

PRESS RELEASE

**Media Contact: Marilyn Cantarella
Phone: 910-343-5226**

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION AWARDED GRANT

For Immediate Release

WILMINGTON, North Carolina (October 12, 2008) - The African American Heritage Foundation of Wilmington received a \$2,000 matching grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to conduct an architectural/engineering study of the Richter Building, located at the intersection of N. 4th and Harnett Streets.

The study once completed will provide vital information to enable the foundation board to make assessments about the feasibility of the overall project. The initial plan was to preserve and rehabilitate the Richter' building so that it could be up-fitted for use as a museum and cultural center.

The project site is particularly significant to the African American community in Wilmington since it is where the first bloodshed associated with the race riots of 1898 took place. It sits just on the edge of the National Register of Historic Places and as a commercial/residential building is representative of the commercial center Wilmington was in the nineteenth century. "The north side of downtown with its smaller homes and mom and pop businesses suffered a decline during the 1900's. Recent trends toward redevelopment of these neighborhoods may leave many people behind, which is why the

importance of preserving the Richter Building, and honoring the contributions made by African Americans to the regions political, social, economic and cultural history is so important today,” said John Battle, the foundation’s President/CEO.

This grant was made possible by the establishment of the Terence L. Mills Memorial Endowed Preservation Services Fund for North and South Carolina. Funds ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 are awarded to nonprofit groups and public agencies and must be matched dollar for dollar with public or private funds.

“With these start-up dollars, the African American Heritage Foundation joins communities nationwide committed to preserving America’s architectural and cultural heritage and, in so doing, creating more livable communities,” said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, is a nonprofit organization with more than 250,000 members. As the leader of the national preservation movement, it is committed to saving America’s diverse historic environments and to preserving and revitalizing the livability of communities nationwide. It has seven regional offices, owns historic sites across the country and works with thousands of local community groups in all 50 states.

###

African American Heritage Foundation of Wilmington, Inc.
PO Box 968, Wilmington, NC 28401
www.aahfwilmington.org