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PRESERVATION
Lyceum
SERIES
— 2011 —

Preservation Lyceum Series

Lyceum - (li-se-am), a place for public lectures, debates, classes, concerts and entertainment.

Join the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation for the inaugural season of the Preservation Lyceum Series, a set of quarterly programs for preservation-minded individuals who want to know more about and visit historic preservation projects.

The 19th century Lyceum Movement that flourished in America provided hundreds of informal gatherings for the purpose of improving the social and intellectual fabric of society. Characterized by lectures and public discourse on a variety of topics and musical and theatrical performances in a retreat environment, lyceums peaked during the Antebellum Era. With the exception of the New York Great Lake's Chautauqua Institute, best known for the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, few remnants of this vibrant phenomenon remain on the national landscape.

Drawing from the past, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation's newly-formed program, the Preservation Lyceum Series, is travelling the highways, byways and crossroads of Alabama exploring, experiencing and engaging in preservation. During the late 19th century, Talladega was the headquarters for Alabama's Chautauqua movement. This summer, the third ATHP Lyceum program returns to this historic city to explore and study the historic architecture of Talladega's private homes and public spaces.

Taking the name Talladega from the Muscogee (Creek) Indian word for "border town," the county was created by an act of the Alabama General Assembly in 1832. The city of Talladega was established as the county seat in 1834. Today, the city is home to 12 sites on the National Register of Historic Places including the oldest continuously used courthouse and the oldest historically Black college in Alabama. Talladega's historic homes and public buildings reflect more than 150 years of architectural styles from Federal to Greek Revival to Gothic Revival to Romanesque to Beaux Arts Classic to Arts and Crafts to Art Deco.

Join the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation in Talladega to explore the architecture of historic Talladega.



SUMMER PRESERVATION LYCEUM

Sponsored by the
*Sponsored by the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Antique Talladega
and the Talladega Historic Preservation Commission*

When

Friday, July 15– Saturday, July 16, 2011

Where

Talladega

PROGRAM

Friday Evening

7:00 p.m. – 9:00. p.m.

Southern Hospitality: Twilight In Talladega

404 South Street, East,

Home of Evelyn and Bill McGehee

Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the historic home of Evelyn and Bill McGehee. The McGehee home (circa 1901) is a Neo Classical-styled house by Alabama architect Frank Lockwood, who also designed the local First Methodist Church and other homes in the area. Later renovations to the house added Greek Revival elements to the original structure. Attire: Casual

Saturday Morning

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m

Daybreak In Alabama

Field Trip to Historic Jemison-Turner House

Rising out of the ground like a swamp mist ... And falling out of heaven like soft dew ... the scent of pine needles ... And the smell of red clay after rain... (Excerpt, "Daybreak in Alabama," Langston Hughes) describes this field trip to the historic Jemison-Turner house. Travel Alabama country roads and fields to visit the site of the house with ATHP Executive Director, David Schneider. Learn first-hand the challenge and excitement of preservation in the field.

Listed in the 2011 Places in Peril by the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, the Jemison-Turner House (circa 1840) is historically significant for its unusual floor plan and exceptional Federal period architectural elements. It is one of two Alabama split-level raised cottages with a T-shaped floor plan that rises in the rear to include two levels. Recently donated to the ATHP, the structure will be stabilized in preparation for purchase with historic easement and relocation.

Field trip participants meet at the Ritz Theatre, Courthouse Square. Access to the Jemison-Turner site is restricted. Please indicate when registering if participating in the field trip.



8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Historic Ritz Theatre

115 Court Square, North

Coffee, Check-in and Briefing

Located in Talladega's Courthouse Square Historic District, the Historic Ritz Theatre (circa 1936) is a fine example of surviving Art Deco main street theatres. As with New York's City's Rockefeller Center, Talladega's Ritz features an opaque structural glass facade. In 1997, the historic facade was restored with "perfectly matched" antique vitrolite glass by St. Louis artisan Timothy J. Dunn. The Historic Ritz Theatre serves as a performing arts center for the community and, along with the historic Talladega Courthouse, anchors the city's Courthouse Square Historic District.

Coffee courtesy of Talladega Insurance.

