

# PRESERVATION

Alabama Historical Commission  
**REPORT**

VOL. 38, NO. 1

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

## PRIVATE MONEY SUPPORTING OLD CAHAWBA EXPANSION



AHC Executive Director Frank White thanks Daniel J. Meador, President of The Cahaba Foundation Board of Directors, for his role in the foundation's campaign.

Alabama's most famous ghost town—Old Cahawba\*, near Selma—is getting a new future because private donors are giving private dollars to protect and develop a state-owned landmark.

At a lively September 13<sup>th</sup> event in the House Chamber of Alabama's historic state capitol, The Cahaba Foundation presented the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) with deeds to 10 parcels of land at Alabama's first state capital. The parcels

equal 27.4 acres and include scenic riverfront property and land in the archaeologically-rich former town center.

Prior to the formal presentation of deeds, Alabama songwriter Karren Pell performed her song "Oh Cahaba."

The presentation was the kickoff for the foundation's *Remember, Reclaim, Restore: The Campaign for Old Cahawba*. This private effort aims to raise a total of \$2 million to purchase all of

the historic land still in private ownership at Cahawba.

According to The Cahaba Foundation President and Founder, Daniel J. Meador, "One of the most historic spots in Alabama, this site should be preserved for posterity, and we invite everyone to join us in this effort."

In 2008, private citizens created The Cahaba Foundation to secure private financial support from individuals, corporations and foundations for the state historic park at Old Cahawba, site of Alabama's first state capital.

The AHC was charged by the Alabama Legislature in 1975 with protecting and interpreting Old Cahawba. The agency has been acquiring land at the site for close to 30 years. By 2008, 35% of the land was still in private ownership.

AHC Chairman Bill Denson and Executive Director Frank

White accepted the deeds. They praised the foundation, its donors, and partners. Other groups assisting in the purchase of land at Old Cahawba include the Archaeological Conservancy, the Cahaba Advisory Commission, the Selma-Dallas County Historical Preservation Society, the Nature Conservancy, and Cahawba Concern.

White announced a plan for a visitor complex that includes two historic buildings and a proposed new building that demonstrates current best practices for environmentally responsible design. "It will serve as a model for sustainable development throughout the Black Belt," White said.

\*"Cahawba" is the spelling used until around 1850 when many of the inhabitants dropped the "w" from the name. The AHC uses the original spelling; other organizations use the more modern spelling.

Visit [www.preserveala.org/mediareources.aspx](http://www.preserveala.org/mediareources.aspx) to learn more about the campaign and listen to Karren Pell's song "Oh Cahaba."

## AHC ANNOUNCES 2012 GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS

In October, the Alabama Historical Commission announced \$757,500 in funding to 52 organizations across the state, representing 29 counties.

The deadline for applications was September 1. Tax exempt non-profit organizations and government entities were eligible to apply. Governor Robert Bentley and the legislature provided a one-time appropriation to establish the grant program.

The response to the grant program was significant, with 277 organizations in 60 counties requesting over \$6.1 million.

Funded projects range from a survey of Troy's historic downtown to the restoration of an 1847 Masonic lodge in Camden.

Review committees were established for each grant category. The AHC reviewed grant proposals in five categories:

- Archaeology
- Operations
- Survey
- Work on Historic Buildings
- Work on Historic Cemeteries

Each committee consisted of five AHC staff members who rated each proposal based on published criteria. AHC-owned historic sites and their support groups were not eligible to apply.

"These grants help people from every corner of the state preserve their history, while developing their local economy and providing jobs" said Frank White, AHC executive director.



The Morgan County Archives Building in Decatur (1927) is receiving funding to repair broken carved limestone on the facade. It contributes to the Bank Street-Old Decatur National Register Historic District.

For a listing of the grant awards, see page 3 or visit: [www.preserveala.org/grantsprogram.aspx](http://www.preserveala.org/grantsprogram.aspx).

