

PRESERVATION

Alabama Historical Commission
REPORT

VOL.41, NO. 1

SPRING 2014

ALABAMA'S HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT



Constructed in 1925, Birmingham's Redmont Hotel qualifies for the 2014 Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

*Real estate economist Donovan Rypkema projects spending \$1 million on rehabilitating historic buildings in Alabama creates 26.5 jobs and generates \$806,000 in new salaries and wages. Rehabilitation work requires high-skill, high-wage jobs and much of the labor is usually local.

At least 87.4 million in private investment will return 17 buildings to productive new uses thanks to a law passed last spring. The work will generate 2,317 high-wage jobs and add nearly 70.5 million in new wage and salary income* benefitting state and local economies over the next three years.

The Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit kicked off last October with 22 applications for rehabilitation tax credits. Private investors requested \$37 million in Alabama income tax credit reservations. The law caps the total credits that may be reserved at \$20 million each fiscal year and allows owners to claim tax credits for 25% of eligible costs.

However, the credits requested exceed the \$20 million cap. To date, 12 projects have qualified for the 2014 credits and nine eligible projects are on a waiting list. Many of the wait-listed projects plan to start work in 2014, anticipating receiving credits that will come available in the next fiscal year, October 1, 2014.

The law allocates credits on a first-come, first-served basis. Since most projects arrived on the first day of eligibility, October 1, 2013, a lottery drawing determined the order for receiving a tax credit reservation. Only complete applications qualified for the priority list.

Several projects too low on the lottery list to receive a full credit allocation have deferred their projects until 2015, when they could receive credits in the full amount requested.

AHC member Elizabeth Sanders, who advocated for the legislation with a consortium of development leaders, said removing the \$20 million dollar limit would solve many of the problems. "The historic preservation tax credit really is a smart economic development tool. The more dollars invested in returning old buildings to new uses, the more communities and the state benefit financially," Sanders said.

"These renovated buildings will serve as economic engines for a quarter century or more," she added. For more information contact program coordinator Jennifer.Bailey@preserveala.org.

2014 ALABAMA PRESERVATION CONFERENCE HEADS TO THE SHOALS

Join us for the 2014 Preservation Conference at the shoals in northwest Alabama. **Preserving Alabama: Finding Your Historic Rhythm** will be held April 24 through 26.

This year's conference will focus on historic preservation and its economic effect on our communities," stated Rhonda Davis, conference organizer.

"We also have some fun events and tours planned so everyone can explore the historic Shoals area and enjoy the strong music heritage of the area."

Friday's sessions include workshops, presentations on the historic rehabilitation tax credit program, and tours of historic downtown Florence.

Main Street Alabama director Mary Helmer will introduce the four-point Main Street Program. It targets communities

interested in the revitalization of their historic downtowns. This track will offer presentations that include establishing small business incubators and using social media in marketing plans.

Friday evening showcases the Alabama Preservation Awards, followed by a screening of the documentary *Muscle Shoals* on the campus of the University of North Alabama.

Saturday's schedule offers lots of tours for history and music fans. Visitors will see historic house museums and then tour Shoals music industry sites.

To register please visit www.alabamatrust.org. Registration opens on February 15. For hotel reservations with discounted conference rate, contact the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa at 1-800-593-6450.

ACT NOW!

VOTE for a Distinguished Service Award. Forms and instructions are available online at:

http://preserveala.org/pdfs/Annual%20Preservation%20Conference/2014%20Awards/2014_DSA_form.pdf

NEW FACES & TRANSITIONS



When Governor Bentley appointed **Dale Townsend** to replace outgoing Commissioner **Josh Mandell**, he revealed his understanding of preservation's role in strengthening Alabama's economy. Townsend is a highly successful Enterprise businessman, with a long history of volunteer work in guiding area economic development. A University of Florida graduate, he has a B.S. in Building Construction. From 1972 until his retirement, he owned and managed Townsend Building Supply, a company established by his father in 1944. Townsend has served as secretary of Enterprise's Industrial Development Board. He is a past president of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce and past chairman of the Wire-grass Economic Development Corporation.

