

For Immediate Release

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DUMBARTON HOUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN HERITAGE PRESERVATION'S CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

(Washington, DC, 18 July 2008) -- Heritage Preservation is pleased to announce that *Dumbarton House*, headquarters of *The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA)*, has been chosen to participate in the 2008 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). *Dumbarton House* joins 2,500 museums that have participated in CAP since the program began in 1990. Heritage Preservation's CAP is supported through a cooperative agreement with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. CAP assists museums by providing funds for professional conservation specialists to identify the needs of their collections and historic structures, and recommends ways to correctly improve collections and building conditions. Heritage Preservation's President, Lawrence L. Reger, praised *Dumbarton House* for "making the vital work of caring for collections and sites a priority at their institution and helping ensure that they are available to present and future generations."

CAP provides a general conservation assessment of the museum's collections and historic buildings. Professional conservators Richard Bierce and Brian Ramer will spend two days surveying the site and three days writing a comprehensive report that will identify conservation priorities. The on-site consultation will enable *Dumbarton House* to evaluate its current collections care policies, procedures, and environmental conditions. The assessment report will help the museum make appropriate improvements for the immediate, mid-range, and long-range care of their collections historic structure. From participating in CAP, "*Dumbarton House* expects to gain a better understanding of the preservation and maintenance priorities of the Museum and its collection, now and into the future," said Museum Curator Scott Scholz.

Dumbarton House, circa 1800, is located at 2715 Q St, NW, and houses an impressive collection of Federal-era decorative arts, silver, paintings, and furniture. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays with tours at 10:15am, 11:15am, 12:15pm, and 1:15pm. *Dumbarton House* is currently showing an exhibition entitled, "The Jewel of Georgetown: *Dumbarton House* celebrates 75 years" through December 2008. To learn more about *Dumbarton House*, please visit www.dumbartonhouse.org.

Heritage Preservation is the national organization dedicated to preserving our nation's heritage. Its members include museums, libraries, archives, historic preservation organizations, historical societies, conservation organizations, individual professionals, and other groups concerned with saving the past for the future. To learn more about Heritage Preservation, please visit www.heritagepreservation.org

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 15,000 museums. Its mission is to grow and sustain a "Nation of Learners" because life-long learning is essential to a democratic society and individual success. Through its grant making, convening, research and publications, the Institute empowers museums and libraries nationwide to provide leadership and services to enhance learning in families and communities, sustain cultural heritage, build 21st century skills, and provide opportunities for civic participation. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

****Dumbarton House, a Federal period historic house museum c.1800, and Headquarters of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, offers visitors an opportunity to enhance their appreciation of early American history. Home of America's first Register of the Treasury, and sanctuary for Dolley Madison during the British invasion of 1814, Dumbarton House is closely connected to the first years of the American Republic; the house has stood on the heights of Georgetown for over two centuries as a fine example of Federal period architecture. Today, Dumbarton House gives guided tours of the museum and its decorative arts and objects (Tuesday-Saturday, 10:15 & 11:15am, 12:15 & 1:15pm), promotes American history education through school and Scout programs for children, and also provides a breath-taking and historic setting for corporate, diplomatic, non-profit and social events. Dumbarton House is available for rental to host private and corporate special events. 2715 Q St., NW, Washington, DC 20007. For more information, call 202-337-2288, or visit <http://www.dumbartonhouse.org>.*