

CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACINGS

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Chattahoochee Commission

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2005 CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE VISITATION STATISTICS SHOW NO IMPROVEMENT OVER 2004 FIGURES

Visitation figures for selected Chattahoochee Trace attractions during 2005 showed no improvement when compared with figures from the previous year according to Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) Executive Director, Douglas C. Purcell. Each year the Commission tracks attendance at nineteen sites to help gauge the health of the tourism industry in the eighteen county bi-state Chattahoochee Valley region it serves.

Only six attractions showed gains while thirteen attractions had decreases. By comparison in 2004, seven attractions in the survey had attendance gains. Six attractions posted gains in 2003, nine in 2002, eight in 2001, nine in 2000, eight in 1999, ten in 1998, six in 1997 and nine in 1996. The average attraction visitation increase over the last ten years has been about eight, so 2005 was slightly below normal when contrasted with the figures during this time span. On the positive side, 105,348 more people visited these attractions in 2005 than during 2004. This was a 1.01% increase in 2005. Recorded visitors at these nineteen area attractions were 10,495,470 in 2005 versus 10,390,122 in 2004.

Small decreases (under 8%) were recorded at seven attractions while six attractions showed moderate to large decreases ranging from 8.7% to 19.7%. Heading the list with the largest increase was Shorter Mansion which had a 21.5% attendance gain. The largest decrease in attendance was Providence Canyon State Park where visitation was down by 19.7%. Last year Shorter Mansion had the largest visitation decrease by posting a 28.18% decline. In 2004 Landmark Park had the largest increase with 20.68% more visitors than the previous year.

Small visitor decreases were reported at the Little White House (-1.5%); Lake Eufaula/Walter F. George (-3.3%); U. S. Army Aviation Museum (-4.0%); Kolomoki Mounds State park (-4.9%); Lake George W. Andrews (-5.4%); Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (-7.1%); and The Columbus Museum (-7.2%). Moderate to large visitation decreases occurred at Florence Marina State Park (-8.7%); Westville (-10.5%); Port Columbus Civil War Naval Museum (-14%); Lake-point Resort State Park (-15.5%); and Fendall Hall (-17.7%).

After Shorter Mansion, Landmark Park had the highest gain at 14.3%. Other increases included: FDR State Park (+11.9%); West Point Lake (+8.5%); Lake Seminole (+5.9%); and George T. Bagby State Park (+0.65%).

Tourism expenditures continued to increase during 2004 in Alabama (\$7.3 billion—up 4.1% over 2003) and in Georgia (\$26 billion—up 3.9% over 2003). According to Purcell, tourism is the number two industry

HCC FUNDING SITUATION IMPROVES FOLLOWING ALABAMA AND GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

The financial health of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) has improved significantly following the passage of the General Fund budgets in the Georgia General Assembly and the Alabama Legislature. The HCC will receive a \$225,000 appropriation from the State of Alabama and \$52,500 from the State of Georgia for the 2007 fiscal year. That contrasts with a total of \$102,500 received from both states for 2006. In the 2003 fiscal year, the Commission received \$162,294 from Alabama and \$151,119 from Georgia for a total of \$313,413. The combined bi-state funding of \$277,500 for 2007 is the highest public funding total received by the HCC in the last four years.

The HCC has managed to continue its heritage-tourism program of work by scaling back some projects and eliminating others while launching aggressive fund raising programs. Membership recruitment, publication sales, special campaign gifts, limited edition artwork sales and silent auctions have helped the HCC deal with the significant lost of public funds over the last three years. Financial support has been received from hundreds of individuals and organizations from throughout the eighteen county region served by the Commission as well as individuals from around the country. The HCC's legislative delegations from Alabama and Georgia have also been supportive during difficult financial times. But most importantly, the Commission's Board of Directors has not given up in the face of almost insurmountable odds to continue the successful operation of this unique bi-state organization.



Shorter Mansion held the highest attendance increase in 2005.

