

PRESERVATION Alabama Historical Commission REPORT

VOL. 35, NO. 3

MAY-JUNE 2008



BELLE MONT'S PROGRESS

Phased Restoration

Completed courtyard boosts rentals

Not only is one of Alabama's most distinguished historic houses once again open for tours, but it is also available for special events. Now that the courtyard is finished, rentals have been on the upswing according to Belle Mont Site Director Melissa Beasley.

Recent interior work includes plaster repair and interior painting. Exterior work includes brick re-pointing, wood repair, painting, and restoring the front porch. Belle Mont is known as an outstanding example of Thomas Jefferson's influence upon the architecture of the early American republic.

For rental information contact Melissa Beasley at (256) 637-8513. Special events include weddings, receptions, family reunions, meetings, and historical society gatherings.

Belle Mont Mansion is located at 1569 Cook Lane in Tusculumbia. Contact the site at (256) 381-5052.

OLD CAHAWBA VISITOR CENTER RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDING

In December U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced committee approval of several funding requests for Alabama included in the fiscal year 2008 Interior Appropriations bill. The bill, which was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, passed the U.S. House and Senate.

Included in the bill is a Save America's Treasures grant in the amount of \$172,000 for the Old Cahawba Visitor Center. A fire in July 2005 destroyed the previous structure. State, local, and private monies will match the federal funding administered by the National Park Service.

Approximately 35,000 people visit the Old Cahawba Visitor Center annually.

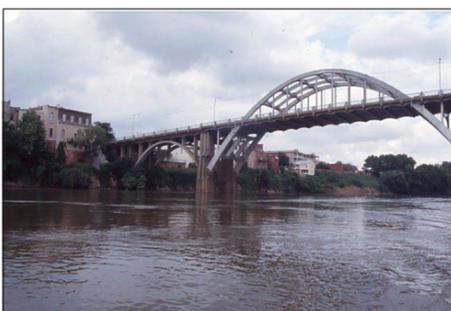
"Investment in West Alabama's tourism industry will help spur economic growth and development throughout the Black Belt," said Shelby. "Additionally, I believe that we should protect and preserve this historically significant site so that future generations can enjoy the facility."



Above: AHC Executive Director Frank W. White and Alabama State Senator Roger Bedford at Belle Mont during the Alabama Historical Association annual meeting held April 17-19 in The Shoals. Sen. Bedford is a long-time friend and supporter of Belle Mont. **Right:** One of the repainted bedrooms. More interior painting is needed along with replacing the original 1850s wallpaper in the entrance hall on the first and second floors with a hand-blocked replica.

BLACK HERITAGE COUNCIL PRESERVATION FORUM

A Heritage So Rich: Discovering, Preserving, and Promoting the History and Culture of African Americans in the Black Belt through Tourism



June 26 – 28
Selma, Alabama

First Baptist Church
709 Martin Luther King Street

Friday is devoted to educational sessions. Saturday participants will take part in field sessions held at various locations

throughout the city. Lunch is included in the cost of registration.

For more information, contact Dorothy Walker at (334) 230-2665, or dorothy.walker@preserveala.org.

ALABAMA PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Green Gables: Sustainability and Historic Preservation

October 9 – 11
The Grand Hotel
Point Clear, Alabama

For more information, call
(205) 652-3497.

Sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission, the Black Heritage Council, and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation.



Photo: Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau

SAVE THE DATE ♦ SAVE THE DATE ♦ SAVE THE DATE

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



The Alabama Historical Commission helps Alabamians protect, preserve, use, and interpret our historic buildings and archaeological sites. In Fiscal Year 2007, we:

Attracted **155,425** visits to our Web site.

Welcomed **278,256** visitors to our historic sites to learn and experience our history at the very places it was made.

Responded to requests for information and assistance in understanding, protecting, and interpreting Alabama's historic and pre-historic treasures. The number of constituents and public served was **63,885**.

Reached **5,455** people with two periodical publications.

Garnered **848** media stories on AHC programs, events, historic sites, and staff members.

Organized, sponsored, co-sponsored or presented at lectures, conferences, workshops, public presentations, hearings, or special programs at our own historic sites, reaching over **6,490** people with information, learning opportunities, or celebratory events.

The Preservation Watch List identified **481** sites throughout the state facing a threat. Responded to **271** requests for assistance and provided substantial aid to **43** projects resulting in the rescue, stabilization, or emergency documentation of **8** landmarks.

Identified easements for **5** properties, making a total of 83 properties protected by AHC-held covenants.

Secured **\$37,800** in national funding for AHC-owned historic sites.

Added **109** historic buildings, sites, and structures to the Alabama Inventory.

Listed **3** entries in the National Register of Historic Places, a nationwide listing of America's places worth preserving.

Assisted owners of 9 properties qualify for federal rehabilitation tax credits, resulting in over **\$12 million** in private investment in Alabama's historic places.

