

Media Release
January 7, 2014

Tour Rarely Seen Gaineswood Spaces **Saturday, February 1**

The “Up, Down, and All Around” tour gives visitors a chance to glimpse special areas not usually seen. From the “Ring”—the circular observatory crowning the top of the house—tourists enjoy panoramic views of Demopolis. The Whitfield family regularly played their musical instruments in the “Ring” on summer evenings.

Gaineswood also has an “English basement,” windows at ground level that provide light and ventilation to the basement area. This area is a favorite of tourists, especially those who are fans of folklore. The basement plays a role in “The Unquiet Ghost of Gaineswood.” This is a story collected by Katherine Tucker Windham in her famous book *Thirteen Alabama Ghosts and Jeffery*. While touring the basement, visitors learn the facts behind this “ghost story.”

“This tour is an opportunity for people to see beyond the first and second floors of Gaineswood, the only spaces open to the public during a regular tour,” says site director Eleanor Cunningham. “Visitors often request to see the basement or observatory, but it isn’t possible for us to open those areas regularly.”

This special opportunity occurs Saturday, February 1 from 10am to 2pm. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students age 6-18. This tour is not recommended for children under six. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. For more information about the tour, contact Gaineswood at 334-289-4846. The media contact is Eleanor Cunningham.

The Alabama Historical Commission owns Gaineswood. Located at 805 South Cedar Avenue, the house museum is a National Historic Landmark noted for its architecture and furnishings.

*The Alabama Historical Commission **protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama’s historic places** and is the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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