

BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Preservation Week

May 2002



THE 2002 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK theme calls upon us to save and enhance the irreplaceable features that give our city its distinctive character. Please help preserve our spirit of place.

On Thursday evening, May 16 at 5:30 p.m., Birmingham Historical Society will spotlight an historic treasure: the splendidly refurbished Jefferson County Courthouse and honor those who preserve our spirit. We gather to present Preservation Awards in Judge Thorn's Courtroom, pictured above, at 6:00 p.m.. Entrance to the courthouse will be from the 21st Street.

Following the presentation, Giattina, Fischer, Adycock Architects, Inc. will lead tours of the award-winning historic interiors. A reception follows. Please come and bring friends to enjoy the historic courthouse and learn about the diligent and exciting people and projects to be recognized. The Awards Committee includes Wayne Hester, Chairman; Kyle D'Agostino; Pam King; Kyle Kirkwood; Chris Washington; and Marjorie White.

Society Calendar

May 6, 6:00 p.m.

Presentation on the Turkey Creek Historic Resources Mapping Project

by Richard K. Anderson, Jr.

Jef. Cty. Satellite Courthouse,
Center Point Pkwy.

Preservation Awards

May 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Awards Presentation, 6:00 p.m.

Followed by tours & a reception
Jefferson County Courthouse

Birmingham Historical Society 2002 PRESERVATION AWARDS

Jefferson County Courthouse

When in 1988 county officials realized that patching and fixing of the then 60-year-old electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems of the courthouse (Architect: Holabird and Root, Chicago, Jack B. Smith; drawings 1927) would not do, they studied alternatives and decided to restore the historic shell. In 1993 they began to tear it apart and return it to "state of the art" with new technologies, systems and security . . . while continuing to use the building! They also restored significant features including the courtrooms, lobbies, terrazzo floors and halls as part of today's modern, functioning building.

For: Sensitive rescue and reuse of the historic interiors of this major public space

The Jefferson County Commissioners: *Gary White, President; Mary Buckelew, Bettye Fine Collins, Jeff Germany, Steve Small, and Chris McNair (retired commissioner)*



Project Coordinators: Director of General Services, Jefferson County, Billy Morace, Retired Director, Dayle Tyner
Architect: Giattina Fischer Aycock Architects Inc., Project Architect: James Aycock, Jr., Project Manager: Ty Cole
Terrazzo restoration: DMI Tile and Marble Inc., Project Superintendent Jim Isaminger

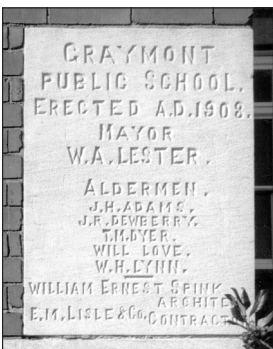


Birmingham Publishing Co.

The transformation of the former print and saw works buildings into open spaces for architects and artists fosters "collaboration" between architects, consultants and clients and artists and community groups who work in the old saw works adjacent to the space pictured above. The original metal frame Hopper windows were restored and new ones built to match.

For skillful integration of old and new features and uses

Owner and Architect/Designer and Builder: Richard Pigford, ArchitectureWorks



Graymont School-Jefferson Count Office of Economic Opportunity (JCCEO)

This neighborhood school, the site of the desegregation of the Birmingham schools on September 4, 1963, returned to new life as the headquarters for JCCEO. Under the inspired guidance of Gayle



Cunningham, more than 600 persons work in the high vaulted classrooms. Children also attend Headstart programs here.

For: Restoring the spirit and physical structure of the school

Prime Mover: Gayle Cunningham, JCCEO Director
Architect: Charles A. Moss



Cathedral Church of the Advent Stonework Conservation

In 1997, the Ohio sandstone of the Advent walls was deteriorating. Advent planners studied the stone and identified causes for the deterioration: water retained in leaf-filled gutters, foundation plants and repointing with "hard" mortar, all of which keep water in the stone. Conservation methods developed include removing plants, cleaning gutters, replacing flashing and coping stones, and training masons in mortar

restoration: essentially to correctly apply a soft mortar that will allow the joints to expel water.

