



May 2016

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News From The Trust

May Is National Preservation Month

National Preservation Month

This month is National Preservation Month. Celebrate the preservation of Alabama's history with a gift to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. To make a gift and help save Alabama's historic places, click [here](#).

Alabama's 2016 Places In Peril To Be Released

In celebration of National Historic Preservation Month, the Alabama Trust will release the 2016 list of Alabama endangered properties. Watch for this announcement mid-month.



Historic Tax Credit - Still Fighting For Renewal

As we draft this edition of eNews, the fate of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Renewal Bill, HB 62, remains unchanged. While the preservation community across the state has been called to unite and advocate for movement on HB 62, Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh, Anniston, continues to hold the bill, not assigning it to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development. Without committee assignment, the bill cannot move forward to the floor for a vote and the Historic

Rehabilitation Tax Credit Renewal Bill will die.

The bill successfully passed through the state House of Representatives with a 91-4 vote. In the Senate, HB 62 is sponsored by 32 of the 35 members of the Senate. Unfortunately Senator Marsh, along with Senators Orr and Pittman, joined forces to see that the bill would not move through the required process during this session. The result is that the current tax credit bill will expire in a few weeks. This is a sad commentary on Alabama politics and the results of a proven preservation success story ends.

We are still asking everyone to advocate for this bill now.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is helping in our efforts and has developed a quick link that is being used for advocacy. Please click the link below, fill in your information, and a letter will be sent directly to your legislator by the National Trust. It takes seconds to do and can make a big impact.

<https://secure2.convio.net/nthp/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1090>

We are also asking that everyone continue to write, call and email Senators Marsh, Orr and Pittman to show your support of HB 62.

Senator Del Marsh: Phone (334) 242-7877 - Email: del.marsh@alsenate.gov

Senator Arthur Orr: Phone (334) 242-7891 -Email: arthur.orr@alsenate.gov

Senator Lee "Trip" Pittman: Phone (334) 242-7897 Email: trip.pittman@alsenate.gov

Since the inception of Alabama's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, 60 projects have been undertaken with \$400,000,000 in private investment leveraged. These projects range from the newly restored Lyric Theater in Birmingham to smaller historic buildings located throughout the state.

John Leith-Tetrault, public policy advisor for the National Trust Community Investment Corporation, reports that historic tax credit projects are 99% successful. The national average cost to restore and repurpose a historic property is \$150 per square foot, with new construction costing \$115 per square foot. Both the state and federal tax credits help close this gap, leveling the field for historic restoration projects.

Across the United States, 34 states have a historic tax credit program with our sister states of Texas uncapping their tax credit in 2014, Georgia increasing their tax program in 2015, and Mississippi renewing their program this year.

We are all still in hopes that the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Renewal Bill will come up in the next legislative session. Everyone is needed to help fight this preservation fight again. For updated articles, please visit our Facebook page at [Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation](#).



The Trust Joins Advanced Alabama

The Alabama Trust has joined *Advance Alabama*, a grassroots organization formed by the leading preservation, economic development and community organizations across the state. The purpose of the group is to join forces to restore the Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and help revitalize Main Streets across the state. Among the partners are Main Street Alabama, Alabama Historical Commission, Birmingham Business Alliance, Business Council of Alabama, Coastal Alabama Partnership, AIA Alabama, Downtown Mobile Alliance, REV Birmingham and many more.

A website, www.advancealabama.org and a Facebook page, [Advance Alabama](#), have been established to provide information and advocacy tools for everyone to use. We are asking all Trust members to please "like" their Facebook page. We need everyone to advocate now by contacting your legislators and engaging your friends. You can find the Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Economic Impact Study, the Executive Summary and Quick Facts posted, along with information on each AHRTC project from Tusculumbia to Mobile. There are also listings of the Alabama legislators to provide quick access to contact info for your Senator and Representative.

A tool that we are using to tell preservation stories is the This Place Matters - Alabama 1919-2019 campaign. Please print the poster graphic, gather in front of the historic property that matters in your town, take a photo, and post to the [Advance Alabama](#) Facebook page. We want to show all the places that matter in Alabama to our elected officials.

Trust Helping In National Efforts

The Alabama Trust has joined forces with states across the nation to advocate for the passage of the federal Historic Tax Credit Improvement Act. With the uncertainty of Alabama's historic tax credit program, this federal historic tax program will be needed more than ever to help move forward historic preservation projects in Alabama.

U.S. Representative Bradley Byrne is a co-sponsor of HR3846.

New Membership Levels Created

The Alabama Trust has created two new membership levels: Student Level for \$25 and Non-Profit Organization level for \$50.

