



April 2016

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Alerts

Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation - Board Meeting, 200 - 4:30 p.m. - Friday, April 8

Meetings of the board of directors of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation are open to Trust members and to the public. Location: B.B. Comer Memorial Library, 314 N. Broadway, Sylacauga.

Alabama Preservation Lyceum - Friday, April 8 - Saturday, April 9 - Register Now!

Tour and dine around Alabama's historic Coosa River Valley. Visit historic farmsteads - Averiett Russell Butts, Hamilton Place, Watters Farm and Welch Springs. Hear the stories of Sylacauga marble and textiles. Enjoy a glass of wine at the historic log homestead of Faye and Marc Butts, break bread together at the historic home of Martha and Joe Turner, dine on shrimp and locally-milled grits at the Kamulga Grist Mill and partake in a wiener roast with Averiett and Travis Wesson at their historic Old Averiett Homeplace. For more details and registration, visit www.alabamatrust.info or <https://www.facebook.com/alabamatrustforhistoricplaces>.



Russell-Butts Farmstead

Alabama - A Taste of the South - Sunday, April 10 - Make Reservations Now!

Don't miss these culinary treats benefiting the programs and services of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. For **Coffee with the Chef** and a **Southern Sunday Brunch**, join Alabama native, award-winning chef and culinary author **Scott Peacock** at the Chancellor House in Harpersville. At 9:00 a.m., enjoy coffee with the chef, a discussion of traditional southern foodways and a walk through the Chancellor House's early spring garden. From 10:30 - 12:30, dine on fresh, organically-grown dishes prepared from Peacock's recipes. For more information and to make reservations, visit www.alabamatrust.info or www.facebook.com/alabamatrustforhistoricplaces.



Chef Scott Peacock

Widely recognized as a culinary treasure of the South, Scott Peacock is one of the nation's most respected and influential chefs. Peacock has been at the forefront of the local food movement since the early 1990s, when he and his longtime friend and collaborator, the culinary legend Edna Lewis, co-founded the Society For the Revival and Preservation of Southern Food and authors of The Gift of Southern Cooking.

Alabama Heritage Walking Tours

Dogwood, native azaleas and redbud trees are blooming across the Alabama welcoming heritage tourists strolling the streets of our historic downtowns and neighborhoods. From Athens to Atmore, from Birmingham to Butler, from Decatur to Demopolis, from Fairhope to Florence and from Mobile to Mooresville, Alabama shows off its historic treasures to all who are interested. For dates and details, visit Alabama Tourism website <http://alabama.travel/trails/april-walking-tours>.



Alabama Main Street Refresh Webinar - Tuesday, May 17

Presenter Matthew Wagner, Ph.D./Vice President of Revitalization Programs for the National Main Street Center. Registration for this 90-minute webinar opens April 4. Learn new strategies to re-vitalize America's historic downtowns and communities. The National Main Street Center has launched the **Refreshed Main Street Approach**. Learn how to harnesses the social, economic, physical and cultural assets of your community to garner greater quantitative and qualitative outcomes. For more information, email marylon@mainstreetalabama.org.

MARK CALENDARS - IMPORTANT PRESERVATION DEADLINES & EVENTS

Alabama Historical Commission - Call for Nominations - 2016 Preservation Awards

The Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council seek nominations for the 2016 Historic Preservation Awards. Recipients will be honored during the Alabama Preservation Conference being held in conjunction with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) in Mobile, July 27-31. For more information regarding awards, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to download the nomination form. Deadline: Sunday, May 15.

Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation - Call for Nominations - 2016 Preservation Awards

The ATHP seeks nominations for the Trust's 2016 Preservation Awards. Awards will be presented to honorees during the Alabama Preservation Conference being held in conjunction with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) in Mobile, July 27-31. For more information and nomination form, click [here](#). Deadline: June 1

Grants for Preservation - National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance

This grants help small and mid-sized institutions-such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities-improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections - and may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials.

Deadline: May 23, 2016. **Website:** www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions.



Preservation Conferences - Hip.Happening.Historic.Preservation@50

Don't miss these biennial events - the Alabama Preservation Conference and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Conferences, *Hip.Happening.Historic.Preservation@50*, to be held jointly in Mobile, July 27 - 31. *Hip.Happening.Historic.Preservation@50* celebrates the 50th anniversary of the National Preservation Act and 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service.

