

**Alabama State Historic Preservation Plan  
2014-2019**

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# I INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Historical Commission's (AHC) Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan contains information to help local, county, regional and state organizations, and individuals preserve our state's cultural resources. The 1966 Historic Preservation Act requires state historic preservation offices (SHPO) to prepare and implement a statewide preservation plan. The AHC serves as the state historic preservation office and staff continually assesses opportunities and threats facing cultural resources.

The AHC is a state agency established in response to the 1966 Historic Preservation Act with funding provided through the state general fund and National Park Service (NPS). Federal programs administered by the office include the National Register of Historic Places, standing structure and archaeological surveys, environmental review of federal projects, rehabilitation tax credits, preservation planning, Certified Local Government program and matching grants, and public education and awareness programs.

The Commission administers several state funded activities including the management and interpretation of state-owned historic house museums and military forts, educational outreach programs, Alabama Register of Heritage and Landmarks, Cemetery Survey and Register, Places In Peril program, preservation easements, and architectural history and archaeological services. We also work closely with partner organizations including the Black Heritage Council, Alabama Communities of Excellence, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, Inc., Alabama Archaeological Society, Council on Alabama Archaeology, and Maritime Advisory Council to raise awareness of historic preservation programs and methods.

The mission of the Alabama Historical Commission is to foster the protection, preservation, and interpretation Alabama's historic places. The composition, roles, and responsibilities of the commission are found in the *Code of Alabama* 1975, §41-9-243. It provides the commission be composed of *“20 members, one of whom shall be the Governor, one of whom shall be the Lieutenant Governor, one of whom shall be the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Archives and History, one of whom shall be the Director of the State Bureau of Tourism and Travel, one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources, one of whom shall be the Director of the Technical Staff of the Alabama Building Commission and 13 other persons to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the Alabama Council of the American Institute of Architects, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the Alabama Historical Association, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the Alabama Farmers Federation, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the President of the University of Alabama, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the President of Auburn University, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the President of the University of South Alabama, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the President of Troy State University, one from a list of three nominees submitted by the President of the University of Montevallo, one from a list of three qualified archaeologists nominated by the Alabama Archaeological Society and three from the state at-large.”* The Montgomery office contains about 22 staff members with 43 staff members at the various state-owned historic sites. Staff contact information is available on our agency web site at [www.preserveala.org](http://www.preserveala.org).

## **II PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The SHPO encourages annual input on our programs and priorities with publication of our annual work plan and CLG grant priorities in our agency newsletter and on our website. The Alabama Historical Commission also conducts quarterly meetings with a public forum component to receive input and respond to questions from the public. These forums provide staff and the appointed commission members with public perspectives on our programs and services. Our process to update the plan in 2013-14 included an online public survey, staff strategic planning process, and meetings or interviews with our major stakeholders. Our newsletter reaches various local and regional heritage groups, preservation professionals, and general supporters. A link to the survey was also posted on the agency website. We received 133 responses to the survey. The largest groups of respondents were local, state or federal government employees (48), local preservation commission members (39), local or county historical society members (39), and members of non-profit preservation organizations (34). They were followed by local neighborhood association members (29), historic site/museum staff (24), university or college faculty (17), Native American Tribes (6), Main Street or heritage tourism organizations (3), and for-profit development company (1). The survey allowed respondents to select all categories that applied to them so the total is larger than the 133 responses. In addition to the survey and interviews, the AHC participated in a roundtable event sponsored by the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. This meeting focused on local preservation needs and the information provided was considered as part of the plan update.

The strategic planning process included staff and key stakeholders representing CLGs, archaeology, and federal agencies to review public survey results, information on status of program activity and workloads, declining agency budget, and current goals and objectives. The group confirmed our mission to foster the protection, preservation, and interpretation of Alabama's historic places. The goals and objectives were revised to be more in line with current conditions, budget, and staffing levels. Additional staff input on our 2014 work plan to assist with budget shortfalls is also included and used to refine our goals and objectives.

This plan will guide Alabama until 2020. We will continue to collect public input on an annual basis and begin formal process to update plan in 2018.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

From 2008 to 2013, the AHC has met several objectives. The Alabama Historical Commission has nominated 61 National Register nominations documenting 4,329 properties, reviewed 170 Alabama Register nominations documenting 551 properties, added over 9000 archaeological sites to the state survey files, and added 6663 properties to the state historic architectural survey files. The Certified Local Government program added seven new communities and eight local districts protecting 2,261 properties. From 2009 to 2013, the National Park Service certified 22 federal historic tax credit projects in Alabama with expenses in excess of \$64,000,000.

In May, 2013, the Alabama Legislature passed a law creating a state historic rehabilitation tax credit for owners who rehabilitate residential or commercial properties. The Alabama Historical Commission coordinates this program.

Current partnerships with University of Alabama, Auburn University Montgomery, the Secretary of Information Technology in the Governor's office, Alabama DOT, and private consulting groups continue to build support and investigate funding opportunities for project to

digitize our historic architectural information and provide online in a GIS based system. We are also moving forward on providing more website services for Section 106 review of federal projects and other federal programs. The Alabama Department of Archives and History established Alabama Photographs and Pictures Collection providing storage space for images of Alabama's historic places on file at the AHC. The Alabama Mosaic is another digital collection maintained by Archives Department providing images from many local, regional, and statewide groups.

In FY12, the state legislature provided a grant program for local preservation projects with management provided by the AHC. Fifty-five projects were funded in the categories of historic sites operations, archaeology survey, cemetery survey and rehabilitation, historic property rehabilitation, and historic building survey. Another grant program in FY13 provided funds for operational support at 48 state historic sites and parks open to the public. An FY15 grant program similar to the FY13 program will continue to support sites open to the public.

From FY08 to FY13, the environmental review program evaluated 10,566 projects for compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. We are making steps towards an online submission process for project reviews and funds are now allocated for this project. Use of email to provide concurrence letters or requests for more information allows a quicker response for most projects. The environmental review process led to the discovery of a c.1854 slave quarter in north Alabama. A nondescript structure on a Lawrence County industrial park site was almost demolished in 2010 for an access road. The review process revealed the structure to be a slave quarter associated with the Boxwood plantation. The rare brick structure is the only remaining vestige of the plantation. The industrial development board re-routed the road away from the historic building and local volunteers work to maintain the property.

We have held various workshops and made presentations to many partner organizations since 2008. An effort to bring more consistent CLG training to the state using grant funds resulted in seven workshops provided by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and five workshops with National Park Service and AHC staff. Staff also participated in three regional meetings held by U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions, sponsored Donovan Rypkema at the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association, participated with workshops and public forums on archaeological resources, and held Black Heritage Council forum to support preservation efforts in Hobson City.

For close to 25 years the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) served as the state Main Street coordinating program, providing guidance, support, services, and essential certification to existing Main Street towns. State budget cuts in 2003 and 2004 resulted in loss of staff and funding for Main Street at the state level. In early 2009, the AHC contracted with the National Trust Main Street Center to recommend an institutional home and sustainable funding sources for a revitalized statewide Main Street Coordinating program. The statewide non-profit, Main Street Alabama, is the new home for Alabama's Main Street program and long-time downtown advocate Mary Helmer is the new President/State Coordinator. The new program is a statewide, non-profit organization created to reestablish a nationally certified program in Alabama. Participating communities are Alexander City, Anniston, Athens, Birmingham, Decatur, Dothan, Eufaula, Florence, Gadsden, Monroeville, Opelika, Oxford, and Selma.

AHC staff led strategic planning efforts for Alabama Cultural Commons to provide a resource for Alabama's cultural heritage organizations that support collections. The AHC collaborated with Alabama Department of Archives and History, Alabama Museums

Association, Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, and Society of Alabama Archivists. The report made recommendations to improve collections management, disaster preparedness, staff training, suitable facilities, and effective fundraising for sustainability.

### **III FUTURE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Continued growth and development around and between major cities and coastal areas is the most apparent threat to historic properties. The lack of knowledge and misperceptions among local and state officials on the benefits of historic preservation programs is a challenge for securing consistent funding and support for local and state preservation programs. Alabamians identify downtowns, cemeteries, neighborhoods, rural landscapes and archaeological sites as the most threatened types of resources in their communities. The Tennessee Valley, greater Birmingham area, metropolitan statistical areas of Montgomery and Auburn-Opelika and the Gulf coast are experiencing rapid new development threatening significant historic and prehistoric properties. At the same time, Baldwin, Mobile, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Shelby, Jefferson, and Madison Counties have the highest number of tourists in the state. The areas with the highest economic development also contain local historic districts, museums, traditional landscapes and other desirable features. Cultural resources in areas of the state not experiencing economic growth are also threatened by neglect and lack of investment, most notably in the Black Belt region. Alabama's earliest resources seem to be the most threatened.

Changes in Alabama's traditional industries of timber, agriculture, maritime, and textiles contribute to the loss of neighborhoods, commercial districts, factory buildings, and landscapes around the state. Significant reliance on sales tax revenue means communities often choose economic development over preserving historic resources in order to expand the local tax base for community expenditures. Agricultural fields adjacent to state urban areas are threatened by encroaching housing developments, industrial parks, new commercial centers, and roadways. Known as "green fields," these sites are usually level and well-drained making them attractive for development. Transportation projects continue to alter how we travel and view our state. Widening county roads, reorienting intersections, and replacing bridges all affect the historic environment of our communities.

Many small Alabama communities and most counties lack the legal controls or city staff to enforce effectively comprehensive land-use plans and zoning ordinances, including local historic district protections. Many communities are also unaware of existing programs available for historic preservation projects. Preservationists need to promote preservation success stories and work with their local and state leaders to expand municipal planning authority. Legislation to provide more incentives is also needed, and Alabama's legislature created a state tax credit for rehabilitation effective for a three year period beginning in FY14. This program requires properties are listed or determined eligible for listing on the National Register and will generate more interest in documenting properties for the National Register. Both commercial and residential historic properties are eligible for the state tax credit.

Using preservation tools to maintain community character allows communities to establish unique market and residential areas, use local landmarks for educational and tourism programs, sustain neighborhood schools, improve water quality, reduce debris in land-fills, and allow future generations to experience their local history with all five senses. As more Alabama towns work to distinguish themselves by promoting their unique assets, preservation will become a more vital part of their community development program.

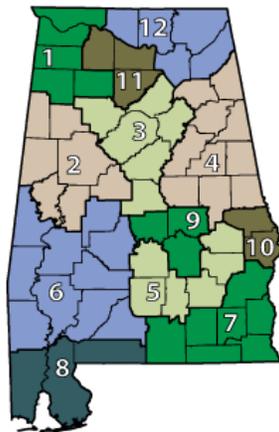
The heritage tourism industry offers opportunities to preserve local landmarks and to educate a wide segment of the public. More and more Alabama communities are using their local heritage and natural resource assets to develop and promote their tourism opportunities. Providing professional documentation of local resources with our Alabama and National

Register programs provides these local efforts with information to use in markers, tour guides, and promotional material.

Funding and support from state leadership have been the two major challenges to the Alabama Historical Commission and other historic sites and local preservation initiatives. Our agency is operating on 46% less state funding since 2008. In FY15, state funding will only provide 38% of the Alabama Historical Commission's expenses. Many state historic sites received state appropriations in the past and now are struggling to keep their site in operation with little or no state support. The Historic Preservation Division of the AHC lost five long-time staff members in the past five years and funds are unavailable to replace these positions. A funding shortfall in FY15 will require further staff reductions. The current staff level of nine professionals with one administrative support position requires an examination of our program delivery and decisions on priorities for services we provide and creative use of internet and partnerships to remain effective.

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### ALABAMA DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROWTH TRENDS



The shift from rural to developed land uses in Alabama is reflected in statewide population growth and change in location. Between 2000 and 2010, Alabama experienced a 7.5 percent population increase, as compared to the nation's 9.7 percent increase. Two of Alabama's Planning Regions, Regions 10 and 12, had population growth greater than that of the nation between 2000 and 2010. Planning Regions 5 and 6 lost population from 2000 to 2010 and include most of the state's Black Belt area. In 2000, 44.6 percent of Alabama's population lived in rural areas and by 2010, 41.0 percent of Alabama resided in rural areas. The decrease in rural population is seen nationwide. Of the 12 Planning Regions in the state, six have a population that is more than 50 percent urban. Each of these regions included at least one of Alabama's metropolitan areas. All of the 12 planning regions have decreased in rural population since 2000 with the greatest decrease in Region 2, 10, and 12. Region 4 had the least shift from rural to urban population. Alabama is ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of population density with 94.4 persons per square mile as compared to the United States at 87.4 persons per square mile. Regions 10 and 12 have had the greatest increase in population density since 2000 with 154.7 persons per square mile in 2010 in Region 10 and 167.9 persons per square mile in Region 12. Region 3 had the highest density in the state at 237.3 persons per square mile in 2010.

Alabama's coastal area experienced tremendous increase in development after the devastation of Hurricane Frederic in 1979. The region has continued to grow despite numerous hurricanes and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil disaster. Development in the area has greatly increased access to Alabama's coastal areas for commercial, housing, and recreational purposes. The I-10 Bridge planned to span Mobile Bay will improve access from Baldwin County coastal areas and lead to more development pressure in the coastal region.

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## IV STATEWIDE PRESERVATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

After evaluating the historic preservation climate, needs and opportunities, and responses to public questionnaires, the AHC identified goals and objectives to guide and promote preservation activities of local, county and statewide organizations across the state. The commission will pursue these goals while also encouraging their implementation by partner organizations at a regional and local level.