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2005 CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE VISITATION STATISTICS

SHOW NO IMPROVEMENT

(Continued from page one)

in Alabama and Georgia and the third largest retail industry in the United States. In 2005 an estimated \$633 billion was recorded in tourism expenditures in the United States, an increase of \$40 billion or about 6.3% over the previous year. The Chattahoochee Trace region of Alabama and Georgia compared favorably with that trend showing a 1.01% increase in tourism at selected tourism sites. The declines at some of these attractions can be attributed to high gasoline prices and the tropical storms which buffeted the gulf coast and inland areas during most of the hurricane season. The Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge was missing data for April, May, June and July so their visitation total for the year was not

accurate. Had that data been included the Refuge would, most likely, have shown an increase in visitation. The visitation figures for Lakepoint Resort State Park were skewed by the fact that the park has been in limbo for the last couple of years over renovation and expansion plans. In addition the loss of public monies for promotional campaigns also hurt visitation. This loss of public funds has hit the Historic Chattahoochee Commission especially hard over the last three years. Its marketing and promotion programs have been severely limited due to significant funding cuts during this time.

Travel industry forecasts indicate that state tourism expenditures will continue to grow as the travel industry moves to overtake

food stores and becomes the second largest retail or service industry in the next few years. The Travel Industry Association of America notes that travel and tourism generates \$1.3 trillion in economic activity in the United States every year. That equates to \$3.4 billion a day, \$148 million an hour, \$2.4 million a minute and \$40,000 a second. The Chattahoochee Trace region played a small but significant role in this industry growth in Alabama and Georgia during 2004 and will continue to do so well into the future. 2005 tourism stats for Alabama and Georgia are due out later this year.

SUPPORT FOR THE CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR STUDY ACT GAINING MOMENTUM

Support for the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act is gaining momentum in both the U.S. House and Senate. Senate Bill 2148 was introduced by Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions on December 20, 2005 and HR 4864, a companion bill, was introduced by Congressman Terry Everett (Alabama-2nd District) on March 2, 2006. Since that time, Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson has signed on as a co-sponsor of S 2148 and Congressmen Mike Rogers (Alabama-3rd District); Sanford Bishop (Georgia-2nd District) and Jim Marshall (Georgia-3rd District) have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 4864.

Modeled after the "Muscle Shoals National Heritage Corridor Study Act of 2002" this Federal legislation, if approved, will make the Chattahoochee Trace region eligible to receive funding for publications and marketing for tourism, coordination, historic preservation, environmental education, outdoor recreation and small business development. The proposal authorizes the Secretary of

the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State historic preservation officers, State historical societies, State tourism offices and other appropriate organizations or agencies to conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the study region a National Heritage Area. Currently there are only about 24 National Heritage Areas in the United States.

Letters of endorsement for this proposed study act have been received from many individuals, organizations and cities including the mayors of Columbus, Coleman, Eufaula, Opelika, Clio, Ozark, Abbeville and Phenix City.

Endorsements have also been received from the Chattahoochee

County Commission, Quitman County Commission, Houston County Commission and Barbour County Commission. State legislators supporting the act include: Rep. Jeff Brown, Sen. George Hooks, Rep. Debbie Buckner, former Rep. Tom Buck, Rep. Bob Hanner, Rep. Gerald Greene, Rep. Steve Clouse and Rep. Joe Carothers, Jr.

Other supporters include the Eufaula-Barbour County Chamber of Commerce, the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Commission and the Clay County Economic Development Council. Additional endorsements are being solicited from other community leaders throughout the region.

"I was pleased to introduce the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act in the 109th Congress. The eventual establishment of the heritage corridor will assist many communities along the lower Chattahoochee River with vital historic preservation efforts and economic development."

- Congressman Terry Everett

NEWSLETTER

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC), an agency of the states of Alabama and Georgia, is involved in the promotion of tourism and historic preservation throughout the lower Chattahoochee Valley.

Chattahoochee Tracings is published quarterly and is free to interested citizens. Requests for the newsletters and changes of address should be directed to HCC, P.O. Box 33, Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0033. (334) 687-9755 or P.O. Box 942, LaGrange, Georgia 30241, (706) 845-8440, e-mail hcc3@earthlink.net, Web Page www.hcc-al-ga.org. 1-877-766-2443.

