



ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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72ND ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 25-27, 2019 | TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA



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*Cover Photo:
Capitol Ruins, courtesy of Rebecca Minder.*

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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.



Valerie Pope Burnes

Happy birthday, Alabama! The Alabama Historical Association is excited to celebrate our state's Bicentennial by hosting our 2019 annual meeting in Tuscaloosa, the home of Alabama's second capital. As always, we have a wonderful slate of papers and tour sites lined up. Many of the

sites we visit during our pilgrimages and annual meetings still exist because of the work of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, along with their partners, the Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council. To highlight the work the ATHP, AHC, and BHC do to preserve important sites throughout the state, as well as bring attention to the historical research conducted by members of the Alabama Historical Association which is necessary for the Trust and its partners to document and advocate for historically significant places, the AHA is partnering with these groups to create an extended conference for you this year. The Trust will begin their sessions on Thursday, April 25, and they invite AHA members to attend their sessions, which are outlined in this newsletter. Our groups will have a joint get-together on Thursday evening at the historic Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion, and Trust members will join AHA folks on Friday for our morning sessions and afternoon tours. We will finish our joint festivities on Friday evening with our awards banquet, where our speaker will be the talented and entertaining Bobby Horton. The AHA and ATHP will present annual awards at Friday's banquet, so members of both organizations can gain a better understanding of the focus of each group. As always, the Alabama Historical Association will cap off our meeting with Saturday morning sessions, lunch, and the president's message.

The AHA is thankful to its members in Tuscaloosa who have put together a fantastic meeting, and brought together diverse groups and their sites, to offer our organization a true picture of the history of Tuscaloosa and its place in Alabama's story. Rebecca Todd Minder deserves extra recognition for pulling together these varied groups to give attendees a multi-layered glimpse into the area's past. For those who attended our last annual meeting in Tuscaloosa almost a decade ago, we will revisit the Drish House, which was under restoration on our last visit. It is now fully restored and is a great example of the work made possible through historic preservation tax credits. You will also have a chance to visit the ruins at Capitol Park, the site of our second capital building, as well as a new building – the Federal Courthouse – where you can admire murals that will become an important place for visitors to Tuscaloosa for years to come.

We look forward to celebrating Alabama's bicentennial in conjunction with Tuscaloosa's bicentennial in 2019. If you have not yet done so, visit Alabama200.org to see the hundreds of ways that Alabamians are celebrating her birthday, and be sure that the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association is a part of your Bicentennial celebration. I look forward to seeing everyone in Tuscaloosa April 25-27!

Valerie Pope Burnes

Dr. Valerie Burnes, President

A Sampling of Tuscaloosa's Historic Architecture

Dr. Robert O. Mellown

The city of Tuscaloosa celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. It was incorporated on December 13, 1819—one day before President Monroe signed the resolution admitting Alabama into the Union as the twenty-second state. Although the settlement had an idyllic location at the fall line of the Black Warrior River, it was no more than a small cluster of log cabins and rustic board shanties. Yet over the next several years, the construction of modest frame houses and brick stores gave the small community a sense of permanence and order; and then in the mid-1820s, with the building of the state capitol and university, Tuscaloosa began to be recognized for its architectural distinction. The buildings illustrated here provide a sampling of Tuscaloosa's most significant landmarks over the past two centuries.

The Alabama Capitol and University of Alabama campus were among the most innovative and handsome structures of their type built in the young republic. Alabama's state architect, William Nichols, who had earlier served in that capacity for North

Carolina, was inspired by the national capitol in Washington, DC, as well as by his earlier designs used in remodeling the state house in Raleigh. Nichols later, as state architect of Mississippi, used ideas from these structures in his imposing capitol in Jackson. While working on the Alabama capitol, the architect was commissioned to design and build the University of Alabama campus. His innovative design was based on work he had previously done at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was also strongly influenced by Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia, whose plan was greatly admired by members of the University of Alabama Board of Trustees. Nichols would also employ elements from his Alabama and North Carolina plans to create the University of Mississippi campus at Oxford.

The University of Alabama campus was burned by Federal troops in April 1865. The former Alabama capitol remained until 1923 – it was used as a girls' school—when it, too, was destroyed by fire. These buildings had become such integral components of the history of Tuscaloosa that their sites were not allowed to be forgotten. Today Capitol Park and the Main Quadrangle at the University of Alabama are palimpsests—sites of lost buildings and historic events, repurposed and altered, yet still bearing visible traces of their past.

The original building of the Alabama Insane (Bryce) Hospital, now a part of the University of Alabama campus, is of national architectural significance because of its innovative design. A committee of Alabama physicians traveled to Philadelphia in 1852 to consult with Dr. Thomas Kirkbride, the foremost authority on asylum design. Kirkbride, working with his favorite architect, Samuel Sloan, then created the "Alabama Plan" for the proposed Tuscaloosa building. The doctor published the plan in 1854 in his seminal book on the construction of insane hospitals. By the end of the century, more than 100 asylums across the United States and Canada exhibited architectural features directly traceable to the Alabama Hospital. Based



The Alabama Capitol, ca. 1900. Courtesy of The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.



*Engraving of the original Univ. of Ala. campus from LaTourette Map, 1837.
Photo courtesy The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.*

on a reform movement in mental health therapy known as “moral treatment,” the 250-bed hospital reflected progressive ideals concerning the housing and treatment of the mentally ill. Perhaps the most startling was the idea that the building itself was a part of the therapy – literally part of the healing process. So, too, were the landscaped grounds that were thought to have a soothing effect on troubled minds. Patients were housed in a series of wings set back en echelon on either side of a domed central pavilion that housed administrative offices and the

residence of Dr. Bryce and his family. The patient wings were segregated by gender with the men on the west and the women on the east, and by the severity of their illnesses: the most severely afflicted patients were housed in the outermost wings where their disruptive behavior and noise would be less likely to disturb other patients. The entire building was illuminated by gas, heated by steam, and cooled and ventilated by steam-powered fans. The wings featured individual rooms for patients, light-filled corridors, and even bathing rooms and water closets. The University of Alabama is currently renovating and repurposing the original Bryce Hospital building (alas, minus its two outermost wings). It will eventually house offices and studios, a university welcome center, and small museums chronicling the history of the University of Alabama and the history of Bryce Hospital and mental health in Alabama.