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



**Wadley Depot, Wadley, Randolph County**  
listed July 14, 2011

The Mission style depot, constructed in 1907, represents Wadley's aspirations to be an east Alabama regional trading center. The depot was part of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic Railroad and operated from 1907 until it closed around 1964. The Wadley Railroad Depot is one of only four documented Mission style train stations surviving in Alabama.



**Moore-Webb-Holmes Plantation, Perry County**  
listed August 24, 2011

The plantation's 54 buildings and structures and one archaeological site illustrate the history of a cotton plantation that was initially settled c. 1829. The plantation grew a variety of crops beginning in the early twentieth century and continues today as a livestock and timber farm. The plantation is of statewide significance for its large and diverse collection of farming-related buildings.

## ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

*LISTED ON AUGUST 25, 2011*

### **ALABAMA TEXTILE PRODUCTS CORPORATION**

Andalusia, Covington County

### **ALLRED HOUSE**

Troy, Pike County

### **ARKWRIGHT HERITAGE AREA**

Arkwright, Shelby County

### **BESSIE MUNDEN PARK**

Camden, Wilcox County

### **BOXWOOD PLANTATION DEPENDENCY**

Hillsboro vicinity, Lawrence County

### **CHARLIE F. HIGGINS FARMHOUSE**

Five Points, Chambers County

### **CHURCH STREET SCHOOL**

Andalusia, Covington County

### **CONNER-CHAPMAN HOUSE**

Troy, Pike County

### **HARMON FARMHOUSE**

Roanoke, Chambers County

### **HOWARD POWELL ESTATE**

Guntersville, Marshall County

### **ISAAC SPEEGLE FARMSTEAD**

Guthery Crossroads, Cullman County

### **JOHNSTON MILL**

Brundidge, Pike County

### **MACK M. MATTHEWS SCHOOL**

Pinckard, Dale County

### **M.K. PAUL STORE**

Pine Level, Pike County

### **ROBERT STEWART KEENER HOME**

Keener, Etowah County

### **ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Troy, Pike County

### **SPRINGDALE**

Andalusia, Covington County

### **THORNFIELD**

Millbrook, Elmore County

### **UNION CHAPEL UMC & CEMETERY**

Northport, Tuscaloosa County

### **CYPRESS MOON STUDIOS**

Sheffield, Colbert County

For more information contact: Lee Anne Wofford, 334.230.2659 or [LeeAnne.Wofford@preserveala.org](mailto:LeeAnne.Wofford@preserveala.org)



**Boxwood Plantation Dependency**

**This rare brick slave quarters, the sole surviving vestige of the Boxwood plantation, is one of the new additions to the Alabama Register.** Located on Alabama Highway 20 near Decatur, the structure was almost demolished a year ago to make way for an industrial park access road being built by the Lawrence County Industrial Development Board. At that time, modern additions and vinyl siding hid the building's history. When the board learned of the building's significance, they rerouted the road days before its scheduled demolition.

Local resident Lisa Lentz (left) has led the effort to reclaim the building. Lentz and other volunteers have removed the vinyl siding to expose the original brick, peeled off modern wallboard, and exposed the original fireplaces. Lentz has spent countless hours working to make Boxwood look like it did when it was built c. 1854.

"What Lisa has accomplished almost single-handedly is incredible," said AHC senior architectural historian Robert Gamble.

Brick slave quarters, as opposed to log or frame, were rarely built. Boxwood is one of but eleven such structures remaining in the state.

## 2012 AHC HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT AWARDS

### ARCHAEOLOGY

<b>Trail of Tears Association, Alabama Chapter</b> Identifying Cherokee Indian Removal Sites, DeKalb County	\$15,880
<b>Red Mountain Greenway &amp; Recreational Area Commission</b> Red Mountain Park Archaeology Program, Jefferson County	\$15,340
<b>The University of Alabama</b> Hidden History of the Moundville Plaza, Hale County	\$13,785
<b>Auburn University Montgomery</b> Geophysical and Archaeological Testing, Hobb's Island Site, Madison Co.	\$13,770
<b>Macon County Commission</b> Creek Stand Community Archaeology Project, Macon County	\$15,720
<b>Auburn University</b> The Federal Road across Creek Country, Macon & Russell Counties	\$15,880
<b>University of South Alabama</b> Archaeology at Holy Ground Battlefield, Lowndes County	\$15,205
<b>Alabama Archaeological Society</b> Deciphering Lower Alabama River Valley Middle Woodland, Monroe Co.	\$1,240
<b>The University of West Alabama</b> Fort Tombeche Archaeological Project, Sumter County	\$15,785

