

Preservation Month: Places with a Purpose

May 1 – Welcome video from Director Jones

It's May 1st and you know what that means! It is officially Preservation Month here at AHC and we are excited to announce our theme - Places with a Purpose!

We have Executive Director Lisa Jones here to kick off the celebration! 🥳

Every day in May the AHC will highlight historic places across Alabama and their purpose and we can't wait to share and highlight AHC preservation programs and how YOU can get involved!

<https://youtu.be/PBxo0DAR6Qk>

May 2 – Historic Doors Photo Contest



A Photo Contest with a twist! ■

AHC is kicking off its 2nd Annual Photo Contest with a new theme – Historic Doors!

AHC is looking for unique and artistic photos that feature at least one historic door. Any photos submitted for the contest must be taken in Alabama. Also,

please do not include people or animals in your photos. This contest is for all photographers of any age or skill. Digital photographs should be taken and submitted as a high resolution (1080p or higher). Only JPG format will be accepted. Please do not include images with borders, watermarks, dates, or names.

The winning photos will appear in the AHC's 2024 calendar and will also be featured on the AHC website and social media outlets.

Please complete and email the entry form below along with a digital version of your photograph to: AHCPHotoContest@ahc.alabama.gov. An applicant may submit more than one photo, but a separate entry form must be filled out.

Application form can be found on our home page under Quick Links or here https://ahc.alabama.gov/PDF/AHCPHotoContest_2023.pdf

The deadline is May 31st at 5:00 pm. GOOD LUCK!



May 3 – Fort Mims

PLACES with a PURPOSE

Fort Mims

The Fort Mims site commemorates the battle that led to the Creek War of 1813-14. On August 30, 1813 over 700 Creek Indians destroyed Fort Mims, the fortified homestead of Samuel Mims. American settlers, U.S. allied Creeks, and enslaved African Americans had sought refuge in the stockade. The Creek warriors who carried out the attack were members of the Red Stick faction named for the red wooden war clubs they carried.

The archaeological site has a recreated blockhouse and palisade wall, and interpretive signage. Each year, in August, the Fort Mims Restoration Association hosts a reenactment of the battle.

For more information, visit ahc.alabama.gov.



May 4 – Certified Local Government



**Federal program was
established in 1980.**

Did you know the state of Alabama has 34 CLG programs? A CLG has made agreement with the National Park Service to prioritize historic preservation.

We got the facts on CLG's + one of our CLG programs, the City of Decatur was recently awarded the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's 2022 Communities of Excellence Award in the category of Best Practices: Public Outreach and Advocacy for their "Designing Decatur" educational booklet. This booklet was funded by a CLG grant and highlighted on the National Park Service Facebook page!

For more information on CLG's, check the link below!👉

<https://ahc.alabama.gov/CLG.aspx>

May 5 – Alabama Register Spotlight (Oak Opera House)

Alabama Register Spotlight

The Oak Opera House, Brundidge



Before



After



PLACES with a **PURPOSE**

💡 Alabama Register Spotlight 💡

Preservation Month wouldn't be Preservation Month without highlighting the Alabama Register of Historic Places, now would it? One that has recently been restored in fact....

The Oak (Brundidge Opera House) – C. 1909

Listed back in 2021, this property has housed many different commercial entities through the years... “Built for Mr. Bass as an opera house with retail spaces at its first floor between 1906-1909. It is shown as a general store with a barber shop

on the 1916 Sanborn Map.” (2001, David B. Schneider – Brundidge Survey – Site #8)

Today, the owners have removed the modern metal sheathing that concealed the beautiful brick storefront and restored the fenestration. In doing so, they are certainly embodying the spirit of preservation, as it is clear to see the potential of this type of transformation!

May 6 – Fort Morgan

PLACES^{with}_a PURPOSE

Fort Morgan

In 2022, Fort Morgan had **over 145,000** visitors and hosted various events interpreting the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I and World War II as well as events focused on natural resources such as bird banding.

Fort Morgan has various types of visitors including children, military groups, and international tourists.

Since 1834 Fort Morgan has stood as the guardian of Mobile Bay. The military site and National Historic Landmark is located 22 miles west of Gulf Shores.

Construction began in 1819, but due to its isolated location, the fort was not completed until 1834. Skilled masons, many of which were enslaved African Americans, built the fortification which contains more than 46 million cubic yards of bricks.

For more information, visit ahc.alabama.gov.



National
Tourist
Appreciation
Day!



Happy National Tourist Appreciation Day! Today we decided to celebrate Preservation Month AND National Tourist Day with our most visited site, Fort Morgan! If you're in the Gulf Shores area, make sure to come see us on this Saturday! 🌞🌴

May 7 – Fendall Hall

PLACES^{with}_a PURPOSE

Fendall Hall

Fendall Hall, one of Alabama's most outstanding examples of Italianate architecture, records the story of its residents and Eufaula's rise as a major shipping and trading point.

The exterior of the house remains mostly unchanged.

The interior is restored to reflect the 1880-1916 time period. Striking features include the elaborate wall and ceiling murals in the entrance hall, parlor, and dining room.

An interesting architectural feature of Fendall Hall is the decorative grate in the 2nd floor ceiling. Before air conditioning, this helped cool the house by allowing hot air to rise to the attic and cupola.

For more information, visit ahc.alabama.gov.



May 8 – Frequently Asked Questions about Historic Preservation

The background of the entire graphic is a photograph of a historic brick archway. The arch is made of red bricks and is part of a larger structure with more arches visible in the distance. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area in the center of the image.

