



1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036
202.331.8500
202.331.1598 fax

TFG PRINCIPAL REPRESENTS CITY FOR “PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY” DESIGNATION BY FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 11, 2006

For information contact: Bill Ferguson or Matt Ward, (202) 331-8500

WASHINGTON DC – Ferguson Group principal Matt Ward represented the City of Charles Town, West Virginia in a March 9 ceremony at which First Lady Laura Bush named Charles Town as one of 14 “Preserve America Communities” for local historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts. Ward, who represents localities on revitalization issues and who is also an elected councilman for his historic hometown Charles Town, was joined by his 9-year old daughter Chloe in an event that included Mrs. Bush, Secretary of Interior Gale Norton, National Park Service Director Fran Minella, and several congressional members. The Ferguson Group represents local communities across America in community revitalization efforts, including projects to obtain resources for historic preservation.

Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy historic heritage. *Preserve America* was established by Presidential Executive Order 13287 on March 3, 2003. A “Preserve America Community” designation is given to selected communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. The Preserve America



Community designation has benefits including White House recognition, a *Preserve America Community* road sign, the right to use the Preserve America logo on flags, signs, banners and promotional materials, listing on the Preserve America web site, and the chance for future Preserve America grants. Laura Bush announced on March 9 that a new round of grant funding would be available for communities seeking to boost heritage tourism, and that the President's budget is seeking \$10 million more in FY07 funding for such grants. For more information about Preserve America, see www.preserveamerica.gov.

The Ferguson Group provides government affairs and strategic counseling to local governments across the nation on revitalization, infrastructure, public works, historic preservation and other issues. TFG helps obtain funding and other resources, including historic preservation funding like Save America's Treasures earmarks and grants. For example, TFG helped the Town of Mooresville, NC obtain \$1 million in congressional funding for its historic public library, helped Jackson, TN obtain \$600,000 for the historic Murphy Hotel, and helped Alabama A&M University obtain \$900,000 in congressional and agency resources for historic preservation and restoration of buildings. TFG Principal Jennifer Imo, TFG Associate Maria Gwinn and other TFG professionals have expertise on local historic preservation that can serve our clients. For more information, see www.fergusongroup.us.



#