

PRESERVATION Alabama Historical Commission REPORT

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

COL. NEUBAUER LEAVES AHC POST CHAIRMAN ADAMS CITES YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As many of you may know, Colonel John Neubauer has resigned as executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission effective September 30, citing personal health reasons.

We are grateful to Colonel Neubauer for his service this past year. His tenure is marked by strengthened relationships with the public, visible improvements at our historic sites, and sound fiscal management. He helped set a firm foundation and a clear vision for achieving our mission of protecting, preserving, and interpreting Alabama's historic places.

During the past year, the commission aggressively sought funding to address decades of deferred maintenance at our state-owned properties that are Alabama's treasures. Recent fundraising successes are a promising start toward meeting this need. The agency also sought and found new ways to save money and get things done more efficiently.

For example, a recent partnership with Alabama Correctional Industries is providing lower costs for major restoration and renovations. This win-win partnership not only supports another critically underfunded state agency, it also provides inmates with high-wage skills. The freshly painted Teague house in

Montgomery, Magnolia Grove in Hale County, and the wooden buildings at Fort Morgan in Baldwin County are testaments to interagency cooperation.

The AHC recently opened a significant museum at Confederate Memorial Park and completed a façade restoration of Montgomery's Greyhound Bus Station, which will eventually become an interpretive site for the 1961 Freedom Rides. Major restorations are under way at Pond Spring, the General Joe Wheeler Home in north Alabama, and at Gaineswood--Alabama's premier Greek revival mansion in Marengo County.

At Fort Morgan, the AHC secured a \$500,000 grant to begin initial repairs to the massive brick fort's leaking casemates--the first step in a multi-million dollar restoration of this National Historic Landmark. In the last legislative session, supportive Baldwin County legislators worked to pass a local tax that will bring \$500,000 yearly for capital projects and maintenance. In addition, a newly formed friends group is committed to raising money for the fort. This model of engaged local support and leadership holds great promise for our other historic sites.

Under Colonel Neubauer's leadership, the AHC made more



efficient use of technology and staff. One result has been accelerated reviews of federally funded projects that affect the state's historic and archaeological sites. We are also continuing to upgrade our website, making more preservation "how-to" information accessible to the public.

We still face serious funding challenges--for staffing, for deferred maintenance, and for capital improvements, but the Alabama Historical Commission has a good plan in place to protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places for the benefit of Alabama's

At a recent meeting of the Friends of the Wheeler Home Foundation, Col. Neubauer visits with Milly Caudle, vice president of the friends group. Restoration of the Gen. Joe Wheeler Home at Pond Spring is underway.

citizens. John Neubauer helped us lay a firm foundation to achieve this, and we will look for the most qualified person we can find to bring these efforts to fruition.

—James P. "Ike" Adams
Chairman, Alabama Historical Commission

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS GRANT Fort Morgan Masonry Condition and Repairs Assessment

The National Park Service announced in June the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) has awarded a grant of \$37,800 to the Alabama Historical Commission. The Historical Commission will identify and assess the condition of Fort Morgan's masonry, recommend treatment options, and prioritize preservation needs.

In August of 1864, Fort Morgan was engaged in both the maritime battle of Mobile Bay and the following two-week siege during the Civil War. Fort Morgan was in use until World War II, but today is in poor condition as a result of deferred maintenance and incompatible materials used for previous repairs.

"We look forward to working with the Alabama Historical Commission," said Paul Hawke, chief of the American Battlefield Protection Program. "Preservation assessments like this are vital to protecting endangered historic resources and battlefields."

This grant is one of 19 ABPP grants totaling \$492,184 to assist in the preservation and protection of America's historic battlefields. In keeping with the American Battlefield Protection Program's mandate to assist in the preservation of significant battle sites from all wars fought on American soil, this year's grant recipients represent a great variety of wars, ranging from the Colonial-Indian Wars to the Civil

Wars. Funded projects include site mapping, archaeological study, National Register of Historic Places nominations, preservation and management plans, and GPS/GIX data collection.

