

March 26, 2007

For Immediate Release

Essay Contest for All Will County Eighth Graders

Joliet—Each May, the National Trust for Historic Preservation encourages communities throughout the United States to celebrate National Preservation Month. This year's theme is "Making Preservation Work!"

The Joliet Area Historical Museum, Joliet Historic Preservation Commission, Will County Historic Preservation Commission and Will County Historical Society have partnered to foster local awareness of Preservation Month. In addition to offering a half-day program at the Museum on May 5, ***Making Preservation Work! Partnerships + Preservation = Progress***, the committee is sponsoring an essay contest, open to all Will County eighth grade students.

The essay theme is: ***How does preservation benefit your Will County community?*** This theme encourages eighth graders to explore questions such as: Have you noticed a historic building in your own community that you would like to see become a historic landmark in Will County; and what makes the building worth saving? Are there historic buildings near you that could be re-invented by housing a specific activity; and could this promote history and culture in your Will County community? What new use would you propose for the old, vacant buildings in your community? How would the neighborhood benefit from the preservation of the historic site?

Cash prizes, generously donated by the President of the Board of the Joliet Area Historical Museum, J.D. Ross and his wife, Helen, will be awarded to the top four essays: 1st Place: \$40.00, 2nd Place: \$30.00, and 3rd and 4th Place: \$20.00 each. Winners are encouraged, but not required, to attend an award ceremony on May 5, 2007 at 1:00 PM at the Joliet Area Historical Museum, 204 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet.

The deadline for entries is April 20, 2007. Essays will be judged by a panel of representatives from the four sponsoring organizations. Judges will look for essays that discuss how historic preservation could be an asset to the community. Essays should be well organized, with an introduction, body, and conclusion; and demonstrate proper punctuation, grammar, and spelling. For entry information, complete requirements and an entry form, contact the museum at (815) 723-5201 ex. 234 or 235, or email k.shehorn@jolietmuseum.org.

**** END ****