

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2010

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

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Magee Farm in Kushla 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."

Magee Farm

6222 Highway 45, Kushla

A journey that began for many Alabamians on January 11, 1861 concluded at this farm on April 29, 1865. At this farm, Confederate General Richard Taylor and Union General Edward Canby agreed to a cease fire and negotiated the terms of surrender for 47,000 Confederate troops serving in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Located north of Mobile in the town of Kushla, this 1848 Creole cottage style farmhouse built by Jacob Magee is one of three major sites associated with the surrender of the Confederate army. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Magee Farm is the only surrender site that retains its original building, in unreconstructed form with many of the original furnishings intact.

Despite the efforts of the Civil War Preservation Trust in 2004, operation of the site as a museum was discontinued in 2010 due to a lack of public support and declining revenues. The property was then listed for sale. It is unlikely that Magee Farm will reopen to the public, or that the significant collection of furnishings will remain with the property. Magee Farm illustrates the difficulties faced by many historic house museums in the wake of the economic downturn. It also represents a failure of community leadership to recognize and respond to the rare opportunity to keep this nationally significant piece of Alabama history in the public realm.

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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