John Stewart, Samuel Sloan’s business partner and field architect, made many trips to Alabama during the hospital’s construction and garnered other commissions. One of them was the contract to build a handsome Italianate villa for Sen. Robert Jemison, Jr., who had been instrumental in locating Bryce Hospital in his hometown of Tuscaloosa and who also became a major contractor in its construction.



The Alabama Bryce Insane Hospital, 1909. Courtesy Troy University Library.



Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion.

Not surprisingly the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion reflected the advanced technology then being employed by the Philadelphia architects in the design of the insane hospital. Sen. Jemison's home is now a house museum owned by the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion Foundation. It has been carefully restored to its original 1862 appearance, houses the Tuscaloosa Preservation Society, and is open to the public.

At the end of the Civil War, the University of Alabama faced the daunting task of reconstructing its ruined campus. Rather than attempt to replicate the old buildings on their original foundations, it determined to transform the ruins into grassy mounds (one remains) located in a fenced-in memorial park (now the Main Quadrangle), and to rebuild the university directly behind it. The Board of Trustees solicited plans from a number of architects and determined that New York architect A.J. Davis' Gothic Revival style plans, which he created in the 1840s for Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, could best be adapted to meet the needs of the University of Alabama, which was then operating under a military form of governance. The main building at VMI had been constructed as an enormous hollow square with a parade ground in the center. Lacking sufficient funds to construct the architect's complete design in the immediate post-war period, the university built only the northern portion (Woods Hall) in 1867-68. This structure housed all functions of the university until the early 1880s when funds became available to complete the original plan. William A. Freret, the New Orleans architect selected to undertake the job, kept the basic footprint, but created three separate buildings (Manly, Clark, and Garland Halls PHOTO 6) rather

than joining them into one monolithic hollow square. He also changed the style to the currently fashionable High Victorian Gothic. Freret had recently completed rebuilding the Louisiana capitol in Baton Rouge that had been burned during the Civil War. After completing his work in Tuscaloosa, he was appointed supervising architect of the US Treasury and in that capacity designed and built Victorian Gothic and Romanesque Federal buildings from Maine to California.

Two decades later, Freret's successor as Supervising Architect, James Knox Taylor, designed Tuscaloosa's first Federal Court House and Post Office (now City Hall) in 1909. By this time, the Victorian style was out of favor and Taylor, an MIT graduate, employed a variant of the fashionable beaux arts neoclassical style for the new building. It is interesting to note that he made several visual references in his courthouse to the old Alabama Capitol that still stood several blocks away. Taylor's building is notable for its elegance of design, high quality of workmanship, and lavish use of marble and other expensive materials.

The Law Center at the University of Alabama is the only outstanding example of modernism in Tuscaloosa designed by a nationally known architect. The building was one of the last works completed by Edward Durrell Stone before his death in 1978.



Aerial view of Woods Quad, ca 1950. Woods Hall to the rear. In front: left to right, Manly, Clark, and Garland halls. Courtesy of The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.



Clark Hall. Courtesy of The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.

The works for which he is remembered were designed in a variant of modernism known as the New Formalism. His most significant buildings are the US Embassy in New Delhi, India (1954) and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC (1971). Stone rejected the severity of the International Style and claimed to find inspiration in vernacular American architecture. It is therefore not surprising that Stone's architectural firm recorded that the Law Center's large glass area in the center was reminiscent of the dogtrot in Alabama's pioneer cabins, and that the massive cylindrical forms holding up the enormous flat roof were suggested by the columns on Tuscaloosa's antebellum mansions.

The 2011 Federal Building and Courthouse on University Boulevard is a sophisticated example of Post Modern Classical or Archeological Classicism that is sometimes referred to as Neo Traditionalism. Architects working in this variant of Post Modernism attempt to follow the paradigms of the ancient Greek, Roman, and Renaissance architects as closely as possible. Thomas H. Beeby, of Chicago-based HBRA Architects, used the ancient temple of Zeus at Nemea as his inspiration for the 21st century Tuscaloosa Federal Building. The stunning result proves that the 2,500-year-old classical tradition in architecture is still viable and capable of producing buildings that are both beautiful and functional. Beeby also broke with the modernist tradition by reintroducing the use of mural painting on the interior of the building. Sixteen enormous paintings by local artist Caleb O'Connor, depicting the history of Tuscaloosa, adorn the walls between Ionic columns and pilasters.

Dr. Robert O. Mellow, University of Alabama Associate Professor of Art History Emeritus, is an authority on Tuscaloosa architecture. He is the author of numerous articles and publications on Alabama art and architecture including The University of Alabama: A Guide to the Campus and its Architecture (UA Press, 2013).



PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL DOBSON.



Federal Building and Courthouse.

Historic Preservation Featured at Thursday

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, the Alabama Historical Commission, and the Black Heritage Council of the Alabama Historical Commission are pleased to offer workshops and sessions on Thursday, April 25 that focus on historic preservation. Join us as we explore efforts to preserve Alabama's historic schools, many of which played pivotal roles in the earliest phases of the Civil Rights Movement; forgotten places; cemeteries and graveyards; Tuscaloosa's Civil Rights History Trail; and north Alabama's stunning space-age architecture. Learn more about the National Register of Historic Places process, Historic Tax Credit programs and their possible application to your project.

