

*Louisiana Trust*  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**LOUISIANA LEGACY SOCIETY:**

Preservationist	\$250.00
Landmark Donor	\$500.00
Heritage Contributor	\$1,000.00
Presidential Circle	\$3,000.00
Presidential Trust	\$5,000.00

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:**

Individual	\$35.00
Family/Double	\$50.00
Supporting	\$100.00
Non-Profit	\$25.00

For Estate Gifts, Property Donations, Trusts and Endowments, call the LTHP office at 225-930-0936

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$ \_\_\_\_\_

For all credit card charges, please complete and sign below:

\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ Visa

I authorize the LTHP to charge the above card for the indicated amount for annual membership dues.

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Verification ID: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Cardholder Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature

*Louisiana Trust*  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P. O. Box 1587  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
225-930-0936 www.lthp.org

STATEWIDE PARTNER

NATIONAL TRUST FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

**Board of Directors**

The Louisiana Trust's work is carried out by a Board of Directors composed of:

President  
John Crook  
Leesville

Vice-President  
Michael Echols  
Monroe

Secretary  
A.C. Bourdier  
Lake Charles

Treasurer  
David Broussard  
Baton Rouge

Immediate Past President  
Jean O'Roark  
Lafayette

Melinda Anderson  
Cheneyville

Douglas Breckenridge  
Monroe

William Lane Callaway  
Shreveport

J.C. Chargois, Jr.  
Lafayette

J. Scott Chotin  
LaCombe

Richard M. Gibbs  
New Roads

Elize Howerton  
Leesville

Frances Irving  
Minden

Paul Smith  
Alexandria

John Turner  
Baton Rouge

Sue Weaver  
Natchitoches

Donna Wright  
St. Francisville

**Ex-Officio Officers:**

Phil Boggan  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Dept. of CRT

Nicole Hobson-Morris  
Director  
Louisiana Division of  
Historic Preservation  
Dept. of CRT

Ray W. Scriber  
Director,  
Louisiana Main Street  
Louisiana Division of  
Historic Preservation  
Dept. of CRT

James Logan  
National Trust Advisor

Jean Sayres  
National Trust Advisor

Winnie Byrd  
Advisor Emeritus

Sue Turner  
Advisor Emeritus

Staff: Michael Wyatt  
Preservation  
Field Services Coordinator

*Louisiana Trust*  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Fall/Winter 2010

**Stephanie Meeks Named 8th President  
Of National Trust for Historic Preservation**



The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced that it has selected Stephanie Meeks, an experienced non-profit leader, as its next president.

J. Clifford Hudson, chairman of the National Trust's Board of Trustees and of its search committee said, "We are extremely pleased that Stephanie has accepted our invitation to lead the Trust at this critical point in its history. Her unmistakable passion for the work of the Trust, combined with her experience in leading large and complex mission-driven organizations, makes her the ideal candidate to take the Trust to the next level. All of us who have met her are enthusiastic about the prospect of working with her in the years to come." Hudson, who is chairman and CEO of the Sonic Corp. in Oklahoma City, said Meeks, 45, has been a member of the National Trust for many years. She currently lives in Falls Church, Virginia but hails from Colorado.

Meeks served as president and CEO of Counterpart International, a \$110 million development organization in 25 countries. She earlier spent 18 years at The Nature Conservancy, one of the largest and most influential conservation organizations in the world, where she held a number of leadership positions including chief operating officer and, for nearly a year, acting president and CEO. Her biography can be found on the National Trust website, [www.PreservationNation.org](http://www.PreservationNation.org).

"It is with great enthusiasm and respect that I look forward to joining the National Trust for Historic Preservation next month," Meeks said. "It is an important organization with a vital mission, and I enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to build on the remarkable foundation laid by Dick Moe over the past seventeen years. Holding true to the values of preserving our nation's heritage, I hope to expand upon his work to broaden the reach of the Trust to encompass the protection of important places at the heart of all of our communities. At this time in our history, we have an opportunity, and a need, to embrace what makes our individual communities unique and authentic and celebrate and preserve those qualities."