For: Assessing and laboring to preserve the Ohio sandstone walls

Materials Specialist: Camille Agricola, Alabama Historical Commission

Dean: The Very Rev. Paul F. M. Zahl; Administrator: Bryan Helm; Task Force Chair: Thomas A. Wilson

Architect/Conservator: Carraway and Associates Inc. Architects, John C. Carraway, John Morse

Mortar Restoration: Brasfield and Gorrie, Jim Gorrie, Project Superintendent Matt Owen

Chief Mason: Charles Thomas

NEW CONSTRUCTION



Highlands United Methodist Church Addition

In this addition, Highlands Methodist sought to link its historic sanctuary and educational facilities, formerly divided by an alley and separate entrances, and provides drive-in access from 21st Street. The design for new construction links facilities on all levels and provides a multi-use foyer and a spectacular new front door for the total campus facility.

For: Effectively bridging the historic and the new

Highlands Methodist Sr. Pastors: Oliver Clark, Hughey Reynolds and administrator Reggie Holder; Church Members: Craig Rodgers, Bill Cone and Bill Satterfield

Architect: Richard Pigford, ArchitectureWorks



Rhodes Park Landscape Restoration

Formed in 1996 to undertake the restoration of Rhodes Park, this friends' group, an offshoot of the Highland Park neighborhood association, which has been described as an "informal and remarkable team," repaired the aggregate stone walls, wading pool and walkways; rebuilt a brick balustrade and patio from historic photographs; installed new irrigation, lighting and furnishing; landscaped with native shrubs; and creatively raised the funds to undertake the venture.

For: Championing careful conservation

Ball roller: Terry Slaughter

Prime Movers: Anne Hajduk, ASLA; Allison Glascock, Charles Glascock, Jim Kelly, Jim Cooper, Robin O'Neal

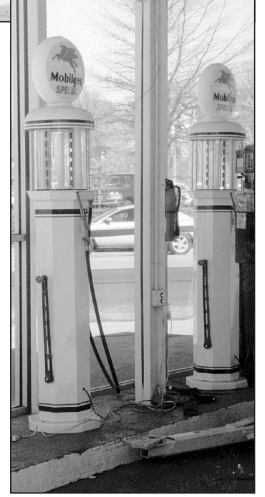


Tire Engineers Two 3129 Sixth Avenue South

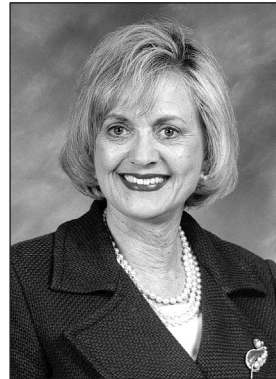
Fred Johnson, whose family tire rehaul business has been on Southside since 1948, envisioned reviving the late 1920s grocery and gas station, just across from his place, to period specifications. To fix it up, he demolished later additions and glassed in the drive-in space for fast oil changes, brake checking and tire rotating. A friend built the vintage pumps. (In the 1920s, gas was \$.14 a gallon and you paid the going, unpublished rate.)

For: Imaginative adaption to automotive uses

Owner and Prime mover: Fred Johnston



SPECIAL AWARDS



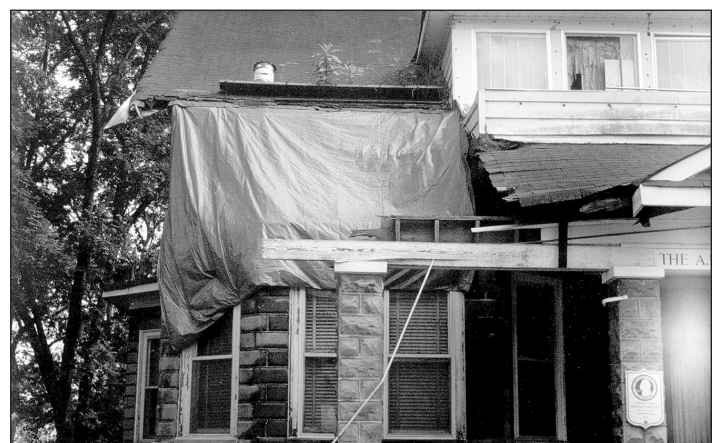
Turkey Creek Preserve & Commissioner Betty Fine Collins

