

PRESERVATION

Alabama Historical Commission
REPORT

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AHC CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN MIDDLE BAY LIGHTHOUSE

The Alabama Historical Commission is completing work on a \$274,100 project to repair Middle Bay Lighthouse. The 1885 structure is a Mobile Bay icon.

According to AHC Executive Director Frank White, "Our top priority was to stabilize the metal support structure. Thanks to generous donors, we have been able to include painting the exterior and replacing the non-original windows in this phase of work."

The AHC is replacing the above water tie rods with stainless steel and coating the other above water metal components. New sacrificial anodes will protect the below water metal

parts from the water's corrosive effects.

Donations have come from Oakleigh Custom Woodworks, LLC (one window); A&E Anti-Corrosion Systems, LLC (epoxy coating); and International Paint, LLC (coatings for the piles and steel beams). Mobile's STOA Architects is working with Commercial Diving Services, Inc., a Mobile firm and the project's lead contractor.

"We hope to complete this phase early this spring," White said. "Our next phase will concentrate on repairing the handrails and the interior spaces," he added.

The AHC has owned the lighthouse since 1977.



Above: Alabama workers from STOA Architects, Commercial Diving Services, Inc., and International Paint, LLC inspect the structural support beams of the lighthouse's floor.

Left: Workers assess the condition of the exterior siding and paint.

All three companies are based in Mobile.

MIDDLE BAY LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT ECONOMIC IMPACT

. 7 jobs provided

. \$220,924 in household income added

source: based on historic rehabilitation data by Don Rypkema, PlaceEconomics

NATIONAL TRUST HONORS MOTON FIELD WITH AWARD

In October of last year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded Moton Field in Tuskegee the National Trust/Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Award for Federal Partnerships. The ACHP advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field is where African-American pilots trained during World War II. The pilots' flying record was exemplary, but some of their biggest challenges were at home. Before 1940, the military did not allow African Americans to be pilots. The airmen were among the first to break the color barrier.

Congress passed the legislation for the site in 1998. The next year, the National Park Service (NPS) acquired the site's land from the City of Tuskegee.

The National Trust award recognizes the years of work that have been done to preserve the site. The NPS restored eight decaying buildings and fully reconstructed another. The NPS also conceptually interpreted four missing buildings. In an effort to preserve the historic integrity of the site, all postwar additions were removed and the original landscape is being reestablished.

It is important to recognize that the NPS did not act alone on this project. Tuskegee University, the City of Tuskegee, and Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. worked with the NPS for years to give the site new life. Brown Chambless, a Montgomery firm, was the preservation architect for the project.

The Visitor Center is open daily from 9:00-4:30.

For more information:
www.nps.gov/tuai



Hanger and Tower #2

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 19-21
FREEDOM RIDERS
50th ANNIVERSARY

www.montgomerybusstation.org

ALABAMA REGISTER UPDATE

Listed December 16, 2010

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Birmingham

This church is an excellent example of a c. 1929 Romanesque style building constructed of brick and limestone that features antique stained glass work. The church's exterior and interior are modeled after the Basilica of Saint Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy.

Brierfield Coal & Iron Co. Superintendent's House Bibb County

Now located within the Brierfield Historic Ironworks Park, the Superintendent's House (c. 1882) was first located on land owned by the Bibb County Iron Company. The first occupant may have been Thomas J. Peter, part owner of the Bibb County Iron Company.

Calvert United Methodist Church & Cemetery Washington County

Calvert United Methodist Church is an excellent example of a late 19th century church. Although the sanctuary has been altered since its original construction in 1889, the original steeple and bell tower stand today as evidence of the church's early history.

Carter Hospital, Conecuh County

Built as a private residence in the late 1800s by Mr. J.D. Moorer, the home was sold to Charles and Daisy Carter in 1913. Their son, Dr. William R. Carter, bought it in 1935 and opened a state of the art hospital equipped with back-up power and an X-ray machine.

Dexter & Main Street Historic District, Webb

Established in 1898, the town of Webb was formed on the farm of Benjamin Franklin Webb. Primary building types consist of standard commercial storefronts, vernacular Victorian cottages, bungalows, massed plan cottages and ranch houses.

Garner Memorial C.M.E. Church, Decatur

Set in the Old Northwest district of Decatur, this African-American church was built in 1945. The Old Northwest neighborhood has lost much of its physical history, but there is an effort to preserve existing buildings as well as revitalize the entire neighborhood.