TOP 10 FAQ'S ABOUT HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SWIPE TO READ MORE



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

1. WHAT IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

Historic preservation, as defined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is identifying, protecting, and enhancing buildings, places, and objects of historical and cultural significance.

Government agencies, private entities, and individual citizens are all involved in these efforts. All communities contain significant pieces of the past. These historic elements are responsible for keeping a community's collective heritage part of its present. The process of historic preservation helps to ensure that these ties remain strong and that those resources remain intact for the enjoyment of future generations.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023



2. WHAT IS THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966?

Passed in 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act is the primary federal law governing the preservation of cultural and historic resources in the United States. It establishes a national preservation program and a system of procedures that encourage the identification and protection of cultural and historic resources with national, state, tribal, and local significance.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

3. WHAT IS THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION?

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) was created on August 19, 1966. AHC is designated to carry out the state's responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended and operates under the provisions of the Code of Alabama 1975. AHC works to accomplish its mission through two fields of endeavor: Preservation and promotion of state-owned historic sites as public attractions and, statewide programs to assist people, groups, towns and cities with local preservation activities. The AHC is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for Alabama.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

4. WHAT IS THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE?

The National Park Service administers the National Register of Historic Places, grant programs, and the federal rehabilitation tax incentives. It is a bureau within the U.S. Department of the Interior.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

5. WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The National Register was authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. In Alabama, the AHC administers the National Register. You can find properties listed in the National Register by visiting the National Park Service site or use the AHC's GIS Preservation Map.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

6. WHAT ARE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES?

The federal tax credit provides tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings.

The AHC is the point of contact for anyone who applies for federal tax credits for properties in Alabama. The Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit is a 25% refundable tax credit available for owners of income-producing properties who substantially rehabilitate historic properties that are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and are 60 years old or older.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

7. WHAT IS SECTION 106?

Section 106, an essential part of the National Historic Preservation Act, requires federal agencies to consider the effects of projects they carry out, approve, or fund on historic properties. A road-widening project, the construction of a new hydroelectric dam, or the relocation of a federal courthouse are all examples of projects that could affect local historic resources. The AHC reviews all federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects that have the potential to affect Alabama's historic places and archaeological sites.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

8. WHAT IS A CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Local governments strengthen their local historic preservation efforts by achieving Certified Local Government (CLG) status from the National Park Service (NPS). The CLG program was established in 1983 by the NPS as a preservation partnership between the NPS, state historic preservation offices, and local governments with an active preservation program. Together, these groups work toward high quality survey documentation of resources throughout the community, training local preservation commission members, and public involvement. CLGs can compete for annual matching grants provided by the AHC to assist with preservation planning and documentation projects.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

9. WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past human life and activities. Through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and other physical remains, much can be learned about humanity and its past. The Alabama Historical Commission's Archaeological Program provides advice and archaeological services for the general public and the historic sites of the AHC. Presenting Alabama's fascinating past to the public is an important part of the AHC's Archaeological Program. AHC answers questions, hold workshops, and make presentations on both archaeology and regulatory topics across the state. The AHC's goal is to explore Alabama's prehistory and history and interpret it for the citizens of Alabama.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

10. WHAT IS THE AHC'S MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM?

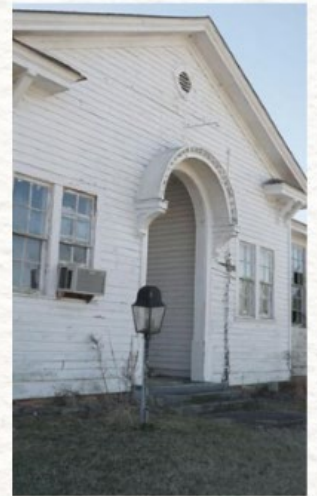
The Alabama Historical Commission Maritime Heritage Program works to protect maritime archaeological sites in Alabama waters and to advance awareness and understanding of the role of maritime affairs in the history of Alabama. Through leadership, assistance, and expertise in maritime history, preservation, and archeology, AHC helps to interpret and preserve our maritime heritage by maintaining inventories of historic maritime properties in Alabama waters; providing preservation assistance through consultation; educating the public about maritime heritage; and co-issuing and monitoring permits for maritime archaeological investigations in Alabama waters.



PRESERVATION MONTH 2023

May 9 – Places in Peril

Alabama Heritage Magazine's 2022 Places in Peril



Preservation Month continues with the latest issue of Alabama Heritage Magazine which includes the 2022 Places in Peril list! Written by our very own

Deputy SHPO Lee Anne Wofford, this article brings light to the endangered properties in Alabama.



The 2022 Places in Peril:

1. Oscar Merredith Home / Tuscumbia, Colbert County
2. Battle Ground School / Vinemont, Cullman County
3. Eddystone Hotel / Selma, Dallas County
4. Freeman Lake Dam / Fayette, Fayette County
5. Armstrong School / Tuskegee, Macon County
6. William Lanford House / Huntsville, Madison County
7. Epsibeth Missionary Baptist Church / Montevallo, Shelby County

Each year, the Places in Peril program calls public attention to a select number of Alabama's threatened historic and archaeological sites. Places in Peril is a listing of some of the state's most endangered historic properties and focuses on bringing state and regional attention to these places in an effort to create meaningful solutions to the threat faced by historic buildings across Alabama, generating support for their preservation.

