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Contact: Hailey Lance
The Andrews Agency
615-242-4400
hailey@andrewspr.com

Founder of Slave Dwelling Project to Stay Overnight at Hermitage Slave Cabin

Home of Andrew Jackson Hosts Joseph McGill in Special Preservation Event on May 23

HERMITAGE, Tenn. – The Hermitage, Home of Andrew Jackson, will host historic preservationist Joseph McGill, founder of the [Slave Dwelling Project](#), for an overnight stay in one of the plantation's restored slave cabins on Friday, May 23.

McGill has spent the night at numerous slave dwellings throughout the South in an effort to generate awareness about these rare properties and their value in the narrative of American history. The Slave Dwelling Project is committed to assisting property owners, government agencies and organizations to preserve remaining slave dwellings.

Possessing such a strong archaeological foundation, The Hermitage is a critical resource in the continued study of trans-Appalachian slavery, making the plantation's cabins a fitting stop during the Slave Dwelling Project's first visit to Tennessee.

"Excavation of the slave quarters at The Hermitage continues to provide us with a better understanding of slavery in the American South," said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of The Hermitage. "We look forward to welcoming Joseph McGill and participating in this profound project highlighting the importance of these structures as part of the American landscape and acknowledging the lives of those who resided there."

Earlier this year, the National Endowment for the Humanities recognized The Hermitage's significance to the continued study of slavery by renewing a grant in support of the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS). DAACS is a community resource, conceived and maintained in the Department of Archaeology at Monticello.

Archeological artifacts and information from two Hermitage excavations are currently available to scholars and the general public via the [DAACS website](#), with an additional excavation set to be digitized thanks to the recent grant renewal.

In recognition of McGill's overnight stay in the slave quarters, The Hermitage will host a variety of special events and activities on May 23. Visitors of all ages are invited to participate in hands-on archaeology activity stations on the mansion porch and lawn. Laptops will also be available so visitors can explore the DAACS database for themselves. Additional highlights include:

- 1 p.m. A **Hike The Hermitage** tour exploring the archaeological evidence of slavery at the estate.

- 3 p.m. Presentation by **Joseph McGill** about the Slave Dwelling Project. Marsha Mullin, vice president of museum services and chief curator at The Hermitage, will enhance the discussion with details about the First Hermitage, the initial portion of the estate occupied by Andrew Jackson and a small number of slaves in 1804 and the location of McGill's overnight stay.

McGill's visit is funded by grant support from the Tennessee Wars Commission. During his time in Tennessee, McGill will also stay overnight at Clover Bottom and at Bob Green's Cabin at Belle Meade Plantation. For more information about the Tennessee Historical Commission, visit their website at www.tnhistoricalcommission.org.

About The Hermitage

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the State of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies' Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America's first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of more than 180,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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