The American Battlefield Protection Program funds projects conducted by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. The ABPP's goal is to safeguard and preserve significant American battlefield lands for present and future generations as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage. Additional information, including a list of other 2007 grant recipients, can be found at www.cr.nps.gov/abpp.

**SAVING PLACES:
The Historic
Tennessee Valley
Sept. 20-22, 2007**



Huntsville

**Alabama Preservation
Conference**

Registration details, p.3

ADDITIONS TO THE ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register is a prestigious listing of cemeteries worthy of both recognition and preservation. Contact Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator, at leeanne.wofford@preserveala.org, or (334)230-2659 for information.

The following cemeteries were listed between May and August.

CHILTON COUNTY

CAMPBELL CEMETERY
CAVINNESS GARDENS
COBB CEMETERY
ELLISON CEMETERY
GENTRY-MCKEE CEMETERY
GOODWIN CEMETERY
MULLINS FAMILY CEMETERY
MULLINS II CEMETERY
WILLIAMS-GOODGAME CEMETERY

CLAY COUNTY

BROWNVILLE CEMETERY

JEFFERSON COUNTY

LAKEVIEW CEMETERY
WOOD FAMILY CEMETERY

LEE COUNTY

PINE HILL CEMETERY
BAPTIST HILL CEMETERY

MADISON COUNTY

HOLMES CEMETERY

PERRY COUNTY

SHILOH CEMETERY

SHELBY COUNTY

DAVIS CEMETERY

DALLAS COUNTY 1852 Presbyterian Church to be Restored

The long-abandoned 1852 Presbyterian Church building in Pleasant Hill is being restored through local initiative and with private and local funding, according to Senior Architectural Historian Robert Gamble. Originally Mount Carmel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in the 1890s it became Pleasant Hill Presbyterian. The AHC helped several years ago by listing it as a *Place in Peril* and subsequently providing seed money for work under the grants program.

The restoration is taking place under the stewardship and direction of the South Dallas County Historic

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS APPROVED

The Alabama National Register Review Board met March 8 and June 14 and approved the following nominations to be forwarded to Washington, D.C., for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Nominations approved March 8:

JENKINS FARMHOUSE
Dupree, Lee County
LANARK PLANTATION
Millbrook, Elmore County
ABEL HAGERT HOUSE
Wetumpka, Elmore County
TANNER HOMESTEAD
Wilmer, Mobile County
CENTER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
Birmingham, Jefferson County
GRAYMONT SCHOOL
Birmingham, Jefferson County

Nominations approved June 14:

JONATHAN W. BASS HOUSE
Leeds, Jefferson County
ASA JOHNSTON FARMHOUSE
Johnsonville, Conecuh County
VINES FUNERAL HOME & AMBULANCE SERVICE
LaFayette, Chambers County
MOORE-WEBB PLANTATION
Marion, Perry County
ROSS KNOX HOUSE
Mobile, Mobile County
TURNER-TODD MOTOR COMPANY
Mobile, Mobile County



Church built in 1852 for approximately \$1500. Photo: Howard Oliver

Preservation Association, Inc. Recent work includes returning the shutters to the building. Each spring an annual homecoming is celebrated at the church. The April 2007 event drew descendants of early members and friends from all over the country.



Employee of the Quarter

Sandra Agard, an account clerk in the central office, is employee of the quarter. Employed by the State of Alabama for six years and the Historical Commission for two, Sandra has been absolutely critical to the successful operation of the finance division. She works very hard with purchasing and payables, and is excellent at multi-tasking. Executing the work of two or three people, Sandra helps to solve one problem while being pressured to work on others. Her pleasant demeanor and positive attitude make her a pleasure to work with—all the more remarkable when you consider she is the one phoned when there is a problem. *Shown with Sandra are Executive Director John Neubauer and AHC Chairman Ike Adams.*



GAINESWOOD RECEIVES GRANT

On August 13, the Friends of Gaineswood received a generous grant from Wal-Mart for educational programming. Shown above Demopolis Wal-Mart Personnel Manager Doris Stephens presents a check for \$750 to Gaineswood Site Director Matt Hartzell.