### OPERATIONS

<b>City of Foley</b> Depot Museum Train Conductor / Tour Guide Project, Baldwin County	\$15,880
<b>Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park</b> Operations Budget, Bibb County	\$15,880
<b>National Voting Rights Museum and Institute</b> Operations Support, Dallas County	\$15,880
<b>University of North Alabama</b> Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Planning Workshop, six counties	\$15,880
<b>Lee County Historical Society</b> Pioneer Park - Alabama's Living History, Lee County	\$15,880
<b>Mobile Historic Development Commission</b> Barton Academy Market Needs Analysis, Mobile County	\$15,880
<b>Capri Community Film Society, Inc.</b> Capri Theatre Rehabilitation Plan, Montgomery County	\$15,880
<b>St. Clair Historical Society</b> John Looney House Pioneer Museum, St. Clair County	\$2,320
<b>Isabel Anderson Comer Museum and Arts Center</b> Community Museum Kick Start: History, Culture, and Art, Talladega Co.	\$15,880

### WORK ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES

<b>Village Point Foundation</b> D'Olive Cemetery Preservation Project, Baldwin County	\$14,870
<b>Dent's Artillery Camp 486 SCV</b> Shorter Cemetery Restoration Project, Barbour County	\$15,880
<b>City of Centreville</b> Centreville Cemetery Restoration Project, Bibb County	\$15,880
<b>Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Trust</b> Macedonia Cemetery Restoration of Graves, Chambers County	\$15,880
<b>John Green Cemetery Preservation Association</b> John Green Cemetery Restoration and Perpetual Care, Conecuh Co.	\$8,260
<b>Concord Cemetery Association</b> Concord Cemetery Preservation Project, Hale County	\$15,880
<b>Liberty Cemetery</b> Liberty Cemetery April 27 Tornado Recovery, Hale County	\$15,880
<b>Oak Hill Memorial Association</b> Oak Hill Cemetery Restoration Project, Jefferson County	\$15,880
<b>Auburn Heritage Association</b> Pine Hill and Pinetucket Cemeteries, Repair and Clean Graves, Lee Co.	\$15,880
<b>City of Huntsville</b> Merrimack Cemetery Restoration and Marker Repairs, Madison County	\$15,300
<b>Friends of the Catholic Church</b> Catholic Cemetery Preservation Project, Mobile County	\$15,880
<b>Montgomery Genealogical Society, Inc.</b> Lincoln Cemetery Ground Penetrating Radar Project, Montgomery Co.	\$15,880
<b>M.H. Mitchell, Inc.</b> Old Glennville Cemetery Preservation / Restoration Project, Russell Co.	\$15,880
<b>City of Sylacauga</b> Sylacauga Cemetery Preservation Project, Talladega County	\$15,880
<b>Alabama Department of Mental Health</b> Bryce Hospital Cemetery Ground Penetrating Radar, Tuscaloosa County	\$15,880

