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**THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT STORY:**  
**A STUDY OF ALTERNATIVES**  
**FOR AN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DISTRICT**

- Draft -

A Study Prepared for the National Park Service Department of the Interior  
under Cooperative Agreement CA-5000-1-9011  
Birmingham Historical Society  
Birmingham, Alabama  
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## PREFACE

This study is an unprecedented exploration of this metropolitan area founded on geology, organized along industrial transportation systems, developed with New South enthusiasm and layered with physical and cultural strata particular to time and place.

It views as whole a sprawling territory usually described as fragmented. It traces historical sequence and connections only just beginning to be understood. It reads the landscape, both under and above the ground, as resource for enlightenment and recreation. And it projects how myriad historic, natural and cultural features might be woven into a larger fabric: if you will, a quilt that tells one story and many.

Impact is already evident. The very preparation of the study with active participation of a Steering Committee and review by an Advisory Committee which drew members from various city and county governments, historical sites, industry and education, and many other sources has established new lines of communication and interest. The listing and mapping of historic sites and other features at regional scale undergird this evolving awareness. As with all effective plans, this one already belongs to those it has engaged.

The study presents plan alternatives that widen from limited to comprehensive action, and it also looks at ways to organized for further action. This latter component is critical to fair exploration of potential because the concept of industrial history and extended historical trails or corridors does not fit easily into established modes.

Economic factors, both cost and benefit, are treated, though, again, the pioneering character of such efforts, as well as their inherent differences, make these very hard to establish. What does appear clear is the growing interest in cultural, or heritage tourism. Current local and state levels of support, as reported, show existing commitment. Visitation projections for a metropolitan area only now emerging as a destination may prove conservative. Adding up individual site numbers does not capture the dynamic that comes from a successful regional cluster of interrelated attractions.

What also may not register is the broad image-making and economic positioning that a comprehensive Birmingham Industrial Heritage District initiative can stimulate. In an area often stymied by difference, this District creates a common, cross-jurisdictional goal. In an ageing industrial valley and an often-depressed coal mining district, the economic impact of local pride and confidence that can stem from these proposals could reach well beyond tourism.

It has been said that money spent on heritage tourism has doubled effect. The very things a community develops for its own civic needs and desires also serves the visitor. In that case, this study only begins to hint at cost-benefit potential. The motivation, organization, research and direction implicit in this modest-seeming study may, in fact, create the best framework for regional cooperation and development seen to date.

It is history. It was shared. The seams beneath the ground that shaped the place remain. The lines charted on these pages describe strategic new resources.

Philip Morris  
Editor at Large, Southern Living  
Chairman, Steering Committee

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROJECT SUMMARY

*The following project summary has been prepared by the Southeast Regional Office, Cultural Resources Planning Division of the National Park Service*

In June 1991, this Study of Alternatives for the Birmingham District Industrial Heritage Corridor (the District) was initiated by the National Park Service to evaluate the significance of the iron, steel, coal, and transportation systems in Bibb, Shelby, Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties of Alabama within a national context. The first volume of this study provided a description, brief history, assessment, and survey forms for the major sites in the District. The survey data collected for this study led the National Park Service to determine that "most of the properties lack the required level of integrity as 'true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled examples' of a (nationally significant) resource type. This is not a problem that is likely to be overcome by more detailed study and justification."<sup>1</sup> The production of foundry iron and cokemaking was not established as nationally significant in this study, but future research may cause the National Park Service to reconsider this decision. The National Park Service especially encourages further study of the District's labor history.

The study included a preliminary survey of 600 sites and structures. Sloss Furnaces is the only National Historic Landmark in the District, but the statue of Vulcan, and Thomas Cokeworks and Housing District were determined to potentially have national significance with further documentation. The National Park Service determined that "the following properties failed to meet National Historic Landmark criteria because they do not possess high levels of historic integrity: Brookside Coal Mine-Coke Ovens; Ruffner Red Ore Mines; Coalburg Coke Ovens; Shelby Ironworks; Gould Mines and Coke Ovens; Alabama Coal Mining Company Mine; and the TCI-USX Ensley Works. The following properties were found wanting due to a combination of low levels of historic integrity and the absence of national significance: Sloss Red Ore Mine No. 2; Pratt Coke Ovens; and the Tannehill Furnaces. The following properties were found to lack national significance: Muscoda Red Ore Mines; Altamont Parkway; Alabama Power Company (Building); General Josiah Gorgas House; John Bankhead House; and the Powell Avenue Power Station."<sup>2</sup> Some of these sites are currently being preserved and interpreted by local communities, private groups, and the state.

The most interesting element of the industrial history of the District was the labor force, which primarily consisted of African Americans. Unlike their northern counterparts, the iron plantations and the burgeoning iron and steel mills of the Birmingham District harnessed the abundant regional labor force of slaves, before and during the Civil War, and the freed African Americans afterwards. The prevalent use of convict labor is an element of the New South which can also be told in the District. The struggles of African Americans to be recognized and given the same rights as their white counterparts are important historical events that are presented at the Civil Rights Institute which opened in 1992 in Birmingham.

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<sup>1</sup>Memorandum from Associate Director, Planning and Development, Washington Office, National Park Service to Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, dated September 3, 1992.

<sup>2</sup>Memorandum from Chief Historian, National Park Service, to Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, dated August 20, 1992.



Based upon this determination, the Birmingham District appears to be unsuitable for inclusion in the National Park System as a park service "unit," but is very worthy of preservation. Therefore, this volume of the study identifies alternatives to protect and interpret District resources relying primarily on State, local, or private initiatives. However, the National Park Service and other federal agencies may coordinate or provide technical assistance in planning preservation, and could oversee any additional federal funds appropriated to the project.

Recommendations to be put forth in the Study of Alternatives are as follows:

1. Further research and documentation should be conducted on Vulcan and Thomas Cokeworks and Housing District for National Historic Landmark documentation.
2. The District's labor history should be studied as an element of the nationwide Labor History Theme Study to be conducted by the National Park Service.
3. If the proposed American Heritage Partnership Program is approved by Congress, then the District is an ideal candidate for designation as a National Heritage Area and should be considered for participation in the program.

Although the District's resources fail to support establishment of a National Park Service unit, the significant heritage of the District needs to be preserved. The local populace should continue to take the lead in preserving and interpreting these resources and to seek assistance from other private and governmental bodies in accomplishing these efforts.

## **THE HERITAGE DISTRICT CONCEPT**

The Birmingham Industrial Heritage District is proposed as a collection of historically significant sites whose importance to the economic and cultural development of the greater Birmingham area will be interpreted in publications, maps, and other resources and through exhibits at one or more visitor centers. The national significance of some of the District sites (Sloss, Red Mountain Cut) has already been recognized; the national significance of other sites has yet to be established.

The boundaries of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District do not coincide with current political divisions but relate to the geology of the area and early industrial development. To the south of Birmingham proper, the District includes portions of Bibb and Shelby and the southwest tip of Jefferson Counties where Civil War and antebellum iron forges and furnaces developed. To the north and west, the District includes coal fields of Walker County and the Warrior River down to Tuscaloosa, an antebellum center of commerce and the state capital for twenty years. The heart of the District is in Jefferson County where Birmingham and its suburbs experienced extraordinary growth and development in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The sites and interpretive resources of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District will explain to visitors and residents alike who we are and where we came from, our contributions to the region and the nation, the challenges we have overcome, and the problems we still face--in short the economic and social history of our community.

## VISION

The Birmingham District is envisioned as:

a collection of *historically significant* sites in Jefferson, Walker, Shelby, Bibb, and Tuscaloosa Counties, Alabama and surrounding counties whose economic and cultural development will be interpreted in publications and programs and at one or more visitor centers; and as

a *partnership* of individuals, organizations, and industries; historical, environmental, and recreational groups; and local, state, and federal agencies, all working together to tell the Birmingham District story.

## MISSION

The mission of the District is to *preserve, interpret, develop, and use* the District's cultural, natural and recreational resources and to encourage *heritage tourism* and *economic development*.

## OBJECTIVES

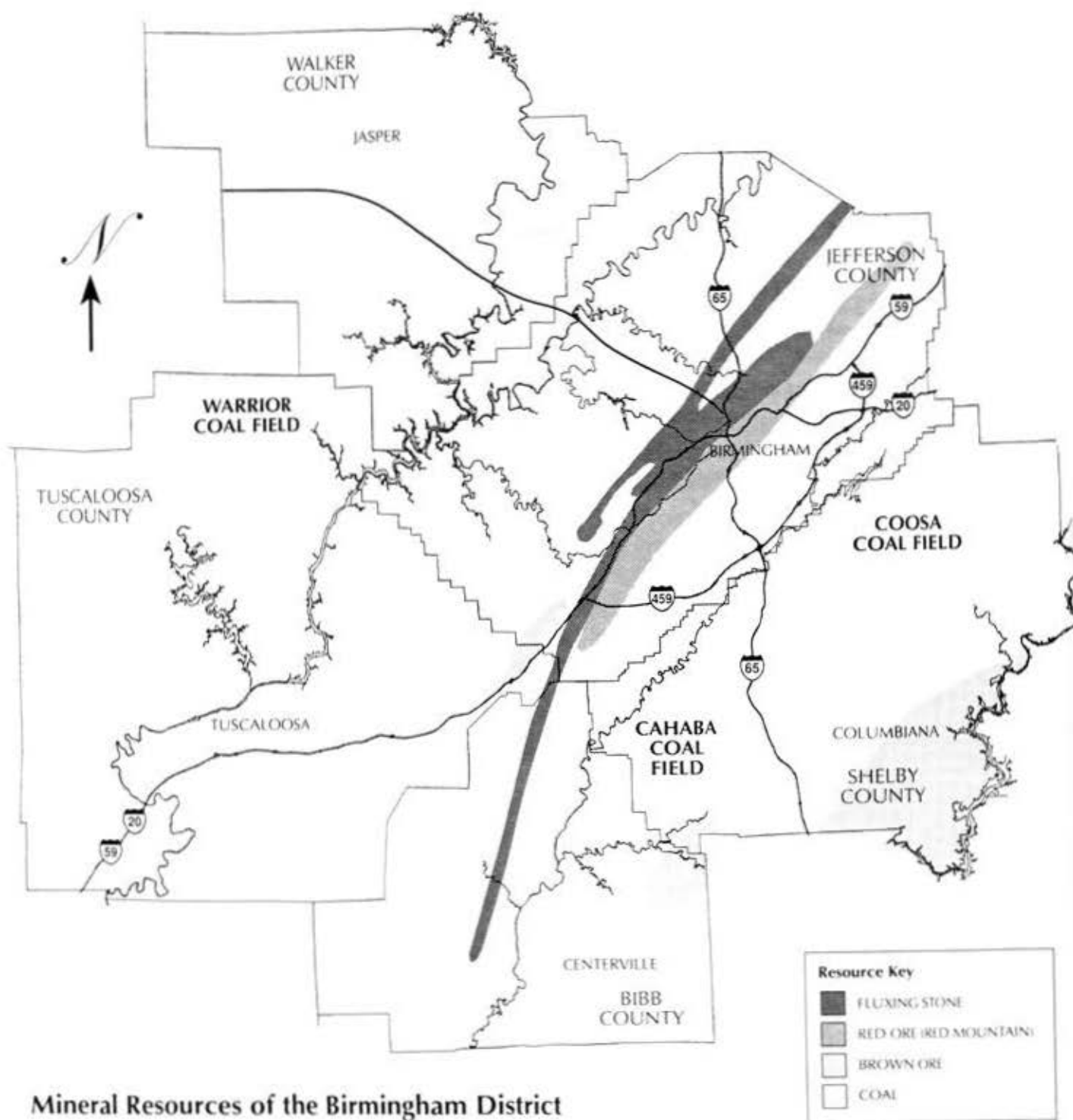
- . Establish an organization to pursue the mission of the District as elaborated in these objectives and to arrange financing through grants, contracts, and other means.
- . Preserve nationally significant resources, and other related resources of importance to the District's industrial history
- . Establish a technical service capability to assist District sites in documentation, preservation, collections management, interpretation, education, promotion, heritage tourism, economic development, and other activities
- . Prepare surveys, National Register, HABS/HAER, and National Landmark documentation for significant resources
- . Develop an interpretive system for the District
- . Develop a central visitor interpretive center
- . Develop secondary information centers
- . Develop significant resources as major visitor destinations
- . Develop Main Street programs in District communities
- . Develop trails and greenways linking sites, including rail-to-trail projects
- . Develop rail excursions
- . Develop scenic roads
- . Promote active industrial plant tours
- . Protect, preserve, develop archeological sites
- . Promote a uniformly high level of quality in the programs and activities
- . Establish a long-term participatory planning process to enhance cooperation between individuals, organizations, investors, communities, and units of government.

## THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT STORY - *Words, Pictures & Maps*

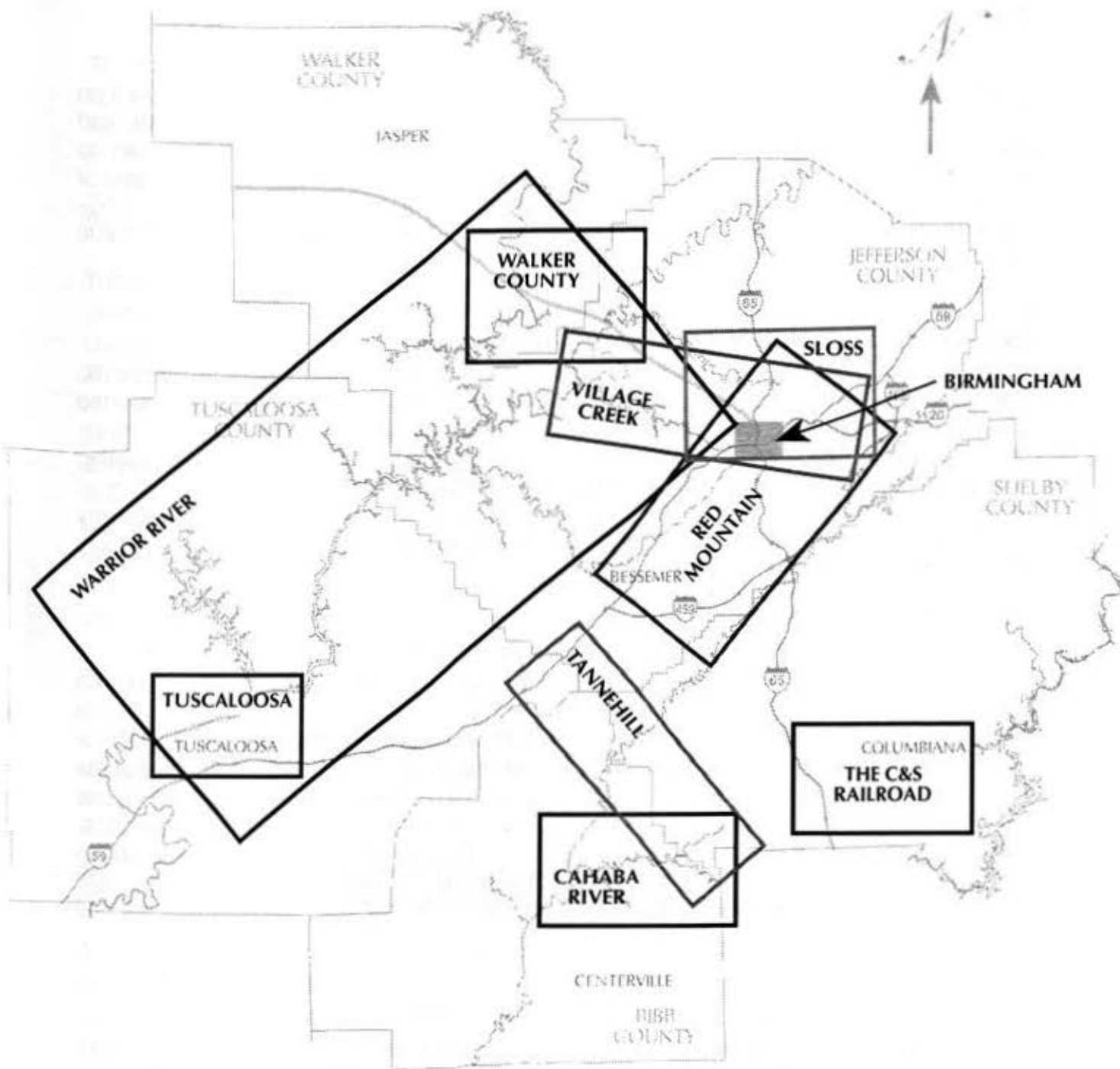
The Birmingham District is a geological area initially defined by mineral resources, coal, iron ore and limestone, the raw materials for making steel, in close proximity; and subsequently by the evolution of industries that exploited these minerals. The Birmingham District is currently the focus of an effort to organize a systematic approach to interpret natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Birmingham District resources tell the story of Southern industrialization. From the Old South to the New, from the early forges of the 1820s through intensive Civil War production, and from the great booms of the 1880s and the early twentieth century to the present day, the South's major industrial district retains a diverse array of mills and mansions, furnaces and foundries, communities, archeological sites, and cultural traditions that tell the story of making coal, iron, steel and other industrial products, Southern style.

The Birmingham District currently includes nationally significant sites and a wealth of supporting resources. For interpretive purposes, these resources can be grouped into the following **thematic and geographic clusters**: Vulcan - Symbol of the District, Red Mountain - Minerals, Mines and Mansions, Cahaba River - Early Forges, Tannehill - Civil War Ironmaking, Tuscaloosa - From the Old South to the New, Birmingham - The Magic Industrial City, Sloss Mines and Furnaces - New South Industry, Village Creek - Watering the Industrial Miracle, C & S Railroad - From Mine to Mill and Market, Walker County - Coal Country, and Warrior River -Waterway to the World. Each cluster of resources tells a part of the story. Together they tell the story of the Birmingham District.







# THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT STORY

Thematic & Geographic  
Resource Clusters

### **VULCAN STATUE AND PARK    Symbol of the District**

The Roman god, Vulcan, taught mortal men to make iron. A skillful artisan, he lived on Mt. Olympus where his labor force of one-eyed Cyclopes forged armament and adornment for these gods. In 1903, Birmingham industrialists chose Vulcan to commemorate Birmingham industry. They commissioned his colossal statue be cast of Birmingham iron and sent to the St. Louis World's Fair to advertise the region. Since 1935, from a park location high atop Red Mountain, the world's largest cast iron statue has symbolized the industrial district.

### **RED MOUNTAIN    Minerals, Mines, and Mansions**

Minerals provided the base for industrial development of the Birmingham District. For 100 years from the 1860s to the 1960s, Red Mountain's vast supply of red iron ore supported District ironmaking. The **Red Mountain Mines**, once the nation's second largest group of underground ore mines, extended 16 miles from Ruffner to Bessemer. Remaining today along an abandoned railroad bed are extensive mine ruins, worker camps at Wenonah and Muscoda, mansions of the influential barons, the **Red Mountain highway cut** exposing the mountain's mineral endowment, and the Vulcan statue telling the story of industrial success.

### **CAHABA RIVER    Early Forges and Furnaces**

By the 1820s, brown ore deposits along the Cahaba River's rocky banks attracted ironmaking needed to support early agriculture in the region. From the antebellum era through the present day, coal has also been extensively mined along the river. Unfit for navigation, the free-flowing Cahaba River provides the Birmingham area's principal source of drinking water and a rich habitat for fish and flora. The Cahaba River rises in northeast Jefferson County and flows 180 miles to its confluence with the Alabama River at Cahaba, near Selma. Antebellum, Civil War, and early twentieth century archeological sites along this free-flowing river and its tributaries offer possibilities for historic interpretation as well as recreational experiences such as picnicking, swimming, fishing, tubing, canoeing, and the study of diverse fish and flora.

### **TANNEHILL    Civil War Ironmaking**

During the Civil War, the Confederate government's infusion of capital and labor intensified ironmaking throughout the District. At Tannehill, 600 slaves mined raw materials and charged the furnaces that provided iron for Confederate armament until their destruction by federal troops in March 1865. The District's finest Civil War ironmaking resources include the stone furnaces and **Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama** at **Tannehill State Historic Park** and the, yet to be fully documented, ironmaster's residence and ruins of slave quarters, slave cemetery, forges, and a coal mine located along the 12-mile "old iron haul road" linking Tannehill and Brierfield.

### **TUSCALOOSA From the Old South to the New**

Located in 1819 on the Warrior River at the head of navigation, Tuscaloosa served as Alabama's capital from 1824 to 1846. Citizens established the University of Alabama here in 1820 and the **Geological Survey of Alabama** in 1847. Transportation, first of agricultural and later mining and industrial products, and education became and remain mainstays of the city's economy.

Tuscaloosa's riverfront resources, geological survey collections at **Smith Hall**, and planter (turned industrialist) houses witness an old South center's support for and education of geologists, mining engineers, and leaders in the exploration and development of the Birmingham Industrial District from the 1820s to today.

### **BIRMINGHAM The Magic Industrial City**

Southern investors founded Birmingham in 1871, six years after the close of the Civil War. With intent to revitalize the South through investment in industry and city building, they named their "magic little industrial city" in the mineral rich hills of northern Alabama for the famed English industrial center. Birmingham fulfilled these investors' vision to become the central city of an industrial district with a vast network of street and conventional railways connecting it to outlying industrial mining camps and communities, and markets for industrial products.

Birmingham's city plan projected a grid with wide streets and avenues flanking a central Railroad Reservation. Now filled with early skyscrapers and dense commercial and residential districts that testify to the emergence of Birmingham industry in the early years of this century. Company towns and privately-built industrial communities including nearby Fairfield, Bayview, and Thomas and further removed mining and commercial centers of Jasper, Carbon Hill, Pratt City, West Blocton, and Dora surround the central city.

Southern black and white men provided the majority of the labor that built the Birmingham District of the New South. The traditions, values and struggles of African Americans culminated in successfully launching Martin Luther King's non-violent protests and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, a story told at the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute** and other sites throughout the District.

### **SLOSS MINES AND FURNACES New South Industry**

From the late nineteenth century through the 1960s, the Birmingham District served as the nation's leading foundry iron producer. Birmingham District ironmakers developed distinctive blast furnaces and practices well suited to the District's raw materials. They also created vertically integrated ironmaking systems that capitalized on the close proximity

of area mineral resources including coal and iron and their speedy delivery to area furnaces. **Sloss Furnaces** represents this important technological achievement.

The **Sloss Furnaces**, the nucleus of an integrated ironmaking system, which includes extensive surviving remnants of coal and iron ore mines, quarries, coke ovens and railroads, are the District's most tangible landmark. Abandoned in the 1970s, the 32-acre furnace site, adjacent to and highly visible on the skyline of the Birmingham City Center, with its steel-jacketed blast furnaces, stoves, and boilers has been preserved by the City of Birmingham as a museum and community center. The opportunity exists to preserve and interpret **Sloss's red ore mines at Ruffner and Sloss and coal mines and coke ovens at Brookside**. The 538-acre Ruffner site is currently a nature preserve.

### **VILLAGE CREEK   Watering the Industrial Miracle**

Located at the crossing of two rail lines at the center of a mineral rich district and not on a major river, Birmingham industry used this modest creek to cool its plants. Village Creek rises at Roebuck Springs and travels 40 miles westward to its confluence with the Warrior River. Today, Village Creek offers exceptional potential for an urban linear park linking historic industrial sites to existing parks along a proposed greenway system. Two sites, the **Pratt Mines and Coke Ovens** and the **Thomas Cokeworks, Quarries, and Industrial Town**, offer the opportunity to trace the evolution of cokemaking and the coke byproducts industry from the beehives of the 1880s through the byproducts revolution of the early twentieth century into the 1950s, to see how people lived, and experience active mineral extraction.

### **THE C & S RAILROAD   From Mine to Mill and Market**

A vast network of railroads facilitated exploration and development of the District's mineral resources and industrial facilities. Earliest lines arrived by the 1850s. By the 1880s, extensive networks crisscrossed the District linking mines to mills and mills to markets across the nation and the world.

The **Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum** includes the restored Wilton Depot with exhibits of railroad memorabilia, a working railyard with many examples of rolling stock, and the 12-mile, currently abandoned, right of way along the C & S Railroad linking Calera and Shelby in Shelby County. At Shelby, the 500-acre **Shelby Ironworks site** in a now wooded, rural setting includes extensive ruins of charcoal furnaces active from the 1840s to the 1920s and spectacular brown ore pit lakes.

**WALKER COUNTY Coal Country**

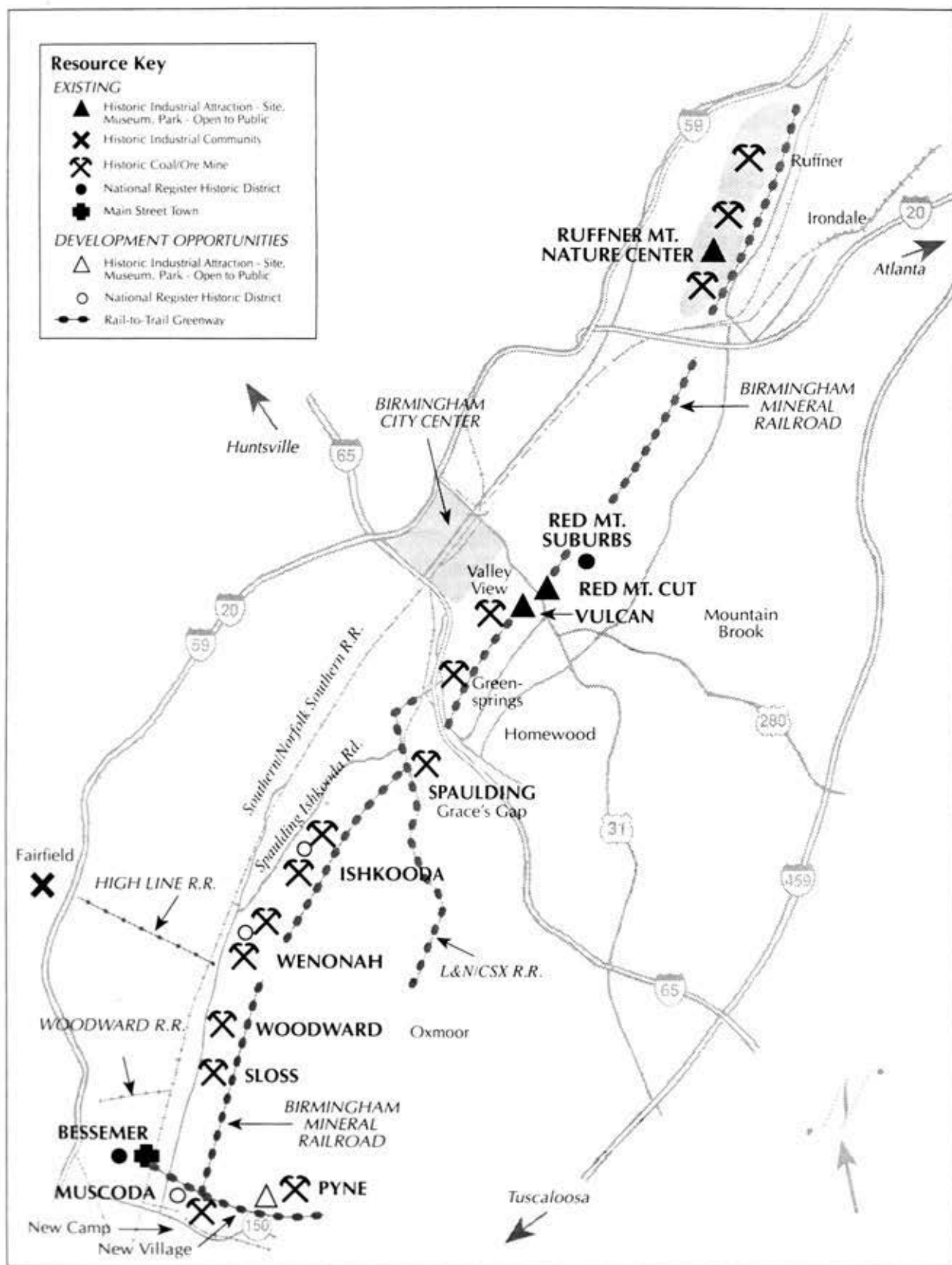
Coal, when converted to coke, provides the fuel for the iron and steelmaking processes, the coke byproducts industry and electric power generation. The Birmingham District opened the fifth largest group of coal mines in America and remains a top coal producer with extensive and active surface and underground coal mines. The **Alabama Mining Museum**, a miner's training center, and active electric power generating plants showcase the evolution of the industry from pick and shovel to today's high-tech era.

**WARRIOR RIVER Waterway to the World**

Water served as transportation avenue, power source and site of mineral resources. The Warrior River links the coal fields of Walker and Jefferson Counties to the Gulf of Mexico at the port of Mobile, 455 miles to the south. The industrialization of the Warrior River began in the 1820s when coal mining activities extended into Jefferson and Walker Counties. By 1915, federally sponsored navigation improvements had made the Warrior the most important transportation corridor in the District, fostered coal mining and industrial development, and created a series of scenic lakes.

Active locks and dams, river traffic, power generating and industrial plants, and recreational facilities line the river's banks from Tuscaloosa to Cordova. Enhanced waterfront and interpretive systems and parks, a projected maritime museum, and active plant tours can foster appreciation of active industry and historic and recreational features.





# RED MOUNTAIN

## Minerals, Mines & Mansions



*Red Mountain's red iron ore fueled many a furnace in the Birmingham District. Today the Red Mountain Cut, a National Natural Landmark, showcases red iron ore and 170 million years of geological history.*



*Iron magnate Rick Woodward's Red Mountain Residence (1919) now serves as residence to the President of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.*

## RED MOUNTAIN Minerals, Mines & Mansions



*The cast-iron Vulcan towers over a city and a district that owes its existence to the ironmaking process. According to legend, this Roman god taught mortal men to make iron.*

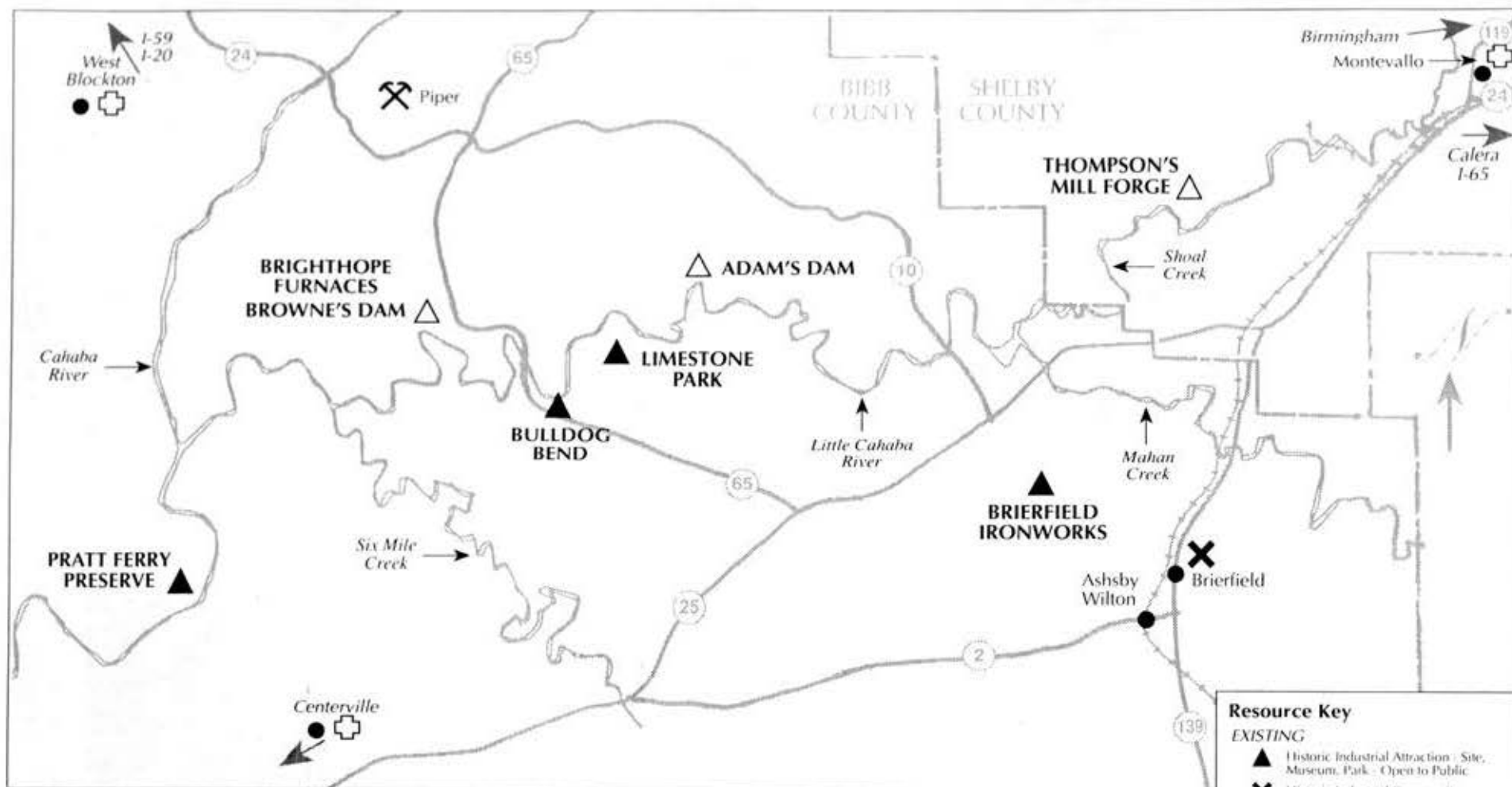


*These "four-room square tops" built in 1902 for workers at the Muscoda mines became the most common form of worker housing in the District.*

*This hoist at Woodward Iron Company's Pyne Mine (above left) near Bessemer, once hauled iron ore from the deepest vertical shaft mine in the United States.*

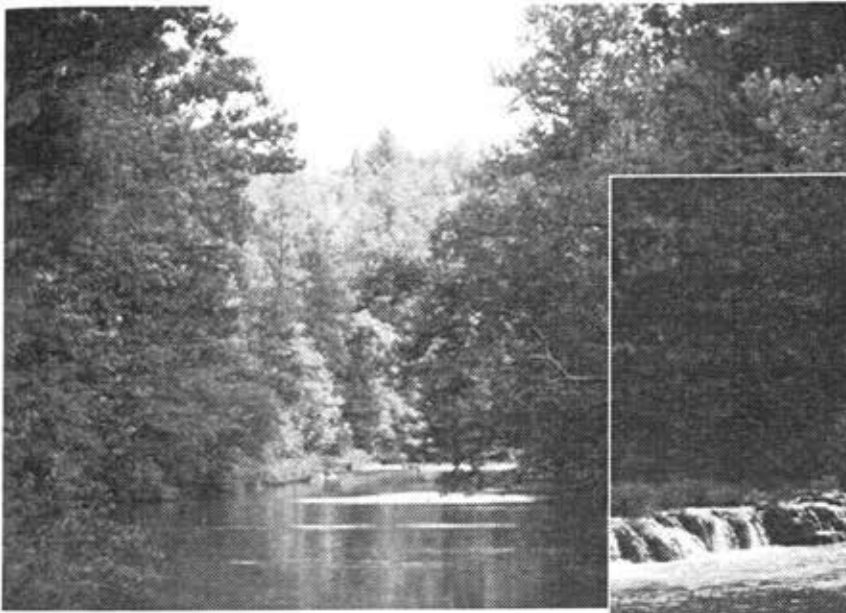


*The Sloss Company also mined red ores from the Sloss Mine one of many along Red Mountain's Mineral Railroad. These mines constituted the nation's second largest group of underground ore mines.*



# CAHABA RIVER

## Early Forges & Furnaces



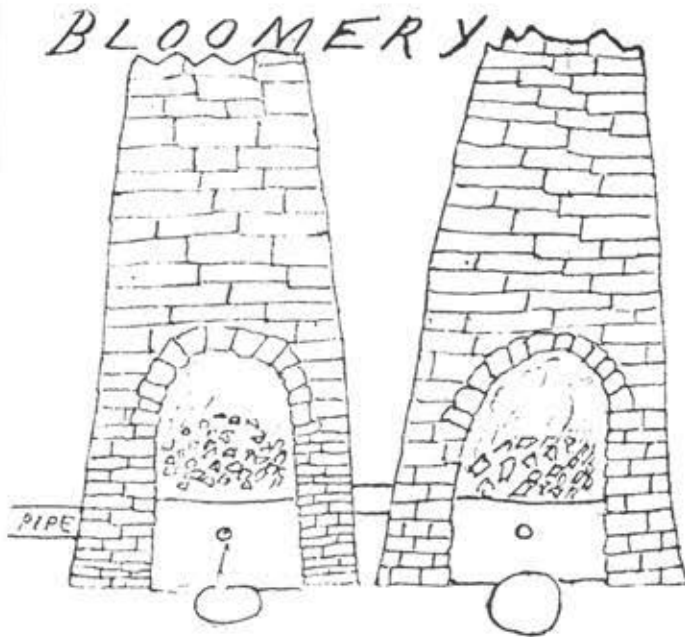
*The free flowing Cahaba River offers lush flora, fauna, fish and early industrial ruins.*

## CAHABA RIVER

### Early Forges & Furnaces



*The Browne's Dam - Brighthope Furnace site is well-known to Bibb County canoeists and picknickers.*



*BLOOMERY FURNACES.*

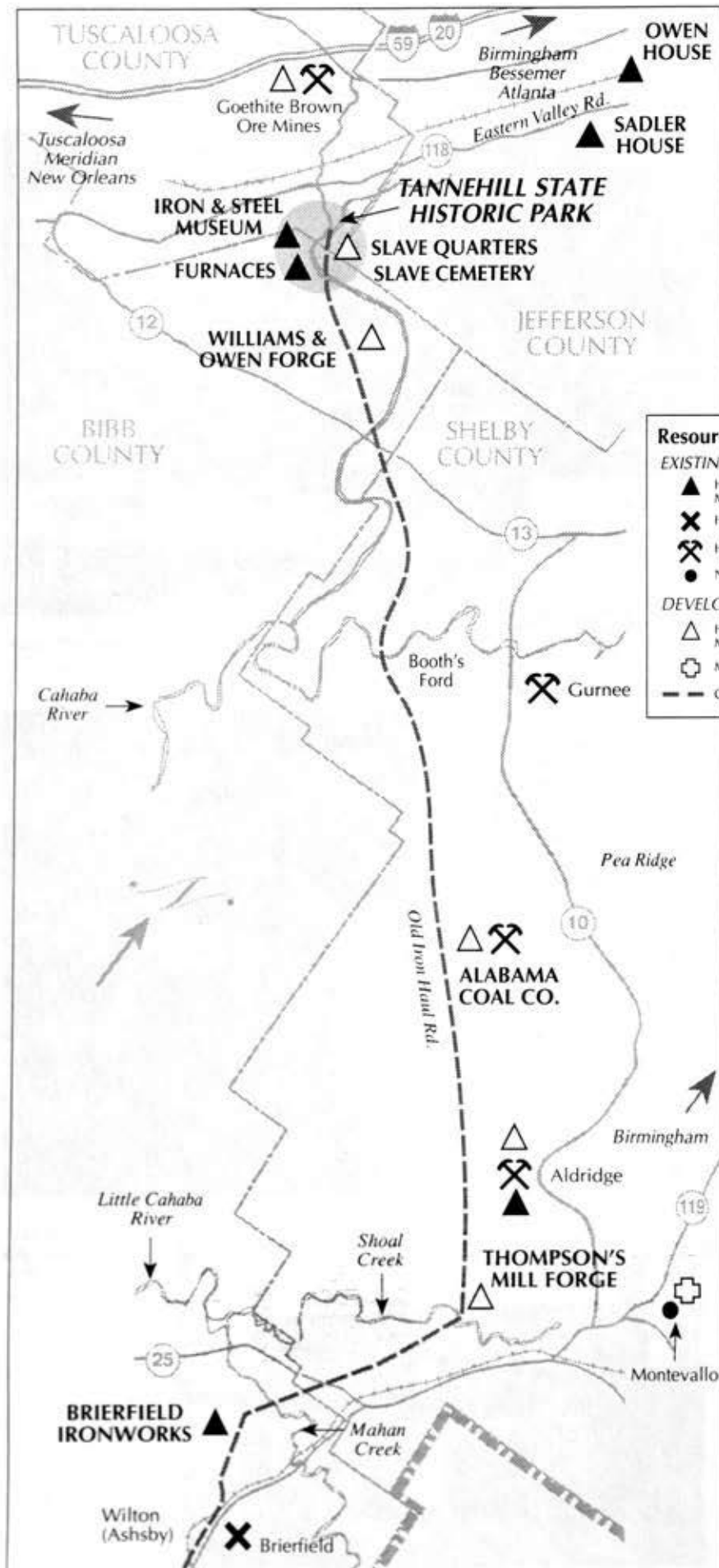


*Early forge sites dot the Cahaba's banks (above).*

*Blacksmith Larry Cooper demonstrates century-old iron forging techniques at Sloss Furnaces and other District forges (left).*



