ Civic Center Park (National Register of Historic Places), and the Dawson Farm Park ((National Register of Historic Places). The 1926 Glenview Mansion and landscaped gardens offers docent lead tours, Sunday concert series and hosts municipal art shows. The Dawson Farm Park includes interpretive signage, exhibits and a visitor brochure.

Category 2: Protecting Historic Resources

- ✓ A local governmental body, such as a board or a commission, charged with leading historic preservation activities within the community
- An adopted community wide historic preservation plan that is being implemented
- ✓ A historic preservation review ordinance and volunteer or professional staff to implement it

A local governmental body, such as a board or commission, charged with leading historic preservation activities within the community.

The Mayor and Council of Rockville first endorsed the creation of a Rockville Historic District Commission (HDC) in 1965, via Ordinance No. 28-66 under Article 66B of the Maryland State Code. In 1970 the City’s Master Plan recommended establishment of historic districts in Rockville. Two years later the HDC reorganized and in 1974 they recommended the establishment of three historic districts to the Mayor and Council, which were approved.

In accordance with Article 66B of Maryland’s Annotated Code, HDC members must possess a demonstrated special interest, specific knowledge, or professional or academic training in historic preservation or closely related field. Commissioners serve for 3-year terms and may be reappointed for subsequent terms.

The HDC reviews applications for historic district or single site designation. After reviewing staff research, reports and recommendation, and listening to public testimony, the HDC makes a recommendation to the Mayor and Council to file for a map amendment historic district overlay. The Planning Commission reviews the application for consistency with adopted city plans, and the Mayor and Council holds a public hearing for comments and information. At the end of this six-month process, Mayor and Council instruct the staff to file for an historic district overlay map amendment.

The HDC is also charged with voting on Certificates of Approval for exterior changes to locally designated historic structures and changes to the associated Environmental Setting. Applications are reviewed by staff in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and the City of Rockville’s Technical Guides for Exterior Alterations (1-16). The HDC and staff provide the option of courtesy reviews prior to formal submission and Certificate of Approval applications are often put on the consent agenda, eliminating unnecessary discussion and applicant participation in the meetings.

The City of Rockville further exhibits leadership in local historic preservation by designating many city-owned properties for historic designation, such as the Beall-Dawson House, King Farm, Municipal Pump House, and the Dawson Farmhouse, to name a few.

A historic preservation review ordinance and professional staff to implement it.

Chapter 25 of City of Rockville Ordinance, Zoning and Planning, Article II. Division 4., Historic District Commission, Sec. 25-7., creates a City Historic District Commission (Laws of Rockville, Ch. 6, S. 2-301). The HDC is authorized under Anno. Code of Md., Art. 66B, S. 8.03(a). The powers and duties of the Historic District Commission shall be all those powers and duties conferred and imposed upon it by City Code and the provisions of State Law. (Laws of Rockville, Chapter 6, S 2-303).

The purpose of the City of Rockville Ordinance, HDC, is “to safeguard the heritage of Rockville by preserving sites, structures, districts herein which reflect elements of cultural, social, economic, political, archaeological or architectural history”. (Code of Md., Art. 66B, S. 8.01 (b)) Additionally the purpose of the ordinance is to stabilize and improve property values, foster civic beauty, strengthen the local economy, promote preservation and appreciation of sites, structures, and districts for education and welfare of the residents of the City.

The professional staff to the Historic District Commission works in the City of Rockville’s Community Planning and Development Services Division. A lead Historic Preservation Planner is full-time and acts as the liaison to the Historic District Commission. Two, ¾ time and one part-time planner complete the HDC staff. All staff members meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Professional Qualifications.

Category 3: Promoting Historic Assets

- ✓ A local heritage tourism program or active participation in a regional program, with such promotional material as a walking/driving trail or tour itinerary, map of historic resources, etc.
- A regularly scheduled heritage observance or event
- A historic preservation awards or recognition program

A local heritage tourism program or active participation in a regional program, with such promotional materials as a walking/driving trail or tour itinerary, map of historic resources, etc..

