

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL PARK CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF NEW MUSEUM

Hundreds gathered April 28 for the grand opening of the new museum at Confederate Memorial Park located near Marbury in Chilton County.

Confederate Memorial Park is the site of Alabama's only Confederate veterans home. In operation from 1902 to 1939, the home cared for elderly veterans, and wives and widows of veterans.

The new museum showcases Alabama's Confederate past, as well as interprets the historic site. The exhibit employs the latest technology with 35 separate cases and panels, plus six different media stations.

Media stations include re-enactors in the infantry, cavalry, and artillery going through Civil War maneuvers, film footage of Civil War veterans, Army music, how to load and fire a cannon, an electronic wartime map of Alabama, and the



Faces of Veterans—actual photographs of Alabama Soldiers Home residents.

Throughout the exhibit the recurring theme of *As We Was, As We Are Now* (from an original carving by a Confederate veteran shown left) is displayed on every case along with the names of the Soldiers Home veterans buried in cemeteries on site. At the end of the exhibit, a cemetery directory shows where these soldiers are buried not far from the new museum.

The wood carving, on loan from the Alabama Department of Archives and History, depicts a young soldier on the left exemplifying "As We Was, '61-'65" and on the right an old man illustrating "As We Are Now, 1919."

Descendants of Soldiers Home residents and staff were recognized during the grand opening ceremonies.



John Kelton, a designer with the Eclectic Group of Huntsville, refers to a portion of the new exhibit during the grand opening. He and Vice President of Design Clint Blasingame are the exhibit's designers. Jeff Culton, president of ExpoDisplays of Birmingham, is the fabricator.

Special Confederate Memorial Day events followed the ribbon cutting along with living history featuring music by Old Town Brass, cannon firings, and re-enactments by members of the 14th Alabama

Infantry, the 19th Alabama Infantry, the 33rd Alabama Infantry, and Fowler's Alabama Battery.

For information or to book group tours, contact Confederate Memorial Park at (205) 755-1990.

BLACK BELT HERITAGE AREA TASK FORCE SEEKS DESIGNATION

Dorothy Walker Serves as Co-Chair

Dorothy Walker, public outreach coordinator for the Alabama Historical Commission, is co-chair of a task force to guide the preparation of a feasibility study to possibly designate 16 counties in Alabama's Black Belt as a National Heritage Area.

Walker serves as co-chair with Dr. Tina Jones, executive director of the Center for the Study of the

Black Belt at the University of West Alabama in Livingston.

The Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel has contracted with Fermata Inc., a national company that specializes in experiential tourism, to complete the feasibility study.

As part of ongoing strategic planning efforts, the Governor's Black Action Commission's tourism and marketing committee identified the opportunity to pursue heritage area designation. Many members of that committee also serve on the Black Belt Heritage Area Task Force.

A "national heritage area" is a place recognized by the United States Congress for its unique contribution to the American experience. To date Congress has established 37 National Heritage Areas around the country in which conservation, interpretation, and other activities are managed by partnerships among federal, state, and local governments, and the private sector.

Federal funds available to designated heritage areas could be used for many purposes. Presently, there are no National Heritage Areas in Alabama.



Dorothy Walker (second from right), and a small group from the Black Belt Heritage Area Task Force, traveled to South Carolina in March to meet with representatives of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. The corridor is a Congressionally-designated National Heritage Area. The group discussed options for the management and operation of heritage areas.

CLEAN UP DAY AT HISTORIC GREENWOOD

AHC Partners with Students and Volunteers

On March 15, AHC staff members traveled to Greensboro to participate in a clean up day at Greenwood, one of the town's landmark antebellum houses.

Students and faculty from the Auburn University Rural Studio program based in nearby Newbern joined staff members, along with volunteers from Habitat for Humanity/Hale County. These volunteers included students from Philadelphia University and the University of New Hampshire who were in the area as part of Habitat's Collegiate Challenge Program.