Vision Statement: Alabama's rich history and heritage is seen, experienced, and enhanced by visitors touring historic sites, developers investing in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings, homeowners buying properties in historic neighborhoods, and cities and communities recognizing the intrinsic value of their local historic places. Alabama's cultural resources are of special value to the citizens of Alabama and are a constant reminder of the circumstances under which our state was born and nurtured. The physical remainders of our state heritage are extensive and include buildings, structures, objects, pre-historic and historic archaeological sites, sunken vessels, rural and designed landscapes, cemeteries, and districts related to housing, commerce, and industry.

### **GOAL ONE: Identify, record, and evaluate the significance of historic places and the objects, people and events related to them.**

- Objective 1: Make survey and documentation of territorial period resources and agriculture related resources a priority.
  - *Complete documentation of territorial period resources.*
  - *Include documentation of potential historic archaeological resources associated with territorial resources.*
  - *Nominate territorial resources to the National Register.*
  - *Use Statewide Multiple Property Submission to promote nomination of significant agriculture related resources.*
  - *Publicize NR and survey information with regional planning commissions and communities.*
- Objective 2: Promote and facilitate professional survey and register programs with CLG grants and other funding sources.
  - *Continue to make survey and National Register projects priority for funding with CLG grants and 20% match.*
  - *Apply for survey funds from other national and state sources.*
  - *Partner with University of North Alabama public history program to update Florence National Register information.*
- Objective 3: Mentor CLGs to update documentation of National Register districts and landmarks and store in a format useful for local planning decisions.
  - *Evaluate nominations to determine priority for updating – offer low match CLG grant.*
  - *Provide model format for documentation for use in local planning/ARB program.*
  - *Include more content at state CLG meetings on NR documentation and link to local programs.*
- Objective 4: Provide field investigations, analysis, contexts, and documentation to assess critical needs of historic sites and places with state or national significance.

- *Assess level of significance of property to determine priority level.*
- *Consider partners in area who could provide assistance.*
- *Schedule site visits for most efficient use of staff time and travel funds.*
- *Support development of archaeological contexts to assist with evaluation of resources.*
- **Objective 5:** Improve access to information about historic places using internet and digital information services provided by state agencies, local governments, and universities.
  - *Locate funding for GIS based database for historic architectural resources.*
  - *Fund CLG grant requests for local digitization and mapping programs.*
  - *Archive collection of images and plans from state architectural historian records.*
  - *Investigate methods to provide survey documentation to county and regional planning commissions for use in GIS systems.*
- **Objective 6:** Encourage federal agencies to mitigate the adverse effects of their projects through historic architectural and archaeological surveys, multiple property submissions, historic structure reports, and National Register nominations.
  - *Identify opportunities to record endangered property types and state and nationally significant resources.*

**GOAL TWO: Expand opportunities for collaboration and partnerships between Alabama communities, state and federal agencies, organizations and heritage groups.**

- **Objective 1:** Use websites, social media, listservs, and new media for communicating and sharing information.
  - *Continue efforts to improve AHC website and the use of social media to improve communications with partners. Keep policies in place to ensure good press relations and consistent message are delivered.*
- **Objective 2:** Hold statewide or regional workshops, participate with partner organizations' workshops, and continue current participation with partner events.
  - *Continue participation with ACE, Your Town, Scenic Byways, Main Street Alabama, Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, Inc., and regional planning commissions meetings and projects to encourage preservation programs and policies.*
  - *Encourage CLGs to apply for training funds to host workshops for statewide participation.*
  - *Provide annual workshop for state agencies and consultants on environmental review program.*
  - *Identify opportunities to participate with workshops and projects held by Main Street Alabama, regional and state tourism organizations, state trails commission, regional planning commissions, economic development associations, professional architecture and planning associations, chambers of commerce, and national heritage areas.*
- **Objective 3:** Develop, maintain, and disseminate preservation-based information statewide on a systematic basis to communities, partners, and elected officials.
  - *Provide consistent information on grant programs, tax credits, and other incentives for historic preservation to all partners.*
  - *Provide reports on success of state tax credits, federal tax credits and grant programs to local and state elected officials.*

- *Provide consistent information on training and technical assistance opportunities to all partners.*
- Objective 4: Identify non-traditional partners in community and economic development sectors for additional collaborative opportunities.
  - *Identify opportunities to participate with state trails commission, economic development associations, professional architecture, and planning associations, and chambers of commerce.*
  - *Meet with Economic Development Partnership of Alabama on how our programs can help with implementation of their goal for downtown redevelopment in the statewide strategy for economic development.*
- Objective 5: Strengthen relationships with tribes to increase coordination for cultural resource programs and initiatives.
  - *Continue discussions with Poarch Band of Creek Indians to share information on projects and preservation needs.*
  - *Continue coordination with tribes in Environmental Review process.*

**GOAL THREE: Increase the number of high-quality preservation projects statewide and success stories to share with state leaders.**

- Objective 1: Provide high level of support for state tax credit program and develop case studies to share with media and partner organizations.
  - *Reinforce need for staff dedicated to state program and add workload of writing up projects so we can have case studies on website and available to promote program.*
- Objective 2: Provide high level of support for federal tax credit projects, especially projects meeting both state and federal program standards. Develop case studies to share with media and partner organizations.
  - *Reinforce need for staff dedicated to federal program and add workload of writing up projects so we can have case studies on website and available to promote program.*
- Objective 3: Encourage innovative CLG grant projects and provide regular reports on grant activities on website.
  - *Provide information on funded projects in newsletter and on website.*
  - *Provide updates on progress of grant projects online.*
  - *Highlight one project each year to share on website and social media.*
- Objective 4: Use the 2016 National Alliance of Preservation Commissioners Forum in Mobile to bring attention to Alabama's preservation success stories.
  - *Create opportunities for state leaders to participate at meeting.*
  - *Nominate Mobile and other eligible state groups and leaders for awards.*
  - *Use mobile tours to highlight other historic areas near Mobile.*
  - *Provide consistent information to local and state media.*
- Objective 5: Use physical preservation options (rather than just documentation) as mitigation for impacts to historic buildings, landscapes and sites and publicize the projects on website and in state media.
  - *Consider rehabilitation projects when possible as mitigation.*
  - *Consider preservation easements when possible as mitigation.*
  - *Stay up to date on context sensitive solutions for projects in other states.*

**GOAL FOUR: Develop and maintain the data systems necessary to track, record, and protect historic and archaeological resources and to share information with constituents in useful format.**

- Objective 1: Continue to support the archaeological records database maintained by University of Alabama at Moundville Office of Archaeological Research as state repository and ensure access for qualified professionals.
  - *Transfer all Cultural Resource Assessments related to be Environmental Review to be integrated into existing archaeological site file and cultural resource database.*
- Objective 2: Develop GIS based database for historic architectural resources.
  - *Continue to assess software and storage capacity needs and funding for implementation.*
  - *Meet with possible funding sources to determine available levels of assistance.*
  - *Provide CLG grants to enter their historic survey data into local or statewide GIS system.*
- Objective 3: Expand online offerings to constituents including grant applications, grant reporting, review and project tracking of environmental review projects under Section 106, workshop, and conference registration.
  - *Provide software and technical assistance to convert forms into online applications.*
  - *Make necessary revisions and updates to forms before posting online.*
  - *Research online registration programs and determine application for agency use.*
- Objective 4: Add training videos, program information, and other useful tools for partners and public to website.
  - *Encourage CLGs to develop video using grant funds for local and AHC websites.*
  - *Provide information and contacts for our partners to develop video or other training information on their website.*
  - *Provide online training programs to help local preservation commissioners meet annual training requirements.*
- Objective 5: Continue to provide access to directory of consultants for structures projects and advise constituents needing access to archaeologists to contact major universities for assistance.
  - *Encourage consultants for structures project to post their information on the Tradweb website and [www.npi.org/consultants-directory.html](http://www.npi.org/consultants-directory.html).*
  - *Continue to refer constituents and partners to websites for information on consultants.*
  - *Encourage constituents and partners to contact communities where consultant worked for references.*
  - *Refer requests for information on consultants or contractors to CLG contacts and other community contacts who have similar projects.*
- Objective 6: Maintain technical assistance materials and make available to public on website.
  - *Maintain hard copy of NPS and other materials on preservation techniques and programs.*
  - *Provide links to NPS website and other quality online resources.*
  - *Improve visibility of Handbook for Owners of Historic Properties Homeowners and other technical assistance information on agency website.*
  - *Add information on historic materials to the website section: Preservation Tools/historic houses.*

- Objective 7: Continue to utilize the Alabama Department of Archives and History repository for photographs and plans related to significant historic properties.
  - *Complete sorting and archiving legacy data (including images and plans with statewide significance) for storage at the Alabama Archives.*
  - *Provide images and plans for properties with statewide significance for storage at the Alabama Archives.*
  - *Provide link to the Archives collection on AHC website.*

**GOAL FIVE: Foster the belief that historic places enrich our lives, strengthen Alabama’s communities, and promote economic development.**

- Objective 1: Serve as a resource to help communities, organizations and tribes tell Alabama’s stories and support heritage tourism.
  - *Provide communities with information on their National Register listed properties with assistance from partners and in a consistent manner.*
  - *Provide information from multiple property submissions and thematic studies to communities with related resources and encourage them to nominate properties to the National Register.*
- Objective 2: Educate public about Alabama’s historic places, why they matter, and ways to use and protect them.
  - *Continue to hold archaeology meetings and forums with assistance from partners.*
  - *Continue to hold Black Heritage Commission forums with assistance from partners.*
  - *Continue to hold CLG workshops with assistance from partners.*
  - *Provide notice to state and local elected officials about forums and workshops in their districts.*
  - *Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1966 Historic Preservation Act and spotlight Alabama’s successes at 2016 workshops, meetings and NAPC Forum.*
- Objective 3: Promote preservation of historic resources as an economic and community development tool.
  - *Participate with partner meetings – Main Street Alabama, ACE, Your Town Alabama, Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, Inc., and regional and state tourism organizations, state trails commission, regional planning commissions, chambers of commerce, and national heritage areas.*
  - *Meet with ADECA and regional planning commissions to determine ways to channel funds into housing rehabilitation projects and fewer demolition projects.*
- Objective 4: Nominate eligible individuals/groups for preservation awards programs at local, state, and national level to recognize exemplary projects, people, and organizations involved in heritage and historic preservation efforts.
  - *Provide information on national and state awards programs to partners and constituents on website and to media.*
  - *Encourage partners to nominate eligible groups and individuals for their awards programs.*

- *Nominate eligible groups and individuals for 2016 NAPC awards to be presented in Mobile.*

**GOAL SIX: Provide incentives and regulatory methods to protect cultural resources**

- **Objective 1:** Work with Main Street program to expand the use of state and federal tax credits to cultivate rehabilitation projects in smaller communities.
  - *Assist with documentation and NR nominations.*
  - *Provide information and presentations on tax credit programs.*
  - *Promote CLG program to Main Street communities.*
  - *Promote Main Street program at Your Town Alabama and to ACE communities.*
  - *Allow Main Street workshops to be eligible CLG training for communities with both designations.*
- **Objective 2:** Provide information on façade rehabilitation programs and other local incentives to revitalize downtowns and neighborhoods.
  - *Meet with ADECA on priorities for CDBG and other funding sources to encourage façade rehabilitation programs.*
  - *Provide fact sheet on recent façade grant programs and funding sources in Mobile, Monroeville, and Fayette.*
  - *Provide information on state and federal tax credit programs.*
- **Objective 3:** Increase the use of easements for historic properties, rural landscapes, and archaeological sites.
  - *Identify professionals needed to assist with easement documents and provide information.*
  - *Provide sample easement documents on website.*
  - *Continue working with ALDOT on acquiring conservation easements along the Selma to Montgomery National Byway route using NPS and other landscape study information.*
  - *Spotlight preservation easement program on website and with social media.*
  - *Provide regular monitoring of existing easements.*
  - *Enter agreements with local organizations to assist with easement monitoring.*
  - *Provide information on organizations eligible to accept preservation easements.*
- **Objective 4:** Develop training opportunities for agency staff and consultants involved with Environmental Review program, local building officials, design professionals, building trades representatives, and developers to educate them on incentives and regulations used to promote historic preservation at the local level.
  - *Develop tracks at Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation annual meeting to address these constituent groups.*
  - *Provide presentations at meetings held by these groups.*
  - *Notify these groups of online training opportunities.*
- **Objective 5:** Assist with enforcement of state and federal laws to protect archaeological sites, maritime resources, and cemeteries.
  - *Continue support of and participation with state Maritime Advisory Council, Council on Alabama Archaeology, Alabama Archaeological Society, and the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, Inc.*
  - *Notify appropriate law enforcement about reported violations.*
  - *Provide information on significance of sites to assist enforcement efforts.*

- Objective 6: Assist communities with local preservation ordinance development and passage to ensure quality local preservation planning programs.
  - *Review local ordinances for compliance with state code and CLG program requirements.*
  - *Provide peer mentors for commission members and/or city staff developing local ordinance and preservation program.*
  - *Include community contacts from all interested towns in mailing list on workshops and training opportunities.*
- Objective 7: Provide consistent information and notification to communities and partners about state and national grant programs for historic preservation.
  - *Use website and social media to notify eligible applicants and to promote grant programs.*
  - *Provide management of grants to ensure quality projects.*
  - *Provide success stories from grant programs and share with state and local leaders.*

## V CULTURAL RESOURCES PRIORITIES AND ASSESSMENT

Alabamians identify downtowns, cemeteries, neighborhoods, rural landscapes and archaeological sites as the most threatened types of resources in their communities. Since 2008, these resources have appeared on the statewide Places in Peril list developed by the AHC and Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, a statewide non-profit group focusing on historic preservation. In addition, the Places in Peril list includes resources related to Alabama's industrial history, territorial and antebellum period resources, and African-American school buildings. More modern buildings included in recent National Register listings include Lustron Houses and downtown theatre buildings.

