

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2009

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

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For immediate release

2009 PLACES IN PERIL ANNOUNCED

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."

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

The Places in Peril list carries no formal protection, but it does build awareness in local communities about endangered sites, and can help generate support to preserve these places.

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)

The Mobile Board of Education – which uses the building as their central office – want to relocate their offices, leaving the future of Barton Academy in question . Local advocates suggest it could be transformed into an arts magnet school, which would be a good use for Alabama’s first public school building.

Old Tallassee Mill, Tallassee (PIP 1994; 2001)

The Old Tallassee Mill was listed on the 1994 and 2001 Places in Peril lists. The city of Tallassee, the Tallassee Chamber of Commerce and the Talisi Historical Preservation Society are working together with the Alabama Historical Commission to preserve the striking mill complex for future community use. There is also an effort underway to list the mill to the National Register of Historic Places.

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