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TOWN OF MACON DESIGNATED A MAIN STREET COMMUNITY

MACON, Miss. – Macon, MS, recently joined other Mississippi communities to become the state's 40th Main Street community. At a ceremony held June 21, 2002, Sharon Chalk, Mississippi Development Authority (MDA); Mayor Billy Wiseman, Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) president; Ken P'Pool, Deputy State Historic Preservation officer; and Beverly Meng, MMSA executive director, presented the designation. The Honorable Dorothy Baker Hines, Mayor of Macon, accepted the award, and will serve as Macon's Main Street Manager.

“We are pleased that another Mississippi community will benefit from the public/private partnership that makes the Main Street program so successful,” said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of MDA. “Macon, like so many other communities, will have a downtown area that will attract and retain businesses, leading to a greatly improved economic development potential.”

Mississippi's Main Street, a program of the Community Services Division of MDA, is designed to improve all aspects of the downtown or central business district of Mississippi Main Street communities.

“Since 1993, the Main Street program in Mississippi has been responsible for over \$1 billion in private/public investment in local Main Street communities, over 1,800 new businesses and over 16,000 new jobs,” stated Beverly Meng, executive director. “Not only is the Main Street program the most successful program under the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Mississippi program has earned the designation as the number one Main Street program in the nation.”

Main Street exists in 48 states and over 2,000 communities.

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The Main Street program focuses on organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring/business development. Following the designation, Macon will embark on a long-term program involving board and committee training, town visioning, incremental evaluations and a week-long Resource Team visit.

“The Resource Team will be made up of our entire staff and a team of experts assembled to address the goals and visions of the Macon citizens, community leaders and business owners,” added Ms. Meng.

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