

**For Immediate Release  
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## **THOMAS JEFFERSON HOTEL 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.

David Schneider, Senior Director of Preservation Services at the Alabama Trust, 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.

### **The Thomas Jefferson Hotel, Birmingham, Jefferson County**

The 19-story Thomas Jefferson Hotel dominates the western skyline of Alabama's largest city. Known as the "Pride of Birmingham" during its heyday, this Renaissance Revival building opened a month before the 1929 stock market crash.

It has been vacant since 1983, when local health officials declared the old hotel uninhabitable. Thirty years of neglect has taken its toll on the building. Unfortunately, attempts to revitalize it have not been successful.

The hotel provided lavish accommodations for many celebrities like Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover. Other patrons included entertainers Mickey Rooney, Ethel Merman, George Burns, and Ray Charles. Alabama legends George Wallace and Paul "Bear" Bryant stayed there too. Today only pigeons, squatters, and occasional urban explorers visit the hotel.

Downtown Birmingham's revival continues to grow with more buildings restored each year. The Thomas Jefferson is a landmark that can bring marvelous opportunities for its owners and the city.

Your local contact is David Schneider at 256.310.6320. 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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