*King House (1823), Montevallo, residence of planter-industrialist Edmund King who built Thompson's Mill Forge, the District's earliest ironworks in 1820*



# TANNEHILL

## Civil War Ironmaking



# TANNEHILL

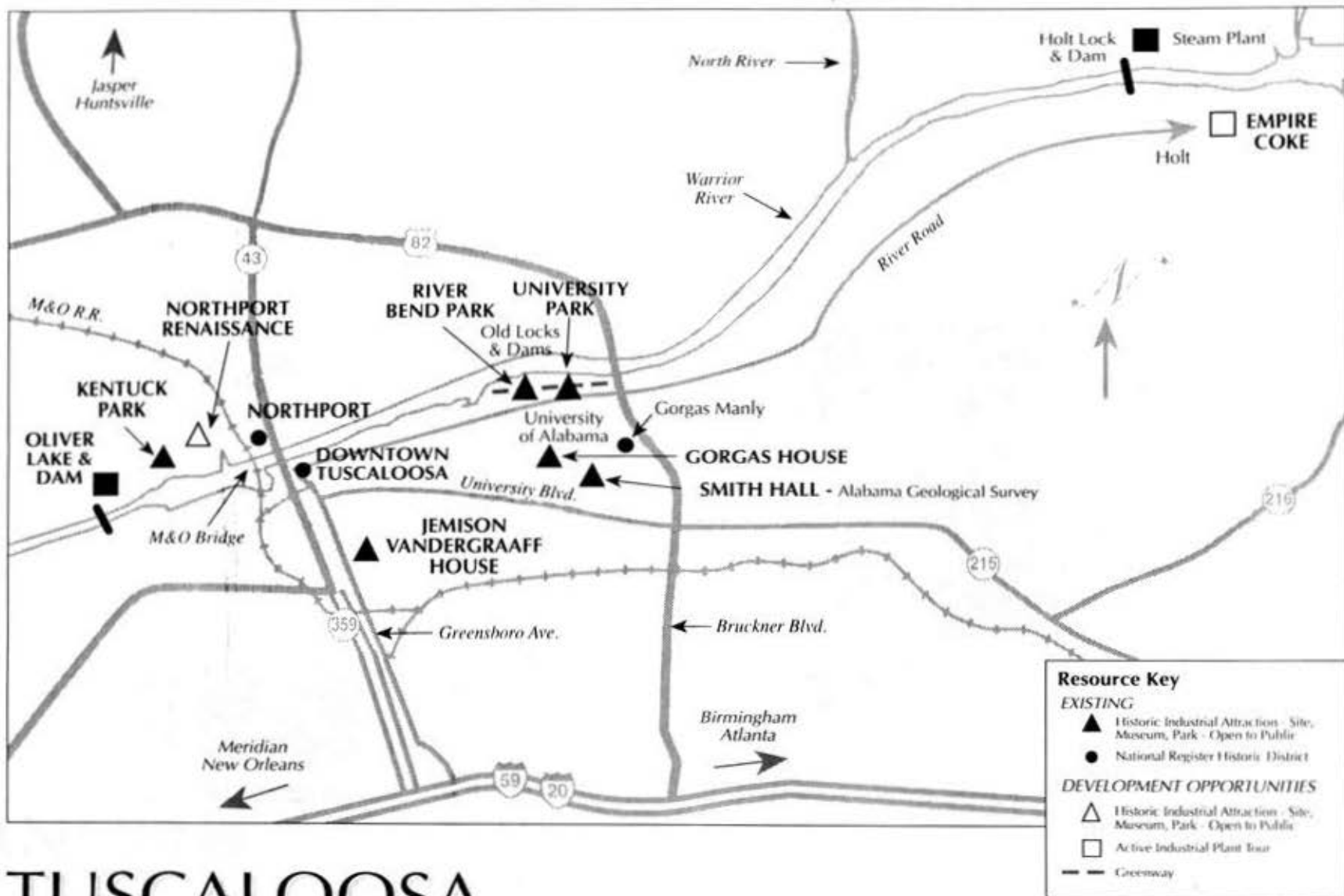
## Civil War Ironmaking



*Tannehill's "Double Furnaces" (1863) poured forth pig iron used to manufacture Confederate cannon balls and ship plate at the Selma arsenal.*



*Owen House (1838), Eastern Valley Road, McCalla, planter-industrialist Thomas Owen ran a forge during the Civil War. The forge site is located near today's Tannehill State Park.*



# TUSCALOOSA

## From the Old South to the New

# TUSCALOOSA

From the Old South to the New



*Jemison House (1860), Tuscaloosa, town house with a coal-fired gas system built by planter-industrialist Robert Jemison.*



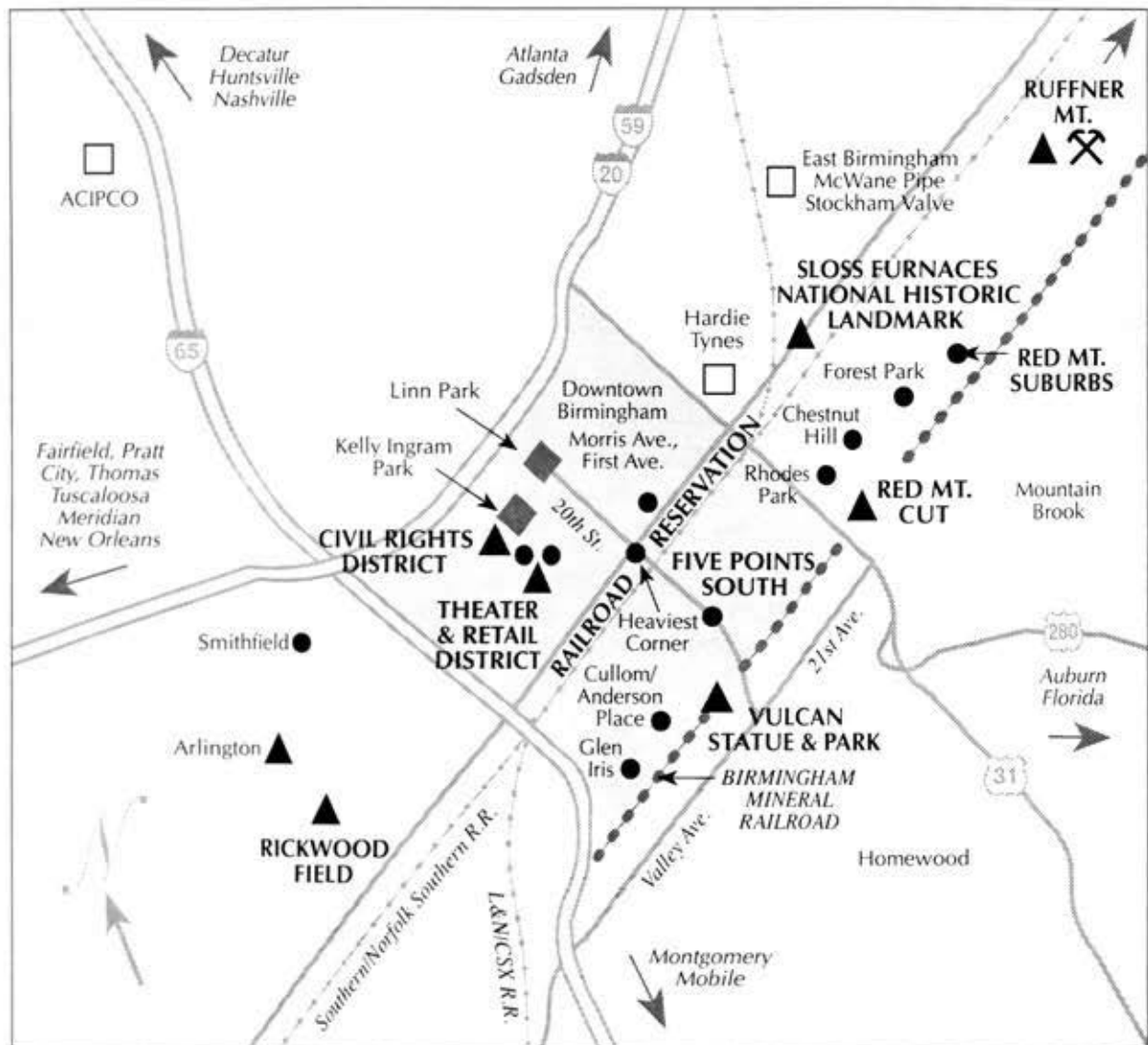
*Gorgas House (1829), Tuscaloosa, last residence of Gen. Josiah Gorgas, Chief of Ordnance for the Confederacy which developed extensive ironworks and coal mines in the Birmingham District.*



*Lock Wall No. 3 at University Park, Tuscaloosa, now a fishing pier, was one of 19 original locks constructed from the 1880s to 1915 to open the 455 mile Warrior River to industrial uses and make the Warrior, at time of construction, the "longest channelized waterway in the world."*



*University of Alabama's Smith Hall (1910), Tuscaloosa, houses collections of the Geological Survey of Alabama, established in 1847, to explore and chart the state's mineral resources.*



# BIRMINGHAM

## The Magic Industrial City

### Resource Key

#### EXISTING

- ▲ Historic Industrial Attraction - Site, Museum, Park - Open to Public
- ⚡ Historic Coal/Ore Mine
- National Register Historic District

#### DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Industrial Plant Tour
- Rail-to-Trail Greenway

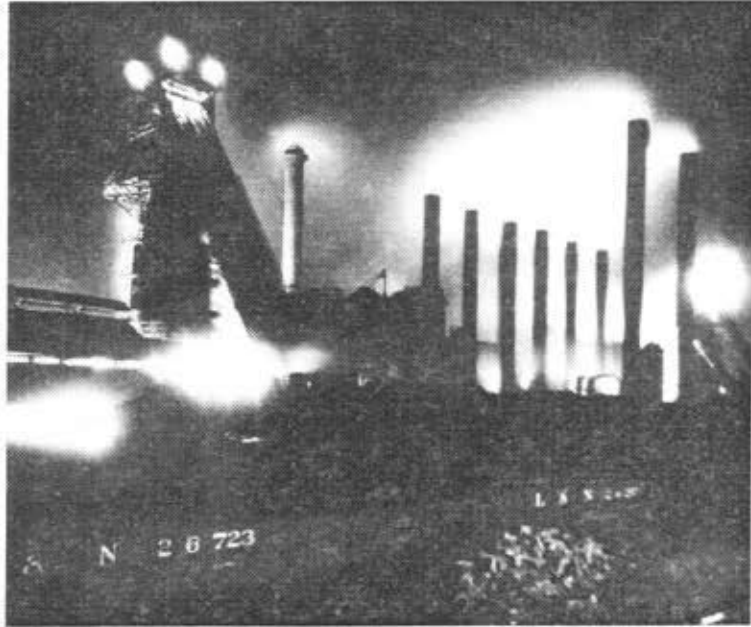


## BIRMINGHAM

### The Magic Industrial City

*In 1903, Birmingham foundrymen and promoters commissioned the great iron man to symbolize the district's industrial might.*

*Birmingham's National Historic Landmark, Sloss Furnaces is also the only 20th century industrial plant under preservation in the world. This photo shows the furnaces pouring iron around 1935. Today they showcase Birmingham ironmaking to visitors from around the world.*



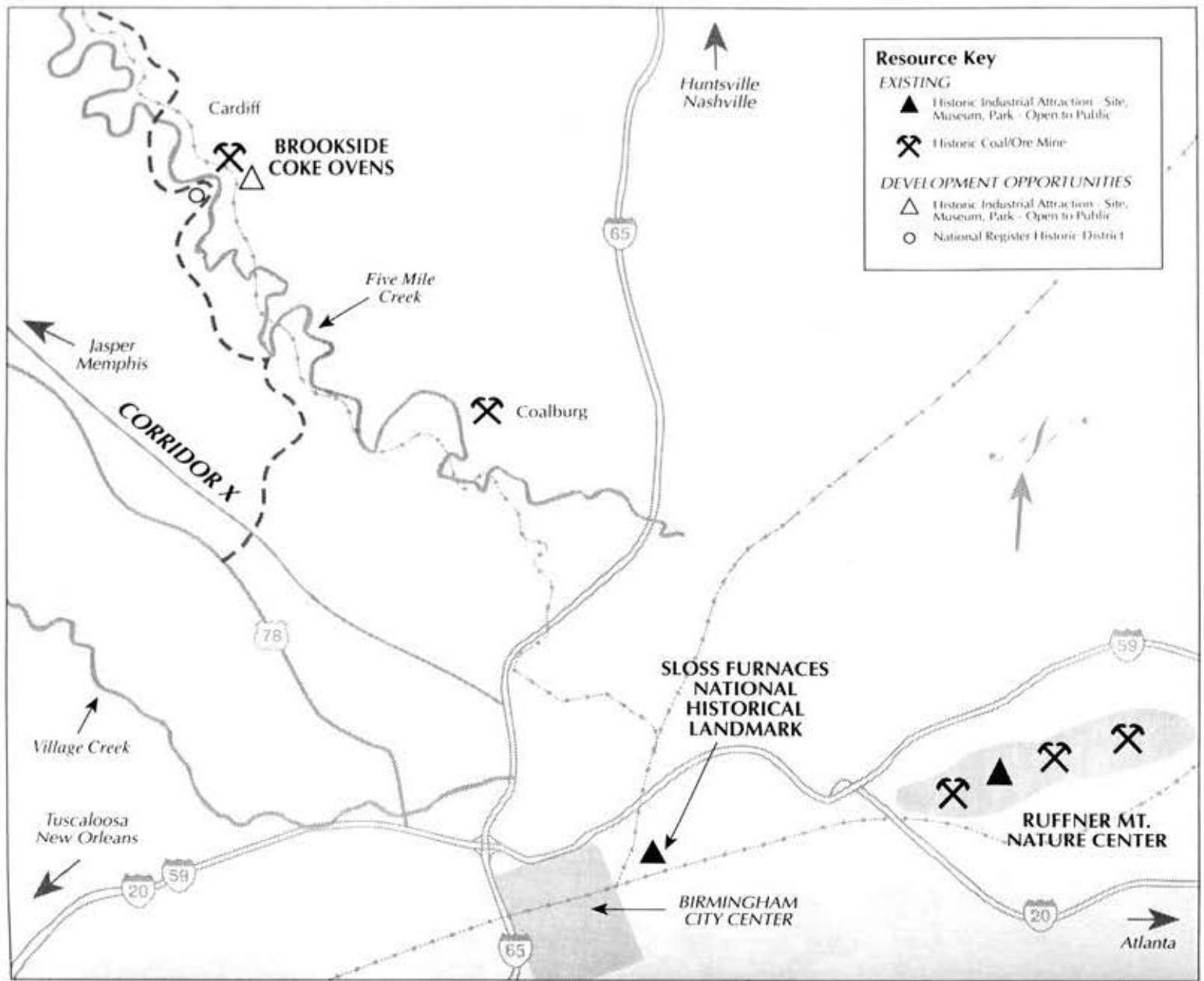
*These skyscrapers at First Avenue and 20th Street, then called the Heaviest Corner on Earth and now a National Register District, housed Birmingham's early industrial corporations.*



*The spiritual hub of Birmingham's Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church designed and built by African-Americans in 1911, now anchors the Civil Rights District about Kelly Ingram Park.*



# SLOSS MINES & FURNACES New South Industry





*St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church keeps alive Slavic tradition.*



*Foundations for coal washing facilities, mines and coke ovens at Brookside now provide opportunity for a future historic park.*



*Crushing operations at Ruffner Mines prepared Red Mountain iron ores for use in the Sloss Furnaces.*



*Pig iron, a principal product of the Birmingham District, made from Birmingham iron ores, coal and limestone, poured forth from Sloss Furnaces, now a National Historic Landmark and Museum of the City of Birmingham.*

## SLOSS MINES & MILLS

### New South Industry

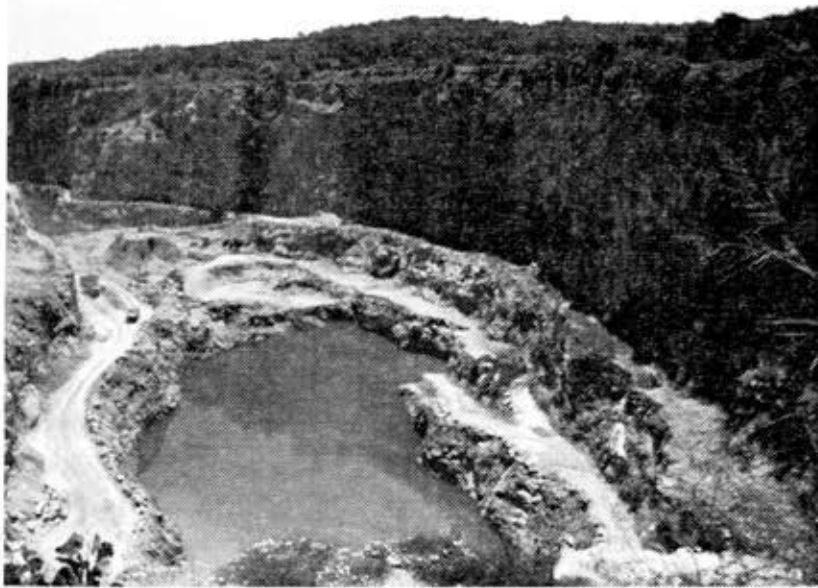


# VILLAGE CREEK

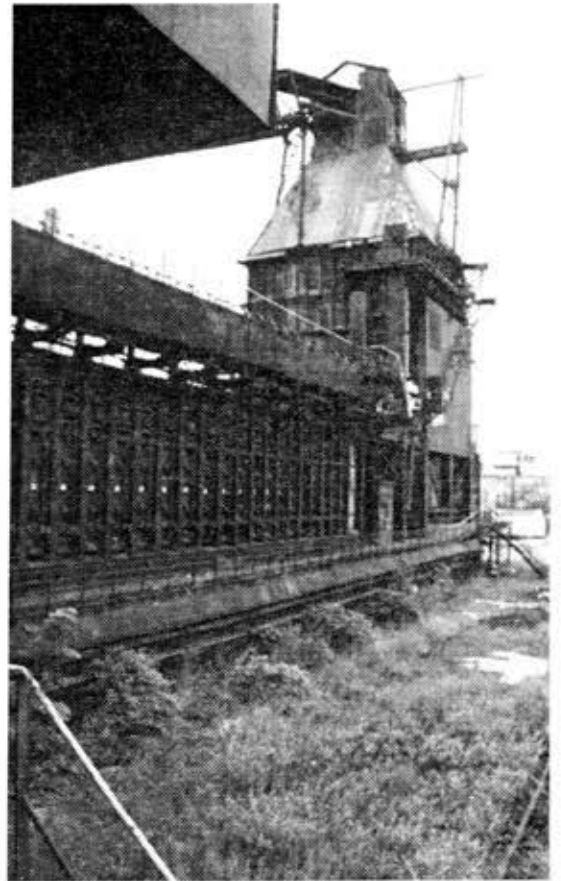
## Watering the Industrial Miracle

## VILLAGE CREEK

### Watering the Industrial Miracle



Wade Sand and Gravel quarries limestone and dolomite at its Thomas site.



Sealed and preserved, the Thomas Cokeworks awaits future preservation and interpretation.



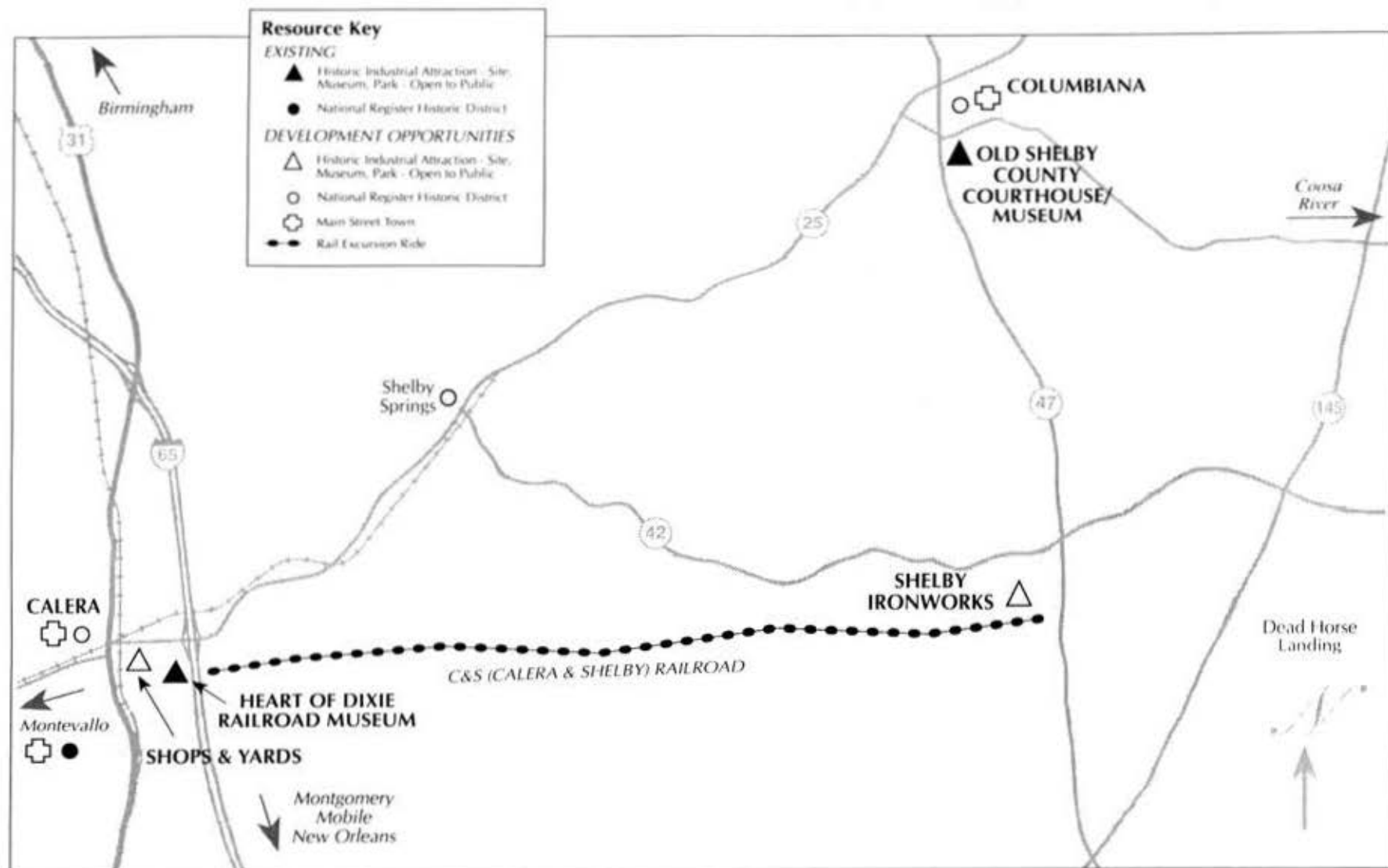
Industrial companies built plants and communities for their workers. At Thomas, Pennsylvania ironmasters built this Pennsylvania style worker housing for furnace foremen.



Location of good coking coal at the Pratt Mines fueled the Birmingham District boom of the 1880s. Pratt coal was coked at these Pratt Coke Ovens (c.1879) and carried by rail to furnaces, such as Sloss, in the Birmingham city center. The ovens survive in a grove of magnolia, coke and coal tailings.



Aerial view of Bayview community. Note the double radial plan for black and white villages and the magnificent setting on Bayview Lake. (Courtesy, U.S. Steel)

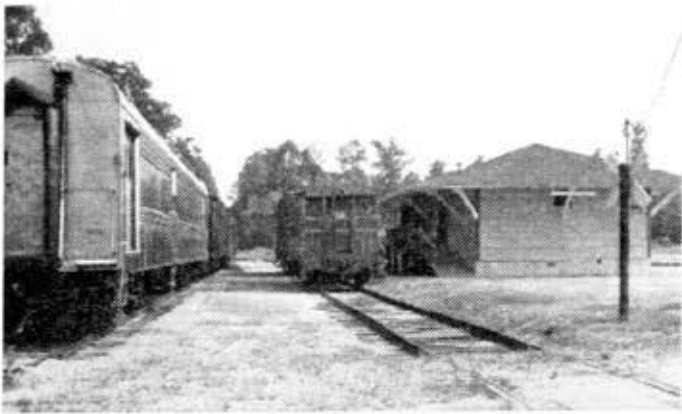


## THE C&S RAILROAD - From Mine to Mill and Market



## THE C&S RAILROAD

### From Mines to Mills and Markets



*The old Wilton Depot reopens this spring as the new Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum in Calera. Volunteers are building a shop, yard and 12 miles of track for future excursion rides.*



*The Shelby Hotel, currently under renovation, welcomes visitors to the Shelby Ironworks festivals, amid furnace ruins and mining lakes.*

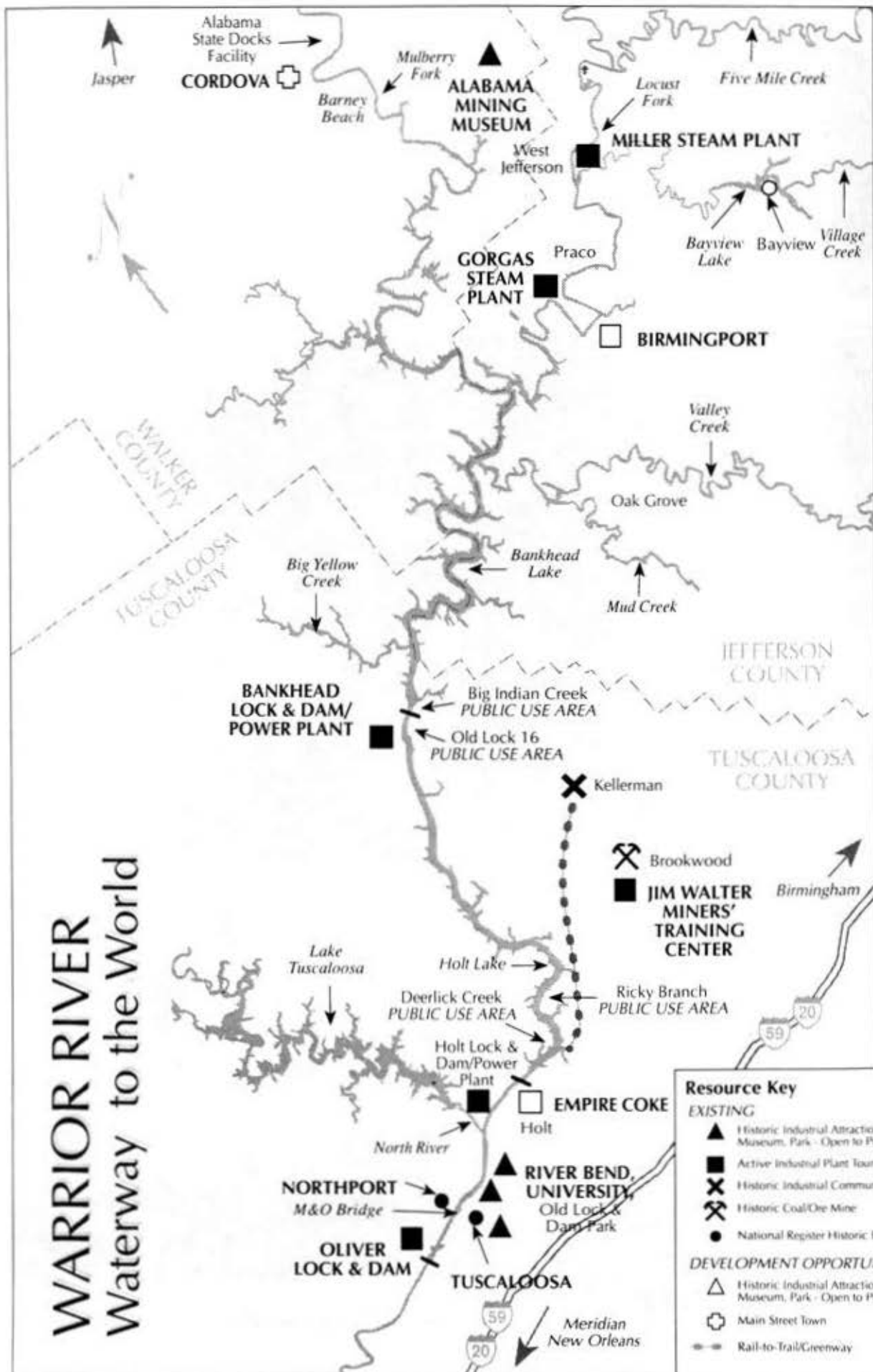


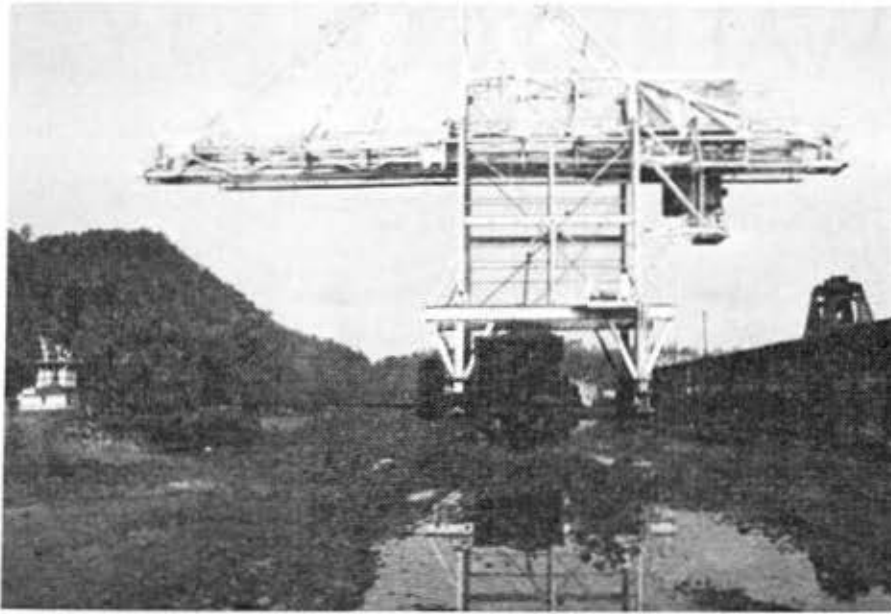
*The 1856 Shelby County Courthouse at Columbiana is home to the Shelby County Historical Society's genealogical and industrial artifact collections.*



# WARRIOR RIVER

## Waterway to the World





## WARRIOR RIVER Waterway to the World

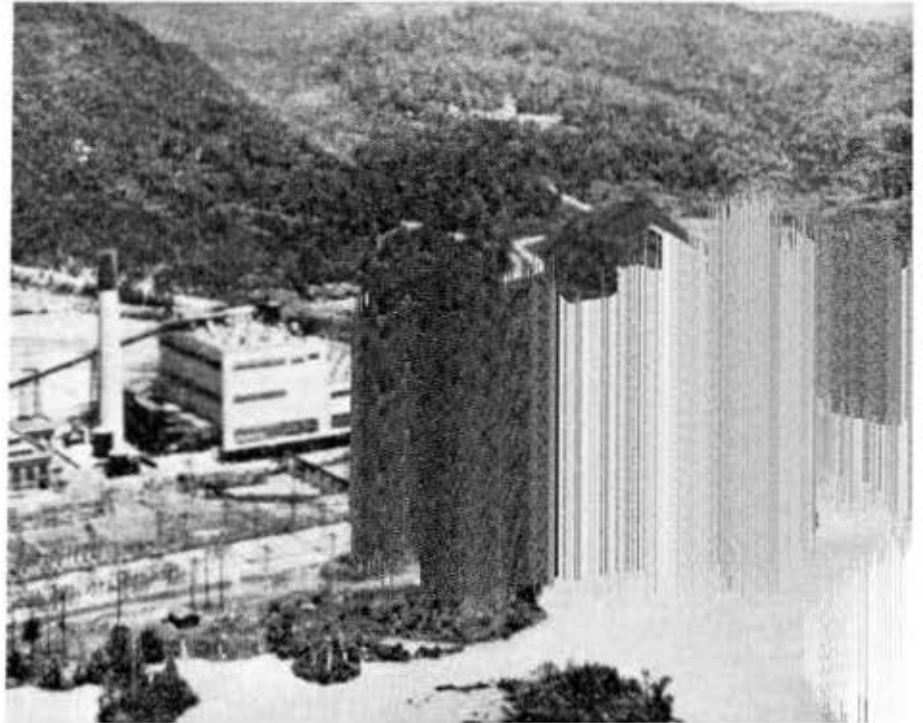
*Birmingham's waterway to the world begins at Birmingham's riverside handling facilities.*



*Lock Wall No. 3 at University Park, Tuscaloosa, now a fishing pier, was one of 19 original locks constructed from the 1880s to 1915 to open the 455 mile Warrior River to industrial uses and make the Warrior the "longest channelized waterway in the world."*



*This M. & O. Railroad Trestle Bridge spanning the Warrior River between Northport and Tuscaloosa was said to be the longest wooden trestle bridge in the world at its completion in 1899.*



*Alabama Power Company's Gorgas Steam Plant, the company's first coal-fired generating plant, has been a major user of coal from nearby mines since initial construction in 1917. Shown here are units 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and coal stockpiles. (Courtesy, Alabama Power Company)*

## NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

**The Birmingham District's natural resources have and will continue to influence the location and development of industry, transportation corridors, and communities.**

- The juxtaposition of coal, iron ore and fluxing stones underscored the District's rise as an iron and steelmaking center. These minerals also spawned other resource-based industries including production of bricks, clay and cement pipe, agricultural limestone, building and crushed stone, cement, and lime. While the District's economy has increasingly diversified, mineral resources will continue to be of major economic significance.
- Red Mountain, named for the red iron ore outcrops once located along its crest, is the dominant topographic feature of Jones Valley. This valley, the heart of the District in which Birmingham, Bessemer, and Fairfield lie, was the focus of intense urban and industrial development.
- Two types of iron ore, brown and red, have been important natural resources for the District's iron and steelmaking industries. Brown ore pockets have been mined near Columbiana in Shelby County, as well as Leeds, Lake Purdy, and Goethite in Jefferson County. Red ore seams outcropped along the crest of Red Mountain and dipped southeast beneath it, Shades Valley, and the Cahaba Ridges to the Helena Fault in Shelby County.
- Three river systems, the Warrior, Cahaba, and Coosa, cut diagonally across the District and played significant roles in shaping the area's economic development while serving as both economic and recreational resources.
- The Birmingham District is centered within several large coal fields: the Warrior, Cahaba and Coosa Fields, named for the rivers which drain them.
- The Warrior Field borders Jones Valley to the northwest and includes parts of Jefferson and Tuscaloosa Counties and all of Walker County. Since initial exploration and exploitation for commercial use in the 1870s, this field has provided a high-quality bituminous coal, excellent for making steam, gas, and coke, the principal fuel for iron and steelmaking. Its major current uses include cokemaking and electric power generation.
- The Cahaba Coal Field lies southeast of Jones Valley and includes parts of Bibb, Shelby, and Jefferson Counties. First explored and mined in the 1830s and 1840s, its seams still provide excellent coal for domestic, steam, and gas purposes and are now principally used in electric power generation. The smaller Coosa Field is located principally in Shelby County.
- The coal industry continues to play an important role in the District's economy particularly in Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, and Walker Counties.

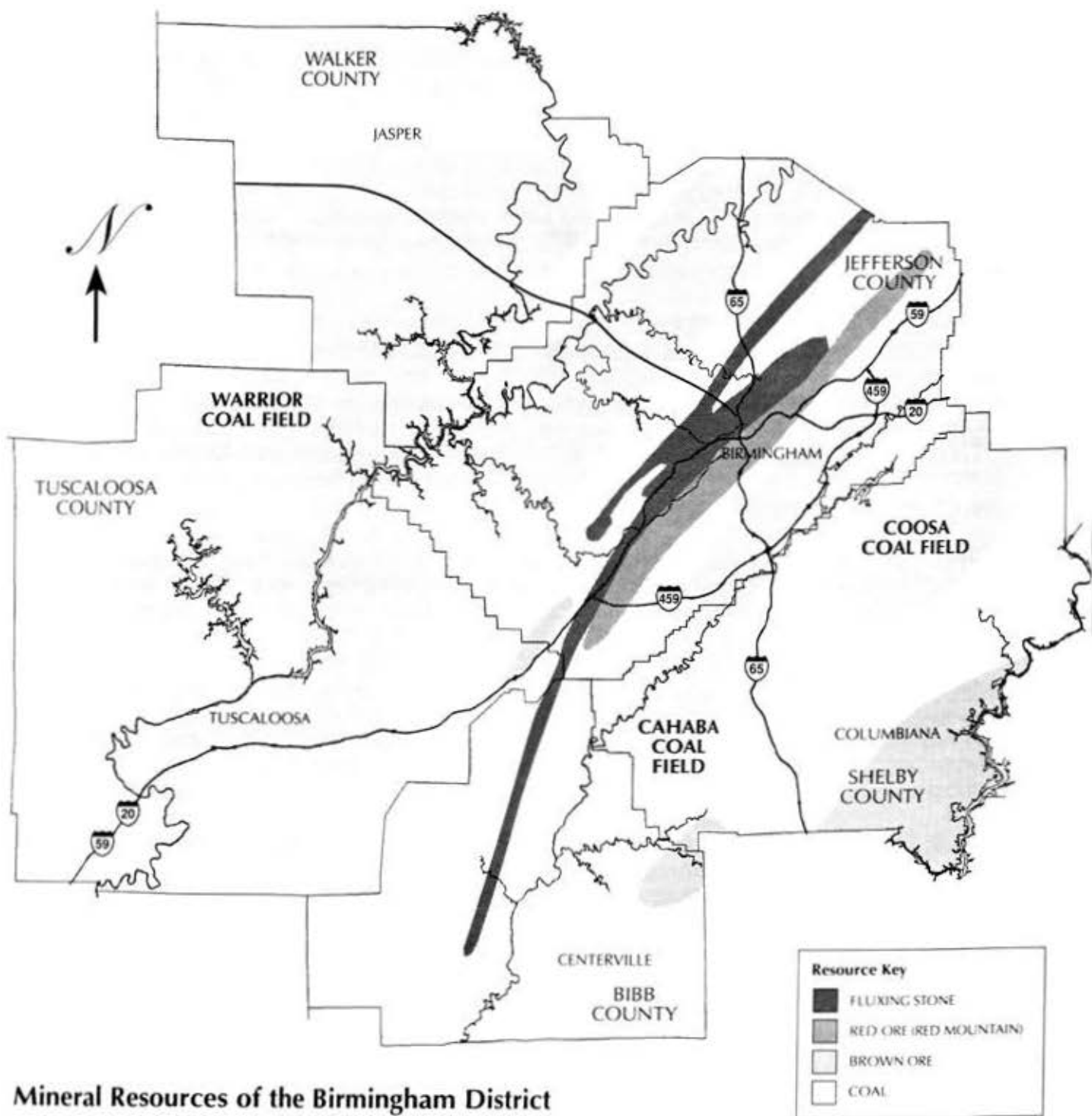
- Subtle differences in the District's red and brown ores and coals led to the development of a special kind of pig iron. This iron, the District's most distinctive product, was made into stoves, cotton gins, radiators, engine blocks, and especially cast iron pipe.
- Development patterns in the area have been strongly influenced by the location of raw materials. The natural and cultural landscape reveals this process.
- The Birmingham District is a geographic area initially defined by geological discoveries and subsequently by the location of industries that exploited the minerals located by the geologists.
- The natural and historical boundaries of the District were defined by its raw material deposits and natural avenues of transportation. Development clustered near favorable concentrations of raw materials and prevailing transportation routes. Over time, as extractive and processing technology changed, the raw materials of choice also changed, creating new concentrations of development serviced by new transportation routes.
- The presence of mineral resources attracted rudimentary manufacturing plants and railroads, the crossing of which fixed the site of Birmingham, the central city of the District. As more substantial plants and mines were opened, a transportation network was built and communities were established to service the needs of industrial companies and their employees.

