

Places in Peril

Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2009

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

Contacts: Melanie Betz, 334-230-2645, melanie.betz@preserveala.org
Ellis Long, 334-628-8278, longe@tncc.edu

Uniontown Historic District named 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."

The **Uniontown Historic District** in Perry County has been named as one of this year's *Places in Peril*.

The Uniontown Historic District boasts many significant historic buildings dating from the 1830s to the early 20th century and beyond. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, the district embodies the rich architecture and history of Uniontown, a community located in the Canebrake region of Alabama's Black Belt. Over the years

many of these buildings have become vacant, deteriorated or even have been torn down.

However, preservationists and community members are fighting back with a determination to turn things around and preserve their landmarks. A case in point is the old Uniontown High School (c. 1924), located in the northern-most section of the historic district. The building, closed in 2002, fell into total disrepair after years of deferred maintenance and extensive water damage. Although a salvage company recently purchased the old school, local preservationists and Uniontown Cares, Inc., an organization dedicated to making “their town a better place to live,” are still seeking ways to save this important landmark. Melanie Betz of the AHC comments, “Hopefully the high school and other important historic structures in Uniontown will be around for many years to come.”

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)

###