

# PRESERVATION Alabama Historical Commission REPORT

VOL. 36, NO. 4

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2009

## AUBURN HOSTS 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE BUILDING PARTNERS FOR PRESERVATION - OCTOBER 8-10

The Alabama Trust, The Alabama Historical Commission, The Black Heritage Council, The Auburn Preservation League, and the City of Auburn will host the 2009 Preservation Conference. This year's theme is Building Partners for Preservation. The conference will provide opportunities for preservationists, economic and community development professionals, architects, students, and elected officials to connect and form partnerships across fields.

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham will welcome everyone at a 5:00 p.m. reception Thursday at the Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. The Auburn Preservation League is hosting a Friday evening reception at historic St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church on Magnolia Avenue.

"The City of Auburn is thrilled to be hosting this year's Preservation Conference. Mayor Bill Ham invites you to explore our North College Street Historic District, as well as the rest of the loveliest village on the plains," said Sheila Eckman, Auburn City Councilwoman and local conference coordinator.

Auburn residents Bobby Dees, AHC Commissioner Ralph

Draughon, Jr., Sheila Eckman, and Black Heritage Council member Ruthie Pitts served on the local planning committee.

This year's conference offers many chances to learn about preservation outside of the hotel.

Sponsored by the Auburn Heritage Association, The Pine Hill Cemetery (1837) Lantern Tour on Thursday and Friday evenings will feature Auburn residents acting as some of the city's early inhabitants.

Carl Morgan from the city's planning department will lead a walking tour of Auburn's North College Street Historic District on Friday morning.

Friday afternoon students and professors from the university's architecture and community planning programs will guide visitors through the campus, focusing on its history and architecture.

One component of the conference will be the Main Street Four-Point economic development program that emphasizes historic preservation as a tool for downtown revitalization. Main Street is a program created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Alabama is currently in the process of re-building a state-

wide coordinating program to assist local Main Street organizations.

Former Mississippi Main Street program director Beverly Meng will share her experience in forging strong partnerships between historic preservation and other disciplines at Friday morning's opening plenary session. Later she will kick off a three-session track about Main Street that will include a general program overview, as well as the status and future of the Alabama program. Those interested in learning about how historic preservation and economic development intersect in small town America will find her presentations insightful.



Auburn University's Samford Hall (above) was named for Governor William James Samford in May, 1929. Through the years, the university has renovated the interior of this campus landmark to meet the changes of a growing college. It originally had a bell that rang every hour. The bell remains in the tower, but an electronic clock marks the time today. Conference participants will have the chance to see Samford Hall as part of the campus tour on Friday.

## AHC welcomes three new commissioners

Three new commissioners began their service at the quarterly meeting in August. These include Dr. Shirley P. Foster, Guin Robinson, and Dr. Karen Rogers.

Dr. Shirley P. Foster is Assistant Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Clothing, Textiles, & Interior Design at the University of Alabama. Dr. Foster's dissertation, "Women and Refinement in Antebellum Alabama: Privacy, Comfort, and Luxury, 1830-1860," examines the material culture of early Alabama. She teaches the history of interiors and furnishings in the Interior Design Program.

Guin Robinson is the Director of Institutional Development for Jefferson State Community Col-

lege (JSCC). In this role he works with various communities in which JSCC is located and assists with grants management for the college. From 2004-2006, he was the Executive Director of Region 2020. Guin was elected to be the first full-time mayor of Pell City in 2000. He had served as the part-time mayor in 1999, having been

appointed by the City Council to fill a vacancy.

Dr. Karen Rogers is the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and External Affairs at Auburn University's College of Architecture, Design and Construction. Before coming to Auburn, Rogers lived and worked in Bogotá, Colombia, where she served as Dean

of the School of Architecture and Design, and as Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Los Andes. Rogers holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in the History of Architecture from Binghamton University (SUNY), as well as a BA in Architecture and the History of Architecture from Yale University.



left to right:  
Commissioners  
Shirley P. Foster,  
Guin Robinson,  
and Karen Rogers.

