

PRESERVATION

Alabama Historical Commission

REPORT

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BRYCE HOSPITAL'S FLOOR PLAN MAKES IT A PLACE THAT MATTERS

Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa is an Alabama treasure. Along with its rich and long history, Bryce's main building is nationally significant for its architectural plan, which changed the way mental health facilities were designed.

Characterized by a series of wings stepped back from a central core, this design provided rooms with natural sunlight and privacy. The spaces were clearly earmarked for different uses, and the plan featured many other elements not seen in earlier mental health institutions. This design reflected a major change in the philosophy behind caring for the mentally ill. Many scholars recognize Bryce Hospital as being the best example of this revolutionary plan.

Originally known as the Alabama Insane Hospital, Bryce was designed in 1852 by nationally renowned Philadelphia architect

Samuel Sloan and his partner, John Stewart. The architects designed the hospital to the specifications of Dr. Thomas Kirkbride, the leading 19th century authority in the mental health field and creator of the Kirkbride Linear Plan. Interest among the national

psychiatric community in the Alabama hospital was so great that mental health commissioners from other states asked to view the plans while Sloan was still working on the drawings.

Scores of other hospitals were influenced when Dr.

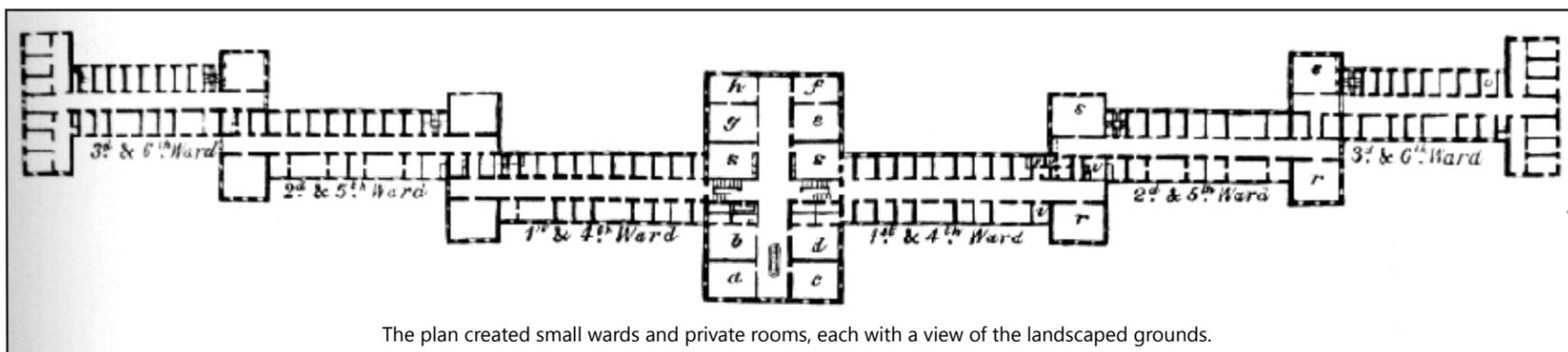
Kirkbride used the architect's plans and elevation to illustrate his influential 1854 book on the construction of hospitals for the insane. During the mid-to-late 19th century, Bryce Hospital became the primary design model used for over one-hundred U.S. and Canadian asylums.

Today, Bryce Hospital is one of only five intact examples in the country. While other linear-plan hospitals still exist, most have either lost their flanking wings or have been altered. "This is why Bryce's Kirkbride Linear Plan must be preserved in its entirety," said Frank White, AHC executive director. With its original plan intact, Bryce is a place of national significance in the history of American mental health care.

"Bryce is an architectural treasure for our state, and we are working to ensure that its unique plan is preserved for years to come," added White.



In the late 19th century, Alabama was a national leader in mental health care. Bryce Hospital's 1852 plan documents the state's commitment to provide its citizens with cutting-edge treatment.



The plan created small wards and private rooms, each with a view of the landscaped grounds.

WHEELER COLLECTION NOW ONLINE

Since August 2009, Pond Spring curator Kara Long has been working with the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library to put much of the Wheeler family collection on the library's web site. A local graphic design firm is scanning all of the items into a digital format for the site.

The Wheeler collection is part of the library's extensive digital archive project that includes oral

histories, photographs, maps, and a large music collection from notable artists such as Etta James, Joan Baez, Delbert McClinton, Santana, and Levon Helm.

The library is completing the final phase of the Wheeler digital project. This last component involves scanning large Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) regional land maps. The TVA produced the pen-and-ink

maps in the 1930s as part of the Wheeler Dam construction project. Annie Wheeler requested these maps so that she could identify her family's property in the region, as the dam was built on the family's land.

