

PRESERVATION

Alabama Historical Commission

REPORT

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION SELECTS FRANK W. WHITE AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Alabama Historical Commission selected Frank W. White to serve as the new executive director. White, who was the endangered properties revolving fund director at the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, began January 2.

"We are fortunate to have Mr. White as our executive director," said James P. "Ike" Adams, chairman of the Alabama Historical Commission. "The wealth of talent and experience he brings bodes well for the Commission. I am confident our mission to preserve Alabama's historic places is in good hands under the stewardship of Mr. White."

"I am honored to be selected as the new executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission and am enthusiastically looking forward to serving the people of Alabama as we work together in protecting and preserving the state's important historic resources," said White.

White received a bachelor of architecture from Auburn University and completed the Advanced Management Development Program at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. His past work experience includes John Portman & Associates Inc. where he coordinated the architecture and

construction for the 1.5 million-square-foot Brussels International Trade Mart in Brussels, Belgium.

White also served as the architect's on-site representative for 3D/International during the construction of the Hyatt Hotel in Karachi, Pakistan.

In his 11 years at the Georgia Trust, White built the revolving fund into a self-sustaining program. As program director he provided alternatives to demolition and neglect of architecturally or historically significant sites by promoting their rehabilitation.



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING
February 6, 2008
1 p.m.
Alabama State Capitol Auditorium
(enter Union Street)
Montgomery

❖

NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW BOARD
March 13, 2008
AHC Carriage House

CONFEDERATE MONUMENT VANDALIZED

On November 11, Capitol Police discovered the Confederate Monument located on the north lawn of the Alabama Capitol had been vandalized. The hands and faces of the four granite figures around the base were sprayed black along with the inscription "N. T. 11 11 31" on the limestone base.

The Alabama Historical Commission is charged with the restoration, planning, and preservation of the Alabama State Capitol. The Confederate Monument is the largest and the oldest monument on the Capitol grounds.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, laid the monument's cornerstone on Confederate Memorial Day 1886. Fred Barnicoat, of Quincy, Massachusetts, carved the sculptural figures that represent the four primary branches of the Confederate armed forces: the Confederate Navy, Infantry, Artillery, and the Cavalry. The limestone of the base came from a quarry in Russellville in northwest Alabama.

On November 16 Charles Thomas, director of historic preservation at MasonryArts, a company based in Bessemer, conducted the first test cleaning. Thomas applied a fast-acting paint stripper and a poultice. Most paint removal products are temperature sensitive, working best between 50 and 90 degrees.

The following week Thomas and Christy Carl, AHC site director at the Capitol, received samples to conduct a second round of test

patches. The products were approved or recommended by stone conservators. Carl explained the need to be cautious:

The quickest method of removal would have been for us to use all-purpose graffiti removal products; however, it was important to research these products, or if necessary, find alternatives. With multiple stone materials requiring clean-up (in our case, unpolished granite and Alabama limestone), it is critical we choose a product that is safest on the most porous stone (the limestone).

Products with low (or acidic) pH levels can cause irreversible damage, including staining, severe pitting, or actual destruction of the limestone surface. Some products can actually drive the paint into the stone, which may result in a ghost image of the original graffiti rising later to the surface.

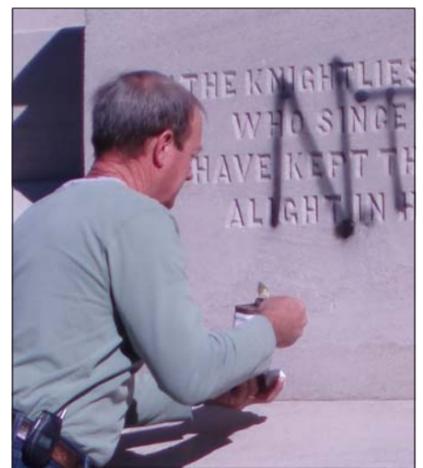
On the other hand, granite requires cleaning materials with a lower pH level or severe staining may occur. Damage caused by cleaning with inappropriate products can usually not be reversed and might even require major repair and/or replacement of the stone. It was very important to take the time to consult with stone conservators who have the scientific knowledge and experience to guide us in choosing products which are safe yet have the highest chance of success. We are testing very small areas to choose the product which works best with the monument's particular stones.