A fire heavily damaged Greenwood in 2002. When the owner chose not to repair the house, the Historical Commission stepped in to perform emergency stabilization



under an existing easement agreement. Subsequently, the property was conveyed to the Historical Commission.

Attorney and planter Sydenham Moore built the Greek Revival-style residence in 1856, incorporating materials from the 1820s "Greenwood" plantation house of Alabama's third governor, Israel

Pickens. The "Greenwood" name transferred to Moore's town house.

Attaining the rank of colonel in the Confederate army, Moore died in 1862 from wounds received at the Battle of Seven Pines in Virginia. After his death, his widow and children continued to live there.

"Greenwood is a first-rate landmark and a major element in

Greensboro's historic district," said Alabama Historical Commission Senior Architectural Historian Robert Gamble. "The purpose of the clean up is to help prospective buyers see its potential."

Greenwood is available for restoration. For inquiries, contact Robert Gamble at (334) 230-2670 or robert.gamble@preserveala.org.

Alabama Archaeological Society HONORS LINDA DERRY

In December, the Alabama Archaeological Society (AAS) presented Linda Derry with the Milt and Bea Harris Award in recognition and appreciation for her many years of dedicated service to the AAS. Derry is the historic site director at Old Cahawba.

MacDonald Brooms, chairman of the presentation committee, praised Derry's tireless efforts to promote archaeological education in Alabama. Derry chairs the AAS public education committee which funds projects that promote a better understanding of Alabama archaeology in Alabama's classrooms or among the general public.



Educational projects that promote the conservation of Alabama's archaeological sites and collections are eligible for this annual award. Derry was instrumental in developing the grant program and in raising funds for this annual grant.

"As AAS secretary, Linda has rarely missed a board meeting and has kept meticulous records for the society for many years," said Teresa Paglione, 2007 AAS secretary. "She also organized two annual meetings for the society and in 1996 served as president."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF HISTORIC BRIDGE

The Alabama Department of Transportation is planning to remove a bridge that has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. For various reasons preservation of this structure in place is not feasible. The bridge to be replaced is over SR-20 on US-72 in Lauderdale County.

Constructed in 1938, the bridge is a four-span concrete T-Beam. It has aesthetic details that recall Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. The bridge is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent example of 1930s-era bridge design.

As stipulated in Section 123(f)(4) of the Surface Transportation Act of 1987 and the Memoranda of Agreement with the Alabama Historical Commission and the Federal Highway Administration, the Alabama Department of

Transportation is officially announcing the availability of this bridge to qualified organizations. The structure will be donated to appropriate recipients and the Department of Transportation will pay the expense of moving the bridge or selected bridge sections and associated re-establishment costs up to the expense of bridge or bridge section demolition. For this service the receiver will agree to preserve the historical integrity of the bridge and to properly maintain the structure.

Any agencies or groups interested in further information concerning acquisition of this bridge, or wishing to be considered for donation of additional bridges to be offered in the future, contact:

William B. Turner, Archaeologist
Alabama Dept. of Transportation
1409 Coliseum Boulevard, T-205
Montgomery, AL 36130-3050
Telephone: (334) 242-6144

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROTECTS HISTORIC CEMETERY

*Results in listing in Alabama
Historic Cemetery Register*



James Wilkinson Hereford of Huntsville recently completed his Eagle Scout project, the restoration of the Jonathan C. Camp Cemetery in Jackson County. In addition, Hereford nominated the cemetery for listing in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. He was notified on March 13 that the cemetery has been added to the register, making it only the second cemetery in Jackson County listed and the ninety-ninth statewide.

James Hereford's goal was to do an Eagle Scout project that required physical labor. Doug Fears, Paint Rock River project director for The Nature Conservancy, shared information with James and James' father Tom about an unmarked cemetery on The Nature Conservancy's Whitaker Preserve in Paint Rock in need of cleaning and fencing.

The previous owner, Roy B. Whitaker, had marked the ceme-

tery's approximate boundaries before conveying the property to The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy uses this 323-acre tract to demonstrate methods for the restoration of agricultural and pasture lands, including the replanting of native warm-season grasses and native bottomland hardwood trees.