The program will take place at the Embassy Suites, and the cost to attend is \$75, which includes lunch and the evening reception. See registration insert to register. The Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council will present the Distinguished Service Award, Roy Swayze Award, and the Idella Childs Award at the Friday evening awards banquet. The Alabama Trust will present the organization's Restoration, Rehabilitation, Preservation Service, and Gwyndolyn C. Turner Preservation Awards. For more information on the program or awards, contact:

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

WORKSHOP

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Certified Local Government (CLG) Workshop: What Local Preservation Commissions Do and How They Do It - *Mary Shell, Alabama Historical Commission*

SESSION A

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. From Slavery to Civil Rights: A Tuscaloosa Perspective

- "A Capital of Slavery: Tuscaloosa, Alabama 1816 - 1830" - *Jackson A. Prather*
- "They Too Call Tuscaloosa Home: African Americans and Alabama's Bicentennial" - *Dr. Richard Bailey*
- "Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History Trail" - *Dr. Scott Bridges, University of Alabama*

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Break

WORKSHOP CONTINUED

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Certified Local Government (CLG) Workshop: What Local Preservation Commissions Do and How They Do It - *Mary Shell, Alabama Historical Commission*

SESSION B

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Partnering Outside the Box: Finding Partners That Fit the Project

- "Lincolnite Club: Bicentennial Preservation Project" - *Mary Lue Essex, Lincolnite Club*
- "Development of a Three - Dimensional Model of Alabama Power Company's Mitchell Dam Village" - *William S. Gardner*
- "Bride's Hill Restoration Project" - *J. Brett Dennis*

Program

SESSION C

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Post WWII and Space Age Architecture: Trends in Alabama

- “McFarland Heights: Recognition of a Mid-Century Neighborhood in Florence - *Brian Murphy, Florence Indian Mound Museum*
- “From Rosenwald to Equalization: A Case Study on Black Schools in Lee and Macon Counties” - *Lindsey Baird and Ella Sykes, Auburn University*
- “Huntsville Architecture in the Era of Von Braun and Racial Modernization” - *Dr. Caroline Swope*

11:45 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch Keynote “Search for the Clotilda: Mobile River Shipwreck Survey” - *Joseph Grinnan, M.A. Project Archaeologist, SEARCH*

SESSION D

1:30 - 2:45 p.m. Preserving Non-Traditional Places and Documents

- “Fashions in Stone: Gravestones and Stone Carvers in Mobile, Alabama’s Church Street Graveyard” - *Stella Simpsiridis*
- “Alabama Historical Commission’s Cemetery Program” - *Hannah Garmon, Alabama Historical Commission*
- “Preserving the African American Record” - *Justin Rudder, Alabama Department of Archives and History*

SESSION E

1:30 - 2:45 p.m. Documenting Places and Incentivizing Preservation: What the Experts Know

- “Understanding the National Register of Historic Places” - *Collier Neeley, Alabama Historical Commission*
- “Historic Tax Incentives and How to Use Them” - *Chloe Mercer and Taylor Stewart, Alabama Historical Commission*
- “Preserving a Legacy: A Case Study of Huntsville’s I. Schiffman Building” - *Katie Stamps*



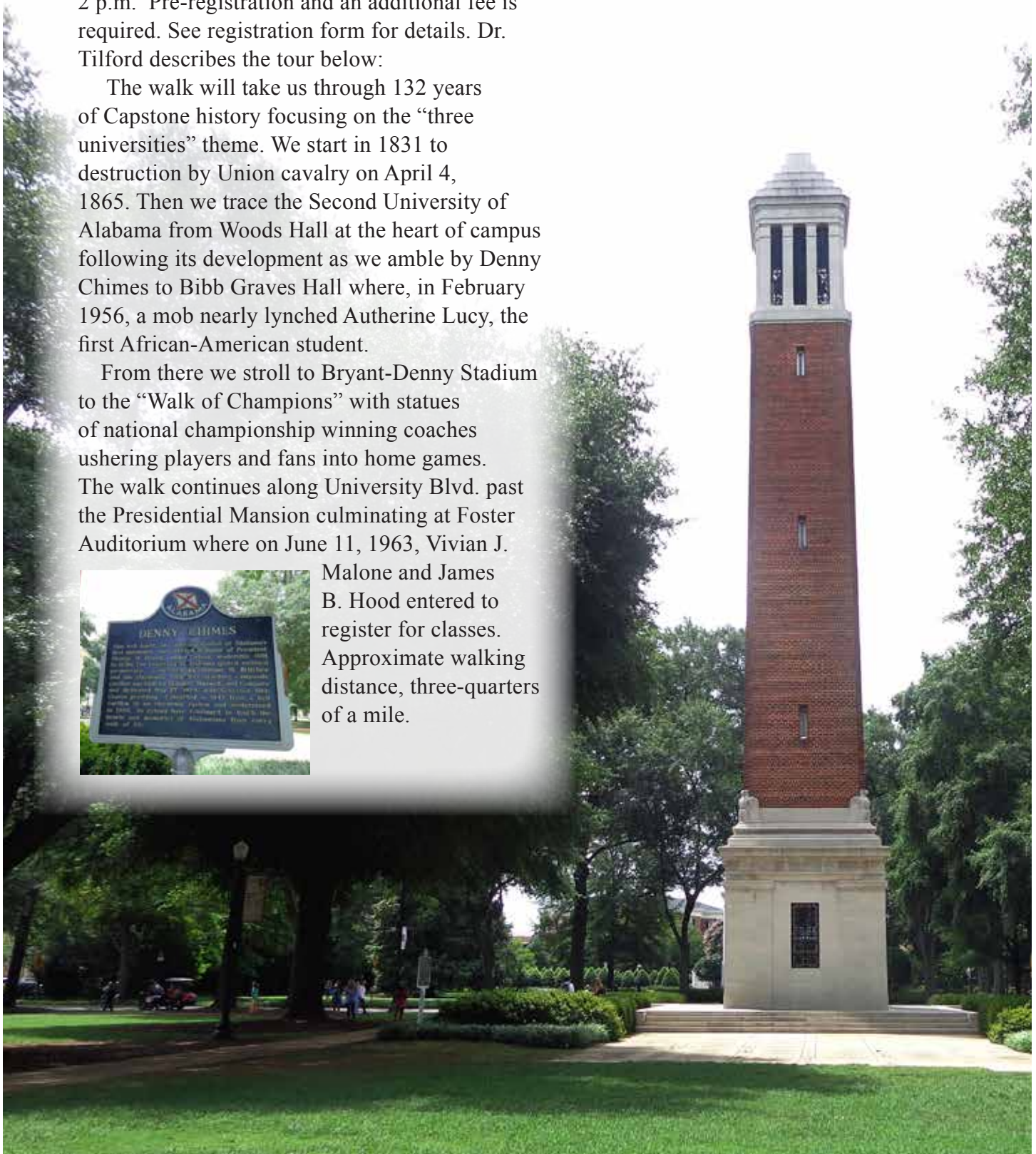
THURSDAY AFTERNOON WALKING TOUR OF UA CAMPUS

