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### **PRESTON CASTLE FOUNDATION RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST**

IONE, CA: The Preston Castle Foundation today was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The seed grant funds will be used to offset the cost of hiring a consultant to guide the Preston Castle Foundation in developing plans and guidelines for preservation and restoration of the Preston Castle (1890-1894, NR, State & Local) and 5 other surrounding buildings that form the “Preston School of Industry.”

Preston Castle, one of the first educational and rehabilitation facilities for delinquent youth in California, was established by an act of the Legislature in 1889 and was named in honor of the late Senator E.M. Preston of Nevada County. A 120-room Romanesque Revival castle was built out of bricks made at San Quentin and Folsom prisons. This correctional facility was closed in 1960. Since 1983, the castle was leased to the City of Ione by three sequential five-year leases, but the city broke the lease in 1996. In 2001, the newly founded Preston Castle Foundation took the castle into a 50-year lease.

In announcing the grant, National Trust President, Richard Moe said, “With these start-up dollars, the Preston Castle Foundation joins the hundreds of other communities and organizations across the country actively ensuring that America’s architectural and cultural heritage is preserved.”

Preston Castle Foundation president Marie Nutting added, “The Foundation is so excited about the support of the National Trust. Foundation Board members will be celebrating the receipt of this grant with the Ione City Council on Tuesday, August 21 because this grant will allow the Foundation to continue as a strong and effective voice for preservation and restoration of the Preston Castle.”

The program for dispensing small grants for local projects is administered by the National Trust Preservation Fund, which holds three competitive funding rounds annually. Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 are awarded to nonprofit groups and public agencies and must be matched at least dollar for dollar with public or private funds. The Preston Castle Foundation’s grant was

made possible by the California Endowment Fund, a special endowment for projects in the state of California.

### **About the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private nonprofit membership organization chartered by Congress to encourage public participation in all aspects of historic preservation. For further information, contact Melita Juresa-McDonald, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Western Office, The Hearst Building, 5 Third Street, Suite 707, San Francisco, CA 94103, [melita\\_juresa-mcdonald@nthp.org](mailto:melita_juresa-mcdonald@nthp.org).

### **About Preston Castle Foundation**

The Preston Castle Foundation began work in 1997 to restore, preserve and provide utilization of this important California landmark. Known today as the “Preston Castle,” the Preston School of Industry opened in 1894. By seeking to rehabilitate youthful offenders, the school offered a progressive alternative to San Quentin. Vacant since 1960, the building now needs full restoration to become a self-sustaining community resource. Help save the castle by visiting [www.prestoncastle.com](http://www.prestoncastle.com). All contributions are tax deductible. Tours of the castle are available from 10 am – 2 pm on the first and third Saturdays of each month through October. No reservations are required. For special group tours, call 209-256-3623.

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