**The District's natural resources offer a wide variety of cultural, historical and natural recreational features, sites and events to meet needs of locals and visitors. Already a significant number of historical resources, including commercial, residential and industrial sites and districts, provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the Birmingham District. Many other historical resources are available for similar or enhanced interpretation.**

- Water resources both encourage economic development and support recreational opportunities including picnicking, fishing, hunting, white water canoeing, tubing, hiking, camping, and swimming. The Cahaba River also provides approximately 600,000 people with high quality drinking water.
- The Cahaba River shelters more species of fish than any river of comparable size in North America. At Pratt Ferry Preserve in Bibb County 76 species have been documented.
- Navigation improvements that have made the Warrior River among the most important transportation corridors in the Southeast have also created a series of scenic lakes with abundant recreational opportunities.
- The region's rivers are important recreational assets. Their water quality should be protected to ensure enhancement as a source of active and passive recreation.

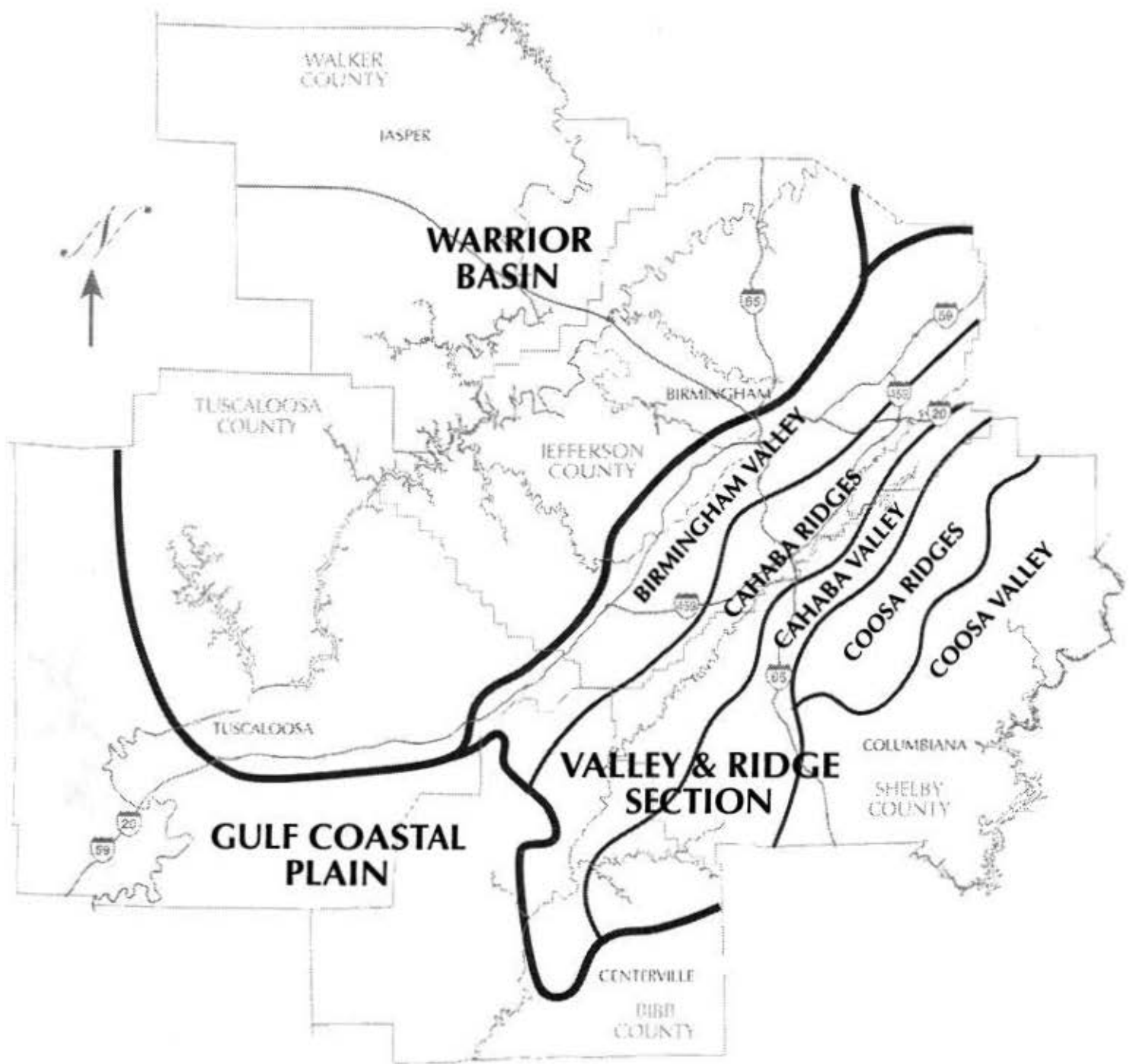
- The region's rivers offer outstanding opportunities to link historic sites, parks, trails and open spaces. Although they are not presently regarded as nationally significant, further development of waterfront park and interpretive systems can foster growth and enjoyment of the important recreational features.
- The District's rivers offer exceptional potential for historic interpretation, since water was transportation avenue, power source, and site of mineral resources. Concentrations of antebellum and Civil War era sites have been identified along the Cahaba River in Shelby and Bibb Counties. Industrial sites may survive along the Warrior River.
- The Warrior River's significant role in the District's story merits development of a river corridor interpretive system. Although some interpretation of historic sites along the river currently exists, resources at Tuscaloosa, Northport, Holt and Corps of Engineer sites along the river should be further developed to this end.
- Tannehill Historical State Park, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center and the Talladega National Forest, have well-developed trail systems, however trail development lags behind the provision of other recreational facilities.
- The District currently lacks a developed trail system; however, opportunity to establish a network abounds. An abandoned railbed, extending along the crest of Red Mountain past former red ore mines, is a potential trail that could link recreational and educational experiences while preserving industrial sites. The Tannehill Trail (now also abandoned and overgrown) links an impressive concentration of Civil War era ironworks, coal mines and forges.
- The region is ripe for a Rail-to-Trail program through which abandoned railroad rights-of-way become walking, biking and hiking trails. Interpreting trailside historic sites adds educational experiences to the recreational use.
- While not officially designated, scenic roads crisscross the District and link historical sites. Development of a regionwide system of coordinated, interpretive signage to inform the traveler of particular destinations would enhance the travel experience.
- Regional parks are limited. Local and community parks now meet local and regional demand for active and passive recreation. Linking community parks to industrial sites along proposed Village and Shades Creek Greenways should be further explored.
- Village Creek offers exceptional potential for an urban greenway linking historic industrial sites including the Pratt Coke Ovens and Thomas Cokeworks and Community.
- A linked system of natural, historical and recreational parks and greenways, incorporating existing state and local parks and historic industrial sites, provides outstanding opportunity to enhance, preserve and interpret the District's resources.



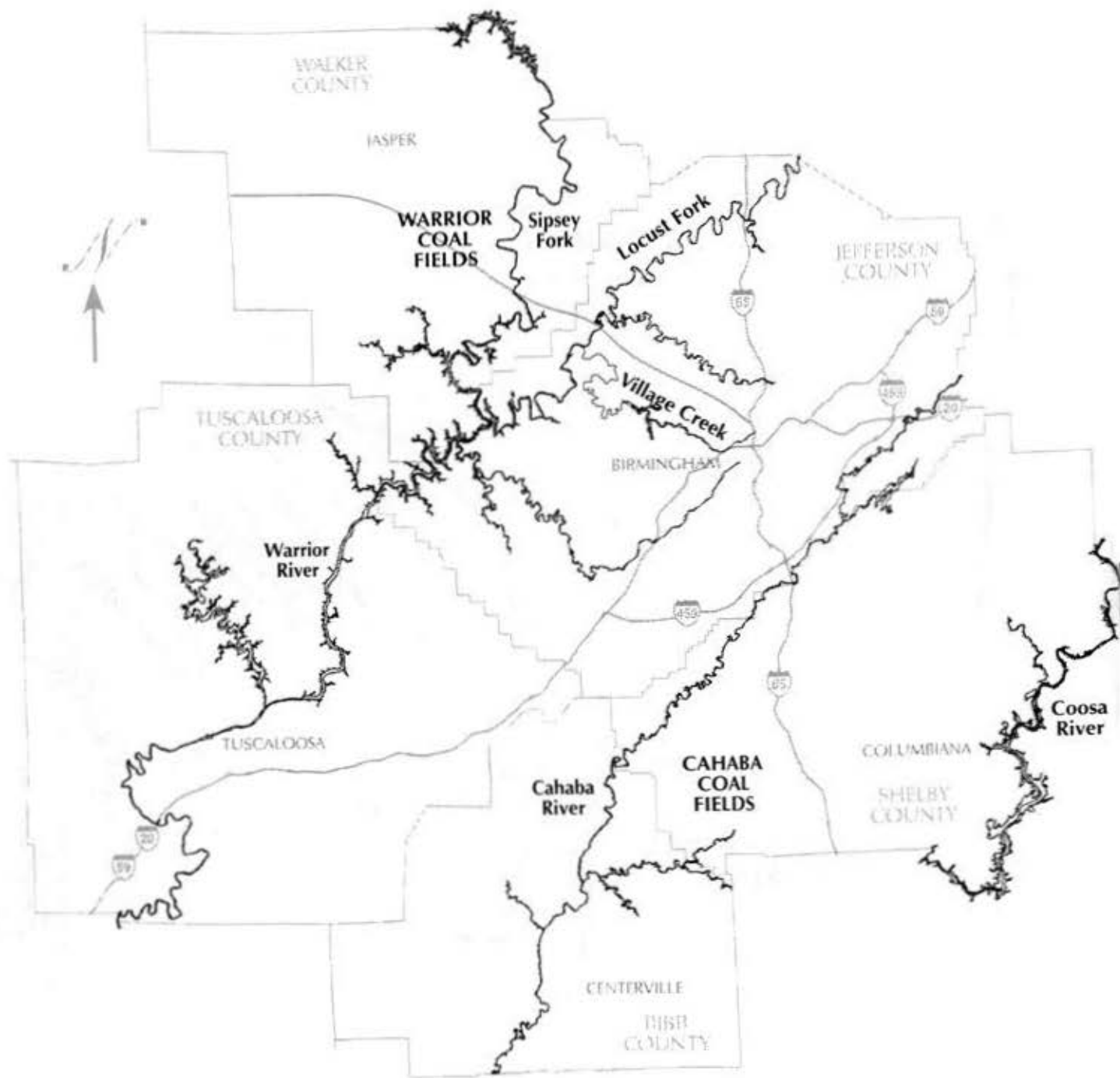


Mineral Resources of the Birmingham District

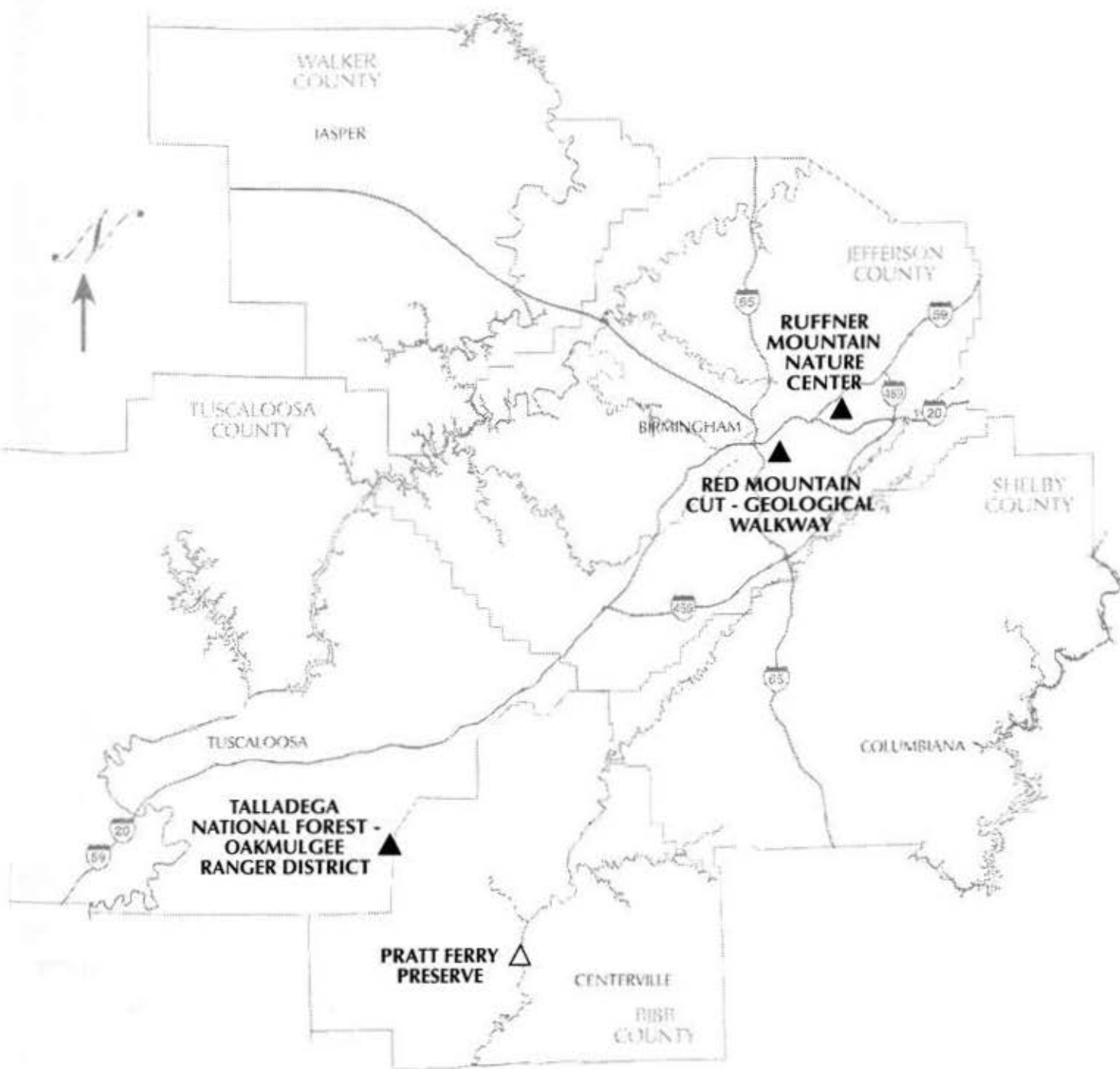




**Physiography of the Birmingham District**



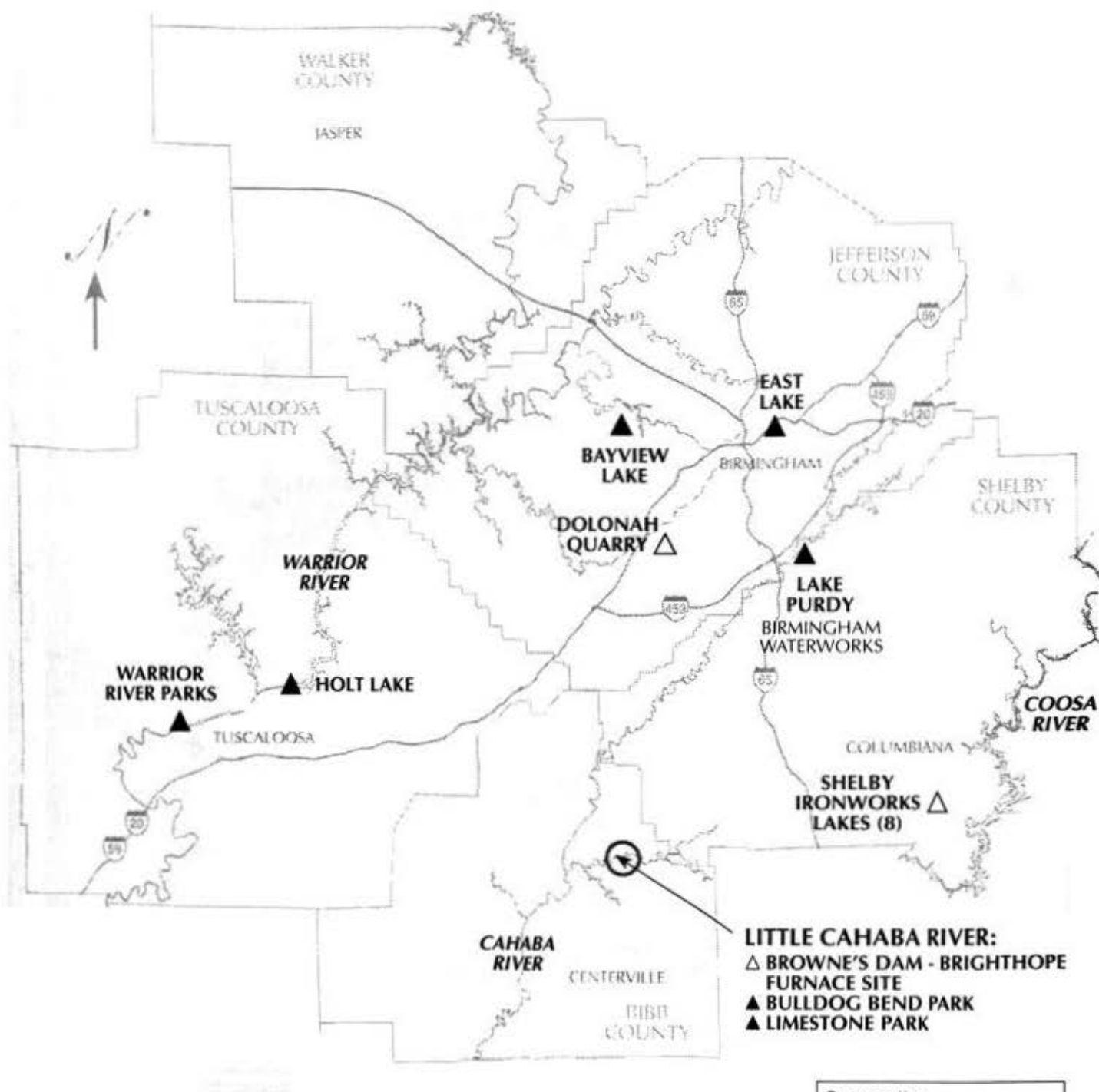
**Hydrology of the Birmingham District**



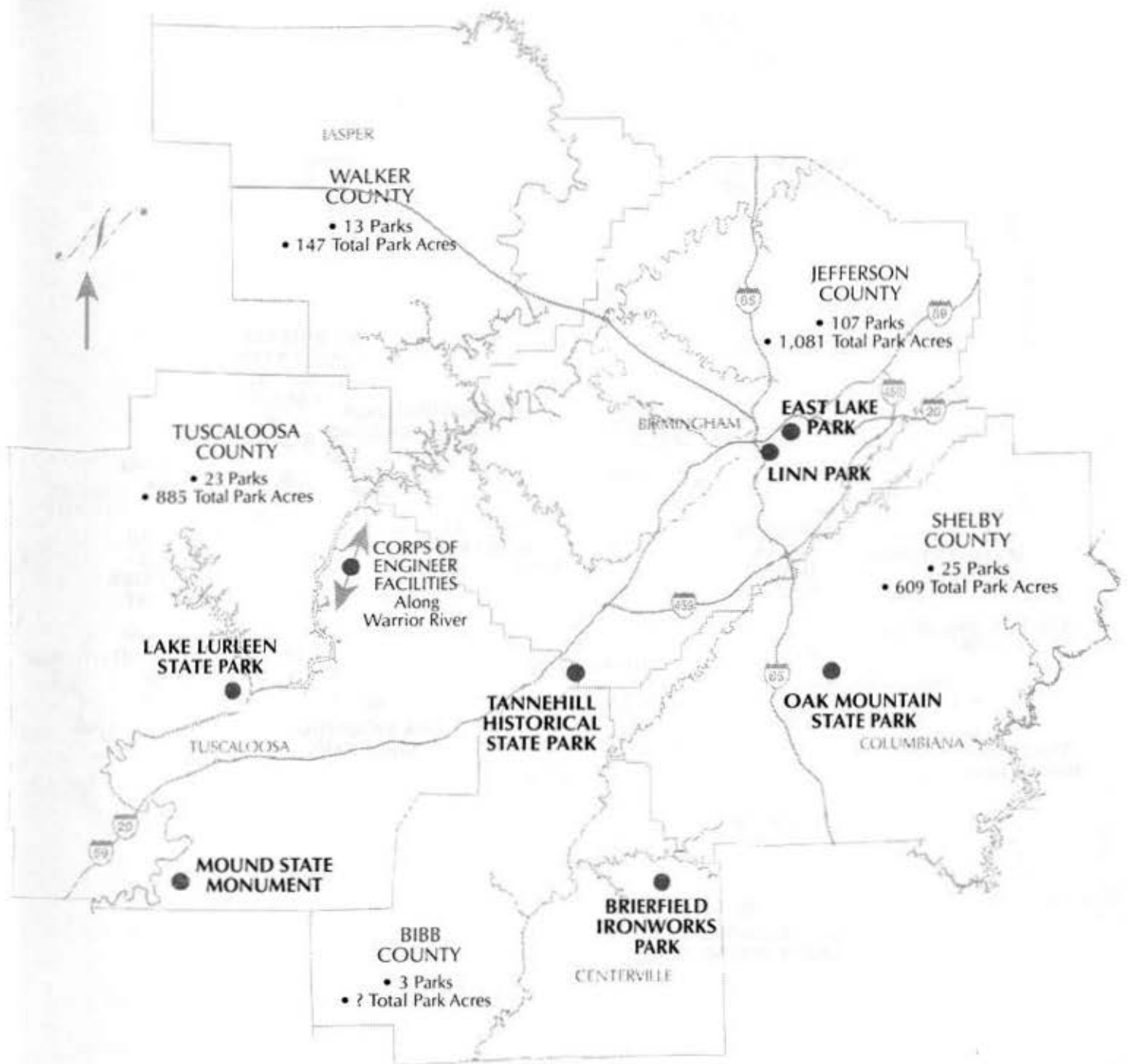
## Natural Resource Sites

### Resource Key

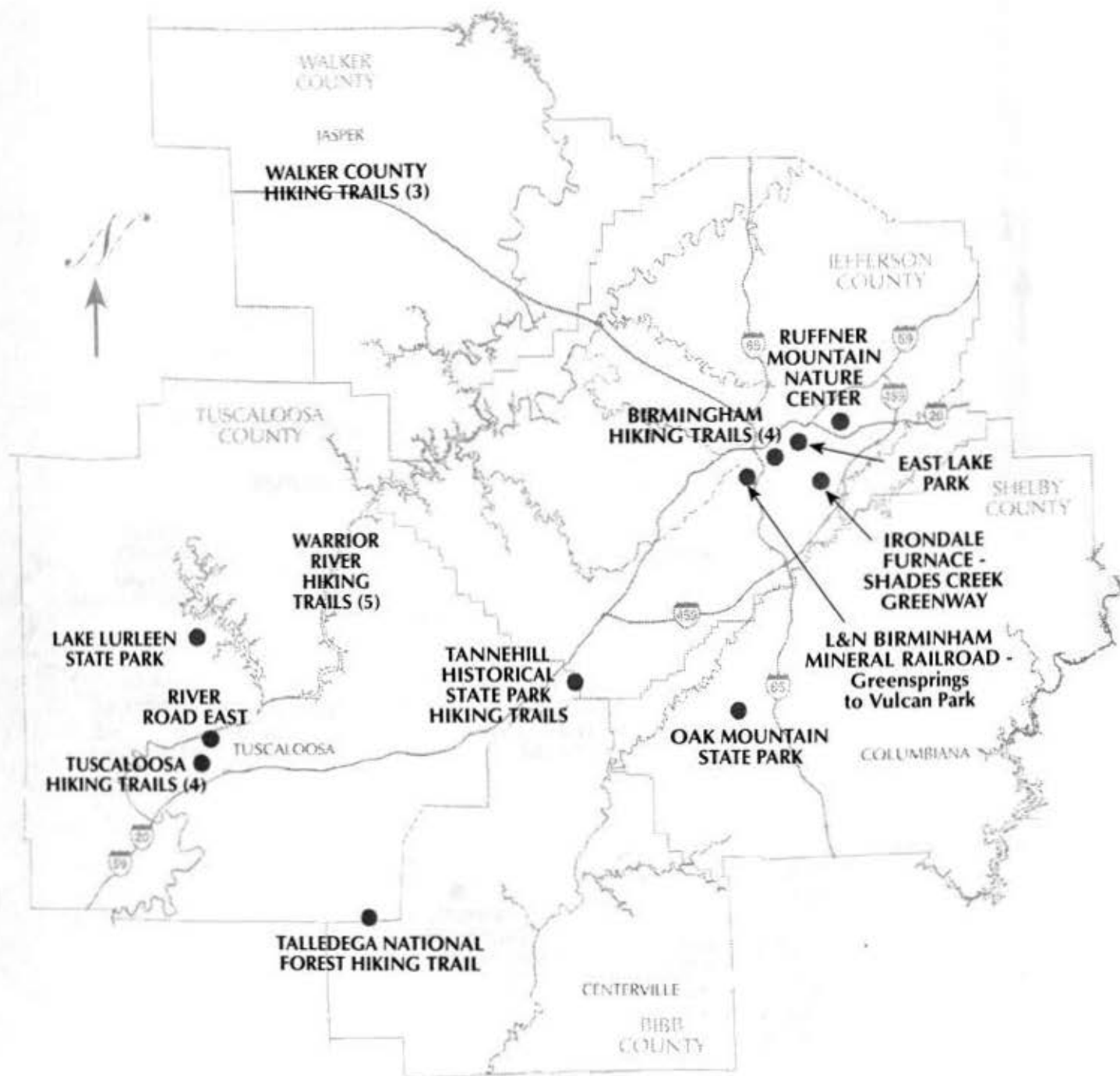
- ▲ Historic Industrial Museum, Park, Site Open to Public
- △ Historic Industrial Museum, Park, Site (Potential)



## Rivers, Creeks, Lakes & Waterfronts

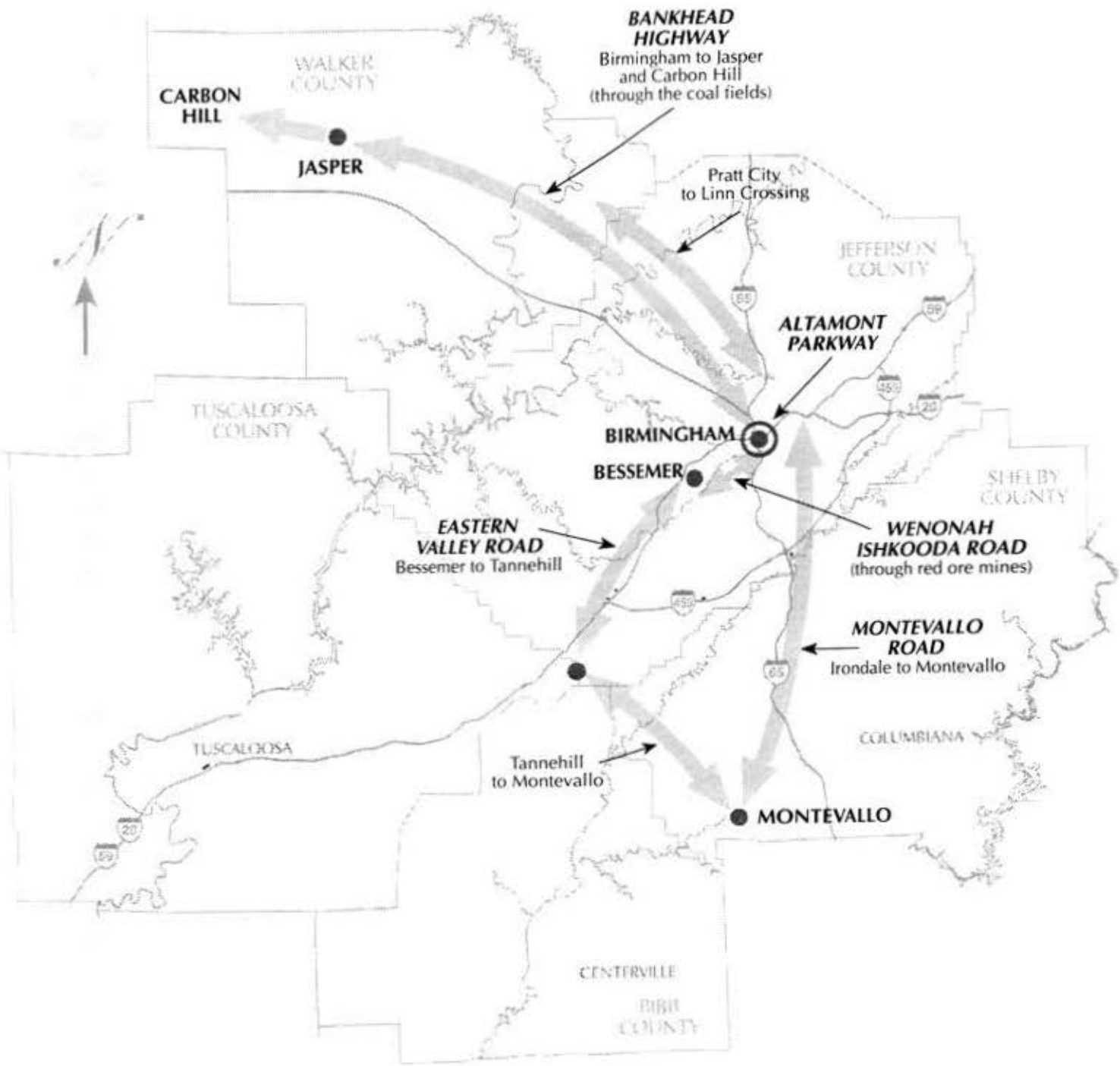


## Parks: State, Regional & Local



## Trails





Scenic Roads

**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RECREATIONAL USAGE ANALYSIS**

| <u>Recreational Resource</u>  | <u>Annual Usage</u>    |
|---|------------------------|
| Warrior River, Coffeeville to Bankhead Lake *                                     | 5,350,000              |
| Oak Mountain State Park   | 618,359                |
| Alabama Theatre   | 400,000                |
| Fair Park   | 400,000                |
| Tannehill Historical State Park, Tannehill *                                      | 341,000                |
| Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham  | 220,000                |
| Jimmy Morgan Zoo, Birmingham  | 155,814                |
| Civil Rights Institute, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church *                         | no data                |
| Birmingham Museum of Art  | 153,000                |
| Talledega National Forest, Oakmulgee Division                                     | 102,000                |
| Lake Lurleen State Park, Coker  | 100,000                |
| Discovery 2000 Museum, Birmingham   | 84,500                 |
| Vulcan Park, Birmingham *   | 82,810                 |
| Linn Park, Birmingham   | 75,000                 |
| Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Birmingham *                           | 70,000                 |
| Tuscaloosa Riverfront Parks *   | 64,000                 |
| Mound State Monument, Tuscaloosa  | 40,000                 |
| Red Mountain Museum, Birmingham *   | 36,300                 |
| Brierfield Ironworks Park, Brierfield *   | 35,000                 |
| Alabama Museum of Natural History - Geological Survey<br>of Alabama, Tuscaloosa * | 20,000                 |
| Alabama Mining Museum, Dora *   | 15,000                 |
| Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Birmingham *                                      | 9,300                  |
| Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum/Trail, Calera *                                    | not yet open to public |
| Cahaba River Greenway *   | no data                |
| East Lake Park, Birmingham  | no data                |
| Pratt Ferry Preserve, Cahaba River, Bibb County                                   | no data                |

\* Resource directly linked to industrial history of Birmingham District

This study was compiled through telephone interviews and correspondence with the individual agencies managing the sites during September and October 1992.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES - A Summary

The Birmingham District is a mineral rich area of northern Alabama located in the southernmost foothills of the America's Appalachian Mountains. Proximate resources of coal, iron ore, and fluxing stones provided the raw materials for making iron and steel. The **Red Mountain Cut National Natural Landmark** showcases these mineral resources and the areas geological evolution.

Industrialization of the District begins in the 1820s with the concentration of small iron forges producing goods for an agricultural economy, expands during the Civil War to larger scale production for military purposes, and emerges during the 1880s and 1890s into national prominence.

From 1880 to 1900, the Birmingham District established its niche as America's largest foundry iron producer. At its peak in 1940, the District produced annually over 40 percent of America's foundry iron. The statue of **Vulcan**, the world's largest iron statue, was cast in a Birmingham foundry out of Birmingham iron and is now located at a park on Red Mountain above Birmingham, symbolizing the District's position as the leading American iron producer.

Other sites have survived which represent the social and industrial character of the District at each of its major historical junctures. In some instances, such as the antebellum period of forges and bloomeries and the Civil War era of coal mines and charcoal furnaces, the sites are preserved in rural, wooded locations that provide excellent recreational as well as interpretive opportunities. In other instances, such as the key era of coke blast furnaces, pipe and steel mills and cokeworks, a wide array of sites and transportation systems survive in both rural and urban settings.

Civil War sites include the **Tannehill, Brierfield and Irondale ironworks ruins and reconstructions** and other coal mining and industrial sites along the Cahaba River.

Birmingham District ironmakers developed a medium sized blast furnace distinctively suited to the District's ores that became the standard for foundry iron production. The Sloss City Furnaces, now **Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark**, represent this important technological achievement.

District ironmakers also created distinctive vertically integrated ironmaking systems that capitalized on the close proximity of area mineral resources including coal and iron. The Sloss Furnaces remain, together with company ore and coal mines and associated structures at **Ruffner, Sloss and Brookside**.

District ironmakers opened the **Red Mountain Mines**, the nation's second largest group of underground ore mines extending 16 miles from Irondale to Bessemer. Along an abandoned railroad bed virtually all aspects of mining practice remain today: mine portals, hoisting houses, head frames, foundations, tailing piles and company-built communities at **Ruffner, Sloss, Ishkooda, Wenonah, Muscoda and Pyne**.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES - A Summary continued**

The District opened the nation's largest group of open pit brown ore mines. The **Goethite Mine** near **Tannehill Historical State Park** is an excellent example.

The District opened the fifth largest group of bituminous coal mines in America. The District remains a top twenty American coal producer with extensive surface and underground mines in operation.

The District pioneered practices in coal washing and by-product coke manufacture and remains a major merchant coke producer with four active plants at **Tarrant, Holt, Woodward, and North Birmingham**. Excellent examples of a wide range of cokemaking processes include beehive, Belgian, Semet Solvay and Koppers ovens at **Pratt City, Helena, Coalburg, and Thomas**. The still-operating early twentieth century Semet Solvay plant at Holt is a rare survivor of the earliest era of by-product coking.

The District became a regional center of steel production and remains such with state of the art steelmaking facilities of USX (formerly TCI-U.S. Steel) at **Fairfield**.

The District became America's leading center of cast (now ductile) iron production. It also became a national center for innovation in cast iron pipe manufacturing including use of the centrifugal process and construction of large, rationally organized pipe mills. Remaining plants dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries include those of **ACIPCO, Central Iron & Foundry, U.S. Pipe, McWane** and **Stockham**. All but Central Iron are currently operating.

The District opened one of America's longest channelized waterways, the **Warrior River** extending 455 miles from Walker County past Birmingham and Tuscaloosa to Mobile. **Ruins** of the earliest locks and dams remain at Tuscaloosa and the current Bankhead Lock.

The District's use of slaves as industrial laborers during the Civil War is distinctive. The convict lease system, which also steered large numbers of African Americans to forced employment in the mines and mills until the system was abolished in 1928, serves as compelling testimony to the contributions that black workers made to America's industrial growth. The **Tannehill, Brierfield** and **Irondale ironworks** tell Civil War and reconstruction stories. **Pratt Mines and Coke Ovens** reveal their sequel.

The District includes a significant collection of corporate and privately built industrial communities including as representative examples **Birmingham, Fairfield, Bayview, Muscoda, Wenonah, and Thomas**. Ethnic diversity and segregation by race mark these and other commercial and mining centers including **Jasper, Carbon Hill, Pratt City, West Blocton, and Dora**.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES** - *A Summary continued*

The District's outstanding architecture includes the headquarters of **Birmingham Realty Company** (whose predecessor company founded Birmingham in 1871), the **Heaviest Corner on Earth** (four early skyscrapers which housed the integrated industrial corporations of the District), **Alabama Power Company Building**, a 1925 Art Deco tower built to showcase area mineral resources and technological achievements, and **Smith Hall**, a Beaux Arts style museum, built in 1910 to house the then and now even more extensive collections of the Geological Survey of Alabama.

The District also includes 19 National Register commercial and residential districts of more than 2,000 properties in Birmingham and nine districts in Tuscaloosa, Bessemer, Montevallo and Centreville, all associated with industrial development. Numerous other districts, sites and buildings are eligible for National Register listing. Preliminary information was gathered on some 600 districts, sites and buildings as part of this study.

**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RESOURCE LISTS \*****MUSEUMS**

Alabama Mining Museum\*  
 Bessemer Hall of History Museum - Southern Railway Depot \*  
 Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and District\*  
 Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum\*  
 Red Mountain Cut/Geological Walkway/Museum\*/Discovery 2000  
 Ruffner Mountain Nature Center\*  
 Shelby County Historical Society Museum  
 Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark\*  
 Smith Hall-Geological Survey of Alabama/Alabama Museum of Natural History\*  
 Tannehill State Historic Park/Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama\*  
 Vulcan Statue and Park\*

**HISTORIC HOUSES AND BUILDINGS**

Alabama Power Company Headquarters\*  
 Allen & Jemison Co. Hardware and Antique Store, Tuscaloosa\*  
 Arlington Historic House Museum and Gardens\*  
 Bankhead Houses, Jasper  
 Battle-Friedman Historic House, Tuscaloosa\*  
 Bessemer Carnegie Library, now Chamber of Commerce\*  
 Birmingham Realty Company Building and Collections  
 Corry Homestead-Museum of Southern Folklife Old York-Oakman\*  
 Dearing House, now the University Club, Tuscaloosa  
 Gorgas House Museum, Tuscaloosa\*  
 Jemison-Vandergraaff House Museum, Tuscaloosa\*  
 King House, Montevallo  
 Owen House, McCalla\*  
 William Cook House Museum, Nauvoo\*  
 Ash, Hogan, Bagley, Dunkin, Crocker, Marchant, Nelson, Stewart, Thompson and other Houses, Tannehill\*

**EXISTING TOURS OF ACTIVE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS**

Alabama Power Company Corporate Headquarters\*  
 Alabama Power Company Bankhead Hydroelectric Generating Plant\*  
 Alabama Power Company Gorgas Steam Electric Plant\*  
 Alabama Power Company Miller Steam Electric Plant\*  
 Alabama Power Company Holt Steam Electric Plant\*  
 Bankhead "old" Lock & Dam, Warrior River\*  
 Bevill Mine No. 1 Tour of Simulated Mine and Miners' Training Center, Sumiton\*  
 Holt Lock & Dam, Holt\*  
 Jim Walter Miners' Training Center, Brookwood\*  
 Norris Yard Steam Shop-Steam Locomotive Restoration Facilities\*

\* Asterisk indicates sites currently open to the public. All sites are related to the District's industrial heritage.



