

# *the* ALABAMA TRUSTEE

*A publication of the* ALABAMA TRUST *for* HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MARCH 2009

## Alabama Trust works with local partners to bring National Trust to Birmingham

Birmingham served as the host city for the 2009 Preservation Leadership Training (PLT) from Jan. 10-17.

At PLT, 35 participants from 15 states and the District of Columbia developed proposals that outlined an economically viable reuse for the Most Honorable Prince Hall Grand Lodge that is located in two urban historic districts. With these proposals, the teams offered adaptive use strategies for the former Masonic temple that once served as a social gathering place and information and educational venue for the African American community. It is hoped that through these efforts, a plan will emerge to help the Masonic temple become a renewed contribution to the Birmingham society and rebuild its mark on African American history in Birmingham.

PLT is the only continuing education program in the United States that equips developing preservation leaders with the skills, knowledge and confidence to make a significant impact in their organizations and communities. Since PLT was launched in 1990, more than 900 state and local leaders have participated in 25 PLTs in locations across the nation.

In order to bring PLT to Birmingham members of the Alabama Trust worked with local partners such as Main Street Birmingham to raise more than \$25,000 for the class.



*Thirty-five participated in January's Preservation Leadership Training.*



*Since 1922, the Masonic Temple has served as an architectural cornerstone of African American history in Birmingham.*

At PLT, organizers believe that participants learn best by "doing." The team project provides a vehicle for participants to apply lessons learned during the week to real problems and contribute to preservation activity in the host community. Participants research the team project through scheduled

interviews with community leaders, on-site investigation, and background materials assembled in advance by National Trust staff and local partners. Prior to their arrival each participant received "homework" that prepared them for the week's activities. The week culminated with a public presentation of the teams' recommendations on the final day.

Built in 1922 as the state headquarters of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama, the Colored Masonic Temple was the principal professional and social center for the black community in Birmingham during segregation. In addition to being a civil rights landmark, the Temple, a seven-story building is an example of renaissance Revival style, is an architectural cornerstone and cultural anchor to the Fourth Avenue Historic District.

The five teams developed impressive proposals during their tenure in Birmingham. Alabama Trust board members Peggy Hair and Linda Vice were among the class members. To view the full report from the Birmingham PLT program, please go to [www.preservationnation.org/plt](http://www.preservationnation.org/plt).

If you are interested in participating in a PLT workshop, the National Trust has scheduled its next program from June 21-27 in Deadwood, SD. Applications can be found at [www.preservationnation.org/plt](http://www.preservationnation.org/plt).

**Make Your Reservations Today for the 2009 Alabama Preservation Conference**

**October 8-10, 2009 in Auburn, Alabama - "Building Partners for Preservation"**

**To make your reservations call The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center**

**Ask for the Alabama Preservation Conference Rate - Reservations must be made by September 15**

# THE ALABAMA TRUSTEE

The Alabama Trustee is published quarterly by the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470  
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The Alabama Trustee encourages submissions of articles, photographs, and correspondence relating to historic preservation issues within the state of Alabama for consideration in its publication.

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# Preservation and storytelling go hand-in hand for Hair

Step into the world of Alabama Trust Board Member Peggy Hair, and you will enter a place filled with stories from the past. These stories, according to Hair, make up the very essence of who she is.

Hair grew up in Calhoun County and heard stories while sitting on the front porches of her grandmother's house and those of other relatives. She noted that as a child she would "climb one step after another to join the world of adults – I sat and listened to the stories being told and studied the silences of what was not said... From this extended family of storytellers, I learned that the present has its roots in the past and that old things whether mended or not, whether tangible or ethereal, tell the story of who we are and explain why we are who we are as individuals, as family and collectively as a society."