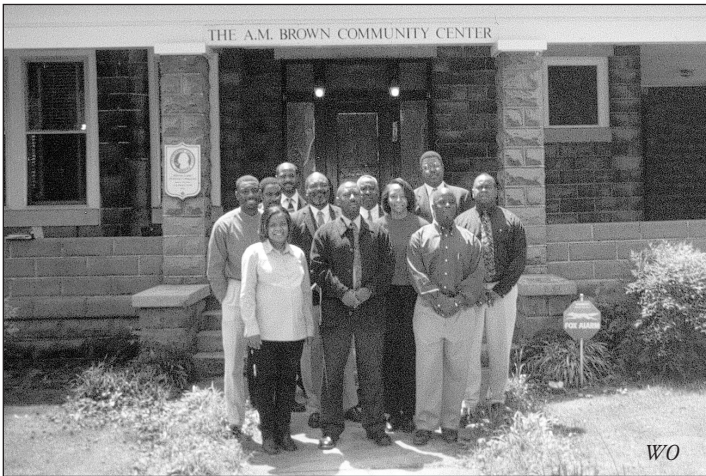
When the people of Pinson protested a jail planned for Turkey Creek, Commissioner Collins swung into action creating a task force to acquire and preserve the land with its exceptional natural, scenic, archeological and historic resources. Scientists and archeologists studied the creek and documentation consultant Richard Anderson, AIA, of South Carolina conducted field and archival research and oral interviews to identify and map archeological and historic resources.

**For: Mapping historic and archeological resources in the future
700-acre nature preserve**

A. M. Brown Memorial Community Center for Arts & Crafts 319 4th Terrace North, Smithfield

When high winds landed a tree on the Brown House (the former residence of a surgeon and physician Dr. Arthur McKinnon Brown (Architect: Wallace A. Rayfield; 1909), the Birmingham Art Club sought help to repair the residence and gained an ally. The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) now calls the Brown House headquarters. The Birmingham NOMA chapter is the only American chapter to have a home base.





For: Rescuing a tornado stricken landmark

Owners: Birmingham Art Club, Mrs. Juanita Vann, Mrs. Julia Emma Smith

Project Architect: Willie C. Oliver; Coordinator: Victor Blackledge; New Users: the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOAM), pictured above.



For: Their Boundless Enthusiasm for Living Downtown

Three Generations of Hardins: Jim and Linda Hardin, Eva Nell Brannon (Linda's mother); Shari Hardin, James Hardin III (Jim and Linda's children)

NEW NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Bessemer Downtown District Expansion

Movers and Shakers: Jim and Merte Byrum, Bessemer Community Development



Roebuck Springs Preservation Society

House tours, workdays, workshops, fund-raising . . . you name it, this nonprofit (composed of property owners) organized to support and conserve its neighborhood of country estates and post World War II houses. Culminating a five-year effort, the Society won local historic districting for Roebuck Springs at the March 26, 2002 Birmingham City Council meeting.

For: Spearheading neighborhood conservation

Neighborhood Officers: Rodney Tucker, Jennifer James, Priscilla Newton



Hollywood District, Homewood

Neighborhood Leaders: Angela Comfort
(Spanish above, English left)

Norwood Boulevard District

Neighborhood Officers: Robert Gilmore, Joyce Braxton, Arthur Jean Jones
(pictured below)

Photographs courtesy Architecture Works; Kyle D'Agastino, Giattina Fischer Aycock; Kyle Kirkwood; Willie Oliver; Chris Washington; Marjorie White

**The Hardins of Hardin House
1921 Third Avenue North**

The Hardins moved to town and converted a retail building (Architect: William C. Weston, built 1906-07) as their home. They love living downtown and encourage others to join them.



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