Chamber of Commerce, executive director of Envision Opelika, executive director of the Community Foundation of East Alabama, and owner of Heritage House Gifts and Gourmet. She is the incoming chair of Main Street Alabama.



Jennifer Bailey, Historic Rehab Tax Credit Coordinator, came on board in September. She has an M.A. in History from Oklahoma State University and a Master's in Historic Preservation from the University of Georgia. With this strong academic background, she is guiding the rehabilitation program that is bringing new revenues to Alabama.



Stephen McNair, Historic Sites Director, began work in December. He is a Mobile native and Alabama graduate with a new PhD in Architectural History from the University of Edinburgh. His M.A. in Historic Preservation from Tulane University led to work as an architectural historian and plans examiner for the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission and the Vieux Carre Commission. In Scotland, he served as Director of Advocacy and Outreach for the Cockburn Association, Scotland's oldest historic preservation organization. **Mark Driscoll**, who headed the division for 12 years, will develop exhibits and overall design for the agency.

the Historic Cemetery Preservation Program. She has a B.A. in History and M.A. in American Studies from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The Preservation Division carries out the federal preservation program in Alabama and Wofford will serve as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.



Ove Jensen brings extensive and very relevant experience to his new position as Site Director at Fort Toulouse-Jackson Park in Wetumpka. He began work in January, overlapping for two months with long-time director **Jim Parker** to provide for a seamless transition. A historian who did graduate work in US colonial and revolutionary history at Auburn University, Jensen joined the National Park Service in 1996. For the last 18 years he served as Park Ranger and historian at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. The two sites are historically linked, making Jensen an ideal choice for one of the state's premier and much loved historic sites.



It's hard to find a organization in Opelika that **Barbara Patton** has not helped shape or strengthen. She is an energetic civic leader, a businessperson, and a preservationist. As chairman of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, she serves a one year term on the AHC. As a two-term mayor (1996-2004) she was key in bringing Main Street to Opelika's deserted downtown. Currently, she is president of Opelika's



Lisa Franklin, Executive Assistant, moved from the Goat Hill Museum Store in December to assist AHC Director **Frank White**. Her background in design and education will add value to the agency. She replaces **Audrey Hopkins**, who returned to Medicaid in November. **Darren Hassler** is the new maintenance person at Fort Morgan. A carpenter foreman and an accomplished plumber, he brings much-needed skills to this National Historic Landmark.



After a nation-wide search, Frank White selected **Lee Anne Wofford** to replace **Elizabeth Brown** as the AHC's Historic Preservation Division Director. Wofford served as interim director since Brown retired last July. Wofford joined the AHC staff in July 2000 and has managed the Architectural Survey Program, the Alabama Register, and



LASTING LEGACIES



Architectural historian **Melanie Betz** has been Alabama's champion for *Places in Peril* for the past ten years. Hired in 1989 as a National Register Coordinator, Ms. Betz later served nearly a decade as the state capitol's curator. Since

2003, she has worked for the Architectural Services Division. In every position, she has been diligent, effective, and incredibly cheerful, applying her national work experience and University of Virginia Master's degree to Alabama's unique challenges. She retired in October to nurture her three teenagers.



Dorothy Walker came as an intern from Jacksonville State University in 1996 determined to become lawyer, but found her calling as an advocate for Alabama's historic places. An M.A. in Historic Preservation followed, but not before she became a regional advocate for Rosenwald Schools. She coordinated the Alabama Register, the marker program and more recently served as staff liaison for the Black Heritage Council. She left in July to take a position as a cultural heritage manager at Alabama State University's Center for Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture.



