

THE ALABAMA TRUSTEE

A publication of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

Summer 2010

Trust Plans Annual Conference In Montgomery

by Peggy Haywood Hair
Chair, Conference Planning Committee

Make your plans now to join us for the 2010 conference, **Preserving Alabama's Hometowns – Embracing Historic Places – Making Life Better**, Thursday, October 7 through Saturday, October 9, in historic Montgomery, Alabama. This year's annual conference promises to be exciting, educational and fun as preservationists, both professional and lay, from across the state come together in Historic Downtown Montgomery to learn more about how historic places make life better.

Historic preservation is an essential asset for the revitalization of Alabama's small towns and downtowns. The 2010 preservation conference, in coordination with the Alabama Department of Tourism and Travel's *Year of Small Towns and Downtowns*, will showcase historic redevelopment activity in Montgomery and other Alabama communities that use preservation as a tool in creating a vital cultural, economic, tourism and neighborhood core.

On Thursday evening, the conference kicks off with a private tour of the First White House of the Confederacy and a reception and opening session at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, including an early peek at the exhibition designs for the forthcoming Museum of Alabama. Later in the evening, new restaurant, entertainment and hotel venues in Historic Downtown Montgomery provide great places for conference friends and colleagues to dine and reconnect.

Friday starts with a presentation,

Historic Preservation Is Economic Development, by key note speaker Donovan Rypkema, a nationally recognized preservationist and economic developer, followed by five concurrent tracks on special areas of interest. All tracks focus on specific preservation perspectives, such as the role of preservation in reclaiming historic downtowns, interpreting sites of historical importance, revitalizing historic neighborhoods, living with historical objects (decorative arts) and promoting Main Street programs. Friday night we will celebrate this year's Preservation Awards honorees at the annual Awards Reception and Ceremony at the Historic Montgomery Train Station. A very special event to benefit the Trust will follow later in the evening.

Saturday morning is overflowing with special interest sessions from learning how to preserve family documents and photographs with Alabama Power archivist Bill Tharpe, to exploring examples of the best of Alabama's historic structures with architectural historian and author Alice Bowsher, to hands-on demonstrations for old house restorations with ATHP executive director David Schneider.

Also on Saturday morning, for those who like to keep moving and see even more, a tour through historic Oakwood Cemetery with Montgomery historian Mary Ann Neeley and 19th Century memorial sculpture expert Michael Panhorst is available. Or, visit Montgomery's local **Places in Peril** sites (those in peril and saved) with architectural historians Robert Gamble and Melanie Betz plus much more to choose from, including Montgomery's best private gardens for those interested

in historic landscapes. All are perfect activities for an early October morning. Whichever program you choose, join us for the closing luncheon at the Historic Young House Restaurant in Old Town Alabama.

The 2010 Preservation Conference is made possible, in part, through the generosity of our sponsors: Alabama Department of Archives and History; Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C; City of Montgomery; the Historic Jackson Community Center; and Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery.

The Alabama Preservation Conference is a program of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council of Alabama.

For information about how to participate as a sponsor of the conference, contact the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation call 205-652-3497 or email alabamatrust@uwa.edu.



Montgomery's restored Alley Bar

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In an interview about Southern literature, writer Willie Morris once wrote, "My town is the place that shaped me into the creature I am now."

The idea that place plays a significant role in our lives is one that not only Morris contemplates, but many others as well. Former Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation President and an Alabama advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation Alice Bowsler tackles the connection between place and how our lives intersect in her book *Community in Alabama*. In the chapter entitled "Meaning," she writes, "Meaning. When a place represents a significant event or experience or person, it has meaning."