Meeks said she plans to begin in her new position in July. She will succeed Richard Moe, who retired earlier this month after 17 years at the Trust.

"I am very excited that Stephanie will lead the Trust in this new era," Moe said. "She has the perfect combination and talents and experiences to lead the Trust and the preservation movement toward greater impact and relevance, particularly in areas like sustainability and economic development. She and the Trust clearly have many shared values. I congratulate the search committee and the Board for making such a superb choice."

# National Register Myths

By Patricia L. Duncan  
Division of Historic Preservation

National Register myths are like rumors that grow more outrageous as they circulate. Unfortunately, these stories sometimes have negative impacts on historic preservation efforts. It's time to look at these myths and set the record straight.

**Myth: The National Register is elitist.** In one case, and one case only, this statement rings true. When considering buildings nominated for their architectural styling, the Register accepts only the rarest and finest examples of historic periods and styles. In the past, this emphasis did make the Register an exclusive club glorifying the accomplishments of the rich and powerful. However, the times have changed. Now, the Register welcomes candidates symbolizing the history of the common man. For example, the **Adam Ponthieu Store** (right) achieved Register listing in 2002 because for many years it was both the commercial and social hub of the Avoyelles Parish rural community of Big Bend.



**Myth: All old buildings are eligible for the National Register.** While the Register does have a 50-year threshold, additional criteria must be met before a building can be considered for listing. A candidate must also be important, either for its appearance (i.e., its architectural styling), the method used in its construction (for example, a building that shows the development of skeletal steel framing), or because it is associated with a historic event or person deemed significant in the Register's eyes. Examples of historical associations include, but are not limited to, the home of the founder of a town, a school whose opening was a milestone in an area's educational development, and a depot symbolizing the role played by the railroad in a community's growth.

**Myth: The National Register is restrictive.** Some people think that Register listing allows the government to dictate what color an owner may paint his building. Others think the Register requires owners to maintain their historic structures, whether they can afford the expense or not. The most extreme version of this myth comes from a South Louisiana gentleman who opposed nomination of his property because he feared the government would confiscate it. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Although a review process exists for projected with federal involvement, the National Register places no requirements or restrictions upon what a private property owner can do with or to his property. The confusion arises from the fact that state law allows municipalities to implement restrictive preservation laws. However, in practice most historic preservation commissions are advisory only, and serious restrictions generally are not found outside New Orleans. And when restrictions do occur, it is the local government rather than the National Register which is enforcing them.

**Myth: National Register listing brings restoration grants.** How we wish this statement were true! Although Register listing makes properties eligible to apply for certain grants when monies are available, the unpleasant fact is that brick and mortar restoration grants seldom exist. These monies vanished when Congress abandoned the grant approach in favor of an expanded tax credit program in 1981. Regrettably, the Division is unable to provide grants to assist individuals in restoring historic properties.

**Myth: Local and National Register historic district boundaries are identical.** People living in a community having a National Register historic district as well as a district designated by local authorities often believe the two districts' boundaries to be identical. However, varying reasons for designation and different eligibility requirements usually translate into differing boundaries. Local and National Register districts may include the same core area, but in most cases the locally designated historic district will be larger than its National Register counterpart. This situation is especially problematic when someone whose historic property falls inside the local boundary but outside the Register boundary wishes to take the federal tax incentive for restoration of income producing properties listed on the Register.



**Myth: The National Register is a beauty contest.** In the Register's early days, this statement was more reality than myth. Perhaps it was natural that the previous generation of preservationists, once presented with a mechanism for "officially" recognizing the value of historic buildings, focused first upon the ornate architectural landmarks in their communities. Such buildings had always been the center of preservation activities, and one had to start the massive task of listing eligible buildings somewhere. Today, however, the Register recognizes that a structure doesn't have to be beautiful to be important. Even if they will never win a beauty contest, buildings can be listed if they meet the Register's guidelines for importance and retain their historic appearance. Listed in 1991, the **Ruston P.O.W. Camp Buildings** (shown left) meet these standards.

