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## NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION NAMES RED WING, MINNESOTA TO ITS 2008 LIST OF AMERICA'S DOZEN DISTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS

### *Perfect Combination of Architectural History and Natural Beauty*

Washington, D.C. (February 7, 2008) – Today, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Red Wing, Minnesota one of its 2008 Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Since 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has annually selected communities across the United States that offer cultural and recreational experiences different from the typical vacation destination. From dynamic downtowns and stunning architecture to cultural diversity and commitments to historic preservation, the selected destinations boast a richness of character and exude an authentic sense of place.

Conveniently located only one hour south of the Twin Cities, Red Wing, Minnesota perfectly combines an impressive architectural history with an enviable natural environment. Historically and architecturally significant buildings dominate the community's landscape and reflect its mid-19th century beginnings as a riverfront trade point. This treasure trove boasts a total of 25 listings on the National Register of Historic Places while its downtown district retains the majority of the commercial buildings that were constructed during the city's early boom period of 1860 – 1910.

Red Wing has long been considered a leader in the historic preservation movement in Minnesota, maintaining and rehabilitating a wide range of structures throughout the city. Landmarks include the St. James Hotel, one of the region's most celebrated hotels and a member of the National Trust Historic Hotels of America, the Sheldon Theatre, a turn-of-the-century cultural icon, and the west residential historic district, a neighborhood that retains much of its original character and architectural styles, including Italianate, Queen Anne, Classical Revival and Prairie School.

"This is a city that knows history matters," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "With its historic river charm, Red Wing, Minnesota has sensitively preserved its heritage and natural resources to create a thriving and vital community that has much to offer residents and visitors alike."

"Preserving Red Wing's heritage has been a community-wide commitment for generations and continues to this day," said Red Wing mayor Donna Dummer. "Our mission, driven by residents, businesses and city officials, is to 'capture the vibrancy of growth while preserving and enhancing the city's unique historic and natural environmental character.'"

Natural resources abound with Red Wing's riverfront, majestic bluffs, hiking trails and immaculately preserved city parks. The city's most famous landmark, Barn Bluff, showcases sweeping views of the area. From the top of the 340-foot bluff, miles of Wisconsin's and Minnesota's urban and rural countryside are visible against the backdrop of the Mississippi River. The city is also noted for a 19.7 mile paved bike trail that runs parallel to the Cannon River between Red Wing and Cannon Falls. With overhanging cliffs that allow for extensive views of nature's seasonal changes, the area is unsurpassed for its beauty and serenity. Red Wing is celebrated for being one of the Top Ten locations in the United States for its spectacular fall foliage.

**The 2008 list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations includes:**

**Aiken, S.C.**—Aiken seamlessly balances its varied 19th century heritage with cosmopolitan flair to offer all the necessary ingredients for a great vacation.

**Apalachicola, Fla.**—Apalachicola, an authentic coastal town renowned for its mouth-watering seafood and singular charm, features a waterfront dotted with fishing vessels, a downtown filled with eclectic shops and streets lined with historic buildings,

**Columbus, Miss.**—The birthplace of prize-winning playwright, Tennessee Williams, Columbus thrives on its extraordinary mix of Southern history, natural beauty and culture—with antebellum homes spared during the Civil War and historic tours showcasing the remarkable impact of the African American community to a revitalized Main Street that possesses great curb appeal.

**Crested Butte, Colo.**—One of the most charming vacation destinations in the Rockies, this former coal mining village is a recreational paradise that offers a rare mix of rugged beauty, history and adventure no matter the time of year.

**Fort Davis, Texas**—With no traffic lights or chain stores, Fort Davis is a gateway to an unspoiled terrain, offering an extraordinary blend of majestic scenery, abundant wildlife and cultural resources that bring to life the history of the 19th century western frontier.

**Friday Harbor, Wash.**—This small, well-preserved community in the San Juan Island chain is one square mile of perfection—an antidote to city life, ideal for outdoor adventurers, wildlife enthusiasts and history buffs alike.

**Portland, Ore.**—Boasting both the charm of a small town community and the urban vitality of a big city, Portland, Oregon is a dynamic destination that offers an alluring mix of natural beauty, lively downtown entertainment and landmark historic attractions.

**Portsmouth, N.H.**—This elegant seaport, the nation’s third oldest city, is one of the most culturally rich destinations in the country with its captivating blend of coastal beauty, historic buildings and lively downtown.

**Red Wing, Minn.**—Conveniently located one hour south of the Twin Cities, this handsome historic town features a treasure trove of architectural gems dating back to its beginnings as a riverfront trade point as well as an enviable natural environment.

**Ste. Genevieve, Mo.**—One hour south of St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve is the only French colonial village remaining in the United States, providing an unparalleled glimpse into the pioneer spirit of the early settlers.

**San Juan Bautista, Calif.**—Known as the “City of History” because of its exceptional collection of Spanish colonial architecture, San Juan Bautista showcases Old California like no other.

**Wilmington, N.C.**—From riverboats to battleships, grand old mansions to historic museums, splendid gardens to Civil War sites—Wilmington, North Carolina has a charm and style all its own that dates back nearly three centuries.

This is the ninth time the National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced a list of *Dozen Distinctive Destinations*. To date, there are 108 *Distinctive Destinations* located in 42 states throughout the country. To see a complete list, visit [www.nationaltrust.org\ddd](http://www.nationaltrust.org\ddd). In each community, residents have taken forceful action to protect their town’s character and sense of place. Whether by enacting a local preservation law to protect historic buildings against demolition, rewriting zoning codes to prevent commercial sprawl, removing regulatory barriers to downtown housing, making downtown areas more walkable, enacting design standards, or taking some other major step that demonstrates a strong commitment to their town, residents have worked hard to preserve the historic and scenic assets of their communities, with rewards that transcend town limits.

**To download high resolution images of this year’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations, please visit** <http://press.nationaltrust.org>.

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.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

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