

# Places in Peril

## Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2010

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

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### Historic Wood Windows 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."

### Historic Wood Windows Statewide

The windows of an old building often reflect the heart of its historic character. One of the principal tenets of historic preservation is that historic windows are essential features that must be retained and repaired. Unfortunately, historic wood windows are under attack. Marketing efforts by window manufacturers, the home remodeling industry, home improvement retailers, and popular magazines have convinced many that historic wood windows are obsolete and must be replaced for energy conservation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Studies have shown that retaining and repairing historic wood windows is not only more cost-effective, but is also the greenest approach.

An analysis in *The Old House Journal* (October 2007) noted that a properly repaired historic window that can last for more than a century. Despite evidence that supports repairing historic wood windows, recently enacted federal tax incentives for energy efficiency largely favor replacement over repair.

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "Historic windows are disappearing at an alarming rate, and we in the preservation movement have had enough with the onslaught of misinformation about window replacement!" Those of us in Alabama who care about our historic places need to raise our voices in unison.

## 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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