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GUEST COLUMN

Historic Preservation Top Ten List

By Susan Lawhorne
Executive Director, Historic Columbus Foundation

I love lists because they are often concise and focused ways of delivering helpful, informative or entertaining information. The following list is a good primer for anyone interested in preservation. These guidelines obviously are not comprehensive or detailed, but do provide a brief introduction for novice preservationists and excellent reminders for the more experienced. Remember, if you want more detailed information about a particular project, contact your state's historic preservation department. Information about applying for tax credits, tax abatements and other technical information is readily available from this source.

The buildings, landscapes, and sites created by people who lived on this land before we did can enrich our lives through beauty, education, and economics. Therefore, do as little as possible to change what they left.

1. Don't tear down a historic building (over 50 years old) unless there is no way to avoid it. Once it's gone, it's gone, and a photograph is a poor substitute for the real thing.

2. Don't dig for Indian, Civil War, or historic artifacts unless you are qualified and obey all laws, including getting permission from the landowner. Disturbing or destroying the context of the artifact is like burning a page from a history book that no one has read yet.

3. First things first. Be sure to stop water from getting into a building before you worry about restoring interior decorative items.

4. Don't sandblast anything—ever!

5. Keep as much historic material as possible.

6. Don't remove any good plaster or other historic materials to create a trendy look like exposed brick.

7. Be careful about windows; they are the eyes of the building and small changes can have major impacts. Repair them when possible; replace them only when absolutely necessary. Don't make your building wear sunglasses by tinting its windows.

8. Don't put awnings or shutters on old buildings. Follow what was originally there.

9. Don't put too much "make-up" on your building.

10. Let your building be proud of its age. Don't try to make it look younger or older than it is. Over-replacement of materials can cause your building to lose its historic appearance and look like a person with a too tight face-lift. On the other hand, inappropriately trying to make your building look older than it is, so that it will fit in, may lose some of its youthful exuberance and look like a teenager in ill-fitting, geriatric clothes.



Susan Lawhorne

PRESERVATION IRONY IN HISTORIC EUFAULA

by Douglas C. Purcell



The Vicksburg & Brunswick Depot as it stands today in Eufaula, pending its preservation review.

On the eve of Eufaula's 41st annual Eufaula Pilgrimage, the Board of Trustees of the Eufaula First United Methodist Church met to discuss the proposed demolition of the historic Vicksburg & Brunswick Depot. The church purchased this 1872 building about 20 years ago. Recently a newly organized Eufaula demolition and salvage company has approached the church about demolishing the depot.

In return for this contract, the company would pay the church \$25,000 and fill in the hole left by the building. The historic building materials would be salvaged and sold by this company. At present the church has no plans for the use of the lot where the depot now stands other than for parking.

The architect for the Vicksburg & Brunswick Depot was George W. Whipple, who also supervised the construction of the elegant Kendall Manor which, from time to time, has been opened on the Eufaula Pilgrimage. In 1973 the City of Eufaula celebrated its 150th anniversary with a gala party in the Vicksburg & Brunswick Depot.

Noted Huntsville architect Harvie Jones, now deceased, examined the depot about seven or eight years ago and declared that it was structurally sound. In 1989 a church committee put forth a plan to use the depot as a multi-purpose facility at an estimated cost of \$350,000. Since the church acquired the depot, minimal repairs have been undertaken but it still retains its structural integrity.

Interestingly, about 10 or 12 years ago, a scaled down version of the Vicksburg and Brunswick Depot was recreated for use as the Dixie Beverages store in Woodstock, Georgia.

The depot is pictured in a book entitled "Great American Railroad Stations" by Janet Greenstein Potter which was published in 1996. This alone attests to its national significance. In addition, the depot will be included in a new book under preparation by the University of Alabama Press by Alice Meriwether Bowsher entitled *Alabama Architecture: Looking at Building and Place*. The depot is one of only 100 structures selected for the book because of the exceptional way they enrich the State of Alabama.

