

## FREEDOM RIDES MUSEUM RECEIVES NATIONAL PRESERVATION AWARD



Partner organization members with award in the **Freedom Rides Museum**. L-R: Historian **J. Mills Thornton**, Judge **Harold Albritton**, GSA Regional Administrator **Shyam Reddy**, National Trust Trustee **Sheffield Hale**, AHC Director **Frank W. White**, Judge **Myron Thompson**, Black Heritage Council member **Sangernetta Bush** and Montgomery Mayor **Todd Strange**.

Freedom Rides Museum partners gathered in Montgomery December 6 to accept a top honor from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Presenting the award, Trustee Sheffield Hale said it was one of the most prestigious that the Trust bestows.

The Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation Award recognized the decades-long effort by four groups to preserve the Greyhound Bus Station. The station was the site of a mob attack on students aiming to end segregated bus travel in the Deep South states. The station now houses the AHC's Freedom Rides Museum.

The celebration took place in the adjacent historic federal courthouse where Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. issued landmark civil rights decisions. The award narrative stressed the physical and historical connections between the two buildings. A tour of the Freedom Rides Museum followed.

Accepting the award were: Judge Myron Thompson, U.S. Courts, Middle District of Alabama; Regional Administrator Shyam Reddy, General Services Administration; Executive Director Frank W.

White, Alabama Historical Commission; Joe Caver, Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station Advisory Committee. Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange spoke of the need to tell the Freedom Rides story and the city's support for the museum.

An earlier presentation took place at the National Preservation Conference in Spokane, Washington. Frank White accepted the award in Spokane for the AHC. Loretta Wimberly and Frazine Taylor accepted on behalf of the Bus Station Advisory Committee.

See the award video at [www.freedomridemuseum.org](http://www.freedomridemuseum.org)

### ALDOT Early Partner in Bus Station Restoration

A crucial step for the Freedom Rides Museum was a 1996 Alabama Department of Transportation Grant. The \$260,000 Transportation Enhancement grant funded exterior restoration and award-winning interpretive panels. It included reproducing and installing the iconic Greyhound signs.

Federal Highway Administrator Rodney Slater, Governor Fob James and ALDOT Director Jimmy Butts award-

ed the grant at a 1996 press conference. Work began in 1999 under ALDOT Director G. M. Roberts. It continued under directors Paul Bowlin and Joe McInnes.



Workers install reproduction Greyhound sign in 2008. (Photo credit Robert Daniel)

## BECOMING ALABAMA



Logo features Red Stick Creek leader Chief Menawa, Confederate General Joe Wheeler, and civil rights activist Rosa Parks.

The Creek War.  
The Civil War.  
The Civil Rights Movement.

It is significant that these three pivotal moments in our nation's history happened in Alabama. As we come upon the anniversaries of

the bicentennial of the Creek Indian War and the War of 1812, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, and ongoing celebrations of civil rights events, a rare opportunity emerges to celebrate the collective stories of Alabama's wondrous historic places.

A statewide partnership, *Becoming Alabama*, emerged, comprised of more than 40 organizations including the Departments of Archives and History, Tourism, and the Historical Commission, and a wide variety of other groups invested in commemorating these events. "This is a unique opportunity to focus on three interconnected struggles that shaped who we are today," stated Ed Bridges. *Alabama Heritage* has partnered, with articles and a calendar of events in current issues.

Nearly all historic site museums owned by the state and managed by the Commission interpret and explore these three *Becoming Alabama* themes; however two sites have a direct association with the Creek War, Fort Mims and Forts Toulouse/Jackson.

The Creek and Indian War began at Fort Mims August 30, 1813, with the massacre of almost all of the white settlers, militia, and friendly Lower Creek Indians by the Upper Creeks, known as the "Red Sticks."

Creek tribes had been warring with each other for some time but the massacre at Fort Mims created great fear in the southern frontier and essentially began the war between the United States and the Red Stick Indians. After Andrew Jackson's state militias and Indian allies defeated the Red Sticks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814, "The Treaty of Fort Jackson" was signed ending the war. The Treaty ceded 3 million acres of Creek lands in Alabama and Georgia to the U S government. For upcoming events at these sites, see page two.

