

Meadow Brook Hall's NHL Designation

March 7, 2012

Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you that Meadow Brook Hall has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior – the highest recognition for historic properties in the United States. The National Park Service administers the program, which includes less than 2,500 sites nationwide and, now, 35 in Michigan that are considered to be “nationally significant in American history and culture.”

Meadow Brook was awarded designation for its exceptional architecture, its grand scale of 88,000 square feet and 110 rooms and the integrity of the building as the centerpiece of a large early 20th century country estate that still today includes some three dozen associated structures, including a clubhouse, greenhouse, playhouses and riding ring. The Hall is considered to be the finest extant example of Tudor Revival architecture in the United States.

This recognition is a testament to the achievements of John Dodge, his widow Matilda Dodge Wilson and her second husband Alfred Wilson, whose combined work ethic and vision built one of our nation’s most significant historic and educational assets. It is also a testament to the preservation and stewardship of the property by Oakland University through its use as a cultural center and historic house museum . . . and to the support of hundreds of volunteers, community members and donors, including the foundation Mrs. Wilson established in the 1940s, the Matilda R. Wilson Fund.

Meadow Brook joins such other National Historic Landmarks as The White House, Pearl Harbor, the Hoover Dam, the Empire State Building and the military academies at West Point and Annapolis. Michigan NHLs include Mackinac Island and the Grand Hotel, Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum, the State Capitol and the Fisher Building.

The National Park Service will create a commemorative plaque that will be dedicated at The Hall in the coming months.

Gary