

PRESERVATION Alabama Historical Commission REPORT

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

AHC RESPONDS TO GULF OIL SPILL

Working with other agencies to preserve Alabama's cultural resources

The BP oil spill affects many aspects of Alabama's coastal life. The impact of the spill though is not just limited to the Gulf of Mexico and its beaches. Alabama's valuable cultural resources have also been threatened by this man-made disaster.

Since May 13, the AHC has been working to survey and protect Alabama's resources. In this effort, the AHC consulted

with the National Park Service, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), American Indian tribes, Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) and the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama have

also contributed significantly to the response.

AHC archaeologist Amanda Hill and executive director Frank White have visited the Alabama Command Center in Mobile. "The AHC asked that the federal response operation include archaeologists from Alabama. Consultants in the state were ultimately selected to survey the coastal areas," said Hill.

Some of the interesting resources being surveyed for damage include the ship wreck on the beach near the Fort Morgan historic site, and the Native American mounds on the north side of Dauphin Island. There is also a significant amount of shell midden scattered on the island. Shell midden is a heap of clam, oyster, whelk, or mussel shells that tells how pre-historic people ate together. The midden reveals the types of tools used to prepare meals, as well as the utensils used.

Hill said that she participates in weekly conference calls that bring together all of the agencies involved. Through these discussions, all of the Gulf Coast SHPOs have been sharing their observations with all parties as the response continues. Also, the Alaska SHPO has been helpful in advising the AHC on how to survey and preserve Alabama's archaeological resources. Alaska was the site of the Exxon Valdez oil spill that occurred on March 24, 1989.



Cultural resources specialist Cameron Gill surveys a marsh in South Mobile County in June.

Rosenwald School awarded grant

In June, the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded a \$40,000 restoration grant to the Tankersley Rosenwald School in Hope Hull. Tankersley was one of eight Rosenwald Schools nationwide that received a Lowe's grant.

Tankersley Rosenwald School was constructed in c.1922, and is one of 13 Rosenwald schools built in Montgomery County. Of these schools, Tankersley is the only one designed as a 3-teacher type building, and one of two that still exist.

The school is also one of eight Rosenwald Schools in Alabama listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Montgomery County Farmers Service and Welfare Association owns the building and plans to use the building as a community center and farm cooperative.

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has awarded grants to four Rosenwald Schools in Alabama. The National Trust for Historic Preservation administers the grant for the foundation.



Montgomery's Court Square Fountain (c. 1880s)

PRESERVING ALABAMA'S HOMETOWNS *Embracing Historic Places - Making Life Better* **Montgomery • October 7 - 9**

Montgomery is hosting this year's preservation conference. The AHC, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Black Heritage Council, City of Montgomery and Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery invite you to explore the city's newly restored historic downtown and connect with preservationists from around the state. See [page 3](#) for more information.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Anniston Downtown District (update-boundary increase)
May 24, 2010

The Downtown Anniston Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2010. Originally listed in the National Register in 1991, the district now includes a total of 66 acres and 203 buildings, structures and sites. The update adds 55 resources to the district. The period of significance for the district extends from 1883 to 1965.

Downtown Anniston is a well-preserved example of community planning during the period following the Civil War and Reconstruction. The district encompasses a historic downtown commercial area which continues to fulfill its original purpose, despite the passage of time, evolving architectural styles, and the changing shopping habits of the residents. Downtown Anniston is also significant due its role in the Civil Rights Movement, both locally and as the site of the nationally significant 1961 Freedom Rides bus burning incident.



Bryand Brand House, Perry County
August 6, 2010

Constructed c. 1845, the Bryand Brand House was moved in 1978 to its current location in order to save it. The house is located in rural Perry County on the east side of State Highway 14.

The Brand House represents a distinctive strain of antebellum planter housing in the county. The house is one of two such plantation houses surviving in the county. The house's three unique interior features make it eligible for the listing. The first is the treatment of the wide central hall as a quasi-dogtrot to accommodate Alabama's hot summers. The second is the double-leaf front door which allows for the placement of the lower step of a corner stairway. One door swings open on hinges but the other slides open behind a bottom step. The third feature is the original rabbeted sheathing found on all of the ceilings of the main block and on the walls of its central halls.

