

Media Release
June 17, 2013

Downtown Guntersville Historic District Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

The National Park Service listed the Downtown Guntersville Historic District in Guntersville, Marshall County, in the National Register on December 12, 2012.

The Guntersville District contains 76 buildings, ranging in date from circa 1856-1964. The district includes commercial buildings and housing in Queen Anne, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Craftsman bungalow styles.

Union troops burned Guntersville and all of its commercial buildings in 1865. The Henry-Jordan House, built around 1856, remains within the district. After the Civil War, Guntersville's business district sprang up along Gunter Avenue. Through the mid-1960s, businesses drew customers not only from the town itself, but also from the surrounding countryside. This established Guntersville as the social, commercial, and economic hub of Marshall County.

Between 1880 and 1930, Guntersville's population increased from 325 to 2,826. The Great Depression hit the town's economy hard; however, several New Deal programs revived the area. The Tennessee Valley Authority had the greatest impact, developing Guntersville Dam along the Tennessee River. When the dam went into operation in January 1939, water flooded three sides of the town leaving it on a peninsula stretching out into Guntersville Lake. The lake brought new industry and recreational opportunities to Guntersville, that continue today.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historic places worthy of preservation—www.preserveala.org/nationalregister.aspx. The Alabama Historical Commission administers the program in Alabama.

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*The Alabama Historical Commission **protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama's historic places** and is the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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