

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2010

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

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Old Federal Road 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."

Old Federal Road

(Russell, Macon, Montgomery, Lowndes, Butler, Conecuh, Escambia, Baldwin, and Mobile counties)

Believing a road between Washington, D.C., and New Orleans to be an "indispensable necessity," President Thomas Jefferson in 1805 secured transportation rights to a horse path from the Creek Nation. What began as a narrow horse path in 1806 soon became the transportation route for thousands of settlers moving into the the Mississippi and Louisiana territories.

The 1783 Treaty of Paris and the 1803 Louisiana Purchase expanded the road's reach. After these agreements, the federal government moved quickly to create a viable transportation network. In 1807, the road was extended from St. Stephens to the territorial capital at Natchez. The road reduced travel time from Washington D.C. to New Orleans by almost ten days—a significant improvement.

Significant historic elements of the road, often along with their associated settings, survive in varying states of preservation. These resources are threatened by a general lack of public awareness and appreciation. There is also incomplete documentation to prevent them from being adequately recognized, protected, or included in community and infrastructure planning efforts.

In 2007, the Legislature formed the Old Federal Road Task Force to raise awareness of the road through the development of a web site, a visitors brochure, and historic signs to mark the road's path.

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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