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Tour of Ritz Theatre

Take a tour of the Ritz Theatre with preservation leader Bill McGehee and experience the story behind the Ritz's history and restoration.

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Preserving Talladega's Historic Core

Learn about the economic development plan for Talladega's historic courthouse district from Nancy Lutchendorf, chair, Talladega Historic Preservation Commission, and Brian Muenger, Talladega, city manager. See how the examples of restored and re-adapted spaces on courthouse square are being used to re-vitalize the historic core of the city.

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Historic Courthouse Square

Tour the adjacent historic Kenwin-Waldrep Building and Courthouse Square with Brian Muenger.

Lyceum participants will have an opportunity to visit shops in Talladega's historic courthouse district.

11:20 a.m. – Noon

Idlewild Plantation

AL Route 11 located .1 mile north of AL Route 5

Tour of Idlewild Plantation House. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Idlewild Plantation house (circa 1828) is the home of Mrs. William B. McGehee, Jr. Originally a Federal-style, four-over-four floor plan, the house was built of slave-made bricks. Today's Greek Revival appearance is attributed to a 1940s renovation.



Saturday Afternoon
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
J. L. M. Curry House
Bellevue Catering

35777 AL Highway 21

Luncheon

Dine in the J. L. M. Curry House historically significant due to its former owner Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry, an Alabama lawyer, politician, and educator who "did more than any one other man to encourage the expansion and improvement of the public school system and the establishment of training schools for teachers throughout the south." Curry was largely responsible for convincing Southern legislators of the states' responsibility for public education.

Until 2009, when it was returned to Alabama, a statue of Curry stood in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. after being replaced by a statue of Helen Keller. Keller's statue in Statuary Hall is the first of a child, the first of a person with a known disability, and the ninth of a woman. Both notable figures had historical ties to Talladega.

The J.L.M. Curry House is a simple single dwelling building. It was designed in the Greek Revival style and was completed in 1850 was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965. Today it houses Bellevue Antiques and Catering.

Presentation/Discussion: "The History and Architecture of Talladega"

Presenters

Nancy Lutchendorf, Chair, Talladega Historic Preservation Commission

Bill McGehee, founder, Antique Talladega

Ed King, Talladega historian

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Historic Talladega Architecture: Private Lives and Public Spaces

Concurrent tours; Lyceum participants choose one.

Private Lives

Experience some of Talladega's architecturally more interesting historic homes.

Silk Stocking Historic District

Tour the residential neighborhood of Talladega's Silk Stocking Historic District with its 108 historic structures. See three architectural eras: pre-1870, 1870 – 1915, and post-1915; for private residences build during these periods.

Walking/driving tour with ATHP Executive Director David Schneider: Tour begins at Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Hall Museum, 200 South St E.

Public Spaces

Tour preserved, restored or re-adapted public spaces housed in historic buildings – buildings that serve the community and vitality of one Alabama town. Experience how the past supports the present and future of Talladega. Tour begins at First Presbyterian Church.



First Presbyterian Church

103 North Street, East

Talladega's historic First Presbyterian Church (circa 1854 – 1870) continues as a place of worship for the community and is characterized by Romanesque-style architecture by John S. Stewart.

Swayne Hall

Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Talladega College Campus

Completed in 1857 as a Baptist men's college, Swayne Hall – a National Historic Landmark – was purchased in 1867 by the American Missionary Association with the assistance of the Freedmen's Bureau. Originally constructed with slave labor, the post-Civil War era building became part of Talladega College, Alabama's oldest private historically Black liberal arts institution of higher education. Swayne Hall is an important historical structure for Alabama history and African-American history. Suffering from general deterioration of interior and exterior elements, the building is undergoing restoration funded, in part, by a \$1.2 million grant provided by the Historic Black Colleges and Universities Program administered by the National Park Service.

DeForest Chapel

627 Battle Street West, Talladega College Campus

Built in 1903 in commemoration of the life and service of the Rev. Henry Swift De Forest, D.D., President of the College from 1879 to 1896, the chapel with 65 stained glass windows was renovated in 1996 and rededicated November 1996.

Tour of campus buildings with Talladega College official, Kola Arsemu.

