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ALERTS

Call for Action – Preserve Alabama’s Historic Treasures

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation (ATHP) monitors federal and state public policies and legislative concerns that impact preservation both negatively and positively. Current legislation pending at the federal and state levels include the federal American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act (H.R. 7), which, if passed, will remove funding for historic preservation sites.

On the state level, Alabama S.B. 81 – The Underwater Cultural Resources Recovery Act, if passed, will allow unregulated removal of archeological and historical artifacts from Alabama’s public waterways and HB 271 – Historic Rehabilitation and Preservation Tax Credit Act, if passed, will provide tax incentives for developing and readapting historic structures. The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation opposes passage of the first two bills as currently written and supports the passage of Alabama HB 271.

HB 271 Historic Rehabilitation and Preservation Tax Credit Bill is before the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee. This legislation proposes an income tax credit of 25 percent for the rehabilitation of certain historic structures, including owner-occupied residential. To review the proposed bill, visit <http://www.alabamatrust.info/public-policy-legislative-alert.php>.

NEWS

Operation New Birmingham Endorses Preservation

Operation New Birmingham (ONB) endorses legislation to promote preservation. Three bills that would create incentives benefiting Birmingham’s City Center, as well as other Alabama cities with historic cores, are now making their way through the Alabama Legislature. For position papers and suggestions for advocating for passage of this important legislation, visit www.yourcitycenter.com/Home.aspx?ContentID=1015. To learn how you can make a difference in supporting passage of these bills, visit www.alabamatrust.info/public-policy-legislative-alert.php.

Birmingham’s Historic Powell School for Sale

The Historic Powell School has been rehabilitated to the point where it can now be sold to a developer who could renovate it for commercial or residential space. The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation has stabilized the walls of the fire-damaged structure, cleaned up debris and is pursuing addition of a new roof. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued last week. Read more in the Birmingham News on al.com at http://blog.al.com/businessnews/2012/02/fire-damaged_powell_school_pro.html or visit <http://www.alabamatrust.info/powell.php> to read the RFP.

Making Sense of the Civil War

The Alabama Humanities Foundation has partnered with public libraries in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery to develop a five-part reading and discussion program, “Making Sense of the Civil War.” A Civil War scholar will guide each session.

March events include:

Birmingham Public Library – Central Branch, March 15 and March 29, 5:30 p.m., Guest Scholar: Victoria Ott, Birmingham Southern Collage

Huntsville-Madison Public Library – Main Branch, March 15 March 29, 7:00 p.m., Guest Scholar: John Kvach, University of Alabama at Huntsville

Mobile Public Library – West Regional Branch, March 21 and March 28, 6:30 p.m., Guest Scholar: Lonnie Burnett, University of Mobile

Montgomery City and County Public Library – Morgan Branch, March 8 and March 22, 6:00 p.m., Guest Scholar: Benjamin Severance, Auburn University Montgomery

For more information, visit <http://www.ahf.net/newsroom/docs/Civil%20War%20Page.pdf>.

Alabama Preservation Conference

The Alabama Preservation Conference, *Lighting the Way for Preservation: Preserving Iconic Images in Historic Communities* will be held Thursday, May 10 through Saturday, May 12 in Birmingham. Accommodations will be at the historic Tutwiler Hotel, with special conference room rates. Deadline for the conference rate is April 13. Call 205-322-2100 to make your hotel reservations. Ask for the ATHP Block rate.

More conference details will come. Mark your calendar now. You don't want to miss this!

National Rosenwald School Conference To Be Held in Tuskegee

The National Trust of Historic Preservation will host the *National Rosenwald School Conference: 100 Years of Pride, Progress & Preservation in Tuskegee* from Thursday, June 14 through Saturday, June 16. If your community has a Rosenwald School located in or near it, you will not want to miss this conference. More details visit www.preservationnation.org/rosenwald.

EVENTS**BIRMINGHAM****Through March – *It Takes a Village***

Alabama Power Company's exhibit, *It Takes A Village*, looks at life during Alabama Power Company's expansion from 1912 to 1930 when six dams and two steam plants brought energy to the state's cities, towns, and rural farms. This exhibit highlights Company Camps throughout the state. The exhibit is open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free. For tour information, contact Bill Tharpe at 205-257-2067 or watharpe@southerco.com.

HUNTSVILLE**Sunday, January 1 – Thursday, May 31, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – *100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey Exhibition***

Visit this exhibition at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center commemorating the 100th anniversary of Wernher von Braun's birth in March 1912. Artifacts in the exhibit include not only items from his career as a rocket scientist, but also those that show a more personal side of the family man, musician, and pilot. Adult, \$20; Youth \$15; Children 3 and under, Free. For more information, call 1-800-63-SPACE or visit www.ussrc.com.

Thursday, March 22, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – *Missile To Moon***Saturday, March 24, 11:00 a.m. – Noon and 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – *Missile To Moon***

In commemoration of Wernher von Braun's 100 Birthday, *Missile To Moon*, an Alabama Public Television documentary about von Braun's and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's role in the race into Space, will premiere

to the public at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Admission to the public is Free. The *Missile to Moon* on-air broadcast premiere is Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. on APT.

MOBILE

Thursday, March 15, 5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – *An Evening In History*

The Historic Mobile Preservation Society will present Tom McGehee, curator of the Bellingrath Home during the March edition of *An Evening In History*. McGehee will present “How To Care For Your Collection” at the Oakleigh Historic Mansion. Refreshments served at 5:45 p.m. and the lecture begins at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free to HMPS members and \$10 for non-members and guests. For reservations, call 251-432-6161.

Friday and Saturday, Saturday, March 16 – Sunday, March 17, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – 2012 Mobile Historic Homes Tour

The Historic Mobile Preservation Society will hold its annual Mobile Historic Homes Tour on in the DeTonti Square Historic District. Tour participants will visit private homes in Mobile’s oldest residential neighborhood. Supporting events include cemetery tours, events at the five historic house museums and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of and \$17 for groups of 10 or more. For more information, call 251-432-6161. Proceeds benefit the Historical Mobile Preservation Society and the Oakleigh Historic Complex.

MONTGOMERY

Thursday, March 15 – Noon – 1:00 p.m. - *Architreats: Food for Thought*

The Alabama Department of Archives and History will present the March edition of *Architreats* with guest speaker Rheta Grimsley Johnson at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Johnson will present *Hank Hung the Moon . . . and Warmed Our Cold, Cold Hearts* as part of the *Becoming Alabama* initiative commemorations. *Architreats* is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. For information, visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

SELMA

Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 – Selma Pilgrimage

The Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society will hold their annual Selma Pilgrimage on Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17. This longstanding spring event will feature some of Selma’s most historic properties. Tickets are on sale at the Pilgrimage Headquarters, Vaughn-Smitherman Museum, 109 Union Street, or by calling 1-800-457-3562. For more information, visit www.selmapilgrimage.org.

OTHER

Share Preservation Statewide – Send Event Information and News Stories to the ATHP

For the e-Newsletter, send submissions by the third Friday of each month for publication in the next month’s issue. For the summer issue of *The Alabama Trustee* submit news and jpeg images by Thursday, March 15. Send submissions for both publications to alabamatrust@uwa.edu

Support Preservation In Alabama

Share the spirit of giving. Make a beginning-of-the-year gift to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. To make a contribution in support of preservation, call 205-652-3497 or donate online at www.alabamatrust.info.