While wondering about those "silences" within stories, Hair found herself on a path headed for justice and the parallel path of non-profit service. After earning a bachelor's degree in history and education with a minor in political science from the University of Alabama, Hair took a master's degree in higher education administration from Indiana University and then a M.B.A. in strategic planning for higher education from Mary Washington College. Combining her skills in management with her love of education, Hair set out to help colleges obtain the funds they needed. She has staffed five capital campaigns totaling \$225 million. Some of the colleges that have benefited from her service are Birmingham-Southern College, Gettysburg College, Harrisburg Area Community College and Western Maryland College.

"I chose a life of public service in education because that was the world I knew best," said Hair, the daughter of teachers. "I believed and still believe that education is the balm that ameliorated the ills of illiteracy, poverty and prejudice and that a civil society learns from its past in order to plant the roots



Peggy Hair

for a better future."

As the current Foundation Support/Major and Planned Gift Office for Alabama Public Television (APT), Hair continues to raise funds for worthy causes. In her spare time though, she also helps people envision how such funds can best be utilized in order to better the world around

them. Her volunteer efforts range from main street initiatives, historic preservation projects, to environmental activities.

Hair doesn't just raise money; she enjoys working with those who tackle research and collect stories that can be passed on to the next generation. Alabama Public Television's joint initiative with the Alabama Department of Archives and History to create video segments documenting Alabama's history for fourth-grade instruction is such a project. In addition she worked to secure funding for *WWII: Alabama Remembers*, APT's companion documentary to Ken Burns World War II series. Two forthcoming documentaries that Alabama audiences can look forward to focus on Civil Rights photojournalist, James "Spider" Martin and Civil Rights activists, Clifford and Virginia Durr. Hair has developed and or presented interpretive programs at Historic Kenmore Mansion in Fredericksburg, Va. and at National Park Service sites such as the Eisenhower Historic Site/Gettysburg National Military Park and Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, among others.

A life-long learner, Hair recently completed 2009 Preservation Leadership Training program held in Birmingham and offered through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "My overarching reason and objective in attending the Preservation Leadership Training," Hair explained, "was to acquire the technical skills and information to be a more effective preservationist and resource for Alabama and its historic sites, including structures and communities, and cultural artifacts."

# Alabama Trust members enjoy 2008 Preservation Conference

by Mike Rushing, Alabama Trust Member

Sometimes an antiquated phrase has the perfect pitch. In this post-election period, it sounds good to say what you mean, simply. The Alabama Preservation Conference is an anticipated event in preservation circles around Alabama. Conference attendees have high expectations: education, networking, recognition, tours, and great food. But most of all, they expect to have a good time. The 2008 Conference managed to exceed those expectations, as well as raise the profile of Conference hosts the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, the Alabama Historic Commission, and the Black Heritage Council.

The Conference began with a stunning October sunset orchestrated to be seen from the terrace of a magnificent Daphne bay front historic home. Hollywood could not do

The Conference took place at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. Somewhere under the perpetually rebuilt hotel is the historic core of an increasingly complex, multiservice, modern hotel. The Preservation Conference was one of several ongoing events which the Grand handled easily. Concurrent sessions provided a choice for conference attendees, followed by a keynote address by Jack Williams on the importance of sustainability for preservation and how the two work together to maintain our communities.

The Annual Conference provides a venue for the Annual Preservation Awards. This



Guests gather for a reception at the home of Baba and Ken Hendricks.

The Rehabilitation Award was given to the Covenant Community Church in Elba, Ala., for their work with the Just Folk Coffee House.

Attendees got to choose from several tours. No one was disappointed. It is always painful to have to decide between information packed historic tours. Just like in elementary school, field trips are always the favorites.

Offerings on Friday and Saturday included a river and house tour of historic Magnolia Springs, a tour of Splinter Hill Bog, a Point Clear boardwalk tour of historic homes, a behind the scenes tour of Fort Morgan, and a tour of the Grand Hotel.

Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation members Teresa and Gus Smith and Susan and Mason McGowin were the hosts for Friday night cocktails and dinner. After a full day of preservation talks, tours and awards, Trust members were ready to relax and eat. The Smiths and the McGowins took care of the details: the wine, the Alabama Slow food, and the gracious atmosphere. "No separate ticket required" meant just that: our hosts wined and dined us just for the pleasure of our company. And interesting

company it was, too—everyone concerned about issues of preservation in a state where pressure is for development at any cost, everyone concerned about the loss of those characteristics of our state that make it unique and a world unto itself, everyone concerned about the future of nonprofits like the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation charged with advocating for the conservation of Alabama's historic properties and traditions. You cannot just take preservation for granted while you sit out under an old live oak tree and chow down on Alabama barbeque. Just try.

The 2008 Alabama Preservation Conference was a joint effort of the Alabama Historic Commission, the Black Heritage Council, and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. Partnering locally were the Mobile Historic Commission and the Sybil H. Smith Trust. Trust conference organizers Susan McGowin and Devereaux Bemis are to be congratulated for putting together a great event.

We got educated a little bit, took some great tours, ate some wonderful food, and supported an important non profit: the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation.



Alabama Trust conference organizers Susan McGowin and Devereaux Bemis

better. The hosts, Baba and Ken Hendricks, provided a reception that would intimidate other hosts and hostesses, was it not the Eastern Shore, known for its great parties. And what a party: Beautiful home, gracious hosts and a feast of food and spirits. Everyone took the opportunity to make new friends and reacquaint with old ones. The mood was set.

year the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation gave three awards. The Gwyn C. Turner Award was given to long time supporter and advocate Bradley Hale. The Restoration Award was given to Roseland Plantation of Faunsdale, Ala., Elizabeth Gaines Crosby and Betty Burnett Gaines. The Preservation Service Award was given to the Auburn Rural Studio.

# Winter Ramble showcases the Alabama's lower Black Belt region

by Gery Anderson, Alabama Trust Board Member

Territorial history of Alabama, great Southern food and fellowship, and ancient Indian artifacts were just a few of the highlights of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation ramble through Clark, Washington, and Wilcox counties in January.

The tour showcased not only antebellum and twentieth century homes but also the early history of our diverse state. At St. Stephens Historical Park, the group was fascinated with the sites of our formative years as a territory and state and saw many artifacts that visually make that history come to life.

On Friday, Jan. 23, the group began its weekend of activities in Wilcox County at Black Belt Treasures where they discovered the talents of Black Belt artists. Black Belt Treasures works with over 250 artists from the region. Since its opening in 2005, the store has welcomed visitors from 47 states and 14 countries. After shopping, the ramble dined at Gaines Ridge Dinner Club, an antebellum home complete with its own set of ghost stories. After lunch, everyone headed to Alabama Trust Board President

Garland Smith's antebellum home in Camden, Ala. The group completed the evening in Clarke County in Thomasville at the home of Ramble host and Trust board member Linda Vice. As a special treat, famed folklorist and storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham entertained the group while they enjoyed a walking tour of downtown Thomasville.

On Saturday, Jan. 24, the group caravanned to Washington County to St. Stephens, an Executive Director Jim Long shared the attractions of the area. After working up an appetite, Miss Lola's cooking was ready to satisfy the hungriest guest. Heading to Carleton, the group met Tommy Hart to view his collection of Native American artifacts and then toured Mt. Nebo Cemetery, a national historic landmark. The day ended at the home of Louis and Croom Finlay in Gainestown, where they were treated to a home and schoolhouse tour.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, the Delmar Restaurant in Thomasville served Conecuh County sausage, grits, tomato gravy, homemade biscuits, eggs, juice and coffee.

Before hitting the road, guests tried out their own storytelling skills.

Watch for upcoming trips to other parts of Alabama. You will certainly not want to miss another great time to learn, meet like-minded people, and have a taste of another Alabama region.



