The City was honored on July 20, 2013 when the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) announced that First Lady Michelle Obama, Honorary Chair of the Preserve America initiative, designated Placerville as a Preserve America Communities. Read announcement here.

The Preserve America initiative is a national effort to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America’s priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation’s past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country’s cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

The Preserve America program recognizes and designates communities which 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.

Preserve America benefits include the right to use the Preserve America logo on signs and promotional materials; eligibility for Preserve America Grants; notification to state tourism offices; and listing in a Web-based directory that showcases Placerville’s preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations. Preserve America Communities are also featured in National Register Travel Itineraries and in “Teaching with Historic Places” curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

Placerville’s Preserve America application was prepared by members of the Historical Advisory Committee and City staff. On February 12, 2013, City Council adopted Resolution No. 8074 that authorized the submittal of the application for City designation as a Preserve America Community. The City Manager’s February 12, 2013 report to City Council, including the Preserve America program application may be accessed here.

Additional information regarding the Preserve America Program may be accessed here.