If there is an irreplaceable historic building or site in your area that is threatened by demolition or neglect, this is your opportunity to help save it. Each submission will be evaluated for its significance and level of threat.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2023 ARE NOW OPEN!!!! May 1-October 31, 2023.

For more information, please visit our Places in Peril page below! 📌

<https://ahc.alabama.gov/placesinperil.aspx>

Alabama Heritage article 📌

<https://www.alabamaheritage.com/issue-148-spring-2023.html>

[Alabama Heritage](#)

May 10 – State Capitol Video Tour

(This content must be viewed with an Instagram account as it is an Instagram Reel)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/127996173609576>

May 11 – What Lies Beneath

Dexter Avenue What Lies Beneath



We all know that looks can be deceiving... and what better way to reveal the truth than with a story! 🕵️🔑📖

In Montgomery on lower Dexter Avenue (the Market Street), there is a non-descript commercial building with 1970s storefronts and a plain upper-level

façade with some 1930s Art Deco motifs. There is a hint of an older building underneath in the corbelling at the roofline on half of the building. Constructed in 1851, the Daily Alabama Journal reported:

“We were in a few moments at the opening of this new and magnificent Hall just finished by the administratrix of our late and esteemed P.D. Sayre. The Hall is of very spacious dimensions and admirably ventilated by both and from an air rotunda on the roof and by windows in front and rear. It is in other respects a beautiful, a convenient, excellently furnished and arranged room and will doubtless be extensively patronized. It has been leased, we learn, for a series of years, by C. H. Cleveland, for a dancing saloon.”

From the exterior, there is little indication of this building’s storied past, but Concert Hall was a noted local landmark as evidenced in an 1852 advertisement for John Campbell, Jeweler at 25 Market Street: “Call at Jewelry Store under Concert Hall.” The photo of the collapsed Kress Building in 1926 shows the domed lantern on the roof, touted as the air rotunda. The second floor retains an intact antebellum interior with trim and fireplaces. Windows remain on the front that have been covered from the exterior, and the openings are immense. A staircase between the 2nd and 3rd floor contains a tromp l’oeil painting of a fountain and garden at the landing, and opens up under the air rotunda and into the space described as the “magnificent hall”. Horizontal lines in the rotunda show how the ceiling was lowered to about 14 feet when this space got a Victorian era makeover. A peek up through the lowered ceiling reveals heavy plaster cornice work from the original construction. Walls have bricked in openings that used to connect to an adjacent building, the no longer extant Estelle Hall. Over the years, the space hosted dances, concerts, lectures, and other acts, such as “Donetti’s Acting Monkeys, Dogs and Goats” in 1852. These spaces were used for Jefferson Davis's inaugural activities in 1861, and by 1863, served as a Confederate war hospital, which was one of four in Montgomery and the only one that remains.

Today, the building sits vacant.

May 12 – Fort Toulouse Living History Program



PLACES^{with a} PURPOSE

Fort Toulouse *Living History*

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park is a significant archaeological site. This area, where the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers meet to form the mighty Alabama River, has been occupied for 10,000 years. Prehistoric and American Indians, Spanish explorers, French marines, English and Scottish traders, and American settlers all left their mark on this National Historic Landmark.

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson Park offers living history events that focus on the French military's use of the site. While several forts were built from 1717 to 1751, more than just soldiers lived at the fort. Reenactors portraying French wives and various traders who had a presence around the fort provide living history demonstrations. The administrators of Louisiana realized that by allowing some soldiers to marry and set up farmsteads the French colonial empire could establish itself in places where the English had yet to settle. Much like the French soldiers, we are glad to have the women here to add their skills and expand our portrayal of the colonial frontier.

For more information, visit ahc.alabama.gov.



May 13 – Belle Mont

PLACES^{with a} PURPOSE

Belle Mont

Positioned on a commanding hilltop, Belle Mont Mansion is one of Alabama's crowning architectural achievements.

Located just outside Tuscumbia in Colbert County, the mansion is one of a few Palladian-style houses in the Deep South. This style stems from the neoclassical architectural design of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio.

The Belle Mont Mansion hosts a Celtic Fest each year in May that celebrates Celtic music and history with food, vendors, activities, and historical reenactments.

The Alabama Historical Commission owns this historic site. Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, Inc. is the support group in charge of operating the site.

For more information, visit ahc.alabama.gov.



May 14 – National Register Spotlight

National Register Spotlight

Shoal Creek Club, Shelby County



PLACES with a **PURPOSE**

Swingin' in to share one of our National Register of Historic Places - Shoal Creek!



Shoal Creek Club, located in Shoal Creek in Shelby County is a golf course and private country club. It was designed by its founder Hall Thompson and premier course designer Jack Nicklaus in 1974 and was listed for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Social History: Civil Rights and Entertainment and Recreation in December 2022 for its association with the nationally significant controversy leading up to the Professional Golfers Association of America's (PGA) 72nd annual tournament held there in 1990.

Shoal Creek founder Hall Thompson made waves nationwide when he was quoted in a Birmingham newspaper about the club's exclusionary membership practices, stating the club would not be pressured into accepting Black members in response to local outcry over the 1990 PGA Championship being held at the all-white club. The events surrounding the 1990 PGA Championship at Shoal Creek led directly to Black golfers gaining access to play some of the nation's most premier courses, allowing them access beyond Shoal Creek and Alabama's golf courses. As a direct result of the controversy at Shoal Creek, golf's major associations, the United States Golf Association (USGA), Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA), PGA Tour, and the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) all changed their policies regarding holding events at racially exclusive private clubs and promoting diversity more generally. Second, the fallout of the controversy led to a number of private clubs opening their membership to non-whites in order to avoid the economic consequences associated with not hosting major golf tournaments and losing advertiser revenue. The events surrounding Shoal Creek in 1990 are of exceptional significance in the history of racial integration of private recreational clubs and of professional sports and in the history of golf in the United States. The period of significance is 1990 when the club hosted the PGA's 72nd annual tournament and Shoal Creek admitted its first Black member.

