

A.A.H.P.F.

African American Heritage Preservation Foundation Awarded Grant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, DC August 23, 1998. The *African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, Inc.* has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop a Structural Plan for Thomas Slave Chapel, located in Bedford County, Virginia (c. 1850, National Register eligible), it was announced today.

The seed grant will be used to develop a structural plan for the restoration of one of the few surviving antebellum slave chapels remaining intact in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"With these start-up dollars, the African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, Inc. joins other rural communities across the south committed to preserving America's significant historic churches and, in so doing, preserving the heart and soul of communities," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The grant is from a unique cooperative agreement between partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust's Rural Churches of the South Preservation Services Fund (PSF).

In 1996 Black Churches of the South were included on the National Trust's *Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places* list. Arson attacks against these centers of community life led many to contribute to Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust to help protect and rebuild these historic churches. Funds ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 are awarded to churches and nonprofit groups and must be matched dollar for dollar with public or private funds.

The *National Trust for Historic Preservation*, chartered by Congress in 1949, is a nonprofit organization with more than 270,000 members nationwide. As the leader of the national preservation movement, it provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. It has six regional offices and two field offices, owns 18 historic house museums, and works with thousands of local community groups in all 50 states.

Founded in 1989, *Partners for Sacred Places* is the nation's only nonsectarian, nonprofit organization devoted to helping Americans embrace, care for and make good use of older and historic religious properties. Partners provides assistance to the people who care for sacred places while promoting a new understanding of how these places sustain communities.