## AHC 2013 FEDERAL WORK PLAN

Federal work plan activities establish many of Alabama's historic preservation programs. The entire work plan is available on our website and by request to Mary Shell at 334.230.2691 or [mary.shell@preserveala.org](mailto:mary.shell@preserveala.org).

Federal program highlights scheduled for the current year include:

### SURVEY AND REGISTER ACTIVITIES

Assist the public and government agencies to identify, document, and officially recognize Alabama's historic places. Host two meetings—May 18 and September 26—where the state board reviews National Register of Historic Places nominations. Manage the popular cemetery survey and register program. Continue holding review meetings and listing historic places to the Alabama Register program. Respond to public concerns and provide consultation on archaeological resources. Digitize National Register and survey information with help from our partners and internships.

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

The AHC updates the State Historic Preservation Plan in 2013. The plan sets goals and objectives, guiding the Commission's work over the next five years. The review process includes staff, the general public, state and federal agencies, and other preservation partners. Opportunities to participate and provide comment will be advertised on our website.

### FEDERAL RESTORATION TAX CREDITS

Promote the federal preservation tax incentive with public presentations. Respond to requests for information and make site visits when possible. Staff works with applicants as they submit their project to the National Park Service for review and approval.

### LOCAL PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS AND CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Maintain and strengthen existing Certified Local Government programs in fiscal year 2013. Educate commissions by holding three workshops in Decatur, Abbeville, and Foley. Include nationally recognized speakers at annual training meetings. Promote the program to communities committed to the process.

### STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Commission actively participates in the Alabama Communities of Excellence, Your Town Alabama, Black Belt Heritage Area Initiative, and scenic byways council. Working with these groups allows consideration of historic resources in community and regional planning projects.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Provide professional historical, archaeological, and architectural review of federally funded permits and projects. Attend public meetings, perform site visits, and consult with interested parties as part of the environmental review and mitigation process.

### MAIN STREET

Continue the development of Alabama's Main Street Coordination Program by providing support and information to existing and potential communities. Provide "Four Point" training at quarterly manager meetings, with portions of at least two meetings open to the public.

### EASEMENTS

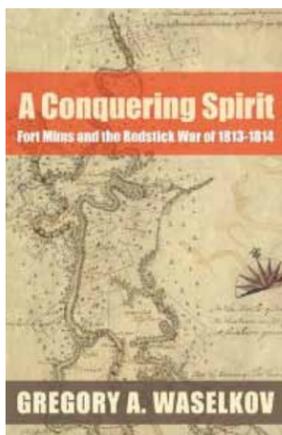
Historic preservation easements provide protection to historic landmarks. The Commission holds easements for properties receiving federal grants. Staff will continue to assist property owners, develop preservation easements, and review improvement plans to these properties.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

Continue revising and maintaining website, produce and distribute Preservation Report newsletter and other publications, initiate a quarterly email publication for the Black Heritage Council. Develop and promote preservation awareness and specialized media through press releases, publications, presentations, events, heritage area development, and historic markers. Assist preservation partners to develop the annual 2014 statewide preservation conference. Support all Black Heritage Council Forums, meetings and workshops.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.*

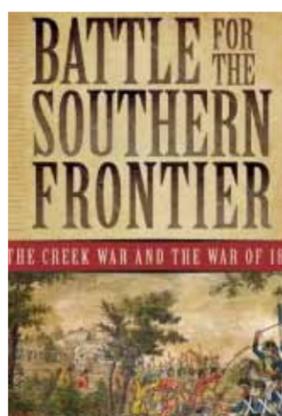
## BOOKS ON THE CREEK WAR



### ***A Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813-1814***

Dr. Gregory A. Waselkov  
University of Alabama Press

Gregory Waselkov tells compellingly the story of the August 30, 1813, Fort Mims Massacre—a fierce battle at the fortified plantation home of Samuel Mims in the Tensaw District of the Mississippi Territory. With valuable maps, tables, and artifact illustrations, Waselkov looks closely at the battle to cut through the legends and misinformation that have grown around the event almost from the moment the last flames died at the smoldering ruins.