May 15 – Old Cahawba Artesian Wells

(This content must be viewed with an Instagram/Facebook account as it is an Instagram Reel)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/3323553081195681>

May 16 – Ironclads

PLACES^{with a} PURPOSE

Ironclads

The ironclad vessels CSS Huntsville and CSS Tuscaloosa launched from the Confederate Navy Yard in Selma in early 1864, even though Huntsville was not yet equipped with an engine. After being outfitted and armed in Mobile, the vessels were commissioned and deployed to defend Mobile Bay, which was a vital shipping route for the South and the Confederacy. The vessels participated in the defense of Fort Powell in 1864 and in the Union siege of Mobile in 1865. As the Confederate forces retreated in April 1865, the CSS Huntsville and CSS Tuscaloosa were abandoned and scuttled near a pre-war jetty to block Union access to inland waterways and the retreating Confederate navy.

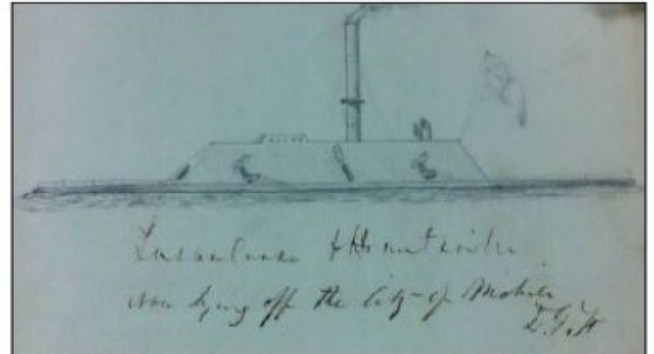
The wrecks now lay in waters near Mobile.

The wrecks were first excavated and identified in 1985.

In 2019, a survey funded by the Alabama Historical Commission, was conducted by maritime archeologists from SEARCH, Inc. using remote-sensing technology to assess the shipwrecks and the jetty. The two vessels are the most intact examples of Confederate ironclad warships in the nation.

These ironclads were officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 18, 2022. The wrecked vessels are among the few surviving Confederate ironclads.

For more information, visit ahc.alabama.gov.



Laying in the waters near Mobile, the CSS Huntsville and the CSS Tuscaloosa are the two most intact examples of Confederate ironclad warships in the nation...🚢



May 17 – Bottle Creek Indian Mounds

PLACES^{with} a PURPOSE

Bottle Creek

Bottle Creek is one of the most important prehistoric Native American sites in Alabama, second only to Moundville. Located on Mound Island, in the heart of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, it is the largest mound complex on the northern Gulf coastal plain. Bottle Creek has recently received funding through the National Park Service for the Save America's Treasures grant.

The Save America's Treasures grant program was established in 1998 to celebrate America's premier cultural resources in the new millennium. After more than 20 years, this grant program has awarded more than 1,300 grants totalling more than \$300 million to projects across the United States. Funded projects, selected from 4,000-plus applications requesting \$1.5 billion, represent nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey our nation's rich heritage to future generations.

The grant will be used for a hydrology model to inform measures to address erosion from the combination of increased rainfall and increased visitation plus added signage to the site.

For more information, visit ahc.alabama.gov.



Continuing Preservation Month: Places with a Purpose with one of the most important prehistoric Native American sites in Alabama - Bottle Creek Indian Mounds. Read more about the [National Park Service](https://www.nps.gov/sat) grant AHC is using to continue preservation efforts of this site.

May 18 – Confederate Memorial Park Museum Tour Video

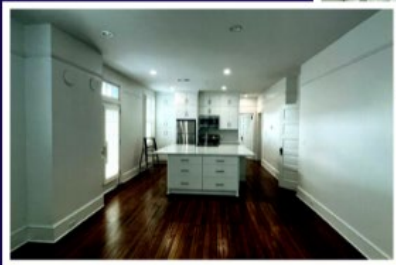
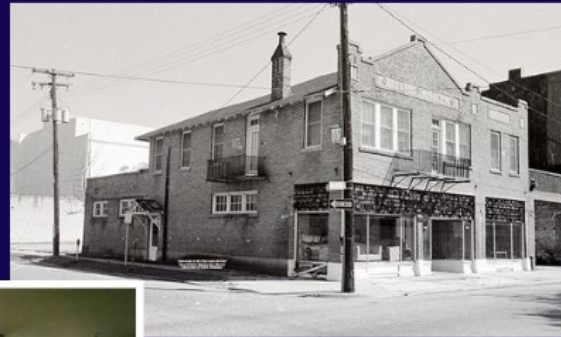
(This content must be viewed with an Instagram/Facebook account as it is an Instagram Reel)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/798142211873534>

May 19 – Tax Credit Success (Fry Building, Mobile)

Federal Tax Credit Spotlight

Fry Building, Mobile



PLACES with a **PURPOSE**

The Fry Building located at 362 Dauphin Street, Mobile, AL is a federal tax credit success!