Connect to the digital archive:
<http://archive.flpl.org>.

This photograph of General Joe Wheeler (1836-1903) is one of 76 Wheeler family items in the archive.



FY 2009 TAX CREDIT PROJECTS

Young & Vann Supply Co. Building

1725 and 1731 1st Avenue North
Birmingham (Commercial, 1893/1928)
Current Use: Office, 32,032 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$1,966,379

Crawford's Auto Shop

2500 1st Avenue North
Birmingham (Commercial, 1928)
Current Use: Office, 42,000 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$5,800,000

Times Building

228 Holmes Avenue
Huntsville (Commercial, 1926)
Current Use: Office, 42,500 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$2,000,000

Hieronymus House

501 Church Street
Mobile (Dwelling, 1897)
Current Use: Office, 2,400 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$32,525

Greystone Hotel

100 Commerce Street
Montgomery (Hotel, 1927)
Current Use: Hotel 62,436 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$6,450,024

Jones-Moses-Gassenheimer House

670 South Perry Street
Montgomery (Residential, ca. 1858/1910)
Current Use: Office, 10,982 SF
Qualified Expenditures: \$824,266



The Times Building, constructed in 1900, is a downtown landmark in Huntsville.

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

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS GRANT AWARDS FY 2010

Communities participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program are eligible to receive Historic Preservation Fund grants. The AHC annually awards grants for local preservation projects on a competitive basis to local governments certified under the National Park Service program. Monies for the projects come from Alabama's annual appropriations from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

Grants must be matched by the applicant and can be used for surveys of historic resources, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, local preservation planning, preservation education and training, and predevelopment studies.

CLG program information online:
preserveala.org/certlocalgovts.aspx

To learn more, contact Mary Shell
mary.shell@preserveala.org
334.230.2691

Survey and Registration

City of Mobile

\$10,000 – Conduct archaeological exploration of 19th Century home sites in the Africatown community. A professor from the University of William & Mary is working with the city to research and map the community.

\$10,000 – Complete architectural survey of Oakdale and Africatown communities for future listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

City of Opelika

\$7,000 – Complete architectural survey of Pepperell Mill village for future listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The village was built next to Opelika cotton mill.

City of Foley

\$1,600 – Expand boundaries of existing Downtown National Register District to include additional contributing structures.

Historic Preservation Training

City of Talladega

\$2,000 – Provide funds for local preservation commission staff and members to travel to in-state CLG training.

City of Monroeville

\$7,200 – Host a CLG training session in Fall of 2010 using Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) provided by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

City of Foley

\$2,400 - Provide funds for local preservation commission staff and members to travel to in-state CLG training.

Public Awareness and Education

City of Birmingham

\$5,000 – Publish the existing preservation plans for eight locally designated historic districts and distribute to the public.

City of Valley

\$8,027 – Publish booklet on the 30-year history of Valley to educate the community and promote heritage tourism. City is working with Auburn University journalism students to produce the document.

Planning Projects

City of Selma

\$7,500- Support local downtown revitalization efforts including improvements to local protection and marketing programs.



The City of Foley will soon be expanding its Downtown NR District (above), with support from a CLG grant.

HISTORIC CEMETERY LISTINGS

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register is the state's official list of historic cemeteries in Alabama. The AHC considers historic cemeteries particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition. To be considered for the register, cemeteries must be at least 40 years old.

For more information, contact Lee Anne Wofford at 334.230.2659 or lwofford@preserveala.org.

Listed January 19, 2010

BATTLE COMMUNITY OLD CEMETERY

Russell County

The second cemetery listed in Russell County, Battle Community Old Cemetery is a locally significant African American burial ground. Concrete ledger stones mark most burials.

BONHAM CEMETERY

Montgomery County

The oldest grave at Bonham is of U.S. Soldier Royal Thaxter of Portland, Maine who died February 24, 1833. Veterans buried here are from the Civil War and Mexican-American War.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Mobile County

Archbishop Michael Portier purchased several acres to establish a cemetery that would be used exclusively for Catholic burials. Catholic Cemetery covers 150 acres and holds 20,000 graves.

OLD DAVISTOWN CEMETERY

Calhoun County

Cemetery is named for John F. Davis, the founder of Davisville (now Davistown). The area was originally a mining settlement with abundant supplies of coal, iron, and copper.