In an effort to engage our historic preservation organizations, historic neighborhood organizations, historic districts and 'friends of' societies, we have created this very affordable level of membership. As a member of the Trust, you will receive event listings on our facebook page calendar of events and in the Trust's eNews, along with notices and invitations to our events and educational programs. We invite all preservation groups across the state to become a member of the Alabama Trust.

Students will enjoy all the benefits of a full membership when joining at the \$25 level. This membership includes receiving our monthly eNews, event invitations and reminders, and copies of our newsletter *The Trustee*.

We invite everyone to join the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, our state's preservation advocacy group. Your voice matters in Alabama's historic preservation.

Preservation Awards Deadline Nears

The Alabama Trust For Historic Preservation is accepting nominations for the 2016 ATHP Preservation Awards. Awards will be given in the categories of Restoration, Rehabilitation, Preservation Services and the Gwendolyn C. Turner Award for long and outstanding preservation service. To submit a nomination, please click [here](#). Deadline for submission is Friday, May 13. The awards will be presented on Friday, July 28, at the Alabama Preservation Awards Luncheon, in Mobile.



Hip. Happening. Historic. Preservation@50 - Wednesday, July 27 - Sunday, July 31

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. *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 Council of Alabama, the Mobile Historic Development Commission and the City of Mobile. A preliminary conference program is available at www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1772691.



Spring Lyceum A Huge Success

The Alabama Trust would like to extend our thanks to our preservation friends in Sylacauga for hosting a beautiful and informative Lyceum. Our heartfelt thanks to the Sylacauga Marble Quarry and Alabama Marble, Mineral and Mining Company along with Jacob Swindal; B. B.

Comer Library, Ruth Beaumont Cook and their staff; Black Sheep Antiques and Barbara and Sonny Adkins; Faye and Marc Butts; Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington; Lillian Graham; Pana and Bob Norred; Chris and Jimmy Pursell; Craig Crockard; Alabama Power Foundation; and Martha and Joe Turner. A very special thank you goes to Averiett and Travis

Wesson and Peggy Hair for their hard work organizing this very successful event.

Join Now

Watch for our online Membership Campaign to launch this month. If you are not a member of the Trust, we'd like to invite you to join. To help make the process easy, we will be adding features to both our Facebook page and website. Watch for invitation to come later this month.

From Our Partners

National Trust's This Place Matters Campaign Gearing Up For May

Preservation groups across the state are encouraged to participate in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's This Place Matters Campaign. The campaign, initiated several years ago, is designed to draw attention to endangered properties and those historic structures that have been restored and celebrated for their contribution to their communities. To download a toolkit, please visit the National Trust's website and submit your community's endangered property.

[https://savingplaces.org/thisplacematterstoolkit?](https://savingplaces.org/thisplacematterstoolkit?utm_medium=email&utm_source=OUTR_TPM&utm_campaign=Preservation_Month#.VyZfITEjcwA)

[utm_medium=email&utm_source=OUTR_TPM&utm_campaign=Preservation_Month#.VyZfITEjcwA](https://savingplaces.org/thisplacematterstoolkit?utm_medium=email&utm_source=OUTR_TPM&utm_campaign=Preservation_Month#.VyZfITEjcwA)



Alabama Historical Commission Call for Nominations

The Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council of Alabama 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. Click [here](#) to download the nomination form. Deadline: Sunday, May 15.

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 opened April 4. Learn new strategies to revitalize America's historic downtowns and communities. The National Main Street Center has launched the Refreshed Main Street Approach. Learn how to harness the social, economic, physical and cultural assets of your community to garner greater quantitative and qualitative outcomes. For more information, email marylon@mainstreetalabama.org. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

B. B. Comer Bridge Slated For Demolition

Reports indicate that the 1930s B.B. Comer Bridge that spans the Tennessee River on Highway 35 in Scottsboro is slated to be demolished. Advocacy to turn the bridge into a pedestrian bridge has failed. Efforts were made by Scottsboro residents and preservationists across the state to save this iconic bridge. The bridge will be destroyed once ALDOT constructs the new bridge.

Save The Roundhouse

The Apipco-Finley Neighborhood Association will hold a meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Acipco, 1629 32nd Avenue North, Birmingham, to begin the efforts to organize to save the Finley Roundhouse. Members of Birmingham's preservation and neighborhood associates will be in attendance. If you would like to help, please attend.

