



NEWS RELEASE

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“This Place Matters” Cleveland Better Home Town Celebrates National Preservation Month by Helping Local Businesses

Cleveland, Georgia (May 8, 2008) – Citizens in Cleveland, Georgia will join thousands of individuals around the country as part of a nationwide celebration of 2008 National Preservation Month in May 2008. *“This Place Matters”* is the theme of the month-long celebration, which is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Since the National Trust created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts in America, it has grown into an annual celebration observed by small towns and big cities with events ranging from architectural and historic tours and award ceremonies, to fundraising events, educational programs and heritage travel opportunities. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the National Trust has extended the celebration to the entire month of May and declared it Preservation Month to provide an even longer opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country’s cities and states and enable more Americans to become involved in the growing preservation movement. This year will mark the first official Preservation Month.

Within our own community, Cleveland Better Home Town’s Historic Preservation Committee, in partnership with the White County Historical Society will observe Preservation Month by encouraging local businesses to revitalize, restore and protect the Cleveland Downtown Historic District and its historic buildings. “This Place Matters” signs will be displayed in local businesses to show their support of downtown revitalization.

On May 22nd, Cleveland Better Home Town has invited the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Cities Foundation to participate in “This Place Matters” Town Hall Meeting to discuss financial tools available to business owners in the Cleveland Downtown Area. “As part of our ongoing effort to revitalize the downtown, we wanted local businesses leaders to hear first hand what’s available to them through the State and the Georgia Cities Foundation,” said Maria Jurado-Flynn, Manager of Cleveland Better Home Town. The financial tools include low interest loans to qualified individuals wanting to renovate or purchase property in the business district. The Town Hall Meeting will take place Thursday, May 22nd from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm in the Historic Courthouse and is hosted by Cleveland Better Home Town. The White County Historical Society will provide refreshments.

To kick off National Historic Preservation month, the White County Historical Society Hosted a “Walking Tour of the Cleveland Square” on May 1st. The tour was guided by Betty Highsmith who spoke of the history of each building on the Square and reminisced about her childhood and experiences. “The Cleveland Square was our playground as children and growing up in Cleveland was the greatest experience,” said Mrs. Highsmith during the tour. Her family home was the Kennimer-Telford home, which is located one block from the Square and was built in the 1800’s. It is among the historic buildings that are part of the community’s rich history. “Its buildings like this that deserve our attention and respect to preserve for future generation to enjoy,” said Judge Garrison Baker, Chairman of the Cleveland Better Home Town Historic Preservation Committee.

Cleveland Better Home Town, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) 3 charitable organization. In 2007, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs officially designated Cleveland as a ***Georgia Better Home Town***. Cleveland Better Home Town is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and works to promote the 4-Point Approach to downtown revitalization. The 4-Point Approach involves *Organization, Design, Economic Restructuring, and Promotion*. In addition, Cleveland Better Home Town established a *Historic Preservation Committee* to help preserve the rich heritage of our local community. The committee is chaired by Judge Garrison Baker, a local historian and author himself.

**The Mission of the Cleveland Better Home Town Historic Preservation Committee is:
“To identify and preserve the cultural heritage of the Cleveland Town Square.”**

For more information about National Preservation Month visit
<http://www.preservationnation.org/preservationmonth/>

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, nine regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America’s stories. For more information visit www.preservationnation.org

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