### Architectural Styles

Historic buildings depict a wide variety of architectural styles and modes, from the simplest of shelters to sophisticated constructions expressing self-conscious design concepts. Chronologically, academic or "high" styles in Alabama began with the Federal period of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with subsequent examples of most other major stylistic trends up to the present day. Updated from time to time in order to keep abreast of popular taste, some buildings are significant precisely because they display a succession of changing architectural styles.

In addition to mainstream styles, Alabama also has a rich vein of folk or vernacular architecture that merits particular attention in the survey process. These buildings enhance our understanding of ordinary Alabamians. Many rural farming families, as well as city dwellers, did not leave diaries and written records of their life. Studying their houses and environments allows us to understand their lifestyle and contributions to our history.

Many buildings, especially those classified as folk or vernacular in origin, reflect specific regional trends or distinctive local interpretations of mainstream architectural styles. This is particularly true of buildings dating from the early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, before enhanced transportation and communication led to greater architectural conformity from region to region and place to place.

Industrial and agricultural buildings are generally more utilitarian and traditional in design. Expression of style, if present at all, is confined to the most superficial detailing.

In Alabama, major stylistic categories include:

Folk Housing/Vernacular	Classical Revival
Federal	Beaux Arts/Classicism
Greek Revival	Georgian Revival
Italianate	Gothic Revival
Tudor Revival	Craftsman
Queen Anne	Art Deco
Victorian	Moderne
Romanesque	Minimal Traditional

### Historic Downtowns

Alabama's historic downtowns face challenges from redevelopment, disinvestment, thoughtless demolition, and neglect. Many of our communities located in the Black Belt have outstanding National Register listed downtowns, but small local economies make preservation and reuse a challenge. The major cities of Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham and Huntsville, and many smaller communities like Opelika, Monroeville, Magnolia Springs, Foley, have local preservation commissions and tools to regulate downtown development. The reestablishment of the statewide Main Street program in 2012 provides support for business development and local organization in their growing thirteen member program -- Alexander City, Anniston, Athens, Birmingham, Decatur, Dothan, Eufaula, Florence, Gadsden, Opelika, Oxford, Monroeville, and Selma. It is vital we maintain and rehabilitate our downtowns since they represent the heart of many communities and are a factor in successful business and industrial recruitment.

The National Register defines historic districts as "a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development." While the individual buildings and elements of the district contribute to the significance, the district is also important for the overall grouping. Districts can include a variety of property types that have a demonstrable relationship. For example, an industrial mill site could be included in the residential mill district. Alabama has 344 historic districts listed on the National Register including entire communities, neighborhoods, central business districts, industrial areas, educational complexes, parks, farms, military installations, rural settlements, and prehistoric communities.

Alabama has 85 buildings with a historic commercial use individually listed on the National Register and over 5000 buildings within National Register listed commercial historic districts. These buildings are generally located in towns and cities; although rural areas contain "cross roads" stores and other isolated commercial structures. Out of the 426 municipalities in Alabama today, only about 91 have documented and listed their downtown commercial district on the National Register. Some of these areas have experienced significant change and may not be eligible for listing on the National Register, but many towns continue to enjoy their historic buildings, sidewalks, parks, and "Main Street" environment.

Most early commercial structures were constructed of wood, not brick. Masonry structures eventually prevailed in towns and cities with only occasional exceptions. Fires spread easily in these dense areas and brick was a more resilient material. Some rare examples of wood commercial structures can be found today in rural areas.

Most historic commercial areas consist of one and two-story brick buildings with large storefront windows and bulkheads of wood or stone. Two-story buildings usually had living quarters upstairs. Public buildings and structures such as churches, city halls, county courthouses, water towers and libraries are also included in these historic districts. Twentieth century industrialization in the textile and iron and steel industries led to more dramatic multi-storey buildings, largely confined to Birmingham and major cities, but also yielding pinnacles of tall buildings in towns as small as Andalusia and Dothan. Examples include the four steel-framed skyscrapers that make up the National Register listing, The Heaviest Corner on Earth, in Birmingham, and the six-story First National Bank Building in Andalusia.

## **Cemeteries**

These resources include small family plots often associated with a historic house or house site, church graveyards, and large municipal cemeteries. Maintaining these resources is difficult due to their remote locations, disconnection from churches or families who provided maintenance in past, neglect by owners, and unawareness of cemetery locations or their true boundaries. The fragile nature of the grave markers, fences and other landscape features makes them vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. Since the establishment of the state cemetery survey in 2003, 665 have been documented and included in state survey files. As the AHC and other governmental agencies map these locations, we can all make better decisions on where to develop. These resources can be used as a component to a regional or local tourism program.

Historic cemeteries are classified as historic sites and typically listed in the National Register for the architectural and historical value of the funerary art. Many municipal and family cemeteries are included in National Register Historic Districts. Some notable examples are Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Live Oak Cemetery in Selma, and Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville.

## **Neighborhoods**

The health of residential historic districts is strongly related to the economies of their communities. The Huntsville, Opelika, Decatur, and Florence areas have well-maintained historic neighborhoods representing a diverse sample from different socio-economic classes. The high-style buildings in Huntsville's Twickenham Historic District, home to state and local leaders, and the worker's housing in the Dallas Mill Village provide a more complete representation of how we lived historically and how these properties can continue to be relevant in the current residential real estate market. Montgomery, Mobile, and Birmingham metro areas are also experiencing growth and have active preservation efforts in neighborhoods and downtown living. Mid-sized municipalities like Selma and Opelika also encourage downtown living developments. However, too many of our residential historic districts face challenges due to neglect and many times demolition is the only civic solution. We plan to strengthen our partnership with Alabama Department of Economics and Community Affairs and discuss opportunities to divert demolition funding into rehabilitation projects. Several of our National Register neighborhoods with local design review control have updated their nominations since 2008 and show little change in buildings contributing/non-contributing status. Local designation programs continue to provide the best protection for our local historic neighborhoods.

In Alabama, about 35,600 residential buildings are listed on the National Register, including the individual listings and houses within historic districts. This number also includes structures associated with residences, such as outbuildings and garages. More houses should be evaluated and listed as individually significant or as part of a residential historic district to document these historic places.

Historic houses comprise the majority of National Register listings both as individual properties and within residential districts. The greatest concentrations are in urban areas. However, because Alabama was an overwhelmingly agrarian state in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some of the earliest and most rare and significant dwellings or dwelling concentrations are located in rural areas. These early territorial period or settlement-period typologies reflect the influence of the older seaboard states. Some ethnic influences occur, especially associated with European immigration in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Special efforts are underway by the AHC to document these early state properties.

Wood has traditionally been the building material for domestic architecture. Brick was much less common and confined to areas where the soils were conducive to making brick. Stone was very rarely used, especially in the early period, except for foundation, porch supports, and chimney construction. As mass materials, such as textured block, became available in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, their use and brick for home construction became more common.

The single-family detached house is most common. Multi-family apartment complexes are generally contained within urban areas such as Mobile and Birmingham.

The AHC has developed historic contexts on various house types and styles including the I-House property type, Tidewater Type House, Gothic Revival style, and commercial low-rise and high-rise buildings.

Other distinctive house types in need of in-depth studies include mill housing and publicly initiated housing efforts from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, tenant houses, and other vanishing rural dwellings including small early 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalows that line the state's highways. As housing from the post-WWII period become eligible for consideration for National Register

listing, more studies of the Ranch style and suburban development patterns need to be undertaken to build public understanding and support for preserving these 20<sup>th</sup> Century properties.

### **Rural Landscapes**

Alabama's agricultural roots still dominate many areas of Alabama with their arrangement of fence lines, outbuildings, barns, homesteads, and fields. Slowly we see more of the fields converted to new commercial or residential development and the buildings deteriorate into ruins. From 1982 to 2002, Alabama lost 1,257,000 acres of undeveloped land as housing, commercial development and infrastructure development occurred. A current project with Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation is creating a multiple property nomination form on Alabama's agricultural history. We will use this document to collaborate with local and regional stakeholders on listing these resources on the National Register and developing management plans. The landscape features along the Selma to Montgomery March All-American Road and Scenic Byway have been identified. Educating property owners on protection programs and benefits is an active implementation strategy.

Landscapes are also present as city plans in urban areas; courthouse squares in small towns; and traditional cultural places. These environments create a physical structure within Alabama that many take for granted. With development and changing land use patterns, these environments are highly threatened.

Agricultural production pre-dominated the early economy of the state resulting in a landscape of agricultural fields and fences, houses and other farming structures. Many houses listed for their architectural qualities also have agricultural associations. The Black Belt and Coosa and Tennessee valleys have fine concentrations of early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural complexes, but every region has representative examples from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Current survey and nomination efforts are focused on listing territorial and antebellum resources to complete documentation of these early and fragile resources.

Landscapes can be defined as a composition of spaces defined by topographical or cultural characteristics that serve as a background for human existence. They can be the two-dimensional structured environments discussed in an earlier section, or designed public parks. Thirteen properties listed on the National Register in Alabama include landscape architecture as a historic feature. While these cultural resources appear across the state, formal designed landscapes are concentrated in urban areas. The AHC has funded surveys in Paint Rock Valley in northeast Alabama to record a pristine rural landscape and listed some of the individual resources on the National Register.

### **Archaeological Sites**

Construction and development, a lack of resources for surveys on state-owned land, television shows promoting looting, and destructive relic hunting are just some of the issues affecting archaeological resources in Alabama. Limited staff and funding make project reviews and public awareness programs difficult to develop.

Staff participates in many annual outreach events including Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse and Alabama Archaeological Society events. We funded a recent maritime project in Selma to determine National Register potential of an underwater site in the Alabama River known for its artifacts related to Civil War era foundry. A residential survey project in Africatown developed into an historic period archaeological project. Africatown was formed by West Africans who were among the last known illegal shipment of slaves to the United

States. They created their own community and retained their customs and language following the Civil War. The National Register nomination included significance for archaeological potential of the area. We have just initiated an archaeological survey project on a 167 acre site in Shelby County, a fast growing area near Birmingham.

#### *Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites*

Archaeological resources exist in a multitude of forms, ranging from Indian camps and mounds to Antebellum plantations, iron foundries, and ship wrecks. Alabama's prehistoric and historic past can be divided into six developmental units or stages; Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Gulf Formational, Woodland, Mississippian and Historic. The criteria for defining stages are essentially technological and economic referring to changes in artifact traditions and subsistence technologies. The periods also reflect social and political organizations and developments. Alabama's prehistory is best understood when framed within these developmental units that spanned the entire Southeastern United States.

Archaeological sites contain features, materials, and remains that provide information about past human activity when studied in the proper context. Sites should be respected and preserved in as intact condition as possible. Removal of artifacts and destruction of contexts decreases the potential for information recovery. The state archaeological database contains information on more than 28,500 sites. The majority of the recorded sites are from the prehistoric period. Close to 2000 sites are related to the historic period.

Maritime resources including historic vessels and shipwrecks help define Alabama's role in colonial settlement, development of trade, exploration, national defense, and territorial expansion. Alabama's extensive river system provided an important transportation and trade route during the state's development. A shipwreck, any vessel that has foundered, stranded or wrecked, may be listed on the National Register as a structure or a site depending on the integrity of the vessel components. Vessels are classified as structures since they are made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization. In Alabama, these resources are found in Mobile Bay and navigable waterways. The *USS Alabama*, *USS Drum*, *USS Tecumseh*, and *Montgomery* are four vessels listed on the National Register. Lighthouses are structural maritime resources and the Sand Island, Middle Bay and Mobile Point lighthouses enhance our coastal waters.

The AHC continues to develop archaeological contexts related to the major developmental stages and geographic regions of the state. The context information allows researchers and interpreters to understand how specific sites and artifacts relate to early Alabama culture. Information from historic period sites provides information we may not learn from written records or other sources to give us a more complete picture of our history.

Staff also works with the federally recognized Indian Tribes with cultural resource interest in Alabama -- Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Eastern Band of Creek Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Jena Band of the Choctaw Indians, Kialegee Tribal Town, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, Quassarte Tribal Town of Oklahoma, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe, Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee. Alabama has one federally recognized Indian Tribe with trust lands within Alabama, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

## **Industrial Buildings**

Since 2009 the Places in Peril program has listed cotton gins and grist, cotton, saw, and textile mills as some of Alabama's most threatened properties. Resources related to the iron and coal industry are also vulnerable to neglect and redevelopment. Implementing redevelopment plans using these resources as an asset has been successful in downtown Montgomery and Birmingham. A few historic mills and gins are used as local tourism sites, but their remote locations can limit redevelopment opportunities. Textile mill villages are well-documented in the state and rehabilitation efforts are underway in Prattville, Opelika, and Valley.