The Alabama Department of Tourism and Travel must be thinking this same thought, deeming 2010 "The Year of Small Towns and Downtowns," offering all of us the perfect opportunity to explore what our small towns and downtowns mean to each of us. Throughout this year, communities have held events that welcome people home or invite visitors to experience a place for the first time. At this year's annual Alabama preservation conference, we want to invite each of you to experience Montgomery with us as we explore the theme *Preserving Alabama's Hometowns-Embracing Historic Places-Making Life Better*. A glimpse at the schedule is featured on the front page. I think you will find a schedule packed with learning opportunities and activities that demonstrate that historic places truly do matter in our lives, both



Jones at the Susan B. Anthony House

emotionally and economically.

Personally, I can't wait to reconnect with Montgomery's downtown. One of my favorite pastimes anytime I travel is to walk around downtowns, stroll through neighbors or cross the lawns of courthouse squares and simply feel my surroundings. I hope you will save the dates of October 7-9 and do just that with us.

Sincerely,

Tina Naremore Jones

mark your calendar

2010 Alabama Preservation Conference

***Preserving Alabama's Hometowns:
Embracing Historic Places – Making Life Better***

October 7-9, 2010 • Montgomery, Alabama

Keynote Speaker: Donovan Rypkema

Historic places make life better by being essential assets for the revitalization of Alabama's small towns and downtowns. The 2010 Alabama Preservation Conference will showcase the exciting historic redevelopment activity in Montgomery using preservation as a tool in creating a vital cultural, economic, and tourism core to the city.

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published quarterly by the
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation
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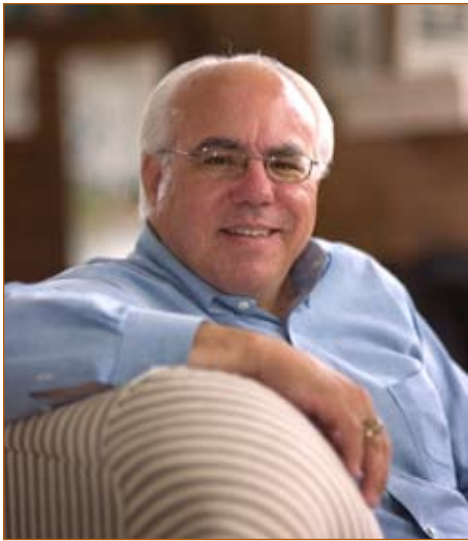
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SPEAKING OUT

Preservation is Working in Alabama!

by David B. Schneider, Executive Director

This year's **Places in Peril** include resources spanning a wide spectrum of Alabama's historic places. The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation took on a larger role in the development of this year's list, with Board member Donna Castellano writing most of the narratives and me personally visiting all of the sites except one. I extend a special thanks to Donna for her fine efforts and patience dealing with all of us at the Trust and the Alabama Historical Commission who participated in the process. Thanks are also extended to Melanie Betz, John Greene, Robert Gamble, and Dorothy Walker at the Commission for the key role each played in the process. The Alabama Trust is planning to take a more proactive role in assisting with each of these sites, and all will be a priority for my advocacy efforts in the coming year.

While each of the resources on this year's list are incredibly important to all of us who agree that historic places make life better, one statewide listing is particularly timely: historic wood windows. For all of us who own or enjoy historic houses, we know just how much the windows contribute to their character. Yet it seems that we are being bombarded constantly by sales pitches for new energy-efficient replacement windows. Now Congress has created a new tax credit that largely favors window replacement over repair.

A recent analysis in *The Old House Journal* noted that the payback period for a properly repaired and weather-stripped historic window with an appropriate storm window installed was about 4.5 years. Contrast that with a 34 to 40.5 year payback period for standard replacement windows or 240 years for the really efficient ones, and it becomes readily apparent that replacement windows aren't a very good investment. Add to that the energy required to rip out the old window, haul it to a landfill, and to manufacture, deliver, and install the new window, and replacement windows aren't a very environmentally friendly alternative either. Offering incentive to the owners of historic properties to repair their existing windows would have stimulated a much greater positive impact on the environment. Unfortunately, we can't match the lobbying power of all those window manufacturing companies, a home remodeling industry that has a vested interest in replacement rather than repair, or the media that is beholden to both for their advertising dollars.