James Hereford and his parents visited the site and then located and interviewed Roy B. (Chipper) Whitaker. They learned the Camps were the first family to own the property, purchasing it in the mid-1800s. The Keel family purchased it from the Camps and the Whitakers bought the land in 1903.

James Hereford organized a 12-member work party, including Scouts and adults who mowed the ground carefully, and removed rocks and limbs. The original boundaries of the cemetery were determined

and a two-rail cedar split-rail fence was erected around the 300-foot perimeter. James raised all the funds necessary for this project.

He then did research to determine the name of the cemetery and who is buried there. Local cemetery historian Jim Maples assisted him in determining that the cemetery is identified as the Jonathan C. Camp Cemetery. James contacted Lee Anne Wofford at the Alabama Historical Commission and obtained the forms necessary to nominate the cemetery to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

James received his Eagle Scout designation on February 22 and his Eagle Court of Honor was held April 22.



TOP: The "after" photo showing the fence that marks boundaries.
MIDDLE: A "before" photo.
BELOW: Project marker.



online directory
for preservation work

The Alabama Historical Commission often receives calls from citizens who need recommendations for a professional or craftsman for preservation work.

A national online services directory, is available from Restore Media, publishers of *Old House Journal* and sponsor of *Traditional Building* conferences: www.tradewebdirectory.com.

Organized by state, this online directory provides information about professionals who cover hundreds of specialties in preservation, including contractors, architects, archaeologists, consultants, and conservators. Preservation professionals can list five of their specialty trades or professions on the list at no cost.

Of course the AHC wants people to find out about craftsmen available for work, but as

state employees there are ethical concerns about making recommendations. We encourage preservation professionals who work in Alabama to join this list, and hope preservationists will let their favorite craftsman know about the list.

Of course anyone can register on the online directory, so the preservation public still needs to use care in selecting a contractor or other professional. Ask for references, (three is a good number) and follow up with calls. Ask about general work habits and experience with projects similar to yours. If projects are close, drive by and look at the work yourself. Selecting a quality craftsman is one of the most important decisions you make about your historic building or site.

AT THE HISTORIC SITES



Bill Rambo, site director at Confederate Memorial Park, joins Cecil Wingard and Joe Wingard outside the museum building designed by Joel Peek and erected in 1979. The Wingards are shown donating an artifact to the new museum.



More Photos from

**CONFEDERATE
MEMORIAL PARK**



Alabama Senator "Hank" Erwin, Jr., attended the ribbon cutting ceremony. In the background are living history re-enactors.



Gaineswood Praises Volunteers

Gaineswood hosted a volunteer appreciation ceremony and gathering on April 25. AHC Executive Director John Neubauer (above) and Gaineswood Site Director Matt Hartzell praised the 40 volunteers for their roles in presenting tours and educational programs at the National Historic Landmark during 2006.



Heritage Appreciation Days

William Norwood owns a collection of antique farm equipment. As one of the hands-on activities, students hand-cranked Norwood's corn sheller. Gaineswood attracted over 500 Black Belt-area fourth-graders and 50 educators to its seventh annual Heritage Appreciation Days on March 15 and 16.

FORT MORGAN EVENTS

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26; JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

7 – 8 p.m.

Candlelight tours of the fort.

JULY 4

Cannons fired throughout the day to celebrate our nation's independence day.

Now open to visitors to Baldwin and Mobile Counties-- BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY CIVIL WAR TRAIL

"Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" is the legendary command issued by U.S. naval commander Admiral David Farragut as his fleet charged into Mobile Bay in August of 1864. His objectives were to capture the forts at the entrance to the bay, destroy Mobile's Confederate naval squadron, and close Mobile to blockade runners.