Matt Hartzell has announced he is leaving Gaineswood August 31 to accept a position with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Bibb County. "We'll miss Matt as the hard-working and very diligent site director at Gaineswood," said Mark Driscoll, director of historic sites.

FRIENDS OF GAINESWOOD RECEIVE BLACK BELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

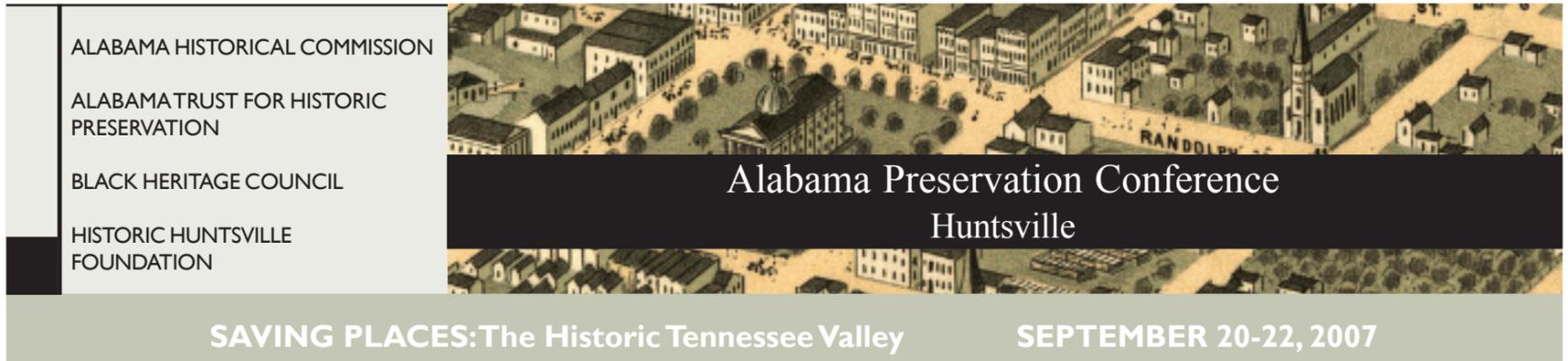
The Black Belt Community Foundation recently awarded the Friends of Gaineswood a \$1,800 Black Belt Arts Initiative grant. This marks the second year the friends group has received funding for Heritage Appreciation Days, an educational event held annually in March.

"This year's \$1,800 award enables Heritage Appreciation Days to expand to three days," said Matt Hartzell, site director at Gaineswood. The 2008 event is scheduled for March 12-14. Approximately 500

Black Belt fourth-graders studying Alabama history attend the event.

The Black Belt Community Foundation, which begins its fourth year of operation, was established to support community efforts in the Black Belt that will contribute to the strength, innovation, and success of all the region's people and communities.

Funding for the Black Belt Arts Initiative grant is made possible by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the official state arts agency of Alabama.



SAVING PLACES: The Historic Tennessee Valley

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2007

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Embassy Suites Huntsville – Hotel & Spa
800 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801 (256) 539-7373
Conference rate is \$109; conference code is ATH (Alabama Trust Historic).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

3-5 pm

Registration at Embassy Suites

6-8 pm

Begin your visit to the Tennessee Valley with music and dinner at *Woodside*, a pre-Civil War home located in the small cotton town of Belle Mina. Bring an item you have long wondered the value--an appraiser will be available to talk to you about the worth of your object. *Separate ticket required.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:30 am – 5 pm

Registration at Embassy Suites

8:30 – 9:45 am

Opening Session at Church of the Nativity Episcopal, 208 Eustis Avenue

History in Buildings: A Glance at Early Tennessee Valley Architecture

Robert Gamble, AHC *Senior Architectural Historian*

If we know how to read them, buildings can tell us a lot about the culture and history of a place. Using examples both standing and destroyed, Bob Gamble presents a brief overview of the early Huntsville-Decatur area, including Mooresville and Hartselle.