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

LISTED ON AUGUST 5, 2010

MAJOR CHISHOLM DANIEL HOUSE
Cedar Bluff, Cherokee County

LOGAN JR. HIGH SCHOOL
Logan, Cullman County

WARD CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH
Selma, Dallas County

SANDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Millbrook, Elmore County

BETHEL CHURCH
Overton, Jefferson County

DICK MIXON FARM
Beaverton, Lamar County

PUTNAM SCHOOL
Putnam, Marengo County

BERT & MARY ROSENBUSH HOUSE
Demopolis, Marengo County



Logan Jr. High School, Cullman County

JUDGE TERRELL HOUSE
Pikeville, Marion County

AURELIA ELISCERA SHINES BROWDER HOUSE
Montgomery, Montgomery County

CLAUDETTE COLVIN HOUSE
Montgomery, Montgomery County

MONTEVALLO COAL MINE COMPANY STORE
Montevallo, Shelby County

DON H. LOVELADY MEMORIAL BRIDGE
Montevallo, Shelby County

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Talladega, Talladega County

THE CEDARS
Munford, Talladega County

HUNTER CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County

THE GIBEON JEFFERSON SULLIVAN CABIN
Wagerville, Washington County



Hunter Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Tuscaloosa



ALABAMA
PRESERVATION
2010 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE HOTELS

Hampton Inn & Suites

100 Commerce Street

Rate: \$99 per night (plus tax)

Tel: 1-334-265-1010

conference rate expires: Noon, September 22

Renaissance Marriott Hotel & Spa

201 Tallapoosa Street

Rate: \$127 per night (plus tax)

Tel: 1-334-481-5000

conference rate expires: Noon, Tuesday, September 7

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

- Board meetings for ATHP and the Black Heritage Council
- Private Tour, First White House of the Confederacy
- Reception and Opening Session, Department of Archives and History Tour, New Exhibitions, Museum of Alabama
- Special Event benefitting the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

Morning

Keynote: Don Rypkema Alabama Department of Archives and History

Noon

Keynote Luncheon: **Making It Happen:**

Economic Development in Historic Downtowns

Don Rypkema

Alley Station Ballroom, Downtown Montgomery (Open to the public, reservation required, not included in conference registration fee)

Afternoon

Concurrent Tracks - Tracks begin late morning, end late afternoon.

Track programs include lunch on site unless otherwise noted.

Track 1 **Preservation and Economic Development:**

Making Downtowns Come Alive

(includes ticket to Keynote Luncheon with Don Rypkema)

Located in The Alleyway, a delightful space that is a key part of Montgomery's downtown revival plan.

Track 2 **Preserving History and Its Symbolic Structures:**

Civil Rights and Beyond

Track 3 **Preservation and Historic Neighborhoods:**

Building Better Communities

Track 4 **Preservation and the Decorative Arts:**

Living with Art, Artifacts and History

Evening

Preservation Awards Reception and Ceremony

Montgomery Historic Train Station

Special Event benefitting the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

Private Venue

PRESERVING ALABAMA'S HOMETOWNS Embracing Historic Places - Making Life Better

Thursday, October 7 – Saturday, October 9, 2010
Historic Montgomery

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 9

Concurrent Special Interest Sessions, Old Alabama Town

Archiving Your Historic Treasures

Alabama Architecture: Looking at Building and Place

Revisiting Alabama's Places in Peril

Two-Way Ticket to the Cemetery:

A Tour of Historic Oakwood Cemetery

Decorative Arts of Old Alabama Town

Historic Landscaping: Montgomery's Beloved Gardens

SATURDAY NOON, OCTOBER 9

Closing Luncheon: **What's Been Done – What To Do**

Open to anyone interested in preserving Alabama's historic places, join the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation for its annual celebration of preservation efforts across the state during the year and learn more about preservation challenges for the forthcoming year. Historic Young House Restaurant (Reservation required.)