With the opening of the **Battle of Mobile Bay Civil War Trail**, visitors to Baldwin and Mobile counties can trace the path of this significant campaign. The trail stretches from the Gulf of Mexico over 90 miles to north Mobile County, and documents the military movements and way of life on and around Mobile Bay during the Battle of the Bay (August 1864) and the Overland Campaign (March – May, 1865). A series of interpretive signs at more than a dozen sites offers detailed exploration of the historic events which restored Mobile and the bay country to the Union. The stories of ship captains, fort commanders, and common fighting men are told through first-hand accounts, historical references, and detailed illustrations displayed on the signs.

The trail officially opened March 28 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan.



The **Battle of Mobile Civil War Trail** is a result of a partnership between the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau and Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 2003, the two bureaus collaborated on the production of the printed trail guide. After receiving a positive response to the guide, they chose to further develop the trail with interpretive

signage and a website. Funding for this \$100,000 project was pledged by both visitors' bureaus, the Museum of Mobile, and the Baldwin County Commission.

For more information or to receive a trail guide, visit www.BattleofMobileBay.com or contact the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-745-SAND.



BLACK BELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO HISTORIC MAGNOLIA GROVE FOUNDATION

The Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) recently awarded a \$1000 grant to the Historic Magnolia Grove Foundation. This grant will partially fund the development of a teacher resource guide to be distributed to teachers and libraries in Hale County.

This project is a collaborative effort of the historic sites in Hale County: Magnolia Grove, Moundville Archaeological Park, the Noel-Ramsey House, and the Safe House Civil Rights Museum. Each historic site will contribute lesson plans that are directly tied to the Social Studies Standards of the Alabama Course of Study.

"The historic sites in Hale County are excited to be working together on this project," said Eleanor Cunningham, Magnolia Grove site director. "It is our goal to help Hale County teachers utilize historic resources in the community as they are teaching. We also hope this project can be a model for other counties."

BBCF, which is in its third year of operation, was established to support community efforts in the Black Belt that will contribute to the strength, innovation, and success of all the region's people and communities. The foundation's mission is to forge a collective stream of giving from the community and other sources "so we, the people of the Black Belt, can



enhance our continuing efforts to lift ourselves by taking what we have to make what we need."

Grants are awarded twice yearly. Since March 2005, the Black Belt Community Foundation has awarded grants to 168 organizations for over \$300,000. Historic Magnolia Grove Foundation is part of a group of 37 organizations from across the Black Belt receiving more than \$60,000 in funds from the BBCF's fifth round of grants.

Fendall Hall Honors Volunteers

Volunteers who donated their valuable time to Fendall Hall in 2006 were honored with an appreciation coffee on March 14.

Van Smith, who donated 516 hours, and Pam Snead, who volunteered 199 hours, received gift baskets. Smith, who has worked at Fendall Hall since 1991, also received a Certificate of Merit from the Alabama Historical Commission along with Nettie Richardson and Fannie Clark.

Nettie Richardson, who has been at Fendall Hall since 1994, has had to stop volunteering because of health problems. Fannie Clark, who has supported Fendall Hall since it was purchased by the state in 1973, also had to end her services as a docent because of health issues. She still serves, however, on the Friends board.