### ***Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and the War of 1812***

Mike Bunn and Clay Williams  
The History Press

This comprehensive book is the first to chronicle both wars and document the sites on which they were fought. It sheds light on how the wars led to the forced removal of Native Americans from the region, secured the Gulf South against European powers, facilitated increased migration into the area, furthered the development of slave-based agriculture, and launched the career of Andrew Jackson.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **January 19-20**

French Colonial Garrison  
FORT TOULOUSE-JACKSON

Re-enactors portray the daily lives of 1750s French soldiers and Creek Indian lifeways. Information: 334-567-3002 or [toulousl@bellsouth.net](mailto:toulousl@bellsouth.net).

### **February 2-3**

War of 1812 Militia Camp  
FORT TOULOUSE-JACKSON

Encampment of Indians and soldiers from the Creek War and War of 1812 period. Tennessee militia will exhibit camp life and period weaponry. Information: 334-567-3002 or [toulousl@bellsouth.net](mailto:toulousl@bellsouth.net).

### **March 16-17**

Battle in Tensaw, War of 1812  
FORT MIMS

In the swamps of the Tensaw Delta, local militia and settlers battle with the Redstick Creek Indians. Observe a Univ of South Alabama archaeological dig and hear speakers on Fort Montgomery and the Creek Indian wars. Information 251.937.5710 or [www.fortmims.org](http://www.fortmims.org).

# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

## Protect, Preserve and Interpret Alabama's Historic Places In FY 2012, the Alabama Historical Commission:

Welcomed **350,695** visitors to our historic sites to learn and experience Alabama history at the places it was made.



The National Trust for Historic Preservation gave a top honor to the Commission's **Freedom Rides Museum**. The award cited the Commission and its partners for preserving Montgomery's Greyhound Bus Station and interpreting the 1961 Freedom Rides in it.

Attracted **111,658** visitors to our website for information on protecting, preserving, interpreting and visiting Alabama's historic places.

Provided **learning opportunities for 43,206 people** at lectures, conferences, workshops, public presentations, hearings, or special historic site programs.

**Responded to 16,527 requests for information** and assistance in understanding, protecting, and interpreting Alabama's historic and prehistoric treasures.

**Acquired \$658,647 in private and public funds** to develop and interpret AHC historic sites.



The \$1.6 million **Wheeler House** restoration delighted Wheeler descendant Gorden LeGrand, Jr. (l) and Governor Bentley (r). Site manger **Melissa Beasley** (c r) guided a pre-opening tour. Black Heritage Council member **Louretta Wimberly** is center left. Pond Spring on opening day (above).

**Assisted owners** of four historic buildings to **invest \$4.39 million in rehabilitations** that qualified for the federal rehabilitation tax credit.



Re-enactor enralls thousands of children as a mid-1700s Creek woman with her baby on an authentic cradleboard during Frontier Days. This five-day annual event at **Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson** captured the imagination of nearly 14,000 people.

**Received a top National Trust for Historic Preservation Award** for the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station/Freedom Rides Museum.

**Reopened the newly-restored General Joe Wheeler Home at Pond Spring** and returned approximately 10,000 newly cleaned and conserved artifacts to the house.

Educated more than 400 people from 22 states at an AHC supported **National Rosenwald Schools Conference** in Tuskegee.

Garnered **370 media stories** on Commission programs, events, historic sites, and staff.

**Responded to 122 requests about endangered properties** and monitored 345 properties on the Preservation Watch List.

**Added 2,048 new historic buildings, sites, and structures to the Alabama Inventory** and **digitized 14,225 existing records**.

**Listed nine nominations**, including 4,025 properties, in the **National Register of Historic Places**, a nationwide listing of America's places worth preserving.

**Listed 30 nominations** with 244 related resources in the **Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage**.