The 2010 conference is a program of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Alabama Historical Commission, Black Heritage Council, and the Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The Alabama Preservation 2010 Conference is made possible, in part, through contributions from the following generous supporters.

Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.

The Center for the Study of the Black Belt
University of West Alabama

Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery

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Historic Jackson Community House Foundation

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church & Foundation

For registration and detailed conference information:

www.preserveala.org/currentissues.aspx

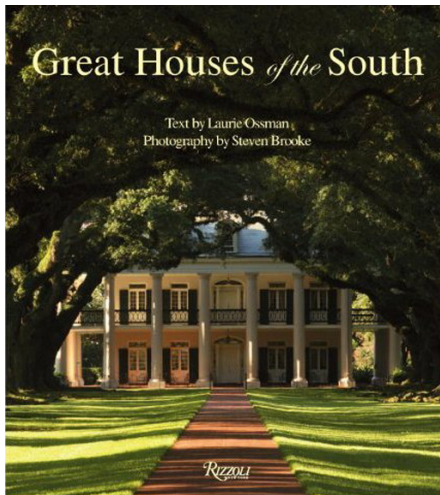
www.alabamatrust.info

STATEWIDE REPORT

Great Houses of the South

text by Laurie Ossman

photography by Steven Brooke



publisher's web site:
www.rizzoliusa.com

"Great Houses of the South" contains detailed photography and descriptions of historic houses throughout the South. AHC sites Fendall Hall and Gaineswood are included in the work, along with the well-known Biltmore in Asheville and the Gilded Age estate of George Washington Vanderbilt.

Fendall Hall (c. 1860)
917 W. Barbour Street, Eufaula
334.687.8469

Gaineswood (1861)
805 Cedar Street, Demopolis
334.289.4846

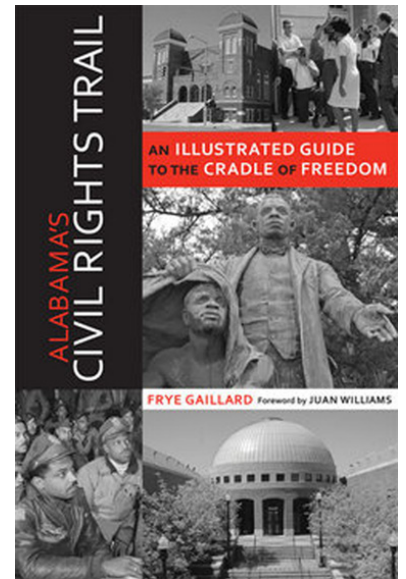
Alabama's Civil Rights Trail

An Illustrated Guide to the Cradle of Freedom

by Frye Gaillard

Take a walk through Alabama's most significant Civil Rights sites with author Frye Gaillard, writer in residence at the University of South Alabama. Gaillard's latest work highlights many of the well-known sites such as Birmingham's Kelly Ingram Park and Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge. The book also focuses on other sites like Montgomery's Cleveland Court public housing complex, where Rosa Parks lived in apartment 634.

publisher's web site:
www.uapress.ua.edu



Museum of East Alabama reopens

The Museum of East Alabama reopened on July 17. Located at 121 South 9th Street in historic downtown Opelika, the museum had been closed for interior and exhibit improvements since December 2009. Students from Auburn University's Department of Industrial and Graphic Design designed and built the new displays. The renovations cost more than \$100,000.

The museum features one of only two magnetic tape recorders in existence, as well as an exhibit on the city's former prisoner of war camp. There is also an exhibit containing the first and last tire to be produced at the Opelika Uniroyal/BF Goodrich plant, along with a space shuttle tire.

For more information, visit:
www.eastalabama.org

SAVE THE DATE Black Heritage Forum 9.25.10 • York

This year's forum will focus on how York's historic assets can be used for economic and community development.

For more information contact Dorothy Walker at 334.230.2665, or dwalker@preserveala.org.

PRESERVATION REPORT

Alabama Historical Commission

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ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Preserve, Protect, and Interpret Alabama's Historic Places

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