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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2016

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US Postal Service selects Two Rivers Historic Washington House for Launch of Ice Cream Stamp

The home of the Ice Cream Sundae will become a "Post Office for a day" issuing collectible First Day Cover envelopes, cards and other memorabilia

Two Rivers, Wisconsin (June 2016) – The Two Rivers Washington House Museum has been selected by the US Postal Service (USPS) as the site of the *First Day Of Issue* for new ice cream-themed USA stamps. As the historic home of the ice cream sundae, the Washington House will become its own post office for a day, issuing stamp memorabilia, hosting a presentation by the US Postal Service, canceling stamped mail and even serving ice cream sundaes. The event will take place at 4pm on Thursday, June 30, 2016 at the Washington House, 1622 Jefferson Street, Two Rivers, WI.

The booklet of 20 stamps features five different ice cream treats: a double-scoop ice cream cone, an egg creme, a banana split, a root beer float and a hot fudge sundae. "Having the US Postal Service recognize the home of the ice cream sundae is a real treat," says Washington House museum manager Carol Schwantes. "We've been scooping ice cream in Two Rivers since 1881 and now we have a stamp to commemorate it."

The Washington House, a former 1850's inn, features Berners' Ice Cream Parlor, commemorating the creation of the ice cream sundae in 1881. The old-time non-alcoholic saloon also serves as the Two Rivers Visitor Center. Owned and operated by the Two Rivers Historical Society, museum highlights include five rooms to explore and rare murals in the upstairs ballroom. Admission is free.

Although most U.S. stamps are released nationwide on the first day, the USPS will designate a single city as the "official" first day city. The location is usually appropriate to the subject of the stamp and will be the only location where the "First Day of Issue" postmark is used.

The Two Rivers Washington House will issue First Day Cover (FDC) hand-printed envelopes featuring the stamp and commemorative text plus postcards, mini-posters and soda jerk hats. An FDC is an envelope or card bearing a stamp that is cancelled on the day the stamp is initially placed on sale by the postal authorities.

The stamp sheet features geometric silver-toned patterns in the selvage and on the booklet evoking a classic chrome-accented soda fountain. Illustrator Nancy Stahl of New York City worked under the art direction of Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, MD to create the stamps.

Learn more at www.tworivers-history.org.

END