

PRESERVATION

Alabama Historical Commission

REPORT

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CHANGES OCCURRING AT HISTORIC MONTGOMERY GREYHOUND BUS STATION

Site of 1961 Freedom Rides

Changes are occurring at the historic Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station located at 210 South Court Street. The station is no longer an active transportation hub, but its association with the Freedom Rides in the early 1960s makes it an internationally significant site.

May 21, 2007, commemorated the 46th anniversary of the Freedom Ride riot that took place at the Greyhound bus station in 1961. Today the building is owned by the General Services Administration and leased to the Historical Commission.

The Historical Commission is working with a community interest group to develop the station and nearby Moore Building into a major historic attraction.

A new lighted Greyhound sign and replica of the original Greyhound emblem is in place. "By next year's anniversary, we will have an interpretive exhibit installed on the building's exterior," said Mark Driscoll, Alabama Historical Commission director of historic sites.

"We encourage the support of all projects relating to the Freedom Rides in Alabama," said Robert Daniel, chairman of the Greyhound Bus Station Advisory Committee. "A group working to commemorate the Freedom Riders story in Anniston recently erected a historical marker where one of the buses was burned."

Background

On May 21, 1961, an integrated group of students trained in non-violent protest were met with violence by white segregationists. The Freedom Riders were traveling through the Deep South to test compliance with the Supreme Court ruling outlawing segregation in interstate travel and accommodations.

John Lewis, now a U.S. Congressman from Georgia, led the students into Montgomery. A mob armed with bats, billy clubs, and lead pipes assaulted the group.

John Seigenthaler, an official with the United States Department of Justice who came to the scene from a block away, was beaten unconscious.

The next day, the Freedom Riders, civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and others from the community met at Abernathy's First Baptist Church on North Ripley Street. An angry crowd that surrounded the church held the occupants captive overnight. Alabama Governor John Patterson declared martial law and mobilized the National Guard to disperse the mob.

The incident in Montgomery in 1961 led the Kennedy administration to take a stand on civil rights.



Alabama Historical Commission Architect Mae Washington talks to Heather Graver, a WAKA Channel 8 news reporter, outside the

Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station on August 22. The Frank M. Johnson U.S. Courthouse Complex is in the background.

2007 PRESERVATION AWARDS

Black Heritage Council Selects Two Recipients

The Alabama Historical Commission's Black Heritage Council has announced Ala Whitehead and Mille Lee Dulaney as the 2007 recipients of the Idella Childs Distinguished Service Award.

Ala Whitehead is recognized for helping preserve one of the state's oldest remaining law offices and the oldest surviving building on Tuskegee's square. Her donation of the circa 1840 building, historically known as the Segrest-Raymon Law Office, and one-third of the money needed to move the structure allowed organizers to save it. The building was moved to a site not far from the

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Alabama Historical Commission Honors Preservationists

Alabama Representative Laura Hall presented this year's preservation awards on September 21 during the Alabama Preservation Conference held in Huntsville. The three-day conference focused on the historic Tennessee Valley with a ramble on Saturday hosted by the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation that toured Mooresville, Decatur, and Hartselle.

Sponsors for the conference included the Alabama Historical Commission, the Black Heritage Council, the Alabama Trust, and the Historic Huntsville Foundation.

ROY SWAYZEE AWARD

David Duffee

The Alabama Historical Commission's Roy Swayze Award exemplifies outstanding achievement by a private owner. David Duffee is a third generation owner of a family company that has grown and prospered on Birmingham's Southside in the Historic Automotive District.

He is recognized for the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of the Birmingham Electric Battery Company (BEBCO) building built by his grandfather. Duffee collaborated with Davis Architects in rehabbing the facility while meeting

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Black Heritage Council Selects Two Recipients

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town square next to the Johnston-Curtright House on North Main.



Ala Whitehead

The structure dates from a period in American history when attorneys constructed their offices within walking distance of the county courthouse. In fact, the Segrest-Raymon Law Office originally formed part of Tuskegee's historic "Lawyers' Row."