More than thirty historic industrial buildings in Alabama are listed on the National Register. Traditional early industrial endeavors, such as grist and saw mills, were common in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but few remain extant. Archaeologists have identified many early mill sites that deserve further study. Industrial complexes based on the cotton economy date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, such as the Pratt Mills in Prattville. Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century cotton and textile mills are concentrated in the eastern piedmont region, but the industry found expression in small towns across the state as alternatives to hydroelectric power became available. Coal and iron formed the basis for late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial strength and a fine collection of blast furnaces, factories and villages remain in the greater Birmingham area. Early remnants of the industrial buildings exist primarily as structures and archaeological sites. Nitrate and early power facilities along the Tennessee River form another focus of industrial strength. Development of Redstone Arsenal in the 1950s led to the Huntsville area becoming the nerve center for research and development of missile systems and high-tech industries.

### **Evaluating Cultural Resources**

*The National Register of Historic Places criteria set standards for properties to achieve local, state, or national significance. The Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage recognizes properties of local significance that may or may not meet National Register standards. By using national, state, or local criteria, communities can identify important landmarks, neighborhoods, archaeological sites, and commercial districts and provide protection. Protection can come in the form of a local preservation ordinance, public acquisition and maintenance or other methods.*

*Historic contexts are documents that organize information about related cultural resources to provide a basis for evaluation. Evaluating cultural resources within their historic context supports preservation planning and research activities, decisions and actions. Historic contexts combine a historical theme, geographic area, and time period to create subsets of cultural resources for evaluation.*

*The Commission staff uses historic context information on a daily basis when evaluating properties for the National Register eligibility, reviewing federal projects for their effect on historic properties or managing grant funds. Local organizations can use contexts to make decisions about neighborhoods and districts to survey, appropriate protection or mitigation measures, and in selecting endangered or neglected property types that deserve a public education campaign. In archaeology, historic contexts also provide a direction for research and data recovery projects.*

## **African-American School Buildings/Community Buildings**

Statewide efforts documenting historic African-American schools led to a statewide interest in Rosenwald Schools. AHC co-hosted the 2012 National Rosenwald Schools Conference with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other partners. Held in Tuskegee, it provided 54 education sessions, documentary screenings, discussions, and tours delivering tailor-made information and support to preservationists, community groups, and

alumni in their efforts to save these historic schools as vital hubs of community life. African-American high schools built prior to Brown vs. Board of Education are another group of structures important to Alabamians. Interest in listing these properties on the Alabama and National Registers and efforts to use as community centers has increased in the past five years. These schools produced many local leaders, educators, and athletes and continue to be important landmarks in their communities.

School buildings are one of many community buildings that serve the people, such as local government, religious groups, and civic groups. The size of the town will dictate the size and amount of these buildings. Generally, every town contains a school, government building such as city hall or county courthouse, churches and civic halls. Other types would be a depot, jail, library, post office, and armory. These buildings vary in style, size, and building materials. They are generally the larger buildings in the community and serve as landmarks.

### **Modern Buildings**

The Frank Lloyd Wright designed Rosenbaum House in Florence is one of the best known modern residential structures in the state and is the only Wright designed house in Alabama. The city of Florence operates it as a local historic house museum. A thematic nomination of Lustron Houses listed houses built from 1946 to 1950 on the National Register. More post-World War II and ranch style houses are being documented as contributing in historic districts and protected by local review boards.

## **VI STATE PLANNING INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

### ***Statewide Planning Initiatives***

In July 2011, an Executive Order by Governor Robert Bentley created the Economic Development Alliance. Alliance members developed a comprehensive three-year strategic plan for economic development in the state. Through the course of that process, input was gathered from more than 1,200 Alabamians, including key officials and business leaders. Three economic development drivers were identified, which form the basis for the plan:

- Recruitment: Programs that focus on the attraction of new business and industry
- Retention: Programs that focus on the retention and expansion of existing business and industry
- Renewal: Programs that focus on job creation through innovation, entrepreneurship, research and development, and commercialization.

An “other” category encompasses topics that transcend the three drivers: downtown redevelopment programs, rural development, Alabama branding, and inventory.

This approach will diversify the state’s economic development efforts. Tactics have been developed to grow each of the drivers, with a timeline and measurable objectives. The AHC programs can support rural development, branding, and downtown redevelopment programs. The statewide initiative includes “Community Alignment with Accelerate Alabama Strategic Plan” requiring local communities throughout Alabama to develop their own strategic plans that align with Accelerate Alabama. We encourage these communities to include historic preservation in the strategic plan as a tool for economic and community development. AHC participation with regional planning commissions and community development programs can provide expertise and resources for community strategic plans.

The Governor’s Water Agencies Working Group developed the state’s Water Management Plan with representatives from the state Office of Water Resources, Geological Survey of Alabama, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. The report discusses the need to recognize the links between: water resource management and land use planning, water quantity and water quality, and water availability and economic development. These links should be considered for state participation in any water resource projects, developing a method for prioritizing water resource projects, and determining the distribution of state and local cost sharing for regional projects. A growing network of monitoring wells allows the state to evaluate: 1) water production; 2) impacts of climate on groundwater levels; 3) land use effects on groundwater levels; and, 4) salt water intrusion potential in coastal areas. The preservation community should participate with planning process to understand how water and climate issues will affect cultural resources. As one stakeholder commented, “Water centered tourism is a driving force of many local economies and lowered water levels and flow rates will hurt some local economies severely.” Many communities enjoy a recreation based economy dependent on water that supports a historic downtown district like Mobile, Selma, Guntersville, Eufaula, and Foley.

The State Emergency Management plan requires all state agencies to provide logistics management and resource support to areas affected by extreme weather conditions or other environmental emergency. Both the 2010 oil spill disaster and 2011 tornadoes provided participation with state EMA and FEMA planning and response. The Department of Interior is a

partner listed on current statewide emergency management plan and the AHC will request our agency is a signatory on the next update. We can provide resource assessment and short term management planning for affected cultural resources. Improving response time and delivering assessments in a timely manner is necessary to improve treatment of affected resources.

Alabama Trails Commission is working to make Alabama a nationally recognized destination for hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, motorized off-highway vehicles, and water sports by residents and visitors alike. It employs a ground-up, statewide coordinated approach fostering vigorous participation by local, regional, state and federal agencies, stakeholders, higher education centers, and non-profit organizations. The ultimate framework would link trails with people; people with their communities; and explorers of all ages with Alabama's wild places. Wherever possible the Trails Commission looks to local needs, goals and leadership to accomplish its mission. The Alabama legislature created the Trails Commission in 2010 to foster widespread development and link-up of green and blue-water trails throughout the state. Focused on health, family, economic and tourism incentives, the Trails Commission will coordinate local needs for trail development. AHC staff participates with planning sessions and statewide events to promote the value of historic preservation to trails programs. Staff also assists in identifying historic sites along the trails, such as NR-listed Overton Farms in north Alabama that will be an asset along an equestrian trail.

The State Arts Council published a report in 2007 examining the creative industries in Alabama and its impact on economic development. The report concluded the creative industries are a major economic engine in Alabama, especially in the state's metropolitan areas. The study focused on four metropolitan statistical areas for the state – Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery. The data for this research includes figures for non-profit and for-profit businesses, as well as the self-employed. The data is divided into six major industry sectors – design, film and media, heritage and museums, literary and publishing, performing arts, and visual arts and crafts. A snapshot of the study reflects our state having almost 5,000 creative industries employing over 70,000 people with wages totaling right at 2 billion dollars. The revenue of creative industries is at the 9 billion dollar mark. This economy attracts creative professionals, creative business and community design concepts, and a progressive approach to economic development found in successful historic commercial centers and neighborhoods.

The heritage tourism industry offers opportunities to preserve local landmarks and to educate a wide segment of the public. The 2010 Alabama Department of Travel and Tourism economic study showed the total impact of the travel and tourism industry was estimated at \$9 billion in expenditures, resulting in over \$662 million in state and local tax revenues. More and more Alabama communities are using local heritage and natural resource assets to develop and promote their tourism opportunities. The counties of Baldwin, Jefferson, Madison, Mobile, and Montgomery accounted for 62% of the total number of visitors to the state. These counties and their communities have worked to document and promote their historic resources. The AHC provides support to many local and regional tourism programs.

The Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) is a statewide non-profit organization for partners working together to provide Alabama communities with the community development programs and tools needed to ensure their long term success. ACE's comprehensive three-phase approach targets communities with populations ranging from 2,000 to 18,000. Communities are selected based on the level of local commitment to the ACE program and the community's capacity to support the ACE program. The community completes three phases with guidance from the broad range of partners serving on the ACE

board and the ACE associates council. Please see Appendix J for more information on the partners and program requirements.

The ACE program provides a system to deliver information about the advantages of local historic preservation planning as an element in their economic and community planning goals. Fayette, Foley, Guntersville, Monroeville, and Montevallo entered the ACE program and their local strategic plan included consideration of a local preservation commission to help them with goals to revitalize downtown or improve neighborhoods. They all established local preservation commissions and worked to meet the CLG guidelines. Foley, Guntersville, and Monroeville designated their downtowns for local protection. Demopolis and Eufaula were CLGs when they entered the ACE program and their strategic plans provided more local support for the local preservation commission.

### *State and Local Historic Preservation Partners and Programs*

The Alabama Historical Association, founded in 1947, is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. This group supports local historical societies and researchers with a quarterly journal and other publications and annual events. Many Alabama communities or counties established not-for-profit historical societies to support local heritage events, museums, and restoration projects. In the 1950s, the AHA began sponsoring a historic marker program to designate the location of important places, events, and people. We refer requests for markers to the AHA staff at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

The Alabama Historical Commission created the Maritime Advisory Council to advise the AHC on topics relating to maritime archaeology and history. The council meets quarterly and advises the AHC on such topics as permits for investigating shipwrecks and underwater archaeological sites, lighthouses, maritime history, and riverine history. The 1999 Alabama Underwater Cultural Resources Act and associated regulations require divers have a permit in order to take any artifacts from Alabama's shipwrecks.

Organized in 1954, the Alabama Archaeological Society promotes informed archaeological studies and the preservation of southeastern historic and prehistoric archaeological sites. AAS members participate in surface scouting, site mapping and reporting, artifact analysis, documentation, and the excavation and preservation of archaeological sites. Working closely with archaeological scholars, the society and its members assist with archaeological digs, report site information, and provide financial support through scholarships and grants. Membership benefits include the *Stones & Bones* newsletter, the *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*, opportunities to work on archaeological digs, field trips to archaeological sites, and semi-annual state meetings. The Alabama Archaeological Society summer and winter state meetings provide opportunities to meet and mingle with archaeologists and artifact collectors working throughout Alabama. Currently, AAS chapters include: Troy, Cullman, East Alabama, Muscle Shoals, Huntsville, Birmingham, Southwest Alabama, and Coosa Valley. The Alabama Archaeological Society is a nonprofit organization chartered under state of Alabama laws.

The creation of the Alabama Preservation Alliance in 1988, renamed the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, provided historic preservation advocates a stronger voice in state and local government. The group is allied with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and provides programs to raise awareness of Alabama's cultural heritage. The annual sponsorship of Alabama's Most Endangered Places list has resulted in the protection of many significant buildings and sites. Partnering with the AHC, the groups sponsor an annual statewide historic preservation conference. The Alabama Trust assists local groups around the state in seeking viable alternatives to demolition and making presentations to public officials concerning the

value of preservation. Their quarterly publication, *The Trustee*, and website provide information on their programs and other opportunities to learn about Alabama's cultural resources. The University of West Alabama provides staff and support to the organization.

The Alabama Historical Commission's Cemetery Program provides assistance in identifying, documenting, registering, preserving, and protecting Alabama's historic cemeteries. Through the Cemetery Program, the Alabama Historical Commission informs the public about cemetery preservation guidelines, teaches individuals and groups how to document cemeteries, provides official historic designation for cemeteries through the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, assists those interested in purchasing a historical marker or plaques for cemeteries, offers free technical assistance on how to properly clean and repair cemeteries and grave markers, makes information on Alabama's cemeteries laws available, and answers questions concerning the general history of Alabama's cemeteries. Since 2003, 578 have been listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

Alabama established the first state department of Archives in the country in 1901. The Alabama Department of Archives and History manages a vast collection of artifacts and papers related to Alabama history. The department provides the following services: assistance to state agencies and local governments in the preservation of their records of historical value; work to preserve modern records in fragile formats, such as computer records, photographs, and video tapes; basic educational programs and tours to school children, tourists, and interested citizens; basic reference service; maintenance of the security of collections held by the Archives; and the use of new information technology to extend the department's services. The agency web page and digital collections are great examples of their services.

AHC staff participates on the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries committee for the Century and Heritage Farm program. The group reviews applications and our staff identifies properties eligible for listing on the Alabama Register. We contact the property owner(s) and work with them on the Alabama Register application if they are interested in the designation. The designation provides the owner with an honor and adds to our information on Alabama's agricultural past.

The AHC participates with the Alabama Communities of Excellence Program (ACE) and the Your Town Alabama workshop to support assets-based community development in Alabama's small towns. These two non-profit organizations provide programs utilizing staff and resources from a variety of state, federal, and private organizations interested in quality community development for Alabama and development of cultural and recreation based economies. These programs include components to educate community leaders on effective preservation programs and methods, develop local historic preservation commissions and Certified Local Governments, and strengthen partnerships with organizations with similar missions. Communities with populations between 2,000 and 18,000 are invited to apply to the ACE program annually since 2003. The Your Town Alabama workshop began in 1998 educating almost 5,000 Alabamians on innovative local planning ideas, programs, and funding sources.

