

## Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2011

Alabama Historical Commission  
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

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### Boiling Springs Native American Sites in Calhoun County named to *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 2011.

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."

#### Boiling Springs Native American Sites

Chocolocco Valley's Creek Indians bowed to President Andrew Jackson in 1832 and agreed to move from their ancestral home in exchange for new land in Oklahoma. Although Native Americans inhabited the region since 10,000 BC, they could not withstand the demand for new land by white settlers seeking to make their fortune in cotton. The fact that Native Americans owned this land posed a problem for newcomers. However, Jackson solved this problem by signing the 1832 Treaty of Cusseta, also known as the Treaty of Washington.

The remnants of their aboriginal settlement are scattered throughout Boiling Springs in the Choccolocco Valley. Researchers have identified multiple archaeological sites in the Boiling Springs area that provide invaluable insight into Native American life over the past 10,000 years. The Davis Farm site is still very significant despite the loss of its farmhouse in a 2010 fire. Recent discussion focused on the significance of an ancient stone and earthen mound some scholars say was used for ceremonial functions. Additionally, a Native American burial was uncovered on the site of a municipal sports complex.

The lands upon which this ancient civilization grew no longer produce cotton, but are a desirable setting for retail developments. These developments could endanger much of the area's Native American cultural landscape.



credit: David Schneider

## Boiling Springs landscape

### 2011 Places in Peril

- **Avondale Mill Village**, Sylacauga, Talladega County
- **Bermuda Hill**, Gallion Creek, Hale County
- **Boiling Springs Native American Sites**, Choccolocco Creek, Calhoun County
- **Downtown Anniston Historic District**, Anniston, Calhoun County
- **Elizabeth Presbyterian Church**, Sumter County
- **Gurley Town Hall**, Gurley, Madison County
- **Historic Movie Theatres**, statewide
- **Jemison-Turner House**, Turner, Talladega County
- **Powell School**, Birmingham, Jefferson County
- **Windham Construction Company Office Building**, Birmingham, Jefferson County

*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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