So, I'll keep on restoring my old windows. They have aged gracefully with my old house and are part of its essential character. It certainly seems to me to be the greenest approach, not to mention, all the paper that's filling the landfills from all those replacement window ads!

Contact David Schneider

phone: (256) 310-6320

e-mail: dbschneider@bellsouth.net

What's on your mind?

We would like to hear from you.

Send your opinions on

preservation issues to

Alabama Trust for Historic

Preservation, Station 45,

Livingston, Alabama 35470

or e-mail us at

alabamatrust@uwa.edu.

Please include your name,

address, phone, and e-mail.

resources

Windows are the most visible, yet commonly under-appreciated components of older and historic structures. While being very beautiful, original historic windows also serve a great purpose – they impart a building's inside-outside connection.

They provide ventilation and light, and can function as emergency egress. Above all, they offer clues to a building's history because they are integral aspects of architectural design. To learn more about the restoration of wooden windows, visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization/windows>.

To learn more about windows, come to "Adaptive Recycling: A Windows Refurbishing Workshop" led by Hilda Dent of Old House Specialists in Livingston on July 31. Call (205) 652-3497 for more information.



PRESERVATION IN THE FIELD

Since the last edition of *The Alabama Trustee*, our Executive Director has continued to actively support historic preservation initiatives throughout the state.



This 19th Century House in Pickens County awaits its date with the bulldozer. David Schneider ran across this site while making a nearby site visit.

In April and May, Schneider was involved in seventeen preservation activities in eleven communities in as many counties.

Our running tally since starting fieldwork as a Statewide Partner in the Field with the National Trust in April 2009 is as follows: 77 activities, 39 communities, 32 counties, and 3 statewide issues.

Among the highlights for this period are:

- Auburn Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Auburn, Lee County. Met with fraternity members hoping to restore Paul Rudolph designed chapter house
- Black Belt Design Reception, Birmingham, Jefferson County, attended
- Shorter Cemetery, Eufaula, Barbour County; Moulthrop House, Eufaula, Barbour County; Auburn Depot, Auburn, Lee County; Crickett Theatre, Collinsville, DeKalb County; Coosa County Farmer's and Civic Association, Rockford, Coosa County; Gilchrist-Shackelford

House, Courtland, Lawrence County; Kelly-Stone-Hill House, Carrolton, Pickens County; 2010 Places in Peril, site visits

- Liles Building, Anniston, Calhoun County, letter to the editor in support of city/county partnership to use stimulus money for its restoration
- Roamer's Roost, Gold Hill vicinity, Chambers County, site visit
- Fire Station #22, Birmingham, Jefferson County, attended inaugural meeting of "I Believe in Birmingham," working on position statement
- Historic Huntsville Foundation, Huntsville, Madison County presentation to membership meeting



Mobile Walking Tour

The Historic Architecture Interest Group will tour Mobile on Saturday, September 25. The tour will begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and pastry in the Garden District. The tour will include access to several residences.

We will have a dutch treat lunch at the historic Wintzell's Oyster House. The afternoon will include a walking tour of downtown buildings

and residences until 4:30 p.m. with cocktails at the home of our guide, Devereaux Bemis.

The tour is limited to the first 25 people and will cost \$35 each for current members of the Alabama Trust. The cost for non-members is \$50 and includes a year's membership in the Trust. Your check will be your reservation for the tour. A detailed agenda will be sent

to each participant. The tour is rain or shine, oil or not. Hotel accommodations are not provided, but the Battle House Renaissance Hotel (251) 338-2000 has been recommended.

Mail checks payable to the **Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation** to Barbara Adkins, The Chancellor House, 51 Chancellor Ferry Road, Harpersville, AL 35078.

ON THE ROAD

to Alabama's Small Towns and Downtowns

We would like to include your events here. Send event notices to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation at Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470 or email us at alabamatrust@uwa.edu. Please include contact information with submission.