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils is a public non-profit organization that represents all municipalities and counties in the State of Alabama through the individual regional councils. Each of the 12 regional councils is a separate organization that provides a variety of services to the communities in their area. The services include economic development, community planning, grant writing, tourism promotion, senior services, and others. Once a year, the directors of the regional councils meet in a workshop forum to identify issues affecting all of the regions and to formulate objectives that enhance and promote economic, community

and social improvements for the public. Under the umbrella of the AARC, the regional councils are also able to undertake and coordinate statewide planning and economic development initiatives that are of statewide consequence. Many federally-funded projects are managed by these regional commissions and require review for impact on cultural resources. The AARC hosts a training conference each year that offers informative track-specific work sessions and general sessions. Improving communications between AHC and regional commissions and providing presentations at annual meetings to share information are objectives for the coming years.

National Heritage Areas (NHA) are designated by Congress to help communities be successful in promoting tourism and diversifying their economy to include heritage tourism and natural resource activities. The Muscle Shoals NHA designated in 2009 by Congress promotes the cultural and natural resources in the six county region of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan Counties whose heritage is linked by their location in the Tennessee River watershed. The Chattahoochee Trace and Alabama Black Belt regions continue to work on legislation introduced into Congress to gain official status as an NHA. Alabama's National State Scenic Byways are the Coastal Connection in Baldwin County; Natchez Trace Parkway running through Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee; Selma to Montgomery March Byway along US 80 in Dallas, Lowndes, and Macon Counties; and the Talladega Scenic Byway in Talladega National Forest. The state scenic byways program includes these routes and the Barbour County Governor's Trail, Appalachian Highlands Scenic Byway, Blackbelt Nature and Heritage Trail, Black Warrior River Scenic Byway, Leeds Stagecoach Route, Lookout Mountain Parkway, and Tensaw Parkway. Information on these routes is available on the website: [alabamabyways.com](http://alabamabyways.com). Staff works with the state scenic byway designation process, serving on the advisory council and designation committee. We encourage applicants to document their cultural resources with architectural and archaeological surveys and to list resources on the Alabama and National Registers.

The Alabama Department of Transportation provides federal enhancement grants and scenic byways funds to help community streetscape projects, scenic byways development and management, and to rehabilitate properties related to transportation history.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources maintains sites and parks with historic recreational facilities and cabins. They also manage recreational trail programs that support local tourism efforts.

The Alabama Department of Tourism and Travel is a strong partner with preservation interests promoting local tourism and heritage programs. The agency promotes the state's house museums and historic military parks and started an initiative supporting local walking tours. In 2007, thirty communities offered Saturday walking tours of their downtown or other historic areas for tourists and residents. The agency promotes tourism along several heritage trails including the Hank Williams Trail, Alabama Civil Rights Museum Trail, Civil War Trail, Native American Trail and Covered Bridge Trail. In 2010, the Tourism Department sponsored the Year of Small Towns and Downtowns bringing attention and special promotions to our communities rich in historic resources.

The Corps of Engineers district office in Mobile employs archaeologists and historians to review civil projects for the Florida panhandle, Alabama, eastern Mississippi, and western Georgia. They also review military projects for Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Florida. Projects include construction and maintenance of harbors and rivers; flood and erosion control studies; permits for water diversion; and design and construction of new structures. The Corps also produces historic preservation plans for military installations.

The U.S. Forest Service employs archaeologists to survey timber sale areas and mitigate other impacts in the U.S. Forest Service system. The William B. Bankhead, Tuskegee, Talladega, and Conecuh national forests make up the Alabama Forest Service system. The State Forestry Commission promotes a “Treasure Forest” program requiring management plans and protective conservation easements that often protect archaeological sites on the property. They also provide technical assistance for community projects and assisted Alabama A&M to become first historic black college and university to be named a Tree City USA.

The State Council on the Arts provides a grant program to support planning and developing facilities for community performing arts centers and other cultural uses, many housed in historic theatres or schools. They also support Design Alabama programs including the Mayor’s Design Summit providing technical assistance to mayor’s on specific design issues in their community.

The Department of Corrections provides a certified lead-abatement crew to assist with repair and painting needs at the AHC historic sites. Communities can also use these services.

Auburn University's urban design studio housed in Birmingham offers the Small Town Design Initiative to assist communities with strategic planning for local development decision making. The group works with communities to take an assets-based approach to community development. With changes in the community planning program at Auburn, the urban studio will not be as active in the future. AHC staff is engaged with discussions about the future of the program and are working to keep the program engaged with community projects. The Auburn rural design studio is based in Alabama’s Black Belt region and students learn about traditional building techniques while utilizing innovative methods and materials to create quality low-income housing and community buildings.

The legislature created the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Cahaba Trace Commission, Cahawba Advisory Committee, Alabama Historic Ironworks Commission, St. Stephens Historical Commission, USS Alabama Battleship Commission, and Pilgrimage Council to provide support for sites and tourism activities related to historic resources. The state also supports a variety of local heritage sites such as Constitution Park in Huntsville, USS Alabama Battleship, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum. These groups also utilize grant funds and technical services from the AHC.

## **VII National and State Historic Preservation Laws and Regulations**

Out of early efforts by private individuals and organizations to protect our nation's heritage, the U.S. government developed laws and programs to develop a systematic approach to historic preservation activities. The major federal laws and programs include:

Antiquities Act of 1906, allowed the President to proclaim National Monuments wherever there were structures of historic or prehistoric interest on public lands. Devils Tower in Wyoming was the nation's first site designated by this act.

National Park Service established in 1916 solidified federal support for conservation and preservation programs.

Historic Sites Act in 1935 created a national survey of historic sites; encouraged cooperative agreements with private and governmental bodies for maintenance of those sites; and empowered the Secretary of the Interior to accept properties as part of a system of National Historic Landmarks.

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) created in 1933 employed historians and architects to document landmark properties across the nation. A companion program to record structures representing technological and engineering significance was created in 1969 called the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). The Daniel Pratt Cotton Gin Factory at Prattville and the Francis W. Dancy house in Decatur are examples of the 720 structures and structural complexes recorded by HABS and HAER in Alabama. Alabama properties recorded by HABS are compiled in the publication, *The Alabama Catalog*, 1987.

National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, provided national coordination for protecting significant national cultural resources. The organization continues to be a vital force in the private sector for preservation although no longer receives federal funding. Their Main Street program, annual conventions, publications, and many other services support a wide range of cultural resources.

The 1966 Historic Preservation Act was passed, in part, as a reaction to the great change and growth in the U.S. during the 1950s. Typical of the growth was the federal urban renewal program that provided funds to raze historic downtown buildings and replace them with new construction. Alabama's Representative Albert Rains chaired the Special Committee on Historic Preservation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors to explore ways to deal with the destruction of our historic environment. The Committee recommended legislation resulting in this Act requiring State Historic Preservation Offices to monitor federal activity for its effect on cultural resources; establish a National Register of Historic Places with national standards; establish professional standards for surveying cultural resources; and provide matching grants-in-aid for community preservation projects. In 2016, the AHC will highlight the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act and its impact on Alabama at workshops and the NAPC Forum to be held in Mobile in the summer of 2016.

### **NATIONAL LAWS/PROGRAMS**

The National Register of Historic Places program provides a standardized system to survey, record and document historic buildings, structures, districts, sites and objects for their quality of significance of architectural features, archaeology, and/or association with important events or person. Resources can be listed as significant in local, state, or national history. In addition, the resources must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The State National Register Review Board must approve national Register nominations before the SHPO forwards them to the National Park Service for

final approval and listing. The documentation provided by community organizations and private citizens during the 1960s and 1970s tended to honor local landmarks, classic architectural styles, public courthouses, and civic buildings. As the program matured, the relationship between buildings and their environment became more evident, resulting in more historic district designations. Over one million historic buildings in the United States are listed in or contribute to historic districts in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Certified Local Government Program (CLG) allows cities that establish a local preservation commission and meet state CLG standards to officially partner with the state and federal program. To meet the CLG requirements, the community must have a local historic preservation ordinance in compliance with state law, a qualified local preservation commission, city staff contact, and provide annual reporting to the AHC. Federal grants are available from the AHC to communities participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The 1966 Historic Preservation Act, as amended, requires ten percent of the annual appropriation the states receive from the NPS be sub-granted to CLGs. We provide annual matching grants on a reimbursement basis for projects in the following categories: Survey and Registration, Local Historic Preservation Commission Training, Preservation Plan Development, Pre-development, Public Awareness and Education, and Staffing. In 2013, we funded eleven projects at levels of \$2500 to \$14,000 with a total grant budget of \$80,000. The following Alabama communities are Certified Local Governments: Abbeville, Anniston, Arab, Auburn, Birmingham, Centreville, Chickasaw, Decatur, Demopolis, Dothan, Eufaula, Fairfield, Fayette, Foley, Guntersville, Huntsville, Magnolia Springs, Mobile, Monroeville, Montevallo, Northport, Opelika, Phenix City, Selma, Sheffield, Sylacauga, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, and Valley.

The Rehabilitation Tax Credit program provides an incentive for private development of historic property with an income-producing use. Starting in 1976, the Federal tax code became aligned with national historic preservation policy to encourage voluntary, private sector investment in preserving historic buildings. The program provides a tax credit for an amount equaling 20% of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures on a certified historic structure. A federal program to create a rehabilitation tax credit for private residences listed on the National Register continues to have support in the House and Senate, but has failed to pass. In 2013, the total qualified expenses for the tax credit programs was \$33,879,844

The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties are used to evaluate the appropriate techniques to rehabilitate, preserve, renovate, or reconstruct buildings affected by a federal law or program. These ten standards set a methodology for determining how to incorporate modern changes while protecting the integrity of design, setting, and materials that makes the building significant. The standards are available on the NPS website: [www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/](http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/).

The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Professional Qualifications set qualifications for educational background and experience in the fields of history, archeology, architectural history, architecture, and historic architecture. Personnel meeting these requirements must be employed to survey historic and archaeological properties when federal funds are being used. The AHC provides archaeological and architectural survey programs and standards to assist organizations in collecting this information.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation created by the 1966 Act is a review agency made up of federal officials and private citizens to advise the President and Congress on historic preservation. The Council is authorized to comment on plans for federally funded, permitted, or licensed projects as part of the Section 106 process. Amendments to Section 106 in 1992 placed a greater emphasis on consultation with Indian tribes through the

establishment of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) to consider the effects of federal actions on cultural resources.

Amendments to the 1966 Historic Preservation Act in 1992 strengthened the SHPO's environmental review powers over federal activities to include expanded enforcement rights, improved coordination between Section 106 and other federal environmental laws and increased public participation. All federally funded, licensed, and permitted activities must be reviewed by the SHPO to identify and mitigate any negative effects on prehistoric and historic resources.

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 remains one of the strongest federal historic preservation regulatory controls. Under this provision, the state transportation department is prohibited from using any significant historic sites on private or public land for federal or federally-assisted highway purposes unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative and all possible planning to minimize the harm is accomplished, unless an agreement can be reached with the SHPO and tribal representatives about how affected resources will be treated.

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) provides an extra layer of protection for archaeological resources located on federally owned properties. The act requires the NPS, in consultation with the SHPO, to issue a permit for any ground disturbance, including development and archaeological excavations on federal land.

The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) provides special protection and potential repatriation for the remains and artifacts of Native Americans whose tribe is recognized by the federal government. Currently, this act affects only those burial sites located on federal land or on federally recognized tribal land. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the only federally recognized tribe with tribal land in Alabama.

The Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 transferred ownership from the federal government to the state governments of most shipwrecks located within state controlled waters. Historic maritime resources in Alabama include sunken vessels in our state's waterways and the Gulf of Mexico.

Congress developed the National Heritage Area program in the 1980s. It is not a unit of the National Park Service, but a locally-managed designation that focuses heritage-centered interpretation, conservation, and development projects over a complex matrix of public and private land. National Heritage Area initiatives are coordinated by a local entity in partnership with varied stakeholders that work collaboratively on projects that meet the area's stated management plan goals. In addition, while a National Heritage Area designation is permanent, the NPS relationship with and commitments to a NHA vary over time.