# HISTORIC HOMES



*Gorgas House (1829), Tuscaloosa, last residence of Gen. Josiah Gorgas, Chief of Ordnance for the Confederacy which developed extensive ironworks in the Birmingham District.*



*Jemison House (1860), Tuscaloosa, town house with a coal-fired gas system built by planter-industrialist Robert Jemison.*



*Owen House (1838), McCulla, planter-industrialist Thomas Owen ran a forge near today's Tannehill State Park during the Civil War.*



*The Corry Homestead in Oakman forms the centerpiece of "Old York," a Walker County coal mining boomtown hoisterous again during quarterly festivals.*



*In 1900 Scottish immigrant miner William Cook designed and built this family homeplace in Nauvoo.*

**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RESOURCE LISTS continued****NATIONAL HISTORIC/NATURAL LANDMARKS**

Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark\*

Red Mountain Cut National Natural Landmark\*

**LANDMARKS FOR WHICH IMMEDIATE DOCUMENTATION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

Rickwood Field\*

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church\*

Thomas Coke Byproducts Plant &amp; Town

Vulcan Statue and Park\*

Empire Cokeworks, Holt

Tannehill Furnaces\* and Trail

Company Towns: Muscoda, Fairfield,  
Wenonah, Ishkooda

Red Mountain Mines and Communities

Bungalow Housing

Shelby Ironworks

Pratt Coke Ovens/Cemetery

**SITES RECORDED BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (HAER) and HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY (HABS)**

Arlington (Mudd-Munger) House\*

Battle Friedman House, Tuscaloosa\*

Billy Gould Mine, Coke Ovens

Birmingham District Railroads

Boshell Mill, Townley

Brookside Coal Mine &amp; Coke Ovens

Dearing House, Tuscaloosa

Gorgas House, Tuscaloosa\*

Hardie Tynes Foundry &amp; Machine Shop

Jemison Vandergraaff House, Tuscaloosa\*

President's House, Tuscaloosa

Tannehill Furnaces\*

Thomas ByProduct Coke Plant and Housing

**NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**Bibb County

Centreville

Red Mountain Suburbs  
(Nationally Significant)

Rhodes Park

Smithfield

Thomas

Jefferson County

Automotive

Bessemer

Chestnut Hills

Downtown Birmingham

Forest Park

Glen Iris

Morris &amp; First Avenue

Theater &amp; Retail

Fourth Avenue North/Civil Rights District

Heaviest Corner on Earth

Five Points South

Joseph Riley Smith

Pratt City Carline

Shelby County

Montevallo

Tuscaloosa County

Audubon Place

Caplewood Place

Druid City

Downtown Tuscaloosa

Gorgas Manly

Northport

\* Asterisks indicate sites open to the public.

## BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RESOURCE LISTS continued

### HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL COMPANY-BUILT SITES/CAMPS

#### Bathhouses

Wylam, TCI  
 Muscoda, TCI  
 ACIPCO, North Birmingham  
 Birmingham Southern RR Shops, Wylam  
 ABC Coke Plant, Tarrant

Birmingham Coal & Iron-Woodward,  
 Mulga Mine  
 DeBardeleben Coal & Iron Co., Sipsey  
 Sloss, Alden  
 U. S. Government-Republic, Sayre

#### Commissaries

ABC, Praco  
 TCI, Bayview  
 TCI, Wenonah  
 TCI, Docena  
 Alabama Fuel & Iron Co., Overton  
 ACIPCO, North Birmingham  
 Woodward, Mulga

#### Company Headquarters Buildings

Republic Iron & Steel, Thomas  
 Republic, Raimund Mine  
 Republic, Sayreton Mine  
 Woodward Iron Co., Woodward  
 McWane Pipe, East Birmingham  
 Stockham Pipe & Fittings Co., East  
 Birmingham  
 TCI-U S Steel Flintridge Building, Fairfield  
 TCI-U S Steel Raw Materials Division,  
 Wenonah  
 TCI, Muscoda Mine  
 TCI, Concord Mine  
 TCI, Fairfield Works  
 TCI-Woodward Iron Co. Pyne Mine  
 Hardie-Tynes General Office Building,  
 Birmingham  
 ACIPCO General Office Building, North  
 Birmingham  
 Cobb Coal Company, Carbon Hill  
 ABC General Office Building, Tarrant  
 Coke Plant

#### Teachers' Cottages

TCI, Johns  
 TCI, Muscoda  
 TCI, Bayview

#### Medical Dispensaries/Hospitals

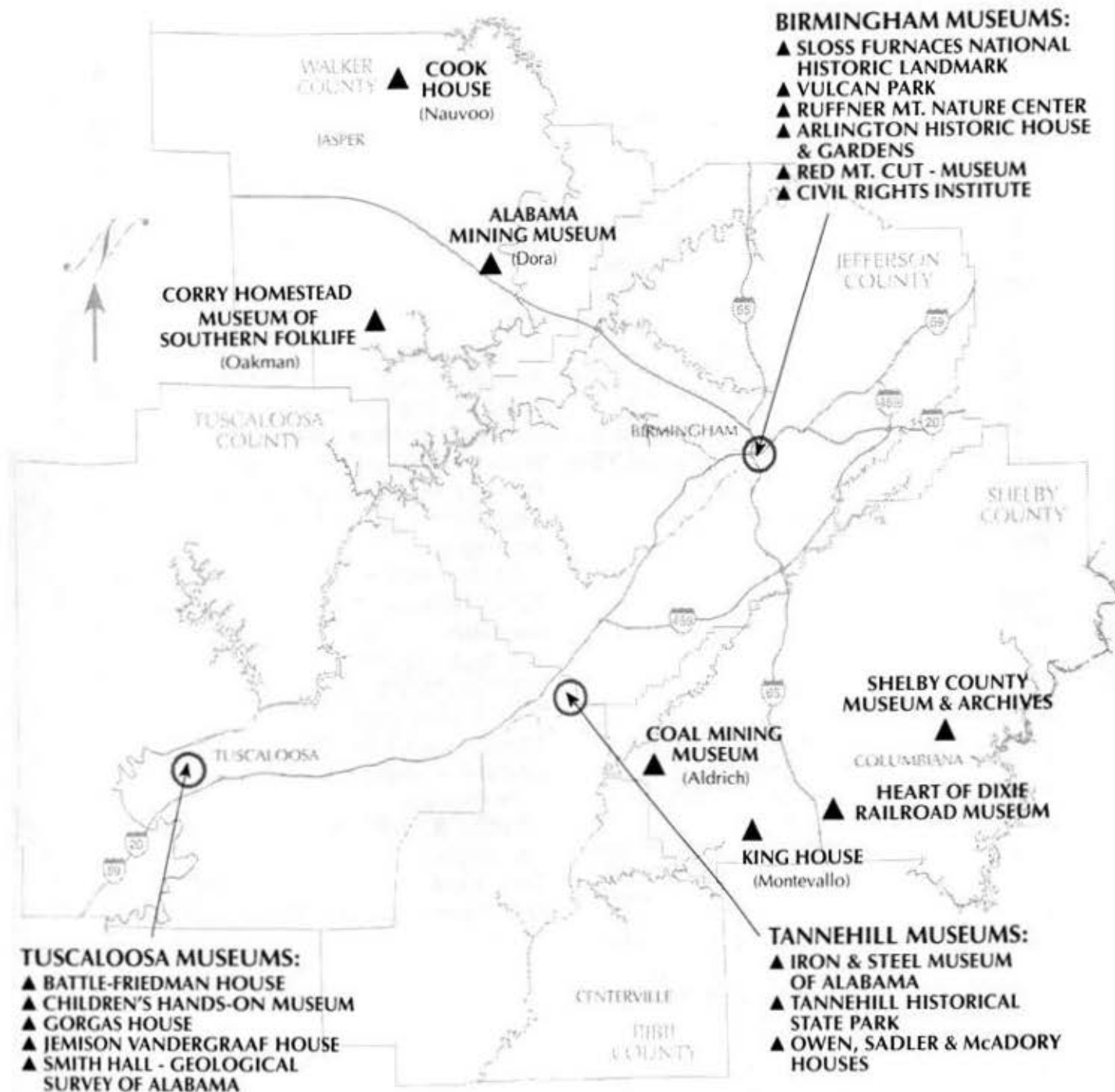
TCI-Medical Dispensary, Muscoda  
 TCI-Lloyd Noland Hospital, Fairfield  
 ACIPCO, North Birmingham  
 Hospital, Jasper

#### Schools

Alabama Fuel and Iron Co. Black School,  
 Overton  
 TCI Black and White Schools, Muscoda

#### Camps

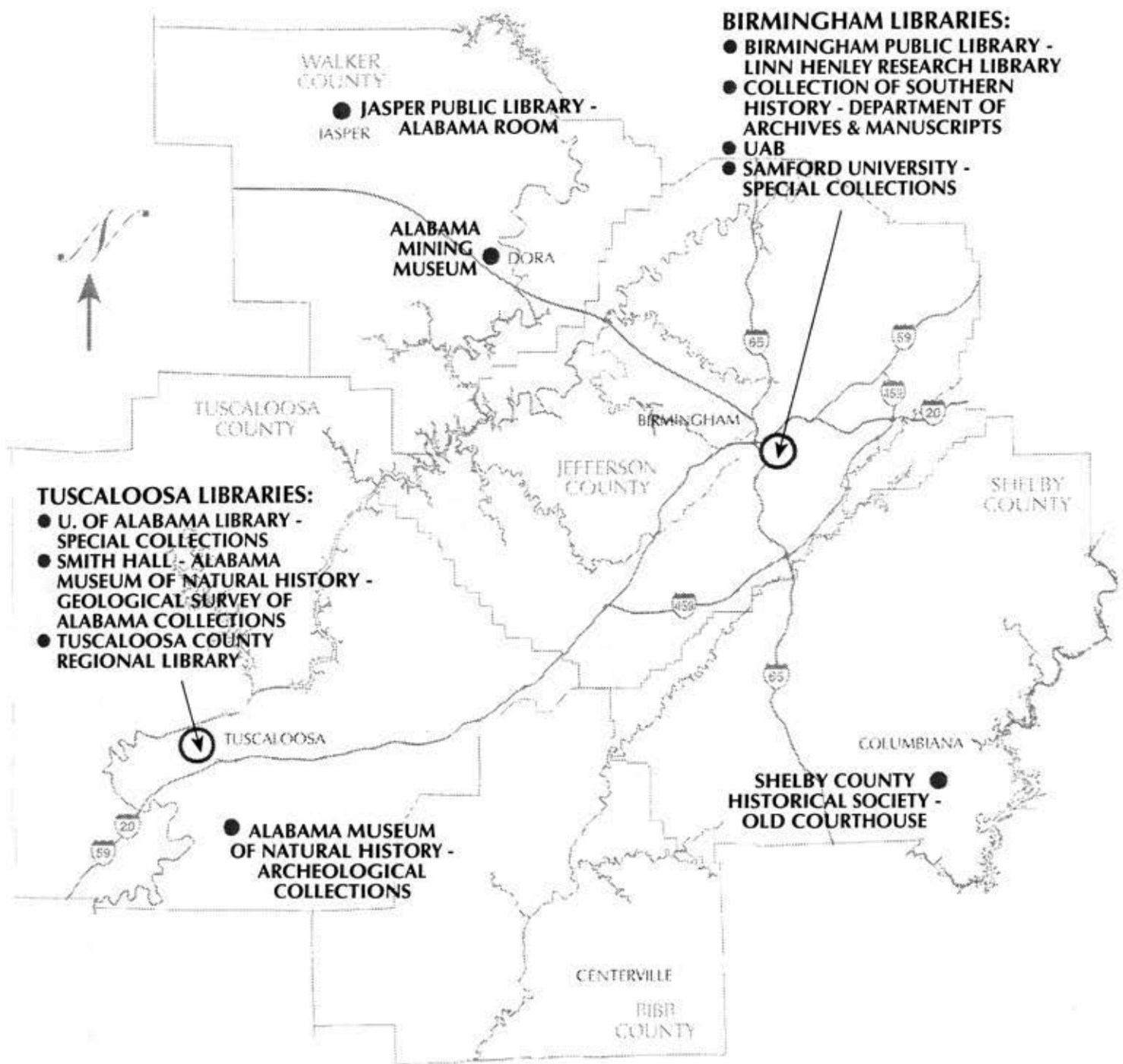
TCI, Muscoda  
 Pioneer-Republic, Thomas  
 TCI, Docena  
 TCI, Edgewater  
 TCI, Bayview  
 TCI, Ishkooda  
 TCI, Wenonah  
 Alabama Fuel and Iron Co., Overton



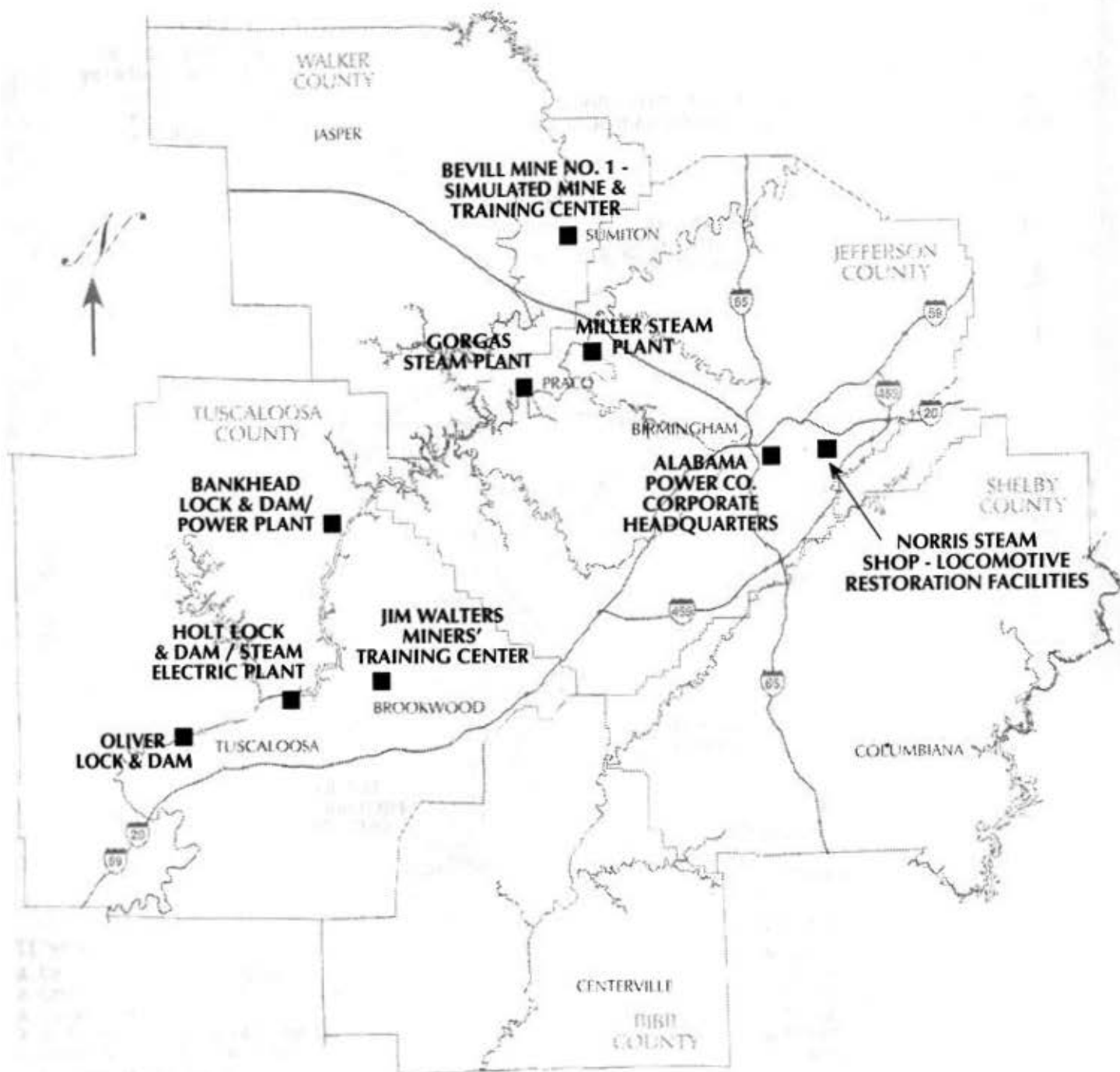
## Museums / Collections / Exhibits

### Resource Key

- ▲ Historic, Industrial Museum, Park, Site Open to Public



## Libraries / Research Facilities

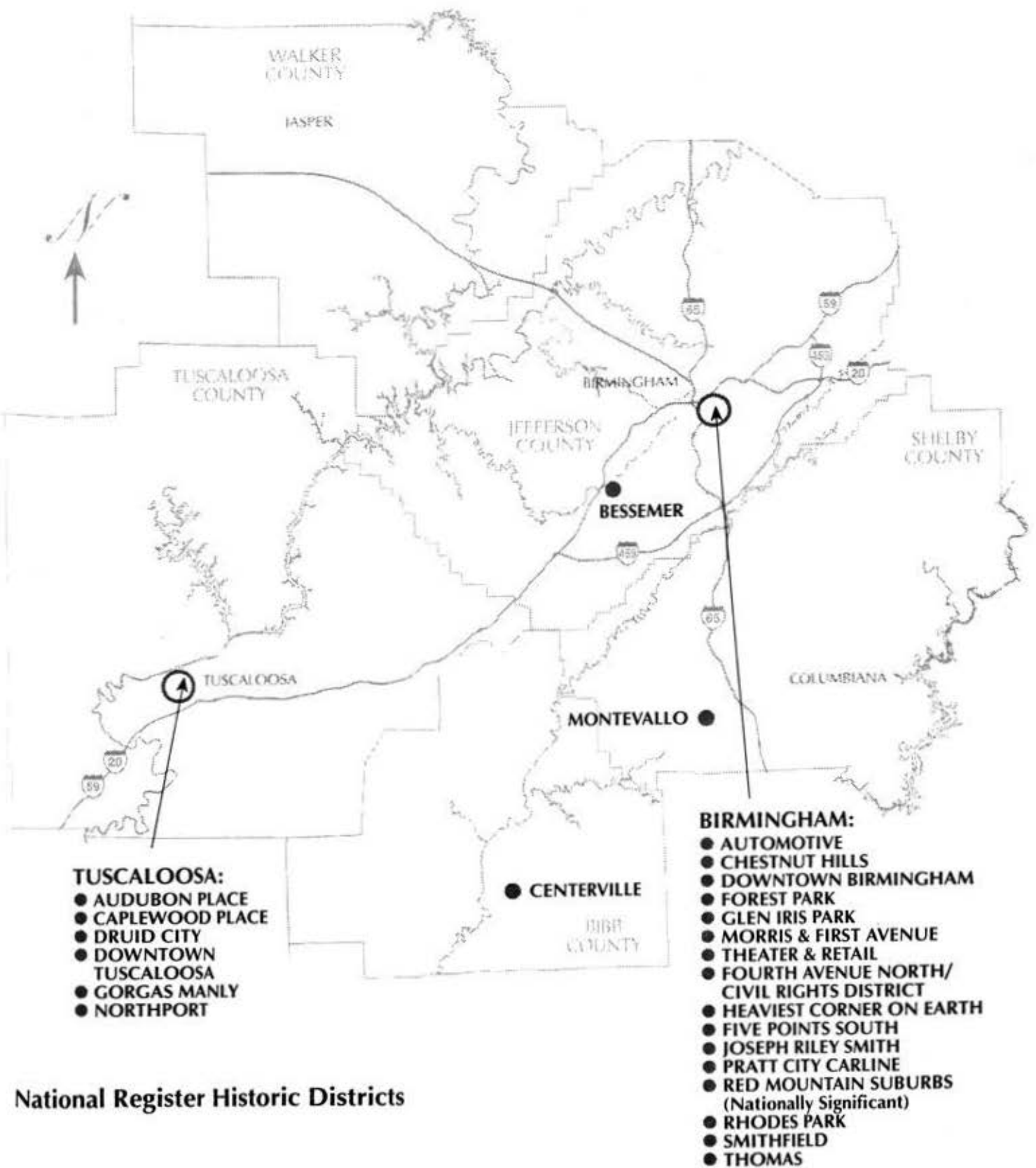


## Active Plant Tours

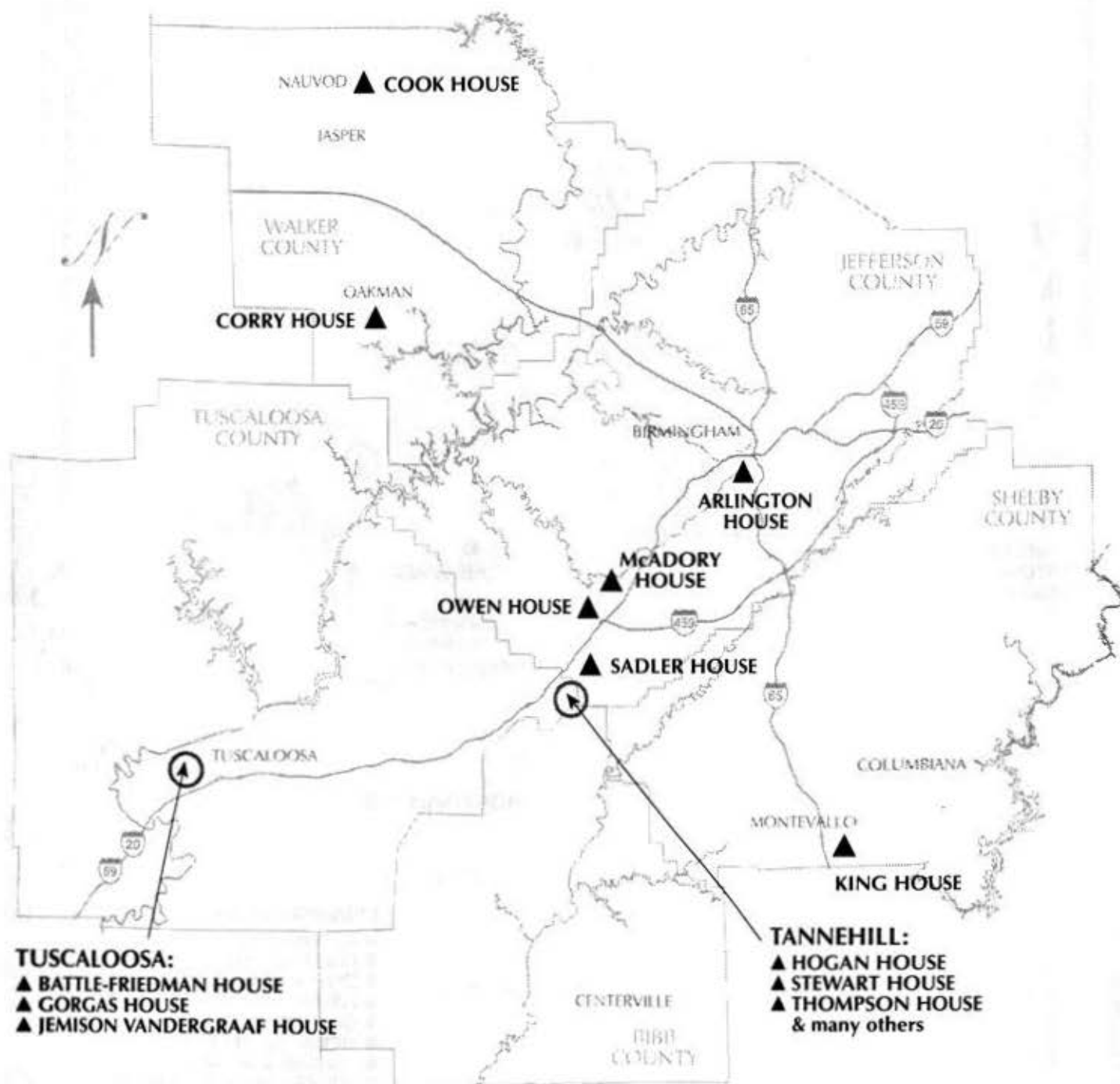
### Resource Key

■ Industrial Plant Tour





National Register Historic Districts



## Historic Homes (Open to the Public)

## **BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RESOURCE LISTS continued**

### **HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL SITES LISTED BY THEMES \***

#### **Ironmaking Systems**

- Sloss Furnaces Straight Line Production Model
  - Sloss City National Historic Landmark \*
  - Brookside Coal Mines & Coke Ovens \*
  - Ruffner Red Ore Mines (now Nature Center) \*
  - Sloss Red Ore Mines No. 1 & No. 2 \*
- Charcoal Blast Furnaces
  - Shelby Ironworks \*
  - Brierfield Ironworks \*
  - Irondale Furnaces \*
  - Tannehill Ironworks \*

#### **Red Mountain Red Ore Mining**

- Ruffner Red Ore Mines (now Nature Center) \*
- Sloss Red Ore Mines No. 1 & No. 2 \*
- Ishkooda Red Ore Mines No. 13 & No. 14 \*
- Muscoda Red Ore Mines No. 5 & No. 6 \*
- Pyne Red Ore Mine \*

#### **Cokemaking Sites**

- Billy Gould Mine, Coke Ovens \*
- Pratt Mine, Coke Ovens, Cemetery \*
- Coalburg Coke Ovens \*
- ABC-Drummond Coke ByProduct Plant (active) \*
- Thomas Coke Byproduct Plant \*
- Central Iron-Empire Coke ByProduct Plant (active) \*
- Woodward-Koppers Coke ByProduct Plant (active)

#### **Pipe Mills & Other Large Foundries**

- American Cast Iron Pipe (active) \*
- Central Iron & Foundry, Holt \*
- U. S. Pipe (active)
- U. S. Pipe (active)
- McWane Pipe (active)

#### **Manufacturing Plants**

- Hardie Tynes (active) \*
- Continental Gin Co. \*

\* For cultural resources starred with an asterisk, survey reports are included in The Birmingham District: A Survey of Cultural Resources produced for this project and available from the Birmingham Historical Society.

**HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL SITES LISTED BY THEMES continued****Steelmaking Sites**

Ensley-TCI-U S Steel Works-Industrial Park \*

Fairfield-TCI-U S Steel-USX Works (active) \*

Pullman Standard (now Trinity Industries and active)

**Rail Related Sites**

Norris Steam Shop

Oakman Depot, now Alabama Mining Museum Depot, Dora

Seaboard Airline Depot, now Alagasco offices, Birmingham

Southern Railway Depot-Hall of History Museum, Bessemer

Southern Railway Depot, now Chamber of Commerce, Leeds

Selma, Rome & Dalton Depot, now Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo

Southern Depot (active), Tuscaloosa

L. & N. Depot-Restaurant, Tuscaloosa \*

Wilton Depot-Heart of Dixie Museum, Calera

Southern Railway Depot (North Birmingham, now 415 W. Oxmoor Road), Birmingham

Terminal Station Underpass, Birmingham

20th, 19th, 14th Street and Terminal Station Underpasses, Birmingham

22nd and 24th Street Viaducts, Birmingham

Rainbow Viaduct, Birmingham

M. & O. Bridge and Depot, Northport

Frisco Depot, Gordo

Finley, East Thomas, Norris Shops and Yards

**Power Plants/Waterworks**

Cahaba River Pumping Station (active)

Powell Avenue Power Plant (active)

Rosedale Pumphouse (active)

Bankhead Hydroelectric Generating Plant (active)

Gorgas Steam Electric Plant (active)

Miller Steam Electric Plant (active)

Holt Steam Electric Plant (active)

**Civil War Era Sites**

Tannehill Furnaces \*

Irondale Ironworks Site \*

Alabama Coal Company Site \*

Billy Gould Mine Site \*

**Industrial Communities**

Company towns

Thomas \*

Muscoda \*

## HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL SITES LISTED BY THEMES continued

### Planned communities

Birmingham  
 Fairfield \*  
 Bayview \*  
 Altamont Parkway \*

### Commercial Districts

Pratt City Carline \*  
 Bessemer \*  
 Dora \*  
 Downtown Birmingham Railroad Reservation \*  
 Heaviest Corner on Earth \*  
 Morris Avenue and First Avenue \*  
 Downtown Birmingham Theater and Retail District \*  
 Downtown Birmingham \*

### Buildings

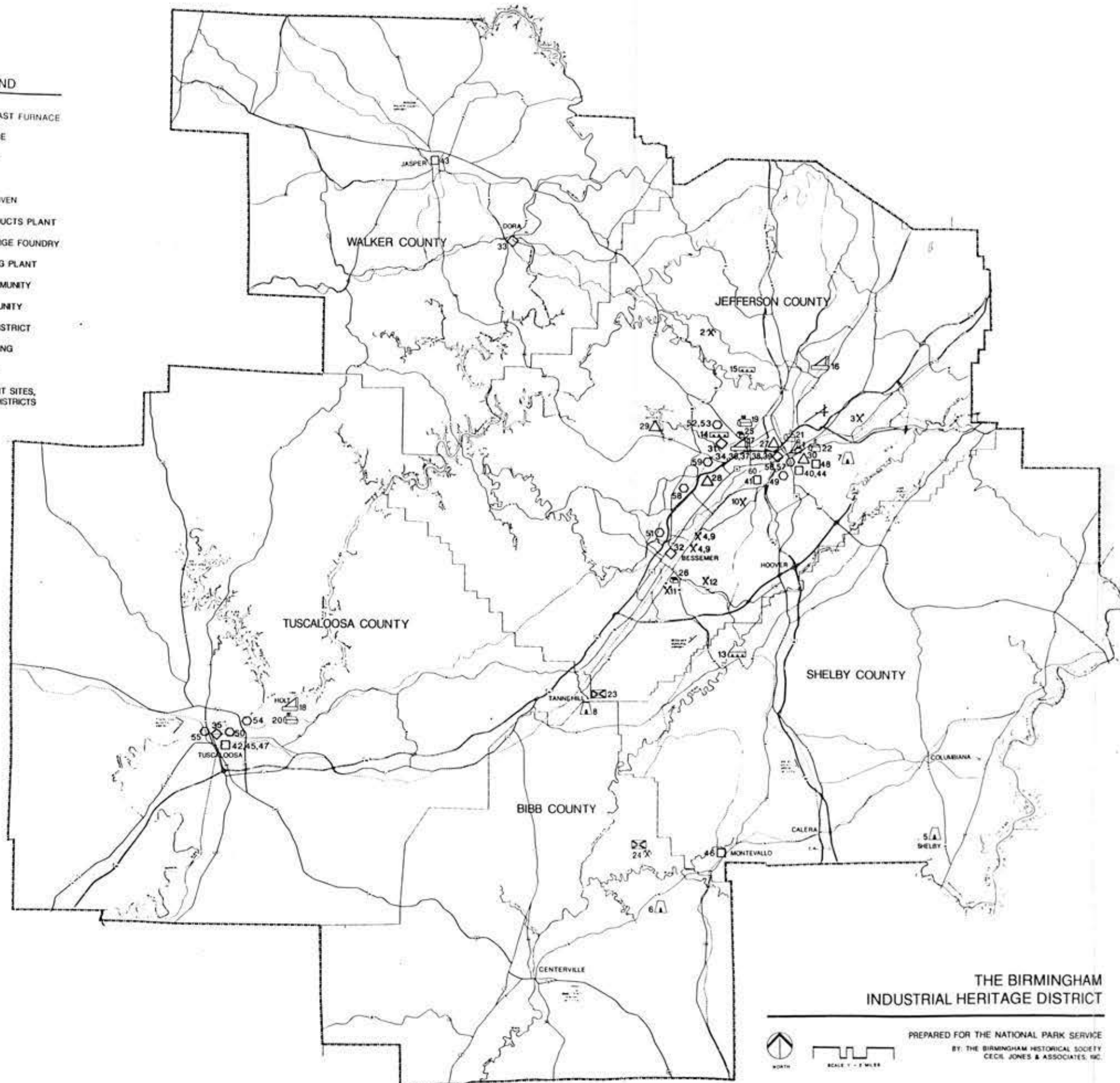
Alabama Power Company Office Building \*  
 Arlington-Mudd-Munger House \*  
 Gorgas House \*  
 John Hollis Bankhead House \*  
 Birmingham Realty Company Building-Collection \*  
 Jemison-Vandergraaff House \*  
 Edward King House \*  
 L. & N. Depot \*  
 Allen Harvey Woodward House \*

### Other Important Sites

Red Mountain Cut National Natural Landmark \*  
 Smith Hall-Geological Survey of Alabama Collection \*  
 Woodward Furnace Site \*  
 Prison Hill Cemetery \*  
 Pratt Mines-TCI Convict Cemetery \*  
 Warrior River Locks No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 and Quarries \*  
 Mobile and Ohio Railroad Bridge \*  
 Powell Avenue Power Station \*  
 Rickwood Field \*  
 Vulcan Statue \*

## SYMBOL LEGEND

-  CHARCOAL BLAST FURNACE
-  BLAST FURNACE
-  RED ORE MINE
-  COAL MINE
-  BEEHIVE COKE OVEN
-  COKE BY-PRODUCTS PLANT
-  PIPE MILL / LARGE FOUNDRY
-  MANUFACTURING PLANT
-  INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY
-  PLANNED COMMUNITY
-  COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
-  HISTORIC BUILDING
-  CIVIL WAR SITE
-  OTHER IMPORTANT SITES, STRUCTURES & DISTRICTS



## HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL SITES

Listed by Theme\*

- IRONMAKING SYSTEMS**
  - SLOSS FURNACES-THE STRAIGHT LINE PRODUCTION MODEL**
    - 1 SLOSS FURNACE 5 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
    - 2 BROOKSIDE COAL MINE
    - 3 RUFFNER RED ORE MINES
    - 4 SLOSS RED ORE MINES NO. 1 & NO. 2
  - CHARCOAL BLAST FURNACES**
    - 5 SHELBY IRONWORKS
    - 6 BRIERFIELD IRONWORKS
    - 7 IRONDALE FURNACES
    - 8 TANNEHILL IRONWORKS
  - RED MOUNTAIN ORE MINING**
    - 9 SLOSS RED ORE MINES NO. 1 & NO. 2
    - 10 ISHKOODA NO. 13 & NO. 14
    - 11 MUSCOODA NO. 5 & NO. 8
    - 12 PYNE MINE
  - COKE-MAKING SITES**
    - 13 GOULD MINES COKE OVENS
    - 14 PRATT COKE OVENS
    - 15 COALBURG COKE OVENS
    - 16 ABC-DRUMMOND COKE BY-PRODUCT PLANT
    - 17 THOMAS FURNACES COKE BY-PRODUCT PLANT
    - 18 CENTRAL IRON-EMPIRE COKE BY-PRODUCT PLANT
  - PIPE MILLS AND OTHER LARGE FOUNDRIES**
    - 19 AMERICAN CAST IRON PIPE CO.
    - 20 CENTRAL IRON AND FOUNDRY CO.
  - MANUFACTURING PLANTS**
    - 21 HARDIE TYNES FOUNDRY AND MANUFACTURING CO.
    - 22 CONTINENTAL GIN COMPANY
  - CIVIL WAR SITES**
    - 23 TANNEHILL IRONWORKS
    - 24 ALABAMA COAL MINING COMPANY MINES
  - INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES**
    - COMPANY TOWNS**
      - 25 THOMAS
      - 26 MUSCOODA
    - PLANNED COMMUNITIES**
      - 27 BIRMINGHAM
      - 28 FAIRFIELD
      - 29 BAYVIEW
      - 30 ALTAMONT PARKWAY
    - COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS**
      - 31 PRATT CITY CARLINE
      - 32 BESSEMER
      - 33 DORA
      - 34 DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM RAILROAD RESERVATION
      - 35 DOWNTOWN TUSCALOOSA
      - 36 HEAVENLY CORNER ON EARTH
      - 37 MORRIS AVENUE & FIRST AVENUE
      - 38 DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM THEATRE & RETAIL
      - 39 DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM
    - BUILDINGS**
      - 40 ALABAMA POWER COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING
      - 41 ARLINGTON-MUDD-MUNGER HOUSE
      - 42 GORGAS HOUSE
      - 43 JOHN HOLLIS BANKHEAD, SR. HOUSE
      - 44 BIRMINGHAM HEALTH COMPANY BUILDING-COLLECTION
      - 45 JEMISON-VANDERGRAAF HOUSE
      - 46 EDMUND KING HOUSE
      - 47 L. & N. DEPOT
      - 48 ALLEN HARVEY WOODWARD HOUSE
  - OTHER IMPORTANT SITES, STRUCTURE & DISTRICTS**
    - 49 RED MOUNTAIN CUT NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK
    - 50 SMITH HALL-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALABAMA COLLECTION
    - 51 WOODWARD FURNACES
    - 52 PRISON HILL CEMETERY
    - 53 PRATT MINES-TCI CONVICT CEMETERY
    - 54 WARRIOR RIVER LOCKS NO. 1, NO. 2, NO. 3 & QUARRIES
    - 55 MOBILE AND OHIO RAILROAD TRESTLE BRIDGE
    - 56 POWELL AVENUE POWER STATION
    - 57 VULCAN STATUE AND PARK
    - 58 FAIRFIELD-TCI-U.S. STEEL WORKS
    - 59 ENSLEY-TCI-U.S. STEEL WORKS
    - 60 RICKWOOD FIELD

\* SURVEY REPORTS FOR THESE SITES ARE INCLUDED IN THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

## THE BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DISTRICT

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BY THE BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CECIL JONES & ASSOCIATES, INC.