Preservation at the Marshall Space Flight Center

The flight center is linked to events that have shaped our nation economically, politically, diplomatically, scientifically, and culturally. Marshall's historian and historic preservation officer explain how NASA is protecting historically significant structures associated with this history.

10 – Noon Concurrent Sessions

Gardens in Historic Settings

An Alabama Trust Garden Interest Group-sponsored session. Harvey Cotton with the Huntsville Botanical Gardens discusses reviving and creating gardens in historic settings, plus learn how to use a garden publication to create a preservation fund, and tour a Twickenham Historic District garden.

Grants and Special Historic Designations

Grants and special historic designations often make it possible to preserve historic resources. Learn about criteria and the application process for Save America's Treasures, the largest brick and mortar fund in America. Discover the benefits associated with Preserve America status and hear how historic area designation enhances local heritage tourism.

Saving the Homeplace

Panel discussion addresses methods for saving family collections and land.

Noon – 1:30 pm

Lunch at Embassy Suites Ballroom

2007 Alabama Historic Preservation Awards

1:30 – 4:30 pm

Better Preservation Boards Workshop

Don't Leave the Big Bucks on the Table

Tom Thompson, Tom Thompson Consulting
Planned giving is a natural fit for preservation groups. Learn to tap into this major source of funds. Limited registration--priority given to BPB graduates, AHC friends groups, and ATHP board members. *Separate registration.*

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Financing Historic Preservation Projects

The Russel Erskine Hotel is showcased. Emphasis on combining tax credits and following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

1:30 – 3 pm

Cemetery Preservation

Session location--Maple Hill, the state's oldest and largest cemetery

2:30 – 3 pm

Industry as a Partner for Preservation

Nucor Steel owns the William-Murphy House, the oldest frame structure in Morgan County. Learn how partnerships established over ten years ago continue to preserve this important structure.

3 – 4:15 pm

Decorative Arts Tour

Tour Jack and Emily Burwell's home and their decorative arts collection.

4:30 – 5 pm

Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Membership Meeting

5 - 6 pm

Black Heritage Council Board Meeting

6:30 pm

Taste of the Tennessee Valley: Dinner for 12

Hosts in private Tennessee Valley historic homes receive 12 guests for dinner. Twelve distinguished homes in Huntsville, Decatur, and Mooresville offer a memorable dining experience. Homes featured include a classic Queen Anne, an early-20th-century cottage bungalow, the home where U. S. President Andrew Johnson was an apprentice (built 1825), and Federal and Greek Revival style houses. *Separate ticket required.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

ALABAMA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION RAMBLE

(separate ticket required)

Breakfast on your own; hotel check-out

9-9:30 am

Travel to Mooresville (in own car)

9:30 – 11:30 am

Mooresville town walking tour led by Mooresville Mayor Jerri McLain

11:30 am

Visit the antebellum home of Councilman Crumlish

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Lunch at the Historic Brick Church

12:45 pm

Leave for Decatur and tour Old Decatur and Delano Park, the rose garden, and Clint Shelton's home in the Albany Heritage Historic District

3 pm

Tour the Burleson School building now restored for use by the community.

5 – 6 pm

Enjoy drinks and refreshments at the historic home of David Burleson.

Mail REGISTRATION and payment payable to:
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 2099
Livingston AL 35470-2099 (205) 652-3497

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Organizational affiliation (if any) _____

First-time attendee Better Preservation Boards grad Receive BHC newsletter

FULL REGISTRATION Includes Friday awards luncheon, tours, and sessions.

Regular (received by Sept. 10) _____ @ \$80 _____

Late (received after Sept. 10) _____ @ \$95 _____

PARTIAL REGISTRATION Events are included in full registration.

Friday Awards Luncheon Only _____ @ \$35 _____

Gardens in Historic Settings Only _____ @ \$20 _____

OPTIONAL EVENTS Cost not included in full registration or event requires pre-registration.

