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Mr. Joseph T. Wallis
Chief, State Tribal and Local Programs
National Park Service
Heritage Preservation Service
1849 C Street NW
mailcode NC350
Washington, DC 20240

13 May 2003

Dear Mr. Wallis,

Allow me to express my enthusiastic support for the American Jewish Legacy's application for federal funding for its Communities of the Past Project (Region 1).

I can attest both to the importance of this project as well as to the AJL's capability to execute it successfully. The Jewish National and University Library, associated with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, holds important resources for the research of the history of American Jewry in general and the traditional American Jewish community in particular. Unfortunately, many of these resources are generally unavailable to scholars residing outside of Israel owing to the relative lack of electronic access to these materials and to the widespread dearth of scholarly expertise in the languages of these materials (Contemporary Hebrew, Rabbinic Hebrew, Yiddish) among researchers of American Jewish history.

The American Jewish Legacy has successfully overcome both of these barriers and is utilizing these important resources toward the furtherance of their project. To the best of my knowledge, no other individual or organization in the United States or elsewhere is working toward the comprehensive preservation of the cultural legacy of traditional American Jewish communities.

Please feel free to contact me personally if I can provide any additional information in support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Shmuel Moss
Founder