Elizabeth Brown, interim executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission, has noted that "This is a beautiful building and one of the most significant depots in Alabama. With its open floor plan, it could be rehabilitated for almost any use. I know that in a city with a preservation ethic like

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HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN THE NEWS

The West Point Commercial Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places effective February 1, 2006. The National Register district includes a total of 58 buildings, roughly bounded by 4th Avenue on the west, 2nd Avenue and the CSX Railroad on the east, West 9th Street on the north and West 7th Street on the south. Several buildings included in the local historic district were omitted from the National Register listing because of the fact that they are less than 50 years old or are separated from the core of the downtown area by vacant lots and newer buildings. Most of the buildings giving National Register designation are one or two-story attached brick commercial buildings constructed between 1884 and 1910, many with decorative brick work, ornamental cornices and transoms over the store fronts. The elevated sidewalks are an additional unique feature, added over the years because of periodic flooding of the river.

The Acker House in Ozark has recently been added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. Constructed about 1920 by local black artisans, the Acker House was the home of Joseph E. Acker, a prominent attorney and Ozark's mayor from 1899-1912. It is one of only five houses in Ozark featuring Neo-classical Revival style. In addition to the main house, the 12 acres include three historic cottages, a small office, and a dilapidated barn. Locally, the house is associated with J.E.Z. Riley, a successful real estate investor who owned and operated a bus company. The Riley family owned the house until 2000.

At the June 8, 2006 meeting of the Alabama Historical Commission's Review Board, the Calvin Bullock Cabin in the vicinity of Eufaula

will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This late 19th century central hall cabin or dogtrot sits along side of Alabama Highway 30 between Eufaula and Clayton. Today it is one of a very few dogtrots that remain. The cabin is a one-story, one-room deep, log dogtrot with a rear ell addition. It has a spraddle roof of tin and two end chimneys of fieldstone. The National Register is the official national list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage.

Following the collapse of the Salem-Shotwell Covered Bridge in the bed of Wacoochee Creek in Lee County, lovers of history came by to see the remains of the bridge and talked about the possible future restoration of this historic site. What was once thought to be a county commission project has since turned into a community commitment. Now under the umbrella of the City of Opelika, the Opelika Kiwanis Club has taken a lead role in its restoration, having an eye on the use of six acres at Opelika's Municipal Park. Claud Brown, Jr., chairman of the Opelika Kiwanis Club's "Park the Bridge" task force, recently requested that the Opelika City Council provide funding totaling \$12,500 to use in the restoration project. City Council told Mr. Brown that it would do its best to come up with the needed funds. Total bridge restoration is estimated to cost \$60,000. Local preservationist, John Marsh of Historic Possibilities, will serve as bridge contractor. Primary sponsors include Castone Corporation, Scott Bridge Company, and Dudley Lumber Company. Support has also come from Opelika High School's Horticulture Department, Auburn University's Horticulture

Department, Monarch Estates and various pledges. In its glory days, the bridge stretched 75 feet across Wacoochee Creek along Lee County Road 252, also known as Shotwell Road, approximately nine miles east of Opelika. Once pieced back together at Municipal Park, the bridge will run about 40 feet over Rocky Brook Creek. Reconstruction is expected to begin in May with completion in mid-June. Donations for this project are welcome. Checks should be made out to the "Kiwanis Bridge Fund" and mailed to Post Office Box 2294, Opelika, Alabama 36803-2294. For more information about the historic bridge, call Claud Brown at (334) 745-4567.

The Secondary Industrial School Building recently received a Peebles Grant from the Historic Columbus Foundation. Coupled with matching funding from the Muscogee County School District, this grant made it possible for beveled glass front doors to be fabricated and installed in time for the building's 100 year anniversary on March 23rd. Now housing the Academic Success Center, the building has new doors which are reproductions of the original doors on this National Register of Historic Places building, which housed the first co-ed vocational high school in the country. On June 22, 1906, Mr. G. Gunby Jordan, president of the board of trustees of the Columbus public schools, made remarks at the laying of the cornerstone of the building. His speech that day included the following remarks which certainly resonate 100 years later: *"Life without industry is guilt; industry without beauty is brutality. It has therefore been the object of the board to have a beautiful building, perfectly arranged and with beautiful surroundings, which will attract and beautify the soul."*

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER PHOTO BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission, in cooperation with The Columbus Museum, will sponsor a new publication of historic photos relating to the lower Chattahoochee River from LaGrange, Georgia south to the juncture of the river with the Flint River. This book will be published by Arcadia Publishing of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. It is anticipated that approximately 175-200 photos will be included in the book.

