

## Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2011

Alabama Historical Commission  
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

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### Jemison-Turner House in Talladega County 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 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."

#### Jemison-Turner House (c. 1840)

Born in Lincoln County, Georgia, Robert Jemison brought his family and slaves to Talladega County in 1837 and began acquiring property in the rich bottom lands bordering the Choccolocco and Cheaha creeks. Joined in Alabama by six of his siblings, Jemison contributed to his family's great economic and political prominence. In addition to his cotton plantation, Jemison owned and operated Turner's Mill, a gristmill that provided a source of revenue independent of cotton.

Jemison's plantation house is significant for its unusual plan and its exceptionally fine and intact Federal period interiors.

According to Robert Gamble, senior architectural historian for the Alabama Historical Commission, "The home is especially notable for its unusual split-level rear wing. A long balustrade upper gallery, deeply shaded by a wide, overhanging roof suggests the lower Mississippi more than an upland Alabama valley."

This split-level plan appears in only one other house in the state, located in Talladega County and also constructed by a Jemison family member.

The Jemison House is deteriorating due to abandonment and lack of funds to restore it. The house offers a rare opportunity to restore one of our state's truly exceptional early 19th century residences.



credit: David Schneider

## Jemison-Turner House

### 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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