After applying approximately eight products, the pair determined a water-based paint stripper from Cathedral Stone Products worked best. After six applications of the paint remover, Carl stated, "Although we are still seeing a difference after each application, the contrast between each application is diminishing. A good deal of the painted areas is almost indistinguishable from the unpainted granite. There are still areas needing attention, such as deep joints or crevices that are more difficult to reach."

The products applied to the graffiti on the limestone base produced limited results, however. "There has been a lightening of the top surface of the paint, but nothing we have tested so far has adequately removed the paint," said Carl. Other paint removal samples are ordered.

On December 14 the *Montgomery Advertiser* reported state troopers arrested three white Montgomery teenagers for the defacement of the monument. A minimum preliminary amount to clean and repair the stone is estimated at \$3,500.

In 2003 Conservation Solutions Inc. of Washington, D. C., restored the Confederate Monument. Funds for the \$231,600 conservation project, overseen by Alabama Historical Commission staff, came from federal transportation enhancement monies TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century).



Charles Thomas, director of historic preservation at MasonryArts, conducts the first test cleaning on the monument's limestone base.

The National Park Service Technical Preservation Services publishes *Preservation Briefs*. Written for home owners, professional organizations, and government agencies the *Briefs* offer guidance on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings. More than 2 million copies of the *Preservation Briefs* are in print and the illustrated *Preservation Briefs 1-43* are available online.

To view subjects covered by the *Briefs*, from the *Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Old Buildings* to the *Repair of Historic Wooden Windows*, go to the National Park Service web site or type <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm> in your web browser.



HOBSON INDUCTED On November 9, the Alabama Military Hall of Honor at Marion Military Institute inducted Spanish-American War hero and progressive statesman Richmond Pearson Hobson. Jim Brogdon (*left*), a friend of the late George Hobson Sr. (Richmond's son), represented the Hobson family. Shown with the Hobson bronze plaque after the induction ceremony is Brogdon and Eleanor Cunningham, site director at Magnolia Grove. Located in Greensboro, the Greek Revival-style Magnolia Grove is an AHC historic site and the boyhood home of Hobson.



CONGRATULATIONS to the Friends of the Forts, volunteers, and the staff at Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson on the most successful Alabama Frontier Days ever. Held annually in November at the National Historic Site in Wetumpka, the living history event focuses on the lifeways of the Alabama Frontier between 1717 and 1820. (Photo by Mae Washington)

ARCHITECT MAE WASHINGTON IS NAMED EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEE

Mae Washington is the architect for the Alabama Historical Commission. This past quarter in her usual quiet, low-key way, she solved two seemingly unsolvable problems.

When construction work at the Greene County courthouse complex threatened to keep a festival held for the past 30 years on the courthouse square from happening, Washington offered a solution that permitted the contractor to keep his schedule while still allowing the event to take place.

When a conflict between the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Alabama Building Commission rules and regulations threatened funding for the exterior exhibit for the historic Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station, Washington found the solution that saved the project.

Washington's peers have nominated her each quarter for this honor since the program was established last year. As one staff

member said, Mae is a role model for all of us—professionals, managers, and administrative staff.



Alabama Historical Commission Chairman Ike Adams congratulates AHC Architect Mae Washington as the agency's Employee of the Quarter.

BOOK TELLS HISTORY OF SHORTER MANSION AND EUFAULA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

A brief history of Shorter Mansion, Eufaula's most famous landmark, and the illustrious family that built it is now available for purchase from the Eufaula Heritage Association. The 36-page book, *A Brief History of Shorter Mansion and the Eufaula Heritage Association*, also includes the story of how the mansion was saved for the community in 1965 and the history of the Eufaula Heritage Association which owns and operates the house.