Hoyt Warsham Alabama City Library, Gadsden

A library now uses the c. 1920 building that was originally home to the City Hall of Alabama City, the Post Office, and the Water Board. The library was established in 1938 with assistance from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the community.

Lesters Chapel United Methodist Church Shelby County

Built c. 1950, Lesters Chapel is the third church building for the congregation and the second at this site. Pine board floors and some of the pews from an earlier church were used in the construction. Additionally, Confederate soldiers were organized at the site.



William Sherman Rivers House, Anniston



Southeast Air Forces Training Center (Pryor Field), Limestone County

Nan Grey Davis House, Theodore

Built c. 1910-1915, the Nan Grey Davis House may be a kit house sold by Sears or Montgomery Ward in the early 20th century. It is a typical four square with simple Craftsman details. An annual pecan festival takes place on the property.

Pickensville Rosenwald School, Pickens County

Built c. 1925, this school may be the last remaining of six schools in Pickens County built with help from the Rosenwald School building fund. The building retains original walls and ceilings in the two rear classrooms, along with original chalkboards, wooden floors, wooden doors and a stage.

Queenstown, Jefferson County

Noted for its recreational and architectural significance, Queenstown represents an early 20th century vacation resort. Queenstown Lake and Lodge are reminders of this early history. Historic structures include a barn, the main lodge, dam, railroad trestle, stone cabin and a 1960s era lake house.

Shanks House, St. Clair County

This house is a good example of an early 20th century bungalow. The exterior features original heart cedar clapboard siding, exposed rafters, and a porch constructed of local stone. The property also has a hand dug well, which was used by many in the community.

Southeast Air Forces Training Center (Pryor Field) Limestone County

Constructed in 1941, the center consists of two aircraft hangars and a beacon tower. These structures are the remaining artifacts of one of only a few World War II Army Air Forces Training Centers that have remained in continued use as airplane hangars since 1941.

Washington Baptist Church & Cemetery Washington County

Washington Baptist Church is a typical one-room church common in the rural south. Similar churches have disappeared because of declining community population. Nestled deep in the woods of the Hawthorn community, the present building was completed c. 1916.

Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Church, Decatur

Located in Decatur's Old Northwest district, this church was built in 1907 and altered in the 1920s. Wayman Chapel is one of several historic churches that serve as a religious, social, and community center for African-American residents.

William Sherman Rivers House, Anniston

This late Victorian era residence was constructed c. 1905 for William Sherman Rivers, a prominent African-American businessman. This is one of a few houses in Anniston associated with African-American professionals of the early 20th century.

For more information on the program, visit:
www.preserveala.org/alabamaregister.aspx

FY 2010 TAX CREDIT PROJECTS

A.B. Loveman House

2956 Rhodes Circle
Birmingham (1905)
Current Use: office - 12,000 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$600,000

First National Bank Building

111 East Main Street
Dothan (1907)
Current Use: office - 21,000 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$1,000,000

The Public Inn

205 Williams Ave. SE
Huntsville (1818, 1926)
Current Use: residential - 3,700 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$184,504

H.P. Lucas Grocery Store - Posey Furniture

122 East Tennessee Street
Florence (ca. 1890)
Current Use: office/residential - 7,260 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$819,817

351 George Street

351-353 George Street
Mobile (1876, 1923)
Current Use: restaurant - 4,286 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$348,950

Spear-Barter House

163 St. Emanuel Street
Mobile (1857)
Current Use: commercial - 2,166 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$1,700,000

Edwards House

405 South 9th Street
Opelika (ca. 1865)
Current Use: retail/museum - 2,900 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$260,000



credit: Chloe Mercer Edwards House

Tax Credit given to Edwards House

Known as the Gingerbread House by locals, the Edwards House in Opelika is one of the seven tax credit projects certified in FY 2010. Owners Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hendricks have worked for years to restore the house and will soon open an antique clock repair store and museum.

John Hendricks says, "The rehabilitation of the Gingerbread House was a very educational experience, presenting many challenges but offering many rewards."

The 1865 house reflects the Carpenter Gothic style with its intricate work details on the porch and roof eaves.

The credit equals 20% of qualified construction expenses, and must be certified by the NPS. There is no cap on the credit.

BY THE NUMBERS: THE FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

- **\$85 billion** in historic rehabilitation projects
- **1.8 million new jobs** generated at a cost of **\$10,000 per job**
- **75% of economic impact** is at local and state level

source: Rutgers University - Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, March 2010.
Data includes all tax credit projects in the U.S. since credit's inception in 1976.

