



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.

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Date: May 10, 2010

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### **West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. to Begin Public Tours of The Historic Barkley House**

PENSACOLA - West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. (WFHPI), a direct support organization of the University of West Florida, is proud to announce the re-instatement of regular public tours of the Historic Barkley House at 410 S. Florida Blanca Street after a period of renovation.

Ticketed visitors to Historic Pensacola Village may now enjoy a 45-minute walking tour of a portion of the Pensacola Historic District and the Barkley House. Tour guides will lead guests past historic structures along Zaragoza Street, highlighting significant architecture and local history. Located on Pensacola Bay, the circa 1825 Barkley House is the oldest surviving example of a high-house in the city. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the Barkley family, catch a glimpse of Pensacola during the American Territorial Period and enjoy the vista of Pensacola Bay from this unique home.

According to Richard Brosnaham, executive director of WFHPI: "The latest renovation of the Barkley House will allow us to provide visitors with a better understanding of a Pensacola home during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century." Recent work included the reconstruction of the kitchen and cook's house, significant improvements to the grounds and improvement to overall accessibility.

The completion of this project marks an achievement decades in the making. "Within preservation circles there has been a desire to see this project completed for over 20 years," said J. Earle Bowden, president of the WFHPI Board of Directors. In 2009, everything came together to allow this project to move forward. "The renovation/reconstruction project was completed as a public/private partnership between West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc., the State Division of Historical Resources, the University of West Florida, the City of Pensacola, and Escambia County," said Bowden.

Tickets and information are available at the Tivoli High House, 205 E. Zaragoza Street. Public tours of the Barkley House will leave from the Tivoli High House Tuesday through Saturday at 2 p.m. The Historic Barkley House and Gardens also are available for event rental. For more information, please contact Casey Campbell at (850) 595-5985 at Ext.107.

West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc., is a direct support organization of the University of West Florida, operating the T. T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum, Historic Pensacola Village, the Pensacola Historical Society and Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site.

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