Millie Lee Dulaney received the Idella Childs Distinguished Service Award for her unrelenting efforts to preserve the history of the Dulaney family, both black and white, in Wilcox County. Research of

her great, great grandfather's role in fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War resulted in her induction in the United Daughters of the Confederacy.



Millie Lee Dulaney

Her research of a church begun by her family and two family cemeteries has led to those properties being listed to the Alabama Register and to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

She founded the Wilcox County Cemetery Society and co-founded the Black Belt African American Genealogical and Historical Society.

She also volunteers with the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance and the Black Heritage Council Network.

Few are gifted with the vision of a futurist; and few have skills to respect the past. North Alabama is blessed that Congressman Cramer has both, as he continues to assist our community in preserving and showcasing our outstanding assets to all of our residents and visitors.

Bud Cramer is a preservationist, not only in his words, but in his deeds.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD Nucor Steel Decatur

The circa 1820 Dr. William Murphey House is one of the oldest frame structures in the state and a rare surviving example of an early small-scale plantation dwelling. It was listed in the National Register in 1988.

Previous corporate owners had allowed the Historical Commission to do emergency stabilization work in the mid-1990s. This is where things stood when Nucor Steel, an international company, acquired the property in 2002.



ABOVE: The Murphey house when acquired by Nucor Steel. BELOW: After stabilization efforts by Nucor.

Through discussions with AHC staff, Nucor's Environmental Officer Kim Pritchard became aware of the house's significance. Pritchard, along with the support of Nucor's CEO, helped initiate the house's rescue and restoration.

Pritchard was later joined in this effort by another Nucor employee, Roger Handley. Since Pritchard's transfer to their Texas facility, Handley has continued to guide and support the effort to restore the Murphey House.

Although delayed by unexpected structural problems—including the partial collapse and restoration of one of the two massive stone chimneys—the project is moving forward. The Murphy house is envisioned as a landscape feature in an employee park now under construction.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD Sherlock, Smith and Adams

Sherlock, Smith and Adams, an architectural and engineering firm based in Montgomery, is recognized for its renovation of Birmingham's grand gothic-inspired Woodlawn High School. Completed in 1922,



Dr. Janet McMiller, representing Woodlawn Magnet High School, and Chip DeShields and Sander Dix of Sherlock, Smith & Adams

today Woodlawn Magnet High School serves around 600 students. Because of the leadership of Principal Shirley Graham, Sherlock, Smith and Adams was commissioned to renovate the building.

"Woodlawn High School had always been a source of pride for this community and embodied a sense of place and belonging for students, their parents, and faculty. The design team of Sherlock, Smith and Adams knew this was an opportunity to make a difference for not only the children, but for the entire community," said Sander Dix, AIA, the managing architect for the project.

Exterior limestone was painstakingly cleaned and replacement pieces handpicked to match existing textures and colors. Suspended interior ceilings were removed to reveal beautiful plastered molding and cornice work. Great emphasis was placed on preserving the awe-inspiring mural in the auditorium painted between 1934 and 1939 for the Works Progress Administration. A fundraising campaign for the mural's restoration is now underway.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD Alabama Humanities Foundation

The Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) enhances awareness of historic preservation through its statewide humanities programs. For the past 30 years, AHF has supported lecture series, publications, exhibitions, and projects that have a statewide impact on preservation.

AHF's programs and grants have raised awareness and promoted the preservation of Alabama's heritage. The first online *Encyclopedia of Alabama* will feature Alabama's historic sites.



John Neubauer and AHF Chair David Campbell

Alabama Historical Commission Honors Preservationists

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requirements to receive federal historic preservation tax incentives.



AHC Executive Director John Neubauer, David Duffee, and Alabama Rep. Laura Hall

"David is a man committed to making his business work and to finding and helping finance new uses for the family-owned property the business no longer needs," said Marjorie L. White of the Birmingham Historical Society.

"This project serves as a fine example of an owner and a major tenant employing exceptional architectural design to give a structure new purpose," said Philip Morris. "What might have been lost or overlooked as ordinary has been transformed into an extraordinary contributor to district revitalization."