Retired history professor and author Earl Tilford will lead a walking tour of the UA Campus from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday. The tour will depart by bus from the Embassy Suites at 2 p.m. Pre-registration and an additional fee is required. See registration form for details. Dr. Tilford describes the tour below:

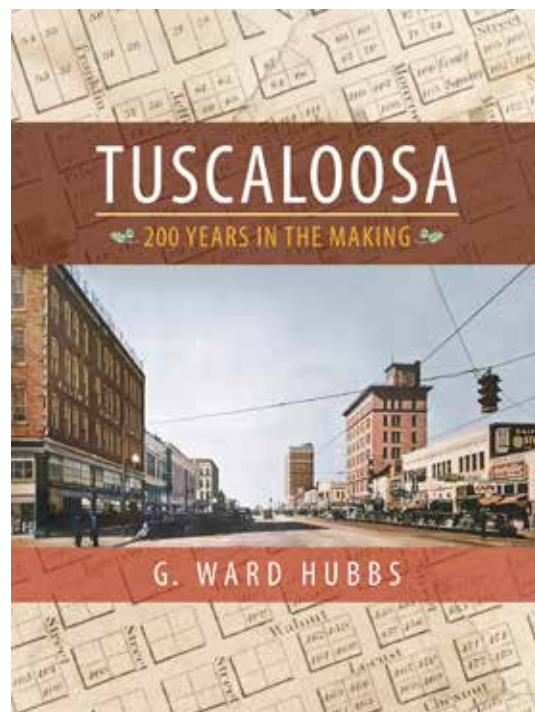
The walk will take us through 132 years of Capstone history focusing on the “three universities” theme. We start in 1831 to destruction by Union cavalry on April 4, 1865. Then we trace the Second University of Alabama from Woods Hall at the heart of campus following its development as we amble by Denny Chimes to Bibb Graves Hall where, in February 1956, a mob nearly lynched Autherine Lucy, the first African-American student.

From there we stroll to Bryant-Denny Stadium to the “Walk of Champions” with statues of national championship winning coaches ushering players and fans into home games. The walk continues along University Blvd. past the Presidential Mansion culminating at Foster Auditorium where on June 11, 1963, Vivian J.

Malone and James B. Hood entered to register for classes. Approximate walking distance, three-quarters of a mile.



**GUY HUBBS
TO DISCUSS
TUSCALOOSA'S
HISTORY
AT 5 P.M. ON
THURSDAY**



G. Ward Hubbs, professor emeritus at Birmingham-Southern College, will discuss his new book *Tuscaloosa: 200 Years in the Making* on Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion. *Tuscaloosa* is a lavishly illustrated history of this distinctive city's origins as a settlement on the banks of the Black Warrior River to its development into a thriving nexus of higher education, sports, and culture. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

THURSDAY EVENING RECEPTION TO BE HELD AT JEMISON-VAN DE GRAAFF MANSION

The Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, University of Alabama Department of History, and the Summersell Center for the Study of the South will host the Thursday evening reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion (1305 Greensboro Avenue).

This magnificent Italianate house was built between 1859 and 1862 by Senator Robert Jemison Jr. to serve as his town house. The architect was John Stewart from Philadelphia, who along with his partner, Samuel Sloan, designed Bryce Hospital. The Jemison Mansion was incomplete when the Civil War erupted, causing many finishing touches to be left undone. Most of the building materials came from Jemison's extensive plantations, and skilled slaves under the supervision of Philadelphia craftsmen performed the majority of construction. The house was ahead of its time technologically: It was the first in Tuscaloosa to have a fully plumbed bathroom and even had its own gas plant to provide gas for illumination. After serving for a period as the city library, it was acquired by the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society and the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa. The main floor has been carefully restored to its original 1860s appearance.



