



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR
STATE OF TENNESSEE

February 25, 2014

Stephanie Meeks
National Trust for Historic Preservation
The Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Avenue Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mrs. Meeks,

On behalf of the State of Tennessee, I am honored to support Knox Heritage and East Tennessee Preservation Alliance's nomination for the 2014 The National Trust/Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation for the Guest House Alexander Inn project in Oak Ridge.

As former Mayor of the City of Knoxville, I have worked closely with Kim Trent, Executive Director, and the organization for many years. Ms. Trent and Knox Heritage are national leaders in the preservation field and have accomplished much since their establishment in 1974.

In 2008, with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, they expanded their service region to include 16 counties in East Tennessee. As I understand, Oak Ridge's Alexander Inn was the first regional project they embarked upon under the new organization, East Tennessee Preservation Alliance. The hotel had long since been abandoned, but local constituents and Knox Heritage could see the potential.

Preservation takes patience and in 2014, the Guest House Alexander Inn Assisted Living facility will open to the public. Thanks to the section 106 process, the hotel building was included in the mitigation for the loss of the K-25 Uranium Processing Facility. The Tennessee Historical Commission, our State Historic Preservation Office, worked closely with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation and the Department of Energy to assemble a comprehensive mitigation.

The Alexander Inn is the only historic building preserved as part of the mitigation. More importantly though, the building now has a viable use that will create 40 permanent jobs and have an estimated annual economic impact of \$2.7 million. Rick Dover, General Manager of Family Pride Corporation, is one of our state's most active preservation developers and we are fortunate that he and his company are investing \$5 million into the Alexander Inn.

As Governor of Tennessee I am proud to support projects that preserve our past and provide new opportunities for our future. I hope that you agree that the Guest House Alexander Inn is a model project for other communities across the country and should be recognized accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Haslam".

Bill Haslam