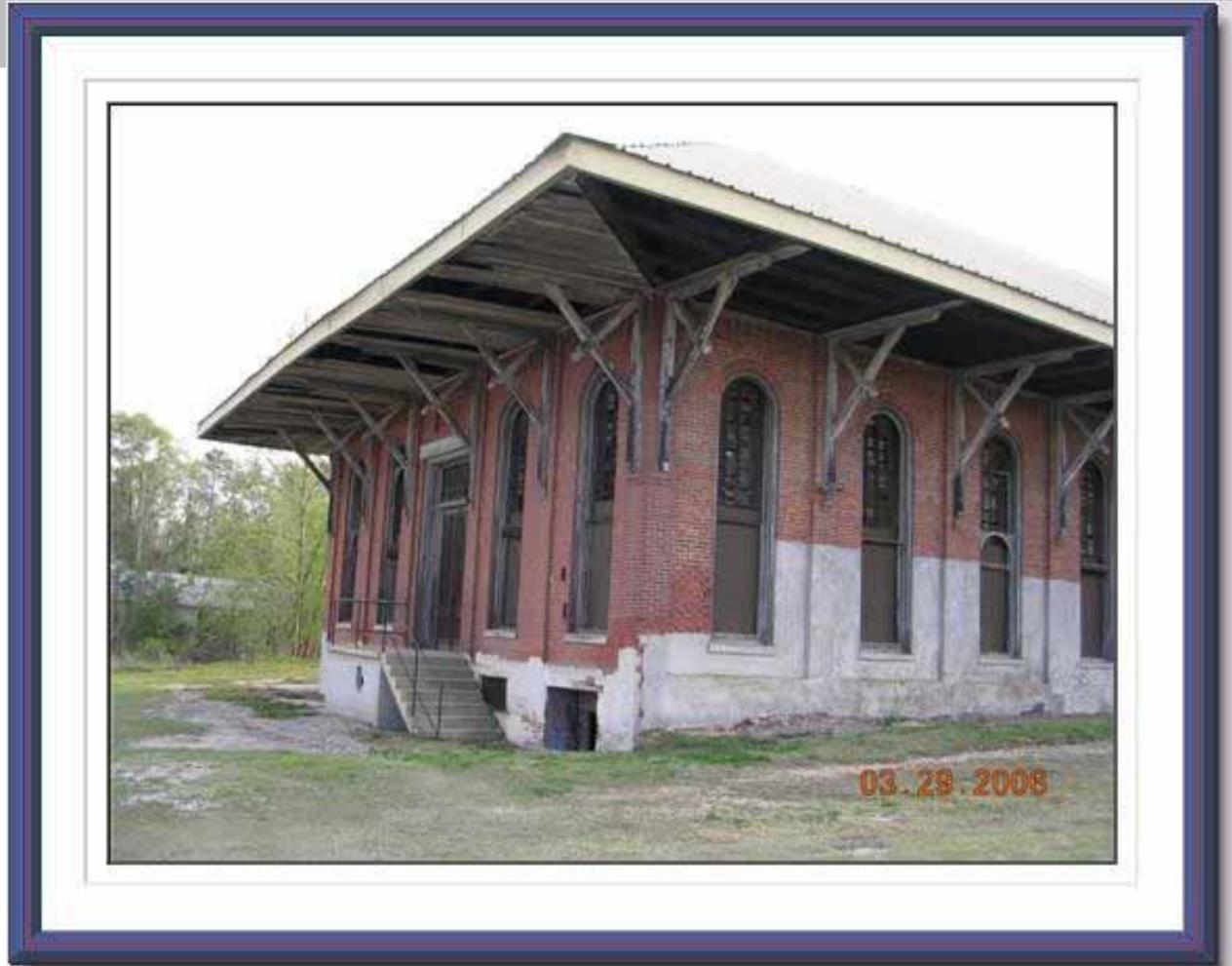
An Update from Doug Purcell Executive Director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission-- Eufaula's 1872 Vicksburg and Brunswick Depot

The Eufaula Heritage Association invested \$25,000 in a binder for a purchase option on the 1872 Vicksburg and Brunswick Depot which is owned by the Eufaula First United Methodist Church. The Board of Trustees of the church had considered a demolition contract with a local company in return for \$25,000 and salvage rights to the historic building materials. The salvage company would also clean up the site so it could be used for parking.

The City of Eufaula has expressed interest in acquiring the depot for use as a city hall or for some other community purpose. The city has retained the services of local architect Mike Hamrick of Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood to oversee a structural integrity report on the building.

Approximately nine years ago, noted Huntsville architect Harvie Jones did a similar evaluation and said the building was in good shape. Last year Gene Surber of Atlanta also conducted a study, funded in part by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the result was the same—the building does have a few problems but is basically sound.

The Eufaula Heritage Association has until the end of December 2007 to exercise its purchase option or to sell the building to another person or group.



The asking price for the depot is \$75,000. It contains approximately 7,500 square feet plus a full basement.

