

# Preservation Month: Places with a Purpose

May 1 – Welcome video from Director Lisa D. Jones

[Link](#)

## May 2 – AHC Historic Sites Photo Contest



The Alabama Historical Commission is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Historic Places Photography Contest in celebration of Historic Preservation Month, May 2024. This year's theme is Historic Sites owned by the Alabama Historical Commission. We are looking for unique and artistic photos that feature these specific historic places. This contest is for all photographers of any age or skill. Digital photographs should be taken at the highest resolution possible. Only JPG format will be accepted. Please do not include an image with borders, watermarks, dates, or names. And, please do not include people or animals in your photo.

The following AHC sites will be accepted:

- Alabama State Capitol
- Belle Mont Mansion
- Confederate Memorial Park
- Fendall Hall
- Fort Mims

Fort Morgan  
Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson  
Freedom Rides Museum  
Gaineswood  
Magnolia Grove  
Old Cahawba  
Pond Spring

We will use the winning photos in a variety of places: websites, social media, digital and print materials, television, etc. The AHC will give credit wherever the photo is used. An applicant may submit more than one photo, but a separate entry form must be filled out. The deadline is May 31 at 11:59 pm.

GOOD LUCK!



[Submit your photo here!](#)

## May 3 – Alabama Register Highlight: Bibb Graves Hall

# Alabama Register Spotlight

## *Bibb Graves Hall, Jacksonville State University*



**Then**

**Now**



Preservation Month wouldn't be Preservation Month without highlighting the Alabama Register of Historic Places, now would it? One that has recently been added to the list in fact... Bibb Graves Hall is a new listing to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. It is located on the campus of Jacksonville State University, previously Jacksonville State Normal School, in Calhoun County. Bibb Graves Hall is a two story late Gothic Revival building built in 1930. It housed all the campus facilities except dormitories. Classrooms, the library, and auditorium were in this building. On Monday December 8, 1930, the first classes were held. Bibb Graves Hall, originally named after Alabama Governor David Bibb Graves, is now called Angle Hall and serves as the administration building.

For more information on the Alabama Register, click the link below!

[Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage](#)

## May 4 – Alabama Birding Trail & Fort Toulouse

### Alabama Birding Trail Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson

Fort Toulouse-Jackson Park is situated where the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers meet to form the headwaters of the Alabama River. The park preserves relics of over 6,000 years of human history within its 165 acres of woodlands and fields bordering the two rivers. The rich riverbank habitat makes this especially attractive to a variety of birds like Eastern Meadowlarks, Northern Bobwhites, and Red-tailed Hawks – and Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels in winter. The open swamp on the right of the entrance road has Anhingas and Prothonotary Warblers. Waders, such as Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons are possible throughout the year.

Located in the park is the Bartram Arboretum, named for the famed naturalist William Bartram, whose travels led him throughout the Southeast where he discovered and cataloged the botanical life. An easy walk on improved paths and boardwalks allows you to find a wide variety of songbirds such as Northern Parula, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Red-headed Woodpeckers are easy to spot throughout the year and the Yellow-throated Vireos call from the hardwood canopy. Wood Thrushes' flutelike songs permeate the woods in spring and summer, and Hooded Warblers are present in the warm months. Look and listen for the Barred Owls that call the woodlands of Fort Toulouse-Jackson home.

The Alabama Historical Commission is proud to partner with the Alabama Birding Trail.



Today is National Bird Day! 🌿🐦

**Did you know Alabama has the Alabama Birding Trail? Even more, did you know Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson, one of our historic sites is part of it?**

**Today we are celebrating National Bird Day by sharing about the bird trail at Fort Toulouse! Read more about the beauty of the Alabama Birding Trail!**

[Fort Toulouse - Fort Jackson Park](#)

## May 5 – Museums Lovers Day & Freedom Rides Museum

It's Museum Lovers Day!

For you museum hunters and lovers of history and more, today is your day! We know you love visiting the coolest places - those with stories, history, and what's left behind! Which is why we are highlighting one of our own museums, the Freedom Rides Museum!

In 1961, groups of volunteers challenged the practice of segregated travel through the South. They called themselves the Freedom Riders as they crossed racial barriers in depots and bus stations. Their arrival to this location changed history!