The owner of the building earned federal historic tax credits and received an Alabama historic tax credit allocation for completing a rehabilitation that meets historic preservation guidelines. The Fry Building is located in the Lower Dauphin Street Commercial District in Mobile and was rehabilitated for commercial use on the first floor and apartments on the upper level. The National Park Service approved the project in January 2023. 🍊🍊

Constructed in two phases, the first section of the building was built circa 1900 for commercial use on the main level and residential use on the upper level. The second section was constructed in 1923 with the same configuration; then in 1937, the two sections were rehabilitated to become one building inside and out. The 2022 project restored the exterior by repairing wood storefronts and double-hung windows. Two commercial spaces received electrical and HVAC upgrades and refreshed finishes. Two original apartments on the upper level retained their historic floorplans and exhibit refinished wood floors, painted plaster walls with historic wood trim, and new kitchens and bathrooms.

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program is one of the most successful community revitalization programs in the country and leverages private investment to preserve historic properties. A 20% income tax credit may be earned for rehabilitating historic, income-producing buildings following historic preservation guidelines.

For more information about the program, visit the NPS website <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/taxincentives/index.htm> and contact Chloe Mercer at chloe.mercer@ahc.alabama.gov!

May 20 – Freedom Rides Museum 62nd Anniversary – Bus Restoration Project Video

https://youtu.be/Kgz_cUHVY24

On May 20, 1961, twenty-one student Freedom Riders were attacked at what was Montgomery's Greyhound Bus Station (now the Freedom Rides Museum) by a mob of hundreds as they peacefully protested segregated interstate travel. The student Freedom Riders survived the attack in Montgomery and their courage brought about changes that broke down barriers for all Americans to travel more freely across the country.

Today, we commemorate the Freedom Rider's heroic journey with this video on the preservation process for the vintage Greyhound bus the AHC found and restored!

May 21 – Magnolia Grove



Pictured above is the slave dwelling located at Magnolia Grove, an historic property of the Alabama Historical Commission. Enslaved carpenters and builders constructed both this dwelling and the owner's house, which is a classic Greek Revival house with finely crafted architectural details. The contrast between the simplicity of the slave house and the elaborate design of the property owner's house illustrate the inequality that enslaved people at Magnolia Grove experienced daily.

Together, these buildings at Magnolia Grove represent our state's complex history. The AHC restored this dwelling in 2014 with the assistance of a Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service.



PLACES^{with a} PURPOSE

Slave Dwellings Project

Since 2020, the AHC has spearheaded a multi-year project "Architecture of the Enslaved: Documenting Alabama's Slave Dwellings." Through a grant from the National Park Service, this project has already collected research on the places and buildings where enslaved people lived. We are currently on the next phase of the project, which is to update the 1973 National Register nomination for Magnolia Grove in Greensboro. This nomination will update the understanding and interpretation of all architecture on the property and provide a better understanding of enslaved spaces within the plantation economy.

For additional information about Architecture of the Enslaved: Documenting Alabama's Slave Dwellings, visit the project page at ahc.alabama.gov.



Preservation Month continues with AHC's Slave Dwellings Project with a highlight on Magnolia Grove's slave dwelling! For more information on this project, hit the link below. 🖱️🖱️

<https://ahc.alabama.gov/slavedwellingsurvey.aspx>

May 22 – Clotilda Exploration Video

<https://youtu.be/C5aPs0RqDjc>

Places with a Purpose: The Exploration of the Clotilda

Watch the AHC take a "dive" into the Clotilda and the ongoing preservation efforts done to protect the vessel.

May 23 – Forks of Cypress



PLACES^{with a} PURPOSE

Forks of Cypress

The Forks of Cypress was a plantation and Greek Revival house near Florence, AL. Built for James Jackson and his wife Sally, it was likely designed by architect William Nichols. Constructed by enslaved laborers, it was completed c1830. These skilled artisans made the bricks on site, quarried limestone from the Tennessee River, and carved the column capitals from native cypress. The house burned in 1966, but the columns remain standing. Surrounded by private property, the ruins can be seen from the road, or accessed as part of a scheduled tour.

For more information about this site or other AHC sites, please visit ahc.alabama.gov.

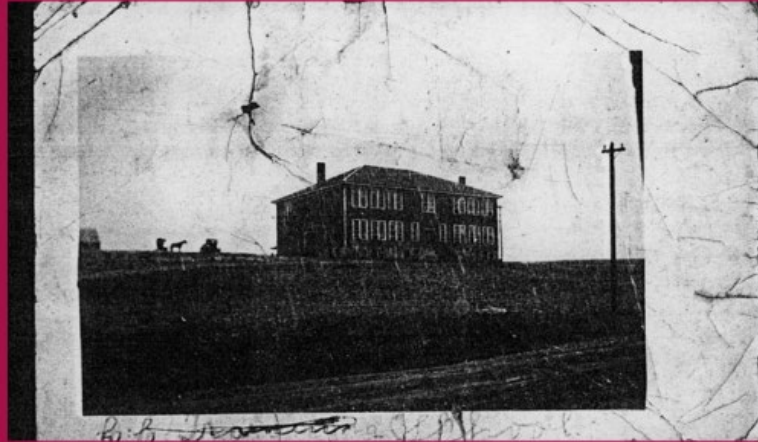
Using all the natural elements, the Forks of Cypress house was made of quarried limestone from the Tennessee River, handmade bricks, and columns made from cypress trees. Pretty neat!

The Forks of Cypress is an AHC site, but it can only be accessed from the road or by a private tour!