Only photos that directly relate to the river will be considered for inclusion in this photo publication. Mike Bunn, Assistant Curator of History at The Columbus Museum, will coordinate the acquisition of photos from

the LaGrange area to just north of Eufaula. Doug Purcell, executive director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, will coordinate the acquisition of photos from Eufaula south to the Florida state line in Alabama and Georgia.

Possible chapter headings under consideration are: river scenes, industry, transportation, recreation, floods/disasters and river related buildings (The Tavern in Eufaula; the Toll House in Fort Gaines, etc). Images of all types will be featured including postcards, artwork, photo-graphs and even artifacts.

It is anticipated that the project will take about six months to complete before the

photos and captions, index, introduction, bibliography, acknowledgements etc. are ready to send to the publisher. Images submitted for consideration in the publication will be digitally scanned so that the originals can be returned to their owners as soon as possible. Suggested captions are needed with each image submitted. Captions will be limited to approximately 50-70 words.

Anyone having an interest in submitting photographs for inclusion in the book should contact Mike Bunn at The Columbus Museum (mbunn@columbusmuseum.com) or Doug Purcell at the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (hcc3@earthlink.net).

TOURISM AND PRESERVATION NEWS

The Historic Columbus Foundation has recently named Benjamin Salata as its new education coordinator. A native of West Palm Beach, Florida, Mr. Salata received his BA in Public History from Florida Atlantic University. Entering the museum-preservation field in 1998, he served as curator at the Historic Lake Wales Society and the Navy SEAL Museum. He arrived in Columbus in 2003 to join the staff at the Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum. He is currently a candidate for a masters degree in Historic Preservation at the Savannah College of Art and Design and will be graduating this June.

On March 30, 2006, at their annual awards luncheon, The Georgia Historical Society presented the *New Georgia Encyclopedia* with the 2006 History in the Media Award. This award is presented annually to the individual, news agency, or media outlet that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to coverage of history-related topics, and thereby increases public awareness and understanding of our past. GHS executive director Todd Groce stated, "This is the first time an online publication has been selected. NGE was chosen for its ability to harness the power and accessibility of the web to offer the citizens not only of Georgia but the world an opportunity to explore our states history and culture in an exciting, entertaining, and innovative way."

The Henry County Historical Group, in cooperation with the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Representative Locy Baker, and Senator Myron Penn, dedicated the "Rosa Parks Lived Here" historical marker on April 9th. This marker commemorates the fact that Civil Rights pioneer Rosa McCauley



"Rosa Parks Lived Here" historical marker dedication. Pictured from left to right: Dorothy Baker, Larry Smith, Emma Cotton, A.B. Cotton, Ernest Sampson, Rep. Locy Baker, Derek Peterson, Roberta Childs and Rosalyn Trammell

Parks lived in Henry County on a 260 acre farm shortly after her birth in Tuskegee in 1913. The farm was owned by her grandparents, Anderson and Louisa McCauley. After a few years in Henry County, Rosa and her mother moved to Pine Level, Alabama to live with her grandparents while her father went north seeking new building opportunities. Speakers at the dedication included Representative Locy Baker, Historic Chattahoochee Commission Executive Director Doug Purcell, Larry Smith, Vice President of the Henry County Historical Group and Dorothy Baker.

In a move that will improve access to vital research materials and facilitate collaboration with other digital projects on Auburn University's campus, the *Encyclopedia of Alabama* editorial staff relocated to Ralph Brown Draughon Library in mid-February 2006. The transition brings an end to space-sharing arrangements with the Center for the Arts and Humanities that began in May 2004. The new offices, located on the first floor of the library, provide space for three editorial staff members and several graduate research assistants. The offices will also be home to the *Alabama Review*, a quarterly journal of Alabama history published by the Alabama Historical Association. Additional work space is being offered in RBD's Systems Department for EOA media editor Justin Dubois. EOA editor Jeff Jakeman will direct the project from an office in the Department of History. Representative Mike Hubbard secured \$22,830 in state funding for EOA in FY 2006 which made expansion of editorial operations in this academic year possible. "Alabama has been waiting for a resource like EOA for many years," said Hubbard. "I am especially pleased that it will benefit our state's K-12 students and their teachers." Hubbard commended EOA's design as a readily accessible, comprehensive reference work on the state's history, culture, geography, and natural environment. "Representative Hubbard has been a supporter of the humanities in Alabama for many years," said Jeff Jakeman, editor of EOA. "We appreciate his efforts on behalf of EOA and the statewide audience that this project will serve."