Provided guidance and assistance to 22 cities with historic preservation ordinances protecting over **12,139** historic houses, schools, community buildings, commercial buildings and places of worship.

Reviewed **16** permits for actions that affect cemeteries.

Reviewed **2,293** federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects for impacts on historic resources, clearing 851 of them on first review.

Engaged **858** volunteers in **6,084** hours at AHC historic sites.

Partnered with nonprofits, universities, cities, and government agencies to further our mission.





Alabama Civil Rights Movement Sites Selected to New U.S. World Heritage Tentative List

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church,
Montgomery
Bethel Baptist Church,
Birmingham
16th Street Baptist Church,
Birmingham

Three Alabama civil rights sites are one of 14 U.S. sites to be included on a new United States World Heritage Tentative List. The three churches are now eligible to be considered for nomination by the United States to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The list recognizes the most significant cultural and national treasures in the world.

The nomination of the Alabama sites is UNESCO's first recognition of the civil rights movement in the United States, and connects historically existing U.S. sites: Independence Hall and the Statue of Liberty as icons in mankind's search for freedom.

Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, announced the list on January 22. "I am pleased to be able to take the necessary first step so that these truly significant American natural and cultural properties can be considered for the most prestigious international recognition accorded to properties of global importance," Kempthorne said.

The new sites on the tentative list can be considered over the next 10 years for formal nomination by the United States as World Heritage Sites. Currently, there are 851 World Heritage Sites in the world, 20 of them in the United States.

Neither inclusion in the Tentative List nor inscription as a World Heritage Site imposes legal restrictions on owners or neighbors of sites, nor does it give the United Nations any management authority or ownership rights in U.S. World Heritage Sites, which continues to be subject to U.S. law.

2008 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council are seeking nominations for the 2008 Historic Preservation Awards. Recipients will be honored during the Alabama Preservation Conference in Point Clear, October 9-11.

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.

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.

Please return nominations by JUNE 1 to: Ellen Mertins Alabama Historical Commission P. O. Box 300900 Montgomery AL 36130-0900	By courier: 468 South Perry Street Montgomery AL 36104 ellen.mertins@preserveala.org (334) 230-2657
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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: _____

FROM THE COMMISSION

Comings and Goings

In April the AHC welcomed **Stacey Little** as executive secretary. Little, who has 18 years service with the State of Alabama, carried out the last 17 years with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. While there she managed the agency's print shop, Web site, and served as graphic designer.



Stacey Little

Tara Lanier, who has been with the Historical Commission and served as editor of the *Preservation Report* since 1989, begins work in May with Auburn University. She is to direct communications and marketing for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

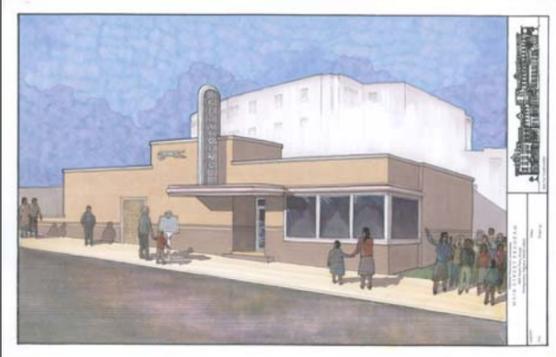
David Ray, who joined the AHC in October 2006 as the National Register coordinator, left in January to pursue business interests in his hometown of Mobile.

Historic Sites' New Staff

The *Demopolis Times* announced the arrival of **Bruce Lipscombe** who began in March assisting with the day-to-day operations and the site's collections at Gaineswood in Demopolis. Lipscombe previously worked with the Historic Waco Foundation in Texas. While she primarily works at Gaineswood, she will also help manage the museum collection at Magnolia Grove in Greensboro.

Zachary Caudill came on board April 1 at Pond Spring, the General Joe Wheeler home in Hillsboro, as a laborer.

Parks Worker **Julie Holland** began May 1 at Confederate Memorial Park located in Marbury in Chilton County.



1961 FREEDOM RIDES EXHIBIT UNVEILING

Former Greyhound Bus Station, 210 South Court Street
Montgomery

The first in a series of exhibits about the 1961 Freedom Rides is to be unveiled May 24 at 2 p.m. at the former Greyhound Bus Station in Montgomery. The 1961 Freedom Rides marked a turning point in the civil rights movement. The goal was to compel the U.S. government to enforce Supreme Court decisions outlawing segregated transportation seating and facilities.

www.montgomerybusstation.org

ALABAMA NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING
June 12 10:30 a.m.
AHC Carriage House 468 South Perry Street Montgomery
Contact: Malissa Bailey, (334) 230-2673

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468 South Perry Street
P. O. Box 300900
Montgomery AL 36130-0900
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James P. "Ike" Adams *Chair*
Frank W. White *Executive Director*
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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Preserve, Protect, and Interpret Alabama's Historic Places

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