May 24 – Historical Marker Spotlight: John P. Powell Middle School

Historical Marker Spotlight

John P. Powell Middle School, Chambers Co



The two-story Chambers County Training School opened on September 29, 1919, with 175 students enrolled. Just a few days later, enrollment had increased to 220, with an additional 500 students expected by the end of the year. Along with regular academic courses, vocational agriculture and home economics were also taught. In the spring of 1928, the first high school graduation at Chambers County Training School was held. For many years, Chambers County Training School was the only high school for Black children in the county.



PLACES with a PURPOSE

A Historical Marker story 📖

In 1869, several former owners of enslaved people in Chambers Co donated land that included a log cabin church to be used for the education of Black children.

The log cabin served as a school for the children of Lafayette until about 1885.

Later, the school moved to a structure on Jackson Hill and was named the

Lafayette District School, which served the area until 1918. Black people in the community began fundraising campaigns for the construction of a new school building.

With funds raised, land was purchased from Nepton and Lucy Adams, who were merchants and the largest Black landowners in Lafayette at the time. The two-story Chambers County Training School opened on September 29, 1919, with 175 students enrolled. Just a few days later, enrollment had increased to 220, with an additional 500 students expected by the end of the year. Along with regular academic courses, vocational agriculture and home economics were also taught.

In the spring of 1928, the first high school graduation at Chambers County Training School was held. For many years, Chambers County Training School was the only high school for Black children in the county. Students came from all over the county and some even came from other counties in the state. News articles praised Chambers County Training School for being rated “one of the best schools in the state” and “the second largest in point of enrollment.”

The school burned in 1948 and a new school building was constructed the following year. Several renovations and additions occurred under the tenure of John P. Powell, who served as principal from 1954-1976. Following the integration and consolidation of schools in 1969, the school was no longer a high school, and the name was changed to Southside Middle School. In 1999, the name of the school was renamed John Perry Powell Middle School in honor of former principal and long-time educator John P. Powell, and still occupies the property purchased from Nepton Adams in 1918.

The property was listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on August 24, 2022. The dedication ceremony for the historical marker is scheduled for June 3, 2023.

May 25 – Pond Spring Historic Gardens



PLACES^{with a} PURPOSE

Pond Spring Gardens

Pond Spring is the post-Civil War home of Joseph Wheeler who was a Confederate lieutenant general, a U.S. congressman, a Spanish-American War general, and only one of two generals to achieve the rank of general in the U.S. army after the Civil War.



After 1896, Miss Annie Wheeler, the general's daughter, along with her sister Lucy, turned the grounds into a pastoral garden. Annie and Lucy also planted daffodils, irises, roses, daylilies, ivy and wisteria, a practice that continued after Lucy's death in 1924. As a way to deal with the grief of losing her sister, Annie, at the urging of her youngest sister Carrie, began planting English boxwoods on the grounds. As an avid gardener, Annie planted approximately 500 English boxwoods on the grounds, some of which still thrive today, over 100 years later. In her East Garden, located by the icehouse of the Wheeler house, Annie had a large cedarwood arbor constructed, lined field stone pathways with benches & birdbaths, and placed a marble sundial within the garden. On it was the following inscription: 'We are nearer God's Heart in a garden Than anywhere else on Earth.' Today, we continue working towards preserving and recreating Miss Annie's beloved garden.



For more information about this site or other AHC sites, please visit ahc.alabama.gov.

All this S U M M E R weather makes us want to get out and plant some beautiful flowers in a garden, but can it be as impressive as Miss Annie's? We doubt it..



Preservation Month continues as we highlight the Pond Spring: General Joe Wheeler Home with the historic gardens on site. The staff at AHC continue to preserve what remains of Miss Annie's beautiful blooms.

May 26 – Education Trust Fund Program Spotlight: Havana School

Education Trust Fund Spotlight

Havana School, Hale County



The Havana School received a \$21,500 Historic Sites grant from the Alabama Historical Commission in 2022.



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Built in 1922, the Havana School is important to Alabama's history because it is one of a few remaining rural schools built in the early 20th century. The school retains the original architectural style and building materials and is a typical three or four classroom school with a very small library, a kitchen and cafeteria. Havana School has an original potbelly heater located in one of the classrooms. By

improving and renovating the Havana School, visitors will be able to access the building and see first-hand how schools looked and operated years ago.

The site of the Havana School campus is in a significantly historical part of Alabama's Black Belt Region. The goal in renovating the site is to make it part of an educational destination for students and the public. The historic building reflects the type of schools that were built in rural Alabama during the early 1900s. The Julia Tutwiler monument and the historical Havana Methodist Church and cemetery are located within a quarter of a mile from the school. Miss Tutwiler became a champion for women's education, as well as her father, Dr. Henry Tutwiler, established the Green Springs Preparatory School for Boys in 1847, which was also located in Havana. A historical marker for the Green Springs School is located on AL Highway 60, near Havana. Dr. Tutwiler is also buried in the Havana Methodist Church cemetery, as well as Havana's founder, David Campbell.

Long-term work at the school will include exterior painting and wood siding repair or replacement, replacing broken windowpanes and reglazing the glass, painting windows, installing a new A/C unit and duct work, and upgrading the restroom facilities.

The AHC is grateful to the Alabama Legislature and Governor Ivey for appropriating grant funds for the Historic Sites Grant Program. The program is assisting in the preservation and rehabilitation of historic sites all over Alabama.

