

# Places in Peril

## Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2009

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

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### **Ogletree-Wright-Ivey House 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 **Ogletree-Wright-Ivey House** in Auburn.

The Ogletree-Wright-Ivey House was constructed during the late 1840's by one of Auburn's founding fathers, James B. Ogletree. As a rare surviving antebellum Greek Revival residence in the city, the house still retains many of its original exterior and

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interior features despite being divided into numerous rental units. However, student rental housing surrounds the property making it potentially vulnerable to development pressures.

In an effort to protect the house, the City of Auburn included the building in its local historic district, subject to design review, but preservationists are still concerned that it could be in peril.

According to AHC senior architectural historian, Robert Gamble, the design of the Ogletree-Wright-Ivey house “expresses the distinctive brand of Greek Revival architecture that flourished a decade or so before the Civil War” in Auburn and east central Alabama. These single-story houses had hip roofs, centrally-placed double front doors, and porches extending the length of the front facade, often with boxy square pillars supporting the porch roofs. During the 1880s, William Wilmot Wright purchased the house and added a second story.

A 1953 tornado blew away this second story, but the owners at the time, William Ivey, a zoology professor, and his wife, decided to restore the structure to its original one-story appearance. They did, however, retain the fine Victorian staircase. Today, the house not only needs attention but also an appreciation of its architectural and historical significance.

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 Tallassee Mill**, Tallassee (PIP 1994; 2001)

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