The *Save America's Treasures* developed in 1998, established a program "to help ensure that future generations will have opportunity to experience our past and understand our identity as a community and as a nation." *Save America's Treasures* has established the following goals: 1) Foster pride in American heritage. 2) Educate Americans on preservation problems facing the buildings, sites, monuments, objects and documents that represent America's diverse cultural legacy. 3) Raise concern for the urgent preservation needs of this country's historic and cultural treasures. 4) Stimulate broad-scale involvement in *Save America's Treasures* including securing necessary resources and support, organization of grassroots preservation projects, participation in community preservation and educational initiatives. The following historic sites received SAT funding in Alabama:

Historic Peterson Hall, Montevallo  
Historic Jackson Jefferson Franklin Home, Montgomery  
Historic Blakeley Park, Spanish Fort  
Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores  
Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Huntsville  
Magnolia Grove, Greensboro  
Kymulga Grist Mill, Childersburg  
Ivy Green, Tuscumbia  
Old Cahawba Center, Tuscumbia  
Bullock County Courthouse, Union Springs  
Fort Mitchell, Phenix City  
Moundville Archaeological Park, Tuscaloosa  
Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham  
Gaineswood, Demopolis  
Boligee Street, Eutaw  
King Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery  
Somerville Courthouse, Somerville  
Winston County Courthouse, Double Springs  
Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham

Ward Chapel AME Episcopal Church and Museum,  
Prattville  
Grand Jury Building, Eutaw  
Pastime Theatre, Winfield  
Pond Spring, Hillsboro  
Greene County Courthouse Square, Eutaw  
USS Alabama, Mobile  
Oral History, Tuskegee Airmen Historic Site, Tuskegee  
Fort Mitchell, Phenix City  
Harrison Brothers Hardware, Huntsville  
Pickens County Courthouse, Carrollton  
Huntsville Depot, Huntsville  
National Voting Rights Museum, Selma  
Princess Theater, Decatur  
Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery  
Vulcan Statue, Birmingham  
Founders Hall, Athens  
Saturn V Rocket, Huntsville  
Tannehill/Brierfield Ironworks, McCalla  
Sloss Furnace, Birmingham

*Preserve America Communities*, a White House initiative in 2003, provided a program to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of our priceless cultural and natural heritage. The program provides a Presidential Awards program; recognition and designation of *Preserve America Communities* (including municipalities, counties, Indian tribes, and urban neighborhoods); technical and financial support; and educational outreach. In Alabama, the communities currently holding this designation are Mobile, Birmingham, Selma, Chickasaw, Valley, and Huntsville. Federal funding has not been provided for the Save America's Treasures or Preserve American's Communities programs in recent years.

## **STATE LAWS AND PROGRAMS**

The preservation community in Alabama should be aware of the following state legislation and programs concerning cultural resources. Programs developed by state law have the *Code of Alabama* citation or Act number for reference.

On August 22, 2013, the Alabama Historical Commission approved regulations for the Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (Act 2013-241). The new law passed in 2013 gives tax credits to owners who rehabilitate residential and commercial property. Staff began accepting applications for the historic preservation credit starting October 1, 2013. There are \$20 million in tax credits available each year for this program. The AHC will review applications and reserve credits in the order in which they are received. If the AHC receives more than one application on the same day, a lottery will determine the review order. The commission will accept applications on a continuing basis after October 1 each year. Once the annual tax credit allocation has been reserved, the commission will place later applications on a waiting list. The legislature will review the program after three years and we hope its success will lead to an extension of this incentive for rehabilitation of historic property.

The 1906 Antiquities Act (Section 41-3-1 to 41-3-6) gives the state the exclusive right to excavate and survey archaeological sites. The act states all artifacts taken from sites are the property of the state and are to be deposited in the state archives, museum, or other appropriate repository. Anyone excavating a site contrary to the laws of the state is guilty of a crime and can be convicted. The act is interpreted broadly to only include areas where

excavations take place and does not include surface collections unless on state or federal property.

The Alabama legislature created the Council of Alabama Archaeology to advise the AHC on matters relating to archaeological inventory, survey, salvage, excavation, registration, research and development in 1975 (Act No. 889). The bylaws require professional archaeologists representing each four year public institution with archaeology academic program, the Moundville State facility, and three at-large members selected by the AHC. They meet quarterly to advise the AHC on advocating identification and preservation of archaeological resources.

The state Burial Bill (amended in August 1993 as Section 13A-7-23.1) provides procedures for the lawful preservation, restoration, or relocation of any tomb, monument, structure, or human remains. The law regulates the disturbance and relocation of human burial remains, human skeletal remains and funerary objects, and may apply to cemetery cleaning projects if markers and historic plantings are affected. Qualified archaeologists and funeral home directors may obtain a permit from the AHC if any burial to be disturbed has been interred for 75 years or longer. Any person who willfully or maliciously injures, defaces, removes or destroys any monument, tomb, structure or human remains is guilty of a Class C felony and upon conviction is punished as provided by the law. In 2007, the state legislature updated laws addressing access to land-locked cemeteries and the authority of municipalities and counties to regulate and protect cemeteries.

Historic preservation district enabling legislation (Section 11-68-1 to 11-68-15) allows communities to enact local historic district ordinances. Under this ordinance, communities can establish an historic preservation commission that documents individual buildings and groups of buildings as landmarks or districts. The local commission can request city council designate buildings or districts as locally protected. Before any physical changes are made to the exterior of these structures, the project must be approved by a local review board. Local design review guidelines provide general guidance on appropriate development that will not harm the historic qualities of a building or neighborhood.

In 1980, statewide enabling legislation to create local Commercial Development Authorities (Section 35-8B-2) helped some communities fund downtown revitalization projects. In the 1980s, the Alabama Main Street program began supporting these efforts by guiding cities on how to use the “four point” approach addressing design, organization, promotion, and economic restructuring.

Alabama contains substantial reserves of coal, lignite, limestone, marble, sand, gravel, and clay. The Surface Mining Commission issues permits for activities that may affect significant sites. AHC regulation of mining is limited and many sites are destroyed, especially with gravel quarry operations.

The Wallace Property Relief Constitutional Amendment (Section 40-7-25.1) allows commercial, rental, or industrial property to be assessed at the residential rate if the property is listed individually or as a contributing element in a National Register district. This assessment amounts to a 50% property tax reduction. The building must be certified as contributing to the historic character of a historic district. To receive this certification, applicants must submit an application, photos, and location map to the AHC. The applicant will receive a letter from the AHC that can be provided to the tax assessor office.

The Alabama Brew Pub Act (Section 28-4A-3) passed in 1992 allows limited production and sale of beer if located within a historic building. Several Alabama communities have used this legislation to establish popular local restaurant/brew pubs as a component of their downtown revitalization plans.

Alabama's State Scenic Byways program established in 2000 by Section 23-1-294 provides a process to designate and protect scenic roadways. A representative panel including the AHC advises groups on identifying and developing management plans to promote and protect these routes.

The Alabama Underwater Cultural Resources Act (Section 41-9-290 et.al.) states that "cultural resources" shall not be taken, damaged, salvaged, excavated or otherwise altered without a prior contract or permit obtained through the AHC. These resources include all underwater archaeological treasures, artifacts, treasure troves, or other cultural articles and materials, whether or not associated with any shipwreck, contained in or on submerged lands belonging to the State of Alabama and the sea within the jurisdiction of the state, and that have remained unclaimed for more than 50 years. Any exploration or excavation is conducted under professional guidelines for such endeavors as established by the National Park Service. A Maritime Advisory Council advises the AHC on submerged resources.

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## **IX APPENDIX**

- A. National Register of Historic Places Fact Sheet
- B. Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage Fact Sheet
- C. Preservation Easements Fact Sheet
- D. Federal Preservation Tax Incentives Fact Sheet
- E. State Historic Preservation Tax Credit Fact Sheet
- F. Certified Local Government Program Fact Sheet
- G. Public Survey Results
- H. 2013 Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation Roundtable Agenda
- I. Strategic Planning Session agenda, notes and participants
- J. Staff Input on 2014 work plan
- K. Alabama Communities of Excellence Program Brief



## ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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# APPENDIX A NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES FACT SHEET

### **What is the National Register?**

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. The National Park Service manages the National Register. The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) coordinates the program in Alabama for the Park Service.

### **What types of properties are listed in the National Register?**

Properties listed in the NRHP include historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture at the local, state, and/or national level. The list is maintained by the National Park Service.

### **How are properties listed in the National Register?**

The AHC receives nominations from property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, government agencies, and other individuals or groups. Susan Enzweiler is the AHC's National Register Coordinator and guides citizens through the process. AHC staff reviews documentation submitted and if the information is adequate, the nomination is reviewed by the Alabama National Register Review Board, which consists of scholars and citizens from across the state. If approved by the State Review Board, then the AHC forwards the nomination to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. who makes the final decision on whether a property is listed or not.

### **What are the restrictions, rules, or regulations for National Register property owners?**

Listing in the National Register is completely honorary. From the Federal and State perspective, a property owner can do whatever they want with their property as long as there are no Federal monies attached to the property. However, there may be local preservation laws that owners should be aware of before they undertake a project with a historic property. Owners of property listed in the National Register are not required to open their property to the public.

### **How can I have my property listed in the National Register?**

For more information on the National Register of Historic Places program in Alabama, please contact Susan Enzweiler, National Register Coordinator at 334.230.2644 or [Susan.Enzweiler@preserveala.org](mailto:Susan.Enzweiler@preserveala.org).



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## **The National Register Does:**

- Identify historically significant building, structures, sites, objects, and districts, according to the National Register Criteria for Evaluation
- Encourage the preservation of historic properties by documenting their significance and by lending support to local preservation communities.
- Enable federal, state, and local agencies to consider historic properties in the early stages of planning projects.
- Provide for review of federally funded, licensed, or sponsored projects that may affect historic properties.
- Encourage the rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties that meet preservation standards through tax incentives; discourage the demolition of income-producing properties through tax disincentives.

## **The National Register Does Not:**

- Restrict the rights of private property owners in the use, development, or sale of private historic property.
- Lead automatically to historic district zoning.
- Force federal, state, local, or private projects to be stopped.
- Provide for review of state, local, or privately funded projects that may affect historic properties.
- Guarantee that grant funds will be available for all significant historic properties.
- Provide tax benefits to owners of residential historic properties, unless those properties are rental and treated as income-producing by the IRS.



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## APPENDIX B

# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE FACT SHEET

### **What is the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage?**

The Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage is a listing of buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts of historical, architectural, and/or archaeological significance.

### **What does listing in the Alabama Register mean?**

Alabama Register listing is an honorary designation and exists to bring attention to and promote the property's historical significance, thereby encouraging its long term preservation. The Alabama Register does not restrict the rights of private property owners in the use, development, or sale of the property.

### **How is the Alabama Register different from the National Register?**

In an effort to keep recognition of historic properties accessible to the general public, the Alabama Register criteria and application process is not as stringent as the National Register. In addition, the Alabama Register includes properties that normally may not qualify for National Register status such as moved buildings, reconstructed buildings, and structures less than 50 years old.

### **What kinds of properties are eligible for the Alabama Register?**

Properties should be at least 40 years old or older and possess integrity of location and construction, should convey a feeling for the time and place of construction, and include properties that are:

- associated with events of state or local significance; and/or
- associated with the lives of persons of state or local significance; and/or
- representative of a type, style, or period of architecture; and/or
- associated with Alabama's history or prehistory (archaeological component).

### **How can I nominate a property to the Alabama Register?**

Anyone can nominate a property to the Alabama Register and property owner permission is not required. The first step is to complete an Alabama Register nomination form. The AHC provides all forms and guidance at no cost. Once the necessary materials are received, a staff review committee will determine if the property meets the established criteria.

### **How long does the process take?**

The length of time before the nomination is presented to the staff review committee is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information provided to the AHC. Review Board Meetings are generally held four times a year.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Bailey at 334.230.2643 or [Jennifer.Bailey@preserveala.org](mailto:Jennifer.Bailey@preserveala.org).



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### **APPENDIX C**

#### **PRESERVATION EASEMENTS**

Owners of historic landmarks often devote considerable time and effort to the restoration and maintenance of their homes, gardens, and architectural details in a manner compatible with their properties' historic period and architectural styles. A preservation easement is a means by which the owner of a historic property can be assured of continued preservation after the property passes from their stewardship. Also, historic property owners can realize significant federal income, state and local tax savings through the easement process.

#### **WHAT IS A PRESERVATION EASEMENT?**

A preservation easement is a legal document that regulates the use of, or changes to, a historic property. Once imposed, it runs with the land@ in perpetuity, requiring present and future owners to abide by its terms. A preservation easement may be drafted to prohibit alterations to the facade of a home, or to eternally maintain a garden as part of your home. A preservation easement is the most effective long-term protection for historic property in private ownership.

#### **WHO WILL HOLD THE PRESERVATION EASEMENT?**

The Alabama Historical Commission is a nonprofit, governmental organization established by the State of Alabama, to preserve, protect and interpret Alabama's historic places. The Commission is empowered to hold easements.

By designating the Alabama Historical Commission as holder of the preservation easement, you are assured the availability of preservation technicians to share responsibility for future stewardship of your property. The Commission will monitor the physical condition of the structure, note changes since the last inspection, and identify potential problem areas which, if left unchecked, could result in serious damage to the historic character of the property.

#### **WHAT ARE THE TAX BENEFITS OF PRESERVATION EASEMENTS?**

There are several important federal income, gift and estate tax benefits available to an easement donor, as well as state and local tax consequences. For federal income tax purposes, a charitable deduction in most cases may be taken for the value of the easement donated to the Commission, typically up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. Any remainder may be carried forward and used in subsequent tax years for up to five years. The federal estate tax obligation for heirs of your property may be lessened because of the easement. State income and estate tax savings may be realized. Local real estate tax savings may also be achieved.



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### **WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO ACQUIRE A PRESERVATION EASEMENT?**

There are only four steps that must be taken in order to preserve your property in its historic condition. These are:

1. Acquire a legal description of the property you own. You can do this by contacting the County Tax Assessors Office, or you will find it in your mortgage papers (a legal description of your property will be included in your deed).

2. Write out what it is you wish to be covered by the easement. The easements that are accepted by the Commission are those that are made in perpetuity, but other than that you may choose and state exactly what you want included in the easement. Do you want to protect the facade of your home? The interior woodwork and other significant features? Your landscaped gardens? Surrounding fields and/or woodlands? Only part of the physical setting? Do you wish to reserve part of the historical setting because you plan to build something there? If so, include your reservation in what you are writing.

There is one minor right you must grant, and that is to allow a public viewing of your property. This, however, can be for as small a period as one day, once a year, and open only to qualified persons.

