



# HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

JUNE 2023

## A Word from Lisa

Hello everyone!

Summertime is here at AHC and we are excited to share the news of Governor Kay Ivey signing the legislation into law appropriating \$6 million in funding for the Preservation of Alabama's Significant Sites (PASS) grant program! This program will assist in the preservation and repair of historic sites in Alabama that either significantly contributed to the Civil Rights movement or sites that were built prior to 1840 for government or public use. There is no maximum grant amount that local governments and nonprofits can apply for and these funds will be given to "brick and mortar" repair for historic sites. We thank the Alabama Legislature and Governor Ivey for recognizing the importance of providing funds for the program and their support of the AHC. The [application forms](#) are now available online through our new grant software called Submittable. This has made the application process easier and more streamlined for the citizens of Alabama.

Last month, AHC highlighted the continuous efforts made by the staff for preservation across the state including historical marker dedications, stories behind the sites, helpful resources and tools for the public, and more. I am proud to see all the hard work the AHC staff has done during Preservation Month and all year to continue the agency's mission in protecting, preserving, and interpreting all of Alabama's historic places. AHC celebrated our employees with an appreciation luncheon where all staff, including site staff were able to come together for fun and fellowship.

**Lisa D. Jones**  
*Executive Director*  
*State Historic Preservation Officer*

## Save the DATE!

Now-July 10  
**PASS Grant Applications**  
[Apply Here](#)

June 19  
**Speaker Series - Clayton Davis**  
[Pond Spring](#)

July 8  
**Africatown Heritage House**  
[Opening](#)

July 17  
**Speaker Series - David Breland**  
[Pond Spring](#)

# AHC Receives Funding from National Park Service for two projects

The National Park Service awarded \$21 million to 37 projects in 16 states across the country, including Alabama, as part of the Historic Preservation Fund's African American Civil Rights grant program. The program helps fund preservation projects tied to the struggle of African Americans to gain equal rights.

Established in 1977 and authorized at \$150 million per year through 2023, the HPF has provided more than \$2 billion in historic preservation grants to states, tribes, local governments, and nonprofits.

The Alabama Historical Commission received \$750,000 for the restoration efforts of the Moore Building downtown Montgomery as well as \$75,000 for the Freedom Rides Museum Vintage Greyhound Bus Virtual Reality Experience. Other organizations throughout Alabama received funding and more information on those can be found [here](#).

# Black Heritage Council Member Frazine Taylor Featured in National Magazine

The Christian Science Monitor, one of the nation's most acclaimed news magazines, will feature Frazine Taylor in an upcoming story for her accomplishments in the field of Black genealogical studies and family research.

Taylor, a staff member of the Alabama State University's Levi Watkins Center, has been researching genealogy since 1986 where she began her career at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

"I am excited that this will shine a light of knowledge and inform many Black Americans that they too may discover their own heritage and learn about their people's family roots and I am here to help people discover their heritage."

The magazine has a special section of their magazine titled *People Making a Difference*.



Frazine Taylor



Freedom Rides Museum  
Greyhound Bus



Moore  
Building



**Places in Peril**  
**nominations open**  
**thru October 31, 2023.**  
**Click for details!**

# Recently discovered photos of the Soldiers' Home donated to 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 photos of the Soldiers' Home were recently discovered and donated to the park's archives by Billy J. Singleton, author of *Hidden History of Chilton County, Alabama*. One of those photos features the "Blue and Grey Cottage" named in honor of Union veterans who provided a large part of the funding for its construction. A caption attached to the photo tells us that Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Morehead, Tom McCary, and Dr. J. C. Christian were living in this cottage in 1925. Look for a special program this summer where visitors can see these photos for the first time and learn more about life at the Soldiers' Home.



Blue and Grey Cottage

# AHC Visits Painted Bluff

Last month, AHC staff made a visit to Painted Bluff in Marshall County with other state representatives and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

The site dates back to the Mississippian Period, around AD 1400, and contains more than 80 individual glyphs overlooking the Tennessee River. Rock sites such as these are rare and fragile and Painted Bluff is considered the most significant examples in the Southeast. In addition, AHC added Painted Bluff to the Places in Peril program in 2013.

In 2016, a partnership between the TVA, AHC, and other entities was awarded the National Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for saving Painted Bluff.



## Speaker Series

June 19 | 6:30 pm | Pond Spring  
MSNHA Historic Preservationist  
**Clayton Davis**

Seating is limited.  
Call 256-637-8513

# APPLY NOW!

The Alabama Historical Commission has announced the Preservation of Alabama's Significant Sites (PASS) grant program. For more information, click [here](#).