Principal author of the history is Joel P. Smith, Sr., retired publisher and editor of *The Eufaula Tribune*,

with collaboration from Florence Foy Strang. Smith and Strang are two community leaders who spearheaded the drive to purchase the house in 1965 and make it available for community use. Included are photographs of Shorter family members and interior rooms of the house.

Copies of the booklet are \$5, plus \$3 shipping, and may be ordered from the Eufaula Heritage Association, 340 N. Eufaula Avenue, Eufaula, AL 36027. For phone orders call (334) 687-3793. Email address: eufaulaheritageassoc@eufaula.rr.com. Website: www.eufaulapilgrimage.com.

DEADLINE FOR 2008 PLACES IN PERIL NOMINATIONS IS MARCH 3

Is there an irreplaceable historic building or site in your area that is highly threatened by demolition or neglect? This is your opportunity to help save it! *Places in Peril*, a joint program of the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, recognizes Alabama's most endangered historic resources. Each submission is to be evaluated for its significance and threat.

Please provide clear photographs of the site. Nominations will not be considered without at least one visual representation.

Mail to: Melanie Betz, Alabama Historical Commission
P. O. Box 300900, Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip Code/ _____

County: _____

Date Built: _____

Ownership: Public Private
Designation: National Register State / Local Designation

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of other local contacts/nonprofit organizations: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

On a separate page, briefly answer the following questions:
Why is the site significant? Is it architecturally significant? Historically significant? Contributes to a district? What makes it unique or different? What is the history of the site? Provide a brief (1-3 lines) historical summary. Why is the site threatened? For example, is it poor maintenance, improper development, proposed demolition, lack of funding? How imminent is the threat? Who are the property owners and what is their attitude towards the property? Provide their contact information. How well known is the site? Is it private or open to the public?

2008 WORK PLAN FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The annual work plan for our federal programs is below. These activities are designed to assist the state in meeting goals and objectives for historic preservation. Comments on these activities are welcome.

To comment on the work plan contact:

Mary Mason Shell

Alabama Historical Commission
P. O. Box 300900
Montgomery AL 36130-0900
(334) 230-2691
mary.shell@preserveala.org

OUTREACH

Maintain and update web site content; produce and distribute bimonthly *Preservation Report* newsletter and *The Advocate*. Develop and promote preservation awareness in general and specialized media through workshops, publications, presentations, events, audience development, heritage area development, and historic markers. Assist preservation partners in development of 2008 annual statewide preservation conference, collaborative statewide funding plan, and Black Heritage Council Forum. Continue delivering leadership and board training to local nonprofit boards. Assist with technical assistance through workshops, publications, and web-based information.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Make presentations to the public on the environmental review program and Section 106 requirements. Attend meetings with project contacts to assist with review and compliance issues. Make site visits to assess National Register eligibility, to consult on mitigation measures, and to address rehabilitation issues. Review Phase I archaeology reports, Phase II archaeology reports, and Phase III reports. Review development projects for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. Respond to inquiries on environmental review projects by mail, phone, and email. Conduct biweekly Section 106 meetings to coordinate review and maintenance of projects. Prepare Memoranda of Agreement and Programmatic Agreements. Maintain database to track projects.

HISTORIC CEMETERY PROGRAM

Provide consultations on cemetery preservation and relocation requests and issue cemetery permits. Provide archaeological consultation on burial bill issues. Make site visits to assess cemetery preservation issues and/or conduct cemetery surveys. Hold

workshops on cemetery preservation, maintenance, and legal issues. Maintain cemetery register program. Process cemetery survey forms and cemetery historical marker applications completed by public. Respond to requests for information.

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provide presentations to public and public officials on general significance of archaeological sites. Respond to requests for information on archaeological projects.

NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAM

Provide National Register information at workshops. Enter data into NR Access Database. Submit nominations to state review board and forward to National Park Service. Prepare public notices and NR certificates. Respond to inquiries on the NR program. Hold three NR review board meetings. Review NR nominations. Review Preliminary Information Forms on historic properties. Review draft and final Alabama Register nominations. Make site visits to assess eligibility. Present nominations to staff review board and prepare certificates.

REHABILITATION TAX INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Respond to requests for general information on tax incentives program. Make public presentations on program and distribute information. Communicate with active tax credit project contacts and make site visits to review potential and active projects. Review applications and forward to National Park Service.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY PROGRAMS

Make site visits in response to public concerns and provide consultations on archaeological resources and survey efforts from state and contracted projects.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY PROGRAM

Respond to requests for information on the architectural survey program. Make site visits to assess architectural survey issues. Seek opportunities to digitize architectural survey data and provide in a public and web-accessible format. Monitor architectural survey grants and perform in house structure surveys. Provide for public involvement with architectural survey projects. Maintain paper files in accessible and useful format.

MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Respond to requests for information from interested communities. Support existing programs with educational opportunities and communications. Conduct planning sessions with statewide Main Street stakeholders to reorganize program and secure operating funds. Submit grant application for program resources. Communicate with program participants on design issues. Review plans and specifications for projects in Main Street project area.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Make site visits to provide technical assistance, training, and grant assistance to participating CLG programs. Provide information on CLG program and grants to interested communities through phone, email, and packets. Make site visits to interested communities committed to the process. Review CLG applications from communities applying to the program. Review annual reports from CLGs and recommend re-certification or decertification. Conduct annual CLG training workshop. Develop certification requirements for local historic preservation commissioners and distribute for comments. Manage CLG grant program to insure project is in accordance with federal program standards. Provide regular news to CLG contacts. Attend state planning workshops.

EASEMENT PROGRAM

Provide information on historic preservation easements to the public. Assist property owners with developing preservation easements. Review development proposals on properties with easements

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON PRESERVATION/ CONSERVATION ISSUES

Assist the public with technical preservation and design issues for

historic properties. Respond to requests for information. Make site visits to provide assistance.

ARCHAEOLOGY SUPERVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

Review contract reports on resources at AHC sites. Participate in master planning and field archaeology at AHC sites. Coordinate maritime council activities.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

Submit draft State Historic Preservation Plan to National Park Service and respond to comments for approval. Distribute approved plan to statewide constituents. Provide plan on agency web site. Seek opportunities to speak at regional planning commission meetings and other organizations to reach new audiences and educate constituents on the statewide goals and objectives.

PRESERVATION TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT

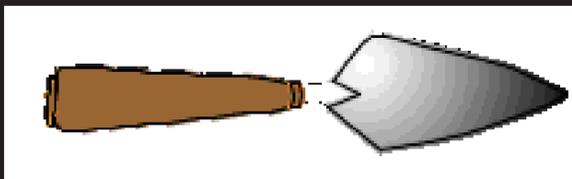
Continue to monitor active trust fund grant projects. Review and approve products.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMPONENT IN MAJOR STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES

Participate with Alabama Communities of Excellence community assessments and programs to coordinate preservation objectives with statewide community development initiatives. Participate in regular state scenic byways council meetings and assessment of proposed state byways to adequately address cultural resources. Participate with Your Town Alabama workshop and organizational meetings to educate local activists on preservation tools and programs.



Current Research in Alabama Archaeology



PUBLIC FORUM

Sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission with the support of the Council on Alabama Archaeology and the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Saturday, February 16

Montgomery

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Alabama State Capitol Auditorium
(enter Union Street entrance)

- Significant projects presented by Alabama archaeologists
- FREE ADMISSION

Contact Stacey Hathorn
Phone: 334-230-2649
stacey.hathorn@preserveala.org



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Montgomery AL 36130-0900

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESERVATION REPORT

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Tara Lanier *Editor*

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Director, Equal Opportunity Program / U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service / P. O. Box 37127 / Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



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