## **BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RESOURCE LISTS continued**

### **BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT FESTIVALS AND EVENTS**

#### Bibb County

Tannehill Historical State Park  
   Trade Days (monthly)  
   Pioneer Days  
   Quilt Show  
   Spring Folklore Festival  
   Southern Dulcimer Festival  
   Tannehill Furnace Run  
   Gem and Mineral Show  
   Labor Day Celebration  
   Dixie Pickups Ltd. Truck and Car Show  
   Alabama Forge Council Workshop  
   Antique Steam and Gas Show  
   Woodcarvers Show  
   Civil War Living History Encampment  
   Country Craft Show  
   Village Christmas and Candlelight Tour  
 Brierfield (Tannehill) Historical State Park  
   Blue Grass Stage Performances  
   Amphitheatre Performances

#### Jefferson County

City Stages - Birmingham  
 The Black Heritage Tour - Birmingham  
 Spring Fling - Alabama State Fairgrounds, Birmingham  
 Spring in the Park - Avondale Park, Birmingham  
 Magic City Art Connection and Children's Art Connection - Linn Park, Birmingham  
 Birmingham Festival of Arts - Birmingham  
 Black Heritage Festival - Alabama State Fairgrounds, Birmingham  
 Great Southern Kudzu Festival - Sloss Furnaces, Birmingham  
 Jazz Hall of Fame Banquet and Concert - Birmingham  
 Birmingham Jam - Sloss Furnaces, Birmingham  
 Ghost Telling by Kathryn Tucker Windham - Sloss Furnaces, Birmingham  
 Fireworks from atop Red Mountain - Vulcan Park, Birmingham  
 Function at Tuxedo Junction Jazz Festival - Ensley, Birmingham  
 Arlington Country Fair - Arlington, Birmingham  
 A DAY IN OLD BIRMINGHAM - Birmingham  
 Octoberfest - Birmingham  
 Alabama State Fair - Alabama State Fairgrounds, Birmingham  
 Birmingham News Vulcan Run - Birmingham  
 Christmas at Arlington - Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT FESTIVALS AND EVENTS continued**

Christmas Tour of McAdory, Sadler and Owen Pioneer Homes - Bessemer  
 Super Day-East Lake Park, Birmingham  
 Mining Town Annual Reunions - Docena, Piper and others  
 St. Stanislaus Spaghetti Social - Wylam  
 St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Food Festival - Birmingham  
 Holy Trinity - Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Food Festival - Birmingham  
 St. George Melkite Food Festival - Birmingham  
 St. Elias Maronite and Thomas Food Festival - Birmingham  
 St. Joseph's Day at St. Joseph and St. Mark's Catholic Church - Ensley - Birmingham

Shelby County

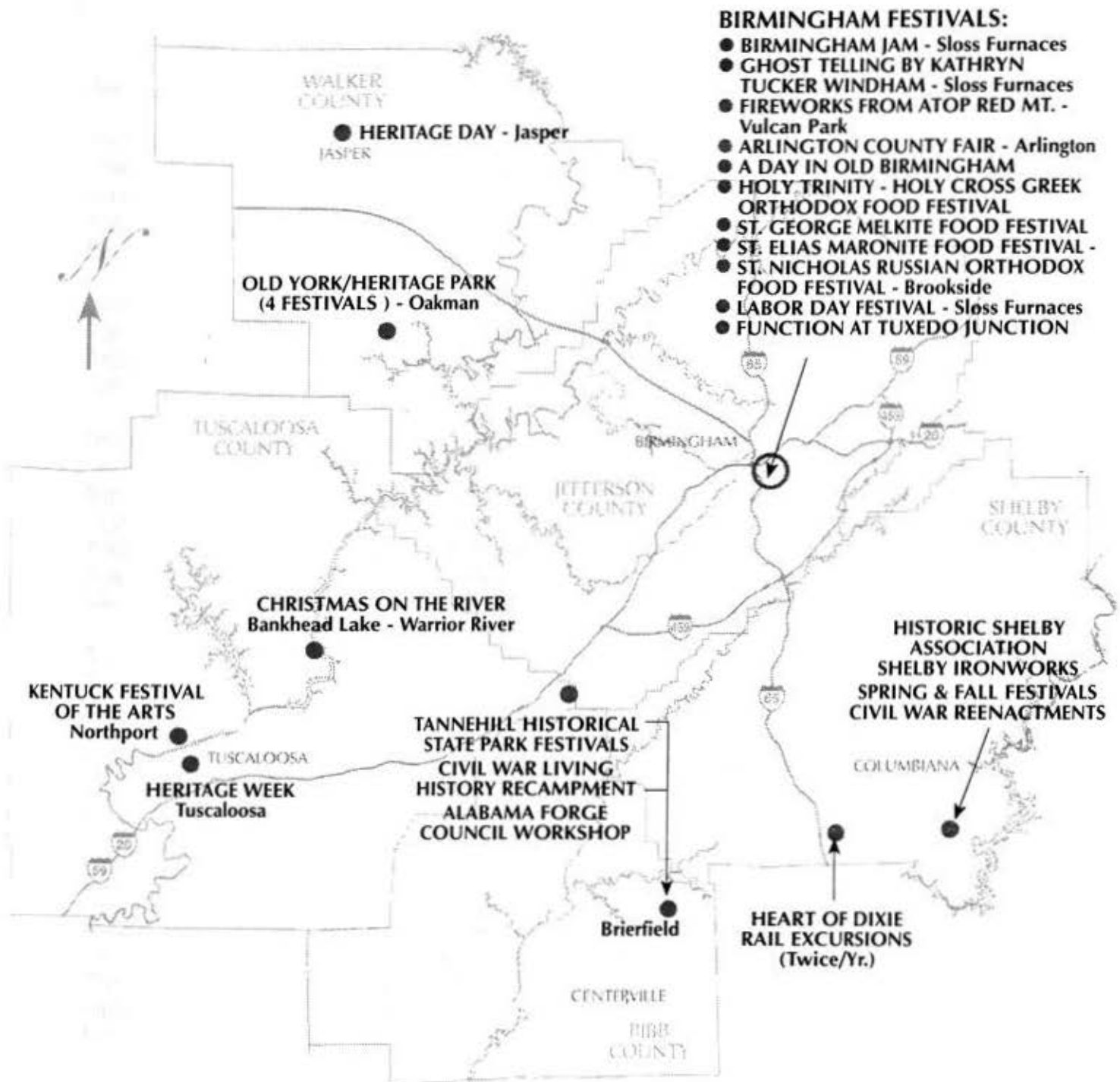
Heart of Dixie Rail Excursions (twice/yr.) - Calera  
 Historic Shelby Association - Shelby Ironworks - Shelby  
   Spring Festival  
   Fall Festival  
   Civil War Reenactments  
 Heart of Dixie Stock Dog Trial  
 Dogwood Festival - Hoover  
 Civil War Reenactment and Parade - Orr Park - Montevallo  
 Barbeque Cookoff Contest - Oak Mountain Amphitheater, Pelham  
 Bluegrass Festival - Vandiver  
 Shelby County Fair - Columbiana  
 Arts and Crafts Show - Alabaster  
 Annual Montevallo Trade Day - Montevallo

Tuscaloosa County

Kentuck Festival of the Arts - Northport  
 Heritage Week - Tuscaloosa  
 Christmas on the River - Bankhead Lake - Warrior River  
 CityFest - Tuscaloosa  
 Sakura Festival - Tuscaloosa

Walker County

Christmas Festival - Harbin Hotel - Nauvoo  
 Old York/Heritage Park - Oakman  
   Spring Festival  
   Fall Festival  
   Mule and Wagon Day  
   Christmas Party  
 Heritage Day - Jasper  
 Barney Beach Reunion - Barney



**Festivals / Events**

## **MAJOR VISITOR DESTINATIONS**

### **Alabama Mining Museum \***

Located in Walker County, this state-supported mining museum tells the technological, social and human stories of Alabama's development as a major coal mining region. Collections housed in the former WPA school gymnasium on a 20-acre site include photographs, artifacts, and large-scale equipment.

### **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute/Sixteenth Street Baptist Church**

Located on Kelly Ingram Park, adjacent to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and the Birmingham city center's Civil Rights' District, this museum facility includes exhibits documenting the nationally significant contributions of African Americans to the city's industrial and Civil Rights history.

### **Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum**

In Shelby County, the centerpiece of this museum is the former Southern Railway Depot moved from Wilton, Alabama to the Calera site. Museum displays include railroading photographs and artifacts. Adjacent to the museum are an operating shop and yard, historic rolling stock and equipment, and the C. & S. Railroad, an abandoned right-of-way extending 12 miles to the Shelby Ironworks, currently being developed for steam excursion rides.

### **Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama**

This museum facility, located at Tannehill Historical State Park, traces area history from the Creek Indian days through the development of early 19th century ironworks and their destruction by federal troops during the Civil War. The museum contains a large collection of ironmaking artifacts and machinery.

### **Red Mountain Cut National Natural Landmark, Geological Walkway, Museum - Discovery 2000**

Exposed rock formations in this highway cut (length: 2,000', width: 410', depth: 210') showcase 160 years of geological history and the District's mineral resources. The Red Mountain Museum, located on a 3.8 site adjacent to the Cut and Walkway, serves as a satellite interpretive center. Discovery 2000, a privately-managed science center headquartered in the Birmingham city center, currently operates the cut, geological walkway, and center.

### **Rickwood Field**

Constructed in 1910 as home to the Birmingham Barons, the 12.7 acre Rickwood Field, now owned by the City of Birmingham, is considered the oldest standing baseball park in the world. Its grandstands, playing fields, ticket booths, dugout and ancillary structures, are currently used by the Birmingham schools and other related groups. Future plans include development of a baseball museum.

## **MAJOR VISITOR DESTINATIONS continued**

### **Ruffner Mountain Nature Center**

This 538-acre forested preserve in the City of Birmingham includes a facility with exhibits on the natural features of the area. Hiking trails and abandoned railroad roadbeds through the wooded, mountainside terrain offer opportunities to interpret the Sloss Furnaces' historic ore mining operations.

### **Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark**

This 32-acre site interprets the ironmaking process, the principal activity here from the 1880s to the 1970s when industrial activity ceased. The furnaces, now a museum of the City of Birmingham and an international center for the pouring and smithing of metals, include two early 20th century steel-jacked furnaces, ancillary structures, and interpretive facilities.

### **Smith Hall- Alabama Geological Survey**

Located on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, this classically-styled, early 20th century museum and educational facility hosts exhibits dealing with geological and natural history. An adjacent facility houses the Geological Survey's extensive photographic and specimen collection.

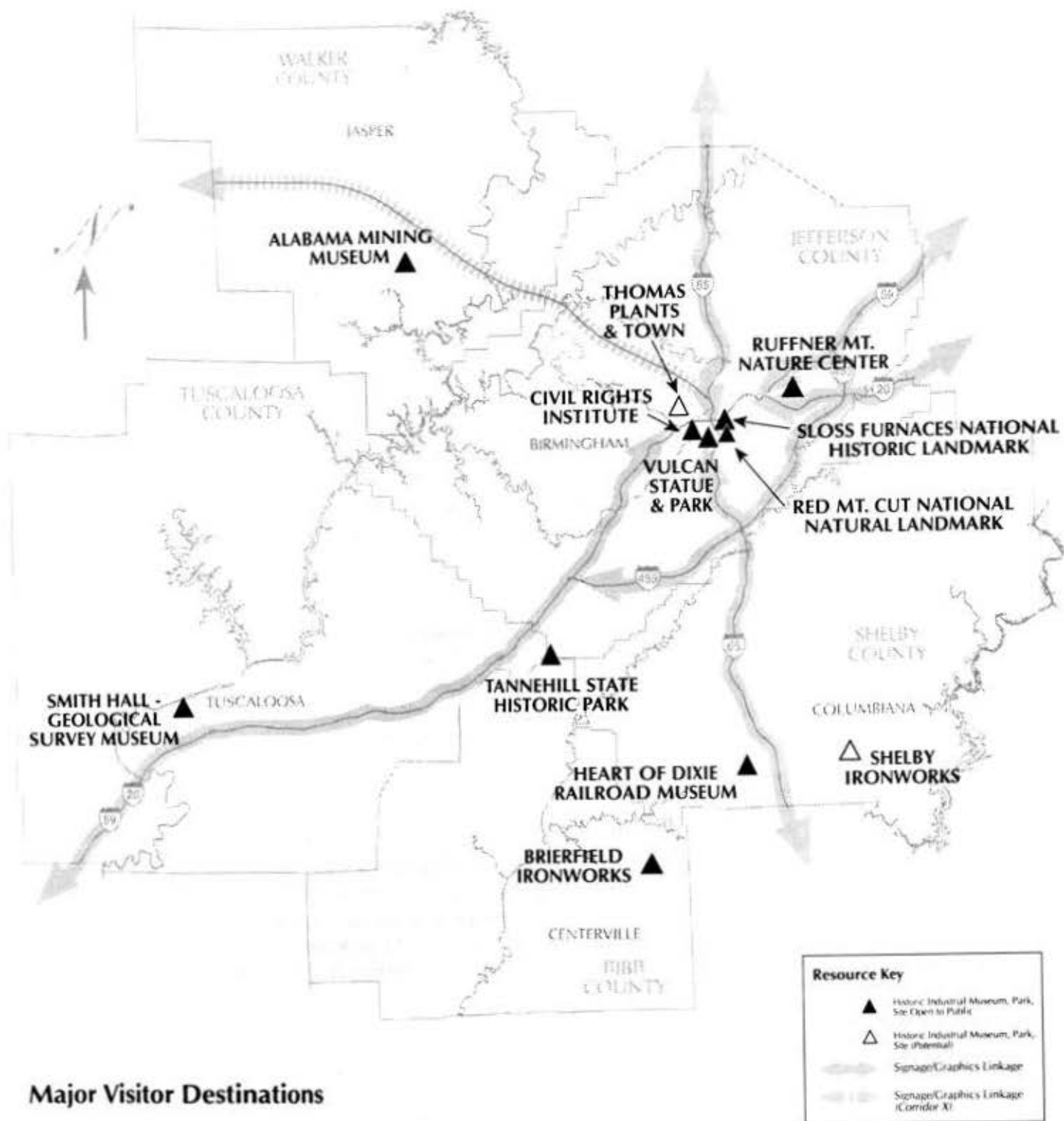
### **Tannehill Ironworks - State Historic Park**

The 1,500 acre park contains a 55-acre pre-Civil War and Civil War ironmaking site with evidence of slavery as an industrial labor force. The park also includes thirty five nineteenth century historic structures which have been moved to the park and new construction including the Iron and Steel Museum, a depot and tracks, recreational grounds for camping, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, and scouting, and other park-related structures.

### **Vulcan Statue and Park**

This 5.5 acre, mountaintop park showcases the Vulcan Statue. The 55-foot cast iron statue of Vulcan commemorates Birmingham industry. The Birmingham city park includes an observation deck, exhibit and concession facilities, gardens, and extensive WPA stonework for walkways, staircases, terraces, and a pathway to an abandoned red ore mine opening. Contiguous to the park is the right-of-way of the abandoned Birmingham Mineral Railroad which runs along Red Mountain's crest overlooking the city.

\* The **bold** typeface indicates a commonly used name.



**Major Visitor Destinations**



**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Industrial Communities Recommended for Historic Resource Survey and National Register Nominations**

Jefferson County

Alden  
Bayview  
Bessemer Residential  
Brookside/Cardiff/Blossburg  
Docena  
Edgewater  
Eldridge  
Ensley  
Ensley Highlands  
Fairfield  
Irondale  
Ishkooda/Wenonah  
Miles College  
Mulga  
Muscoda  
Norwood Boulevard  
Norwood  
Pratt City Residential  
Sipsey  
Tarrant  
Wylam  
Zion City

Bibb County

Piper-Coleanor  
South Lowell  
West Blocton

Shelby County

Calera  
Columbiana  
Helena  
Montevallo  
Woodstock

Walker County

Aldrich  
Carbon Hill  
Cordova  
Dora  
Jasper  
Nauvoo  
Oakman  
Parrish  
Townley

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Main Street Towns**

Jefferson County

Bessemer (already established)  
Ensley  
Fairfield  
Graysville  
Pratt City  
Tarrant

Bibb County

Centreville  
West Blocton

Tuscaloosa County

Shelby County

Calera  
Columbiana  
Montevallo

Walker County

Carbon Hill  
Cordova  
Jasper

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Local or Regional Parks**

Aldrich Coal Museum, Community, Cemetery, and (Potential) Mine Park - Aldrich  
 Bayview Lake - Bayview  
 Billy Gould Coal Mine, Coke Ovens - Cahaba River near Helena, Shelby County  
 Boshell Mill - Lost Creek, near Townley, Walker County  
 Brookside Mine and Coke Ovens (Potential) - Brookside  
 Browne's Dam - Brighthope Furnace Site - Bibb County Park  
 Dolonah Quarry and Lake - Bessemer  
 Lovic Shale Quarries - Lovic  
 Tuxedo Junction - Ensley  
 Virginia Coke Ovens - Bessemer area

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Museums**

Baseball Museum at Rickwood Field - Birmingham  
 Civil Rights Institute - Birmingham  
 Discovery 2000 - Birmingham  
 Shelby Ironworks - Shelby  
 Jemison Vandergraaff House - Tuscaloosa  
 Warrior River Museum-Kentuck, Northport Renaissance Project

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Scenic Roads**

#### Jefferson County

Wenonah - Ishkooda Road through ore mining communities - Jefferson County  
 Eastern Valley Road through a rural, agricultural landscape - Bessemer to Tannehill  
 Old Coal Road - Pratt City to Linn Crossing through historic coal communities  
 Altamont Parkway, a skyline drive through residential neighborhood overlooking the city - Birmingham  
 Bankhead Historic Highway through the coalfields - Birmingham to Jasper and beyond

#### Walker County

Bankhead Historic Highway through historic mining towns - Jasper, Townley, Carbon Hill

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Active Industrial Plant Tours**

Wade Sand & Gravel Quarry - Thomas  
 Empire Coke - Holt  
 USX Fairfield Works - Fairfield  
 American Cast Iron Pipe Company (ACIPCO) - North Birmingham  
 U.S. Pipe Works - Bessemer and North Birmingham  
 Pullman Standard-Trinity Industries - Bessemer  
 Drummond Strip Mining Operations - Warrior Coal Fields

## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Trails/Greenways**

Red Mountain Mine and Mineral Railroad Trail - along crest and slopes of Red Mountain from Ruffner Mountain to Vulcan Park and Green Springs, and beyond to Oxmoor and Bessemer - Birmingham, Bessemer

The Tannehill Trail - Tannehill Historical State Park to the Alabama Coal Mine, Booth's Ford, and Brierfield Ironworks, linking Tannehill to the historic 1850s railhead near Montevallo

Shades Creek Greenway - linking sites at Irondale and Oxmoor to others in this tributary of the Cahaba including the Irondale Furnaces in Mountain Brook

Cahaba River Greenway - linking early forge and furnace sites and natural areas in Shelby and Bibb Counties

Village Creek Greenway - linking industrial sites, including the Pratt Coke Ovens, Thomas works, Bayview Lake and community, and other urban and industrial areas - Birmingham and Jefferson County

## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Rail-to-Trail Projects**

Alabama and Tennessee Railroad Spur, Ashby to Cahaba River

Southern Railroad Depot to Pyne Mine - Bessemer - abandoned trackage, trestle and tunnels

Red Mountain Mines-Birmingham Mineral Railroad - Ruffner Mountain, Vulcan, Oxmoor, Ishkooda-Wenonah Mines to Pyne and Raimund Mines, Irondale to Bessemer

Ruffner Mountain - portion of the Mineral Railroad

Daniel Creek Railroad - Holt to Kellerman via Daniel Creek

High-Line - Wenonah to near Fairfield

L. & N. Mineral Railroad - Tuscaloosa

Pratt Mines Railroad - Birmingham City Center to Pratt City

Tramway linking Brierfield Ironworks Park to Rolling Mill Site

L. & N. Railroad on Gould Mine and Coke Oven Site - Helena

Tramway leading from Irondale Furnace Site to its Red Mountain Mines

Railroad from Shelby Ironworks to Dead Horse Landing on Coosa River

Southern Railway Tunnel and Bed - Powell Avenue, Birmingham

Downtown Birmingham Railroad Reservation

Spurs into Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark

Drifttrack - Pratt City

Hamilton Slope Trackage - Pratt City to Hamilton Slope

## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: Rail Excursion Routes**

L. & N.-Birmingham Mineral Railroad Loop to industrial sites about the city

Day trips possible on existing trackage from Birmingham to Tannehill, Dora, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville, Montgomery, Anniston, Memphis, Chattanooga

C & S (former) Alabama Mineral Railroad extending from Calera to Shelby

## A PARTNERSHIP OF COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND SUPPORT:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Statement on the Significance of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District</b>   | 74  |
| Dr. Melvin Kranzberg, Professor Emeritus, History of Technology, an international expert in the field he has created since the 1940s, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, Georgia  |     |
| <b>An Historical Overview and Significance Statement for the District</b>   | 75  |
| Jack Bergstresser, Sr., Industrial Archeologist, PhD Candidate with dissertation currently under review, Auburn University  |     |
| <b>Letter on the Historic Significance of the District</b>  | 77  |
| Dr. W. David Lewis, Hudson Professor of History and Engineering, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, the national authority on the Southern iron industry and Birmingham's Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, and author of the National Park Service <u>Handbook to Hopewell Furnace</u> . |     |
| <b>Letters of Support</b>   |     |
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## MEMORANDUM

January 13, 1993

TO: Ms. Marjorie L. White, Director, Birmingham Historical Society  
FROM: Dr. Melvin Kranzberg, Professor Emeritus, History of Technology  
SUBJECT: Statement on the Significance of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District

*mk*

At the U.S. National Park Service's 75th Anniversary Symposium in Vail, Colorado, the National Park Service enunciated a broader definition of "heritage." Of course, most of the papers at that symposium were directed toward the "nuts and bolts" of the historical preservation of buildings and sites. but, as was pointed out in the lead article in CRM (Vol. 15, no. 6, 1992), containing the papers presented at the anniversary symposium, society has an "ever-broadening definition of heritage."

The specific sentence embodying that broader definition seems to me to be particularly pertinent to the Birmingham Industrial District: "The concept of heritage has grown from a narrow 19th-century definition -- limited for the most part to ancient monuments -- through historic towns and vernacular architecture, to rural landscapes, the whole built environment and, indeed, even spiritual values."

The relationship of the actual industrial developments -- based on the happy conjuncture of natural resources in the Birmingham area -- to the "people" element is exactly what I tried to bring out in my prolonged essay, "Reflections on the Sociocultural Ecology of Technology," developed for the Birmingham Historical Society's National Park Service's 1992 study of the Birmingham Industrial District. My point is that technology does not develop in a vacuum, but in a sociocultural context -- and it interacts with that context. That is why Birmingham became the "metropolis of the New South" and "the crucible of the Civil Rights Movement."

The Civil Rights Institute, which recently opened in Birmingham, does an excellent job in showing many of the elements involved in that very important -- and ongoing -- development in our nation's history. However, the full story of that Civil Rights Movement cannot be understood without the recognition of the technological -- and the attendant socio-cultural -- developments and interactions deriving from the larger context of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District. Q.E.D.



February 2, 1993

Mr. Philip A. Morris, President  
Birmingham Historical Society  
One Sloss Quarters  
Birmingham, AL 35222

Dear Mr. Morris:

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the February 12 luncheon in Birmingham, to meet with Jerry Coleman, Southeast Regional Director of the National Park Service. However, I want to state in very positive terms my strong support for the establishment of the Birmingham Historical Industrial Heritage District by the National Park Service. Since I cannot be there in person, I hope that my views expressed in this letter and in my previous statements on this subject will be made known to Mr. Coleman.

Indeed, my great approval for a Birmingham Industrial Heritage District was indicated at length (37 single-spaced pages!) in my "Reflections on the Sociocultural Ecology of Technology, deriving from *The Birmingham District: An Assessment*," published in June 1992 by your very active organization.. There is no reason to repeat here the arguments made in that document, but you might point out my "Conclusions"(pp. 35-37) to Coleman, in addition to my recent (January 13, 1993) one-page "Statement on the Significance of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District."

Actually, some points made in my "Reflections" are similar to the reasons why Lowell, Massachusetts became so important historically in the 19th century and eventually led to the creation of the Tsongas Heritage Area. Just as Lowell had certain natural resources -- e.g., waterways to power textile machinery of that era -- so the Birmingham corridor had a unique conjunction of fuel and mineral ores which fitted in very well with the 19th-century iron and coal era. And just as Lowell witnessed a new role for "factory maidens," differing greatly from the culture of the times, so Birmingham presented quite different tasks -- and treatment -- for Blacks than did the cotton plantations of the "Old South." The intermixture of human and natural resources with the cultural environment gave the Lowell Mills a unique place in American history -- and although Birmingham differed in its natural and sociocultural environments and resources, their intermixture made Birmingham the "crucible" of the New South and

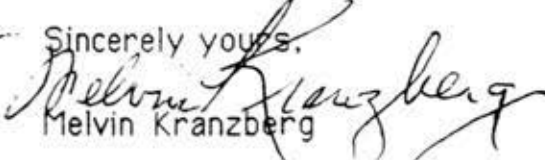


the birthplace of the "civil rights movement." Those items are reason enough for the National Park Service to "create" the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District -- and it would become a tourist attraction, as well as a learning-place for the public, just as the Tsongas Center has become.

It so happens that I have some firsthand acquaintance with the development of the historical district in Lowell. For it was created just about the time the Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA) was born, and that organization was an offshoot, in a sense, of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), which I helped found. Several people who played a major role in establishing the SIA were SHOT members and also were affiliated with the National Museum of History and Technology (Smithsonian), whose name was later changed to the National Museum of American History. (The change in name itself indicates the importance of the technological contribution to American history.) At any rate, as I recall, one of the first meetings of the Society for Industrial Archeology took place at what was then the Lowell Textile Museum.

Furthermore, I have kept up to date with the work of the Tsongas Center because one of its top officials is Dr. Edward J. Pershey, a graduate student of mine in the History of Technology at Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University). My ongoing acquaintance with the work of the Tsongas Center makes me realize that Birmingham also presents unique characteristics which would indeed make it a show-piece for other major elements of our American industrial heritage.

There is also a British Society for Industrial Archaeology, and it too fosters unique historical sites, such as Ironbridge Gorge. I am a longtime friend of John Harris and R. Angus Buchanan, leaders in the British group, and I am certain that they would agree with my evaluation of the Birmingham Industrial District as a truly great heritage of our industrial past, especially because it casts so much light on interrelated sociocultural developments which help explain how American society got to be what it is today. And that, of course, is why the National Park Service should declare it an Industrial Heritage District.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Melvin Kranzberg

## **AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT FOR THE DISTRICT**

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, major technological breakthroughs accelerated the growth of America's iron and steel industry transforming it into the world's largest producer. The foundation of the growing industry was the coke-fired blast furnace. Led by Pittsburgh, regional concentrations of coke blast furnaces sprang up, wherever iron ore and coke could be assembled cheaply.

The Birmingham District was one of these regional centers. Once its raw materials were proven, northern and foreign miners and ironmakers flocked to the region. Allied with southern entrepreneurs and workers, they built blast furnaces at a rate surpassed only by Pittsburgh. To feed their blast furnaces, they built the nation's second largest underground ore mining center, the largest group of open pit brown ore mines and the fifth largest coal mining industry.

While rapid growth distinguished the District, a special feature was the remarkably close proximity of its iron mines, coal mines, quarries, and blast furnaces. Ironmakers could stand atop their blast furnaces and watch their mines and quarries produce the raw materials that would be fed into their furnaces the same day. They created distinctive models of vertically integrated ironmaking systems that capitalized upon the close proximity of raw materials. "Straight line production" best describes the well-organized blast furnace companies that became a hallmark of the District.

Birmingham was dubbed "the Pittsburgh of the South," but subtle differences in its red and brown ores and coal soon revealed that the title was misplaced. Pittsburgh's blast furnaces made pig iron ideally suited for steelmaking. Steel mills, built beside groups of immense coke fired blast furnaces, crowded its river valleys. The ores and coal of the Birmingham District produced a different kind of pig iron. Steel mills were built at Ensley and Fairfield, but the District's most distinctive product was foundry pig iron. This product could be made into cast iron stoves, cotton gins, engines, and, especially, cast iron pipe.

The District soon discovered its true niche, not as a pale reflection of the major steel producers like Pittsburgh or Chicago, but as the nation's premier foundry ironmaker. While steel mill blast furnaces charted one path of design and practice, ironmakers of the Birmingham District followed another as they strove to create the ideal foundry iron blast furnace. The two Sloss City Furnaces built in 1928 and 1929, now preserved as a National Historic Landmark, were a milestone of this effort.

Since Birmingham District pig iron made exceptional cast iron pipe, the District attracted the largest concentration of cast iron pipe mills in the United States. Its urban sky line took on a distinctive silhouette, marked by foundry iron blast furnaces known as merchant furnaces and pipe mills. Here the steel mills at Fairfield and Ensley added diversity, complementing the foundry iron industry. By 1940, nearly 90 percent of the pig iron produced in the District was used locally to manufacture finished goods.

The Birmingham District's rise would not have been possible without expertise and technology borrowed from England, Pittsburgh and other industrial centers. These newly arriving technicians and machines entered a region with a unique social milieu and

industrial tradition rooted in the antebellum south. Bloomeries and forges, that traced to the days of the Creek Indian wars, had dotted Central Alabama's pioneer landscape. A promising coal industry in the Cahaba coal field and charcoal iron industry among deposits of brown ore was in its infancy as the Civil War broke out. The war accelerated its growth to such a point that the Italian historian of economic modernization, Raimondo Luraghi, described it as "almost incredible." Slave owners who presided over the blast furnaces, coal mines and railroads in the isolated and protected backwoods of central Alabama founded their enterprise upon the "fundamental proposition of the Confederacy," the energy and toil of black workers. Defeat of the Confederacy ended slavery, but the importance of the black worker endured. Southern black and white men fresh from their farms and tenant shacks provided the majority of the labor that built the Birmingham District of the New South.

The Birmingham District is significant for at least three reasons. First, it is a case study of the technological transfer that contributed to America's ascent to world dominance in iron and steelmaking. Second, Birmingham was a center for the development of American foundry iron blast furnaces and the manufacturing industries that they spawned. Third, the District has a distinctive cultural identity because its native workers carried to the New South's largest industrial work place the traditions, values, and social hierarchy of the Old South. The full story of the American iron and steel industry cannot be told without this important chapter.

Some sites have survived, which represent the social and industrial character of the region at each of its major historical junctures. In some instances, such as the antebellum period of forges and bloomeries, and the Civil War era of coal mines and charcoal furnaces, the sites are preserved in rural, wooded locations that provide excellent recreational as well as interpretive opportunities. In other instances, such as the key era of coke blast furnaces, pipe mills and steel mills, a wide array of sites and transportation systems survive in both urban and rural settings.

Jack Bergstresser Sr.  
Industrial Archeologist  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Project Historian

W. DAVID LEWIS  
HUDSON PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND ENGINEERING  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

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7030-B HALEY CENTER  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AL 36849

210 LEE DRIVE  
AUBURN, AL 36830

July 20, 1992

Ms. Marjorie L. White  
Director, Birmingham Historical Society  
One Sloss Quarters  
Birmingham, Alabama 35222

Dear Ms. White:

I am glad to respond to your request that I write a statement about the extremely great significance of the Birmingham District in the development of the American iron and steel industry. The following comments stem from the research that I have done in the past seven years in preparing my forthcoming book, Sloss Furnaces: Technology, Business Enterprise, and Urban Development in the New South, soon to be published by the University of Alabama Press.

For generations, historians have based their understanding of the evolution of the American iron and steel industry on northern presuppositions. Viewed in such a perspective, the trend toward extremely large-scale, highly mechanized techniques that were aimed at producing standardized products for mass markets is the normal way in which to measure progress. A natural tendency, following this view, is to look upon high-volume steel production as the logical goal of ferrous metals manufacture and to focus attention on the acid Bessemer and open-hearth techniques whose importation from Europe made this possible. Transporting high-quality iron ore to eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania from the Lake Superior district at great expense to such places as Youngstown and Pittsburgh, where it could be combined with superior coking coal from Connellsville or other favored places to produce steel at such enormous mills as Andrew Carnegie's Edgar Thomson Steel Works is the model for economic and technological progress.

None of these presuppositions fit the development of ferrous metals production in the South during the same period, or the evolution of the leading southern bastion of iron and steel production, the Birmingham District. Here, iron manufacturers wrestled with how to make the most of their main assets--close proximity of all of the raw materials needed to make iron, making for short interior lines of supply, and an extremely low-cost labor force composed mainly of black miners and furnace workers--in such a way as to compensate for formidable problems confronting both the Birmingham District and the South as a whole. Southern iron ore was lean by northern standards,



requiring more fuel for smelting; southern iron had too much phosphorous and silicon, and southern coal too much sulfur, for conversion into steel by means of the acid Bessemer and open hearth techniques prevalent in the north; southern raw materials were ill-adapted to the interior configurations of blast furnaces in the North, producing a high incidence of scaffolding and other maintenance problems; and southern labor was chronically ill-disciplined. How to make the most of the South's advantages and compensate for its peculiar problems under such conditions became an enduring challenge to southern industrialists.

Southern ferrous metals production was also hampered by a lack of investment capital. Prior to the late 1890's, what funds northern financiers invested in the South tended to flow into building the southern rail network. Contrary to prevalent assumptions, most of the money that financed the development of southern blast furnaces and coal mines in the late nineteenth century came either from the South itself or from such border cities as Cincinnati and Louisville. Under the circumstances, southern ironmasters simply could not afford the capital-intensive, extremely mechanized, high-volume approach epitomized by Andrew Carnegie.

Ultimately, two Birmingham area firms, Sloss-Sheffield and Woodward, worked out an effective response to regional problems by concentrating on a product for which southern resource endowments and labor were ideal: foundry pig iron. Phosphorous, a detriment to steel production, was a definite asset for foundry pig iron because it promoted the liquidity and moldability of iron. Because of this, the American foundry trade moved steadily southward in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and became localized in such places as Birmingham, Anniston, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Rome, Georgia. Foundrymen were conservative, preferring sand-cast pigs, and required relatively small lots of specialized grades of iron for a variety of products that were molded under craft-oriented traditions. By the time of World War I, Sloss-Sheffield had become the world's largest manufacturer of foundry pig iron. Woodward, which had a lower volume of production, made even higher profits.

By overemphasizing steel, historians have neglected the fact that cast iron, the alloy into which most southern pig iron was converted, was just as important to industrial progress as steel. It was not only superior to steel in some of its properties, such as resistance to corrosion, compressive strength, and its ability to dampen sound, but was also much more economical for varying industrial needs. The list of products made by foundries included stoves and radiators; fire hydrants; enamel-coated kitchen and bathroom fixtures; flywheels, casings, and other engine parts that did not have to withstand abrasion; automobile engine blocks and piston rings; and, above all, soil pipe and pressure pipe, in the manufacture of which Alabama became

preeminent. Ultimately, it was said that in the American foundry trade, there were two basic categories: Alabama and the rest of the United States.

One of the reasons why the significance of foundry pig iron is overlooked is because Birmingham itself bought into the idea that it would never amount to much in the ferrous metals industry unless it became a steelmaking center. By adopting complicated and expensive technologies for making basic (as opposed to acid) pig iron and steel, a Birmingham-based firm, the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company, better known as TCI, did succeed in 1899 in making steel on a commercial scale. Local boosters were overjoyed both by this and by U. S. Steel's acquisition of TCI in 1907, thinking that this would bring in huge amounts of northern capital and make Birmingham the steelmaking capital of the world. This did not happen. For various reasons, it did not suit U. S. Steel's perceived best interests to aggrandize Birmingham at the expense of other sections of the country; artificial methods of price discrimination ("Pittsburgh Plus") were used to keep southern steel production at three or four per cent of the national total. In addition, Birmingham's labor force proved ill-adapted to the needs of the heavily-mechanized steel industry.

By contrast, Birmingham became the heart of the foundry trade, and southern merchant blast furnace technique became a world unto itself. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Sloss-Sheffield carried a long tradition of adaptation to southern raw materials to a climax when its chief engineer, James P. Dovel, redesigned the company's furnaces. In the process, mechanized methods of pig iron casting were adopted. As I point out in my forthcoming book, however, mechanization was not as fundamental to Dovel's work as were his achievements in redesigning the furnaces themselves to handle southern raw materials with maximum efficiency. To emphasize mechanization in evaluating his work is to fall prey to northern assumptions about what is significant and what is not.

As the heart of the American foundry trade and the making of foundry pig iron, Birmingham established a tradition of blast furnace practice that needs to be appreciated for what it was, to be understood and evaluated as by standards appropriate to itself. Viewed in this perspective, Sloss-Sheffield and Woodward were much more important than TCI and have more to say to a world in which "appropriate technology" is becoming more and more of a watchword. In making steel, TCI spent enormous amounts of money and effort in a frustrating attempt to compensate for the particular problems inherent in southern raw materials; Sloss-Sheffield and Woodward, by contrast, took a wiser course by capitalizing on conditions that made the Birmingham District the best place in the world to produce foundry pig iron.



As Adam Smith said in The Wealth of Nations, "the natural advantages which one country has over another in producing particular commodities are so great that it is acknowledged by all the world to be in vain to struggle with them." This statement applies equally well to regions, and is appropriate to what took place in the Birmingham District. It is a remarkable story, and I hope that both my forthcoming book and your own efforts to interest the National Park Service in making the District an industrial corridor will help give it the attention it deserves.

Sincerely yours,

*W. David Lewis*

W. David Lewis



## ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

September 10, 1992

Marjorie White  
Birmingham Historical Society  
Duncan House  
One Sloss Quarters  
Birmingham, AL 35222-1243

RECEIVED

SEP 11 1992

Birmingham Historical Society

Dear Marjorie,

It was a great help for me to attend the last steering committee meeting. Even though I did not have a great deal to offer in the discussion of how a network of interpretive/orientation centers should be structured, I learned much about the project and about the diversity of those involved in the project.

My main concern remains in interpretation of Birmingham's industrial heritage. I think that the story of Birmingham can be told at a central interpretive center whether or not it is on the site of a major industrial site which has historical significance. As a folklorist, I want the visitor to the District to understand that the Birmingham community was built by people of many different cultures brought together because of industrialization. I want them to know that this heritage is living and not just a quaint feature of the past, that it determines what restaurants are available and the religious faiths of various communities. It plays a major role in our pride in and enjoyment of non-professional team sports, not to mention the local preoccupation with the natural environment through horticulture, hunting and fishing. (No, it does not surprise me that a recent fishing extravaganza netted the Birmingham area many millions of dollars.) For many in the Birmingham area, connections to the rural folk traditions of the South have been maintained over three or more generations. This same heritage has also offered an environment that nurtured strong musical traditions such as Gospel, Sacred Harp, Jazz and Country.

I think Birmingham is a community that has suffered one identity crisis after another. When I was growing up in Fairfield in the 1960's, everyone was trying to invent a significant Civil War heritage that really never existed. The area was trying to identify with the Civil War Centennial when the Civil Rights movement brought the issues of the 1860's into the 1960's. Now, with heavy industry being replaced by service industries, area residents are once again faced with an identity crisis. I think that it is important for residents of the Birmingham district to understand how the community was formed and the forces that shaped both industry and social fabric of the area.

It would be nice to effectively interpret the intricate story of Birmingham's Industrial Heritage through artifacts, sites and people to the rest of the nation. But for me, the most important

receptient will be the people of Birmingham. That is why I will pledge to you my assistance on this project. I will be happy to help in every way possible. I foresee that I will be most helpful in identifying texts of interpretation, rather than sites of interpretation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joey Brackner', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Joey Brackner,  
Folklorist

# BIRMINGHAM

## METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Blount County  
Jefferson Coun  
St. Clair Count  
Shelby County  
Walker County

February 1, 1993

Mr. Phillip Morris  
President  
Birmingham Historical Society  
One Sloss Quarters  
Birmingham, AL 35222

Dear Phillip:

The proposed Birmingham Industrial Heritage District, with its focus on Birmingham's transportation, industrial and social histories will provide a cohesive system of sites available for tourism. Birmingham began as an industrial boom-town; many of its citizens were entrepreneurs and imported investment and knowledge from all over the U.S. and the world. These humble beginnings will be identified on a large scope through implementation of the Industrial Heritage District.

Bringing this District to fruition will help foster "pride of place" from area citizens and stimulate curiosity and enjoyment from visitors who come to our area with negative perceptions of what was once perceived as a racist, blue-collar stronghold reliant on a sole industry. Birmingham is once again a city poised to receive expanding industry and new companies because that is our heritage.

MDB will look forward to having another attraction to show companies wanting to expand to Birmingham with the creation of this District. We heartily support this effort and look forward to its success.

Sincerely,



Theodore J. vonCannon  
President  
Metropolitan Development Board

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FEB 02 1993

Birmingham Historical Society

Box 523  
Birmingham, Alabama 35201  
205-877-6000

# Southern Living

8/27/92

Birmingham Heritage District Project

Comments on Visitor Interpretive Center Study

Philip A. Morris

The alternatives outlined in the study both reaffirmed and challenged my own thoughts about a center.

From the start I have felt a strong representation in one place of the whole district and how it functioned would be important. And I felt this should probably be a neutral site closest to highway access. The Cecil Jones & Associates study has reinforced, for me, that this is the way to go. Further, since geology and land forms and settlement patterns are so essential to the formation of the district, I have thought a model of the entire district and how it was linked by transportation would be the best teaching tool.