**Listed 139 cemeteries** in the **Alabama Historic Cemetery Register**.

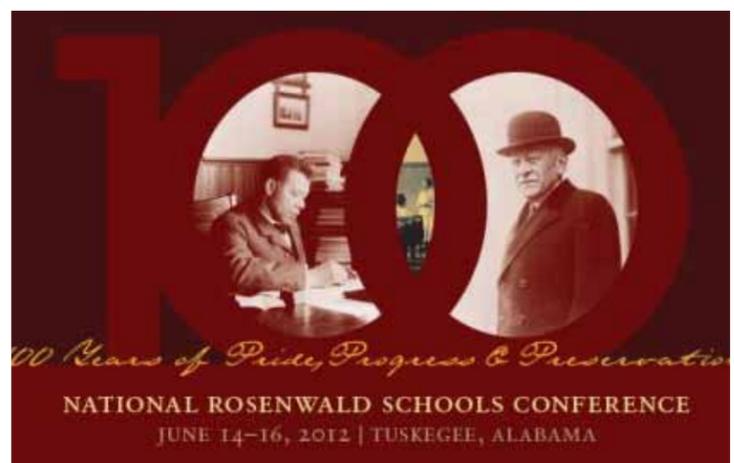
Provided guidance and **assistance to 29 cities with historic preservation ordinances** protecting over 13,942 historic places.

**Reviewed 2,025 federal actions** for impacts on historic resources, clearing 70% on first review.

**Engaged 1,223 volunteers** in **13,338 hours** assisting at AHC historic sites.

**Assisted private land owners to protect 89 historic properties** with easements.

**Informed approximately 5,800 people** about AHC activities and preservation issues with 37,142 copies of Preservation Report.



A centennial celebration in Tuskegee honored the Booker T Washington and Julius Rosenwald partnership to build quality schools for African American children. Initiated by AHC staff, the conference showed ways to protect, use and honor these historic schools.

## FROM THE COMMISSION

ALABAMA TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

# Alabama's Places In Peril

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Is there an irreplaceable historic building in your area that is highly threatened by demolition or neglect? This is your opportunity to help save it!

Since 1994, the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation have joined forces to sponsor Places in Peril, a program that highlights significant endangered properties. As awareness yields commitment and commitment yields action, these endangered properties can be saved and returned as treasured Alabama landmarks.

Places in Peril nominations are online at [www.preserveala.org/2013PIP.pdf](http://www.preserveala.org/2013PIP.pdf) or by request to Melanie Betz at 334.230.2645 or [melanie.betz@preserveala.org](mailto:melanie.betz@preserveala.org). Submit nominations by March 1, 2013, to be considered for this designation.

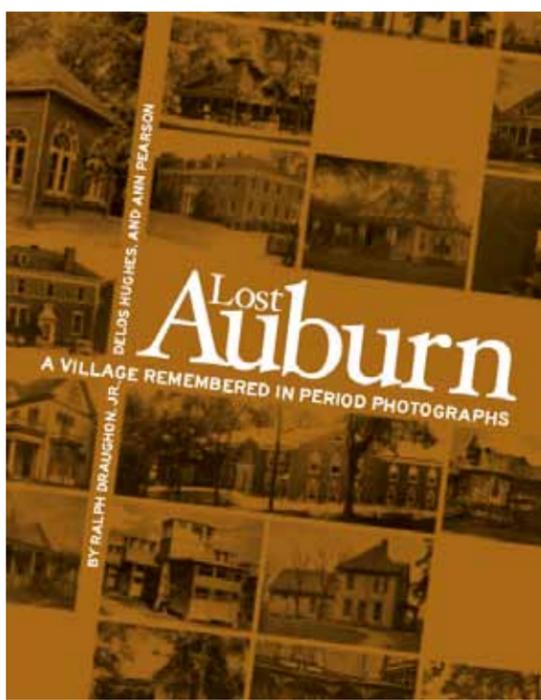
### AHC WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONER



**Ed Garrison**  
Historic Chattahoochee  
Commission

Ed Garrison was born in Eufaula, Alabama, in 1952. He graduated from Eufaula High School and the University of Alabama. Ed now resides in Clay County, Georgia, with wife Paige on Lake Eufaula. After twenty years in the banking industry, he now works with the family corporation—Garrison Brothers Lumber Company.

### NEW BOOK BY AHC COMMISSIONER



**Lost Auburn: A Village Remembered in Period Photographs**

Ralph Draughon  
New South Books

*Lost Auburn* offers a dynamic record of the buildings that once stood in Auburn, Alabama. More than two hundred photographs of lost buildings give three historians the opportunity to relate stories of those who once worshipped, learned, and lived in Auburn. *Lost Auburn* is more than just a document about the lost architectural fabric of a charming village. It is both a volume of insightful commentary and an opportunity to reflect on the role of community in the life of a Southern town.

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*Preserve, Protect, and Interpret Alabama's Historic Places*