

# Places in Peril

## Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2010

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

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### **Cotton Mills listed as *Places 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."

### **Cotton Mills** Statewide

These multi-storied brick buildings situated on the periphery of cities, towns, and villages are a reminder of a time when Alabama's fortunes were tied to cotton. Although a few cotton mills operated in the state prior to the Civil War, the industry boomed during the 1880s when northern dollars capitalized cotton mills in northern Alabama. In southern Alabama, local investors funded the mills. By 1929, Alabama's 83 textile mills employed 28,000 workers. Following World War II, there were periods when the textile industry provided jobs for one in five Alabamians. Alabama's textile industry came to a rather abrupt end during the 1990s, when a combination of overseas labor and obsolete machinery shifted mill operations outside of the United States.

The jobs may have left, but the cotton mills remain. Utilitarian structures that beg to be used once again, cotton mills are well built, with open interior spaces, high ceilings and tall windows. While there are excellent examples of creative adaptations of cotton mills in our state, too many of these buildings are underutilized or deteriorating from neglect. As small towns and downtowns across the state try to attract investment to their downtown by creating mixed-use developments, we urge city and business leaders to consider the potential of cotton mills. These buildings can be converted into housing, office space, laboratory space, retail shops, arts centers, performance venues and restaurants.

## 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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