I had imagined this site being somewhere along a highway, possibly on a site with an overview of the area. But the suggestions in the study that linkage to other attractions and activities would be a plus has convinced me that a site in the emerging Birmingham City Center cultural/convention district should be given top priority. A dynamic relationship between the Birmingham Heritage District visitor center and the new Civil Rights Institute, Discovery 2000 (children's museum and science center), Birmingham Museum of Art, and Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center would create the clustering advantage for tourism sites described by Dr. Clare Gunn in his tourism planning books. Since the area already draws the heaviest attendance for events in the state, the visitor center could catch the attention of this diverse audience. From this central location there is easy access both to interstate-access sites (Tannehill, Ruffner Mountain) and those reached via local streets (Vulcan, Red Mountain Museum, Sloss Furnaces).

Combined with strong gateway introductions located at rest areas or other interstate highway locations ringing the metropolitan area and with on-site interpretive programs at key components of the heritage district, the central visitors center would both anchor a large and complex district and tap into Birmingham City Center's growing visitor concentration.



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AUG 31 1992

Birmingham Historical Society

**BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DISTRICT  
STEERING COMMITTEE, September 23, 1992**

Averette, Mr. Jerome; Community leader, East Birmingham  
Bennett, Mr. Jim; Director, Tannehill Historical State Park  
Brackner, Mr. Joey; Folklife Coordinator, Alabama State Arts Council  
Burnham, Mr. Jim; Director, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark  
Byram, Mr. Jim; Director, Economic Development, City of Bessemer  
Coleman, Ms. Linda; Councilwoman, City of Birmingham  
Cooper, Mr. Buddy; Vice President, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, labor lawyer  
Cordell, Mr. Kirk; Cultural Resources, National Park Service, Southeast Region  
Dobbins, Mr. Mike; Chief Planner, City of Birmingham  
Farabee, Mr. Mike; American Cast Iron Pipe Company  
Hall, Mr. Dennis; Jim Walter Resources  
Harper, Mr. Marvin; Tuscaloosa Preservation Society  
Huntley, Mr. Horace; Department of History, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Jones, Mr. Doug; Director, Alabama Museum of Natural History  
Key, Mr. Eddie, Director, Alabama Mining Museum  
King, Ms. Pam; Historic Preservationist, Urban Planning, City of Birmingham  
Mertins, Ms. Ellen; Coordinator, The National Register, Alabama Historical  
Commission  
Morris, Mr. Philip; Editor-at-Large; all Southern Progress Corporation publications  
Oaks, Mr. Larry; Director, Alabama Historical Commission  
Paige, Mr. Frank; Labor leader  
Rehm, Ms. Karen; Cultural Resources, National Park Service, Southeast Region  
Sartwell, Mr. Alexander; Geological Survey of Alabama  
Smith, Ms. Garland; Community leader, Red Mountain Cut-Discovery 2000  
Sprague, Mr. Richard; architect-planner, KPS Group, Inc.  
Strickland, Mr. Jim; Director, Public Relations, Drummond Coal Company  
White, Mrs. Marjorie; Director, Birmingham Historical Society  
Woods, Mr. Dewey; retired miner



## **BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, September 23, 1992**

### **Alabama**

Baldwin, Mr. Morgan; ADO-ADECA  
 Brackner, Mr. Joey; Alabama State Council on the Arts  
 Byington, Mr. Patrick; Executive Director, Alabama Conservancy  
 Chesnutt, Mr. J. Thomas; Alabama Cooperative Extension Service  
 Cooley, Ms. Kathy; Nature Conservancy  
 Cornett, Mr. Mike; Coordinator, Cahaba-Warrior-Coosa Resource Conservation and Development  
 Dixon, Mr. Cliff; Landscape Architect, Alabama Highway Department  
 Elder, Mr. Don; President, Cahaba River Society  
 Gross, Ms. Jane; Demopolis Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Horsley, Mr. James F.; Division Engineer, Alabama Highway Department  
 Howard, Mr. Tom; Regional Manager, USX Realty  
 Jeffreys, Mr. Dwayne; Alabama Highway Department  
 Jones, Mr. Mike; Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel  
 Kelce, Mr. William; President, Alabama Coal Association  
 Kimbrell, Mr. Tom; Alabama Forestry Commission  
 Livingston, Mr. Blake; Cornwall Furnace  
 Mahan, Dr. Mike; dentist, Chairman, Alabama Historical Commission  
 Maise, Mr. Willie; Alabama Power Company  
 Mayor, Ms. Ellise; President, Alabama Conservancy  
 Morehead, Mr. Charles; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile Office  
 Neel, Mr. Dave; President, Alabama Civil War Roundtable  
 Nichols, Mr. Offa S., Jr.; President, Warrior-Tombigbee Development Association  
 Oaks, Mr. Lawrence; Director, Alabama Historical Commission  
 Owings, Ms. Judy; Homestead Properties  
 Perry, Ms. Jay Ann; ADO-ADECA  
 Shcarf, Mr. Jerry; Alabama Department of Industrial Relations  
 Shivers, Ms. Lisa; Director, Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel  
 Slaughter, Ms. Carol  
 Thompson, Mr. William C.; ADO-ADECA  
 Tharpe, Mr. Bill; Corporate Archivist, Alabama Power Company  
 Turner, Ms. Carlyn; Alabama Highway Department  
 Turner, Mrs. David; National Trust, Advisor Emerita  
 Willett, Mr. Hank; Director, Alabama Center for Traditional Culture

### **Bessemer**

Granger, Mr. Walter; Chairman, Bessemer Hall of History  
 Lancaster, Ms. Donna; Executive Vice President, Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce  
 McDonald, Mr. Duane; President, Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Nelson, Ms. Linda; Bessemer Main Street  
 Patrie, Ms. Elizabeth; Manager, Bessemer Convention and Visitors Bureau  
 Waits, Ms. Mable; Director, Bessemer Hall of History

### **Birmingham**

Abbott, Ms. Valerie; Officer, Citizens Advisory Board, City of Birmingham  
 Arrington, Dr. Richard; Mayor, City of Birmingham  
 Bains, Ms. Kay K.; President, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center  
 Barker, Mr. Greg; Government Affairs, Greater Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Bates, Mr. Ron; Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark  
 Bell, Ms. Elma; The Birmingham News  
 Bell, Mr. Roosevelt; Birmingham City Council  
 Bell, Mr. William; Birmingham City Council  
 Blankenship, Mr. Eddie; President, Birmingham City Council  
 Boles, Ms. Anita; Congressman Ben Erdreich's Office  
 Brooks, Mr. Dan; Director, Arlington Historic House and Gardens

Calvert, Mr. Michael; Director, Operation New Birmingham  
 Carroll, Ms. Pauline Ireland; community leader  
 Coleman, Mrs. Linda; Councilwoman, City of Birmingham; Director, Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitor's Bureau  
 Cosby, Mr. Don; American Institute of Architects  
 Cosby, Mr. Tom; Director, Public Relations, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce  
 Cross, Dr. Whitman  
 Crowder, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S.  
 Dailey, Mr. Don, WZZK  
 Dansby, Mr. Stewart; community leader  
 Dentiste, Mr. Paul; Executive Director, Birmingham Regional Planning Commission  
 Eliason, Mr. Joel; President, American Society of Landscape Architects, Birmingham Chapter  
 Flynn, Mr. Gordon; President, Hardie Tynes Manufacturing Company  
 Fox, Ms. Pat; Greater Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce, Vulcan Society  
 Fuller, Ms. Sara; Director, Tourism, Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitor's Bureau  
 Gamble, Ms. Gwendolyn; Parker Community School  
 Germany, Mr. Jeff; Birmingham City Council  
 Greiner, Mr. Charles; Greiner, Vare, and Partners, landscape architects  
 Griffith, Mr. Philip; photographer  
 Gunn, Mr. Aldrich; Birmingham City Council  
 Hall, Mr. Ed; Director, Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau  
 Hamilton, Ms. Majella; Office of the Mayor, City of Birmingham  
 Head, Mr. Beverly; Office of the Mayor, City of Birmingham  
 Herring, Mr. David; Councilman, City of Birmingham  
 Hicks, Mr. Nathan; Chairman, Urban Impact, Inc.  
 Higgins, Mr. Boyce; President, Citizens Advisory Board, City of Birmingham  
 Hill, Ms. Lillian; Urban Impact, Inc.  
 Hinton, Ms. Antris; Birmingham City Council  
 Hodges, Mrs. Gerow; community leader  
 Hodges, Mr. Gregory; Hodges and Associates  
 Houston, Ms. Tommie Lee, Vice President, Citizens Advisory Board, City of Birmingham  
 Howell, Ms. Brenda; Birmingham Historical Society  
 Jackson, Ms. Elaine; Marketing, AmSouth Bank N.A.  
 Jeffcoat, Mr. Robert L.; American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
 Johnson, Ms. Eddie Mae; Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board  
 Johnson, Mr. Larry; Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Jones, Mr. Bill; Birmingham Historical Society  
 King, Ms. Betty  
 Lee, Ms. Peyton; President, Greater Vulcan Society  
 Long, Mr. Charles; Congressman Ben Erdreich's Office  
 Lovoy, Ms. Cindy; Publicity Director, American Cast Iron Pipe Company  
 Lowe, Mr. J. L.; Chairman, Jazz Hall of Fame  
 Lucas, Ms. Debbie; Director, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center  
 McKinney, Mr. Steve; Economics Committee, Greater Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce  
 McMillan, Mr. George D. H.; McMillan and Associates, Founder/guiding light, City Stages  
 Mendelson, Mr. Mitch; The Birmingham Post-Herald  
 Miller, Mr. Melvin; Director, Birmingham Park and Recreation Board  
 Myers, Mr. Bill; Birmingham City Council  
 Newton, Mr. Don; Greater Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Patton, Ms. Martha Jane Patton; Friends of Avondale Park  
 Poor, Ms. Frances B.  
 Poynor, Mrs. Wilmer III, landscape architect  
 Roberts, Ms. Carolanne; Travel Editor, Southern Living  
 Robinson Warren, Ms. Carol; The Birmingham News  
 Royal, Ms. Barbara; The Discovery Place  
 Sewell, Ms. Pat; Birmingham City Council  
 Smith, Mr. Stewart; Mayor's Office, City of Birmingham  
 Sparks, Ms. Peggy; Director, Birmingham Community Schools  
 Starbuck, Mr. Jay; Surroundings, Incorporated, landscape architects

Stone, Ms. Deborah; Red Mountain Museum  
 Stuart, Mr. Duncan; Metropolitan Development Board  
 Tankersley, Mr. Tim; Vice President, Wade Sand and Gravel  
 Tharpe, Ms. Kathie; Red Mountain Museum  
 Tyler, Ms. Peggy  
 Verser, Ms. Sara; WBRC, Channel 6  
 Wade, Mr. Robin; President, Wade Sand and Gravel  
 Wainwright, Ms. Paige; Assistant Director, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark  
 Wentenhall, Dr. John; Birmingham Museum of Art  
 West, Mr. Thomas; Irondale Furnaces  
 White, Mr. Lewis; Mayor's Office, City of Birmingham  
 Williams, Ms. Virginia; Mayor's Office, City of Birmingham  
 Wolfolk, Ms. Odessa; Director, Civil Rights Museum

### **Educational Institutions**

Berte, Dr. Neal; President, Birmingham Southern College  
 Brown, Mr. Edwin L.; Associate Professor, Center for Labor Education and Research, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 Campbell, Ms. Cathryn; Landscape Architecture, Auburn University  
 Jeane, Dr. Greg; Geography Department; Samford University  
 Mellown, Dr. Robert; Department of Art, University of Alabama  
 Meyer, Mr. Darrell; Planning, Auburn University  
 Register, Mr. Robert; Wenonah High School  
 Rowland, Dr. David; Chancellor, Walker College  
 Setzer, Mr. Frank; Director, Urban Studio, Auburn University  
 Stayer, Dr. Sam; Department of History, Birmingham Southern College  
 Wilson, Mr. Gregory; Wenonah High School

### **Jefferson County**

Blan, Mr. Ollie L.; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Bowsher, Ms. Alice M.; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Buckelew, Ms. Mary; President, Jefferson County Commission  
 Culbreth, Ms. Jane; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Douglas, Dr. Margaret S.; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Fenstermaker, Mr. Jim; Director, Jefferson County Planning and Community Development  
 Fincher, Ms. Lillie; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Frazier, Mr. Samuel H.; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Howard, Mrs. Lillian; Mayor, Hueytown  
 Johnson, Mrs. Edna Blue; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Kean, Mr. Edward J.; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Langford, Mr. Larry; Mayor, Fairfield  
 Leonard, Mr. Ivan / Douglas, Mr. Terry R.; owners, Virginia Coke Ovens  
 McWilliams, Dr. Tennant; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Marsh, Ms. Harriet; President, West Jefferson Historical Society  
 Mele, Mr. Ron; B E & K  
 Newbill, Mr. Robert; Senior Community Officer, Jefferson County Planning and Community Development  
 O'Donoghue, Mr. Michael; Jefferson County Planning and Community Development  
 Pannell, Mr. A. Preston; Vestavia Hills Historical Society  
 Rivers, Ms. Vicki; City Clerk, Fairfield  
 Rumore, Mr. Samuel A., Jr.; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Smith, Mr. Fred  
 Tommie, Mrs. Louise Ayer; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Whiting, Dr. Marvin; Jefferson County Historical Commission  
 Williams, Mr. Evan; Planner, Jefferson County Planning and Community Development

### **National**

Bevill, The Honorable Tom; U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C.  
 Birnbaum, Mr. Charles; Landscape Architect, National Park Service  
 Cordell, Mr. Kirk; Cultural Resources, National Park Service, Atlanta

DeLony, Mr. Eric; Chief, Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.  
 Dykes, Mr. David; Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining  
 Erdreich, The Honorable Benjamin; U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C.  
 Hall, Mr. Dennis K.; Public Relations, Jim Walter Resources, Inc.  
 Hallmon, Ms. Phyllis; Staff of Senator Richard Shelby  
 Harris, The Honorable Claude; U.S. Congress, Washington, D.C.  
 Kapsch, Mr. Robert; Chief, Historic American Building Survey, Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service  
 Kidd, Ms. Susan; Director, Southern Regional Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Charleston  
 Kranzberg, Dr. Mel; Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Lang, Mr. Robie; National Park Service  
 York, Mr. John J.; Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission  
 Young, Mr. Dwight; National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C.

### **Railroads**

Corns, Mr. John; President, Heart of Dixie Railroad  
 Cunningham, Mrs. Penelope; community leader  
 Gipson, Mr. Steve; Norfolk Southern Railroad  
 Lemley, Mr. John; Terminal Station enthusiast  
 Lindsay, Mr. Scott; railroad engine restoration  
 McArthur, Mr. Charlton; Vice President, Alabama Power Company  
 Mohl, Mr. Barry; Superintendent, Birmingham Southern Railroad  
 Portnell, Mr. Steve; Real Estate, Norfolk Southern  
 Staab, Mr. J. D.; General Superintendent, Birmingham Southern Railroad  
 Walz, Ms. Grace; Heart of Dixie Railroad  
 Yuill, Mr. Bob; Norfolk Southern-Steam Department

### **Shelby County**

Brasher, Mr. John; Historic Shelby Association  
 Brasher, Mr. Robert; Historic Shelby Association  
 Brunson, Mr. Ross; Montevallo Chamber of Commerce  
 Cartwright, Ms. Deborah; Historic Shelby Association  
 Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Earl; Shelby County Historical Society  
 Everse, Mr. Marty; Brierfield Iron Works Park  
 Gentry, Ms. Vicki; Director, Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama  
 Henderson, Ms. Ann, Chairman, Landscape Architecture, Auburn University  
 Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Ron; Southern Heritage Gallery  
 Kelly, Ms. Anne  
 Legg, Ms. Catherine; Montevallo Heritage Preservation Association  
 Mansel, Mr. Jeff; Brierfield Iron Works Park  
 Martin, Mr. Mike; Director, Brierfield Iron Works Park  
 Massey, Ms. Jacquelyn; Acting Director, Shelby Committee of 100  
 McDonald, Mr. Todd; Senior Planner, Shelby County  
 Penhale, Mr. Ken; President, Shelby County Historical Society  
 Radnard, Ms. Tammy; Executive Director, Pelham Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Treslar, Ms. Donna; City of Pelham  
 Waite, Mr. Robert; Historic Shelby Association  
 Willis, Mr. Jerry; Historic Shelby Association  
 Yeager, Mr. W. Paul; Chairman, Shelby County Commission

### **Trustees of the Birmingham Historical Society**

Baugh, Mrs. Victor; Community Education Department, Birmingham Public Schools  
 Beattie, Mr. Arthur P.; Alabama Power Company  
 Bowron, Mr. Richard; community leader  
 Bowsher, Ms. Alice; KPS Group  
 Breman, Ms. Kaydee Erdreich; Assistant Director, ACTION  
 Bruno, Mr. Joseph S.; Chairman of the Board, Bruno's, Inc.  
 Caldwell, Mr. Charles S. III; Automatic Detection Systems  
 Camp, Mrs. Ehney A. III; community leader

Coleman, Mr. William E. III; Boothby Engel Realty  
 Cosby, Mr. Thomas R.; Director, Public Relations, Greater Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Cunningham, Mr. Russell M. III; President, Birmingham Realty Company  
 Davis, Mrs. Lant B.; Altamont School  
 Dismuke, Mr. Otis; West End Community School  
 Donald, Mrs. Thomas T.; interior designer  
 Doss, Mr. Chriss H.; attorney  
 Fincher, Ms. Lillie; Birmingham Public Schools  
 Frazier, Mr. Samuel H.; Spain Gillion, Grooms Blan & Nettles  
 Hames, Mr. C. Martin; Headmaster, The Altamont School  
 Hanson, Mr. Victor H. III; Vice President/General Manager, The Birmingham News  
 Harris, Mrs. George E.; Director, Parker Community School  
 Henley, Mr. Walter E.; Henley and Company  
 Hester, Mr. Wayne A.; Architect, Harry Hester and Associates  
 Holcomb, Mr. John H. III; Chief Executive Officer, National Bank of Commerce  
 Jackson, Mrs. Cory G., Sr.; community leader  
 Jones, Mrs. Frank C.; community leader  
 Jones, Mr. J. Mac; South Central Bell  
 Mills, Mr. Michael R.; Vulcan Materials  
 Montgomery, Mr. Robert M.; Central Bank of the South  
 Morris, Mr. Philip A.; Editor-at-Large; all Southern Progress Corporation publications  
 Neal, Mr. G. M. (Jack), Jr.; Sirote & Permutt, P.C.  
 Page, Mrs. G. Ruffner; community leader  
 Parker, Ms. Katherine H.  
 Powell, Mr. William A., Jr.; Senior Vice President, AmSouth Bank N.A.  
 Poyner, Mrs. Wilmer; Landscape Architect  
 Puckett, Mr. W. Dan; McPherson Oil Company  
 Richey, Mrs. Ronald K.; community leader  
 Robertson, Mr. Scott R.; Director, Marketing, B E and K, Inc.  
 Ruiz de Molina, Ms. Sara; Dean, Special Studies, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 Rushing, Mr. Hugh J.; community leader  
 Sanders, Mr. H. Brant, Jr.; Connecticut Mutual  
 Sprague, Mr. Richard; Partner/Architect, KPS Group  
 Thompson, Mrs. Hall W.; community leader  
 White, Mrs. James H. III; Chairman of the Board; Birmingham Historical Society  
 Williams, Mr. A. Steve III; Vice President, Protective Life Corporation  
 Youngblood, Mr. Gary C.; Alabama Gas Corporation

### **Tuscaloosa County**

Agrinat, Ms. Brina; Department of History, University of Alabama  
 Aycock, Mr. Johnny; Executive Director, Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce  
 Bealle, Mr. Rufus; Attorney (retired), University of Alabama  
 Brennan, Mr. David; Tuscaloosa Public Library  
 Brown, Mr. Donald; The Tuscaloosa News  
 Bryant, Mr. Russell; Historian, University of Alabama  
 Clark, Mr. Cully; University of Alabama  
 Callahan, Mr. Temo; Attorney/State Representative (retired)  
 de Graffenried, Mr. Ryan; State Senator  
 Duckworth, Mr. Clemson; Insurance Executive (retired)  
 Dupont, Mr. Al; Mayor, City of Tuscaloosa  
 Fendley, Mr. Tom; Fendley Company  
 Fretwell, Mr. Harvey; Northport City Council  
 Harrison, Mr. Kevin; City of Northport  
 Hubbs, Mr. Guy; Author and Historian  
 Heath, Ms. Amelia; Focus on Senior Citizens  
 Hayslip, Ms. Betsy; Director, Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County  
 Hamner, Major General George (retired)  
 Harper, Mr. Marvin L.; Shelton State Community College  
 Hasson, Mr. Robert; Northport City Council



Hughes, Mr. McDonald; Educator (retired)  
 Howington, Mr. Arthur; Dean, Shelton State Community College  
 Ingram, Ms. Jane; Children's Hands on Museum  
 Land, Mr. Charles; The Tuscaloosa News  
 Lamont, Ms. Joyce; Special Collections, University of Alabama Library  
 Lanford, Mr. Bill; President, Tuscaloosa City Council  
 Lee, Mr. Malcolm; Industrial Manager (retired)  
 Layson, Mr. Allen; State Representative  
 Maisel, Mr. Leon; Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau  
 Meissner, Mr. Dan; Gulf States Paper Corporation  
 McCollum, Mr. Hardy; Probate Judge, Tuscaloosa County  
 Mills, Ms. Polly; Educator  
 Norton, Mr. L. Don; Reichhald Chemicals  
 Oldshue, Mr. Jerry; Archivist, University of Alabama  
 Parker, Mr. Tim, Jr.; State Representative  
 Platt, Mr. Richard; Planner, City of Northport  
 Patrie, Ms. Nancy; Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society  
 Pitts, Ms. Ruthie; Black Heritage  
 Rose, Mr. Wayne; Mayor, City of Northport  
 Shumaker, Mr. Tom; Reichhald Chemicals (retired)  
 Sprayberry, Mr. Charles; Tuscaloosa County Board of Education (retired)  
 Straley, Mr. Adrian, Planner, City of Tuscaloosa  
 Singleton, Mr. Paul; Central Foundry (retired)  
 Umphrey, Mr. Tom; President, Shelton State Community College  
 Willis, Mr. Ken; Author  
 Wilson, Mr. Bob; State Senator  
 Wilson, Mr. Fleming; Black Heritage  
 Wolfe, Ms. Suzanne; Heritage Magazine

#### **Walker County**

Byars, Mr. Stan; President-Elect, Jasper Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Cooms, Mr. Tommy; President, East Walker County Chamber of Commerce  
 Corry, Mr. and Mrs. Harold; Old York/Corry Homestead  
 Dennis, Mr. Bob; Executive Vice President, Jasper Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Dillon, Mrs. Jean; Chairperson, William Cook House  
 Frazer, Mr. Hal; United Land  
 Hiller, Mr. George S. Jr.; Jasper Planning Commission  
 Hogan, The Honorable Tom; Alabama Legislator  
 Lyles, Mr. Craig; The Community News  
 Nolen, Mr. Ed; Congressman Tom Bevill's Office, Jasper  
 Pate, Mr. Aron; Sumiton Miners Training Center, Walker State Technical College  
 Purdue, Mr. Max; President, Jasper Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Rice, Mr. D. Ray; Walker County Agent  
 Roberts, Mr. John Ed; Walker County Commission  
 Sandlin, Mr. Winfred; Walker College  
 Sides, Mr. George; Mayor, City of Dora  
 Thomas, Mr. Steven A.; President, Alabama Mining Museum  
 Tucker, Mr. Skip; Walker County Regional Tourism Association  
 Wallace, Mr. Duane; City Planner, City of Jasper  
 Watts, Mr. Charlie; Congressman Tom Bevill's Office  
 Whitfield, Mr. Chee Vee; Secretary/Manager, East Walker County Chamber of Commerce  
 Woods, Mayor Penn; City of Jasper



## BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RESEARCH AND PLANNING TEAM

### Historians

**Jack Bergstresser, Sr.**, Industrial Historian and Archeologist, 1993 PhD Candidate Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama served as Project Historian with primary responsibility for field investigation, survey reports on industrial sites, and Research Report sections on ironmaking, coal mining, cokemaking, and steelmaking.

**Dr. Andrew J. Millard**, Historian of Science and Technology and Chairman of the Department of American Studies, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama contributed to sections of the Research Report dealing with transportation, maintaining social order, and company towns.

**Dr. Melvin Kranzberg**, Professor Emeritus and formerly Callaway Professor of the History of Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia and a leading figure in the field that he established in the 1940s, contributed a contextual essay on the significance of the District to the Research Report.

**Dr. W. David Lewis**, Hudson Professor of History and Engineering, Auburn University, the premier historian on Sloss Furnaces and author of the National Park Service Handbook to Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, contributed an essay on the historical significance of the District.

**Marjorie L. White**, Director, Birmingham Historical Society, MPhil Yale University, author, The Birmingham District-An Industrial History and Guide, served as Project Director and Editor.

### Researchers

**Brenda Howell**, history and sociology graduate, Auburn University, coordinator, Educational Programs, Birmingham Historical Society, researched active industry and genealogy.

**Bill Jones**, English and communications major, MA, Louisiana Tech, coordinated field visits, public participation and computer files.

Also assisting **Ashlea Atkins**, history student, Birmingham Southern College, who researched sites and personalities, **Carol Slaughter**, geologist and information specialist, **Bob Yuill**, **Joey Brackner**, Alabama Folklife Program, **Ellen Mertins** and **Steven Kay**, Alabama Historical Commission, Auburn University School of Architecture Urban Design Studio faculty member **Frank Setzer** and students, winter and spring quarters, 1993, and **Dale Fritz** and **Wilhelmine Williams**, **Jack Bergstresser**, and **Marjorie White**, and Steering and Advisory Committee Members.

**Scott Fuller**, Icongraphics, designed and computerized maps and images for the reports.

**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT RESEARCH AND PLANNING TEAM continued****Planners****Cecil Jones & Associates, Inc., Birmingham , Alabama**

**Wilhelmine Williams**, planner with ten years experience in urban planning at the neighborhood, community, county and regional levels, MA Harvard University, conducted the planning sessions and contributed heavily to the natural and recreational resource inventory, field visits, and planning report.

**Gary Cooper**, planner with over twenty-five years experience in urban planning at the state, regional, metropolitan, community and private development levels, MS Georgia Tech, provided project oversight and coordination.

**Robert Barbour**, geologist and planner, MA University of North Carolina, contributed to the geological sections of the reports.

**Dale Fritz**, Landscape architect, MLA, University of Melbourne, Australia, participated in the site visits, analysis and research and hand drew project maps and site plans.

**Steve Brooks** designed maps and boards for presentations.

## **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION**

### **Federal Efforts**

This study marks the first major Districtwide survey and assessment of resources and preliminary statement of a District concept. Federal moneys for the research and planning effort has been provided by National Park Service. The Historic American Building Survey documented sites in the District in the 1930s. The federal CETA (Comprehensive Educational Training Act) provided partial funding for research that culminated in the Birmingham District publication of 1981. In the summer of 1992, the Historic American Engineering Record's began their Birmingham Recording Project and 18 architects and historians documented sites throughout the District. That project will continue in the summer of 1993. HAER's Birmingham Field Office is also supported by federal moneys and coordinated by the National Park Service. Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark has received \$750,000 for stabilization and preservation of significant features of that site. Federal expenditures total \$1,500,000.

In 1992 the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded Preservation Service Fund Grants to initiatives targeted by this study including the development of preliminary preservation plans at the Shelby Furnaces and Rickwood Field.

### **Local and State Efforts**

Local efforts to preserve and interpret the industrial heritage resources of the District have been underway for some time. The idea of exploring a regional heritage tourism initiative evolved from various educational and planning initiatives begun in the 1980s.

Since the early 1980s, the City of Birmingham has been an exemplary municipal supporter of preservation and industrial heritage. The City committed more than \$5,000,000 to the technical preservation and capital improvements at Sloss Furnaces, and currently is making available \$500,000 of city bond bonds as well as \$496,868 for annual operating costs. The City has also contributed more than \$12,000,000 to the construction of facilities and exhibits at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and contributes \$800,000 to the Institute's annual operating budget. In addition, the City contributes annual operating funds to Vulcan Park, Red Mountain Cut-Discovery 2,000, Ruffner Mountain, and Arlington Historic House in an estimated amount of \$1,239,322. The City also offers an incentive program for preservation of commercial property in National Register districts which was a strong stimulant, when combined with the federal incentives for property rehabilitation in the late 1980s. In 1992, the City also completed many street and park improvements in the Civil Rights District about the Institute. Throughout the 1980s, City of Birmingham neighborhood associations co-funded (with Birmingham Historical Society and the Alabama Historical Commission) surveys and National Register nominations for the City's 20 currently registered districts. The City also completed a \$2.6 million renovation of the old Central Library-now Linn-Henley Research Library which included installation of state-of-the-art archival facilities. The January 1993 city bond issue includes funds for interpretive programs at Sloss Furnaces, parks and recreational planning consistent with the aims of this study, and a pilot program in low-income housing renovation to be targeted to the Thomas neighborhood.

A conservative estimate of City of Birmingham appropriations for the above items mentioned is \$24,600,000 in capital improvements and \$2,136,130 in current annual outlay for operational support.

Since the 1950s, the City of Tuscaloosa has provided significant support for the acquisition and preservation of the Battle-Friedman and Jemison-Vandergraff Houses and the Warrior River Parks.

The City of Bessemer supports the Hall of History Museum with annual appropriations and also provides support to the District's only established Main Street Program funded at a \$30,000 annual level. The City of Mountain Brook owns the Irondale Furnace ruins.

Shelby County restored the 1850s old county courthouse and converted it to a county archives and museum in 1985.

The University of Alabama owns and maintains Smith Hall and the Gorgas, Dearing, and President's Houses and is constructing a \$6 million collections management facility adjacent to Smith Hall. The University of Montevallo owns and maintains King House.

Since 1969, the state of Alabama has committed annual funds to the preservation and development of Tannehill State Historical Park, Brierfield Ironworks and the Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama. During the past five years, the state has contributed \$375,000 annually to these recently combined operations. This park self-generates \$750,000 annually. These funds are used for capital improvements at the park. Through the years, the state has contributed approximately \$300,000 to preservation of the furnaces. The Alabama Mining Museum and the Alabama Museum of Natural History (of which Smith Hall and the Geological Survey of Alabama are a division) also receive annual operating appropriations from the state.

The Alabama Historical Commission has provided approximately \$350,000 for matching survey/inventory and National Register and planning grants to the Birmingham area during the 1980s and currently supports an Historic Preservationist on the Birmingham City Planning staff and the Main Street Program in Bessemer.

Many other organizations are involved in preservation and interpretation of industrial heritage including the Birmingham Historical Society, Bessemer Hall of History, West Jefferson Historical Society, Friends of Irondale Furnaces, Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Historic Shelby Association, Shelby County Historical Society, Jefferson County Historical Commission, Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, Northport Renaissance, Geological Survey of Alabama, Arlington Historic House Auxiliary, Friends of the William Cook House, University of Alabama, Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition, the Friends of Vulcan Park, Alabama Conservancy, Cahaba River Society, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Humanities Foundation, Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, Urban Impact, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Vestavia Hills Historical Society, Montevallo Heritage Preservation Association, Cahaba Trace Commission, Southern Living, as well as chambers of commerce, park boards, waterworks and private individuals and corporations including major contributors Alabama Power Company and Wade Sand and Gravel.

### **Summary of Resources Already Committed**

Over \$2.4 million in local, state, and federal monies is expended in projects integral to or supportive of major institutions in the Heritage District on an annual basis.

An additional \$31.6 million of expenditures have been made in support and development of certain cultural institutions preserving and interpreting industrial heritage since the 1980s.

### **Potential for Federal Action**

Although the activities are noteworthy, they are not sufficient to protect and develop the District's existing resources at desired levels of quality. Efforts to preserve pieces of this heritage are neither at a sufficient scale nor sufficiently well coordinated to portray and preserve the interrelated portions of the District.

The local governments in the proposed District are not in the position to provide needed technical services, develop an interpretive program and visitor facilities to serve a regional and national audience. State and national support is needed with sufficient respect, experience, and resources to pull together the various ad hoc efforts now underway to create a unified program.

Finally, there is the image issue. If former industrial areas of the District are to be redeveloped, the District's image as tired, old, and dirty must be reversed. State and federal commitment to the Birmingham District could improve the region's status as a locus for private and visitor expenditures that would contribute directly to the local economy.

Perhaps most importantly, state and federal commitment could provide significant impetus for the people of the District to experience and enjoy their heritage, and thus ensuring the best support for the District's nationally significant, and other, resources: a vigilant local constituency.



## **PUBLIC-PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF MAJOR DISTRICT SITES, EXISTING PROTECTION AND THREATS**

### **STATE OWNERSHIP**

Alabama Mining Museum (1980s) +  
Brierfield Ironworks (1970s)  
Iron & Steel Museum of Alabama (1980s)  
Tannehill Historical State Park (1969)  
Williams & Owens Forge Site  
Red Mountain Highway Cut (1960s)

### **University of Alabama**

Archeological Services/Collections, Moundville (1930s)  
Collections Facility (1993)  
Dearing House-University Club  
Gorgas House (1829)  
Gorgas Library-Special Collections (1920s)  
Smith Hall-Geological Survey of Alabama (1910)  
Tannehill Furnace Compound  
University Park-Locks & Dam

### **University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Reynolds Library  
UAB Library  
Woodward House (1980s)

### **University of Montevallo**

King House  
Montevallo Library

### **COUNTY OWNERSHIP**

#### **Tuscaloosa County**

Warrior River Parks

#### **Shelby County**

Shelby County Courthouse-Museum

#### **Bibb County**

Browne's Dam-Brighthope Furnace Site (1991)  
Pratt Ferry Preserve (1992)

### **CITY OWNERSHIP**

#### **Birmingham**

Arlington Historic House (1953)  
Birmingham Public Library-Archives (1920s)  
Civil Rights Museum (1992)  
Red Mountain Cut/Walkway/Museum (1970s)  
Rickwood Field (1980s)  
Sloss Furnaces (1970s)  
Vulcan Statue & Park

+ Parenthesis indicates date of public acquisition.



**Tuscaloosa**

Battle Friedman House (1960s)  
Jemison Vandergraaff House (1960s)  
Warrior River Parks

**Mountain Brook**

Irondale Furnaces (1980s)

**Northport**

Kentuck Park/Northport Renaissance

**PRIVATE NONPROFIT OWNERSHIP**

Bessemer Depot-Hall of History Museum  
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute  
Coal Mine Museum, Aldrich  
Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Shops, Yards, and Rail Excursion (1970s)  
Owen, McAdory, Sadler Houses (1976)  
Ruffner Mountain Nature Center (1980s)

**PRIVATE OWNERSHIP**

Adam's Dam Forge Site and other Little Cahaba River sites  
Alabama Coal Co. Site \*  
Alabama Power Company Headquarters  
Aldrich Mine-Prison Hill Cemetery \*  
All active industrial plants including coal mines, cokemaking, steelmaking, and pipemaking sites, training centers, & railroad shops open for tours  
Bessemer Carnegie Library-Chamber of Commerce  
Billy Gould Mine & Coke Ovens \*  
Birmingham Realty Co. Building-Collections  
Boshell Mills Ruins \*  
Brookside Coal Mines & Coke Ovens \*  
Company towns, former ones including Wenonah, Ishkooda, Muscoda, Docena, Bayview, Edgewater  
Cook House \*  
Corry Homestead-Old York  
Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Shops & Yards  
Historic Districts, existing and proposed  
Powell Avenue Power Plant  
Pratt Coke Ovens \*  
Rail-related structures  
Red Mountain Mine & Mineral RR sites \*  
Shelby Ironworks \*  
Sixteenth Street Baptist Church  
Thomas Cokeworks & Quarry  
Thompson's Mill Forge site \*  
Virginia Coke Ovens \*  
Warrior River Greenway

\* Sites threatened if no action.

## **Kind, Extent and Effectiveness of Existing Protection**

Protection for historic resources not under public or private management in the Birmingham District is weak to nonexistent. The only major protection is from federal undertakings including highways under Section 106 review.

Within the Birmingham District, while significant numbers of districts and individual properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, only Tuscaloosa County has a Preservation Ordinance providing authority to review new construction, repair, alteration, addition, or demolition to all locally designated property. At this time due to the recent passage of a state law permitting city commissions, the cities of Birmingham, Bessemer, and Jasper are formally drafting city ordinances and setting up commissions empowered to protect designated property.

The City of Birmingham currently exercises design review over city commercial revitalization districts which include several National Register Districts in the city center, Five Points South, and Pratt City. These programs, when coupled with the Tax Act incentives and a city-sponsored rebate, were most effective in encouraging commercial property renovation during the late 1980s. Changes in the federal tax law have decreased their use and effectiveness.

The Alabama Historical Commission and Birmingham Historical Society currently accept conservation easements for properties and landscapes. However, a low level of awareness of these programs results in few applications.

Resources at industrial sites are all the more vulnerable, since they are often located in isolated areas owned by industrial corporations and not under the ownership or watchful eye of a caring individual, neighborhood, or non-profit public preservation organization.

Obtaining and financing long-term technical assistance to document, preserve, and then maintain industrial sites under state or municipal management is difficult and expensive. Preservation of Sloss Furnaces' stoves, stacks and boilers requires extensive engineering and feasibility studies. Archeological studies have been ongoing at Tannehill and are desirable for the Shelby Furnace and many other sites in the District seeking recognition and protection. Many including those in the preceding list, and others not identified, have no protection.

Organizations involved in preservation and interpretation of industrial heritage include: the Bessemer Hall of History, West Jefferson Historical Society, Friends of Irondale Furnaces, Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Historic Shelby Association, Shelby County Historical Society, Jefferson County Historical Commission, Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, Northport Renaissance, Geological Survey of Alabama, Arlington Historic House Auxiliary, Friends of the William Cook House, the University of Alabama, Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition, the Friends of Vulcan Park, the Alabama Conservancy, Cahaba River Society, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Humanities Foundation, Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, Urban Impact, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Vestavia Hills Historical Society, Montevallo Heritage Preservation Association, Cahaba Trace Commission, *Southern Living*, as well as chambers of commerce, park boards, waterworks and private individuals and corporations including major contributors Alabama Power Company and Wade Sand and Gravel.

## Threats to Significant Resources

The Birmingham District Survey has revealed the following kinds of threats to area resources:

- . Destruction by the very nature of industry. As industrial sites become obsolete, all usable equipment is moved to the site of continuing operations and extant operations destroyed or scrapped. As industrial operations expand within plants, historic portions of the plants are often demolished.
- . Neglect which often results in vandalism and ultimately in obliteration by natural forces
- . Reclamation which removes many features considered to be hazardous or unsightly in an effort to make the area productive or attractive
- . Preservation, especially preservation efforts misguided by ignorance of significant features and sensitive areas needing protection, lack of funds or technical assistance to deal with complicated archeological sites and property now located in low-income areas, and gentrification which transforms properties and landscapes into something that appears historic but has little basis in fact
- . Renewed industrial activity which may obliterate historic areas and result in relocation of historic features
- . Destruction through removal of properties from original settings to "historic theme" parks
- . Destruction due to lack of legal mechanisms to enforce sensitive preservation
- . Destruction due to lack of funds to provide for proper preservation
- . Destruction due to lack of awareness that the property is significant

**ALTERNATIVES FOR DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

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## ISSUES FOR ORGANIZING THE DISTRICT

Historic, natural, and recreational resources form the core of the heritage district. Steering Committee members reviewed the following fourteen issues of concern to those managing these resources. A detailed issue by issue analysis is included as an Appendix.

### **Issue: Creating a District Identity**

Participants in the research and planning phase of this study recognized the need to nurture a regional sense of place among the District's geographically and culturally diverse individuals and organizations.