OLD VALLEY HEAD CEMETERY

Dekalb County

Historically associated with the Valley Head Baptist Church, which was established in 1845. The earliest marked grave is dated 1888. This is the third cemetery in Dekalb County to be listed.

ORANGE BEACH COMMUNITY CEMETERY

Baldwin County

This community cemetery contains 84 graves, and has burials that date from 1886. The Orange Beach Volunteer Fire Department owns and maintains the cemetery.

SAINT LUKE AME CHURCH CEMETERY

Barbour County

Saint Luke AME Church has been the focal point of the community for over 100 years. The oldest marked grave is for Robert Morris, who was born in 1824 and died in 1877.

Listed October 19, 2009

GARRETT CEMETERY

Cherokee County

Located in Centre, this is the first cemetery listed in Cherokee County. Chief Pathkiller, a prominent Cherokee Nation chief who fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, is buried here.

NEW HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Coosa County

This church cemetery is part of the Hissop Community and is the fifth cemetery in Coosa County to be added to the register. The earliest burials are of ex-slaves and date to the late 1800s.

NEW HOPE CEMETERY

Madison County

The oldest grave in New Hope is dated 1833 and is that of Minerva Kennebrugh, the wife of local merchant John Kennebrugh. There are 23 Confederate veterans and 6 mayors in the cemetery.

OLD WHISTLER CEMETERY

Mobile County

Old Whistler is one of the oldest cemeteries in Mobile County, with the earliest burial being I.W. Davidson who died in 1828. The cemetery expanded in 1851 when Jacob Magee donated land.

WHITT CEMETERY

Dallas County

Associated with the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, Whitt Cemetery contains 18 burials. Dallas County notables Rosa G. Whitt and Arlue Whitt are buried in the cemetery.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION WEB SITES:

AHC cemetery programs page
preserveala.org/cemeteryprograms.aspx

Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance
www.alabama-cemetery-preservation.com

National Center for Preservation Technology & Training
www.ncptt.nps.gov - select cemetery conservation category

Correction: In the Nov.-Dec. issue it was incorrectly reported that Antioch Baptist Church in Camden is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

EVENTS AT AHC SITES

SATURDAY, APRIL 10: PARK DAY @ OLD CAHAWBA, and POND SPRING

Sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust and The History Channel, Park Day is a nationwide event that organizes volunteers to help clean up the nation's Civil War historic sites. To learn more: www.civilwar.org/aboutus/events/park-day

APRIL 9-11: 45th EUFAULA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION PILGRIMAGE @ FENDALL HALL

Fendall Hall is part of this tour of homes, gardens, and churches. For ticket information visit: eufaulapilgrimage.com

SATURDAY, MAY 8: CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR @ OLD CAHAWBA, 10:00 a.m.

Travel back in time through some of Cahawba's most intriguing stories. In conjunction with *Becoming Alabama*.

STATEWIDE REPORT

MONTGOMERY TO HOST Davidson interns with AHC 2010 CONFERENCE

This year's historic preservation conference will be held in Montgomery on October 7-9. The Alabama Department of Archives and History will host the opening night reception.

The conference will feature well-known preservation speaker Don Rypkema, principle of Place Economics, a real estate and economic development consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. For more information about Rypkema, visit: www.placeeconomics.com.

The Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery is the local host

and is working with the AHC, the Black Heritage Council, and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation to plan the conference. Sessions include decorative arts, economic development, and historic neighborhoods.

Conference participants will have the chance to tour Montgomery's historic districts, museums, art galleries, churches, and a revitalized downtown.

The AHC is now accepting nominations for the annual preservation awards. Nomination forms are available online at: preserveala.org/currentissues.aspx.

Shanda Davidson recently began working as an intern in the Survey and Registration Section. Davidson lives in Calera, Ala. and is a graduate student at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton in the public history program. She is completing her coursework and plans to graduate in December 2010.

As a graduate research assistant, she completed an architectural survey of the historic resources in Villa Rica, GA, and is creating a formal report for the Villa Rica Historic Commission. She is also writing a National Register nomination for the mill village of Fullerville, GA.

"I hope to expand my knowledge of architecture, and analyze what the needs are in Alabama for documenting these historic resources. I am also looking forward to learning more about historic cemetery preservation," said Davidson.



Shanda Davidson

UPCOMING AHC MEETINGS

AHC Quarterly Meeting: May 5 • Fort Toulouse, Wetumpka

National Register Review Board: June 10, Oct. 21 • 468 S. Perry St., Montgomery

Section 106 Workshop: August 11-14 • Battle House Hotel, Mobile

www.preserveala.org/calendar

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