This joint conference is for preservation lay people, professionals, and volunteers and includes educational sessions and discussion panels, mobile workshops and tours, and five days of non-stop networking for commission staff and volunteers representing local, state and national

organizations and government agencies. The National Alliance of Preservation Commission (NAPC), the only national conference focused on issues facing local historic preservation commissions. Whether it's mitigating the impact of sea level rise, protecting resources of the recent past or recognizing the contributions of diverse cultures to our shared heritage, historic preservation commissions play a key role in saving historic places.

Hip.Happening.Historic.Preservation@50 includes special events at historic sites and the Alabama's Preservation Awards Ceremony and Luncheon. Conference partners include the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Black Heritage Conference of Mobile and City of Mobile. A preliminary conference program is available at www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1772691.

Events

BULLOCK COUNTY



Thursday, April 28 - Saturday, April 30 - Theatre Performance, *Doublewide, Texas*

A hilarious, fast-paced comedy about the inhabitants of one of the smallest trailer parks in the Great State of Texas - four doublewides and a shed. Location: Red Door Theatre, Intersection of Prairie Street & US Highway 82, Union Springs. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; theatre at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: Dinner Reservations, \$15; Theatre Tickets, \$15. For reservations, tickets or information, email conecuhpeople@knology.net or call 334-738-8687.

ETOWAH COUNTY



Friday, April 1 - Thursday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Exhibition, *Hometown Teams*

Hometown Teams, the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, a part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program, is on its Alabama tour. *Hometown Teams* looks at the social and cultural role of sports and athletics in small town America from the earliest days of our nation up to the present across all demographics. Associated programs of the exhibition include a coaches' forum, Alabama Sports Hall of Fame speaker and other sports related events are planned throughout the exhibit period. Admission: Free. Opening Location: Gadsden Public Library, 254 S. College Street, Gadsden. Sponsors: The Smithsonian Institute and Alabama Humanities Foundation with key support from the Alabama Power Foundation, Norfolk-Southern Railroad, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, Alfa Insurance and AAA Cooper Transportation. For program information and exhibit schedules in Alabama go to <http://www.alabamahumanities.org/programs/museum-main/>.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - *The OAT Spring Along*

Old Alabama Town (OAT) comes alive in the celebration of Spring! Visit with the OAT villagers and experience what the season was like in the 19th century. Prolong your visit for a special OAT Revue featuring Karren Pell, the OAT Revue Crue and many special guests, including American Idol Finalist, Jess Meuse, and ASF's Greta Lambert! *It's a Spring Fling Thing* that will showcase a variety of guests and talents including singing, songwriting and storytelling! Location: Old Alabama Town, 301 Columbus Street, Montgomery. Sponsor: Landmarks Foundation of

Montgomery. For more information and admission fee, visit www.oldalabamatown.com.

Sunday, April 10, 2:00 p.m. - Trekking Through the Past

Walking tour of the historic Huntington College campus. *Comfortable walking shoes and bottle of water recommended.* Admission: Landmarks Members, free; Non-Members, \$10. Sponsor: Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery. For more information and start location, email marketing@oldalabamatown.com or call 334-240-4500. If rain, check [Facebook](#) for news on possible cancellations or rescheduled rain date.

Thursday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. - Curators Tour of Old Alabama Town

Experience Old Alabama Town's collections of artifacts and historic interiors. Explore OAT's historic treasures with the museum's curator. Location: Old Alabama Town, 301 Columbus Street, Montgomery. Sponsor: Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery. For more information, visit www.oldalabamatown.com.

Thursday, April 21, Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Food for Thought

A lunch-time lecture series offered the third Thursday of every month. Presentation by Watt Key, Adventures in Alabama's Mobile Tensaw-Delta. Location: Farley Auditorium, Alabama Dept. of Archives and History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery. Admission: Free. Sponsors: Friends of the Alabama Archives and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

SUMTER COUNTY



Thursday, April 14, 2:00 p.m. - Black Belt Symposium - Two Novels of Harper Lee: From Classic to Contemporary

This year's Black Belt Symposium on Literature will feature keynote speaker Dr. Phil Beidler of the University of Alabama, speaking on "Watchman and Mockingbird/Mockingbird and Watchman: the Archaeologies." A panel discussion to follow. Location: Bell Conference Center, University of West

Alabama, 97 Webb Circle, Livingston. Admission: No Fee. Sponsor: Center for the Study of the Black Belt and the Department of Languages and Literature. For more information, visit www.centerforblackbelt.org.



Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Sucarnochee Folklife Festival

The Sucarnochee Folklife Festival celebrates 12 years of the unique life ways of Alabama's Black Belt region. This year's event joins the Alabama Department of Tourism in recognizing the importance of all makers across the state, including skilled craft workers, to musicians, writers, and food artisans. The day will feature live music, food competitions, games, arts and crafts, and a walking ghost tour. Location: McConnell Field/Lyon Hall Quad, University of West Alabama, 66 Bibb Graves Drive, Livingston. Admission: No Fee. Sponsor: Center for the Study of the Black Belt, Black Belt Museum and the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, with funding from the Alabama State Council on the Arts

and the Black Belt Community Foundation. For more information, visit www.centerforblackbelt.org.



Friday, April 22, noon - 2:00 p.m. - ALABAMA 200 - Informational Session

On December 14, 1819, Alabama became the 22nd state of the United States. Attendees will receive information about ALABAMA 200 and share ideas. Presenters will include ALABAMA 200 Local Activity Committee co-chairs and members, ALABAMA 200 staff, project partners, funders, and resource providers. Location: Young Hall Cafeteria, University of West Alabama, Tiger Drive, Livingston. No

Admission, but registration needed for lunch count. Sponsor: Alabama Bicentennial Commission and Division of Economic Development and Outreach. For information, go to www.Alabama200.org. To register, click [here](#).

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Thursday, April 14, 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Sundown Lecture Series

Presentation by Caitlin Huber, *A Portrait of Alfred Battle - Planter and Business Man*. Location: Historic Jemison-Van de Graff Mansion, 1305 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa. Admission: TCPS Members; free; Non-Members, \$5. For more information, www.historictuscaloosa.org/index.php?page=events.

News



Alabama To Get New National Park? - Civil Rights Heritage Comes of Age

Last week, U. S. Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-AL-7) filed H.R. 4817, a bill to designate Birmingham's Historic Civil Rights District as a national park. Stated Sewell, "With this designation, historic preservation efforts will be enhanced for these historic sites, greater economic revitalization will occur, and it will forever cement the pivotal role Birmingham played in the Civil Rights Movement." The proposed National Civil Rights Park would include **16th Street Baptist Church, A.G. Gaston Motel, Kelly Ingram Park, Bethel Baptist Church** and the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**, among other significant Civil Rights sites of the City.

If successful, passage of the H.R. 4817 would boost heritage tourism for Birmingham and the state of Alabama. The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** stands in favor of the bill as do the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, City of Birmingham** and **National Parks Conservation Association**, among others.

To learn more, visit www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/22/birminghams-civil-rights-sites-national-park-service/82134070/.

A "National Historic Park" designation by the National Park Service (NPS) is defined as particularly notable because of its connection with events or people of historic interest. Such entities often extend beyond a single property or building. Many are not traditional "parks" in the sense of extensive green spaces, but are rather urban areas with a number of historically relevant buildings. While Alabama has NPS landmarks, monuments, parkways, preserves, sites and trails, it currently has only one National Park - the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.

Alabama Legislative Updates - Historic Preservation

Before the Alabama Senate and Legislature are proposed bills impacting historic preservation efforts in the state, particularly the reauthorization of the Alabama Historic Commission and renewal of the three-year old Alabama Rehabilitation Tax Credit. The week before the Easter break, the status of some of these bills was as follows. *Updates provided by the Alabama Historical Commission.*

House Bill 3 - The Moving or Renaming of Monuments

Sponsor: Representative Paul Beckman, District 88

Status: HB 3 received no consent by the House committee and was referred to the subcommittee of State Government.

Senate Bill 13 - The Moving or Renaming of Monuments

Sponsor: Senator Gerald Allen, District 21

Status: Meetings with Senator Gerald Allen and Representatives Mark Tuggle and Chris Pringle. No amendment to the bill was introduced.

Senate Bill 51 - Alabama Historic Commission Sunset Legislation

Sponsor: Senator Paul Bussman, District 4

Status: SB 51 passed by the House of Representatives and Senate, signed by the Governor. Reauthorizes the Alabama Historical Commission for three years.

House Bill 62 - Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit

Sponsor: Representative Victor Gaston, District 100

Status: HB 62 is #2 on the House Special Order Calendar for April 5, 2016. The proration amendment was tabled on Tuesday, March 22, with a 69-20 vote. Phil Williams says he will come back with a similar amendment. The goal is to continue to discuss HB 62 with Legislators and why a proration amendment doesn't work for this particular program. Also, the rural counties amendment will need to be introduced.

Senate Bill 125 - General Fund Budget

Sponsor: Senator Trip Pittman, District 32

SB 125 proposes a reduction in state appropriations for Alabama state agencies funded from the General Fund. The Alabama Historical Commission's (AHC) annual budget is an allocation from the General Fund. As most state agencies, the AHC received a 5% reduction in funding from its Fiscal Year 2016 General Fund appropriation.