Celebrate Guntersville Day
Guntersville • July 2-4 • phone: (256) 571-7560

100th Anniversary Celebration
Lincoln • July 3 • phone: (205) 966-6607

Mayberry Day
Graysville • July 10 • phone: (205) 674-5643

Founders Day
Hayneville • July 17-18 • phone: (334) 548-2128

Function at Tuxedo Junction
Ensley • July 23-24 • phone: (205) 595-0562

ALABAMA TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

20 Alabama's Places In Peril 10

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

by Donna McPherson Castellano assisted by David B. Schneider

In observation of National Historic Preservation Month, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation (ATHP) and the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) announce Alabama's Places in Peril for 2010.

This year's Places in Peril illustrates the broad tapestry of history and is intended to remind all Alabamians that these historic places, which contribute so greatly to our sense of place and the livability and economic vitality of our communities, represent a finite and fragile resource. Included in this year's list are buildings and sites dating from the state's pioneer days, its period of antebellum prosperity, the Civil War, its New South resurgence, and the struggle for Civil Rights.

Since 1994, the AHC and the ATHP have joined forces to

sponsor Places in Peril. Over the years, the list has helped to call attention to the plight of endangered historic places throughout the state. Unfortunately, for many of these sites, all that remains are memories. But others have been rescued, as owners have recognized the great practical side to preserving the historic places that matter to us - the dollars and cents of revitalizing communities and returning to sustainable development patterns. Historic places are essential assets for downtown and neighborhood revitalization and for the state's growing heritage tourism industry. And in a world where environmental sustainability is becoming ever more critical, they represent one of the greenest approaches to providing places in which to live and work.

Historic Wood Windows

Statewide



Tremont School, Selma, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

Historic wood windows are under attack. Massive marketing efforts by window manufacturers, the home remodeling industry, major home improvement retailers, and popular magazines have convinced many that historic wood windows are obsolete and must be replaced for energy conservation and environmental reasons. Nothing could be further from the truth. Studies have shown that retaining and repairing historic wood windows is not only more cost effective, but is also the greenest approach. We join the National Trust for Historic Preservation in proclaiming "Historic windows are disappearing at an alarming rate, and we in the preservation movement have had enough with the onslaught of misinformation about window replacement!"

The Magee Farm,

Kushla, Mobile County, 1848



Magee Farm, used with permission

Located just north of Mobile in the town of Kushla, this Creole cottage style farmhouse built by Jacob Magee in 1848 is one of three major sites associated with the surrender of the Confederate Army, and the only one that retains its original building, in its original, unreconstructed form, with many of the original furnishings intact. Despite the intervention of the Civil War Preservation Trust in 2004, efforts to operate the site as a museum were discontinued in 2010. The site illustrates not only the difficulties faced by many historic house museums in the wake of the economic downturn, but also of the failure of community leadership to recognize and respond to the rare opportunity to keep this nationally significant piece of Alabama history in the public realm.

Auburn Train Depot

Auburn, Lee County, 1904



Auburn Train Depot, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

A central hub of life at Auburn University for more than one hundred years, the Auburn Train Depot was the principle means by which students traveled to attend the university. The building and its surroundings were often the first glimpse new arrivals had of “the loveliest village on the plains” until the last passenger ticket was sold in 1970.

The third depot in Auburn since the rails arrived in 1847 (the prior two burned), the depot was built around 1904. Designed by Auburn architecture student Ralph Dudley, the style is typical of Victorian railroad architecture of its time: a brick one-story structure with a Richardsonian Romanesque look with small turrets, that was altered to some degree during various renovations in the 1970s.

Vacant since 2003, the building has suffered from deferred maintenance, a leaking roof, and possible environmental problems from an adjacent gasoline station. These and other issues have coupled with the economic downturn to thwart a successful sale by the owner to one of several potential purchasers.

In the meantime, the depot sits vacant, susceptible to the elements and vandals. It represents one of the prime historic rehabilitation opportunities in Auburn.