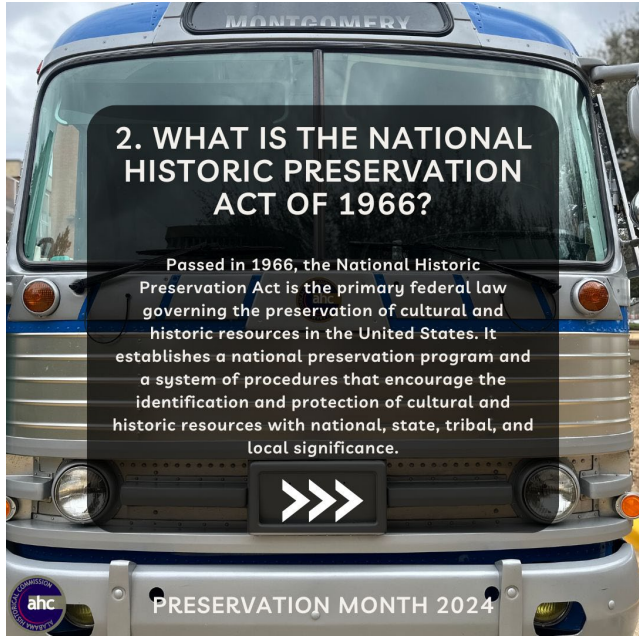
Be sure to check the [Freedom Rides Museum](#) off your museum list!



[Link](#)

# May 6 – FAQ about Historic Preservation



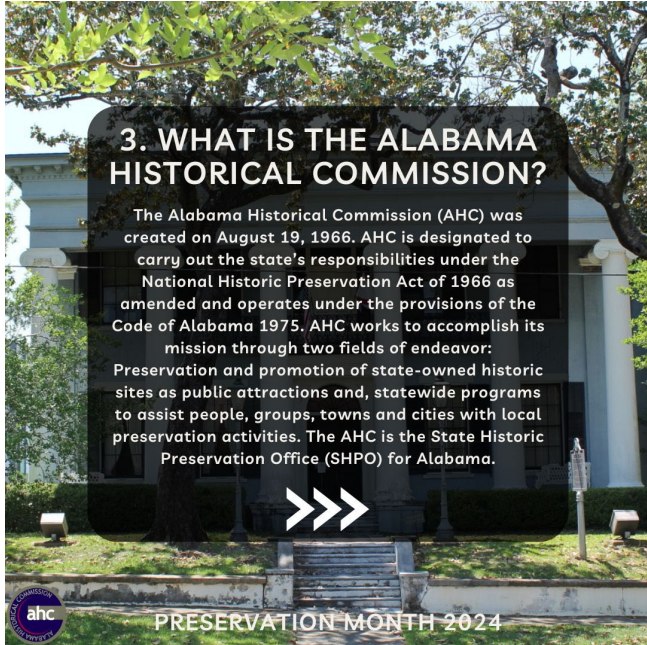


## 2. WHAT IS THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966?

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.



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## 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.



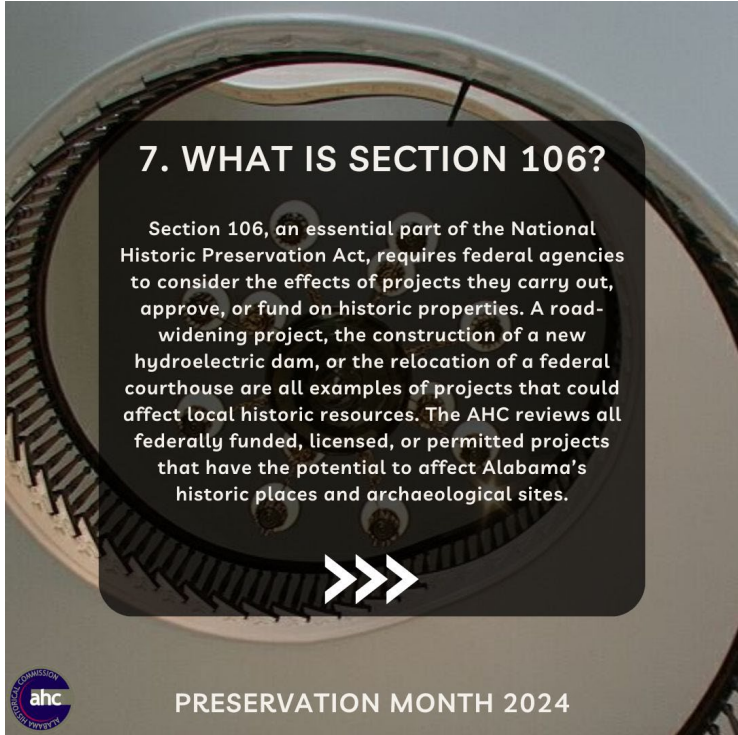
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## 6. WHAT ARE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES?

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.



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## 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.



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