



## ***The Missouri Main Street Connection Mission***

*Is to enhance the social, cultural and environmental well being of historic downtown business districts located in Missouri's diverse cities and towns, through education using the Main Street Four-Point approach™ as developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.*

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Main Street® Missouri Communities Reach Accredited Status in 2010**

Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) has accredited six Missouri communities this year. The Main Street® programs in Cape Girardeau, Chillicothe, Clinton, Lee's Summit, Warrensburg, and Washington all received the designation which is recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Street Center. The announcements were made during the opening session of the National Main Street Conference in Oklahoma City last month.

Accreditation is awarded after the participating programs successfully pass a rigorous annual on-site review process. The local Main Street programs must meet the Ten Criteria of program service set by the National Trust's Main Street Center and utilize all components of the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to downtown revitalization.

"Accreditation by the National Main Street Center honors local programs that are fully operational. It is an achievement which must be sought each year, and something to which all programs can aspire," said Doug Loescher, Director of the National Main Street Center.

Everyone who contributes to the local community's accreditation achievement can be proud of the recognition. Accredited Main Street programs are more successful over time than underachieving programs. They also are entitled to more technical support from their state coordinating programs than do the non-Accredited programs.

Receiving the Accreditation award is especially significant during a time of nationwide economic stress, said State Director Gayla Roten. "Besides their hard work, the success of these six communities is due in part to the continued support from their municipal governments which understand the value of preservation-based organizations that are dedicated to the revitalization of their historic commercial districts," she said.

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## **Missouri Main Street Connection**

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