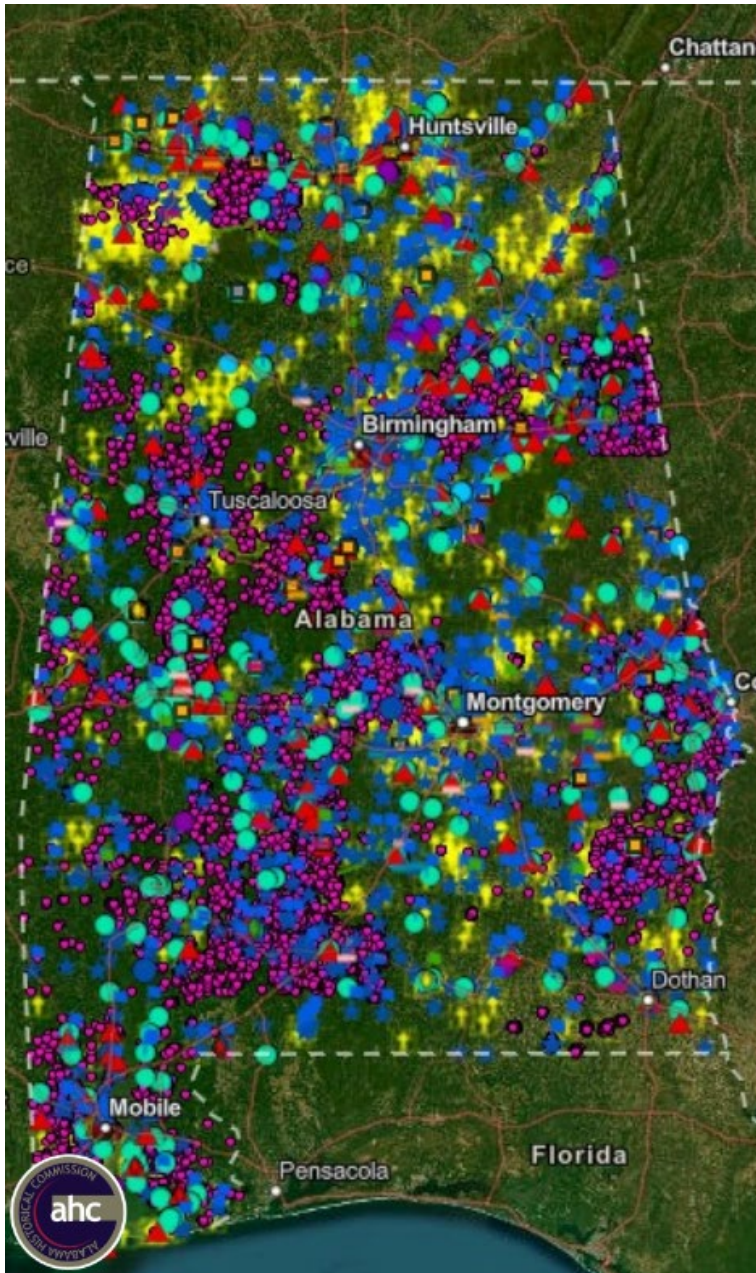
Since 2016, the AHC has awarded \$7,165,000 in grant funds to 481 sites in Alabama. Stay tuned to for our announcement of the 2024 Historic Sites Grant Program!

May 27 – Fort Mims Well Casing Video

(This content must be viewed with an Instagram/Facebook account as it is an Instagram Reel)

https://www.facebook.com/reel/198770819297780/?s=single_unit

May 28 – GIS Map



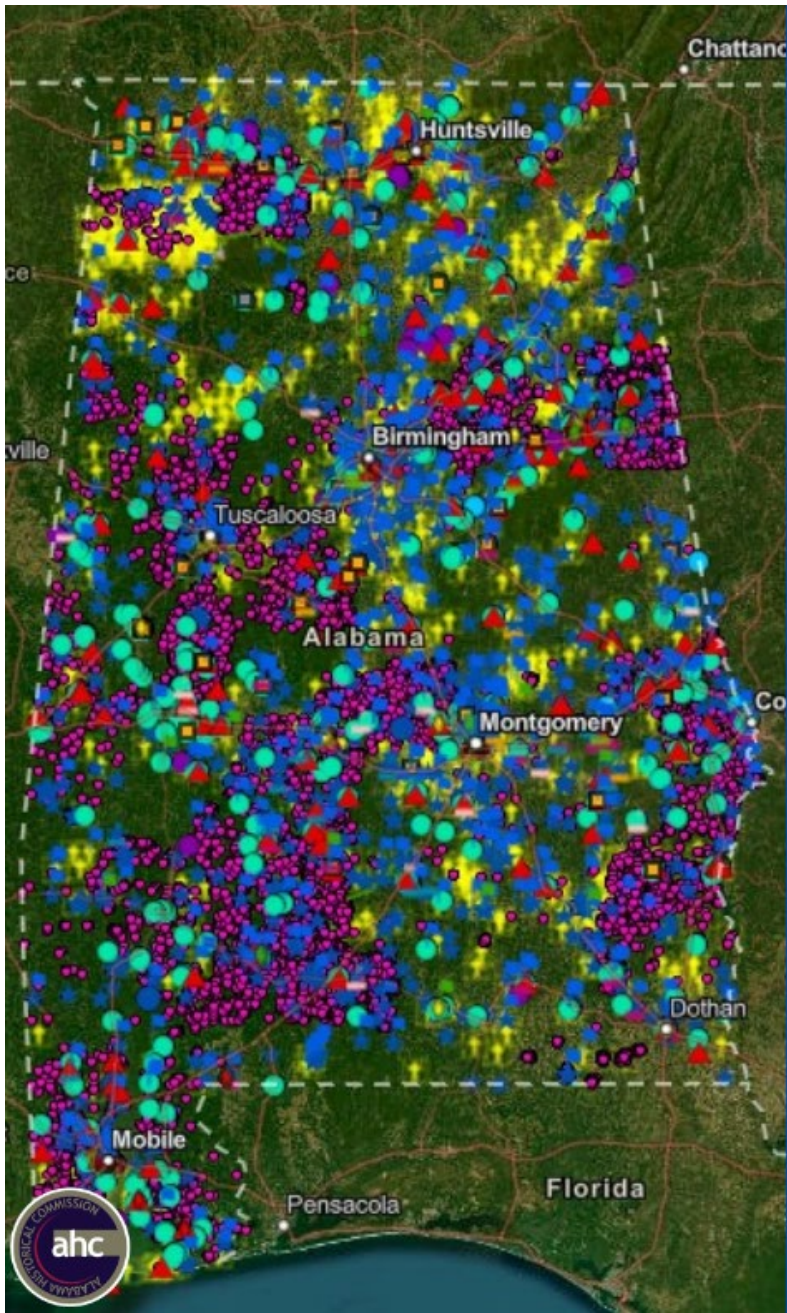
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Historic Preservation Map