## Historic Mooresville Walking Tour Featuring Gardens and Porches May 9 & 10

The 53 residents of Mooresville, Alabama, incorporated in 1818, proudly invite you to step back to a time before Alabama was a state. Visitors will experience 19th century village life by strolling our beautiful gardens and tree-lined streets and touring our historic public buildings. All funds raised through the two days of our Walking Tour will support the preservation of these buildings:



*The 1821 Stagecoach Tavern, reportedly the oldest frame public building in Alabama*

*The 1839 Brick Church, one of the few remaining examples of the Greek Revival Brick Churches built in Alabama in the early 19th century*



*The 1840 Post Office, the oldest continually operating post office building in Alabama and one of the oldest in the country*

*The 1854 Church of Christ, where General James A. Garfield, who would later become our 20th President, preached while encamped nearby during the Civil War*

A new attraction this year is an invitation to visit our porches for a up-close glimpse, through open doors, into the homes of our historic community. Traditional musicians will perform on porches and streets, and food and drink will be available for purchase.

## *Architectural History Interest Group*

Sign up now for a **walking tour of**

## *Historic Redmont Neighborhood in Birmingham*

led by

*Alice Bowsher*

*author of*

*Community in Alabama*

Sunday Afternoon, May 17, 2009  
Rain or Shine

Email [preservealabama@yahoo.com](mailto:preservealabama@yahoo.com)  
to sign up for the tour.

Space is limited, so make your  
reservations today!

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ONLINE**

[www.alabamatrust.info](http://www.alabamatrust.info)

# Decorative Arts Group tours Eutaw houses

On Jan. 31, the Decorative Arts Study Group of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation toured two Greek Revival houses in Eutaw, Ala., and a third a few miles to the west of Eutaw. Pam and David Harmon at Everhope Plantation, Danky and Al Blanton at Kirkwood and Rebecca and Norris Sears at Freemont graciously opened their homes to the Study Group. Each of these magnificent homes has been furnished with Classical and Rococo



PHOTO Robin McDonald

*The Decorative Arts Study Group visits Kirkwood with Al Blanton.*

Revival furnishings, period portraits and Paris porcelains to accompany the furniture.

In the 1840s in Alabama, Federalist style architecture was giving way to Greek Revival, and in furniture Rococo Revival (made by New York cabinet makers such as John Belter and Joseph Meeks) was beginning to supplant the Classical style (also commonly called Empire because Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte popularized the style during the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century).

After the tour of homes, several members of the Decorative Arts Study Group headed to Hal Hunt's auction house in Tuscaloosa where numerous pieces of Belter furniture are on display to be sold at auction in the near future. It's hard to imagine any other location in the county



*The tour included a stop at Freemont.*

with so much extraordinary Rococo Revival and Classical furniture as was seen during the tour of the three houses and auction site during the trip.

In the 1840s and 1850s, Greene County and other areas of the Blackbelt along with the Mississippi Delta produced far more cotton than any other region in the country and in the process many millionaires. Small towns like Eutaw, Marion, Selma and Natchez host numerous architectural jewels that were built during the flush times of high cotton production and high prices spurred on by the voracious appetite of European and Northern textile mills.

For the Study Group, touring the homes of the Harmons, Blantons and Sears was like stepping back in time because each home has been carefully restored

and furnished to recapture the grandeur of the houses' early periods. It should be mentioned that for Alabama Trust members who were not able to join the Study Group's tour, the Harmons and Blantons provide a major service to the Blackbelt tourist industry by having their homes open for tours to the general public on a regular basis. A trip to Everhope and Kirkwood is a memorable experience for those who appreciate man's ability to create beauty from wood and stone.

# TAP INTO THE TRUST

*and get involved!*

The Historic Garden/Landscape Interest Group formed in the Fall of 2006.

To receive information regarding group activities, please contact Mike Rushing to receive email or direct mail. Mike's address is [jmikerushing@coosahs.net](mailto:jmikerushing@coosahs.net).

The Historic Architecture Interest Group formed in the Fall of 2007.