Potential buyers should contact Doug Purcell, president of the Eufaula Heritage Association, at (334) 687-9755.

Architect George Whipple designed the 1872 depot and Eufaula's Kendall Manor. Whipple died in 1872 making the depot and Kendall Manor two of his last projects. He likely designed Fendall Hall as well as several other Eufaula Italianate-style residences.

Listed in 1997 as a *Places in Peril*, the depot was noted as "Alabama's finest Reconstruction-era depot." The building is representative of the functional, yet attractive, depot structures built during the heyday of the American railway industry.

NATIONAL TRUST DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Many nonprofit preservation organizations and community development corporations are concerned about the lack of diversity within their ranks.

The National Trust Diversity Scholarship Program can help address this by increasing the diversity of participants at the annual National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement generally.

The program provides financial assistance to approximately 60 community leaders from diverse

social, economic, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to attend the conference.

The National Trust seeks culturally diverse applicants whose attendance at the conference will benefit their communities and whose commitment to historic preservation will be reinforced by their participation.

The 2007 scholarship deadline is June 1.

For more information, visit http://www.nationaltrust.org/scholarships/diversity_scholarship.html.

CENTREVILLE APPLIES FOR CLG STATUS

The City of Centreville's application to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) is waiting approval from the National Park Service.

A Certified Local Government workshop is to be held May 24 in Mobile. The workshop provides required training to local preservation commission members participating in the CLG program.

Communities interested in setting up a historic preservation commission and participating in the CLG program are also invited. The opening session features the CLG program, the authority of local historic preservation commissions, and what Alabama's CLGs are

doing to protect their community's historic resources.

For information regarding the CLG program, contact Mary Mason Shell at (334)230-2691.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! TAKE OUR PUBLIC SURVEY

As the AHC updates the state historic preservation plan, we need your opinion on the state's historic resources, issues affecting historic preservation, and ways the agency can best assist you with preservation efforts. Staff will use the survey results to review and update the AHC's goals and objectives. To take the survey online *before MAY 26*, go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=460533211974> or access the survey from our website at PreserveAla.org.

HURRICANE RELIEF GRANTS AVAILABLE

Congress has appropriated \$43 million for historic preservation projects to provide disaster relief in the states of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita which occurred during 2005. Of the original grant pool of \$1.4 million previously announced for Alabama, \$322,000 is still available.

Applications will be accepted on the first of each month beginning June 1, 2007, and thereafter until grant funds are exhausted. It is expected the grant pool will be fully exhausted by the end of summer 2007; however, grant applications will be accepted until the end of 2007 if this is not the case.

Twenty-two counties in Alabama are eligible: Baldwin, Bibb, Choctaw, Clarke, Colbert, Cullman, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Marengo, Marion, Mobile, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Washington, Wilcox, and Winston.

To qualify for grant funds, a structure or archaeological site must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or considered eligible for National Register listing according to criteria.

Grants are to provide disaster relief for expenses which were not reimbursed by insurance or other federal programs. No religious-use or federally-owned properties are eligible to receive these grant funds.

The purpose of this funding is to provide technical assistance and emergency repairs to historic and archaeological resources impacted by the wind and water damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The maximum amount for an individual grant is \$100,000.

For more information and an application form, contact Elizabeth Brown at the Alabama Historical Commission at (334) 230-2667 or elizabeth.brown@preserveala.org.

2007 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council are seeking nominations for the 2007 Historic Preservation Awards. Recipients will be honored during the Alabama Preservation Conference in Huntsville on September 20-22.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Since 1969, the Alabama Historical Commission has celebrated achievements in preservation by presenting the Distinguished Service Award to individuals and groups whose contributions demonstrate excellence in historic preservation.

ROY SWAYZE AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding achievement by a private owner in the restoration of a major Alabama landmark.

IDELLA CHILDS AWARD

Each year the Black Heritage Council recognizes outstanding preservation projects that highlight Alabama's African American history and culture. The late Idella Childs established an enviable record as a preservationist of Alabama's black landmarks.

