

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2009

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

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Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and Community Day School in Hamburg listed as a Place 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.

"*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."

Named as one of this year's *Places in Peril* is the **Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and Community Day School** in Hamburg.

The Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and Community Day School have served the black community in Hamburg for many years. The church, constructed in 1912 and the school, constructed in 1915, look much as they did when they were constructed, but today the structures are in dire need of repair. Both buildings are now owned by the Mt.

Pleasant Baptist Church, although the one-room school was once a community facility that served African American students.

When it was built, the church was the only African American Baptist congregation in Hamburg, a farming community located in Wilcox County. The school was attended by children who worked the fields before attending classes. Later, those children who wished to attend high school had to walk to Snow Hill Institute which was about six miles away.

Melanie Betz of the Alabama Historical Commission remarks, "The church and the school have retained many original features including their siding, return cornices, wood paneling and flooring, and pot belly stove in the school." Lack of funds and an aging congregation have limited renovation activity but there is still a determination among the members to save these local landmarks.

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

Still Endangered Landmarks

Two nationally significant historic sites have previously been listed as "Places in Peril" but are "Still in Peril".

- . **Barton Academy**, Mobile (PIP 2005)
- . **Old Tallasse Mill**, Tallasse (PIP 1994; 2001)

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