The Mayor and Council of Rockville promote heritage tourism through the development of walking tour brochures, (in print and on the city website) and interpretive plaques. Rockville also regularly participates in the Montgomery County Heritage Festival.

The “Explore Rockville” walking tour brochure was published in 2000. In honor of the 200th anniversary of the creation of a town named Rockville, this brochure features sites, extant and non-extant, that existed in Rockville from 1801-1850. Each of the sites identified in the brochure is marked with a freestanding interpretive panel at the site.

The African American Heritage Walking tour brochure was published in 2003. The walking tour documents the people and places in the city’s downtown core that played significant roles in black history from the 18th century through the 20th century. The tour highlights the historic themes common to the African American experience, such as slavery, emancipation, religion, education, commerce, and civil rights. These tour brochures, along with a children’s coloring book on the historic African American neighborhood, Lincoln Park, are available on the city’s website and can be easily downloaded.

Rockville is also an official program location for the National Park Service’s “Network to Freedom” with the “In Their Steps: A Guided Walking Tour”. Operated by Peerless Rockville, this tour tells of Rockville’s role as an active hub on the Underground Railroad and highlights some of the lesser-known paths to freedom, such as manumission, colonization, and the purchase of freedom by a relative.

- D. Submit three to five images that show people using and enjoying your historic cultural and natural resources (CD with digital images scanned at a resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi) or greater or 4” x 6” color photographs) and provide caption and credit information for each.

Enclosed

- E. Provide approximately 100-200 words on the history of your community, including founding date, key events, evolution of the economy, and current population. This information will be edited and incorporated into profiles of designated communities (for examples see [www.preserveamerica.gov/ PACommunities.html](http://www.preserveamerica.gov/PACommunities.html)).

Rockville is one of Maryland’s oldest towns, dating back to Colonial America when it was a crossroads hamlet known for the Hungerford Tavern along the “great road” between Georgetown and Frederick. In 1774 Rockville patriots at Hungerford’s Tavern issued the “Hungerford Resolves” calling for a boycott of British goods in response to the Boston Harbor Blockade.

Montgomery County was created out of Frederick County in 1776, and the crossroads became Montgomery County Courthouse. The Maryland General Assembly surveyed the town in 1801 and named it Rockville, due to its proximity to Rock Creek. Rockville incorporated in 1860 and in 1873 the metropolitan branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad arrived, with frequent service to Washington DC. Rockville became a summer resort known for its elevated, healthy environment and several hotels. The 1883 Civil Service Act led to the development of Rockville’s Victorian Railroad Suburbs West End Park and Rockville Park.

Population growth slowed in the early 20th century, but boomed following World War II. Rockville went from a small county courthouses town to a burgeoning suburb of Washington DC. Rockville is now home to 65,000 people and several international science and technology corporations.

5. ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Written endorsements by preservation organizations, civic organizations, members of Congress, and other elected officials are encouraged. ***(Please provide copies of any letters of endorsement.)***

Documenting participation in other nationwide preservation programs is encouraged. ***(Please let us know if your community is a Certified Local Government, a Main Street Community, a recipient of funds under the Save America’s Treasures program, or a recipient of Transportation Enhancements funding for historic preservation, etc.)***

The City of Rockville is a Certified Local Government program, as recognized by the Maryland Historic Trust and the National Park Service. Rockville is not a Main Street Community and has not received funds under the Save America’s Treasures program or the Transportation Enhancements funding for historic preservation.

Brochures, additional photos, reports, publications, etc. appended.

6. RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned gives the ACHP and the Preserve America Communities program absolute right to use, in whole and in part, all material submitted in furtherance of this application. All submitted materials become the property of Preserve America. Materials may be used in program activities, including publications and Web sites. Preserve America is given permission to make any editorial changes and/or additions to the subject material. The undersigned guarantees to have on file all necessary individual agreements and signatures to ensure Preserve America unencumbered use of all associated material.

7. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

The elected governing official of the community must sign and date this form.

Signature must be original and in ink.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (please print): _____

Title: _____