ALABAMA MUSIC ICON BOBBY HORTON TO PERFORM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOBBY HORTON

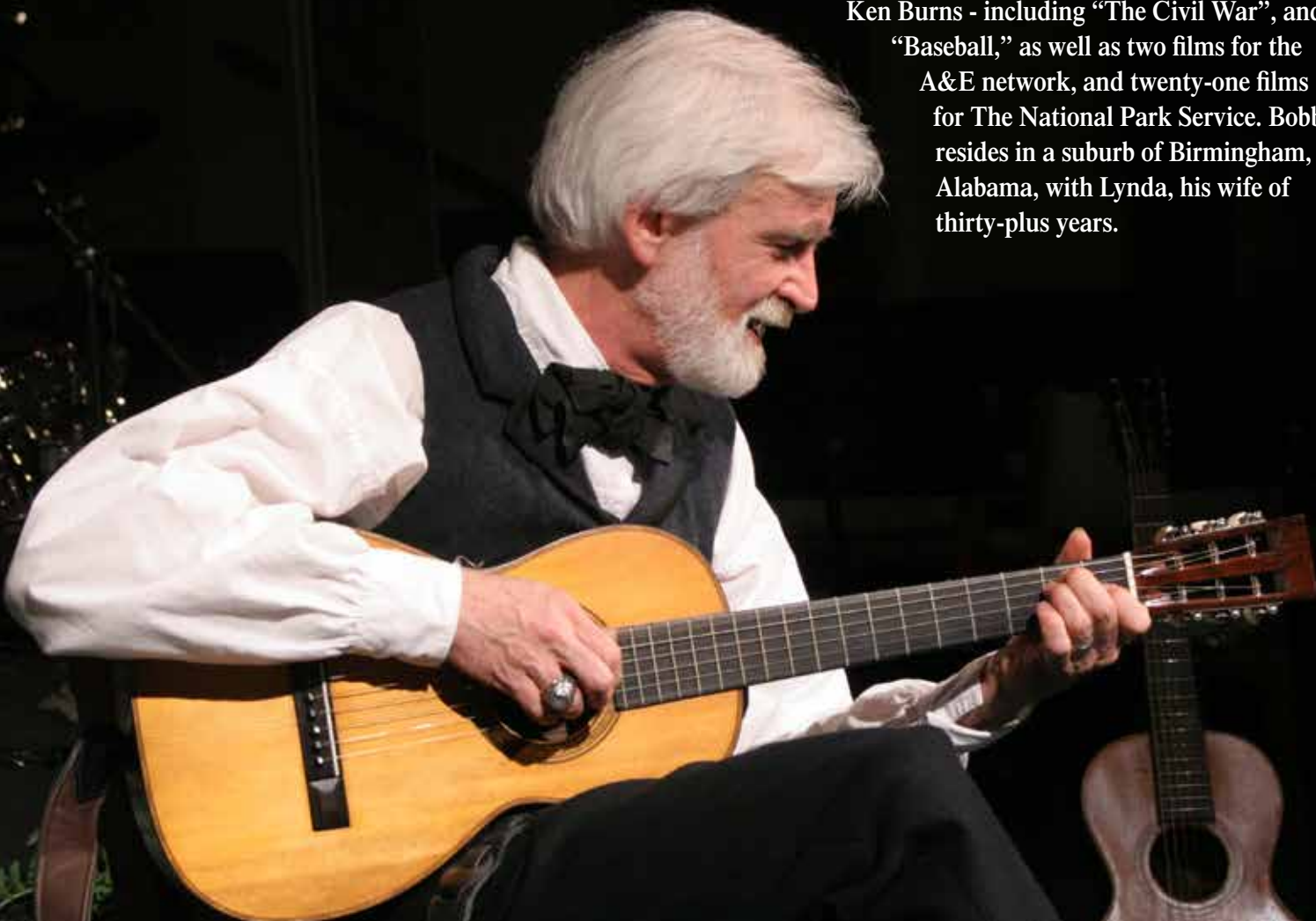


Multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, and music historian Bobby Horton will perform at the annual awards banquet on Friday evening of the annual meeting.

Horton was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. His life-long passion for music and history began at an early age. With a trumpet-playing father and a banjo-playing grandfather, he was exposed to a varied menu of music – from the sound of the big bands, jazz combos and classical to the old time sounds of Southern gospel, sacred harp, and “hillbilly” music.

Most of the men in his young life were World War II veterans. As he listened to their war stories, he soon made the connection between these stories and the content of his school history books. When he was nine years old the United States celebrated the Centennial of the Civil War. This celebration brought the Civil War to the forefront of his interest and his love of history became deeply rooted.

Horton has performed with the musical-comedy trio Three On a String throughout the United States and Canada for 40-plus years. He has also produced and performed music scores for sixteen PBS films by Ken Burns - including “The Civil War”, and “Baseball,” as well as two films for the A&E network, and twenty-one films for The National Park Service. Bobby resides in a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama, with Lynda, his wife of thirty-plus years.



72nd Meeting of the Alab

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

- 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.** Meeting of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Alabama Historical Commission, and Black Heritage Council at Embassy Suites. AHA members are invited to attend. See pages 8 and 9 for program and registration information.
- 2:00 p.m.** Guided Walking Tour of UA Campus. Departs from Embassy Suites. Pre-registration required.
- 5:00 p.m.** Book Talk with Guy Hubbs on *Tuscaloosa: 200 Years in the Making* at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion
- 6:00 p.m.** Reception at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion

Alabama Historical Association

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Embassy Suites

8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales

9:00 a.m. General Session

10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

SESSION A

- “James Fife: Jackson’s Faithful Scout, Man of Mischief”
T.R. Henderson, Headland
- “‘To punish the violator’: Creek Nation Law and the Fall of Chief William McIntosh”
Robert P. Collins, Auburn University
- “‘The Indian Fires are Going Out’: A Tuscaloosa Marker, Random History, and the Problems of Historical Commemoration”
Kathryn H. Braund, Auburn University

SESSION B

- “Dusting Off the Data: Civil War Conscription Ledgers of Dadeville, Alabama, 1864”
Jennifer P. Wiggins, Auburn University
- “The Air Service in Alabama during World War I”
Robert B. Kane, Air University
- “Training for War at Alabama’s Grandest Hotel”
Augustine Meaher, Air University

SESSION C

- “Insanity and Murderous Rage in William L. Yancey’s Family”
Ralph B. Draughon, Jr., Auburn
- “‘To Take the World as I find it’: An Ante-Bellum Gap Year”
Marian Crenshaw Austin, University of East Anglia
- “Kathleen Mallory: Sweetheart of Alabama Baptists”
Cindy McMurtrey Johnson, Harpersville, Ala.