### WORK ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS

<b>Talisi Historical Preservation Society, Inc.</b> Replace Roof, 1844 Tallassee Mill/1864 Confederate Armory, Elmore Co.	\$15,880
<b>City of Geneva</b> Emma Knox Kenan Library, Geneva County	\$15,880
<b>Auburn University Foundation for Rural Studio</b> Chantilly House Restoration, Hale County	\$15,880
<b>Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark</b> Sloss Boiler Roofs Preservation Project, Jefferson County	\$5,170
<b>Birmingham Landmarks, Inc.</b> Roof for the Alabama Theatre, Jefferson County	\$15,880
<b>Vulcan Park Foundation</b> Vulcan Interior Tower Preservation and Restoration, Jefferson County	\$15,880
<b>Town of Mooresville</b> Repairs to Stagecoach Inn and Tavern and Post Office, Limestone Co.	\$11,845
<b>The Elmore Bolling Foundation</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Lowndesboro School Restoration, Lowndes County	\$15,880
<b>Tuskegee Main Street Development Foundation</b> Johnston-Curtright Roof Project, Macon County	\$15,880
<b>City of Hamilton</b> Hamilton-Sullins House Restoration, Marion County	\$15,770
<b>Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board</b> Repairs to Historic Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island, Mobile County	\$15,855
<b>Morgan County Commission</b> Repairs to Morgan County Archives Building Facade, Morgan County	\$15,880
<b>Sumter County Historical Society</b> Cedarwood Historic Restoration, Sumter County	\$15,880
<b>City of Talladega</b> Bemiston Recreation Center Roof Project, Talladega County	\$15,880
<b>Dale Lodge #25</b> 1847 Lodge Restoration, Wilcox County	\$11,935

### SURVEY

<b>University of Alabama</b> Historic Buildings Survey of Bayview, Jefferson County	\$9,530	<b>City of Montgomery</b> Capitol Heights Historic Buildings Survey, Montgomery County	\$15,880
<b>The Historic Huntsville Foundation</b> Historic Buildings Survey of Rural Madison County	\$15,880	<b>Pike County Chamber of Commerce</b> Downtown Troy Historic Buildings Survey, Pike County	\$15,880

## HOLIDAY EVENTS at AHC SITES

- 11/18-19: Goat Hill Museum Store Open House, State Capitol**  
Featuring gifts made in Alabama, food samples, and book signings by Alabama authors  
Contact: 334.353.4969 / 334.242.3933 / goathill@preserveala.org  
[www.preserveala.org/capitoltour.htm](http://www.preserveala.org/capitoltour.htm)
- 12/2: Christmas in the Canebrake, Gaineswood, Demopolis**  
5:30-8:00 pm - Co-hosted by the Marengo County Historical Society  
Contact: 334.289.4846 / gaineswd@bellsouth.net  
Admission charged  
[www.preserveala.org/gaineswood.aspx](http://www.preserveala.org/gaineswood.aspx)
- 12/3: Fendall Hall Christmas Open House, Eufaula**  
2:00-4:00 pm - Tour one of the homes featured in the annual Eufaula Pilgrimage  
Contact: 334.687.8469 / fendallh@bellsouth.net  
[www.preserveala.org/fendallhall.aspx](http://www.preserveala.org/fendallhall.aspx)
- 12/4: Plantation Christmas Celebration, Belle Mont Mansion, Tuscumbia**  
1:00-5:00 pm - Hosted by the Colbert Co. Historical Landmarks Foundation  
Contact: 800.344.0783  
\$6 adults, \$3 children, under 6 free  
[www.preserveala.org/bellemont.aspx](http://www.preserveala.org/bellemont.aspx)
- 12/10: 1912 Christmas at Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores**  
2:00-5:00 pm - Senior Staff Officer's Quarters.  
Contact: 251.540.5257 / fortmorgan@centurytel.net  
\$5 adults, \$ children, under 6 free  
[www.ft-morgan.com](http://www.ft-morgan.com)
- 12/12: Magnolia Grove Christmas Open House, Greensboro**  
1:00-3:00 pm - Sponsored by the Magnolia Grove Foundation.  
Contact: 334.624.8618 / maggrov2@bellsouth.net  
[www.preserveala.org/magnoliagroove.aspx](http://www.preserveala.org/magnoliagroove.aspx)



Plantation Christmas at Belle Mont



Christmas in the Canebrake at Gaineswood

## PRESERVATION Alabama Historical Commission REPORT

**Preservation Report** is a bimonthly publication of the  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
468 South Perry Street / P. O. Box 300900  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900 / (334) 242-3184

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ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

[www.preserveala.org](http://www.preserveala.org)

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

**PRESERVATION REPORT**  
*November-December 2011*  
Alabama Historical Commission  
468 South Perry Street  
P. O. Box 300900  
Montgomery AL 36130-0900

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