### **Issue: Developing a Thematic Storyline**

Steering Committee members identified the need to develop a simple storyline that bound individual sites into an easily understood concept of the District. They identified geology and geography as the starting point for the District story and social, economic, and cultural overlays to enrich the plot.

Steering Committee members suggested the following themes:

- Awareness of the geological incidence of iron ore, coal and limestone in a relatively compact geographic area.
- Introduction of individuals and capital to develop these mineral resources through extractive industries.
- The layering of a rail network tying resources to production facilities.
- The addition of ironmaking facilities to utilize both the mineral resources and rail infrastructure.
- The fast pace of urbanization within the Birmingham District based on the success of this geologic, geographic, transportation, and production arrangement and the resultant cultural geography exhibited in the juxtaposition of residential communities vis a vis industrial facilities.
- The incidence of fine quality community planning and land use that guided development of a number of the industrial communities.
- The important role that waterways, particularly the Warrior River, the Cahaba River, and Village Creek, played in the District's development.
- The labor history that defines the District as it progressed through time from an agrarian to an industrial, and today's service/technology economic base.

### **Issue: Documentation and Preservation of Resources**

Although initial, extensive field survey work was conducted during the first phase of this study, it became evident that additional locally sponsored surveys and research should continue and that sophisticated technical expertise, available only from national specialists including the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), industrial archeologists and historians of science and technology, was needed to evaluate the District's complex historic industrial sites. An enormous amount of work remains to evaluate even the major sites identified and begin to

document the other 600 sites and districts identified, as well as additional sites not yet identified.

Efforts should be made to prepare National Historic Landmark nominations for properties deemed to have potential for national significance. The current study suggested that Vulcan, the Thomas Cokeworks and town, Rickwood Field, and Sixteenth Street Baptist Church are possible candidates. In addition, efforts should be devoted to surveying and registering additional National Register Districts and landmarks. Research priorities should be directed to communities with potential for inclusion in the state's Main Street program. Archeological studies should also be encouraged.

Also, resource management and collections policies, particularly at sites lacking professional staff, must be developed during the course of development of the Heritage District.

**Issue: Interpretation of Resources**

Planning for the District should include two levels of historic resource interpretation: systemwide and at individual sites. Systemwide interpretation might include a major visitor interpretive center, coordinated signage, regional tour development, and a map identifying sites. Technical assistance might include developing standards for interpretation and planning at individual sites, districtwide collections management, and site planning.

**Issue: Transportation Network**

The historic transportation network, particularly railroads and waterways, played an important role in the economic development of the District. Similarly, the current network of interstates and highways is an asset to organize and interpret the District. This interstate network crisscrosses the District and provides direct access to major attractions. A coordinated signage system could provide a highly-visible language to guide districtwide orientation. Plans for such a system should include Corridor X.

Developing greenways, trails, and scenic roads to link historic and recreational sites appears a timely matter as potential funding for the next seven years exists in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) Transportation Enhancements Program.

**Issue: Recreational Opportunities**

Many historical resources, including commercial, residential, and industrial sites and districts, provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the District. Many other resources are available for similar or enhanced interpretation. Any planning scenario for the District should emphasize linking historical sites and recreational opportunities. Every effort should be made to coordinate the District plan with recreation planning currently ongoing in the City of Birmingham, Jefferson County, Tuscaloosa, Shelby County, the region's smaller cities, and with similar efforts underway throughout the area. Plans for the District should be incorporated into the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).



**Issue: Education**

Forging strong links between Birmingham District sites and the many educational institutions has been and should remain a primary focus of the planning process. Efforts should be made to establish ties and encourage cooperative ventures and research between District sites and higher education institutions, such as the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Miles College, Birmingham Southern, the University of Montevallo, and Stillman College. Many elementary and secondary schools currently incorporate historic preservation activities in their curricula. However, more intensive efforts should be made to prepare and continually disseminate industrial heritage education programs throughout the District. In addition, development of adult education programs, available through libraries, festivals, museums, sites, and a central visitor center should be increased to continually raise public awareness and knowledge of the area's rich industrial heritage. Proactive locals are often the best building blocks for heritage tourism.

**Issue: Promotion**

Although a number of sites currently conduct active and effective public awareness campaigns, promotion for the entire District must be developed and implemented at the local, state, regional, and national levels. Promotion would involve a wide scope: advertising, publicity, public relations, and programs including videos, publications, guidebooks, brochures, and maps.

Adequate and accurate information on the individual sites, as well as the District as a whole, is crucial to stimulating interest in and awareness of the resources. Gathering the data base and getting the sites and communities on board is essential before beginning promotional efforts.

**Issue: Economic and Community Development**

Preparation of a District plan must recognize that development of the District will influence tourism and should increase the impact of tourism dollars. Development of District resources can enhance cultural and recreational opportunities and provide improved quality of life for area residents. Supportive of current industry, the District plan anticipates a multiple role for industry: jobs, products and active plant tours.

**Issue: Environmental Concerns**

Planning should address environmental concerns. These concerns include the water quality of the Cahaba and Warrior Rivers, interpretation of strip mine reclamation areas to highlight the continuance of economic development and renewable resources, protection of wetlands, identification and protection of endangered species, provisions for removal of hazardous and toxic wastes from industrial sites included in the system, and awareness of and support for relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) regulations that affect sites within the District.

**Issue: Legal Considerations**

A number of legal considerations must be taken into account. A legal organization should be created to manage the District in compliance with all appropriate legal statutes and procedures. Questions of liability will be raised, particularly regarding public tours of industrial sites and facilities and archeological sites.

**Issue: Threats to Resources**

Numerous threats will have a continuing impact on sites within the District, as well as the District as a whole. These threats include:

- Site dismantling/redevelopment
- Surrounding incompatible land use
- Vandalism
- Low level of awareness/sensitivity
- Lack of funding
- Deterioration of facilities and structures
- Lack of maintenance
- Highway planning and development

**Issue: Management of a Districtwide System**

Establishing effective management is a prime consideration in making a project of this magnitude work. Management's capability to fund raise will be critical. Success will come from partnerships coordinating federal, state, regional, and local agencies and private companies, organizations, and individuals.

**Issue: Financing a Districtwide System**

Continued planning and organization of a Birmingham Industrial Heritage District is dependent upon securing funding over an extended period of time. A variety of sources should be tapped.

## ALTERNATIVES FOR DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

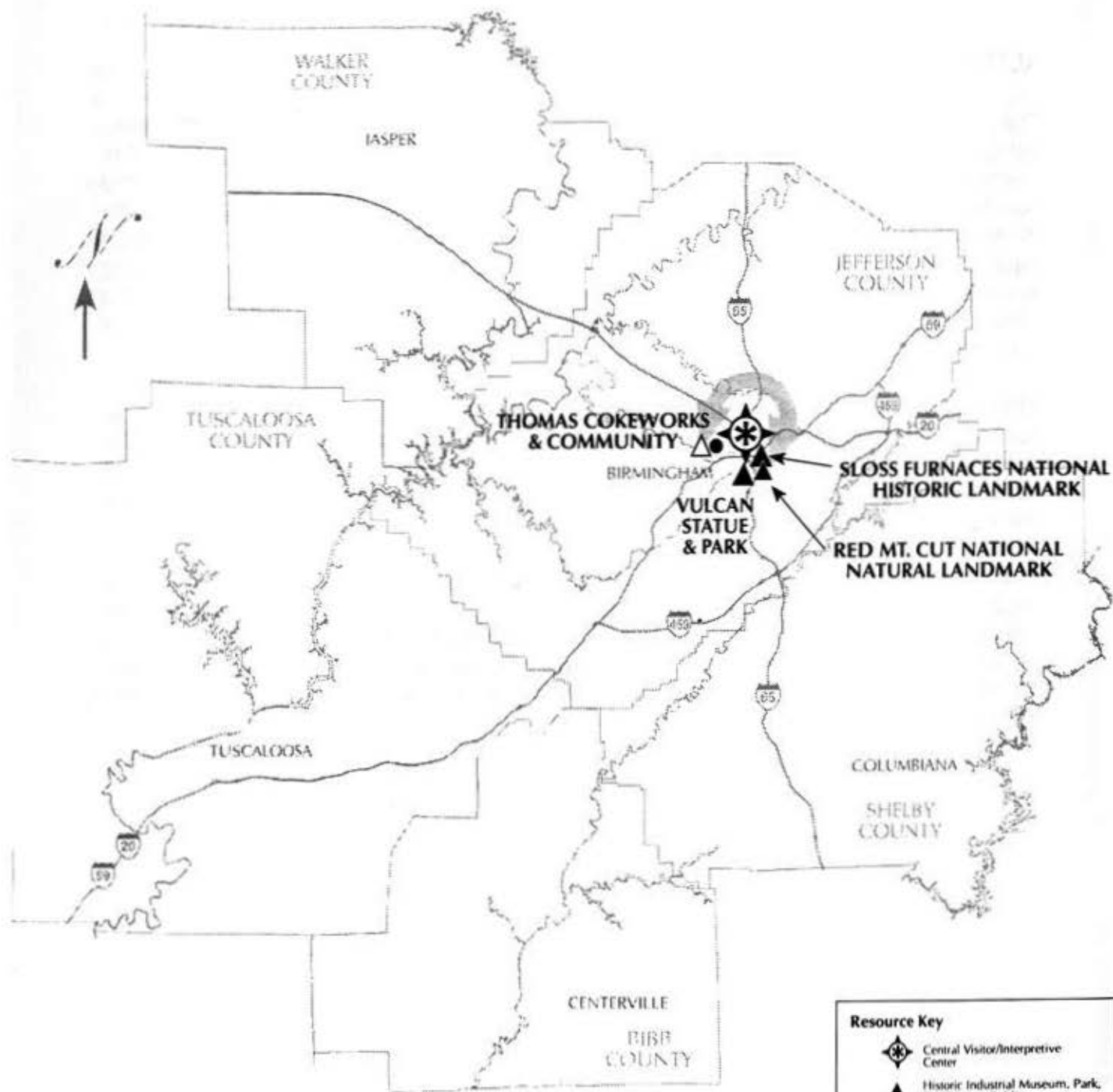
The following alternatives suggest four ways District resources might be organized, interpreted, and managed. All alternatives share a basic vision of resource conservation, interpretation, and promotion and provide that individual sites remain under current and non-federal management. Approaches to District organization differ in regard to the type of resources and variety of linkages and interpretive programs and facilities included in each scenario. A No Action Alternative is also presented and evaluated. The full District system is considered the preferred Alternative. Approaches to manage each of the possible Alternatives include a new federal, state or local commission or a non-profit corporation.

**Alternative I A Nationally Significant Core** creates a District system composed of four nationally (or potentially nationally) significant sites and links them through an interpretive system which includes a visitor information center, cooperative promotion, and transportation links, all supervised by a newly formed management organization. All sites are located in the City of Birmingham.

**Alternative II Major Visitor Destinations** creates a District system composed of a central visitor information center and ten sites, currently open to the public or with significant development underway. These sites would become regional information centers. All cooperative efforts and linkage including signage-graphic systems and other promotion and development activities would be coordinated by a newly-formed management organization.

**Alternative III A District System** creates a District system, composed of thematic and geographic resource clusters located throughout the District. Each cluster includes a major visitor destination and nearby and associated resources including historic districts, houses and parks, historic and active industrial sites, trails, waterways or scenic roads, a central visitor interpretive center, signage-graphic and other linkages as well as efforts to better coordinate cultural, natural and recreational resource development through greenway and rail-to-trail programs and provide more extensive technical assistance on subjects of interpretation, education, preservation, conservation, heritage tourism, or promotion to the major destinations and individual sites. Alternative III includes many long-term, long-range Development Opportunities. This is the preferred alternative, as it alone creates a full District system.

**Alternative IV No Action** suggests that all sites remain in current ownership and do nothing to coordinate any activities.



## ALTERNATIVE I - A Nationally Significant Core

Nationally Significant Resources, Visitor Interpretive Center, Linkage

## **ALTERNATIVE I A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT CORE**

### **COMPONENTS**

#### **Nationally Significant Resources Visitor Interpretive Center Linkage**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

##### **Nationally Significant Resources**

This alternative suggests that major private and governmental efforts coordinate nationally significant sites. This alternative would include the "jewels" of the District, those sites now officially determined to be nationally or possibly nationally significant. Current candidate sites are owned by the City of Birmingham (Sloss, Red Mt. Museum, Vulcan Park), the Alabama Highway Department (Red Mountain Cut), a single private company (Thomas industrial sites), and multiple private owners (Thomas community). These core facilities are all located in Birmingham.

##### **Visitor Interpretive Center**

A single center, a destination in and of itself, could present the District story and encourage visitation at other sites. The center should be centrally located in Birmingham, visible and easily accessible from the city's highway and interstate network. Parking should be ample and close. Pedestrian walks should be safe, pleasant and convenient. Facilities should include core and changing exhibits and provisions for meetings and community events. Other limited visitor information centers might be developed at individual sites.

##### **Linkage**

Special public transit arrangements could physically link the core sites to each other and to the central visitor interpretative center. It may also be possible to develop rail transit to link the Sloss and Thomas sites.

### **CORE MANAGEMENT**

Alternative I creates a governing organization to support the preservation, interpretation, and promotion activities at each of the participating sites and to guide development and management of a central visitor interpretive center. This governing body would coordinate this system.

Options to formalize management of this Alternative include creation of a public governing body composed of individuals representing all participating sites. Another approach could involve establishment of a private, non-profit organization to coordinate these activities.

The governing body would assume responsibility for two major management functions: the visitor center and linkage among sites. The governing body would not assume responsibility for individual sites. All existing sites and interpretation at these sites would remain under current management.



Technical assistance to develop interpretation and educational programs at the individual sites could be provided to the newly formed governing body by the National Park Service, the Birmingham Historical Society, the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Samford University, Auburn University, the Alabama Historical Commission, local historians, or individual site staff. Such programs could be closely coordinated with development of the interpretive themes and programs developed for the central visitor center.

### **CENTRAL VISITOR INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

This facility would orient visitors to the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District. Visitors would learn the District Story and receive interpretive materials and information about nationally significant sites. To establish and manage this facility, several key issues are reviewed below:

#### **Site Selection General Location Factors**

Selecting the optimum site for location of the central visitor interpretive center will require additional and detailed evaluation and study of a range of options. Such a thorough analysis is premature at this stage in the planning process. However, a preliminary analysis lays foundations to guide future development considered essential to the long-range effectiveness of the District.

These general location factors should be considered:

Location in heart of the heritage district

Accessibility from interstate/highway system

Visibility from interstate/highway system

Uncongested traffic flow to site

Ample and proximate parking

Safe, pleasant, and convenient walk to site

Site ample to provide for facility

Adequate square footage in facility

Site not isolated from activity

Facility designed as destination in and of itself

Interpretation of the entire story of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District

Consideration given to view from site

A preliminary analysis of potential sites for the visitor interpretive center groups these sites into two major categories : on-site (i.e. at an industrial site) and off-site (not on an industrial site). The preliminary analysis is included as an appendix to this study.

### **Design and Construction of the Facility**



Design and financial assistance to construct or use an existing building as the central visitor interpretive facility could be provided by private individuals, organizations, foundations, non-profit groups, as well as through local, state and federal government programs.

### **Development of Interpretation and Education Programs at the Facility**

Technical assistance to develop interpretation and education programs at the visitor interpretive center could be provided by the National Park Service, the Birmingham Historical Society, the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Auburn University, the Alabama Historical Commission, and professional and local historians, as well as by individuals active in labor and industrial history. Such programs would be closely coordinated with development of the District's overall interpretive themes and programs.

### **On-site Management and Supervision**

On-site management at the visitor interpretive facility will be required to oversee the day-to-day operations of the facility, to supervise a staff of volunteer or professional interpreters and guides, as well as to coordinate and assure high quality programming, concessions and linkage to outlying resource sites. Management could be provided by a private, professional facility manager; a private, professional heritage project manager; a locally or regionally, state or federally appointed task force or commission; or a state or federal government agency.

### **LINKAGE**

A mass transit system might provide access to other core sites from the central visitor center and minimize local parking and traffic problems. A transit/tour system could be coordinated by the governing organization. It could be owned by several entities including private entrepreneurs, such as Alabama Limousine, or a local government agency, or a local transit authority, such as Metropolitan Area Express (MAX) in the Birmingham area. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) should play an integral role in the organization and implementation of the District's linkage system. To establish and manage these important linkages, the following functions must be addressed:

### **Design and Development of Parking, Transit and Tour Routes**

Technical and financial assistance for designing and developing parking facilities, as well as transit and tour routes could be provided to the District management entity from a variety of sources: private individuals, organizations, businesses, the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and local, state, and federal governmental agencies.

### **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES**

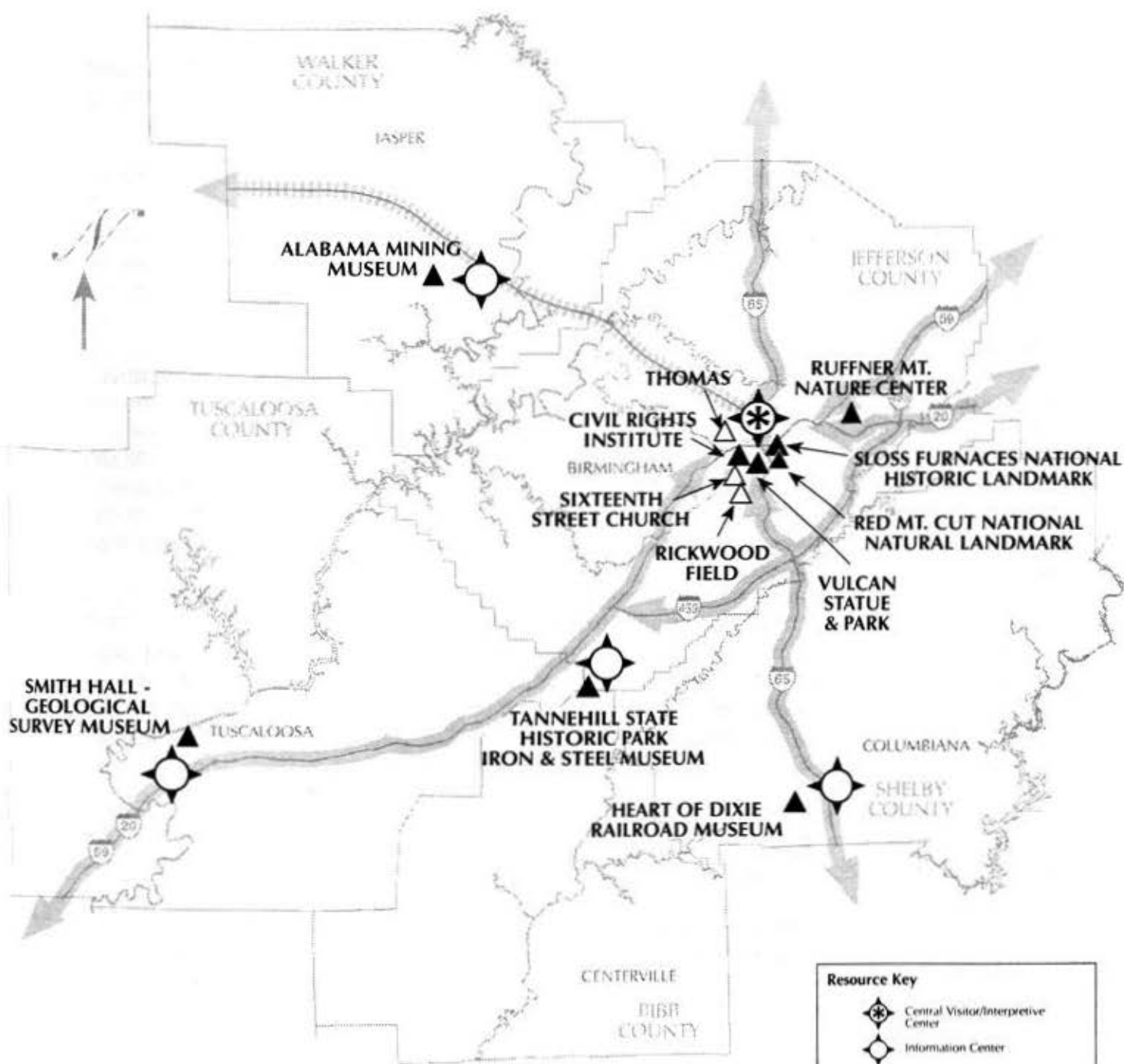
The District has two officially designated nationally significant sites (Sloss and Red Mountain Cut). Two other sites (Vulcan and Thomas) as well as the District's labor history have been officially recognized by the National Park Service's National Landmark Program as potentially nationally significant. These Birmingham sites constitute a strong physical core for the District and a potential for federal involvement.

This alternative would concentrate efforts on significant preservation projects and give the City of Birmingham an unrivaled collection of industrial sites for interpretation and development. No other city or region in the United States is undertaking preservation of twentieth century iron producing furnaces, a cokeworks and active quarry, a colossal cast iron statue, and hundreds of millions of years of exposed geological history.

By focusing only on currently registered nationally significant individual sites, the opportunity to identify and interpret the vast array of interrelated sites and to include groups across the District active in their preservation would be lost. These Districtwide sites contributed to and made possible the historic success of the sites currently recognized as nationally significant. With additional research and documentation, several of these District sites including those associated with labor and civil rights may have national significance.

This scenario may close the door on opportunities to develop additional resources within the District as recreational and interpretive opportunities. It also excludes the important Civil War concentration at Tannehill, a site with the District's highest visitation. The alternative also excludes the State of Alabama's two industrial museums, the Iron and Steel Museum at Tannehill and the Alabama Coal Mining Museum at Dora.

Although this concept does not broaden the system geographically or physically to include representative sites, it does permit linkage of certain significant sites and a telling of portions of the Birmingham District story. The visitor center might become a significant visitor destination adding significantly to visitation in the City of Birmingham. However, the opportunity for attracting new visitors to the District through regional promotion and developing the District as a strong industrial heritage area would decrease in likelihood.



## ALTERNATIVE II - Major Visitor Destinations

Major Visitor Destinations, Visitor Interpretive Center, Geographic Information Centers, Linkage

### Resource Key



Central Visitor/Interpretive Center



Information Center



Historic Industrial Museum, Park, Site Open to Public



Historic Industrial Museum, Park, Site (Potential)

Signage/Graphics Linkage

Signage/Graphics Linkage (Potential, Corridor X)

## **ALTERNATIVE II MAJOR VISITOR DESTINATIONS**

### **COMPONENTS**

#### **Major Visitor Destinations**

#### **Visitor Interpretive Center**

#### **Geographic Information Centers**

#### **Linkage**

### **DESCRIPTION**

#### **Resources**

This scenario suggests an interpretive system linking nationally significant resources, described in Alternative I, and other major visitor destinations within the District. These destinations, currently open to the public or those with significant development underway, include: Vulcan Statue and Park, Red Mountain Cut/Geological Walkway/Museum, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Tannehill State Historic Park and the Iron and Steel Museum, Alabama Mining Museum, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Shelby Ironworks, Smith Hall-Geological Survey of Alabama, and the Civil Rights Institute and Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

#### **Visitor Interpretive Center and Geographic Information Centers**

In this scenario, the central visitor center, defined in Alternative I, would present the Birmingham District story and be located in Birmingham and Jefferson County. Regional centers would be established in Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Walker, and Shelby Counties. Following this scheme, an information center would be situated in each of the five counties of the District. Candidate sites for the satellite centers include Tannehill State Historical Park in Bibb, Jefferson, and Tuscaloosa Counties; the Alabama Mining Museum, Dora, Walker County; the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Calera, Shelby County; and Smith Hall-Geological Survey of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County. At each of these sites, visitors would be informed about elements of the District story and directed to sites in proximity to each center, as well as to other sites in the District. The existing visitor information centers at Birmingham Municipal Airport and the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center offer additional opportunities to attract visitation to the District sites.

#### **Linkage**

The visitor centers would direct visitors to the other major District destinations. The District's superb highway network makes these destinations easily accessible. Using coordinated signage and cooperative strategies, a uniform system of interpretation along the interstate/highway network, waterways, and scenic roads would identify these major attractions.

The District's interstate system, including I-59, I-20, I-65, I-459, and Corridor X, offers superlative opportunities for interpretation. The system links the District to New Orleans, Jackson, and Atlanta via I-59/20; to Nashville and Montgomery via I-65; and soon to Memphis and St. Louis via Corridor X. The Corridor X system, for which construction

begins in March 1993, could feature interpretive information centers and scenic overlooks at strategic points along these routes, to inform and orient the passerby, as well as to encourage travelers to make the District a destination.

### **SYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

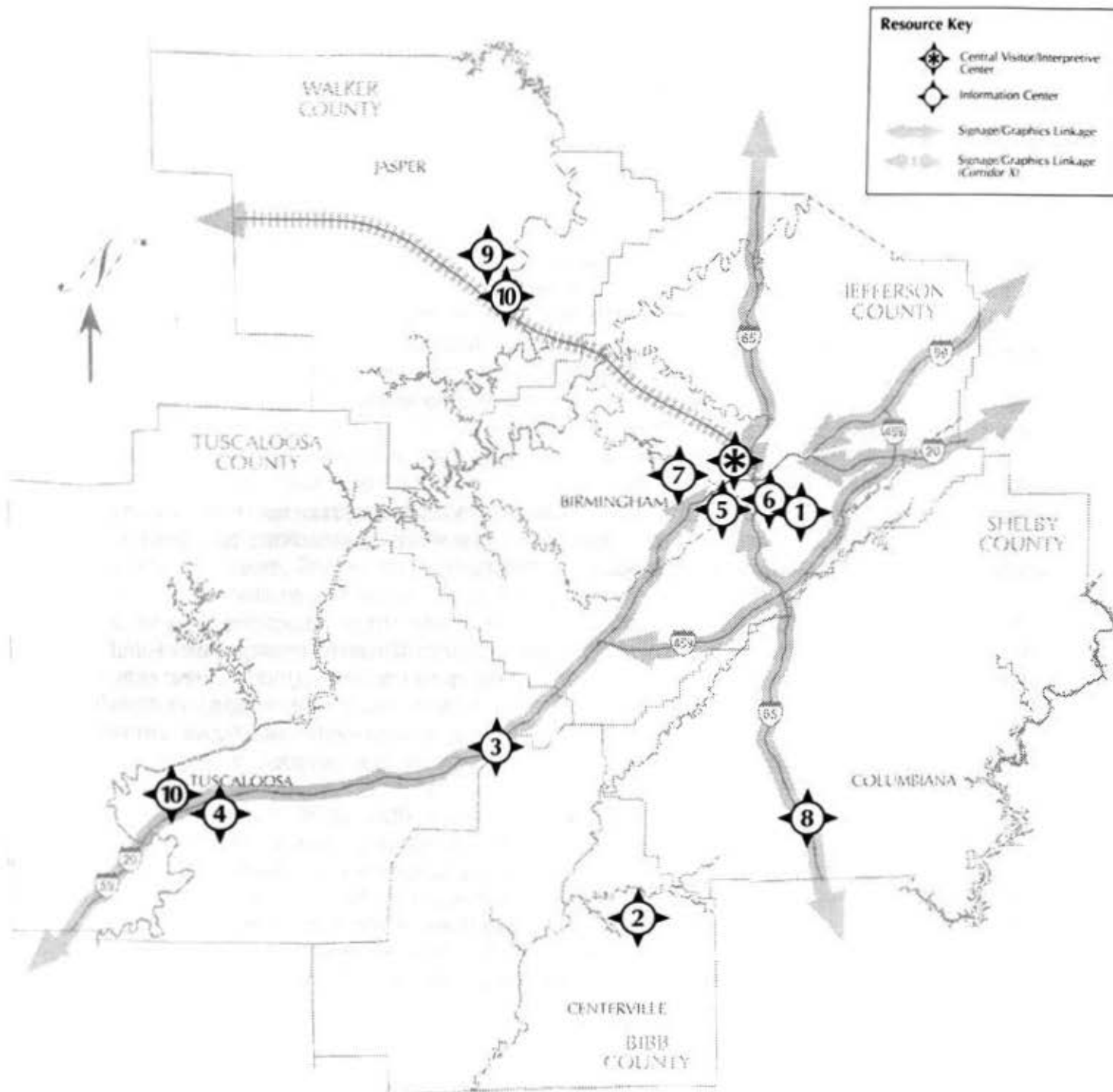
Geographic expansion of the District, with the accompanying increase in complexity and need for more active coordination among the individual sites and the central visitor center, necessitates a stronger management organization to direct activities. The ideal organization would be efficient and effective, capitalizing upon public and private partnerships among cooperating institutions, as well as local, state and federal government bodies. This organization would maintain these partnerships and coordinate financial and technical assistance. Both approaches, described in Alternative I could provide a management framework for this system.

### **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES**

This alternative makes good use of existing facilities and encourages cooperation among many of the District's leading cultural institutions. The multiple attractions coordinated under this alternative would draw increased visitation.

Important linkages could be established. However, these major attractions, in and of themselves, do not tell the entire Birmingham District story. The most engaging sites and aspects of the District are out in the woods and along its rivers, creeks, ridges, and rails, in the company towns and commercial centers, along the scenic roads, in sites unidentified and those currently considered "Development Opportunities," and in the intangible resources of the District's folk traditions, festivals, and people.





## ALTERNATIVE III - A District System

Resource Clusters and Information Centers, Visitor Interpretive Center, Linkage, Greenways along Rivers and Creeks, Rail Excursion and Rail-to-Trail Projects

### INFORMATION CENTERS

1. RED MOUNTAIN - Minerals, Mines & Mansions
2. CAHABA RIVER - Early Forges & Furnaces
3. TANNEHILL - Civil War Ironmaking
4. TUSCALOOSA - From the Old South to the New
5. BIRMINGHAM - The Magic Industrial City
6. SLOSS MINES & FURNACES - New South Industry
7. VILLAGE CREEK - Watering the Industrial Miracle
8. THE C&S RAILROAD - From Mine to Mill and Market
9. WALKER COUNTY - Coal Country
10. WARRIOR RIVER - Waterway to the World

### Possible Locations

Vulcan, Red Mountain, Ruffner Mountain, Red Mountain Cut  
 Browne's Dam  
 Tannehill, Brierfield, Montevallo  
 I-59/ I-20, Smith Hall  
 Civil Rights Institute, Discovery 2000 Museum  
 Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark  
 Pratt City, Thomas  
 Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Shelby Ironworks  
 Alabama Mining Museum  
 Northport/Tuscaloosa Parks, Corridor X



## **ALTERNATIVE III A DISTRICT SYSTEM**

### **COMPONENTS**

#### **Resources Clusters and Information Centers**

##### **Visitor Interpretive Center**

##### **Linkage**

##### **Greenways along Rivers and Creeks**

##### **Rail Excursion and Rail-to-Trail Projects**

##### **Preservation, Interpretation, Heritage Tourism, Economic Development**

### **DESCRIPTION**

#### **Resources**

Alternative III creates a comprehensive District System and permits the telling of the entire District story. This, the preferred alternative, envisions a coordinated system of thematic and geographic resource clusters located throughout the District. Each cluster includes a major attraction that would serve as an information center. A principal visitor center at a central location in Birmingham would introduce the full District story and direct visitors to other District sites and activities. The District centers would also accomplish this function and direct visitors to other sites and activities in close proximity. The existing visitor information stations at Birmingham Municipal Airport, the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center, and along I 20-59 just north of Tuscaloosa offer additional opportunities to encourage visitation to District sites.

#### **Visitor Interpretive Center**

A single center, a destination in and of itself, should present the District story and encourage visitation at other sites throughout the five county area. The center should be centrally located in Birmingham, visible and easily accessible from that city's highway and interstate network. Parking should be ample and close. Pedestrian walks should be safe, pleasant, and convenient. Facilities should include core and changing exhibits and provisions for meetings and community events. Alternative I describes other considerations for this center.

#### **Linkage**

The central visitor center and the other information centers would direct visitors to major destinations and other sites throughout the District. The District's superb highway network makes these sites easily accessible. Using coordinated signage and cooperative strategies, a uniform system of interpretation along the interstate/highway network, waterways, and scenic roads would identify major attractions, historic houses and buildings, industrial sites and communities, natural areas, and recreational facilities.

The District's interstate system, including I-59, I-20, I-65, I-459, and Corridor X, offers superlative opportunities for interpretation. The system links the District to New Orleans, Jackson, and Atlanta via I-59/20; to Nashville and Montgomery via I-65; and soon to Memphis and St. Louis via Corridor X. The Corridor X system, for which construction begins in March 1993, may feature interpretive information centers and scenic overlooks

at strategic points along these routes, to inform and orient the passerby, as well as to encourage travelers to make the District a destination.

### **Greenways**

Village and Shades Creeks and the Cahaba and Warrior Rivers offer an exceptional opportunity for interpretation of the area's industrial heritage as well as opportunities to conserve significant open space and environmentally sensitive areas. These potential greenways present the opportunity to develop cultural resources as integral parts of natural and recreational settings and tie historic interpretation to active recreation and conservation initiatives currently being initiated by various community groups. Although some interpretation of historic sites along the Warrior River currently exists, future development of a river corridor interpretive system could relate the river's significant and continuing role in industrialization of the region. Resources in Tuscaloosa, Northport, Holt, and on Corps of Engineer sites along the Warrior could be further developed to this end. The Cahaba River Society and the National Park Service are currently working on similar efforts along the Upper Cahaba River. City planners and citizens groups are also brainstorming possibilities for Shades and Village Creeks.

### **Rail Excursion and Rail-to-Trail Programs**

To interpret the important role that railroads played in the development of the Birmingham District, rail excursions should be encouraged. A Rail-to-Trail program could convert abandoned railroad right-of-ways to walking, biking, and hiking trails. Blending history and recreation will enhance the visitor experience and expand the District's appeal. Among leading candidate rail-to-trail projects are the Red Mountain Mines and Mineral Railroad, Drifttrack in Pratt City, and the right-of-way linking the Alabama Mining Museum in Dora to the Bevill Miners' Training Center in Sumiton.

## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Interpretation and Education**

Educational and interpretive programs should be developed for residents and visitors of all ages. Programs should include the information centers, coordinated signage, tours, kiosks, exhibits, publications, and special events. Special materials for schools should be created and targeted to teachers of local history, science, and art. Teacher workshops and field trips to District sites should be encouraged.

### **Preservation and Conservation**

Technical assistance and available grant monies should be pursued to help sites and communities research, interpret, protect, and promote important resources, survey and register historic landmarks and districts, develop Main Street programs, designate scenic roads, and develop effective land use, zoning provisions, and other strategies to protect threatened resources. This program will involve coordinating and disseminating information regarding available preservation services, such as grant monies, survey, inventory, National Register, and Main Street programs, archeological services, HABS-HAER documentation, rail-to-trail planning, as well as providing direct assistance in applying for and implementing grant programs.

### **Heritage Tourism and Promotion**

Efforts to encourage historic designation of individual sites and the District as a whole, develop major attractions and recreational assets, and promote industrial heritage tourism to local, regional, and national audiences should be undertaken. Alliances of existing promotional agencies, coordinated promotional activities, and professionally developed marketing strategy should be explored. Coordination with the National Trust's Heritage Tourism Program should be encouraged.

### **Economic Development**

Increases in heritage tourism, formal national designation of individual sites and the District as a whole, the creation of a regional network of historic sites and communities, continued development of major attractions, and public and private reinvestment in important historic buildings and districts through Main Street, site specific initiatives, rail-to-trail and greenway programs and other coordinated programs should all contribute to further economic development of the region. Repositioning of the image of this historic industrial region will be an additional asset to attracting not only tourists, but also new economic opportunities.

### **Community Enhancement**

Topographic relief and green space are important aspects contributing to the District's quality of life and attractiveness to residents and visitors. The District's programs must recognize these intrinsic values and work to ensure that future actions enhance, not adversely impact, the current liveable environments. Specific measures to be undertaken include:

- . Further evaluation of the District's unique architectural and landscape features on a regionwide basis. Identification of greenways and open spaces that warrant special consideration. Provision of technical assistance to decision makers throughout the region.
- . Integration of natural and potential recreational resource development information into comprehensive and zoning plans. Linkage of cultural, natural, and recreational resources.
- . Development of guidelines and standards for preservation and conservation of important resources. Support of efforts of public interest groups, such as the Cahaba River Society, to protect valuable natural resources.
- . Support of modification to existing environmental review processes throughout the region to include consideration of industrial heritage resources.
- . Provision of technical and financial assistance for conserving and enhancing unique features of the District, such as historic buildings and districts, building facades, streetscapes, rural and urban open spaces, and greenways along waterways.

- Administration of this phase of the heritage district program could be assigned to the project management staff to coordinate with local economic and community development staffs, as well as planning and zoning staffs; public interest groups, such as the Cahaba River Society and the Warrior Tombigbee Association, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Affairs.

## **MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION FUNCTIONS**

Management of a project of the scope of the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District requires creation of a strong management organization to coordinate the visitor centers, sites, and activities Districtwide, provide direction, and to seek and receive federal, state, local and private funding. In this organization, private individuals, organizations, businesses, special interest groups, and local, state, and federal government representatives must all participate and cooperate for efforts to be effective.

The organization would conduct long-range, comprehensive planning and coordinate and direct the coordinated efforts of all of the participants. Its powers would be defined by its enabling legislation or charter. Specific functions of the newly-created management organization would include responsibilities for the central visitor and other information centers and linkage, as well as technical services and coordination of systemwide resource development. The entity should be broadly representative of local, state, and federal governments, and private participants. Individuals and organizations active in the planning process that produced this document should be invited to participate.

The organization should have a director and professional staff with technical expertise in history, archeology, folklore, planning, and promotion. This staff would assist with implementation of the alternatives and daily operations. Additional staff would coordinate visitor center operations.

## **FORMS OF MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The quasi-public commission and a private, non-private organization provide two approaches to creating a management organization. A commission might best provide organizational strength for long-term implementation. Three types of commission authorization may be considered:

### **Federal Commission**

Federal legislation could establish a federal commission. Commission members would represent all levels of government, the private sector, and include National Park Service participation. The commission would have its own staff to accomplish its work. The commission could receive federal, state, and local governmental appropriations and private contributions.

### **State Commission**

Through the enactment of state legislation, a state commission or authority could be established and staffed to oversee management of the District. The commission or authority, headed by an individual appointed by the Governor of Alabama, would



represent different levels of government and the private sector. The state would be the primary public funding source, but the federal government could appropriate funding for qualifying projects. Local governments and the private sector would also be expected to contribute funding. The National Park Service could provide technical assistance and participate as a Commission member.

### **Regional Commission**

A local designation could be achieved through appointment of a regional authority. Because the District includes areas now governed by two Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the new organization would have to ensure representation from Bibb, Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, and Walker Counties. It might be difficult to determine a formula and mix for appointing the commission because the authority will be split among a number of municipal and county jurisdictions.

### **Private Non-Profit Organization**

Another approach would involve creation of a private, non-profit organization that could evolve from a variety of options: incorporation of the existing Steering Committee as a private non-profit, designation of a separate organization, expansion of the existing Birmingham Historical Society Board to include interests throughout the District, creation of a non-profit adjunct to the Birmingham Historical Society Board, or creation of a private non-profit adjunct to one of the other institutions in the District.

The organization would be a community-based citizens organization with members representing all communities and sites participating in the District. The organization could raise funds, accept funds, and receive services from existing technical assistance programs, private contributors, investors and grantees. Such an organization could be regarded as a permanent institution or an interim management entity, pending additional inventory and research leading to a more official designation and subsequent establishment of a commission.

It might be difficult for such a private organization to achieve effective recognition or channel major public funds needed to realize a project of this magnitude.