**Myth: The National Register is administered by the National Trust.** The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, non-profit organization with no official role in the National Register of Historic Places. The Register is administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

From the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

2010 National Preservation Conference  
October 27-30 Austin, Texas  
[www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

## From the Field

—Michael Wyatt, Preservation Field Services Coordinator

We have now completed the first calendar year of our 3-year **Partner in the Field** program, which has been made possible by both the National Trust's Wilson Challenge Grant and the generous contributions of numerous local sponsors throughout Louisiana. As an update, we feel that we are off to an excellent start in implementing the goals of the program, and have made significant progress in all of the areas that the Partner in the Field Program was intended to address. For the first time in the history of our organization, we now have a staff position whose primary function is to provide on-site preservation-related field services that can supply much-needed technical assistance and out-reach to a much larger geographic area than had ever been possible before. This has allowed relationships and partnerships with other historic preservation organizations throughout the state to be developed, strengthened, and expanded, while also increasing the state-wide visibility of the Louisiana Trust by spreading the organization's mission to more of Louisiana's citizens.

Obviously, one of the major emphases of the Partner in the Field Program is to more effectively address the structures that the LTHP has placed on our **Endangered Properties List**. Having field-service staff has allowed us to facilitate on-site meetings between property owners, prospective purchasers, and local officials much more efficiently than in the past. Although the current economy is affecting the level of rehabilitation efforts everywhere, progress has been made on many of the properties on our Endangered List. In Alexandria, the demolition of the **Shiloh Baptist Church**, was narrowly averted just a month ago when a local businessman stepped up to purchase the building with plans to possibly renovate it for use as an up-scale restaurant.



Shiloh Baptist Church

The long-vacant and deteriorated **Ogilvie-Wiener House** in Shreveport was also recently purchased by a local investor who is now in the process of renovating it as a Bed and Breakfast establishment, using State and Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits to help finance the project. Lafayette's **Holy Rosary Institute**, vacant for over a decade, has now been designated as a 501c3 non-profit organization so that grants and tax credits may be utilized in order to help with the rehabilitation of the building. A task force committee has been formed in Pineville to investigate new uses for the **Central Louisiana State Hospital Dairy Barn**, and an attorney in Shreveport has purchased the long-neglected **Calanthean Temple Building**, with the intention of renovating it using Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits. And, although the fate of this structure is unfortunately unresolved at the moment, the local School Board in Monroe is at least attempting to sell the **Georgia Tucker Elementary School** building to a preservation-minded buyer who will commit to refurbishing it.



Holy Rosary Institute

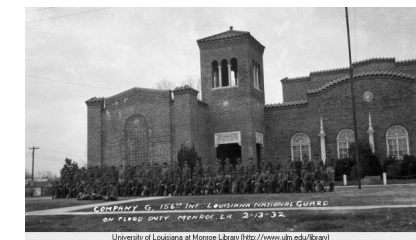
In regard to providing insightful, informative, and comprehensive preservation technical assistance to those interested in historic preservation, we'd like to recommend that all of our LTHP members periodically take a look at the National Trust's website ([www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)), where a variety of updates on current preservation topics such as lead paint abatement and window replacement philosophies are frequently presented. Also, another valuable on-line resource can be found at the National Park Service's website ([www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs)), where the **Preservation Brief Series** can be viewed, a collection of over 40 different booklets on a variety of preservation and renovation-related topics. And, as always, I'm readily available for technical assistance, consultations, and site visits, and can be reached by either e-mail ([mwyatt@lthp.org](mailto:mwyatt@lthp.org)) or the office phone (225-930-0936).



Central Louisiana State Hospital Dairy Barn



Masonic Children's Home



Georgia Tucker Elementary School

2011 Louisiana Preservation Conference  
Hosted by the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation  
& the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation  
April 6, 7, 8, 2011 Leesville, Louisiana More Information To Come!