

# NOTICE OF PRESS CONFERENCE

Date: July 2, 2009

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### **Unveiling Plans to Restore Patsy Cline's Home**

- telling the story of Patsy Cline's early career -

WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA (July 2, 2009) – Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc. (CPC) is pleased to unveil its plans to restore 608 South Kent Street in Winchester, the home of country music legend, Patsy Cline.

At the core of a phased-in Patsy Cline presence in Winchester, the historic home will portray the story of Patsy's Winchester years with accurate historic furnishings and historic imagery. CPC and its partners will build a radiating network of public programs, tours, and special event throughout the Winchester region to celebrate the life and legacy of Patsy Cline. Background information is attached.

#### Press Conference Logistics:

Date: Friday, July 10, 2009

**Time:** 3:00pm

Location: 608 South Kent Street, Winchester, VA 22601

**Media:** Press conference will include announcements of capital campaign commitments and several fundraising programs, selection of building contractor, and occasion to interview the official house historian. Media will have first opportunity to tour and photograph house prior to start of restoration work. The house has never been open to the public before this press conference.

Note: Location does not have access for electricity to support recording/video devices.

## The House & Its Patsy Cline History

608 South Kent Street, Winchester, Virginia

**Patsy Cline**, a world-famous country music singer was an American original. With her haunting voice and sophisticated sound, she brought country music down from the mountains and into the hearts of millions of people. Beginning with her 1957 self-titled debut record, Patsy was one of the first country music artists to successfully crossover on both the pop and country charts. With each successive album, her star grew brighter, culminating in 1961 with her classic number one smash "Crazy". Though her groundbreaking career lasted less than a decade, Patsy's unique talent and distinctive voice reverberate still today. As the first woman inducted into the County Music Hall of Fame, she was a pioneer in her field who opened the door for many other talented female singers. Artists ranging from Loretta Lynn to Carrie Underwood cite Patsy as not only an influence, but also a guide in their musical journeys to success.

#### The House

Patsy, her mother, her brother and sister made their home at 608 South Kent Street, Winchester, from November 1948 to June 1957. The home is significant for telling Patsy Cline's (Virginia Patterson Hensley) story, as it is where she lived with her mother and siblings during the decisive years of her early career. It is where she lived when she signed her first record contract with 4 Star Records, when she debuted in Nashville on the Grand Ole Opry, when she won Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts national television show's competition singing "Walkin' After Midnight", and later recorded that trademark song.

The house stands as an icon for Patsy Cline fans and admirers hoping to know first hand the story of Patsy's early years. Patsy Cline's home offers a window on the famed singer's early road to stardom. The house is a perpetual physical testament to Patsy— the guile of a country girl destined for fame, her genius and impending success, and reminders of her youthful exuberance and determination. Her home is already esteemed throughout the world as a significant monument along the Patsy Cline pilgrimage. The Kent Street property embodies her spirit and signifies her "hometown" roots where she got her start, often returned, and found her final resting place at nearby Shenandoah Memorial Park.

#### Legacy, Inc.:

The family of Patsy Cline, represented through Legacy, Inc., is in support of Celebrating Patsy Cline and its mission.

#### Celebrating Patsy Cline:

Established in 1995, Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc. (CPC), is a nonprofit corporation committed *To Preserve and Perpetuate The Legacy of Patsy Cline and Her Music*.

- www.CelebratingPatsyCline.org
- Toll free number: 888-608-2726

#### **CPC Achievement Highlights**

- CPC acquires Patsy Cline's home at 608 South Kent Street.
- Patsy Cline's house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.
- Legacy, Inc., and CPC jointly purchase Sam Hensley, Jr. Estate, which contains personal and professional items of Patsy Cline.
- Objects from the CPC collection are examined by an independent professional museum curator for authenticity, value and present condition in preparation for future exhibitions.
- Fundraising begins to develop and sustain the Patsy Cline Historic House.
- Plans are in place to move forward with a future Patsy Cline Museum as soon as the Historic House is open and operating.