You can also state in the easement what would happen in case of fire, so it is clear that neither you nor the successors in ownership are required to restore something destroyed by fire. Remember, this is a private contract and you can write it to fit your needs and desires.

3. Contact the Alabama Historical Commission by calling 334.242.3184. The Commission will discuss the proposal with you and determine whether they can accept an easement on it. Once they approve the easement, the Commission will draft the necessary legal documents at no charge to you.

4. When the documents are finalized, the Commission will file the easement in the appropriate legal repository, usually the county courthouse, where it will become public record. Your property will then be protected...and you will have made a difference in history.



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## APPENDIX D

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES

#### Who Should Read This

Historic Building Owners	Architects
Developers	Realtors
Accountants	Preservationists

#### Alabama Property Tax Reduction

- Buildings that are A) determined by the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) as eligible for listing in the National Register; B) individually listed in the National Register; or C) listed as contributing to a National Register historic district may be assessed at 10% of the assessed value for ad valorem tax purposes. This benefits owners of historic properties used for commercial purposes.
- For application of property tax reduction, submit the Historic Preservation Certification Application Part I – Evaluation of Significance, complete with map and photos, to the AHC.
- Upon receipt of a complete application, AHC staff review documentation and process the application within 30 calendar days.
- Applications for properties within National Register historic districts will be forwarded to the National Park Service for certification. All other applications will be reviewed by AHC staff. The NPS certification or AHC letter may be presented to the county tax assessor for reassessment of the property.
- This incentive is referenced as the Wallace Property Relief Constitutional Amendment (“Lid Bill”) Code of Alabama 40-8-1 Section 2.

#### Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits

##### 20% Rehabilitation Tax Credit

- Available for Certified Rehabilitations of income-producing historic buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Amounts to 20% of the total eligible rehabilitation expenditures and can be applied to federal income tax owed by the property owner.
- Certified Rehabilitations meet the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for Rehabilitation* and are approved by the National Park Service as being consistent with the historic character of the property.
- Rehabilitation expenditures must exceed the greater of \$5,000 or adjusted basis of the building. The adjusted basis is the purchase price of the building, minus the value of the land, plus improvements, minus depreciation.
- The three-part application process must be initiated before the rehabilitation project begins. Contact the Alabama Historical Commission for guidance with the application



# ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Historic Preservation Office

468 S. Perry Street  
P.O. Box 300900  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900  
Voice: (334)242-3184  
Fax: (334)262-1084  
[www.preserveala.org](http://www.preserveala.org)

and rehabilitation process. The National Park Service reviews applications and issues official Certification decisions.

- The tax credit may be taken in the year the rehabilitated building is placed in service or when the building has been substantially rehabilitated.
- The owner must own the building for five years after completing the rehabilitation, and any work on the building within five years must be approved by the NPS beforehand, or the credits can be recaptured.

## **10% Rehabilitation Tax Credit for Non-Historic Buildings**

- Available for rehabilitations of income-producing non-historic buildings built before 1936 (non-residential use). The 10% tax credit is available for pre-1936 buildings that are not listed in the National Register or that are non-contributing in registered historic districts because of major alterations.
- Rehabilitation expenditures must exceed the greater of \$5,000 or the adjusted basis of the building.
- The three-part application process is not required for the 10% credit UNLESS the building is located in a National Register district. In that case, a Part I application must be submitted to certify that the building does not contribute to the registered historic district. Even though there is no formal review of the project work, the building must meet a specific physical test for retention of exterior and interior walls, and it is recommended that work follow the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*.
- Whether the 10% credit or the 20% credit applies to a project depends on the building, not the owner's preference.

## **Information and Application available online**

[www.preserveala.org](http://www.preserveala.org) See the Grants and Tax Credits section  
[www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/index.htm)

## **You may also contact the AHC for more information**

468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900  
Use zip code 36104 for courier delivery (UPS, FedEx, etc.)  
(334) 242-3184

Direct questions to:

Alabama Property Tax Reduction – Chloe Mercer  
Part 1 – Evaluation of Significance – Chloe Mercer  
Part 2 – Description of Rehabilitation -- Chloe Mercer  
Part 3 – Certification of Completed Work -- Chloe Mercer



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## **APPENDIX E**

### **ALABAMA HISTORIC REHABILITATION PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT**

#### **What is the tax credit?**

Alabama's legislature passed a law in 2013 that gives a 25% tax credit to owners who rehabilitate historic residential and commercial property.

There is also a 10% tax credit for qualified rehabilitation expenditures for pre-1936 non-historic buildings used for income-producing purposes.

#### Historic versus Non-historic

##### Historic buildings

- listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- listed as a contributing resource in a NRHP district
- eligible for listing in NRHP

##### Non-historic buildings which meet Internal Revenue Code 47(c)(1)(a) and (b)

- built before 1936 and not eligible for listing in the NRHP
- built before 1936 and listed as a non-contributing resource in the NRHP

#### **Who can apply?**

Taxpayers filing a State of Alabama tax return or entities that are exempt from federal income taxation who own title to a building or own a leasehold interest in a building for a term of 39 years or more may apply.

#### **What type of project is eligible?**

Both commercial developments and single-family residential projects may apply for this program.

#### **How much must be spent?**

Project expenditures must exceed 50 percent of the owner's original purchase price or \$25,000, whichever is greater.

#### **What guidelines must be followed?**

Work must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which ensure that improvements are consistent with the historic character and maintain the historic integrity of the building. The Standards may be found at <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation.htm>

#### **What expenses qualify for the credit?**

Expenses incurred by the owner for improvement of the building include such things like repair of exterior materials; repair of structural systems; repair of interior finishes like wood floors, plaster walls, and ceilings; upgrades to HVAC, electrical, and plumbing; and architectural, engineering, and land surveying fees.



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## **What expenses do not qualify for the credit?**

Acquisition costs; personal labor by the owner; furnishings; additions; and landscaping or site work outside the footprint of the qualified building are some things that do not qualify for the credit.

## **Application process**

Contact the Alabama Historical Commission for an application and instructions. An application fee is required. The Commission will have up to 60 days to review the application. Tax credits will be reserved for approved projects in the order in which complete applications are received.

## **When should you apply?**

Apply before you begin working on the building and early in the planning stages of your project. The first portion of the application will determine if the building is eligible for the program and if the proposed rehabilitation plan meets the Standards. The only type of work that may occur before an application is submitted is related to design or development fees or emergency repairs that protect a building from deterioration. This work may not begin more than 6 months prior to making application.

## **Tax credit caps**

Commercial projects are limited to a reservation of \$5,000,000 in tax credits.

Residential projects are limited to a reservation of \$50,000 in tax credits.

A total of \$20,000,000 in tax credits are reserved each calendar year (January to December)

Excess tax credits will be carried forward each year.

## **When to take the tax credit**

At the end of a project, owners submit a final application providing information on the completed project. This includes a cost and expense certification prepared by a licensed CPA and an appraisal. If work complies with the Standards and all requirements of the final application are met, a tax credit certificate in the amount of the reservation is issued. Owners claim the tax credit in the taxable year in which the approved rehabilitated building is placed in service. Any unused portion of the tax credit may be carried forward for up to ten years.

## **Recapture of credit**

Recapture of this credit is governed by Internal Revenue Code Section 50, which refers to disposal of the property within the recapture period, which is five years.

Contact Jennifer Bailey at 334.230.2643 or [Jennifer.Bailey@preserveala.org](mailto:Jennifer.Bailey@preserveala.org) for more information.



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## **APPENDIX F**

### **CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM**

#### **What is a Certified Local Government?**

A Certified Local Government (CLG) is a town or city that has decided to provide a local preservation program to:

- Enact a special historic preservation ordinance;
- Enforce the ordinance through a local preservation commission;
- Meet minimum standards for certified local governments as determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

#### **What are the benefits of becoming a CLG?**

A financial benefit to cities participating in the CLG program is a special pool of competitive grant funds from federal allocations to the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC). At least 10% of the federal allocation goes to the CLG program every year. Another important benefit to communities passing a preservation ordinance as part of a CLG program is more local control over development in locally designated historic districts. This allows communities to stabilize neighborhoods and preserve community character. Locally designated historic districts consistently show increased property values and economic investment. These areas also create opportunities for heritage tourism programs.

#### **What are the responsibilities of a CLG?**

Local preservation commissions recommend designation of local historic landmarks and districts to city council. They review and approve substantial rehabilitation projects within locally designated districts or on locally designated landmarks. They review and make comments on all districts and individual nominations to the National Register of Historic Places in their town. People who serve on local commissions and architectural review boards make a serious time commitment to serve their communities by protecting historic resources. Cities in the CLG program make a commitment to survey and inventory historic properties and determine strategies to protect their special character.

#### **What are the criteria for gaining CLG status?**

Only cities and towns with a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance can adopt a preservation ordinance, one of the cornerstones of the CLG program. The ordinance, surveys and composition of the local commission also have criteria set out by agreement between the city and the AHC.

#### **Where can I get more information?**

Contact Mary Mason Shell, Preservation Planner, at 334.230.2691 or [Mary.Shell@preserveala.org](mailto:Mary.Shell@preserveala.org) for more information.



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**FY2013 CLG GRANT AWARDS**

**Preservation Commission Training Projects**

**FOLEY**

Attend statewide and national training

Grant Award: \$4300

Local Match: \$1075

**GUNTERSVILLE**

CAMP Workshop

Grant Award: \$5660

Local Match: \$1340

**MAGNOLIA SPRINGS**

CAMP Workshop

Grant Award: \$5000

Local Match: \$1250

**MOBILE**

Attend state and national training

Grant Award: \$3200

Local Match: \$0

**MONTEVALLO**

Attend statewide and national training

Grant Award: \$2500

Local Match: \$0

**OPELIKA**

Attend Your Town Alabama workshop

Grant Award: \$2500

Local Match: \$0

**Survey and Registration Projects**

**ARAB**

Survey of downtown properties

Grant Award: \$8952

Local Match: \$2238

**MOBILE**

Survey of Lafayette Heights and Texas Hill

Grant Award: \$10000

Local Match: \$2500



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**TUSCALOOSA**

Druid City National Register nomination update  
Grant Award: \$7000  
Local Match: \$1750

**STATEWIDE**

Agricultural Multiple Property Submission  
Grant Award: \$12000  
Local Match: \$0

**Planning Projects**

**TALLADEGA**

Downtown Master Plan  
Grant Award: \$14000  
Local Match: \$4000

**FY2014 CLG GRANT AWARDS**

**Preservation Commission Training Projects**

**AUBURN**

Attend statewide and national training  
Grant Award: \$1417  
Local Match: \$354

**BIRMINGHAM**

CAMP Workshop  
Grant Award: \$7000  
Local Match: \$1750

**FOLEY**

Attend statewide and national training  
Grant Award: \$5000  
Local Match: \$1250

**HUNTSVILLE**

Attend state and national training  
Grant Award: \$1483  
Local Match: \$370



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**TALLADEGA**

Attend statewide and national training  
Grant Award: 2000  
Local Match: 500

**Survey and Registration Projects**

**MOBILE**

Survey of Hank Aaron Loop Survey and Automobile Alley Registration  
Grant Award: \$10000  
Local Match: \$2500

**MONTEVALLO**

Survey Mahler Property and historic structures report on Perry Hall  
Grant Award: \$15000  
Local Match: \$3750

**SELMA**

Old Town Historic District update  
Grant Award: \$11520  
Local Match: \$2880

**TUSCALOOSA**

Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District National Register Update  
Grant Award: \$9240  
Local Match: \$2310

**Public Awareness and Education Projects**

**MOBILE**

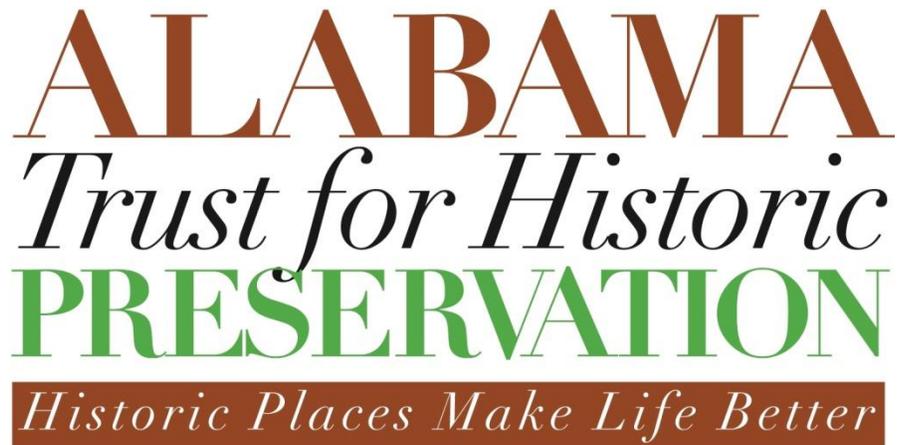
Historic Properties Website  
Grant Award: \$5000  
Local Match: \$5000

**Predevelopment**

**TALLADEGA**

Predevelopment Study on the Otts Building in Downtown Historic District  
Grant Award: \$8500  
Local Match: \$8500

## APPENDIX H



**Preservation Roundtable  
Friday, February 8, 2013**

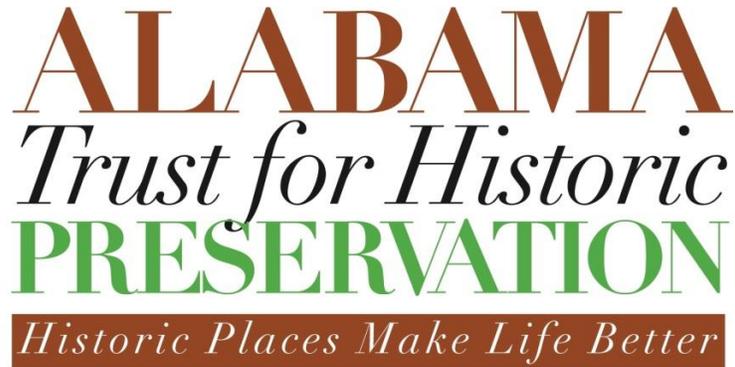
### Agenda

11:30:	Call to Order Welcome Overview of Process
11:50:	Lunch with Round Table Discussion
12:50:	Round Table Presentations
1:20:	Charge for the Future Next Steps
1:30	Dismissal

To be addressed during the roundtable discussion will include, but will not be limited to questions such as the following:

What is your most pressing local preservation need? What do you see as Alabama's most pressing need? How are the two complementary? What immediate steps should be taken to address either or both needs? What critical long range (2 years out) problems should be immediately addressed?