To receive information regarding group activities, please contact Barbara Adkins to receive email or direct mail. Barbara's address is [preservealabama@yahoo.com](mailto:preservealabama@yahoo.com).

The Alabama Trust Decorative Arts Interest Group was formed in 2008 to focus on the furniture and art of 19<sup>th</sup> century Alabamians.

This group is led by Emily and Jack Burwell. To receive information regarding group activities, please contact the Burwells at [jpbpc@bellsouth.net](mailto:jpbpc@bellsouth.net).

If you would like to start an Interest Group, contact Mike Rushing and he will get you started.



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for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

# Developer looks for contractors for Ramsay McCormack Building



The next steps in the stabilization and renovation of the landmark Ramsay McCormack building in downtown Ensley will begin soon. This landmark was listed among the Places in Peril in the 2008 listing for the state of Alabama.

Veristar Development Services, on behalf of Ensley Centre, L.P., is beginning to seek qualifications from contractors interested in bidding on the selective demolition and environmental remediation, as well as exterior façade stabilization, work at the Ramsay McCormack building in Ensley.

In addition in February, the Ramsay McCormack building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Veristar Development Services is also soliciting qualified firms to perform appraisal and surveying services related to its development of the property. The building, to be renamed The Residences @ Ensley Centre, is slated to become 46-units of affordable apartments for independent senior citizens.

Main Street Birmingham, Inc. has worked with the City of Birmingham to secure a developer in an effort to save the historic symbol of Ensley's economic past and future.

For additional information on this development or to submit qualifications, interested parties should contact Mike Holbrook, at the project architect, Fuqua & Partners Architects. Holbrook may be reached at 256-534-3516 or by e-mail at [mjholbrook@fuquaarhitects.com](mailto:mjholbrook@fuquaarhitects.com), or contact Main Street Birmingham Executive Director David Fleming at 205-595-0562.

The Decorative Arts Interest Group heads to Selma to visit the home of Selma architect Dick Hudgens. A longtime student of the decorative arts of the early and mid 19th century, he has amassed one of the best collections in the state of Alabama. The trip will coincide with the Selma Antique Show. Hudgens' tours are set for 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Space is limited, so email Jack Burwell ([jpbpc@bellsouth.net](mailto:jpbpc@bellsouth.net)) to make your reservations today.

## HISTORIC GARDEN/LANDSCAPE INTEREST GROUP

- March 25-29**                      **Mobile, Alabama Festival of Flowers**  
[www.festivalofflowers.com](http://www.festivalofflowers.com)
- April 3-5**                         **Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting**  
Camden, SC  
[www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org)
- April 18**                         **The Garden Conservancy Open Days**  
Four gardens in Birmingham, Alabama area  
Contact June Mays, organizer  
205-324-7476 home or 205-541-3740 cell  
[junemays@bellsouth.net](mailto:junemays@bellsouth.net)
- April 18**                         **\*Reception for The Garden Conservancy members and The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation members,**  
hosted by June Mays, Troy Rhone, and Paula and Mike Rushing at 1019 40<sup>th</sup> St. South, Forest Park, Birmingham, 35222.  
Info: Mike at 210-414-2721 or [jmikerushing@coosahs.net](mailto:jmikerushing@coosahs.net)
- April 16-19**                      **Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale**  
[www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org)
- September 24-26**              **Returning to Our Roots: Planting and Replanting the Historic Southern Garden**  
Biennial Conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes  
Old Salem, Winston-Salem, NC  
[sgant@oldsalem.org](mailto:sgant@oldsalem.org)

*\*Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation event  
To post a date, email Mike at [jmikerushing@coosahs.net](mailto:jmikerushing@coosahs.net)*

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# Grandson of Julius Rosenwald to give keynote at Shiloh Community Restoration Foundation's annual gala

Dr. Peter Ascoli, grandson of Julius Rosenwald, will be the keynote speaker at the third annual gala and silent auction hosted by the Shiloh Community Restoration Foundation, Inc., April 4, at 5 p.m. at the Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center. Funds raised from the Gala will support restoration efforts of the Shiloh Rosenwald School located in Notasulga, Ala. Rosenwald is best known as co-founder and leader of Sears Roebuck and Company, and for the Rosenwald Fund which donated millions to support the education of African Americans throughout the South including Macon County, Ala.