Recommended Reading: "The Danger of History Slipping Away: The Heritage Campus and Historically Black Colleges and Universities"

<http://www.faqs.org/periodicals/201104/2325179351.html>

Manning Hall

205 East S Street, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (AIDF) Campus

The Institute started with the enrollment of two students in 1858 and grew to 22 by the end of the year. Today, the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind is the nation's most comprehensive education and service program for individuals with vision and hearing loss. It all began in Historic Manning Hall (circa 1850's), one of the original buildings of the institute and stands as a building of significant historical national importance because of that modest start. Manning Hall currently houses the president's office and other administrative departments as well as the Warren Museum and Archives with its collection of institutes memorabilia and historical documents, such as original school rolls, publications, scrapbooks and historic photographs and a communication devices dating from the 19th century.



Grace Hall

Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (AIDF) Campus

Grace Hall (circa 1878) and the Jemison House on the AIDF Campus are examples of restored historic structures serving current needs. Grace Hall is an honor dormitory for AIDF high school students.

Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Hall Museum

200 South St E

The Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Museum (circa 1906) was the Talladega Public Library. Its fine example of Beaux Arts Classic style is attributed to Frank Lockwood (1865-1936), a Montgomery architect most noted for his additions to the State Capitol. Ideally situated in the heart of the National Register of Historic Places' "Silk Stocking District," the Museum functions as a cultural arts center for Talladega and draws visitors to town from Alabama's growing tourism industry.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lemonade Tea

Historic Bungalow, Home of Ed King
503 East Street South

End the summer Lyceum weekend with a visit with bungalow-owner Ed King in his historic home (circa 1908), noted for its original woodwork and finish. What could be more soothing (or delightful) on a hot, Alabama afternoon in July? Enjoy the comfort of this home, the sweet and tart of nibbling on sweets, sipping lemonade and chatting with preservation friends before heading home along Alabama's highways and byways where honeysuckle perfumes the air and the fire flies glimmer in the evening light.

Sunday

Optional for Lyceum participants who wish to explore Talladega County and its natural history.

Cheaha State Park

The park includes Cheaha Mountain, the highest point in Alabama at 2,407-foot, and has numerous hiking trails: Bald Rock, Odum Scout, Lake, Rock Garden and Pulpit Rock as well as Cheaha and Cinnabee lakes. The Park's original facilities, constructed with native rock and timber, were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

For more information: <http://www.alapark.com/CheahaResort/>

Talladega National Forest

Talladega National Forest covers more than 392,000 acres at the southern edge of the Appalachians. Before it was bought by the federal government in the 1930s, the Talladega portion of the forest was extensively logged and represented some of the most abused, eroded wastelands in all of Alabama. With the re-growth of the native pine forest the area is home to a diverse eco-system. The forest includes rugged mountains, forests, waterfalls and streams as well as Cheaha Wilderness near Rebecca Mountain. For more information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talladega_National_Forest.



Talladega Scenic Byway

Talladega Scenic Byway, a part of Talladega National Forest, winds along Horseblock and Cheaha Mountains, the backbone of the southern Appalachian Mountains. The views along the way are spectacular. During the summer a blue haze, similar to the Blue Ridge Mountains, can be seen. The Pinhoti National Recreation Trail has trailheads at several points along the byway and touches Cheaha Mountain. For more information: <http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/2057/>

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Holiday Inn Express and Spa

240 Haynes Street
Talladega, AL 35160

For Reservations:

Call the hotel reservation desk at **256-362-7780**.

Request rate for the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation.

Deadline for Group Rate: Monday, July 11

PRESERVATION LYCEUM REGISTRATION

Summer, 2011 – Talladega

Lyceum Weekend packets with tour information available for pick-up at Friday afternoon at the Holiday Inn Express or Saturday morning at check-in.

For ATHP Members

\$50 per person

Includes Saturday lunch and Lemonade Tea

For Non-Members

\$75 per person

Includes Saturday lunch, Lemonade Tea and one-year membership in the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

If Payment by Check, make check payable to **The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation**.
Mail to: ATHP, UWA Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470.

If Payment by Credit Card, mail to the ATHP, UWA Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470 or call 205-652-3497.

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To make reservations by phone, call the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation at 205-652-3497.