Davis Architects received the Rehabilitation Award from the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

U.S. Rep. Robert "Bud" Cramer

Bud Cramer has served as the congressman for Alabama's Fifth Congressional District since 1991. Throughout his tenure in Washington he has consistently influenced and assisted historic preservation.

Notable preservation projects and monetary support include the AHC historic site Pond Spring—the home of General Joe Wheeler, the Huntsville Depot, Harrison Brothers Hardware, Decatur's Delano Park and the Princess Theatre, and improvements to Huntsville's mill village, Five Points, and the 1856 Memphis and Charleston Railroad Freight Depot. His recently proposed legislation designating Muscle Shoals as a National Heritage Area would promote tourism and preservation.

The nomination touting Rep. Cramer for the award states:

He comes home to Alabama and folks here see him frequently walking (or running) through the streets and avenues, or picking up a few things at the small neighborhood grocery, Star Market – always staying in touch with the concerns of the community.



U.S. Rep. Bud Cramer

AT THE HISTORIC SITES



GAINESWOOD'S NEW DIRECTOR

Eleanor Cunningham, site director at Magnolia Grove in Greensboro, is named site director of Gaineswood in Demopolis. Cunningham will oversee both properties filling the position left by Matt Hartzell in August.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

GAINESWOOD in Demopolis
(334) 289-4846

Candlelight Evening
November 29
5:30 – 8 p.m.

Open House
December 1
1 – 4 p.m.

Plantation Christmas at BELLE MONT
Near Tusculumbia
December 2
1 – 5 p.m.
(256) 637-8513

FENDALL HALL in Eufaula
(334) 687-8469

Annual Open House
December 2
2 – 4 p.m.

Candlelight Tour
December 8
5 – 8 p.m.

MAGNOLIA GROVE Christmas Open House
Greensboro
December 9
1 – 3 p.m.
(334) 624-8618

Civil War Christmas at FORT MORGAN
Gulf Shores
December 15
(251) 540-7127

For more information and admission prices, contact the numbers above, or view "Mark your Calendar" at www.PreserveAla.org.

BELLE MONT OPEN FOR TOURS

One of Alabama's most distinguished historic houses is once again open for tours. Belle Mont Mansion near Tusculumbia is an outstanding example of Thomas Jefferson's influence upon the architecture of the early American republic.

Situated on a hilltop, Belle Mont demonstrates the builder's admiration for the neoclassical ideas of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea

Palladio. The historic house is located one-fourth mile west of US Highway 43 South at 1569 Cook Lane.

The site is open for tours Thursday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m. Admission is \$5, adults; \$4, seniors, military, and college students; \$3, ages 6-18; under 6, free. Group tours and special events may be scheduled by calling (256) 637-8513.

OLD CAHAWBA RECEIVES HANDMADE QUILT

Lannice Barrett Mobley has given a handmade quilt to the visitor center at Old Cahawba in Orrville. The 90-year-old old quilt maker said, "Quilting and embroidery are my life. It used to be plowing and hoeing, but I can't do that any more!"

It took her nearly a year to piece together the block quilt from fabric scraps she had on hand. Between the colorful front and back of the quilt, she placed store-bought cotton batting to make the quilt thick and warm. Mrs. Mobley clearly remembers a time, though, when her family obtained their quilt batting by working the seeds out of raw cotton with specially designed hand combs called cotton cards.

Now a resident of Chilton County, Mrs. Mobley grew up in Dallas County about eight miles from Plantersville. She is the mother of Alabama Historical Commission staff member Gail Marchant.

Site Director Linda Derry commented on the gift, "The Alabama Historical Commission is planning a new visitor center for Old Cahawba to replace an earlier one destroyed by fire. When the



Quilter Lannice Barrett Mobley presents her handmade quilt to Old Cahawba Site Director Linda Derry.

structure is built, I plan to use this quilt to decorate the wall of a room that will be used for educational programs and students. In the meantime, her quilt will add a splash of color behind the information booth in the interim visitor center.