## FALL EVENTS at AHC SITES

### Friday, October 16 - C.S.I. Cahawba Spirits Investigation

Old Cahawba Tours and Ghost Hunt, new tour begins every 30 minutes from 6:30 -9:00  
 Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Selma Tourism Bureau or at Old Cahawba  
 1.800.45.SELMA • [www.selmaalabama.com](http://www.selmaalabama.com) • for directions visit: [www.cahawba.com](http://www.cahawba.com)



### Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. - Hear the Dead Speak Walking Tour

Old Cahawba - tickets are \$4 and can be purchased the day of event

### Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. - Gaineswood Day, Gaineswood,

Come see all of the progress made at Gaineswood - tickets \$15 - call 334.289.4846

### November 4-8 - Frontier Days, Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson - \$7/day - call 334.567.3002

## Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

Feldman's Department Store, located at 800 20th Street in Haleyville, has been a downtown landmark since it was built in 1911 for John Dodd. It replaced an earlier, wood-frame building which housed a post office and the Shipman Brothers Store. In 1914, Moses Feldman and his wife Fanny Royal, both Eastern European Jewish immigrants, bought Dodd's building to house their department store on the first floor while they rented out the offices on the second floor. By the time their son Abe joined the family business in the 1930s, Feldman's Department Store was an institution in Winston County.

Members of the Feldman family owned the building and operated the store until it was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Joe Teal. "After we heard it could be demolished, we purchased the building in 1999, and then worked two years to restore it. Eventually we hope it can be converted into a cultural museum for the community to enjoy," said Judy Teal.



Feldman's Department Store, Haleyville - listed 8.12.09



The Darden House, Opelika - listed 8.12.09

The Darden House in Opelika, built in 1906, was the home and office of Dr. John W. Darden, the city's only black physician in the early twentieth century. A native of North Carolina who graduated from the Leonard Medical College of Shaw University in 1897, Darden practiced medicine in Opelika from 1903 until 1949. He ran his own infirmary for African-Americans on South Third Street for many years, and then moved his office into his home in the mid-1940s.

Dr. Darden and his wife Maude Jean Logan Darden were prominent members of the Thompson Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church and were active in the social life of their community. They often entertained notable African-Americans such as Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver when they came to town. Finally, Dr. Darden was recognized by both blacks and whites for his strong stand on civil rights.

Dr. Yvonne B. Phillips of Opelika worked diligently on the application for the last five years and has a special appreciation for the house, as she was delivered by Dr. Darden. "The Opelika community was a major partner in this project. I appreciate all of the resources that were available to the Darden Foundation in this quest to complete the project, and bring recognition to the Darden family," said Dr. Phillips.

**CORRECTION:** The First Baptist Church in Wetumpka was included in the July/August issue as part of the National Register update. The picture printed was not the First Baptist Church. The correct picture is to the right.

### First Baptist Church, Wetumpka - listed 10.24.08

The church was originally constructed in 1852, and currently occupies the equivalent of a city block on a busy street. The property reflects typical priorities of the Baptist ministry, particularly the emphasis on Christian education and, most recently, on family life activities in a multi-use facility.

The congregation officially formed in 1821 as the Coosa River Baptist Church. In 1837, the congregation was combined with another Baptist congregation and named the Coosa River Baptist Church of Wetumpka. The name then changed to the First Baptist Church of Wetumpka in 1942.

The significant architecture of the church was noted by the inclusion of the building in the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), conducted by the federal government in 1935. The design of the building is classified as Gothic Revival, or Classical Revival.

The church, located at 205 West Bridge Street near the Coosa River, celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July of 1996 and is an active congregation today.





# 2009 Alabama Preservation Conference

October 8-10 • Auburn

## CONFERENCE HOTEL

The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center  
 241 South College St., Auburn, AL 36830  
 Hotel Direct (334) 821-8200  
 Toll-Free (800) 228-2876 • www.auhcc.com  
 Ask for the Alabama Trust block of rooms @ \$119  
 NOTE: This rate only available through **September, 25** - rate will be \$179 afterwards based on availability.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

**5:00 - 6:30 pm • Opening Wine & Cheese Reception**  
 Conference Center (cash bar) - Welcome by Auburn Mayor Bill Ham

**6:30 - 8:00 pm • Pine Hill Cemetery Lantern Tour**  
 One of Auburn's "must do" historical events - prominent citizens of the past come alive and tell their stories (walking tour, separate ticket required) - a project of the Auburn Heritage Association