The National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus has just received an unexpected grant of \$10,000 to help organize its 40-year collection of archival materials. Now interim curator Jeffrey Seymour is seeking

additional funds. Seymour is applying for a grant from the state archives and said private donations "will be more than welcome." The additional funding will be to assure that there are sufficient funds to acquire archival equipment for the museum such as a new computer, microfilm reader/printer and equipment to help digitize the collection. Seymour noted that "our ultimate aim is to place online the finding aids for all of the archival and artifact collections at the museum. We want to place a large amount of material on the web so that it can be viewed by anyone at anytime." The grant came from Martha Tyson of Louisiana through her son Mabry Tyson of California, the web master of a comprehensive web site detailing the history of the CSS *Virginia*, also known as the *Merrimac*—the rebel ironclad that fought the federal ironclad, *Monitor*. Bruce Smith, executive director of the museum, said "The Port Columbus collection consists of thousands of books, many of which are extremely rare, documents, articles, photographs, paintings and magazines, all noting Civil War naval history topics." He said the process of organizing the materials should take several months, once the details have been decided. Last year, the museum on Victory Drive drew approximately 23,000 visitors.



Earl Durden speaks at the Wiregrass Festival of Murals dedication of the Early Commerce Days mural.

The Wiregrass Festival of Murals dedicated the Early Commerce Days mural on May 6th in downtown Dothan. This huge mural is actually a combined four murals which now gives the City of Dothan a total of 18 murals. Each of the four murals graphically illustrates the impact of the train as a catalyst for the growth of Dothan. The first mural depicts woodsmen gathering resin from the pine trees and shipping their product to markets of the world by the new railroad. The second mural shows a special tram used to haul the logs from the forest. Lumbering was the next phase when pines could no longer yield resin for turpentine production.

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TOURISM AND PRESERVATION NEWS *(Continued from page five)*

Once the logs were cut and transported, huge tracts of forest were harvested clearing the land. In the third mural, cotton is being grown and harvested on the recently cleared land. Mural number four depicts the larger than life train that was so instrumental in the growth and development of Dothan. This mural is located on the side of The Choice Inn. A special Wiregrass Festival of Murals "Celebration of the Arts" event was held at the mural site on May 6th with remarks given by Mayor Pat Thomas and Earl Durden.

Robert "Bob" King, former executive director of the Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association, passed away at his home on March 15th after a lengthy battle with cancer. Mr. King served the Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association for many years, spearheading legislative and fundraising efforts. He received many honors over the years including the 2003 GHTA Hospitality Award for leadership in Georgia's hospitality industry. He was a respected and beloved member of the tourism and hospitality family throughout the State of Georgia.

On May 11th, Mrs. Dorothy McClure of Columbus, Georgia received one of the Governor's Awards in the Humanities presented to her by Governor Sonny Perdue. Mrs. McClure is a trustee of the Historic Columbus Foundation and of the Springer Opera House in Columbus. She was instrumental in saving the Springer Opera House from destruction in 1964. She has also provided leadership in Georgia's humanities community for over 30 years, serving from 1973 until 2004 on the boards of the Georgia Humanities Council and the Georgia Council for the Arts.

The Plains Historical Preservation Trust received one of the Governor's Awards in the Humanities at the Georgia Humanities Council meeting in Atlanta on May 11th. The Trust worked to establish the Jimmy Carter National Park and Historic Site in the home of the nation's 39th president. A volunteer organization, the Trust raised millions for its completion, handling everything locally from the fundraising to the construction, communications and renovations. To this day, the Trust continues to provide leadership and stewardship supporting many historical initiatives and organizations in Plains.