Noon Lunch

1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Tours

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar

7:00 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales

9:00 a.m. General Session

10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

SESSION A

- “Reclaiming the Rural Southern Woman: An Analysis of the New Negro Woman of the South, 1880-1920”
La-Kisha Emmanuel, University of Alabama
- “‘Everything we do is civil rights’: Sisters of St. Joseph and Civil Rights”
Shannon Lampton, Somerville, Ala.
- “The History of Lynching as Spectacle in Alabama”
Tammy Blue, University of Alabama at Birmingham

SESSION B

- “Booker T. Washington: The Agrarian Radical”
Dante A. Whittaker, Jr., University of Alabama
- “Reconnecting with Alabama’s Forgotten Origin: The Louisiana Purchase”
David M. Robb, Jr., Huntsville
- “The ‘Bloody Sunday’ Conflict Site in Selma, AL: A Methodology for Identifying Details of Missing Historical Material”
Richard Burt, Auburn University

SESSION C

- “Roll Tide! War Eagle! The Resumption of the Alabama-Auburn Football Rivalry”
Leah Rawls Atkins, Birmingham
- “Walter Chamberlain: Courthouse Architect”
Samuel A. Rumore, Jr., Birmingham
- “Green Faces and Interracial Apartment Hunting: Social Experiments at Huntington College”
A. Blake Denton, Alabama Bicentennial Commission

11:45 a.m. Annual Luncheon
Presidential Address by Dr. Valerie Burnes

*** The Embassy Suites by Hilton**
 2410 University Blvd • (205) 561-2500
Call the hotel by March 27 and mention the AHA to receive the group rate of \$124 per night, or use group code 170406HIST to book online at www.auhcc.com.

*** Jemison-Van De Graaff Mansion**
 1305 Greensboro Ave
Reception Location



Additional Tour Locations

All stops indicate parking information

- 1 BAMA Theater**
 600 Greensboro Ave (walk from Embassy)
- 2 Drish House**
 2300 17th St (limited on-site parking)
- 3 Battle-Friedman House & Garden**
 1010 Greensboro Ave (on-site parking lot)
Tuscaloosa Preservation Society Docent
- 4 Federal Courthouse Murals**
 2005 University Blvd (streetside parking)
- 5 The University Club**
 421 Queen City Ave (on-site parking lot)



Be on the lookout for
 the red and white
 AHA signs!





Tour Group #1

Streetside parking - All stops are within 1 block of each other

- A** **Old Tavern & Gardens**
500 28th Ave
Tuscaloosa Preservation Society
Docent & Quilt Exhibit
- B** **Capitol Ruins**
2828 6th St
- C** **Old Jail**
2803 6th St
Also part of Civil Rights Trail

Tour Group #2

Park at Church - All stops are within 1 block of each other

- D** **First African Baptist Church**
2621 Stillman Blvd
- E** **Murphy-Collins African-American Museum**
2601 Bryant Dr
Tuscaloosa Preservation Society
Docent
- F** **Historic Greenwood Cemetery**
Corner of T.Y. Rogers Ave and Stillman Blvd

Please don't rely on the scale of this map for navigation.



Scan this QR code for access to the Google Map.



BAMA THEATRE

600 Greensboro Ave., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

The Bama Theatre was built in 1938 at the location of the former city hall with funds from the Public Works Administration and the city. The complex cost \$200,000 to complete and was the first public building in the city with a true air conditioning system. It regulated the temperature and humidity plus filtered the air. The exterior of the theatre features a rounded façade of limestone and the panels between the windows are granite, both layered on a brick veneer. The interior, placed in a class of theatres labeled “atmospheric,” was designed by architect David O. Whilldin as a Mediterranean Palazzo during the Italian Renaissance. The ceiling is lined with small flashing lights accompanied by painted clouds, bringing to mind the night sky. Other elements include faux balconies, terra cotta tiles, cherub plaques and a small alabaster fountain.



THE OLD TAVERN

500 28th Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Innkeeper William Dunton built the structure in 1827, three blocks from its current site as a tavern and hotel on the stagecoach route that passed through Tuscaloosa. As the bridge was being built across the Black Warrior River in 1966, local residents raised the funds to move the Old Tavern to its current location to save it from being demolished. One of the few remaining 19th-century inns in the state, the Old Tavern provides visitors with a rare glimpse of early Tuscaloosa commercial architecture. During its operation as a hostelry, it served as the temporary home and meeting place of legislators, Confederate soldiers, and countless people traveling to or through the city. At one time, it was even the temporary home of Governor John Gayle (1831-1835).



CAPITOL RUINS

2828 6th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

On December 6, 1825, the Alabama State Senate agreed to relocate the state capital from Cahaba to Tuscaloosa, where it remained from 1826 to 1847 before moving to Montgomery. The Tuscaloosa Capitol was designed by English architect William Nichols as a combination of Greek Revival and Federal styles. The elevated copper dome could be seen from passing ships on the Black Warrior River. Although budgeted to cost between \$10,000 and \$55,000, the final cost has been estimated to be near \$150,000. In 1857 the Capitol building was leased to the Alabama Central Female College, but was destroyed by fire in 1923. The ruins of the State Capitol building are still found in Capitol Park, including two small columns. The ruins were preserved during the 1930s.



OLD TUSCALOOSA COUNTY JAIL

2803 6th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

In 1856, William B. Robertson built the jail at the cost of \$8,029.40. It had the reputation as being the strongest jail in the Southeast; however, one man eventually escaped in 1884--Stephen S. Renfroe, famously known as the "Outlaw Sheriff of Sumter County." Renfroe reportedly burned a hole through the second floor of the jail and escaped through a window on the first floor. The building served as the county jail until 1890 when a new jail was constructed. It was later used as a boarding house, and then a VFW lodge for several decades. The Tuscaloosa City School Board of Education (TCSBE) purchased the building in 1980, but now stands empty. In March 2017, the Equal Justice Initiative erected a historical marker at the site of the Old Jail to memorialize eight African American men lynched in Tuscaloosa County between 1884 and 1933.