Ascoli chronicles his grandfather's extraordinary corporate journey and philanthropic work in his biography *The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South*. He, along with Booker T. Washington, created over 5,300 schools throughout the south and southeast. It was during a time when there were very few opportunities for rural African American children to receive an education. His commitment to social justice greatly aided the improvement of educational opportunities for African Americans throughout the south. As a co-founder, Rosenwald helped to build Sears Roebuck into America's leading mail order house during a time when there was no telephones and computers.



Julius Rosenwald

The first Rosenwald Schools opened in 1913 in Macon County. Many of these schools continued to operate until the 1954 Supreme Court ruling against segregation in public school was implemented. There were 19 Rosenwald Schools in Macon County. Today, the only still standing Rosenwald School in its original state is the Shiloh-Rosenwald School in Notasulga. This school



An artist's rendering shows plans for renovations at the Shiloh site.

is now in the process of being restored.

The Shiloh site also consists of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and the Shiloh Cemetery. The church was the first recruitment site of the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study. More men were recruited from this site than any other location in Macon County; many of the men from the study are buried in the Shiloh Cemetery. In 2006, the three sites were added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The SCRF, Inc. is now working with Middle Tennessee State University to have the three sites declared a National Historic Site.

Ascoli received bachelor's degrees from the University of Chicago and St. Catherine's College, Oxford, and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, all in European history. From 1971 to 1978, he was an assistant professor at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. He then moved to Chicago and worked as a fund raiser for a variety of cultural and educational non-profit organizations, including the University of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, Steppenwolf Theater Company, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also teaches fund raising for the master's degree program in the management of non-profit social service agencies at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Sims at 334-844-5958 or Shirley Johnson at 334-257-4264.

## PIF Challenge Grant awarded to Alabama Trust

The National Trust for Historic Preservation today announced the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation will receive a \$82,000 *Partners in the Field* matching grant. The Alabama Trust is one of 21 recipients of the second round of the \$5 million in *Partners in the Field* matching grants, a multi-year grant program that strengthens the efforts of state and local preservation organizations across the country. The grantees, all members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Statewide and Local Partners Program, will use the funds to expand the scope of their on-the-ground field services and assistance to property



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owners, developers, local officials, and others needing information and tools to protect and enhance their communities.

The Alabama Trust, with its state office located in Livingston, Ala., was eligible to apply for the matching grants because it is one of more than 100 Statewide and Local Partners of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "*Partners in the Field* grants are catalysts that spur historic preservation,

economic revitalization and promote sustainability," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Grant recipients have used preservation to create innovative solutions to complex problems – with measurable impact."

Alabama Trust First Vice President, Tina Naremore Jones, said "*The Partners in the Field* grant program is a wonderful opportunity for the Alabama Trust to reach out to new partners in the field of preservation and help more people utilize preservation as a means to improve the quality of life of Alabama citizens, while retaining the unique character of our communities."



# ALABAMA TRUST

for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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*Already a member who would like to contribute more? Remember, Alabama Trust is a 501 (c) 3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. Our year-end appeal is helpful for meeting the needs of operational expenses.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ALABAMA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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*Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation is the voice for the future of Alabama's historic buildings, neighborhoods and places. We invite you to join us. Member benefits include quarterly newsletters with event listings and the latest preservation news; opportunities for preservation conferences; organized tours statewide; networking opportunities with other preservation minded people; a statewide advocacy program for preservation.*

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*Your membership contributions and gifts are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Please make your check payable to Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, or choose one of the following:*

MC/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

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