

# Places in Peril

## Alabama's Most Endangered Sites for 2009

Alabama Historical Commission  
Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

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### Wadley Depot 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."

Named as one of this year's *Places in Peril* is the **Wadley Depot** in Wadley.

Railroad depots of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were often designed to make a good first impression. Beyond their utilitarian function, they were symbols of the places in which they served. The Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic depot was constructed in 1907 to serve Wadley, a community originally planned to be a "model city" in Randolph County. The developers of Wadley, the Callaway Development Company of LaGrange,

Georgia, wanted to harness the water power along the Tallapoosa River, but their plans never led to an economic boom for the community.

The Wadley Depot did survive and it is as a rare example of Spanish Revival architecture. "It displays wide overhanging eaves supported by brackets, a red tile roof, half round door and window arches, and stucco veneer - all characteristic of this style," comments Melanie Betz of the AHC.

Today, however, this architectural gem is in dire need of repair. Lack of maintenance and security has subjected the depot to deterioration and vandalism. The town of Wadley, through their Envision Wadley committee, wants to renovate the depot into a community center, although no work has begun to date.

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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