



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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MISSION

The mission of the Alabama Historical Commission is to foster awareness of the value of historic structures, sites, and objects that reflect the heritage of all Alabamians.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Grants are awarded by the Alabama Historical Commission for preservation projects to record prehistoric and historic places, to encourage their preservation or promote awareness of them, to develop plans to protect them, and to provide funds for restoration or excavation.

The commission also awards grants through its Certified Local Government Grant Program. There are two defining criteria for these grants: they go only to local governments that have been certified by the Alabama Historical Commission as having passed an ordinance that allows them to establish historic districts, and they are not awarded for “bricks and mortar” projects. The grants are awarded to have survey work done, for planning, and for education. Programs offered include the Survey Planning and Grant Program, Alabama Main Street Program, and Alabama Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

ALABAMA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

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PURPOSE

Administered through the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Main Street Program assists communities in organizing a revitalization process that supports the economic stability of downtowns. The program is an innovative downtown revitalization effort within the context of historic preservation. The program was designed for small cities with a population of 50,000 or less.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The program capitalizes on the unique character of the historic commercial district while promoting progressive marketing and retail management techniques.

ALABAMA PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

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PURPOSE

The Alabama Preservation Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization devoted to preserving the cultural resources of Alabama's past.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

As a grassroots citizens' group, the Alabama Trust provides a statewide voice for preservation efforts. The Alabama Trust assists local groups around the state in seeking viable alternatives to demolition and making presentations to public officials concerning the value of preservation.

- Endangered Properties Trust: Through the Endangered Properties Trust, the Alabama Trust administers two funds. The Intervention Fund is a last resort source of loans, gifts, materials and services to save imminently threatened historic buildings. The Revolving Fund is used to transfer historic properties acquired through gift, option or purchase to preservation-minded owners, with the proceeds returning to the fund for future projects.
- The Places in Peril Endangered Properties List: Some landmark structures are lost simply because the public is unaware of neglect or impending demolition. The Alabama Trust actively solicits its membership and local historical/preservation organizations for important locations to place on a list, published annually in its newsletter, featured in Alabama Heritage magazine, and announced at an annual event. This program has led to at least 8 sites having been saved outright over the past 12 years, and the status of another 26 improved.
- Outreach: The quarterly newsletter, *The Trustee*, is a valuable source of information on preservation activities around the state. The Alabama Trust conducts Rambles in historic places that offer members the opportunity to tour places not generally open to the public and to interact with other members with common interests. Programs on a variety of preservation issues and subjects can be presented in locations across the State.