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### **Mill Houses Saved as Part of Kroc Center Project**

Historic Augusta, Inc. and The Salvation Army are pleased to announce that seven early twentieth century houses located in the 1800 block of Broad Street, five nineteenth century houses located in the 100 block of Eve Street, and the First Freewill Baptist Church at 1841 Broad Street, in the Harrisburg-West End Historic District, will be preserved as part of the new Kroc Center campus. Located on property recently acquired by The Salvation Army, some of the buildings were initially slated for demolition in order to accommodate the proposed Kroc Center. As part of their planning, The Salvation Army consulted with Historic Augusta, the Augusta Canal Authority and Augusta Tomorrow regarding the proposed design of the new buildings as well as the historic nature and significance of the mill houses and the church. A decision to incorporate them into their final campus plan resulted from continued coordination with Historic Augusta.

Weather permitting, the Broad Street houses will be moved in the next two weeks. All built in the 1930s as mill housing, they will be relocated one block east on property next to Chafee Park. Though restoring historic structures in their original locations is considered the best preservation practice, moving them to a nearby location has been identified as the best alternative in order for the Kroc Center to be constructed to the specifications required by the Kroc estate. Relocating the houses nearby and keeping them together in a similar configuration to their original setting will not only save them and ensure their reuse, but will maintain the mill village character of the historic district. The houses will be grouped into the Kroc Center's "First Stop Village" that is planned to include a coffee shop, computer lab, and meeting space. Once new foundations are poured, the houses will be loaded onto trucks and one per day will be moved to the new location. The exterior restoration will then occur with technical assistance provided by Historic Augusta. The Salvation Army plans to complete this initial phase of the "First Stop Village" project by the end of February.

Renovation of the Eve Street houses in their original locations is nearly complete, and has been accomplished by using volunteer labor donated by churches and professional groups. The First Freewill Baptist Church will also be renovated in its original location. Dating from the 1890s, it was constructed as Sibley Chapel, a mission of First Presbyterian Church. The Eve Street houses will be used as staff offices and offices of partner organizations, while the church building will be used as a special events facility.

Historic Augusta hopes that the preservation of the historic buildings on the Kroc Center campus will serve as a catalyst for additional preservation projects in the Harrisburg-West End Historic District, which was listed on the organization's Endangered Properties List for 2008.

"We are delighted that the officials of The Salvation Army and the Kroc Center project have incorporated these historic mill houses and the chapel into their overall plan. This will enhance the aesthetics of the area, respecting the history and architectural character of Harrisburg, while complementing the new Kroc buildings that have been designed to reflect the architecture of the nearby mills," said Erick Montgomery, Historic Augusta's Executive Director.

"We have always described the Kroc Center project as about collaboration and opportunity," said Derek Dugan, the Kroc Center Coordinator. "The collaboration with Historic Augusta among other groups was an extensive relationship resulting in a positive outcome for all of us. The opportunity resulting from this process was the ability to preserve the historic integrity of Harrisburg while simultaneously providing a substantial renovation of the community. This is a win-win for everyone and Historic Augusta should be commended for the role it played."

If any member of the press would like to be notified when the first house is loaded onto the truck in order to photograph or film the process, please contact Derek Dugan, Kroc Center Coordinator at 706-364-4069 or [Derek\\_Dugan@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Derek_Dugan@uss.salvationarmy.org).

For technical assistance or information about tax incentives available for qualifying preservation projects, contact Historic Augusta's Preservation Services Director Robyn Mainor at 706-724-0436 or [robyn@historicaugusta.org](mailto:robyn@historicaugusta.org).