

**For Immediate Release  
May 30, 2013**

## **URQUHART HOUSE 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.

### **Urquhart House, Huntsville vicinity, Madison County**

The Urquhart house is one of Madison County's oldest buildings. It shows the evolution of a one-room log cabin into a larger, five-room house. Unfortunately, its dilapidated condition is a threat to its survival.

The house sits on land transferred to Allen Urquhart on December 2, 1813. His simple log dwelling was typical. Few of these early houses still exist. Urquhart and later owners added more rooms to the cabin and outbuildings to the property. The Federal period mantles, windows, and door trim are intact. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century barn and privy survive.

The owners value the house and its history. They are currently looking at ways to stabilize it.

Your local contact is Drenda King at the Historic Huntsville Foundation, 256.429.9237. 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.*

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## 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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