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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANE B. OWEN PRESERVATION AWARD

Award was given at the Traditional Fourth of July Celebration in New Harmony

NEW HARMONY, IN (July 4, 2008) –The Jane B. Owen Preservation Award was presented during the 193rd annual *Traditional Fourth of July Celebration* festivities. The recipients of this year's award are Jim and Gail Norton of New Harmony, for the restoration of their home and many hours of service they devote to the New Harmony community.

The Nortons are Evansville natives who have been in love with New Harmony for years, and decided to purchase and restore their 1830 Central-Passage Federal Style home. When the house became available for sale in 1998, it was boarded up with broken glass and plaster scattered across the floor, as well as having no utilities or bathroom.

In spite of the formidable work ahead, they bought the house and began the long process of restoration. The Nortons had never undertaken a historic restoration, so they relied on extensive research and Jim's father's work experiences to guide them. During the restoration, Jim stepped on a faulty spot in the floor which caused him to fall through it and break his knee. Jim and Gail laid the remaining floor, one board at a time, as Jim's rehabilitation allowed. The restoration was completed after six years of patient, hard work.

Jim's served as past president of the New Harmony Plan Commission and under Jim's urging and direction, the New Harmony Historic Preservation Commission was created. Another of Jim's important accomplishments during his tenure as president of the newly created New Harmony Historic Preservation/Plan Commission was the conception, development, and adoption of guidelines designed to assist property owners with their endeavors to maintain the historic integrity that defines New Harmony as a one-of-a-kind community.

About Historic New Harmony:

Historic New Harmony is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve New Harmony's utopian legacy by inspiring renewal and fellowship between people and communities through its programs and collections. Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. For more information on Historic New Harmony, please visit www.newharmony.org.

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