GREENWOOD CEMETERY

*Corner of T.Y. Rogers Avenue and Stillman Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401*

Greenwood is one of the oldest, continuous-use cemeteries in Tuscaloosa County. It was laid out shortly after the first survey of the city of Tuscaloosa in 1821. Some of the ornate marble markers were carved in New Orleans; however, many were carved from local sandstone by masons working on the state capitol once located three blocks north. Greenwood is the resting place for Native Americans, blacks, and whites. In it are the graves of many of early Tuscaloosa's most prominent citizens. Among those is Dr. John Drish, a famed doctor and landowner; former Gov. Lurleen Burns Wallace; Solomon Perteat, a prominent free, black craftsman who lived in Tuscaloosa prior to the Civil War; Confederate Gen. Philip Dale Roddey; and Rev. Charles Stillman, founder of the college that bears his name.



MURPHY-COLLINS HOUSE

2601 Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Tuscaloosa's first licensed black embalmer and mortician, Will J. Murphy hired black contractor George Chopton to build this two-story craftsman bungalow in the early 1920s as his private residence. Materials from the old state capitol building a few blocks away, such as bricks and windowsills, were salvaged when it burned in 1923 and used in the house's construction. The street on which this home sits was the dividing line between blacks and whites in Tuscaloosa. This area was where mainly professional African Americans lived, with beautiful homes adorned by white lace curtains, which gave the area the name "The Lace Curtain Community." After Murphy passed away, Sylvia Collins purchased the home before selling it to the city in 1986. Today, the structure operates as the Murphy African American Museum, focusing on the lifestyle of affluent blacks during the early 1900s.



FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

2621 Stillman Blvd., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

First African Baptist Church was first established in 1866 with founding pastor Rev. Prince Murrell, a one-time enslaved person. Members initially met in private homes and then in 1900 they built the current structure at a cost of \$25,000. The architecture was inspired by the work of Robert Taylor, a Tuskegee faculty member and the first black person professionally trained and licensed as an architect at MIT. Selma University was organized in January 1878 at a state convention meeting that was held at FABC. In 1963, Rev. T.Y. Rogers Jr. became pastor, at the recommendation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rogers helped organize the Tuscaloosa Citizens for Action Committee, which held all of its meetings in this church. During a peaceful protest on June 9, 1964, to overturn segregation in Tuscaloosa, more than 600 marchers were beaten and tear gas was thrown into the church. The violent incident became known as “Bloody Tuesday.”



THE BATTLE-FRIEDMAN HOUSE AND GARDEN

1010 Greensboro Ave, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Alfred Battle, a North Carolina native, came to Tuscaloosa in 1821 and built the Battle-Friedman House around 1835. Originally, the house consisted of the two front parlors, central hallway and the rooms above. The columned porch and the rooms at the back of the house were added at various times before the Civil War. In 1875, Bernard Friedman, a local merchant who had emigrated from Hungary, bought the house from the Battles. It remained in the Friedman family until 1965, when Hugo Friedman willed it to the city of Tuscaloosa. The exterior of the house is stucco over brick and painted to resemble red marble. The front porch has distinctively Tuscaloosa-styled paneled square columns. Inside, elaborate plasterwork handcrafted by one of the slaves, decorates the walls and ceilings of the front parlors and hallways. Some of this is original to the house, but the Friedman family added the distinctive art deco *nasturtium* frieze in the halls in the early part of the twentieth century. The house also contains a fine collection of renaissance revival furniture. The house’s grounds include the only remaining documented antebellum garden in the state, which were designed by a British landscape architect.

THE DRISH HOUSE

2300 17th St., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dr. John R. Drish, a prominent early settler, designed this house, which was built by artisan slaves in 1837, as a focal point for a 450-acre plantation that bordered the city limits of Tuscaloosa. Drish remodeled the mansion in the 1850s, adding massive columns and the distinctive Italianate tower. The house remained one of the finest residences in the city until 1906, when it was converted into a public school. In later years it deteriorated and was used as a garage and then a Baptist church. Preservationist Nika McCool purchased the mansion and began exhaustive renovations in 2014. Walker Evans photographed the mansion in the 1930s and “Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company” remains one of his best-known photographs. According to some, the Drish House is the most haunted place in Alabama with haunted tours taking place frequently. Dr. Drish died in 1867 when he fell down a stairway, and it is said that his widow Sarah is responsible for the hauntings that occur here.





FEDERAL COURTHOUSE MURALS

2005 University Blvd., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

In 2011, the 127,000-square-foot \$47.8 million Tuscaloosa Federal Building and Courthouse opened. It features 32,000 square feet of limestone veneer and marble quarried from Sylacauga. The building has multiple tenants, including the US District Court, the US Bankruptcy court (both of which required courtrooms and support spaces), Sen. Richard Shelby's offices, the US Probation Office, the US Marshals Service, the US Attorney's Office, the GSA, congressional offices, the Social Security Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The real attraction, however, are the sixteen 9-by-14-foot murals created by local artist Caleb O'Connor. The murals span from when Alabama was a territory inhabited mainly by natives through the Civil War and Civil Rights Movement to University of Alabama football and the April 27, 2011, tornadoes. O'Connor used local citizens as models for the many people represented in the murals. Look closely; you might recognize someone!



THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

421 Queen City Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

The University Club, a classic Greek Revival style structure, stands on land that in March 1819 was reserved by the US Congress as part of a donation to endow "a seminary for learning" for the state of Alabama. Trustees sold the land to finance building the university. After a series of owners, James H. Dearing, a steamboat captain and member of the Alabama Legislature, purchased the property in January 1834. He spent \$14,000 to erect the home but sold it just two years later. The mansion later became home to Gov. Arthur Pendleton Bagby (1837-1841). As far as is known, he was the only governor who occupied the structure while Tuscaloosa was the state capital. In 1944 the university acquired the home as a social center for faculty and staff, and it was furnished by Mildred Westervelt Warner and Herbert D. Warner and later their son Jack Warner, who continued to provide antiques, paintings, and artifacts throughout his life.



TUSCALOOSA CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TRAIL

By Rebecca Todd Minder

A group of dedicated citizens, historians, and foot soldiers have been working for the past two years to tell the story of Tuscaloosa's place in the Civil Rights Movement and develop the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History Trail. The Trail will have three designated districts with the first focusing on the events surrounding "Bloody Tuesday" in downtown Tuscaloosa.

On June 9, 1964, one year after Gov. George C. Wallace Jr.'s "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" at the University of Alabama, a group of peaceful citizens gathered at the First African Baptist Church to march to the new courthouse in protest of its segregated features. The group, led by the church's pastor, Rev. T. Y. Rogers Jr., didn't get very far. Police and members of the Ku Klux Klan attacked the marchers and fired tear gas into the church. Many of the wounded were treated at the nearby Howard-Linton Barbershop. Thirty-three were sent to Druid City Hospital; ninety-three were arrested and jailed.

To understand the full story of Civil Rights history in Tuscaloosa, one must look at the factors that led to the need for the movement. This Trail includes the stories of



PHOTO COURTESY THE TUSCALOOSA NEWS

enslaved people auctioned before the Civil War, Native Americans exiled from their homelands, exclusionary legislation passed at the Alabama State Capitol in Tuscaloosa, lynchings in the area, and the United Klans of America that was headquartered in Tuscaloosa. It is the story of decades of segregated life in schools, churches, stores, restaurants, and movie theaters. But it is also the inspiring story of black and white citizens who overcame great adversity to break the color line in Tuscaloosa.

In Tuscaloosa's Bluefront District, a cluster of successful black merchants located themselves near the corner of 23rd Avenue and 7th Street. These stores became an important commercial space for blacks during segregation and offered more dignified consumer environment than they typically experienced. It was in this District that the Diamond Theatre was opened specifically for the African-American community. Hunter Chapel AME Zion Church was the first black Methodist church organized in Tuscaloosa. It was founded by Shandy Wesley Jones, who was born a slave and later founded the first school for black children in Tuscaloosa County. Jones also was elected as Tuscaloosa's first black to serve in the Alabama legislature. Buford Boone, publisher of the *The Tuscaloosa News*, penned an editorial demanding that blacks be welcomed at the University of Alabama, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing in 1957.

Many of the locations highlighted on this year's AHA Conference tours are featured on the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History Trail. It's a story of not just the locations or historic structures, but of the people who created events at these locations to change the course of Tuscaloosa's path toward inclusion.



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Marker Dedication in Morgan County. Photo courtesy of Jeronimo Nisa/The Decatur Daily.

2018 HISTORICAL MARKERS

Twenty-three new historical markers in fourteen counties were installed in 2018, a banner year for the Association's long-running marker program. Many of these new markers feature the special crest in honor of the state's bicentennial celebration.



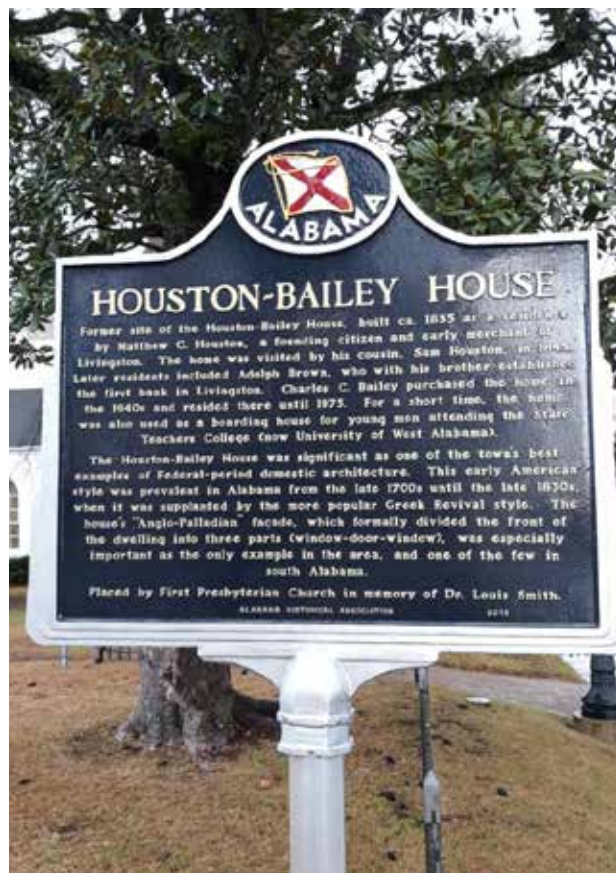
Among the highlights of the 2018 markers are William Carl Roeck, a German-born soldier and Tallapoosa County politician, Montgomery civil rights activist Rev. Richard

Boone, the Houston-Bailey House

in Sumter County, a marker at the Morgan County Courthouse about the Scottsboro Boys cases and Judge James Horton, and the former site of the Atlantic Coast Line's railroad depot in Dale County.

The Association assisted in the refurbishment of a dozen historical markers last year as well.

A full list of the 2018 markers will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Alabama Review*.



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SAVE THE DATE!

THE AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE

Will be held in Wetumpka, October 11 and 12, 2019.



Bibb Graves Bridge. Photo courtesy of Main Street Wetumpka.