



# HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

DECEMBER 2024

## A Word from Lisa

Seasons greetings!

As I reflect on 2024, I am reminded of our staff's incredible work assisting individuals and communities with historic preservation efforts, site staff and their successful events, and projects. I am proud of their contributions to Preservation Month in May, at the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Conference in September, and for their positive response to supporting Frontier Days in November. I want to express my gratitude to the staff for their hard work and diligent efforts throughout 2024.

In 2025, AHC will continue working with the American Friends of Lafayette's Bicentennial Committee to commemorate the Farewell Tour of Lafayette and his journey through Alabama in 1825. AHC is thrilled to take part in this celebration and will shortly announce the festivities. Events will be planned in April 2025 at the Alabama State Capitol and Old Cahawba Archaeological Park.

As the year draws to a close and we look toward 2025, I want to personally thank everyone who supports the AHC's efforts to preserve Alabama's historic places for future generations. We are excited to see what the upcoming year holds as we always work towards preserving, protecting, and interpreting Alabama's past. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and joyous new year!

**Lisa D. Jones**  
*Executive Director*  
*State Historic Preservation Officer*

## SAVE THE DATE

**December 1-31**  
Christmas at Gaineswood  
*Gaineswood*

**December 14**  
Santa's Post Office  
*Confederate Memorial Park*

**December 25**  
Main Office Closed

**January 1**  
Main Office Closed

[Click here for more information!](#)

# Six properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's official list of cultural resources, 50 years or older, worthy of preservation. Properties listed in the NRHP include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture at the local, state, and national level.

The Alabama Historical Commission oversees the NRHP in Alabama and forwards nominations approved by Alabama's National Register Review Board to the National Park Service (NPS) who completes a final review and approval. NPS recently added the following properties to the NRHP.

- Troy Masonic Temple, Pike Co
- Whitesburg Estates Historic District, Madison Co
- Magnolia Grove, Hale Co
- Weogufka State Park, Coosa Co
- Downtown Anniston Historic District, Calhoun Co
- American Laundry Company Building, Jefferson Co

For more information on the National Register of Historic Places, contact Christy Anderson at [Christy.Anderson@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Christy.Anderson@ahc.alabama.gov).



*American Laundry Company Building in Jefferson County.*

## NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Wayne Domingus**  
*IT Specialist*

# AHC Staff Attend NCSHPO in New York

Last month, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) held their Fall Board Meeting in Albany, New York. AHC Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Lee Anne Hewett and Historic Sites Director Eleanor Cunningham joined their NCSHPO colleagues from around the country for an all-day board meeting and learned important historic preservation program updates from NCSHPO, the National Park Service, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Attendees toured a few of New York state's historic sites including Olana, the home of famed Hudson River School artist Frederic Church, and Staatsburgh, the country home of Ogden Mills and his wife Ruth Livingston Mills. Both homes are owned and operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the state equivalent of the Alabama Historical Commission. Attendees also visited Newburgh and learned about the \$32 million rehabilitation of 24 properties in one of New York state's largest National Register districts. Utilizing historic tax credits with affordable housing credits, the developer has transformed the neighborhood and now offers affordable housing for many of Newburgh's residents.

NCSHPO consists of state historic preservation officers and their staff who carry out the national historic preservation program as delegates of the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. NCSHPO serves as a communications vehicle between SHPOs, federal agencies and other organizations to educate the public and elected officials about the national historic preservation program, legislation, policies and regulations to promote historic preservation efforts.



*AHC staff with other NCSHPO leaders*



# National Park Service Announces New Sites to Reconstruction Era Network

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) has been actively working with the National Park Service Reconstruction Era National Historic Network to identify, document, and elevate stories of the African American experience post emancipation.

AHC's African American Heritage Coordinator Jada Jones continues to identify Reconstruction Era sites in Alabama. The Reconstruction Era (1861-1900), as defined by NPS, "is one of the most fascinating and misunderstood periods in American History and includes stories of freedom, education, and self-determination."

AHC and NPS are committed to the documentation and preservation of those stories and sites. The following sites have recently been announced for the network:

**Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, Orrville**  
*During Reconstruction, Cahawba had a thriving politically active Black community. Some structures remain standing. Old Cahawba is one of AHC's historic sites.*

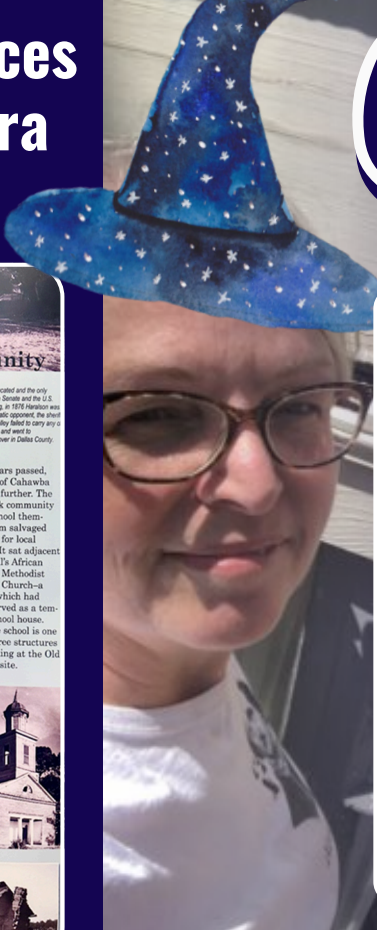
**Africatown Historic District, Mobile**  
*Africatown was founded during Reconstruction by the survivors of the Clotilda. Africatown was a safe haven and self-sustaining community for the survivors and their descendants.*

**Campground Historic District, Mobile**  
*The Campground Historic District was the site of a former Confederate campground, Camp Moore. Newly freed people migrated out of the city and settled in the area. The campground is a part of Mobile's Historic Davis Avenue community.*

For more information on the Reconstruction Network research, please contact Jada at [Jada.Jones@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Jada.Jones@ahc.alabama.gov).



Old Cahawba Visitor Center exhibit



Keep loving your historic windows in the cold weather!

The Window Wizard says one of the most cost-effective ways to improve the energy efficiency of your windows is to utilize storm windows, caulk and weatherstripping. Make sure to caulk around window trim and install weatherstripping to fill any gaps to air infiltration. Curtains, drapes, or window shades help mitigate thermal loss through the glass as well as stop drafts that may have you wanting to put a spell on your old windows!