The Alabama Legislature established the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) in 1966 to foster the understanding and preservation of Alabama's heritage. In fulfilling its mission, the AHC has collected valuable information on Alabama's historic locations and created a map tool.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) is an invaluable tool for those interested in Alabama's historic sites. The present project consists of digitizing and constructing a GIS database for AHC's Historic Preservation Division Programs. GIS is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data that is rooted in the science of geography. The AHC now has available an ArcGis geo-database to display spatially the many thousands of historic resources across Alabama and 55 counties have been plotted thus far.

For more information about this program and others, please visit ahc.alabama.gov.



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Historic Preservation Map

There are a variety of map layers including:

- National Register of Historic Places
- Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage
- Architectural Surveys
- Alabama Historic Cemetery Register
- AHC & Black Heritage Council Historical Markers
- Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Projects
- Historic African American Schools
- Places in Peril
- Preservation Easements

For more information about the GIS map contact Joseph Massey at [334-230-2699](tel:334-230-2699) or Joseph.Massey@ahc.alabama.gov.

The AHC GIS Map is one of our most effective tools for finding and researching various historic properties across the state. Check out all those cool layers! 🍌🍌

Need help finding a property? We know a guy!

<https://ahc.alabama.gov/historicpreservationmap.aspx>

May 29 – Memorial Day

Honor & Remember



From The
Alabama Historical Commission



Freedom is not free! Thank you to our military and those who have lost their lives serving our country. Today, we honor and remember you! ❤️🇺🇸💙

May 30 – Disaster Resources

Disaster Resources

Prevent



Respond



Recover

Hurricane season begins in June and the Alabama Historical Commission has an abundant list of resources available for the best weather preparedness in order to protect a historic home or property vulnerable to natural disasters such as the Middle Bay Lighthouse in Mobile Bay.



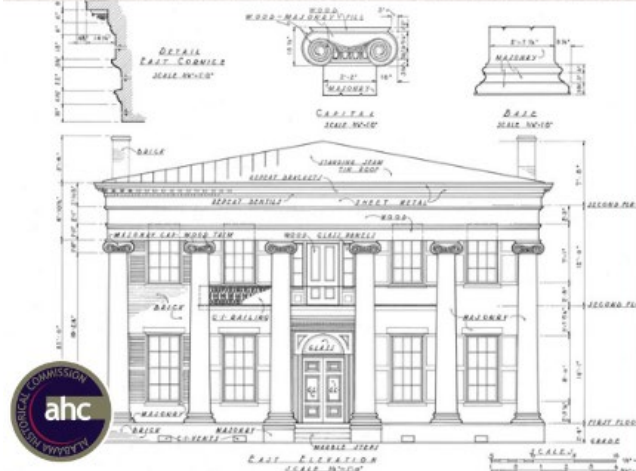
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Hurricane season is coming..👁️🌧️🌪️

Is your historic home or property protected? AHC has a wealth of helpful links on our Disaster Resources page to best prepare you AND your historic property.

<https://ahc.alabama.gov/DisasterResources.aspx>

May 31 – Teague House/Staff Photo



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Teague House

The Teague House located downtown Montgomery serves as the main office for the Alabama Historical Commission. Built in 1848, it has been described as Montgomery's quintessential "Southern Mansion", even though it had been built as a townhouse, not as a plantation mansion. In 1865, after the surrender, Yankee General James Wilson rode in and took command of the city. From the columned portico, he read his order placing Montgomery under martial law. William Teague bought the property in 1889, and started the famous Teague Hardware, and who built the Gay-Teague Hotel. In 1955 the house was acquired by and became home of the State Chamber of Commerce (now Business Council of Alabama).



And that's a WRAP!! 🎉🎊

Thank you to everyone who has followed along with us during Preservation Month: Places with a Purpose! It has been fun to see some new faces follow us on social media and even subscribe to our newsletter! May is coming to an end, but our preservation efforts will not! AHC continues to preserve historic places for current and future generations! Until next year...
AHC and our Historic Sites ❤️ Preservation Month!