Thursday Dinner at Woodside _____ @ \$75 _____

Yes, I plan to bring an item(s) to be appraised
(\$30 appraisal fee for each item; payment accepted that evening)

Better Preservation Boards Workshop _____ @ \$25 _____

Friday's Taste of the Tennessee Valley _____ @ \$75 _____

Saturday Ramble _____ @ \$60 _____

BEST BUY Includes Full Registration, Thursday and Friday Dinners, and Saturday Ramble (received by Sept. 10) _____ @ \$250 _____

VISA/MC Card # _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Expiration date ____ / ____

Signature _____

TANNEHILL IRONWORKS HISTORICAL STATE PARK

IRON AND STEEL MUSEUM OF ALABAMA



MUSEUM ADDS CSS ALABAMA RELICS

A new exhibit featuring several artifacts from the *CSS Alabama* are on display at the Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama at Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park. The relics, on loan from the Washington Navy Yard, are among some 400 gathered from the ocean bottom by French and American divers over the last 10 years.

"We are excited about adding these historical pieces to our floor displays," said Museum Director Jack Bergstresser. "Certainly the *Alabama* was one of the most deadly of the Confederate cruisers and one of the most famous ships afloat during the Civil War."

The *Alabama*, which preyed on Union merchant ships around the world, was sunk June 19, 1864, in a battle with the *USS Kearsarge* about seven miles off the coast of Cherbourg, France. The *Alabama* was built by John Laird Sons and Company of Liverpool, England, and commissioned on August 24, 1862.

During its two-year career as a commerce raider, it inflicted considerable damage to United States merchant shipping throughout the world. The Confederate cruiser captured 65 U.S. merchant ships with a total value of approximately \$6 million. It also sank the *USS Hatteras* near Galveston, Texas, in 1863.

The only sea battle it ever lost was its fatal encounter with the *Kearsarge* which used chain armor for protection. The *Alabama's* commanding officer, Raphael Semmes of Mobile, and about 40 of his men were picked up by the British yacht *Deerhound* and taken to England. Others were saved by the *Kearsarge* or by French boaters who were watching the battle. About a dozen crew members drowned or were never heard from. The Confederate warship had a crew of about 120.

The Tannehill display includes a gun track on which one of the cruiser's eight guns turned into firing position and a gun truck tackle block used to move and secure one of the ship's large pivot guns. The *Alabama* had eight guns including six 32-pounders located broadside and two large Armstrong and Blakely cannons.

A French naval mine hunter found the wreck off Cherbourg on October 30, 1984, in about 200 feet of water.

The museum's historian, Jim Bennett, said Tannehill hopes to add several other artifacts from the ship in the next few months. He said the museum also features one of the nation's largest collections of Civil War artillery shells manufactured by the Selma Arsenal and Gun Works.

CABIN REMAINS FOUND

We had a very successful UA archaeological school in our slave quarters, reports Tannehill museum historian Jim Bennett. Excavations at the site in June by the University of Alabama's Museum of Natural History suggest entire families of slaves were moved from the plantation of Ninian Tannehill to provide labor at the iron works.

While walking last winter Jack Bergstresser discovered a pile of rocks caused by the collapse of a stacked stone chimney. By the time he finished, he had identified two rows on the banks of Roupes Creek that are the only visible remains of 15 cabins built nearly 150 years ago.

"We don't have many records of what happened here when the first blast furnace was built in 1859, but that double row of cabins for the slaves looks exactly what you would find on a plantation," Bergstresser said in an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article (07/09/07). "It looks like they simply took the plantation model and applied it here to an industrial setting."

Archaeological excavations found evidence of family life in the area around the collapsed chimneys: stoneware, glass beads, cup fragments, a child's marble, a copper ring.

"We have found pieces of information, but what we're trying to do now is authenticate our suspicions and add to history through archeology," said Bennett. "Black workers deserve a lot of credit for the iron industry in Alabama. It is through their labor it happened at all."

PRESERVATION REPORT

Alabama Historical Commission

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