Recent Additions to the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage

Listed September 26, 2007:

CHILTON COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL
Clanton Vicinity, Chilton County

EAST HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND ANNEX
Sylacauga, Talladega County

LUCAS HOUSE
Mt. Meigs, Montgomery County

PROSPERITY C.M.E. CHURCH
Orrville, Dallas County

CHARLIE AND LUCILLE TIMES HOUSE
Montgomery, Montgomery County

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Citronelle, Mobile County

PINE LEVEL CULTURAL CENTER
Prattville, Autauga County

ST. FLORIAN HISTORIC DISTRICT
St. Florian, Lauderdale County

VALLEY HEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Valley Head, DeKalb County

OLD MUNFORD HIGH SCHOOL
Munford, Talladega County

APPLICATIONS FROM CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACCEPTED

The Alabama Historical Commission accepted grant applications from Certified Local Governments (CLG) for Fiscal Year 2008 Historic Preservation Fund grants. Applications were due October 15. Only Local Governments certified under the National Parks Service National Register Program were eligible. Projects applied for must be within the geographical jurisdiction of a CLG.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Alabama Historical Commission identified priorities in its Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. Proposals were solicited especially for Survey and Registration projects that convert selected Historic Preservation Funded surveys into the AHC's computerized format; and, Planning projects involving creation, enhancement, or education programs addressing a local preservation ordinance or design review guidelines.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Categories: Local Historic Preservation Commission Training, Preservation Plan Development, Survey and Registration, Planning; Predevelopment, Public Awareness and Education, and Scholarships to National Alliance of Preservation Commissioners Forum. In addition, an open category for Other projects that address the State Historic Preservation Plan goals was created to provide for creative projects initiated at the local level.

The total amount expected to be available statewide for all grants is \$65,500.

PARTNERSHIPS SPUR PRESERVATION OF TWO TUSKEGEE BUILDINGS



On September 22, members of Tuskegee Main Street, Lowe's employees, and students of the Auburn University College of Architecture, Design, and Construction Historic Preservation Guild kicked off the restoration of two historic buildings in downtown Tuskegee – the Johnston-Curtright House and the Segrest-Raymon Law Office.

The exterior restoration of the Segrest-Raymon Law Office is funded through a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation.

The law office, a wood, two-room structure, was saved in 2006 by relocating it from the courthouse square to next to the Johnston-Curtright House. Tuskegee citizens

(see Awards p. 1, Ala Whitehead), businesses, city government, utilities, the police and fire departments; the Alabama Department of Transportation; the Alabama Historical Commission; Alabama State University student volunteers, BellSouth, Charter Communications, Boeing Corporation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Tuskegee Main Street Development Foundation all joined efforts to make this relocation possible.

Henry Neill Segrest, a prominent Tuskegee attorney in the 1940s and '50s, was a leading proponent for civil rights. His beliefs frequently put him into direct opposition with his white neighbors and Segrest endured economic and social backlash. Despite this, he continued to defend black prisoners against the brutality of Pat Evans, then Macon County sheriff.

Segrest was also a friend and advocate of Charles C. Gomillion, plaintiff in the landmark civil rights Supreme Court case, *Gomillion v. Lightfoot*, which challenged the gerrymandering that occurred in Tuskegee during the 1950s.

The Johnston-Curtright House, built in 1850 by prominent planter

and lawyer Burr Johnston, is one of the finest examples of antebellum Greek Revival architecture in east Alabama. Its demise was halted through the efforts of *Tuskegee News* Publisher Paul Davis, Congressman Mike Rogers, Alabama Senator Myron Penn, Alabama Power, Tuskegee businesses, and the Main Street Development Foundation.

Once restored, both buildings will provide space for community activities.



PRESERVATION REPORT

Alabama Historical Commission

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468 South Perry Street / P. O. Box 300900
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James P. "Ike" Adams *Chair*
Lisa Demetropoulos Jones *Interim Executive Director*
Tara Lanier *Editor*

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