The Bankhead House, Sulligent, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

Cotton Mills

Satewide



Pratt Mill Complex, Prattville, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

They frequently stand empty. Large, multi-storied brick buildings situated on the periphery of cities, towns, and villages that are a reminder of a time when Alabama's fortunes were tied to the profitability of cotton. Although a few cotton mills operated in the state prior to the Civil War, the industry boomed during the 1880s. Following World War II, there were periods when the textile industry provided jobs for one in five employed persons in the state. Alabama's textile industry came to a rather abrupt end during the 1990s, when a combination of overseas labor and obsolete machinery shifted the operation of mills to overseas locations.

The jobs may have left, but the cotton mills remain. Utilitarian structures that beg to be used once again, cotton mills are sturdily built, with open interior spaces, high ceilings and tall windows. While there are excellent examples of creative adaptations of cotton mills in our state, too many of these buildings are underutilized or deteriorating from neglect. As small towns and downtowns across the state seek ways to attract investment to their downtown core by creating mixed-use environments, we urge city and business leaders to turn fresh eyes to the potential of cotton mills as they are excellent candidates for adaptive reuse.

Forest Home, The Bankhead House

Sulligent, Lamar County, 1855

Home to one of Alabama's most prominent families whose political leadership in the U.S. Congress shaped the history of our nation, the house was built by John Greer Bankhead in the 1850s and was the birthplace of John Hollis Bankhead, who became one of Alabama's most influential congressional representatives. Also born in the house were his sons, John Hollis Bankhead II and William B. Bankhead, both of whom were elected to the U.S. Congress. The property owners desire to retain the land that has been in their family, yet have no use for the house that is suffering from deferred maintenance. A creative solution undoubtedly exists that would resolve the dilemma, but to date no interested party has come forward with a viable plan.

Bankhead-Shackelford House

Courtland, Lawrence County, circa 1880-1900



Bankhead-Shackelford House, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

A key architectural landmark of the Courtland National Register Historic District, the Bankhead-Shackelford House was perhaps the most significant residence built in this planter community during the post-Reconstruction era. This house is positioned between the prosperous antebellum years and the renewal of cotton prosperity that occurred between 1900 and the beginning of the First World War. Accordingly, the house attests to a tendency for older forms and layouts to linger underneath decorative detail that changed with the tide of fashion. Today, the house speaks to the architectural conservatism of Alabama's nineteenth century agrarian gentry.

Unoccupied for many years, the house has been minimally maintained. The present owner, who grew up in the house and hopes to see it restored, has sold the property twice, but both times the transactions fell through and anticipated repairs were not completed. Meanwhile, the condition of the house has reached a critical stage. A warm and enticingly livable place, a thoughtful restoration of the Bankhead-Shackelford House would not only preserve this important piece of Alabama's architecture, but serve as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization.

Kelly - Stone - Hill House

Carrollton, Pickens County, circa 1830

The Kelly-Stone-Hill House is one of the few pre-Civil War structures remaining in Pickens County. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this residence is a good example of the type of vernacular Greek Revival style cottage once found in towns and villages across the Deep South. In 1830, the federal government gave Pickens County 80 acres for their county seat. Located across from the courthouse, the Kelly-Stone-Hill house was one of the first dwellings built in the town of Carrollton.

The house is threatened by deterioration, exacerbated by a roofing problem that will increase the damage to the home at an exponential rate.

Shorter Cemetery

Eufaula, Barbour County, 1839



Shorter Cemetery, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

Situated on a high bluff overlooking Lake Eufaula sheltered by the moss-draped limbs of tall oak trees, the Shorter Cemetery sits on a five-acre plot in the middle of downtown Eufaula. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Shorter Cemetery is the burial place of Barbour County's prominent Shorter family, whose descendants guided Alabama during our most challenging periods. John Gill Shorter, Alabama's first Civil War governor, rose to political prominence during the 1850s, when Shorter emerged as a fierce defender of slavery and advocate of economic development and diversification in support of southern nationalism. In the 1890s, Reuben F. Kolb, nephew of Governor Shorter and grandson of Reuben C. Shorter, patriarch of the Shorter family, rose to political power as an agrarian reformer. Denied the democratic nomination for governor in 1890, Kolb ran again in 1892 and as a Populist candidate in 1894 on a platform to expand the political power of blacks and poor whites.

