



HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

SEPTEMBER 2023

A Word from Lisa

Hello September!

While we anticipate some of the cooler weather coming to Alabama, the AHC has been preparing for the upcoming fall events at many of our historic sites across the state including a World War II event at Fort Morgan, Hymn Fest at Old Cahawba, and Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse. Make sure to check the [calendar of events](#) on our website for additional information.

AHC will be hosting a workshop in Dadeville on September 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Dadeville City Hall. AHC staff will provide information about Federal and State Tax Incentives for historic properties, Certified Local Governments, and additional preservation programs that can benefit municipalities and other entities. Also, the University of Alabama’s Moundville Archaeological Park is hosting their [Native American Festival](#) October 4-7 in Moundville. AHC staff will be in attendance and will have a booth set up during the event, so please stop by and say hello if you are planning to attend.

The nomination period for the Places in Peril program ends in October, so I encourage you to send in your nominations for a threatened building, structure, or archaeological site. If there is an irreplaceable historic building or site in your area, this is your opportunity to help save it. Each submission will be evaluated for its significance and level of threat. The deadline for [Places in Peril](#) is October 31, so don't wait!

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Save the DATE!

September 16

Living History

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson

September 16

World War II Event

Fort Morgan

September 18

Speaker Series - Clayton Davis

at Courtland Train Depot

September 24

Hymn Fest

Old Cahawba

September 29-October 7

Public Bird Banding

Fort Morgan

October 1

Archaeology Month Begins

October 7

Cemetery Walking Tour

Old Cahawba

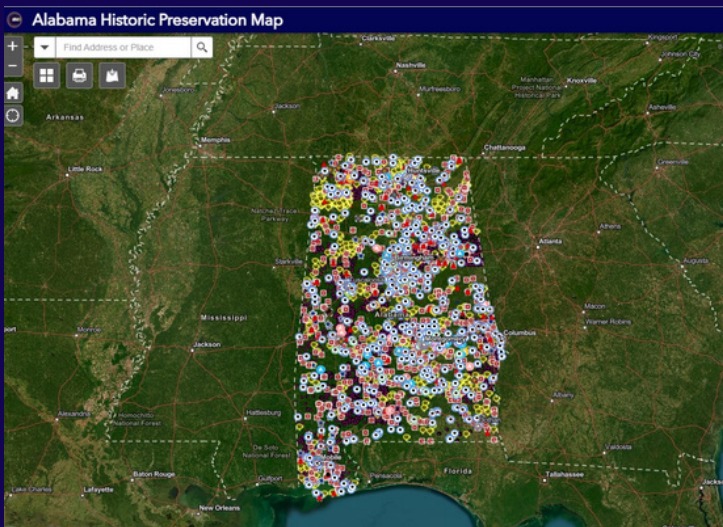
The Alabama Historic Preservation Map receives new upgrades

The Alabama Historic Preservation Map has received its first major set of upgrades since its release in 2020. Throughout the year, AHC has been working to improve the public Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers for AHC programs, including improved locations, more detailed data, the consolidation of layers, new icons, as well as access to more documents and photos.

AHC also updated the maps display to be more user-friendly, as well as more visually appealing. With the update, the new display also offers new tools and widgets. These tools were carefully chosen to provide both the public, as well as consultants and researchers, the information they may need for their search.

In addition to these improvements, AHC built a new website for the map and the AHC's public GIS datasets. One of the features includes a 'How to Use the Map' section to help improve a user's experience with the map. Another feature is the addition of a GIS Open Data Portal where users can download data from the map.

For more information on the GIS map, please contact GIS Specialist Joseph Massey at 334-230-2699 or joseph.massey@ahc.alabama.gov.



New GIS Map homepage

Author Billy Singleton to make appearance at Confederate Park

Confederate Memorial Park is the original site of what was once Alabama's only state-run care facility for aging veterans of the Confederate army, their wives, and widows.

Eleven original photographs of the Soldiers' Home taken in 1925 were recently discovered and donated to the park's archives by Billy J. Singleton, author of *Hidden History of Chilton County, Alabama*. Singleton's book includes a photograph of the "Blue and Grey Cottage" named in honor of Union veterans who provided a large part of the funding for its construction.

On Saturday, September 16 at 10:00 am, Site Director Calvin Chappelle will discuss these photos as they relate to this history of the Soldiers' Home, and Billy Singleton will discuss his book and how he discovered these historic photographs.

Admission is \$2 per person and the program will take place inside the museum. Call 205-755-1990 for more information.



Blue and Grey Cottage



Archaeology Month begins **October 1**

Employee Q&A

with Site Director John Gurner,
Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson



Site Director John Gurner

Frontier Days 2023

Q: What can people expect to see and experience when they attend Frontier Days?

JG: The Alabama Frontier Days provides a glimpse into the French colonial and Native American life of Alabama. From blacksmiths hammering iron ore into tools, French soldiers training with their weapons, frontier women spinning yarn for clothes, or the Native American stomp dance, it is a tableau of all the vital skills and chores that made up frontier life.

Q: What is your favorite part about Frontier Days?

JG: I enjoy the aromas of hickory fires and camp food wafting through the air. It is a sensory experience that few people have access to.

Q: Tell us all the details about Frontier Days and where people get more information?

JG: The event is geared towards school children for the weekdays. Saturday is the best time for the general public to attend. Program times are from 9 AM to 3 PM. Be sure to bring water and dress for the weather. More details can be found [here](#).

Frontier Days

Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson

November 1-4, 2023

9 am - 3 pm

Moore Building restoration underway

This project is funded through multiple grants from the African American Civil Rights grant program administered by the [National Park Service](#).

The Moore Building was constructed in 1940 by Dr. W.A. Gunter, Jr. and was called the Gunter Building until purchased and renamed by Jerome T. Moore in 1943. It served as the state headquarters for the Alabama Council on Human Relations (ACHR), one of Alabama's most significant organizations in the fight for desegregation, in the mid 1950s. Additionally, in May 1961, bystanders stood outside the Moore Building and watched a mob violently attack Freedom Riders across the street at what was then the Greyhound Bus Station, now the Freedom Rides Museum.

The building retains its original steel windows, corridors, staircases, elevator and Art Moderne motifs. Phase I of a multi-phase rehabilitation project includes site work, roof repairs, hazardous material abatement, and demolition of non-original material. Once the project is complete the first floor will be used to support the operation of the Freedom Rides Museum with additional educational, programming, retail and office space.



Historic Moore Building downtown Montgomery

Alabama's National Register Review Board to evaluate potential nominations to the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register Review Board will meet on September 28 at 10:30 am in the Carriage House located at the Alabama Historical Commission's main office at 468 S. Perry Street, Montgomery, AL. Upon Review Board approval, AHC will submit the nominations to the National Park Service for final consideration and listing. The following properties will be reviewed during the meeting:

- Simpson's Florist, Decatur, Morgan County
- Seaboard Airline Freight House, Birmingham, Jefferson County
- Bank of Columbia, Columbia, Houston County
- Gadsden Coca Cola Bottling Plant, Gadsden, Etowah County
- Campsite 2: Rosie Steele Property, Hayneville vicinity, Lowndes County
- Jenkins Farm and House, Loxley area, Baldwin County