Please return nominations by JUNE 15 to: Tara Lanier Alabama Historical Commission P. O. Box 300900 Montgomery AL 36130-0900	By courier: 468 South Perry Street Montgomery AL 36104 tara.lanier@preserveala.org (334) 242-3184
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Nominee: _____

Nominee's Daytime Phone: _____

Address: _____

CATEGORY: (check one)

- DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
- ROY SWAYZE AWARD
- IDELLA CHILDS AWARD

Name & address/location of property, or accomplishment:

DESCRIPTION: Provide on a separate sheet.

- . If a restoration is nominated, give name, location, and structural condition.
- . If a survey is nominated, furnish a complete description.
- . If a publication is nominated, give bibliographic data.

Project description should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than three pages.

DOCUMENTATION: List documentation included, such as clippings, photographs, and letters of support (at least 3). *At least one quality photograph is required of project and one of nominated person or group for publication purposes. Digital photographs may be included on a CD or emailed.*

Nominated by: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



RUSSELL ERSKINE RESTORATION NOMINATED FOR HUD AWARD

The Historic Huntsville Foundation has nominated the Russell Erskine Hotel for the HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation. The National Register building, located in the downtown business district, supplies a critical need for low- to moderate-income housing.

Purchased in 2003 by Philip Dotts and David Greenberg, principals of New Russell Erskine, LP, the owners combined Low Income Housing Tax Credits with Preservation Tax Credits—the first time this approach has been used in north Alabama.

“This award nomination is based not only on the superb historic restoration carried out by the owners, but because this project fulfills the higher ideals associated with meaningful historic preservation,” said Donna

Castellano, chairman of the Historic Huntsville Foundation.

Built in 1928 by a group of investors, the 12-story concrete and steel building with a distinctive Neo Classical Revival façade transformed Huntsville's skyline. The hotel's ballroom, banquet rooms, and guestrooms became the setting for countless social functions, civic meetings, and family celebrations as the life of the hotel and memories of Tennessee Valley residents intertwined.

A conversion to low-income housing for the elderly in the early 1980s brought full-time residents to the building, but a series of poorly conceived and executed renovations obscured the grand moldings and architectural details that lent grace to the hotel's public rooms. A failure to make necessary improvements led to the building's inevitable decline.

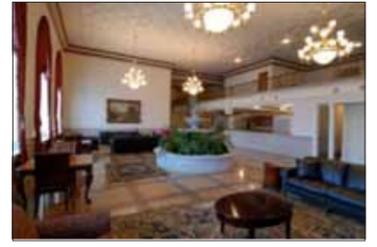
“Regrettably by the time Philip and David purchased the building, the association many Huntsvillians had of the hotel was of a neglected building occupied by people

marginalized by society,” said Castellano.

Today the hotel is again a center of activities—as the building's public rooms are frequently used for civic groups for meetings and special gatherings. “The restoration has challenged the community's perception of low-income housing and the people who live there,” Castellano said.

As downtown Huntsville embarks in a growth phase, there are greater opportunities for Russell Erskine residents to contribute to the local economy—as consumers and shop patrons—and to participate in downtown events and activities.

“This project serves as a shining example of the multiple goals that can be accomplished through a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to historic preservation,” said Castellano. “The Dotts-Greenberg restoration did not create a museum for early-twentieth-century architecture, but produced a warm, safe, and comfortable environment for vital, active people to live out the remaining years of their lives while preserving a significant historic building.”



INTERIOR VIEW

The Alabama Preservation Conference will feature the Russell Erskine project--its restoration and financing...

SAVING PLACES:
The Historic Tennessee Valley
September 20-22, 2007
Huntsville

Watch the *Preservation Report* for more details!

PRESERVATION Alabama Historical Commission REPORT

Preservation Report is a bimonthly publication of the
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 South Perry Street / P.O. Box 300900
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900 / (334) 242-3184

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National Park Service / P. O. Box 37127 / Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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