This site is threatened by vandals, who have twice damaged the historic cemetery. Additionally, there is an urgent need to repair tombstones, statuary, brick walls, and wrought iron fencing.



Kelly - Stone - Hill House, Carrollton, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

Cricket Theatre

Collinsville, DeKalb County, 1946



Cricket Theatre, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

"It's a Wonderful Life," "The Big Sleep," and "The Best Years of Our Life" were among the top movies of 1946, the same year the Cricket Theatre opened in Collinsville. It was also the year credited by film historians as the high-water mark for film going, as more than 80 million people attended the movies every week - almost sixty percent of the total population.

The \$60,000, 800-seat theatre was built just as television was emerging in the decade following World War II. Boasting "the largest chairs, modern rest rooms, and year-round air conditioning, the building is typical of the streamlined designs of the late-movie palace era.

Like most small-town movie houses, the Cricket eventually succumbed to the competition from television and closed its doors in October 1964. The theatre later reopened for a time, but has mostly been dark in recent decades.

A portion of the roof recently collapsed, daunting the efforts of the Collinsville Historical Association who recently purchased the property and are trying to raise \$90,000 for the roof repairs alone. Only time will tell if the old Cricket marquee will once again blaze with lights and bring back some of its former excitement to Collinsville's main street.

Coosa Co. Farmer's and Civic Association

Rockford, Coosa County, c. 1940

Built in 1940, the Coosa County Farmer's and Civic Association is the only building in Alabama built specifically to house the Black County Extension Agent and the Black Home Demonstration Agent.

The Coosa County Farmer's and Civic Association Building was also the center of community, civic, and social gatherings for African Americans in Rockford prior to integration. Used by various organizations over the past forty years, this building has been an important cultural landmark in the Rockford community.

This building is currently threatened by poor deterioration and lack of an effective plan for its rehabilitation and future use.

The Federal Road

Multiple Counties, 1806



Scene along The Federal Road, courtesy Pam Smith at Alabama Tourism Department

The Federal Road became the transportation route for hundreds of thousands of settlers who poured into the newly organized Mississippi and Louisiana territories. With its boundaries greatly expanded by lands acquired from Britain and France, the United States government moved quickly to create a viable transportation network that could connect together the vast lands of the United States. Believing a road between Washington, D.C., and New Orleans to be an 'indispensable necessity,' President Thomas Jefferson in 1805 secured from the Creek Nation transportation rights to a 'horse path' that ran through the southern portion of the Mississippi territory, from the Ocmulgee River in Georgia to Mim's Ferry on the Alabama then up to St. Stephens, Alabama. In 1807, the road was extended from St. Stephens to the territorial capital at Natchez.

Significant historic elements of the road, often along with their associated settings, survive in varying states of preservation. These resources are threatened by a general lack of public awareness and appreciation. This conspires with inadequate documentation to prevent them from being adequately recognized, protected, or included in community and infrastructure planning efforts.



Coosa Co. Farmer's & Civic Assoc., Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation photo

PRESERVATION WATCH

Endangered Properties Trust Extends Cedarwood Option

Time is running short for Cedarwood, one of only a handful of surviving examples of early statehood-period plantation houses in Alabama. The Endangered Properties Trust has negotiated a six-month extension on its option to purchase the house and to relocate it to another site.

"We saw an upturn in interest in the property early in the year as time on our original option was running short. We're hoping that someone will come forward who is interested in preserving this exceptionally significant early house," said Alabama Trust Executive Director David B. Schneider.

According to Robert Gamble, Senior Architectural Historian for the Alabama Historical Commission, "Cedarwood is one of only seven known rural dwellings representing the

earliest appearance of frame houses in Alabama."

