

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2010

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

Contact: David Schneider, 256.310.6320, dbschneider@bellsouth.net

Bankhead House in Sulligent 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."

Bankhead House

Bankhead Street, Sulligent

The Bankhead House is the only structure in Lamar County listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and was the home of one of Alabama's most prominent families, the Bankheads. Sometimes known as Forest Home, the house was built by John Greer Bankhead in the 1850s. The two-story, wood framed house was the birthplace of John Hollis Bankhead, one of Alabama's most influential U.S. representatives.

Also born in the home were his sons, John Hollis Bankhead II, and William B. Bankhead. Like their father, both sons were elected to the U.S. Congress. John Hollis Bankhead II served in the Senate, and William B. Bankhead served in the House and was elected Speaker of the House in 1936. The Bankheads worked to expand the federal government's power and supported President Roosevelt's New Deal Legislation.

The home is threatened by deferred maintenance and vandalism. The property owners desire to retain the land that has been in their family, yet have no use for the house. A creative solution undoubtedly exists that would resolve the dilemma, but to date no plan has been developed.

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.

#