The board of directors of the Alabama Preservation Alliance voted on January 27

to change the name of the organization to the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. Pat Hildebrand, executive director of the Trust, noted that "We are very excited about this name change and also believe it signifies a refocus of our direction, clarifying who we are and what we do. Among other statewide partners of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, nine use the name "Trust" in their name, particularly in cases where the organization is an entity unto itself and not simply a consortium of related groups. We feel this is an outstanding and essential step toward reaching our constituency, clarifying our mission and solidifying our association with the National Trust for Historic Preservation."

"Family Maps of Barbour County, Alabama, Homestead Edition," by Gregory A. Boyd, is a new book that will allow genealogists to determine where early settlers lived and who their neighbors were. Boyd developed the software systems that allow him to map pioneers' land purchases. Arphax Publishing, a Norman, Oklahoma-based company, is putting these maps into book form. The spiral bound book is 270 pages in length, and includes 37 maps, including the Land Patent Map for each of the 34 Congressional townships that make up Barbour County. Each book contains a statewide map (with counties), a "surrounding counties" map, and a map displaying Congressional townships within or intersecting Barbour County. There is also a separate surname/patent index and a surname/township index. For more information on this book visit www.arphax.com or call 1-800-681-5298.

A new publication entitled "Central of Georgia Railway Steam Locomotives and Trains" has been compiled by Jim H. Goolsby, Jr. and Albert M. Langley, Jr. This soft cover publication has 70 pages with over 150 vintage photographs (many never published) of Central of Georgia steam locomotives and trains. This book features the photography of Hugh M. Comer and includes a complete Central of Georgia history, steam locomotive roster, maps, time tables and motive power and passenger train studies. It is printed in an 8 1/2 x 11 inch format on quality heavy coated paper stock. The book retails (postpaid) in the continental USA for \$24.95. Orders may be directed to The Union Station, 785 Murrah Road, North Augusta, SC 29860. Telephone - (803) 279-5975 or e-mail unionstn@aol.com.

The "Chattahoochee Princess" riverboat is now in operation on beautiful Lake Eufaula. The "Chattahoochee Princess" can be chartered year-round for private group functions including: business sales meetings, seminars, graduations, school and church groups, reunions, parties, birthday celebrations, weddings, or anniversaries. For reservation information, call (706) 405-6848 or (706) 660-9735.

PRESERVATION IRONY IN HISTORIC EUFAULA

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Eufaula, people will find a way to save this building." Robert Gamble, architectural historian with the Alabama Historical Commission, has stated that "In a city like Eufaula, which promotes itself as a community with a unique sense of place in no small degree BECAUSE of buildings like the old depot, it surely would be ironic to let a major landmark go essentially 'for salvage'".

Once word of this pending action was received, many members of the church and Eufaula community at large began to question the wisdom of this proposal. Recognizing the extreme importance of this depot building, the Southern Region Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation contacted the Board of Trustees and offered to "...commit funds to conduct a feasibility study that would develop a proposal which would save the structure and help the First United Methodist Church continue to grow". The Trust also pledged to work with Church representatives to help find a way to "ensure that the Vicksburg and Brunswick depot remain a part of Eufaula's built environment".

At the April 6th meeting of the Trustees, a decision was made to accept the offer of the National Trust with a request that the study and their recommendations be received by June 12th. In addition the Trustees have agreed to make copies of all previous reports and studies on the depot available for review by the church membership. Bob Powers, Chair of the Board of Trustees, has noted that this discussion "...may prove to be the catalyst for solution that meets the needs of the church and the wishes of our members." Certainly this is a major step in the right direction. Hopefully the Trustees and other Church decision makers will keep in mind the passage from Job 12:15 which reminds us that "What is torn down cannot be rebuilt."