Upcoming Events

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Saturday, May 14, 9:00 a.m. - Noon - Spring Walking Tour: One Architect's View

Don't miss this walk through Birmingham's historic Forest Park neighborhood with Jeff Dungan, AIA. Explore with Dungan a modern approach to traditional vernaculars and classical architectures. Learn more about identifying styles, materials and proportions of "timeless" residences. Location: Disclosed upon registration. Admission: Vulcan Park and Museum Members, \$10 each; Non-Members, \$12 each. Sponsor: Vulcan Park and Museum. For more information and to register, visit <http://visitvulcan.com/event/spring-walking-tour-3/#.VyJbbDL2aM8>.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Saturday, May 7, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Some Like It Hot

This year's Old Alabama Town's Herb Society (OATHS) 19th Annual Herb Day Festival offers herb enthusiasts and neophytes everything from plant vendors, growing tips, and cooking demonstrations as well as music in the Old Alabama Town's gardens. Location: Lucas Tavern, Old Alabama Town, 310 Hull Street, Montgomery. Admission: Free. Sponsors: Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery and OATHS. For more information, visit www.aldalabamatown.com. For event flyer, click [here](#).

Thursday, May 12, 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.aldalabamatown.com.

Thursday, May 19, Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Food for Thought

A lunchtime lecture series offered the third Thursday of every month. May presentation by Karen Utz, author and curator, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, *Music of Birmingham District's Mines, Railroads and Mills*. Location: Farley Auditorium, Alabama Department 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.



Friday, May 20 - Saturday, May 21 - 55th Anniversary of 1961 Freedom Rides

Commemorate and honor, with a series of events, the 55th Anniversary of the historic civil rights Freedom Rides. The Freedom Riders' efforts in 1961 led to the desegregation of all interstate facilities including bus stations, train stations, and airports and the federal government's active role in the fight for civil rights. Location: Freedom Rides Museum, 210 S

Court Street, Montgomery. Sponsor: Alabama Historical Commission. For listing of events and more information, visit www.freedomridemuseum.org.

SUMTER and WILCOX COUNTIES



Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21 - Common Threads: Empowering Communities through Education in the Arts

The Black Belt Treasurers and Cultural Arts Center and the University of West Alabama's (UWA) Division of Economic Development and Outreach will lead two days of activities to fulfill Session #5 of *Common Threads: Empowering Communities through Education in the Arts*, an initiative of the Alabama Folklife Association (AFA). Dedicated to the Black Belt Quilt Trail (BBQT), this unique session will include tours of existing quilt blocks located at sites along the trail and informative presentations and workshops that will provide participants with ideas, tools, and resources to make their own block and become a part of the trail. Along the way, there will be opportunities to meet artists and view quilts. Admission: Free. Location: *Day 1* - Black Belt Treasurers Cultural Art Center, 209 Claiborne Street, Camden; *Day 2* - Center for the Study of the Black

Belt, Kelly Land Hall, The University of West Alabama, Livingston. For an event flyer, click [here](#). For an interactive information sheet, click [here](#). For event registration, click [here](#).

WINSTON COUNTY



Through Saturday, June 4 - 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. Admission: Free. Location:

Downtown Mall, 920 20th Street, Haleyville. 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 more information, visit www.alabamahumanities.org.

Preservation Funding

Alabama Humanities Foundation

Funding for projects that serve a wide variety of audiences including library and museum patrons, teachers and scholars and youth, among others. Grants are awarded solely for public humanities projects. For questions, contact Thomas Bryant at tbryant@alabamahumanities.org or 205-558-3997.

Preliminary Proposal Deadline: accepted until Friday, May 13, 2016.

Final Proposal Deadline: Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

Website: www.alabamahumanities.org/grants/.



National Endowment for the Humanities - Preservation Assistance

Grants help small and mid-sized institutions. These include libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities. Grants 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: Monday, May 23, 2016.

Website: www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions.

National Trust for Historic Preservation - Gwyn Turner Preservation Fund for Alabama

The Gwyn Turner Preservation Fund for Alabama serves preservation at the local level by providing seed money for preservation projects within the state. Grants awarded by the fund are intended to be used to stimulate public discussion, enable local groups to gain the technical expertise needed for particular projects, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, and encourage financial participation by the private sector.

Applications are received through the National Trust Preservation Fund. Consultation with and a Letter of Support from the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation is encouraged. Grant awards typically range from \$2,500 - \$5,000, although some awards may be more or less.

Deadline: Wednesday, June 1, 2016.

Website: www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/preservation-funds-guidelines-eligibility.html#.VxkSyvkrLcs.

SHARE PRESERVATION NEWS AND STORIES STATEWIDE

Send Event Information and News Stories to the ATHP

Email information for the June issue of the ATHP eNews by May 20 to alabamatrust@athp.org. Please mark as Attention: eNews.



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