

# Places in Peril

## Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2010

**Alabama Historical Commission  
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation**

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### **Auburn Train Depot named as a *Place in Peril***

In observance of National Historic Preservation Month, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation (ATHP) announce Alabama's most endangered places for 2010.

Since 1994, the AHC and the ATHP have joined forces to sponsor *Places in Peril*, a program designed to highlight some of Alabama's most significant endangered historic sites.

"Places in Peril is a valuable tool in directing public attention to the many historic places in Alabama that are under threat from neglect or demolition," said Frank White, executive director of the AHC.

David Schneider, executive director of the ATHP states, "This list reminds us that much remains to be done to help Alabamians recognize that our historic places are essential community assets. These places represent one of the greenest approaches to providing places in which to live and work."

#### **Auburn Train Depot**

120 Mitcham Avenue

A central hub of life at Auburn University for more than one hundred years, the Auburn Train Depot was the principle means by which students traveled to attend the university. The building and its surroundings were often the first glimpse new arrivals had of "The Loveliest Village on The Plains."

The station was built around 1904, and was the third depot in Auburn since the rails arrived in 1847. Designed by Auburn architecture student Ralph Dudley, the building is typical of Victorian railroad architecture of its time. The depot's design is best described as Richardsonian Romanesque. To the east of the building is a plaque commemorating Jefferson Davis' review of the Auburn Guard that he conducted on his way to his inauguration in Montgomery. After more than sixty years of use, the station sold its last passenger ticket in 1970.

Vacant since 2003, the building has suffered from deferred maintenance, a leaking roof, and possible environmental problems from an adjacent gasoline station. These and other issues have coupled with the economic downturn to thwart a successful sale by the owner to one of several potential purchasers. In the meantime, the depot sits vacant, susceptible to the elements and vandals.

## 2010 Places in Peril

- . **Auburn Train Depot**, Auburn, Lee County
- . **Bankhead House**, Sulligent, Lamar County
- . **Bankhead-Shackelford House**, Courtland, Lauderdale County
- . **Coosa County Farmer's and Civic Association Building**, Rockford, Coosa County
- . **Cricket Theatre**, Collinsville, DeKalb County
- . **Kelly-Stone-Hill House**, Carrollton, Pickens County
- . **Magee Farm**, Kushla, Mobile County
- . **Old Federal Road**, multiple counties
- . **Shorter Cemetery**, Eufaula, Barbour County
- . **Cotton Mills**, statewide
- . **Historic Wood Windows**, statewide

*The Places in Peril list carries no formal protection, but it does build awareness in local communities about endangered sites, and can help generate support to preserve these places.*

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