2005 - 2006 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

(Listing date: October 5, 2005 – May 3, 2006)

RENEWALS

Bill Carroll
Harry Hall
Jacquelyn Cook
T. Larry Smith
Calvin Dean
Sarah T Lawrence
Susan Gristina
Betty S Brown
Edna G. Bush
Martin Price
Lindy Money
Jerry Beasley
Tim Beasley
Pat Schiller
Carl Summers
Roberta Childs
Joe A. Cannon
Alice Budge
Wendell Wentz
Roger B. Davis
Sarah Fishburne
Gloria Franklin
Deborah Casey/Fendall Hall
Brenda Howell
Betty G. Milldrum
Sara Singer
Carolyn Hutcheson
Willie M. Porter
Jim & Linda Straub
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Killian
Bill & Pat Wentz
Neal Rumble
Gayle & Ronnie Thomas
Terry & Anmarie Honan
Jack & Sandy Jordan
John & Lou Martin
JB & Barbara Short
Earl & Roberta Hyers
Dr. & Mrs. Danny Hartzog
Bob & Barbara Patton
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Murphree
Dean S. Wall
Virginia Freeman
Branko Medenica
Tom & Ann Ballenger
Ruth Ann & Lamar Powers
Gary & Laura Fuller
Tim & Joy Glover
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Marley
Elizabeth Lipscomb
Bill Dillard
Susan & Terry Bishop
Charles & Patricia Auman
Dave & Dallas P. Jankowski
Shay & Barbara Ingle
Frank & Anne Turner
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MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO SAVE FORT CUSSETA BEGINS

At the request of several individuals and organizations, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) helped facilitate a February 17th meeting to discuss the future of historic Fort Cusseta, in Cusseta, Chambers County, Alabama. The original Fort Cusseta was erected sometime after the signing of the Creek Treaty of 1832. It was a 16 by 30 foot hand hewn log fort for protection against a possible Indian uprising from the Cussetaw Indian Village on Osanippa Creek just north of Cusseta.

Attending the meeting were: Representative DuWayne Bridges; Ms. Elizabeth Brown, interim director, Alabama Historical Commission; Dr. Horace Holderfield, President, Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society (CVHS); Mr. Britton Harris, Auburn University Preservation Guild; Mr. Bert Harris and his mother, Mrs. John

Harris who is a local concerned citizen; Mrs. Virginia Weldon, President, Chambers County Museum Board and CVHS Board member; Mr. Albert Killian, HCC Lee County Board member; Mrs. Ann Alsobrook, local concerned citizen; Ms. Katie Cole, intern with Alabama Heritage Magazine; Dr. Jeff Jakeman, Auburn University and Commissioner, Alabama Historical Commission; Mrs. Miriam Syler, Archivist, Cobb Memorial Archives and CVHS board member; Mrs. Mac Bryant, HCC Chambers County Board member; Mr. Carl Summers, HCC Lee County Board member, CVHS Board member and President, Lee County Historical Society; Dr. Tony Carey, Auburn University and Hollifield Associate Professor of Southern History; as well as Doug Purcell, Executive Director of the HCC.

The friends of Fort Cusseta, gathered for this meeting, observed that the remains of the fort were in peril of final collapse and decay. Some years ago a storm ripped away one half of a protective roof installed in 1987 and it has never been replaced. The rear log wall is completely missing. The side walls protrude from under

the remaining roof and are in an advanced state of decay. The long wall on the side adjacent to the railroad tracks has collapsed against the 1987 poles installed to support the protective roof and side.

It was decided to photo document the remains of the fort as a first step in the process to preserve, protect and promote the historic site. This work will be undertaken by Britton Harris. Rep. Bridges, with support from Senator Gerald Dial and Representative Richard Laird, agreed to help fund a study to research and document the fort. This work is now underway by Chris Haveman, an Auburn University graduate student. The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, with assistance from the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, is supervising Mr. Haveman's work. Ms. Elizabeth Brown suggested that the fort be nominated to the Alabama Historical Commission/Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation's "Places in Peril" list to get some statewide exposure to the condition of the fort. That nomination process has been completed. Once the research work has been completed by Mr. Haveman some consideration will be given to an archaeological study of the site. And finally it was decided to consider the formation of a "Friends of Fort Cusseta" group to raise funds for the future restoration and promotion of this historic site. The fort site is in downtown Cusseta and is identified by a historical marker erected by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission in 1978.



Supporters gather at Fort Cusseta to discuss renovations of the historical site.



Historic Chattahoochee Commission
Post Office Box 33
Eufaula, Alabama 36072-0033
Web Site www.hcc-al-ga.org
E-mail hcc3@earthlink.net



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