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## **HAMPTON HOTELS IS WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD MUSEUM**

### ***Volunteers from Hampton's Save-A-Landmark Program Pay Homage to Historic Transcontinental Railroad Workers with The Rail Depot Museum Restoration***

**Beverly Hills, Calif., March 26** – Called the “work of giants,” the first transcontinental railroad was the most daring engineering feat of its time in America – a railroad built on some of the most challenging terrain on earth that would span two-thirds of the continent. To pay tribute to this remarkable era in the country’s history, volunteers from Hampton® Hotels’ Save-A-Landmark® program ([www.hamptonlandmarks.com](http://www.hamptonlandmarks.com)) headed to Troutdale, Ore. today to refurbish The Rail Depot Museum.

An original station from the historic Union Pacific Railroad network and one of the oldest existing rail depot stations in Oregon, the museum is also the first stop along Hampton Hotels’ Save-A-Landmark program’s year of “All-American Landmarks.”

The restoration effort called on more than a dozen volunteers from three local Hampton hotels to polish an authentic Union Pacific caboose; clean, prime, paint and repair the interior of the rail depot; as well as landscape the museum grounds. As part of the refurbishment efforts, contractors also will replace all of the windows within the building in order to make it more energy efficient and further protect the museum’s artifacts. Overall, Hampton contributed \$8,000 and more than 50 volunteer hours towards reviving the historical site.

“The Rail Depot Museum in Troutdale stands as a tangible representation of American history and the settlement of the American West,” said Judy Christa-Cathey, vice president of brand marketing for Hampton Hotels. “This year, we are focusing our Save-A-Landmark program on preserving landmarks that speak to American heritage and culture, making The Rail Depot Museum the perfect kick-off for a year of historical All-American landmarks.”

Built in downtown Troutdale in 1882, and replaced in 1907 following a fire, the depot was once the shipping site of many carloads of fresh vegetables. As the growth of the city of Troutdale depended on the expansion of the Union Pacific Railroad, the Rail Depot Museum serves as a reminder of Troutdale’s history, as well as an example of the importance railroads had during the settlement of the West and the growth of the American trade economy.

## *Hampton Hotels Restores Rail Depot Museum 2*

The refurbishment of The Rail Depot Museum was the first for Hampton's 2009 campaign – aptly named “All-American Landmarks” – devoted to restoring sites representing what it means to be American. The program will continue throughout the year, visiting sites such as the Robert Frost Farm and the Town of Mayberry's Old City Jail, the re-creation of “The Courthouse” seen for decades on the popular television series, “The Andy Griffith Show.” Communities across the country showed their American spirit by casting nearly 45,000 votes to help elect the nine landmarks that will be restored this year. The public voted for their favorite “All-American Landmarks” in nine states from sea to shining sea, including Oregon, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Each site that Save-A-Landmark will refurbish reflects the individual personalities of the states and their residents, and signifies defining moments in our country's past.

Throughout the years, Hampton's Save-A-Landmark program has worked to preserve 41 historical, fun and cultural landmarks from the Carousel Gardens in New Orleans, La. to the historical National Monument to the Forefathers in Plymouth, Mass. During this time, the program has helped research landmarks in need, promoted landmark sites and their importance, facilitated tens of thousands of volunteer hours, donated several tons of supplies and worked with matching grants – all at an investment of more than \$3.5 million. Uniting its hotels together in the communities they serve, Hampton employee-volunteers work hand-in-hand on the landmarks while Hampton provides the financial support to refurbish selected sites. The Save-A-Landmark program has already successfully refurbished a landmark in 32 states, continuing on with the ultimate goal to “save” a landmark from each of the 50 states by the end of 2010.

### **About Hampton Hotels**

Hampton Hotels is a part of Hilton Hotels Corporation, a leading global hospitality company, with more than 3,200 hotels and 545,000 rooms in 77 countries and territories, including 135,000 team members worldwide. The company owns, manages or franchises some of the best known and highly regarded hotel brands including Hilton®, Conrad® Hotels & Resorts, Denizen™ Hotels, Doubletree®, Embassy Suites Hotels®, Hampton Inn®, Hampton Inn & Suites®, Hilton Garden Inn®, Hilton Grand Vacations™, Home2 Suites by Hilton™, Homewood Suites by Hilton® and The Waldorf=Astoria Collection™.

For more information about Hampton Hotels, please visit [www.hampton.com/pressandmedia](http://www.hampton.com/pressandmedia).

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