For over three decades, **Jim Parker** has had a hand in investigating, preserving, protecting, and interpreting some of Alabama's most important archaeological sites. In 1976, he signed on as contract archaeologist for the Fort Toulouse Archaeological Project, identifying the outlines of the third French fort (1751-1763) and Fort Jackson. Over the next 30 years, Jim worked for various organizations as an archaeologist but always ended up back at Fort Toulouse. In 2000, Jim returned to the park as Site Director, and will retire spring of 2014.

FISCAL YEAR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting People to Alabama's Heritage

Last year the Alabama Historical Commission



New interpretive signs surround Old Cahawba Director Linda Derry. Each panel allows visitors with smart phones to hear more stories and see additional photographs.



The National Park Service deemed the Edmund Pettus Bridge a National Historic Landmark in 2013 for its associations with the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March. 2015 will mark the 50th anniversary of this civil rights event.



After years of neglect and listing on Alabama's Places In Peril, Grove Court Apartments will be rehabilitated using the new state tax credit program. Its early International style is rare in Alabama.

This law gives state tax credits to owners who rehabilitate residential and commercial properties. The more dollars invested in returning old buildings to new uses, the more communities and the state benefit financially.

Welcomed **393,561** visitors to Alabama's historic sites to learn and experience history at the places it was made.

Engaged **1,116** volunteers in **24,892** hours assisting at AHC historic sites.

Provided learning opportunities for **52,854** people at lectures, conferences, workshops, public presentations, hearings, or special programs at our sites.

Acquired **\$408,250** in private and public funds to develop and interpret AHC historic sites.

Informed approximately **6,200** people about AHC activities and preservation issues with **35,996** copies of Preservation Report.

Garnered **408** media stories on AHC programs, events, historic sites, and staff.

Passed landmark legislation giving state tax credits for historic rehabilitation of residential (owner-occupied) and commercial properties.

Assisted owners of five historic buildings to invest **\$6.7 million** in rehabilitations that qualified for the Federal Historic Preservation Tax credit.

Provided guidance and assistance to **29** cities with historic preservation ordinances protecting over 15,346 historic places.

Attracted **85,271** visitors to our website for information on protecting, preserving, interpreting, and visiting Alabama's historic places.

Listed **87** cemeteries in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

Added **1,114** new historic buildings, sites, and structures to the Alabama Inventory.

Listed **17** nominations, with 1,481 properties, in the National Register of Historic Places, a nationwide listing of America's places worth preserving.

Placed twenty-three nominations with 157 related resources on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

Assisted landowners protect over **80** historic properties with easements.

Responded to **221** requests for information about endangered properties and monitored **395** properties on the Preservation Watch List.

Reviewed **1,855** federal actions for impacts on historic resources.

Responded to **21,372** requests for information in understanding, protecting, and interpreting Alabama's historic and prehistoric treasures.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.preserveala.org

MARCH 29, 9am-2pm

Miss Annie's Garden Sale, Pond Spring, General Joe Wheeler Home, Hillsboro

Pond Spring will host its first plant sale on the grounds of this historic home. Special to the sale are boxwoods propagated from the English Dwarf variety the General's daughter, Miss Annie, planted on site nearly 100 years ago. Other plants available for sale include English ivy, vinca, daffodils, irises, daylilies, and more, all harvested from Miss Annie's historic gardens. Free admission. Contact: 256.637.8513.

APRIL 5, 9am-11am

Park Day, Old Cahawba, Orville

Help cleanup at an important Civil War-era site! Volunteers are encouraged to wear work clothes, shoes, and gloves. Free t-shirts for the first 25 volunteers. Sponsored by the Civil War Trust. Free Admission. Contact: 334.872.8058.

APRIL 4-6, daytime tours 1pm-5pm; evening tours 5pm-9pm

Eufaula Heritage Association Pilgrimage Fendall Hall, Eufaula

Always one of the highlights of Eufaula's Pilgrimage, Fendall Hall joins with other homes for tours during a three-day celebration of spring. Admission charged. Contact: 334.687.8469.