**7:00 pm • Alabama Trust Fundraiser**  
 Catered by Auburn favorite Ursula Higgins on the grounds of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Pebble Hill (\$75/person) - hosted by Ann Draughon Cousins and Ralph Draughon, Jr. To benefit the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

**9:00 - 10:00 am • Opening Plenary Session: Building Partners for Preservation**  
 Keynote Speaker: Beverly Meng, the "legendary" former Main Street Program coordinator for Mississippi

**10:15 am - noon • Concurrent Sessions**  
**Main Street Track • It's more than a Streetscape Project**  
 Main Street is a comprehensive approach to small town revitalization - learn how Main Street works and about the future of Alabama's Main Street program

**Partners Track • Partners in the Field**  
 Panel discussion - the Alabama Historical Commission, Black Heritage Council, and Alabama Trust discuss preservation resources available for organizations, individuals, and others; Dr. Bobby B. Dees from Auburn and Donna Castellano from Huntsville will offer their local perspective

**10:15 am - noon**  
**Walking Tour of North College Historic District**  
 Guide Carl Morgan, Assistant Planning Director, City of Auburn

**Noon - 1:30 pm • Annual Preservation Awards Luncheon**  
 Conference Hotel - Awards presented by Mayor Bill Ham

## 2:00 - 4:00 pm • Concurrent Sessions

**Main Street Track**  
**Partners: Help for Small Towns**  
 Alabama has an abundance of talented organizations working to help small towns - several preservation-friendly groups showcase their programs  
**Becoming Part of Main Street**  
 Alabama's Main Street program is reviving, and will offer great value to small towns ready to participate

**Green Track - Historic Preservation is Green!**  
 Panel discussion - Frank White moderating, featuring Norbert Lechner, (former Architecture Professor, AU), John Marsh (J. Marsh Enterprises), and Martha Cato and Jim Jones (City of Valley)

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 (continued)

**2:00 - 4:00 pm Walking Tour of Auburn University**  
 Conducted by the AU Architecture and Community Planning Programs

**4:00-4:30 pm • Special opening of the Ebenezer Baptist Church**

**5:30 - 7:00 pm • Reception**  
**Hosted by the Auburn Preservation League**  
 St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church wine & cheese with book signings by Frazine Taylor & others (included in registration)

**6:30-8:00 pm • Pine Hill Cemetery Lantern Tour**  
 For those who missed it on Thursday!

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

**8:30 - 10:30 am • Alabama Trust Annual Meeting and Continental Breakfast**  
 Special Collections & Archives Department, Ralph Brown Draughon Library - sponsored by Auburn University Libraries - program to include "Lost Auburn - The Vanishing Loveliest Village" by Dr. Ann B. Pearson and Dr. Ralph B. Draughon, Jr. - Ticket required - \$5

**9:00 - 10:00 am • Black Heritage Council Quarterly Board Meeting** • open to all attendees - Ebenezer Baptist Church

**11:00 - 1:00 pm • Post Conference Tours**  
 Self guided tours of west Lee County and east Macon County - map courtesy of Auburn Preservation League and the City of Auburn



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE /ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE/FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

to print this form online, visit: [preserveala.org/currentissues.aspx](http://preserveala.org/currentissues.aspx)  
**FULL REGISTRATION** - Includes the Annual Preservation Awards Luncheon, Sessions, Tours, and Friday's Reception hosted by the Auburn Preservation League.

|                                | # attending   | total cost |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Regular (received by Sept. 30) | _____ @ \$135 | _____      |
| Late (received after Sept. 30) | _____ @ \$175 | _____      |

**PARTIAL REGISTRATION** - Events are included in full registration

**Friday Luncheon Only**

|                                |              |       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Regular (received by Sept. 30) | _____ @ \$38 | _____ |
| Late (received after Sept. 30) | _____ @ \$48 | _____ |
| Student* (with valid ID)       | _____ @ \$25 | _____ |

\*Friday only - does not include Awards Luncheon nor the Reception.