Program information: www.preserveala.org/taxcredits.aspx
Rutgers report: www.preservationnation.org/issues/community-revitalization/jobs

The National Register and local historic district designation: The facts everyone should know

Quite often people are confused about how to protect historic buildings or districts. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is sometimes thought of as a way to provide protection for historic properties. The National Register program does not provide any protection for single properties or districts.

However, federal law does require federal agencies to review the impact their actions will have on properties listed on or eligible for the NRHP. It does not require agencies to change their plans, but the process can result in modifications that lessen or avoid damage to historic places. A National Register listing does make an income-producing property eligible for the 20% rehabilitation tax credit.

One of the best ways to protect a NRHP property or district is through *local historic district designation*.

In Alabama, 38 cities designate districts through a local ordinance. The ordinance regulates what changes to district properties must be reviewed by the city's historic preservation commission. The commission approves or denies modifications to district properties based on the specific language in the ordinance. The commission also has the power to prevent demolition of designated properties.

Of the 38 cities that designate local districts, 28 are part of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. For more information about the CLG program go to: preserveala.org/certlocalgovts.aspx.

NATIONAL REGISTER

- Does not restrict the rights of private property owners in the use, development, or sale of private historic property
- Does not provide protection from private development or demolition
- Eligibility or listing initiates the Section 106 review process whereby federal agencies must consider the effects of federally funded, licensed or sponsored projects on historic properties
- Nominations must be approved by the AHC's NRHP Review Board before being sent to the National Park Service for official listing
- Listings can be for single properties, historic districts, structures (bridges), sites, or objects
- Income-producing properties are eligible for the 20% federal rehabilitation tax credit (can be individually listed or part of a NRHP district)
- Listing is purely honorary and does not come with any monetary award

LOCAL DESIGNATION

- Restricts the rights of private property owners in how they significantly alter their property
- Can provide protection from certain changes, development, or demolition
- Allows the AHC to have an advisory role through its preservation planner even though the AHC and the NPS do not have to approve local district ordinances
- Defines a geographical area containing districts and/or single properties for regulation. The district size and any future boundary increases are decided by the historic preservation commission, with city council approval
- Creates districts that sometimes mirror NRHP district boundaries, but this is not required by state code
- Does not require properties to be listed on the NRHP
- Establishes historic district ordinances that can vary significantly from city to city
- Is enabled by state code, which requires that historic preservation commissions have at least 7 members and that no more than 20% shall be public officials

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STATEWIDE REPORT

News

Hotel Talisi may open this summer

In November 2009, a massive fire damaged most of the historic Hotel Talisi in Tallassee. Since then lifelong Tallassee resident Wylie Troupe and the other owners have been restoring the hotel. They have made progress and are hoping to open a restaurant in the hotel by June. The 68-room hotel has been a downtown Tallassee icon since 1928. The long-range plan for the hotel is to have 20 suites and eight rooms on the second floor.

Red Mountain Park winds through history

A public-private project, Birmingham's Red Mountain Park was established when U.S. Steel sold land for the park at a discounted price. The park covers 1,108 acres, extending approximately 4.5 miles east-to-west along Red Mountain.

The park features 2 historic cemeteries: Oxmoor Furnace and Mt. Olive. Both cemeteries contain the graves of Red Mountain miners and their families. The Redding Hoist House is also an historic feature of the park. Archaeologists have recently discovered the location of the 19th century Ware and Redding mining villages.

www.redmountainpark.org

National magazine features Birmingham architect

The recent issue of *Preservation* features Wallace Rayfield, an early 20th century African-American architect. He designed 400 buildings for clients in 20 states. Perhaps his most famous design is Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

preservationnation.org/magazine/2011/january-february

Events

MARCH 12

Black Heritage Council Quarterly meeting
Antioch Baptist Church, Camden - 10:00 am
www.preserveala.org/blackheritagecouncil.aspx

MARCH 26

Bring Your Own Bike Tour
Old Cahawba - 10:00 am
www.preserveala.org/calendar

APRIL 1-3

46th Eufaula Heritage Association Pilgrimage
Fendall Hall
Tours of homes, gardens, and churches.
www.eufaulapilgrimage.com

APRIL 2

Park Day

Old Cahawba
Pond Spring - The General Joe Wheeler Home
Fort Gaines
Historic Blakeley State Park
www.civilwar.org/aboutus/events/park-day

APRIL 14-16

Alabama Historical Association
Annual Conference - Spanish Fort
www.archives.state.al.us/aha/ahanews.html

PRESERVATION REPORT

Alabama Historical Commission

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ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Preserve, Protect, and Interpret Alabama's Historic Places

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