APRIL 4 & 5 (call or check website for times and schedules)

Living History Days, Confederate Memorial Park, Marbury

Don't miss trained Union and Confederate re-enactors demonstrate life during the Civil War. Free Admission. Contact: 205.755.1990.

APRIL 12 9am-3pm

7th Annual Confederate Garrison Living History Day, Fort Morgan

Civil War re-enactors troops will portray garrison life during the turbulent spring of 1864. Artillery and infantry demonstrations will occur throughout the day. Admission charged. Contact: 251.540.7127.

APRIL 26

10am-11am

Civil War Walking Tour, Old Cahawba

This Tour will visit Castle Morgan, a Civil War POW camp, set amongst the picturesque ruins of the once state capitol. Nature, bike, and canoe trails also available. Tour fee. Contact: 334.872.8058.

APRIL 26 & 27

Sat 9am-4pm & Sun 9am-3pm

French & Indian War Encampment Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

This significant event recreates the Native American and European forces involved in the French and Indian War. Admission charged. Contact: 334.567.3002.

MAY 3, 10am-12pm

BYOB—Bring Your Own Bike Tour, Old Cahawba, Orville

Explore Alabama's most famous ghost town on two wheels! Your guide will lead you on a two-hour tour over four miles of unpaved roads, exploring a relics, ruins, and graveyards. Tour fee. Contact: 334.872.8058.

MAY 3, 9am-4pm

Founding of Fort Jackson, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

This event celebrates the 200 year anniversary of the founding of Fort Jackson. Additionally it was the site of the treaty that signed over 20 million acres of Creek lands to the US government. Admission charged. Contact: 334.567.3002.

MAY 17

Freedom Rides Museum, Montgomery

Join us to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the 1961 Freedom Rides. Admission charged. Contact: 334.242.3935.

MAY 17 & 18

Sat 9am-4pm & Sun 9am-3pm

French Colonial Garrison

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

Cannons roar and muskets flash as French and Native American characters gather at forts, exploring life on the 1750s Alabama Frontier. Admission charged. Contact: 334.567.3002.

MAY 26 9am-3pm

Memorial Day Tribute, Fort Morgan

Historical interpreters dressed in US Army uniforms will conduct special guided tours throughout the day. Admission charged. Contact: 251.540.7127.

JUNE 3, 10, 17, & 24

Tuesday evenings: 7pm-8:30pm Civil War Twilight Tours, Fort Morgan.

Fort Morgan's Civil War history comes to life every summer with tours given by historical interpreters. They portray what it was like during the Civil War. Every tour concludes with the firing of one of the fort's artillery pieces and time for visitors to explore the fort in the twilight hours. Admission charged. Contact: 251.540.7127.

JUNE 7, 10am-11am

Cemetery Walking Tour, Old Cahawba, Orville

Cahawba's three cemeteries tell many stories. Tour each and explore the personal sagas of many who lived here. Admission charged for tour; grounds admission free. Contact: 334.872.8058.

JUNE 7 & 8

Sat 9am-4pm & Sun 9am-2pm

War of 1812 Militia Camp, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

Tennessee Militia re-enactors gather for an 1812 Militia Camp. Wearing period clothing, the militia fires flintlocks and interacts with visitors, showing what life was like during the War of 1812 and Creek Indian War. Admission charged. Contact: 334.567.3002.

JUNE 21 & 22

Sat 9am-4pm and Sun 9am-3pm

French Colonial Garrison, Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, Wetumpka

See May 17 and 18 for a description of the event. Admission charged. Contact: 334.567.3002.



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

PRESERVATION REPORT

Spring 2014

Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
P. O. Box 300900
Montgomery AL 36130-0900

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESERVATION REPORT

Alabama Historical Commission

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

John Schmidt *Chair*
Frank W. White *Executive Director*
Ellen Mertins *Editor*
Trina Binkley *Assistant Editor*

Please email us your email address to receive future digital newsletters:
trina.binkley@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

preserve **ALA**
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

www.preserveala.org

Preserve, Protect, and Interpret Alabama's Historic Places