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For Immediate Release

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MONTGOMERY PRESERVATIONIST RECEIVES AWARD

James Willoughby Fuller received the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) Distinguished Service Award on Friday, October 10, during the Alabama Preservation Conference, according to AHC Executive Director Frank W. White. The annual awards presentation was held at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama, with Congressman Jo Bonner officiating.

When the construction of a new federal courthouse threatened Montgomery's 1837 Figh-Pickett House, James Willoughby Fuller came to the rescue. Fuller had gone to the Barnes School when it was located in the Figh-Pickett House, just prior to World War II. But the house had more history than that. It was also the home of Albert Pickett, Alabama's great historian, and had been recorded in the Historic American Building Survey.

Saving it seemed an impossible task. The massive three story brick building would have to be moved up a very steep hill to a nearby donated lot. Many doubted that it could be done. Undeterred, Fuller rounded up some of the old Barnes School Boys and a few other friends and together they made it happen. Along the way, Fuller also created the Montgomery County Historical Society, which now occupies the relocated and restored home.

No stranger to historic preservation, Fuller had helped to revitalize an older declining neighborhood by restoring a commercial building in Old Cloverdale's now thriving shopping area.

This year's conference **Historic Preservation: The Original Green** (www.preserveala.org) promoted awareness that historic preservation is inherently energy efficient.

Architect Joseph Smith from Madison, Georgia, led **Inherently Green and Intentionally Greener**, a historic homeowner workshop teaching why our historic homes are energy efficient and how we can make them more so.

Architect John Williams from Seattle, Washington gave the keynote address "**Saving Historic Resources Sustains Communities**" and led an afternoon workshop on how to rehab historic buildings without destroying their character.

The Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC) underwrote the speakers on sustainability. Angier Johnson, director of the PSC's Consumer Education Initiative, introduced the keynote speaker. The Consumer Education Initiative seeks to educate consumers on the importance and benefits of energy efficiency in their homes.

The Alabama Preservation Conference is held annually by the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Black Heritage Council.

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