**OPTIONAL EVENTS**  
**Cost not included in full registration, or event requires pre-registration.**

|  |              |       |
|--|--------------|-------|
| Thursday Alabama Trust Fundraiser                      | _____ @ \$75 | _____ |
| Pine Hill Cemetery Tour (Thurs. or Fri.) due by Oct. 1 | _____ @ \$10 | _____ |
| Saturday Preservation Breakfast                        | _____ @ \$5  | _____ |

- Please Check All That Apply:*
- First-time Attendee
  - Alabama Trust member
  - Interested in Main Street
  - Interested in Black Heritage
  - Interested in Green/Sustainability
  - CLG or Historical Comm. Member
  - Local Preservation Org. Member
  - Public Official

**DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND?**  
 For our planning purposes  
 Friday Walking Tour of North College Historic District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friday Tour of AU Campus \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fri. Reception at St. Dunstan's \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REG. AMOUNT \$** \_\_\_\_\_

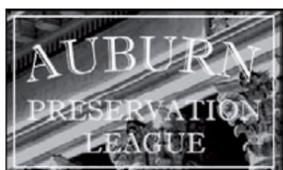
Please make your check payable to Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation or for your convenience we accept:

MC/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (as it appears on card) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration and payment to:  
 Preservation Conference -Alabama Trust  
 Station 45 Livingston, AL 35470  
 For additional info. call (205) 652-3497



## STATEWIDE REPORT

### Alabama Trust hires new director

In April, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation hired David Schneider as executive director.

With more than twenty-seven years of historic preservation experience, Mr. Schneider is the former executive director of the Historic Beaufort Foundation in Beaufort, South Carolina (1995-1999); the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (1990-1995); and the Berkeley County (South Carolina) Historical Society Museum (1989-1990).

As the Principal of Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC from 1999 to 2009, he completed projects for both private and public sector clients in ten states, specializing in community preservation planning, design review in historic districts, historic resource docu-

mentation, and the certification of projects for rehabilitation tax credits.

Prior to 1989, Mr. Schneider was a historic preservation consultant based in Charleston, South Carolina and worked in real estate and construction. He holds a M.A. degree in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Georgia.

Schneider currently serves as the vice-chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission in Anniston, Ala.



### AHC and partners receive IMLS grant

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently received a Connection to Collections: Statewide Planning Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The grant funds the creation of a comprehensive directory of the state's collecting organizations, as well as a survey that identifies critical needs for those organizations. In addition, it will fund emergency preparedness workshops throughout the state. All of these activities will help libraries and museums across the state to preserve their collections.

The AHC will administer the grant and partner with the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama Museums Association, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, and the Society of Alabama Archivists to create a comprehensive statewide plan to protect collections. The partners encourage the participation of all public and private organizations in the development of the plan.

Clyde Eller, Chief Curator for the AHC, comments, "We believe

that by creating a partnership across disciplines we can be more effective in building solutions that preserve our state's distinctive culture."

The grant is part of the IMLS initiative, Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. To learn more about the Institute, please visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov).

To date, the partners have compiled a directory of over 1200 organizations that manage Alabama's cultural collections. It will be available online. They will soon be distributing a statewide survey to libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, universities, and other research centers that will provide information about the current condition of Alabama's collections. The grant totals \$39,611, and the project will be complete by March 2011.

**HELP!** Please e-mail [jgreene@preserveala.org](mailto:jgreene@preserveala.org) with your name and zip to be included in future e-mails about events, AHC updates, and preservation workshops.

## PRESERVATION REPORT

Alabama Historical Commission

*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

**Daniel D. Bennett** *Chair*  
**Frank W. White** *Executive Director*  
**John Greene** *Editor*

**The AHC apologizes for any address errors. Please e-mail corrections to: [jgreene@preserveala.org](mailto:jgreene@preserveala.org)**

*Funded in part with funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, but does not necessarily reflect its views. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibit unlawful discrimination in federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, handicap, and/or national origin.*

*Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to:*

Director, Equal Opportunity Program / U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / P. O. Box 37127 / Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

**PRESERVATION REPORT**  
*Alabama Historical Commission*  
468 South Perry Street  
P. O. Box 300900  
Montgomery AL 36130-0900  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**preserve**   
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

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

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 109  
Montgomery, AL