

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 1, 2026**John G. Waite Associates, Architects celebrates multiple clients recognized as “Irreplaceable America” sites designated by World Monuments Fund**

(Albany, NY) - John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC (JGWA) is proud to celebrate the inclusion of multiple clients in the World Monuments Fund’s *Irreplaceable America* program, which recognizes 10 U.S. heritage sites that have helped shape the nation’s history in advance of America’s 250th anniversary.

“Over the past 30 years, we have had the privilege of working with countless historic sites, nearly all of which have played an important role in the development of our country,” said John G. Waite, FAIA, Founder and Senior Principal of JGWA. “The recognition of both the Black Mountain College Studies Building and the African Meeting House for their cultural and historical significance is a testament to the value of historic preservation and the importance of safeguarding these places for future generations,” he continued.

JGWA recently prepared a feasibility study report for the Black Mountain College Studies Building Foundation to support the restoration of the iconic Bauhaus-inspired Studies Building in Black Mountain, North Carolina. “The extent to which significant character-defining features remain intact is truly remarkable,” said Nancy A. Rankin, AIA, LEED AP, Principal at JGWA. “The Studies Building is a treasure of mid-century modern design that has remained largely under the radar for decades while continuing to serve as a summer camp facility.”

JGWA is currently working with the Foundation to evaluate next steps for the preservation and long-term stewardship of this important cultural resource. Commenting on the building’s recent inclusion in the World Monuments Fund’s *Irreplaceable America* program, Ms. Rankin noted, “This designation will help bring greater awareness, support, and interest to the ongoing preservation efforts. We are excited to play a role in the next chapter of the Studies Building’s story and to help ensure its legacy endures for future generations.”

“The Black Mountain College Studies Building represents the best of American ingenuity, creativity, and innovation,” said Matthew Crawford, Chairman of the Board of the Black Mountain College Studies Building Foundation. “Our restoration efforts will allow the next generation of architects, artists, musicians and creatives to make their mark as those who have come before them.”

Also included on the *Irreplaceable America* list is the African Meeting House in Boston, Massachusetts. JGWA previously collaborated with the Museum of African American History (MAAH) and the National Park Service to document and restore the building, which is recognized as the oldest surviving Black church in the United States and a landmark of African American history.

Completed in 2011, the restoration received numerous preservation honors, including a Palladio Award from *Traditional Building Magazine* and a National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The restoration helped preserve one of the nation’s most significant African American historic landmarks while ensuring its continued use as an educational and cultural resource.

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“We are honored that the African Meeting House in Boston has been recognized by the World Monuments Fund for its unique place in the American story, particularly as the country prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence,” said Dr. Noelle Trent, President and CEO, MAAH. “This designation highlights the importance of our mission and the rich history and contributions of Black Bostonians. As caretakers of this historic site, we remain committed to preserving it for future generations and invite the public to visit, engage with our programs, and support this essential work.”

The National Park Service (NPS) was also recognized through the *Irreplaceable America* program. As the federal agency responsible for the stewardship of more than 400 national parks, historic sites, and monuments, the NPS plays an indispensable role in preserving and interpreting the nation’s cultural and historical resources. “JGWA has been partnering with the National Park Service for decades,” said Ms. Rankin. “Many of our most significant preservation projects have been completed in collaboration with the NPS, including the restoration of the African Meeting House. Their leadership and commitment to stewardship have been instrumental in protecting some of our country’s most important historic places.”

Over the years, JGWA has provided historic preservation, restoration, and conservation services at dozens of National Park Service properties across the United States, helping to preserve and rehabilitate nationally significant cultural resources for future generations.

“The inclusion of these sites in *Irreplaceable America* underscores the critical role historic preservation plays in protecting places that tell the story of our nation,” said Waite. “We are honored to have contributed to their stewardship and look forward to continuing to support the preservation of our nation’s most significant historic places.”

Irreplaceable America nominations were assessed based on cultural significance, urgency of conservation needs, and the potential community benefit of preservation. More information about *Irreplaceable America* is available at www.wmf.org.

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About John G. Waite Associates, Architects

John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC (JGWA) is an architectural firm with offices in Albany and New York, NY. Begun as a Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) in 1995, our roots go back to a general architectural practice operating before World War II. For over 30 years we have specialized in providing nationally recognized leadership in the preservation, restoration, and adaptive use of historically significant properties. JGWA has extensive experience in the preparation of technical conservation reports, sustainable preservation, non-destructive evaluation, measured drawings, working drawings, specifications, and construction administration for historic buildings. The firm has been responsible for the restoration of hundreds of nationally significant historic buildings with projects encompassing multiple UNESCO World Heritage Sites, over seventy-five National Historic Landmarks, and hundreds of National Register properties. JGWA is proud to have been presented with more than eighty international, national, state, and regional architectural or historic preservation awards. Learn more at www.jgwaarchitects.com.

About the Black Mountain College Studies Building Foundation

The Black Mountain College Studies Building Foundation is dedicated to the historical preservation of the iconic Studies Building on the former campus of Black Mountain College. The Studies Building is internationally recognized as the epicenter of arts, architecture and liberal arts education in the mid-twentieth century. Once the restoration is complete, the Foundation will operate the Studies Building as an ongoing center for the creative arts. Programming will include artist residencies, public tours, exhibitions, seminars and conferences. A campaign to fund the preservation and future programming is currently underway. Learn more at www.bmcsb.org.

About the Museum of African American History

Founded in 1967, MAAH is New England's oldest museum dedicated to preserving, conserving, and interpreting the contributions of African Americans. Through timely programs, thought-provoking exhibits and special events, the Museum of African American History I Boston & Nantucket (MAAH) connects Colonial and early African American history and culture in Boston and New England with the abolition of slavery and current explorations of race and human rights struggles. MAAH's four historic properties are found at two sites on Boston's Beacon Hill and Nantucket Island, and along and two Black Heritage Trails® that tell the story of organized black communities from the Colonial Period through the 19th century. Learn more at www.maah.org.

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