

**For Immediate Release  
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## **“PAINTED BLUFF” NAMED TO ALABAMA’S 2013 PLACES IN PERIL**

The Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation announce the 2013 "Places in Peril" list. Released each year during National Historic Preservation Month, the listing calls attention to some of Alabama's most significant endangered landmarks.

“These are places that make our communities distinctive and tell us who we are as a people,” said Frank W. White, the Commission's executive director.

Senior Director of Preservation Services at the Alabama Trust David Schneider states, “Each year people are energized to take action. And this helps places survive to serve as essential assets for community revitalization.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the “Places in Peril” program. Since 1994 these preservation advocacy groups have highlighted 216 imperiled historic sites throughout Alabama. Three quarters of the places on the list are still standing, with one quarter having a secure future.

### **Painted Bluff, Marshall County**

“Painted Bluff” is one of Alabama’s most special places. On two bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River are nearly 80 orange, red, and yellow drawings made around 600 years ago. These symbolic images include people, snakes, birds, and other animals.

Native peoples created colorful carvings and drawings like these on bluffs and in caves. “Rock art was an important part of prehistoric people’s religion. It helped link people to their faith and to nature,” according to Dr. Jan Simek, President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Since these paintings are outside, there are many dangers to their survival. Few of the outdoor painted bluffs remain in Alabama because of the humid environment. Nature is slowly wearing down the paint, posing a long-term threat. Modern graffiti and rock climbers are more immediate concerns.

The Tennessee Valley Authority manages the area with these irreplaceable art works. Currently they are researching ways to maintain the images and carvings for the future.

Your local contact is Erin Pritchard with the TVA at 865.632.2463. For more information about the Places In Peril program, telephone Melanie Betz at 334.230.2645 or go to [www.preserveala.org/placesinperil.com](http://www.preserveala.org/placesinperil.com).

*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.*

## ALABAMA'S MOST ENDANGERED SITES FOR 2013

- Greensboro Hotel, Hale County
- Urquhart House, Huntsville vicinity, Madison County
- Painted Bluff, Marshall County
- Thomas Jefferson Hotel, Birmingham, Jefferson County
- Old Grace Episcopal Church, Sheffield, Colbert County
- Searcy House, Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County
- Troy Masonic Lodge, Pike County
- Chappell House, Montgomery, Montgomery County
- Carrollton Male and Female Academy, Pickens County
- Rosa A. Lott School, Citronelle, Mobile County

ALABAMA TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Alabama's  
**Places**  
In  
**Peril**  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*20 years* of preserving our past.

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