

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2009

**Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation**

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2009 Places In Peril announced, Barton School Still 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 2009.

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. This year's list includes 10 sites, and two places that are *Still in Peril*.

"*Places in Peril* is a valuable tool in directing public attention to the many cultural resources in Alabama 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 assets for community revitalization. They also represent one of the greenest approaches to providing places in which to live and work."

The 10 sites listed as *Places in Peril* for 2009 are:

- . **Grove Court Apartments**, Montgomery, Montgomery County
- . **The Lyric Theatre and Office Building**, Birmingham, Jefferson County
- . **Wadley Depot**, Wadley, Randolph County
- . **Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and Community Day School**, Hamburg, Wilcox Co.
- . **Allen & Jemison Building**, Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County
- . **Historic Schools of Birmingham**, Birmingham, Jefferson County
- . **Prewitt Plantation Slave Cemetery**, Northport vic., Tuscaloosa County
- . **Uniontown Historic District**, Uniontown, Perry County
- . **Town of Hobson City**, Hobson City, Calhoun County
- . **Ogletree-Wright-Ivy House**, Auburn, Lee 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.

Still in Peril

Barton Academy, Mobile

Listed as a 2005 Place in Peril, Barton Academy is one of Alabama's finest early Greek Revival buildings and one of the nation's oldest remaining public school buildings. Designed in 1836 by nationally prominent New York architects James Gallier, Charles Dakin, and James Dakin, the building won national acclaim for its architectural excellence.

The Mobile Board of Education – which uses the building as their central office – want to relocate their offices, leaving the future of Barton Academy in question . Local advocates suggest it could be transformed into an arts magnet school, which would be a good use for Alabama's first public school building.

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