Cedarwood was built circa 1818 for New Englander Joseph Blodgett Stickney and his North Carolina-born wife. The house requires total rehabilitation, although it has been maintained since the time it was moved in the 1970s. The house retains its original heart pine flooring as well as very good woodwork including Federal period mantelpieces, doors, trim, chair rails, etc. One of the two large front rooms also contains an early "box" stair. Land is available nearby offering full utilities.

The Endangered Properties Trust was established as a tool to save endangered historic landmarks, either by enabling the transfer of such properties to buyers who will preserve



them or by short-term loans to help save properties in immediate danger. Administered by the Alabama Trust, the fund is under the direction of a board of trustees representing the Trust and Alabama Historical Commission.

For more information, contact David Schneider at 256-310-6320 or dbschneider@bellsouth.net.

ON THE SCREEN

Documentary Explores Sloss Furnace's Birmingham Roots

Alabama Public Television's newest documentary, "Sloss: Industry to Art," has roots deep in Birmingham's history. The film, which explores the transition of Sloss Furnaces from its former industrial function to its current role in the modern Cast Iron Art movement, is scheduled to be shown at a free pre-broadcast public premiere at **Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark** on July 23 with a statewide air date shortly afterward.

The film, says APT executive producer Chris Holmes, provides a look at the historic importance of Sloss Furnaces as a working furnace that gave rise to the city of Birmingham; the successful grassroots effort to preserve Sloss from destruction; and its current role as a national historic landmark functioning as an art education facility. It features contemporary footage shot at Sloss with interviews with former Sloss workers, recognized industrial historian, Dr. Jack Bergstresser, cast iron artists and students as well as individuals involved in the preservation of the site.



In addition to the documentary, related educational resources being developed by APT will include nine online learning modules for classroom use through its **APTPLUS™** service. These resources relate to Alabama history, art, chemistry, geology and mathematics, among other subjects. APT is also producing a series of three music videos with a modern take on songs created by steelworkers during the American steel heyday. Available at no cost to teachers, caregivers and

K-12 students statewide, **APTPLUS** is accessed through www.aptpplus.org.

"Sloss: Industry to Art" is made possible through the generous contributions of the Alabama State Council on the Arts; Alabama Power, a Southern Company; and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

To view a trailer for "Sloss: Industry to Art," and for more information about the film, visit <http://www.aptv.org/sloss>.

PRESERVATION: PLACES IN PERIL

Saved

The W.P.A. Hangar (1937) at Gragg-Wade Field Airport in Clanton, Chilton County, was listed in Places in Peril in 2007. At the time, years of deferred maintenance had taken their toll, and in recent years it looked like the only possible outcome would be that the building would eventually collapse or be torn down. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, the Gragg Field Historic District includes four contributing resources: the W.P.A. Hangar, a hangar that was relocated from Tuskegee Army Airfield in 1948, a beacon light tower (1940) and its associated generator building. The Chilton County Airport

Authority recognized the historical significance of the properties and sponsored the National Register nomination in 2003. Their laudable efforts to secure funding for the restoration of the W.P.A. Hangar were unsuccessful, however, and the building continued to deteriorate. Just when things looked the bleakest, four local pilots, Craig Cleckler, Mark Underwood, Andy Roberson, and Alan Dykes approached the Authority about renting the hangar. A deal was made and they are now completing the restoration of the building. Billy Singleton of the Chilton Airport Authority has been thrilled with the positive community response.



W.P.A. Hangar, Gragg-Wade Field, Clanton, Chilton County; Note that the hangar doors are yet to be installed.