Status: Passed by the House of Representatives, sent to the Senate to concur or send to a conference committee of the House and Senate.

Senate Bill 133 - Adding Representation from the Black Heritage Council of Alabama to the AHC Commission

Sponsors: Senators Michael Figures, District 33, and Paul Bussman, District 4

SB 133 bill waiting for the 3rd reading in the House of Representatives Board, Agencies and Commissions Committee on March 2.



Alabama Preservation Professional Recognized - Doug Purcell Awarded the DAR Historic Preservation Medal

On April 22, Doug Purcell will be honored with the prestigious DAR Historic Preservation Medal from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The award recognizes individuals who have done extraordinary work in historic preservation over a long period of time. According to the DAR, only about 30 of these awards are presented each year throughout the United States. As the founding director for the bi-state commission, Historic

Chattahooche Trace Commission, Purcell served for 39 years bringing attention to the vast contributions of individuals and communities of east Alabama and West Georgia to the rest of the United States. Upon retirement, Purcell did not cease to serve. Instead, he continued to serve the public by promoting ongoing initiatives such as the Save Eufaula Avenue campaign, promoting the Eufaula Pilgrimage, and working with organizations statewide to bring attention to preservation issues such as decreased funding and organizational cuts.



Jessie Owen Museum Gets A Boost - Why Historic Preservation Matters

Playing in theatres across the U.S., "Race" the movie about Alabama-born and four-gold-medal winner Jesse Owen, will draw an increased number heritage tourists to the Olympic sprinter's boyhood home in Oakville, Alabama. The movie is expected promote an additional 10,000 visitors to Oakville to the Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum. The estimated impact is \$350,000 to the region's economy. To prepare for the anticipated increase of people visiting the small, Tennessee River Valley, 34,300 citizen town, a \$9,136 grant, administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, will be used to install new directional highway signs to the museum and to reconstruct Owens childhood home. To read more, visit <http://quadcitiesdaily.com/?p=307118>.



Historic Melrose - An Alabama Treasure Lost

From Ninon Parker of the Colbert County Landmarks Foundation comes word that another early Alabama landmark is gone. "Melrose," one of the state's few remaining Tidewater-type ("Williamsburg") cottages, was bulldozed last month by a local landowner. The house dated from around 1830 and stood not far from the State-owned Belle Mont mansion, which Trust members toured during the May 2014 annual meeting in Florence. Resting on a high English basement, Melrose had been heavily altered over the years. Green asbestos-shingle siding covered original clapboards. Random metal windows had replaced original multi-paned sashing flanked by louvered shutters. And both the handsome double-leaf doorway and small framing portico had been stripped away. Half-story dormer windows, too, had disappeared. Yet the bones of the house were solid underneath, and the steeply-pitched roof and massive end chimneys still defined Melrose as a special piece of Alabama architecture -- a link to the older cultural tradition of the Atlantic seaboard back to colonial days. Probably built for David Goodloe, a planter originally from eastern North Carolina's Granville County, Melrose later became the home of Virginia-born Peter Fontaine Armistead, II, and his wife, Mary Susan Winston of nearby Belle Mont. Until recently sold, the house was owned by the Cook family.

The Old Federal Reserve Bank Building - An Alabama Treasure Saved

Harbert Realty and Capstone Real Estate unveiled a \$20M plan to restore and re-adapt the former Federal Reserve Building into office and retail space in downtown Birmingham. The historic building has been vacant since 2000 and, at one time, was threatened by demotion to create a parking lot. Preservation of the bank building will return 85,000 square feet of commercial space to the Magic City's core. The first tenant will be Urban Cookhouse, a favorite Birmingham restaurant with other locations in the greater Birmingham area.

The original Federal Reserve building (1927) still contains the vault and some architectural features. Harbert and Capstone will restore the original columns at the entrance of the structure. Other building improvements will include a new roof, glass and glazing and a restored building skin, as well as new HVAC systems, electrical systems, life safety and fire sprinkler systems, elevators and plumbing installation.

The project received approval for an Alabama Historical Rehabilitation Tax Credit, which is set to sunset this year unless extended by the Alabama Legislature. (See above Legislative Update.)



SHARE PRESERVATION NEWS AND STORIES STATEWIDE

Send Event Information and News Stories to the ATHP

Email information for the May issue of the *Preservation e-Newsletter* by April 20 to alabamatrust@athp.org. Please mark as Attention: E-News.



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