

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2010

Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

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Bankhead-Shackelford House 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-Shackelford House

2825 Jefferson Street, Courtland

A key architectural landmark of the Courtland National Register Historic District, the Bankhead-Shackelford house was perhaps the most significant residence built in this planter community during the post-Reconstruction era. This house is positioned between the prosperous antebellum years and the renewal of cotton prosperity that occurred between 1900 and the beginning of the First World War. The home is built on a floor plan reminiscent of Mrs. Elizabeth Bankhead's 1830s plantation home, with central hallways, rooms with high ceilings, and a long rear dining wing with a semi-detached kitchen. The home is typical Victorian in its trim and woodwork, pocket doors, golden oak mantelpieces, and an attractive stairway. Accordingly, the house has older forms and layouts that linger underneath decorative detail that changed with the tide of fashion. Today, the house speaks to the architectural conservatism of Alabama's nineteenth century agrarian gentry.

Unoccupied for many years, the house has been minimally maintained. The present owner, who grew up in the house, hopes to see it restored one day. Meanwhile, the condition of the house has reached a critical stage. A thoughtful restoration of the Bankhead-Shackelford House would not only preserve this important piece of Alabama's architecture, but it could also serve as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization.

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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