

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2011

Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

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Old Gurley Town Hall 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."

Old Gurley Town Hall (1895)

Located 16 miles from Huntsville, Gurley incorporated in 1890 and grew up around a water and coaling station that served the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The Town Hall was listed on the National Register in 2004, as part of the Gurley Historic District.

The two-story brick building has three stone arches across the front façade and was first a hardware store. It has also housed a print shop, a lodge, the Crescent theatre, and a school. It served as the town hall from 1965-1982. Today, the town uses it as a fire station.

While the building needs a new roof and the rear wall stabilized, the Gurley community stands ready to assist an owner develop a viable project. Located in the greater Huntsville-Madison metro area, one of the fast growing regions in the nation, the Town Hall offers multiple opportunities for redevelopment. As a contributing structure in the historic district, the structure qualifies for a federal preservation tax credit.

The future of Old Gurley Town Hall is uncertain, and residents fear that it could deteriorate even further or be demolished.



Credit: David Schneider

Old Gurley Town Hall

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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