*Roundtable participants are invited to stay and attend the winter meeting for the ATHP board of directors, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's.*



## First Preservation Roundtable

Registration: The following will be attending the Preservation Round Table.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list below additional people attending from your organization:

Name

Email Address

Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return registration to: ATHP, [alabamatrust@athp.org](mailto:alabamatrust@athp.org); Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470

**APPENDIX I**  
**Alabama Historical Commission**  
**Strategic Planning Session agenda, notes, and participants**

**AGENDA**

July 9, 2013 - 1:30-4:30 -- Agency Planning Session for State Historic Preservation Plan Update

1) Review Goals and Objectives from FY09 State Historic Preservation Plan, public survey results, and accomplishments since 2009 state plan was approved.

2) Determine any needs to amend the state plan goals:

GOAL ONE: Identify, record, and evaluate the significance of historic places and the objects, people and events related to them.

GOAL TWO: Protect, preserve, restore, and maintain historic places.

GOAL THREE: Foster the belief that historic places enrich our lives and strengthen Alabama's communities.

3) Review and revise objectives under each goal targeted for the five year duration of the plan from FY13 to FY18.

Considerations – staffing changes; state tax credit program; digitization needs; streamline Section 106 review process using digital submission and review process; others?

**GOAL ONE OBJECTIVES**

Objective 1: Research and document historic places that reflect our gender, racial, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity.

Objective 2: Promote and facilitate and undertake professional survey and register programs to include analysis of types, styles, and themes.

Objective 3: Provide field investigations, analysis, and documentation to assess critical needs of significant historic places.

Objective 4: Improve access to information about historic places.

Objective 5: Inventory and assess collections at state-owned historic sites.

Objective 6: Research objects associated with state-owned historic sites and identify broad cultural themes to improve interpretive programs.

**GOAL TWO OBJECTIVES**

Objective 1: Enforce federal and state preservation laws, standards, and agreements.

Objective 2: Protect, preserve and maintain and restore historic places through public ownership and maintenance.

Objective 3: Seek and secure public and private funding, support and partnerships to protect historic places.

**GOAL THREE OBJECTIVES**

Objective 1: Use historic places to tell Alabama's stories and support heritage tourism.

Objective 2: Educate public about Alabama's historic places, why they matter, and ways to use and protect them.

Objective 3: Expand partnerships for stronger and broader preservation efforts.

- 4) Determine priority objectives for FY14 and develop action plan with date to complete tasks and responsible person for ensuring activity occurs.

### **July 9, 2013 Staff and Stakeholder Planning Session Minutes**

Attending: Mary Shell, Lee Anne Wofford, Stacye Hathorn, Chloe Mercer, Susan Enzweiler, Amanda McBride, Greg Rhinehart, Melanie Betz, Robert Gamble, Joseph Glazar, Lisa Harrelson, Matt Gage

#### **Section 106**

Cloud for storage should be feasible  
Department of Defense may still want to send projects through the mail  
Amanda getting digital signature information  
Trial Run with Base Camp is \$3000/yr  
Fees for digital review unresolved  
Fees to make presentation to state agencies?  
Work to revive past ADECA partnership with annual meeting

#### **Survey**

Digitize survey  
Sample DVD of various files related to program provided to OAS for M Gage to work with  
Need "dot on map" and all known info with the location and timeline of projects  
Standardize location information is needed  
Discussed that visual GIS is best/good option  
Navigation of site needed Survey  
Delivered sample date – hope to tie in archaeology at later date  
Public access – degree of access needed to protect sensitive sites  
Storage of records, both physical and digital needed  
Improve existing scans of AR and NR information  
Digitizing files for database needed – tax credits, survey, Sec 106, etc  
Winemiller at AUM has capacity for storage but feeling we need our own storage

#### **Goals and Objectives**

Goal 1: Objective – work on contexts for archaeology resources  
Goal 3: Educate public  
Add objective: Promote preservation of historic resources as economic and community development tool.  
Goal 3: Add research state 106 process

#### **Outreach**

NCDAs – website has information on materials/his districts  
List serve for Alabama issues – CLG program could benefit  
Education – inform legislators of burden and responsibilities – determine program to present  
Event for legislators – perhaps Places in Peril?

## **APPENDIX J**

### **Staff Input on a Work Plan for 2014: Assessing Potential Revenues and Efficiencies Resulting in Savings**

#### Communications

1. Internal communication; increase communication among and between staff members through digital information
  - a. Establish in-house website /communication/Inter office list serve
  - b. Circulate all information digitally
  - c. Minutes of Commission meetings on website
  - d. Share real time budget information
  - e. Email out to sites
  - f. Share Director's calendar
2. External communications
  - a. Reach out to public through Public Service Announcements
  - b. website/revision upgrade
  - c. Use social media/digital/Facebook
  - d. Cross training between disciplines so that all staff can communicate to public about sites, programs etc.

#### Historic Preservation Programs

1. 106 Reviews [charge for expedited review] (Look at North Carolina)
2. Research ability to charge for Federal programs, workshops, architectural surveys (look at other states)
  - a. Interns to support current staff for above
3. Reassess Programs
  - a. Look at state priorities and determine our priorities; align with other state programs
  - b. Survey those who use programs; consider how to use partnership to improve efficiency
  - c. Consider non-mandated programs; challenge to discontinue
4. Educate Legislators on Historic Preservation Programs
5. Professional development for all staff to represent HP Programs
  - a. Educate general public about programs
  - b. Develop "elevator speech"
  - c. Develop brand, be clear about what we do
6. Partner with community colleges
  - a. Bring people to programs and site
  - b. Interns

## Sites

1. Promote all sites together: more advertising, marketing, promotion
  - a. Branding for all
  - b. Sites app
  - c. Advertising through rack cards, PSA's
  - d. Create a Sites Passport good at all sites
  - e. Licensing unique collections, architectural items, products
  - f. Partner with entities with strong marketing programs: Chambers of Commerce; RTJ Golf Trail
  - g. Increase amount of printed materials on historic sites and people to have in gift shops
  - h. Include "Museum" in signage
2. Increase revenue; Better money management
  - a. Less discounts
  - b. Honor boxes
  - c. Charge more for events at sites
  - d. Accept credit cards to increase retail sales
  - e. Target international market
  - f. Create special programs with increased admission
  - g. Site tours on apps; layer tours with technology and personal
  - h. Increase grant applications
  - i. ARView/GIS software for sites would save \$ on surveys
3. Partnerships for Programs and Alternative Management
  - a. Branding
  - b. Connect and develop partnerships with other organizations: Ex. Nature Conservancy; Boy Scouts
  - c. Piggyback on other attractions
  - d. Develop sponsorship opportunities for likely partners
  - e. Look for support from Friends Groups
    - Task forces to consider transferring some costs to FG, upkeep of facilities
  - f. Look to Universities for publishing of materials

## Technology/ Digitization

1. 106, reviews ; National Register; Digital storage; Subscriptions to access
2. Cell reception at sites, towers
  - Clyde Eller may have connections
  - Joseph will email site directors
3. Hire IP [ IT?] person
4. Electronic forms, timesheets, budgeting, , purchasing

5. Upgrade technology
  - a. Square?
  - b. Hot spots at sites
  - c. Use Paypal
  - d. Ask ISP [ISD?]
  - e. Walkie Talkies at sites
6. Quarterly Skype meetings
  - a. To keep all staff informed
  - b. To share best practices among sites
7. Ancestry data.com

## **Work Plan for Alabama Historical Commission, 2014, Next Steps**

Following the Work Plan Development meeting on August 14, 2013, the Director, along with members of the Management team, should develop a timeline to flesh out the suggestions made at the meeting.

Management group should review the recap of meeting and determine what task forces/committees should be formed. I have made suggestions based on the issues/suggestions that have been raised most often. Each task force should be given a deadline for presenting findings. The deadlines can be determined by schedule of Commission meetings

Task forces

1. Communication

Internal

Develop in-house formats for various postings

Virtual cross training/professional development so that all staff members are informed across disciplines

External

Electronic Newsletter/social media

Web site

Public Service Announcements

2. Historic Preservation Programs

Assess programs: mandated/non-mandates; able to charge for workshops; able to charge for surveys etc; consider priorities, duplication, partnerships, and possible elimination.

3. Sites

Skype meetings to share best practices

Explore Partnerships: Friends Groups, community Colleges; other organizations

Develop ideas for increased revenue

Assess and prioritize sites; consider transferring properties to another organization

4. Technology/ Digitization

Technology Inventory

Digitize records, I06 etc.

Digital forms

Each of these task forces should develop a timeline for work to be done; possible savings that result from changes suggested; possible increased revenue.

## **APPENDIX K**

### **Alabama Communities of Excellence Program Brief**

The Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) is a statewide non-profit organization for partners working together to provide Alabama communities with the community development programs and tools needed to ensure their long term success. ACE's comprehensive three-phase approach targets communities with populations ranging from 2,000 to 18,000. Communities are selected based on the level of local commitment to the ACE program and the community's capacity to support the ACE program. The community completes the following phases with guidance from the broad range of partners serving on the ACE board and the ACE Associates council.

#### **Phase I: Assessment**

Includes application process, selection process, and detailed community assessment by ACE team members. A comprehensive "report card" detailing community assets, weaknesses and recommended strategy and actions is prepared.

#### **Phase II: Leadership Development and Strategic Planning**

Includes creation of ongoing Leadership Development Program and development of strategic plan.

#### **Phase III: Implementation and Comprehensive Planning**

Addresses comprehensive planning, commercial business development, education enhancement, infrastructure, health and human services, retiree attraction, tourism, economic development, and quality of life/recreation issues.

#### **Graduation**

Upon completion of all three phases, communities are designated an "Alabama Community of Excellence."

Some of the elements that make up an ACE community are necessary for a successful local preservation program:

- Local government leaders are committed to strengthening community partnerships and engaging citizens, especially for the planning and implementation of economic and community development initiatives.
- City and county governments are committed to the training and professional development of local government officials and staff.
- The local leadership course curriculum adequately addresses economic development, community development, and community planning and design topics.
- The community has an up-to-date strategic plan that provides a compelling vision for the future along with specific strategies for realizing that vision.
- The community has specific plans for zoning, development regulation, and design/appearance review that are actively enforced.
- The community supports downtown enhancements and preservation of historic buildings.

The ACE Board and Associates Council include representatives from state and federal agencies and organizations providing technical assistance programs and grants to communities. Under

the ACE umbrella, the participating organizations provide resources to assist communities through the three phases and to meet the goals and objectives of their strategic plan. The comprehensive approach also helps our state partners communicate and share programs with one another.

**ACE Board Members:**

Alabama Municipal Electric Authority  
AL Historical Commission  
Regions Financial Corporation  
University of West Alabama  
Southeast Alabama Gas District  
Auburn University ECDI  
UA Center for Economic Development  
Alabama Association of Regional Councils  
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries  
Alabama Department of Commerce  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education  
Alabama League of Municipalities  
Alabama Power Company  
Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission  
Balch & Bingham  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.  
Economic Development Association of Alabama  
Goodwyn Mills & Cawood  
PowerSouth Energy Cooperative  
USDA Rural Development

**ACE Associates Council Members:**

2D Studio, LLC  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
Alabama Department Public Health, Office of Primary Care & Rural Health  
Alabama Forestry Commission  
Alabama Hospital Association  
Alabama Primary Health Care Association  
Alabama Rural Health Association  
Alabama School Readiness Alliance  
Alabama State Council on the Arts  
Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission  
Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama  
City of Anniston  
City of Birmingham  
Community Services Corporation  
Connecting ALABAMA

DesignAlabama  
East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission  
Farmer | Morgan L.L.C  
FDIC  
Governor's Office of Workforce Development, Department of Postsecondary Education  
J. Devine Company, LLC  
Kelly Landscape Architects, LLC  
KPS Group  
Lee-Russell Council of Governments  
Monroeville/Monroe County Economic Development Authority (MMCEDA)  
North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments  
Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments  
Office of Primary Care & Rural Health  
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission  
South Central AL Development Commission  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Thomas Hospital Urgent Care  
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments  
Troy University  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
University of Alabama, Department of Health Promotion and Wellness  
Walker Area Community Foundation  
West Alabama Regional Commission