Endangered

Listed in Places in Peril in 2009 as part of the "Gateway to Anniston," the Anniston City Land Company Building dates from the earliest period of the city's history and is one of its most significant historic landmarks. The building's elaborate Victorian design with Richardsonian Romanesque influences was intended by the city's founders to be a tangible exhibition of their progressive vision of Anniston as the "Model City of the New South." Despite alterations that have occurred over time, notably the removal of a former tower, a former porte cochere along Moore Avenue, and

elements of its cornice, the Anniston City Land Company continues to reflect its overall historic character and remains as one of the most prominent late-nineteenth buildings in Anniston. A deteriorated skylight has resulted in considerable water damage to the interior of the building. Despite a recent analysis from a structural engineer that found the building to be an excellent candidate for rehabilitation, a city council member is calling for the demolition of what he terms an "eyesore." Local preservationists, including the Spirit of Anniston Main Street Program, are working to identify appropriate alternatives.



Architect's Rendering, Anniston City Land Company, Chisholm & Green, 1889

SAVE HISTORIC PLACES

Has your membership in the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation lapsed? Have you ever supported the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation financially?

In difficult economic times, we must seize the opportunity to promote historic places as assets for economic development and environmental sustainability. This message is resonating with many communities, but others are using the economy as an excuse to allow historic places to deteriorate or to be demolished. Time is of the essence if we are to get our message across before it's too late for many irreplaceable historic places.

If you think historic places make life better, we urge you to make a contribution using the form in this newsletter. We can't save these places without you!

PLACE IN PERIL Demolition by Neglect



- ▶ In observance of National Historic Preservation Month, and **Bo Grisham's 50th Birthday**,
- ▶ the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation announce Alabama's most endangered place for 2010.

Happy Birthday, Bo!

KUDOS

Birmingham's Fire Station #22 saved from demolition?

A proposal to demolish the historic Fire Station #22 on Clairmont Avenue in Birmingham to accommodate a new Walgreens drug store has resulted in a sizable community outcry in favor of the landmark. Thanks to an agreement between the national retailer and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in which Walgreens agreed to avoid National Register-listed properties, the project's developer is now pledging to ensure the rehabilitation of the fire station or to abandon the project.

The issue sparked a fierce response on Facebook, the online social networking site, with two pages titled "Tell Walgreens to Find Another Corner" and "I Believe in Birmingham" generating more than 1,750 friends each in a very short time. The latter group intends to incorporate as a nonprofit advocacy group "dedicated to preserving the character of Birmingham while exploring opportunities to improve and add to it. Change happens when people believe that it can."

"The Trust is very excited about the possibilities for a group like 'I Believe in Birmingham' and applaud them for their efforts to date. We look forward to partnering with them in the future," said Alabama Trust Executive



Birmingham's Fire Station #22 on Clairmont Avenue recently faced the danger of demolition preservationists banded together to ensure the building's future as an historic landmark.

Director David B. Schneider.

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation provided "I Believe in Birmingham" with technical assistance and was instrumental in getting the National Trust to intervene through its Charleston and Washington offices. Both organizations (The Alabama and National Trusts) have submitted letters to Birmingham's Mayor, the Honorable William A. Bell, Sr., and City Council

urging them to insure the preservation of the city-owned Fire Station #22.

"There is still a long road ahead of us in the goal of preserving Fire Station #22 and seeing it rehabilitated for an appropriate new use," Schneider stated, "but this issue has been a good example of how we, as a statewide organization, can be supportive of a dedicated local initiative."

keep us posted

The Alabama Trust wants to hear about your local issues and successes. Please send information to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation
UWA Station 45
Livingston, AL 35470
or alabamatrust@uwa.edu.



The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation has launched three separate pages on Facebook. The first is a general page for the Trust. The second is dedicated to the Places in Peril. And the third is for our new affinity group, the Alabama Old House Lovers.

The pages provide an online community gathering place where we can share ideas and information about issues relating to historic preservation in Alabama. We're also hoping they'll be fun! So, if you are a Facebook fan, check us out!

Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation
Alabama Places in Peril
Alabama Old House Lovers

ALABAMA TRUST *for* HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Station 45 • Livingston, AL 35470

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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
Station 45 • Livingston, AL 35470

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.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

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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:

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Exp. date _____ Signature (as it appears on card) _____

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- _____ Preservation Partners \$45 - \$99 (Family)
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