### **Advantages and Disadvantages**

- . Tells the full District story and encourages visitation and development throughout the District
- . Allows for full representation of sites in the District, nationally significant sites, major visitor destinations, and other resources
- . Achieves wide geographic and thematic diversity
- . Allows flexibility in addition of new sites
- . Works well with the existing interstate system
- . Includes and links cultural and recreational opportunities through greenways and trails
- . Increases a full understanding of the importance and relevance of the history of the region and how minerals, industry, and social factors have shaped the landscape, people, and current scene of the District.

This alternative makes good use of all existing facilities and encourages cooperation among the District's leading cultural institutions and local, state, and national preservation groups. The multiple attractions and efforts to disperse visitation throughout the region would significantly increase community pride and visitation to all sites by locals and tourists.

This alternative would require the most extensive investment of time, energy, and money. Although this scheme would be the most expensive, it would endeavor to research, preserve, interpret, develop, and use the greatest number of significant resources in the District. It would also involve many local and neighborhood groups and constituencies in the continued and increased preservation of the District's industrial heritage.

## **ALTERNATIVE IV NO ACTION**

### **Description**

This alternative continues current institutional arrangements and programs without a well-managed and funded Districtwide delivery assistance network. In general, present trends and conditions would prevail. Counties and municipalities, private organizations, and individual sites might cooperate on specific projects, but all would act independently. Education, interpretation, and resource protection would function independently.

### **Advantages and Disadvantages**

Doing nothing would be the easiest and cheapest alternative to implement. No one would have anything more to do to establish a new system of trying to work together. Individual sites would continue to be managed individually.

Although this alternative might be perceived as the least expensive option, the cost to the region in lost opportunity would be substantial. Time and effort spent on this study, and learning to work together and to see and address issues of shared, and regional, concern would be wasted. Identified and threatened resources will face certain deterioration. Duplication of efforts at individual sites will multiply as individual sites operate within narrowly defined foci and continue to compete for visitors and appropriations. And, the Birmingham District might never develop that sense of history so badly needed to understand and deal with the region's current social problems, and, most importantly its current opportunity to create a District system that might result from this plan.



**CONCLUSIONS, EARLY ACTION, COST ESTIMATES, SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS, ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A HERITAGE DISTRICT**

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## **CONCLUSIONS**

National landmarks, and potential for additional national landmarks, are present.

Other significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources exist now.

Some of these resources are fragile.

Local and state individuals, organizations and governments have strongly supported industrial heritage preservation with action and money.

Future preservation efforts have a good base, but require additional technical services, protection, coordination, and funds.

National recognition of the District is desirable.

A high level of quality in interpretation is desirable.

Leadership is available.

A management organization is needed to accomplish the mission and objectives of a Birmingham Industrial Heritage District.

## EARLY ACTION

A lengthy administrative and legislative process that will determine overall, long-range direction for the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District Project will provide the most feasible alternative for future planning and implementation. While decisions are being made, several immediate actions should be undertaken as a short-term strategy to maintain the District gathering momentum as it progresses toward formal establishment.

This early action could include:

1. Establish an organization to pursue the mission and objectives of the District herewith elaborated. The actions which follow would be coordinated by that organization.
2. Secure funding to continue technical services and planning for the District, including the HABS/HAER Birmingham Recording Project.
3. Document potential nationally significant sites including Vulcan Statue and Park, Rickwood Field, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Tannehill Furnaces and the Red Mountain mines, industrial communities, and labor history sites; prepare National Landmark documentation.
4. Study and evaluate unregistered properties, establish survey/inventory/National Register District and Main Street project priorities working with the Alabama Historical Commission and local groups and communities.
5. Assess abandoned railroad corridors and facilities for use as recreational trails, seeking funding as a Transportation Enhancement Activity of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).
6. Develop a pilot signage/graphics/interpretive program working with the Alabama Highway Department along Corridor X.
7. Continue exploration of proposed visitor interpretive centers through a formal study.
8. Support individual sites, greenways projects, and other existing and future efforts.
9. Promote the heritage district concept with citizens, groups, and local governmental officials throughout the region. Develop a District map as a promotional vehicle.
10. Identify and implement additional planning studies including more detailed studies of the District's history and archeology, heritage tourism, and economic development conditions.

# EARLY ACTION COST ESTIMATES

(Amounts in current dollars)

| Item No. | Action   | Annual Estimated Cost   | Special Project or Capital Cost | Time Needed | Total Cost          |
|----------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1.       | Planning, organization and management                          | \$350,000               |                                 | 10 years    | \$3,500,000         |
| 2.       | HABS/HAER recording project                                    | 250,000                 |                                 | 10 years    | 2,500,000           |
| 3.       | Archeology   | 100,000                 |                                 | 10 years    | 1,000,000           |
| 4.       | National Historic Landmark documentation                       | Included in Item No. 1. |                                 |             |                     |
| 5.       | National Register program                                      | 100,000                 |                                 | 10 years    | 1,000,000           |
| 6.       | Heritage education and publications program                    | 100,000                 |                                 | 10 years    | 1,000,000           |
| 7.       | Main Street program (13 towns)                                 | 390,000                 |                                 | 10 years    | 390,000             |
| 8.       | Abandoned railroad corridors; facilities survey and assessment |                         | \$250,000                       |             | 250,000             |
| 9.       | Signage, graphics and pilot interpretive program               |                         | 100,000                         |             | 100,000             |
| 10.      | Vistor center(s) study   |                         | 100,000                         |             | 100,000             |
| 11.      | Vistor interpretive center                                     | 250,000                 | 4,000,000                       | 7 years     | 5,750,000           |
| 12.      | Map to promote District  |                         | 30,000                          |             | 30,000              |
| Totals   |  | <u>\$1,540,000</u>      | <u>\$4,480,000</u>              |             | <u>\$15,620,000</u> |

## **SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS**

Amounts required to fund the early action costs are expected to be received through federal, state, city and county appropriations and through private contributions. It is impossible at this time to allocate the funding among these potential sources as the availability of funds will depend upon policy decisions to be made in the future. It is likely that additional funds will be spent in the coming years on the projects described in "Site Specific Developments" below. Potential funding sources are identified and listed in the Appendix entitled "Issues/Opportunities for Organizing the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District."

### **1. Regional Information Centers**

#### **Exhibit Construction**

**Site Development Costs**, for all undeveloped sites, shall include the following items: access roads, parking, lighting sidewalks, drainage system, sewer service, landscape improvements, site clearing and grading, site furniture, and other items

### **2. Individual Site Development**

#### **Alabama Mining Museum**

Master Plan  
Site Development  
Rail-to-Trail link to Bevill Mine No. 1  
Old Dora Development  
Information Center  
Recreational Plan

#### **Billy Gould Mine and Coke Oven Park**

Documentation/Archeology  
Conservation/Stabilization of Existing Mining Structures  
Land Acquisition  
Trail and Interpretive Development

#### **Brookside Mine and Coke Oven Park**

Documentation/Archeology  
Conservation/Stabilization Existing Mining Structures  
Land Acquisition  
Trail and Interpretive Development

#### **Browne's Dam-Brighthope Furnace Site, Cahaba River**

Documentation  
Information Center/Exhibits  
Land Acquisition  
Conservation/Preservation  
Site Development/Trails  
Site Plan, Construction Documents

**SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS** *continued***Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum/Shop & Yard/Excursion Rides**

Museum completion  
Rolling Stock preservation  
Signage

**Northport Renaissance Project****Pratt Coke Ovens**

Research/Archeology  
Conservation/Preservation  
Planning, design, construction doc.  
Land Acquisition  
Site Development  
Trails/Interpretation

**Red Mountain Mines and Mineral Railroad Trail**

Documentation of Mining Sites and Railbed  
Stabilization/Interpretation of Mining Structures  
Mine Site Development  
Land Acquisition

**Rickwood Field**

Documentation  
Renovation  
New Construction including Baseball Museum

**Ruffner Mountain Nature Center/Preserve**

Documentation/Archeology  
Conservation/Stabilization Existing Mining Structures  
Land Acquisition  
Trail and Interpretive Development

**Shelby Ironworks**

Documentation/Archeology  
Conservation/Stabilization of Existing Mining Structures  
Land Acquisition  
Trail and Interpretive Development

**Sloss Furnaces**

Conservation/Preservation of existing structures  
Museum Collections & Orientation Buildings  
Rail Excursion  
Site Development



**SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS** *continued***Smith Hall-Geological Survey of Alabama**

Collections Inventory and Development  
Interpretive Programs

**Tannehill State Historic Park**

Information Center/Exhibit  
Archeological Studies  
Master Plan  
Site Development  
Expanded Trail System/Signage  
Land Acquisition  
Signage System

**Thomas Cokeworks**

Conservation/Preservation  
Site Development  
Quarry tour development  
Information Center

**Vulcan Statue and Park Renovations**

Statue and Park Documentation  
Statue Conservation  
Site Development  
Exhibits in proposed building

**3. Greenways Along Creeks and Rivers****Cahaba River Greenway**

Master Plan  
Cahaba River  
Little Cahaba River  
Six Mile Creek  
Total River Miles: 104

**Warrior River Greenway**

Tuscaloosa to Locust and Mulberry Forks  
Total River Miles: 134

**SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS** *continued***Village Creek Greenway**

Development costs would include planning, design and construction of hard surfaced, smooth, fairly wide (8 foot) trails to accommodate various users including bicyclists, joggers, and walkers with the following general specifications: trails of surface asphalt over crushed gravel with landscaping to screen vegetation, enhance visual features, retard erosion, attract wildlife, and prevent entry to trails; scenic viewpoints and interpretation; interpretive signage; and bridges, fences, gates and trash receptacles.

**4. Linkages****Corridor X Signage/Graphics/Interpretation**

Planning/Design  
Information Center  
Scenic Overlooks and Signage

**Districtwide Signage System**

Comprehensive signage plan including logo/graphic design and specific location selection to sites on highway/street network

**Scenic Roads**

Included in the above.

**Rail Excursions**

C & S-Heart of Dixie Railroad  
Mineral Railroad Loop

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A HERITAGE DISTRICT**

Industrial development created the historic Birmingham District and shaped its physical features, economy, and social history. Similarly, the development of industrial heritage tourism should impact the modern Birmingham District, help reposition its image, and shape the future economy of the region.

Underlying the latter assumption is the argument that improvements made to a region's physical environment, to its round of public activities, and to its cultural institutions and resources intended for local residents, to improve their quality of life, can become the very attractions sought out by visitors. And visitors, in turn, help support the very things that residents want for their own enjoyment.

In addition to increased tourism-related spending and increased visitation at sites throughout the District, total tourism-related expenditures in the region would increase. Construction of a visitor center would create construction jobs and new jobs for operations and management, as well as research and interpretation. Construction and visitor-related spending would infuse dollars into the District economy. Such regional spending will have an indirect impact by increasing the demand for goods and services. This demand and any related construction or development would result in indirect tax benefits to public entities in the District.

The creation of a Heritage District would also result in a positive environmental impact and substantial improvement to the natural and man-made environment. District sites, communities, rivers and trails will be preserved, improved, and used.

The provision of substantial additional resources for interpretation and development will also significantly increase the possibility that resources in the District are not lost, but identified and used. These resources would become substantial educational resources that explain to visitors and residents alike who we are and where we came from, and our contributions to the region and the nation.

### **Market Demand for Heritage Tourism**

#### **The National Scene**

United States tourism is a \$313 billion annual industry. In the twenty-first century, projections indicate that U.S. tourism will be the major industry after retailing.

There are more than 5,000 U.S. sites, excluding national parks, with historically significant buildings used for museum purposes. Visiting historic sites is No. 1 on the agenda of Southern Living readers. The National Trust for Historic Preservation reports that other surveys indicate total visitation at historic sites continues to rise and that 30 percent of households on vacation during 1991 visited historic sites. This was the major activity of visiting households. National Park Service Industrial Sites including Saugus Ironworks (12 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts) and Hopewell Furnaces (Birdsboro, Pennsylvania)

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A HERITAGE DISTRICT** *continued*

attract a mix of local, regional, and national visitors estimated at more than 100,000 annually for 1991. Lowell National Historical Park attracted 733,330 persons in 1991. The National Park Service's the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, the only known visitor center dealing with regional history and located in a major urban area, attracted 2.8 million visitors in 1991. The Saugus Ironworks reported that efforts to market the site as part of the Boston region's Revolutionary War sites have significantly increased visitation. Current visitation is 750,000 annually. Hopewell Furnaces Historic Site in Pennsylvania, not the focus of a regional effort, currently receives approximately 100,000 mostly local visitors. Statistics on visitation at the 27 sites along the Illinois and Michigan Canal, the nation's first industrial heritage corridor, rose 15 percent in the past five years to 4.7 million in 1991 due to regional marketing efforts. America's Industrial Heritage Project in western Pennsylvania is currently conducting major studies of the impact of various recent marketing efforts. Charleston's month long historic home and garden tours pumped over \$6.5 million into that local economy.

### **The Birmingham Scene**

#### **Major Visitor Attractions**

The Birmingham District's major visitor destinations associated with industrial heritage tourism currently include the Alabama Mining Museum, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and District, Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Red Mountain Cut/Geological Walkway/Museum-Discovery 2000, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Smith Hall-Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tannehill State Historic Park-Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama, and Vulcan Statue and Park.

Within the region, historic sites are leading visitor destinations. In the past two years, increased visitation at historic sites including Tannehill and the Alabama Theater has surpassed levels of other cultural institutions in numbers of annual attendance. Most current marketing efforts concentrate on single site-attraction oriented promotion. The November 1992 opening of the Civil Rights Institute and District (which includes Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park and the Fourth Avenue National Register Historic District) marked a new direction for packaging and promoting a district type marketing concept in this region.

#### **Annual Visitation Statistics**

Annual attendance at existing attractions in the District is estimated at 750,000. With an annual attendance of 350,000, Tannehill State Historic Park is the top industrial heritage attraction in the District and surpassed in annual attendance only by another cultural and historic site, the Alabama Theater, the centerpiece of the Downtown Birmingham Theater and Retail District. Not an industrial site per se, the Alabama Theater with annual visitation of 386,000 (projected at 600,000 for 1993) also surpasses the District's other major cultural institutions including the art museum, zoo, and botanical gardens. Attendance for 1993, the first year of operation at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, is projected at 300,000. See the "Recreational Usage Analysis" for additional information on visitation at these facilities.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A HERITAGE DISTRICT** *continued*

Visitors to these destinations come from the following groups:

- . Organized groups of students and of area residents
- . Convention delegates and spouses
- . Area residents
- . Visitors within a four to six hour driving range
- . Visitors traveling the interstate network, principally from the mid-west, to destinations in Florida
- . International visitors to medical facilities

**Visitation Base for a District System**

The population of the Birmingham District in 1990 totaled 985,654, with Jefferson County accounting for nearly two-thirds of this total. Jefferson County's population declined three percent between 1980 and 1990. The total District population increased by approximately three percent during the same period. As the populations of Jefferson and Walker Counties stabilize and Bibb, Shelby, and Tuscaloosa Counties continue to grow, the population of the District should be well over one million persons by the year 2000.

Current population figures indicate that approximately one-third of the District's population is under 18 years of age. Based upon population forecasts, approximately 350,000 young people will reside in the District by the year 2,000. If 50 percent of these individuals take a single field trip, annual visitation at attractions could increase by 175,000.

Local attendance at the District's attractions occurs at a rate of 75 visits per 100 residents. The population forecasts anticipate a population increase of approximately 68,546 persons by the year 2000. Assuming the current ratio of visits per residents, 51,374 additional visits will occur by the year 2,000.

From 1990 to 1991, Birmingham convention attendance increased by 8.7 percent, from 315,045 delegates to 342,572 delegates. Future bookings numbered 320,963 in 1990 and 428,127 in 1991. Based on this information, which does not include projection for the use of new convention, hotel, and other facilities completed in 1992, annual visitation of 500,000 convention delegates could be a conservative estimate by the year 2000. Attendance will increase by 250,000 visitors per year, if the District's attractions capture 50 percent of these convention delegates/tourists. If half of the convention delegates are accompanied by spouses, another 125,000 visitors will be added, increasing the total projected annual convention visitation at historic sites to 375,000.



**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A HERITAGE DISTRICT** *continued*

As the District enhances its identity as a visitor destination, an increase in visitation by travelers from outside the area is expected to significantly effect attendance projections. Approximately 16.5 million people also live within a four-to-six hour driving range of the District. By the year 2000, this number is expected to increase to at least 18 million persons. If only five percent of this market could be attracted to a single District visit, the net result would be 900,000 additional visitors. Of the **18 million persons residing within four to six hours of the future District**, 5.1 million (28.3 percent) are age 55 and older. This group represents a significant travel market and is more apt to visit historic sites. A capture rate of five percent of this market segment would increase visitation by 250,000 annually. If one percent of the remaining population could be drawn to the District, visitation would increase by an additional 200,000 visits annually.

The impact of recently completed Birmingham convention and hotel facilities upon numbers of conventions and other types of visitors has not yet been estimated.

The impact of a visitor center interpreting the history of the region and dispersing visitors to other major destinations and sites throughout the region has not been estimated.

The impact of a regional program of marketing and promotion or visitation to these and other historic sites, house museums, and parks currently operating, under development, or available for development across the District has also not been estimated.

The impact of marketing efforts directed to north-south travelers along I-65 and the future Corridor X principally to destinations in Florida and Texas has not been estimated.

The establishment of a national heritage District, under the management of a federal commission to coordinate management of the District's resources and interpretive facilities would add legitimacy and identity to the District. Visitation levels at all District sites could be expected to increase.

Combining available projections based on local visitation and population increases alone indicates a visitor base of 1.1 million by the year 2000. Combining all projections, a total visitation estimate ranging between 2.3 million and 2.7 million appears a conservatively estimated visitor base for the year 2000 with a federal preserve adding to the legitimacy and identity of the District, visitation levels could be expected to increase significantly at all District sites, providing a strong core of visitation support.



**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A HERITAGE DISTRICT** *continued*

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**APPENDICES**

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## STUDY PROCESS, BACKGROUND, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This Study of Alternatives has been conducted under the aegis of the National Park Service which studies "new areas" for their significance and suitability for inclusion in the National Park Service system. By definition, a National Park Service Study of Alternatives explores the possible ways such a "new area" might be best preserved, interpreted, and organized using all possible federal, state, and local initiatives.

The Congressional Act of November 5, 1990, Public Law 101-512, authorized this study of the Birmingham District to "include the counties of Jefferson, Walker, Shelby, Bibb, and Tuscaloosa." This study would "examine historical sites that are devoted to the development and growth of heavy industry in Alabama" and "focus on the iron, steelmaking and coal industries as well as transportation systems necessary to fuel and move America's industrial growth and development."<sup>3</sup>

The Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service contracted with Birmingham Historical Society to prepare the study. Cooperative Agreement 5000-1-9011 of June 7, 1991 established a Scope of Work and required two printed reports: this report and a brief history and survey of cultural, natural, and recreational resources. The Scope of Work also required the extensive public participation of Steering and Advisory Committees from the five county area.

The planning process, begun in June 1991, has been open and inclusionary, welcoming an exchange of ideas and the involvement of any interested party. Many community leaders and groups, local officials, businesses, and private citizens across the District have become aware of the study and participated in it. Through field visits, planning sessions, and public presentations, they have become even more actively involved in preservation of the District's industrial resources. Preserving industrial heritage resources is popular throughout the District. Community leaders and citizens' groups also recognize that a significant regional story can, and should be, told here.

Interest in the preservation of the District's industrial heritage is longstanding. Smith Hall was built to house the state's Geological Survey collections in 1910. The District's Civil War ironworks at Tannehill, documented by archeologists and the Historic American Building Survey in the 1930s, were reconstructed and refired during the nation's bicentennial year. At that same time, the Historic American Engineering Record documented Sloss Furnaces. With its 1981 publication of The Birmingham District-An Industrial History and Guide, Birmingham Historical Society set an early precedent for the recording of and support for industrial heritage, and laid the foundations for this study. That publication investigated the industrial history of Birmingham and surrounding communities and identified not only the industrial corporations and historical sites, but

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<sup>3</sup> Letter dated October 19, 1990 from the Honorable Ben Erdreich, Member of Congress to Marjorie L. White, Chairman, Birmingham Historical Society.

also visually displayed the physical relationships between the geology, transportation systems, mines, mills, and communities comprising portions of the Birmingham District.

During the ensuing decade, attention to heritage preservation increased. The City of Birmingham pioneered industrial preservation at Sloss Furnaces, still the only major twentieth century industrial site under preservation in the United States. Archeological excavations at Tannehill furnaces, the only known concentration of Confederate Civil War furnaces, began anew. Many historic districts, landmarks, and industrial sites in the District were surveyed and listed on the National Register. Many friends groups across the District worked to document and preserve the world's largest cast iron statue, historic houses, former mining sites turned nature preserves, forge and furnace ruins, coal mining artifacts and equipment, and an eclectic array of resources still present in the District, due to their individual, longstanding and ongoing efforts. Two state museums devoted to the history of coal and iron and steel history were established. In 1984, Birmingham Historical Society, together with Southern Living magazine and a host of community institutions hosted *DESTINATION BIRMINGHAM!?! A Public Forum on Image and Visitor Appeal*. A task force, organized at the forum, has continued to meet, to coordinate projects, and to spark cultural and heritage programs centered on exploring and developing what was then called "civic" tourism and now defined as "heritage tourism." The Birmingham Historical Society's vision for coordinated efforts to preserve the District's industrial heritage was advanced when this study was funded and this planning process began.

The Society's local planning team included a project coordinator/historian, an industrial archeologist, and a planning firm with special capabilities in recreational development. This team worked under the direction of the National Park Service's regional office staff.

A twenty-five member Steering Committee, whose numbers and interest have increased as the planning process unfolded, has provided general direction. The Steering Committee includes representatives from each of the five counties and principal cities in the District, industrial companies, labor unions, minority groups, state agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, managers of major attractions, and National Park Service staff. From June 1991 to the present, the Steering Committee has met twelve times, at two to three hour sessions, to review and evaluate findings. Telephone contact and correspondence between the Steering Committee and planning team were frequent.

An Advisory Committee currently includes 355 members. The Advisory Committee is a broad based-group representing major civic and cultural organizations, professional and business associations, historic groups, interested citizens, elected officials, planning and development agencies, and chambers of commerce. The Advisory Committee has been informed about the study by written correspondence and formal presentations. Both oral and written comments have been continuously requested, received, and integrated into survey reports and other written documentation. Birmingham's Alabama Power Company has provided meeting space for four well attended gatherings to date. Another meeting was held at the Tuscaloosa Library to review plans in that area. Advisory Committee members have also led extensive field visits to individual sites and assisted with research and planning for these sites. Many Advisory Committee members also served as hosts

to the Historic American Engineering Record's Birmingham Recording Project field teams that documented sites during the summer of 1992. Notice of all Advisory Committee meetings has been given to the press. Press coverage has magnified interest in the study and the sites.

Steps in the planning process that shaped the alternatives for the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District presented in this report have included:

- . identifying and developing preliminary assessments of the District's natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- . defining a Heritage District
- . identifying issues to be considered during planning and organization of a District
- . setting goals and objectives for the planning process, and the District
- . developing and evaluating alternatives for organizing a Heritage District
- . achieving consensus on what should be done next

This study provides a summary of efforts to conceptualize and organize the Birmingham Industrial Heritage District. The study also provides many alternative ways to organize the Heritage District and **the opportunity for public input** into that organization. When the alternatives are further defined, they will be presented to city and county officials throughout the District to request that they back the Heritage District and become participants in resource development opportunities. The plan will also be reviewed with relevant state and federal agency officials. A final study report, expected to be adopted by the Steering Committee and endorsed by elected officials throughout the District, is intended to serve as a guide for organization of the District.



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HERITAGE AREA AND GREENWAY PLANNING

The heritage area and greenway movements combine the pursuit of historical, recreational, and economic development objectives. Orchestration of these regional, connecting devices encouraging us to visit and enjoy historic sites and landscapes is a remarkable citizen-led movement that is springing up across America. The Birmingham District is one of these projects.

The Illinois and Michigan Canal, near Chicago, has served as a model for many planning efforts. "It's a hard concept to get your arms around," says Jerry Adlemann, organizer of this first national heritage corridor, established by federal legislation in 1984.

Other national heritage areas developed during the 1980s include the Blackstone River Valley Corridor, America's Industrial Heritage Project, the Lehigh and Delaware Corridor, and Lackawanna Heritage Valley, all in Pennsylvania; the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail; and the Mississippi River Corridor. The Lowell National Historic Park in Massachusetts whose development began in the 1970s is also considered a prototype for development of industrial heritage tourism.

By 1990, community planning and heritage area strategies were being adopted with increasing frequency. Charles Little's recent book, Greenways, identifies more than 500 regional areas for whose preservation local organizations are working. Some are called greenways, others heritage areas, and others heritage corridors. The National Trust for Historic Preservation initiated pilot studies, and later a permanent program, to assist these regional Heritage Tourism efforts. The National Park Service has explored ways to coordinate regional planning efforts as "Heritage Areas" or "Landscapes."

According to National Trust officer, Peter Brink, the grassroots support for such areas by residents, interested in preservation, conservation, and recreation, who never used to talk to one another, is motivated by the desire to keep their surroundings livable. As population pressures continue, Brink predicts that we will have to plan together to protect that about which we care. Part of strategies for communities and regions to sustain their quality of life and attractiveness to residents, and to visitors, will be the increase in community planning that accompanies heritage area designation.

Heritage areas and greenways may be new to historic preservation and outdoor recreation proponents, but they are not a new idea. Early twentieth century landscape architects, the Olmstead brothers and Warren Manning, designed parks and pathways all over the U. S., and in Birmingham, that created visionary linkages of cultural, natural, and recreational resources. Current public enthusiasm could motivate efforts to dust off these, unimplemented and now seventy year old plans, renew, and execute that vision.



## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HERITAGE TOURISM

. Visitors to historic sites in Tennessee stayed 3.2 nights, spent \$242 (.5 nights longer, \$62 more) than visitors who did not visit historic sites.

. Total visitation at historic sites for 1988 was 111,265,003, up 28% from 1987; 1987 was up 7.1% from 1986.

. There are more than 5,000 U.S. sites, excluding national parks, with historically significant buildings used for museum purposes.

. In 1991, 30% of households on vacation visited historic sites, districts, or buildings. Visiting historic sites was the major activity of visiting households.

. Of the 1992 American Bus Association Top 100 Events in North America, 29% are based on cultural or historic themes, 18% of the events are historic in theme and include tours of historic sites or reenactment, 15% are cultural heritage events

. Requests in 1991 to the AAA for routings that use scenic byways, secondary highways, and rural routes were growing in popularity as travelers want to see more of the country.

. Charleston's month long historic home and garden tours pumped over \$6.5 million into the local economy.

. A Texas Auto survey reports 50.3 percent of auto visitors took historical tours and 42.7 percent of the travelers visited historical museums. Visiting historic sites ranked second and third behind shopping in the list of 30 "activities participated in while visiting."

. The main reason for stopping at a Texas Travel Information Center was for information on historic sites, listed by 40.3% of visitors.

. A 1984 Southern Living Magazine survey found that historic sites are No. 1 priority of its readers when they go touring.

. A 1988 study of travelers over 50 indicates that 52.3% favor trips to historical sites and 62.6% traveling on group tours favor visits to historic sites (over beaches and warm weather destinations, fall foliage, sightseeing tours, and special events or festivals.)

. Tourism in the United States is a \$313 billion annual industry.

Cheryl M. Hargrove, Tourism Initiative Manager and Gaya Banovich National Trust for Historic Preservation's Heritage Tourism Initiative Program provided these statistics. In order of presentation above, the stats are taken from a National Trust Heritage Tourism Pilot Project Report currently in draft stages, a 1988 study by the American Association of Museums, a 1989 National Trust study, the 1992 D. K. Shifflet Study sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, a 1992 American Bus Association Top 100 Events in North America, a 1991 AAA study, a Charleston Trident Chamber of Commerce study, a 1992 Texas Auto Visitor Survey Spring Report, a Texas Travel Information Center, a 1984 Southern Living Magazine survey, a 1988 National Tour Association survey.

## **VISITOR CENTER SITE SELECTION ANALYSIS**

The following discussion includes preliminary concepts and possible sites for a central visitor interpretive facility. Planners presented this analysis both visually and verbally to the Birmingham District Project Steering Committee at its August meeting. The Committee agreed that a central visitor facility was key to a presentation of the District story.

### **ALTERNATIVE I: ON-SITE CENTER (I.E. AT AN INDUSTRIAL SITE)**

Locating a major visitor interpretive center on-site refers to its situation within an existing industrial site or attraction in the District.

Several advantages and disadvantages to such an approach warrant consideration:

#### **Advantages**

- \* Integrity of candidate sites
  - Sloss Furnaces
  - Thomas Cokeworks/Quarry
  - Tannehill Furnaces
  - Vulcan Statue/Park
  - Other
- \* Facility available on or adjacent to site
- \* Visitor experiences industrial operation
- \* Potential sites centrally located in District

#### **Disadvantages**

- \* High preservation costs
- \* High maintenance costs
- \* Liability questions
- \* Indirect access

Candidate sites in this category includes Sloss Furnaces, Thomas Cokeworks, Tannehill State Historical Park and Vulcan Statue and Park. Of the four, Sloss Furnaces has attained designation as a National Historic Landmark and Thomas Cokeworks and Vulcan have been deemed by the National Park Service as potentially nationally significant. The following evaluation reviews each of the candidate sites:

**VISITOR CENTER SITE SELECTION** *continued***SLOSS FURNACES****Advantages**

Established National Historic Landmark

Established reputation; national international stature

Centrally located in heart of heritage District

High site/structure integrity

Additional (ample ?) acreage available represent range of heritage district

Under single ownership (public)

Site has high (literally) visual presence on landscape from both south and north, east and west

Preservation efforts underway for years; several structures have been stabilized

Important site for interpretation of ironmaking; potential linkage to other district sites (straight line production model)

Facility/site currently in multiple use: museum, office of Birmingham Historical Society, site of festivals & events year-round, home base for artists

Possibility of developing rail excursion from site

**Disadvantages**

Building or facility to house project museum/exhibits currently not available

Extensive preservation work remains on and site

Circuitous access

Inadequate site signage

Existing governing board may not interests

**VISITOR CENTER SITE SELECTION** *continued***THOMAS COKEWORKS/QUARRY****Advantages**

Centrally located in heritage district

Access relatively convenient

Visible from interstate system

Major intact structure extant on site

Can be easily linked to adjacent neighborhood, enabling interpretation of industrial communities/company towns theme

Acreage and buildings available for museum/exhibits facility

Site under single ownership (private)

Potential exists for multiple uses on site

Visitor experiences immensity of industrial operation including an active quarry and a large scale cokeworks currently available for preservation and interpretation

**Disadvantages**

High preservation cost required to stabilize structures on site

High maintenance costs to preserve site/structures

Avenue of access to portion of site (location of cokeworks) potentially disruptive to Thomas neighborhood residents

Vandalism persistent

Safety issues

Dangers associated with active quarrying operation on site

Liability concerns

**VISITOR CENTER SITE SELECTION** *continued***VULCAN PARK****Advantages**

Established visitor destination

Symbol of development of iron and steel industry

Panoramic view of metro area available to visitors

Currently small-scale exhibits direct visitors to sites in outlying metro area

Site linked to adjacent ore mine and abandoned railbed/trail

Original WPA structures remain on site

Plans to restore statue and "re-renovate" park in progress

Existing developed parking facilities

Convenient access to Five Points South Historic District

Aggressive, active leadership

**Disadvantages**

Limited additional undeveloped acreage available on site

Topographic constraints

Existing facility inadequate for extended uses

Access to site indirect, not directly off interstate system

Directional signage inadequate

Established governing board may not represent range of heritage district interests

Statue and park need significant renovation

**VISITOR CENTER SITE SELECTION** *continued***TANNEHILL IRONWORKS****Advantages**

Established Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama

Repository of extensive collection of iron and steel artifacts

Proven track record as major attraction; high visitation

Tightly tied to recreation; offers variety of "experiences" to visitors

Organizational structure currently in place

Active, aggressive leadership

Funding has been stable

Designated Alabama State Park

Additional acreage available on site

Public ownership

Interprets Civil War and ironmaking systems; linked to Brierfield

**Disadvantages**

Site is not centrally located in the district

Access to site is relatively indirect

Entire industrial heritage story becomes subordinate to other activities and themes

Signage needs to be improved

All cultural resources associated with site are not under public ownership

Building to house museum/exhibits not available on site if considerable space required

Inadequate internal circulation on site

Established governing board may not represent range of heritage district interests



**VISITOR CENTER SITE SELECTION** *continued***ALTERNATIVE II: OFF-SITE CENTER (NOT AT AN INDUSTRIAL SITE)**

A Visitor Interpretive Center situated "off-site" would be developed in one of three types of sites:

1. Museum/Exhibit space that is planned or available
2. An existing structure in the Downtown Birmingham area
3. An undeveloped site

**MUSEUM/EXHIBIT SPACE PLANNED OR AVAILABLE**

The following factors should be considered in selecting museum/exhibit space that is planned or available to house the Birmingham District Visitor Interpretive Center.

**Advantages**

Candidate sites:  
 Civil Rights Institute  
 Discovery 2000  
 Greater Birmingham Convention  
 and Visitors' Center

Location accessible from interstate  
 network

Museum/exhibit space available

Link to established Cultural District

Funding all or partially in place;  
 strengthens partnership concept

Organization framework in place

Degree of profile established in area

Provides "place" for interpretation  
 of labor history theme

Possibilities of corporate support

**Disadvantages**

Expense to expand and/or construct  
 appropriate facility to house  
 Heritage District's exhibits

Technological themes may become  
 subordinate to prevailing museum  
 theme; heritage district may not  
 establish identity

Visitors have museum experience  
 instead of industrial operations  
 experience

Funding uncertain, inadequate

Not incorporated into groundwork  
 planning of facility

Governing boards may not represent  
 range of Heritage District interests

Parking/walking questions

## **VISITOR CENTER SITE SELECTION** *continued*

### **EXISTING STRUCTURE**

Consideration should be given to the following advantages and disadvantages in siting the visitor interpretive center in an existing structure.

#### **Advantages**

Candidate sites:

Daniel Building

Bank for Savings Building/  
former relay house

Alabama School of Fine Arts (public)

Other space available located within  
downtown historic district; historic  
sites within walking distance

#### **Disadvantages**

Expense to convert existing space  
to house facility

Parking/walking questions

### **UNDEVELOPED SITE**

Finally, the visitor interpretive center may be situated on an undeveloped site. The factors outlined below should be given attention in the examination of this alternative:

#### **Advantages**

Candidate Sites:

Vicinity of Civic Center

Adjacent to Civil Rights Institute

Former terminal station site

Other

High visibility

Accessible from interstate/highway  
network

Linkages to activity centers

Adequate parking potentially available

#### **Disadvantages**

Land price/acquisition costs

Parking/walking questions

In each case, the list of candidate sites is not considered to be exhaustive and the analysis is by no means considered complete or sufficient. The preliminary analysis is presented to stimulate thoughts and recommendations.

## PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES

### Introduction

This survey has identified a variety of additional cultural resource studies necessary to enhance existing efforts to preserve and interpret the industrial heritage of the Birmingham District. These additional studies would include (but not be limited to): Additional Context Reports; Comprehensive Surveys; Intensive, Multi-disciplinary Surveys of Communities, Districts and Sites currently or later identified as contributing elements of the industrial heritage of the District; and Technical Studies designed to assist local groups and institutions lacking the professional staff or expertise to conduct such studies on their own.

### Context Reports

Several thematic groups of sites comprise the Birmingham District. To date, none of these themes have been sufficiently documented by the scholarly research necessary to provide a just assessment of their significance. Context reports on each theme could provide the basis for such assessments as well as provide structure for additional baseline surveys. The following is a partial list of themes that require context reports.

- Cokemaking
- Iron mining
- Coal mining
- Industrial camps, commercial districts, and communities
- Cast iron pipemaking
- Folkways
- Industrial development during the Civil War
- Manufacturing plants
- Steelmaking
- Transportation systems: railroads, waterways, and street railways
- Development of foundry industry
- Charcoal-fired brown ore furnaces
- Power plants
- Waterworks

### Comprehensive Surveys

The current study has identified at least two types of sites--the pipeworks and manufacturing plants--that were vital to the development of the iron and steel industry. They could not be surveyed before the completion of this project due to lack of time, financial resources, and failure to obtain authorization by private owners. In addition, some types of sites, such as industrial communities, ore mining sites and coal mining sites, are so large and numerous within the vast five county District that they could not be adequately surveyed within the scope of this project. Another group of sites that were not extensively surveyed due to the specialized techniques required were the industrial and historical archeological sites. Many of the mining sites surveyed are known to contain mining camps that were immediately torn down upon abandonment of the mine. Since these mines were located in areas where minimal subsequent human activity has occurred, the archeological sites are potentially significant. The following is a partial list of groups of sites that require additional survey work:

- Coal mines
- Ore mines
- Industrial communities
- Cokemaking sites
- Pipe mills and foundries

Transportation sites  
Industrial and historical archeological sites

### **Intensive Multi-disciplinary Community Surveys**

One important fact emerging from work to date is that the Birmingham District is actually made up of many communities. These communities or subdistricts contain groups of contributing buildings and structures, extensive and often little disturbed archeological remains, and people who are often the descendants of the original inhabitants. While each of these elements could be evaluated separately, full understanding of a community can only be achieved if all elements are synthesized through a holistic study by a multi-disciplinary field team. Such studies should consist of at least four parts:

1. An intensive survey of the built environment, if necessary, to record the full range of contributing buildings, houses, and structures.
2. A preliminary archeological assessment following the basic guidelines set forth in *National Register Bulletin 36: Evaluating and Registering Historical Archeology Sites and Districts*;
3. A demographic study designed to establish the social origins of the ethnic and cultural groups which made up the original community;
4. A survey of folkways within the community and surrounding area designed to identify cultural traditions of the present community. The following examples of Brierfield and Pratt City suggest the kinds of studies that should be conducted in many other communities throughout the District.

### **Brierfield Proposed Study**

While the foundations of the blast furnace at Brierfield are preserved within the boundaries of a state historical park, other features of the larger community are equally significant. Remnants of a nailery and rolling mill are located nearly three miles from the furnaces along the tracks of an abandoned railbed that leads to the town of Brierfield. At its peak in the 1880s, the town was a substantial community including worker housing, hotel, commissary, and a variety of ancillary industrial facilities such as a foundry, pattern shop, coopers shop, and others. The surrounding community includes a slave cemetery, an antebellum church, and other features.

Also within the vicinity are several small, isolated communities of blacks who are probably the descendants of industrial and agricultural slaves who banded together into this small enclave following the Civil War. Along with the descendants of early white settlers and industrial workers who migrated to and still reside in the area, they carry a significant oral tradition that has been well preserved due to the area's isolation from subsequent urbanization. This combination of human resources, surviving built environment, and extensive archeological remains constitutes an important element of the historical fabric of the Birmingham District.

### **Pratt City Proposed Study**

Another good prospect for a multi-disciplinary study is the former town of Pratt City and its associated industrial and related sites. The Pratt City commercial district has been designated a National Register District but the current survey suggests there are other elements closely tied to this district that could be added to this district. These elements include the Pratt beehive coke ovens, a cemetery where convict coal miners were buried, and the possible remains of a mine surface plant and prison where the convict miners worked. The descendants of the mine work force and other residents of the original community still reside in Birmingham and consider this site significant. The Pratt community is already actively involved in the discovery of its industrial heritage and would

be very receptive to a structured project bringing professional documentation expertise to document the site and plan preservation and interpretive efforts.

### **Red Mountain Ore Mining Proposed Study**

In addition to communities centered around a single homogeneous commercial district, residential area or industrial unit, the District also contains larger groupings in which several distinct but contiguous communities share a common industrial activity. The ore mines and camps of Red Mountain are a fine example. This District comprises the largest groups of iron ore mines and residential communities outside of the Great Lakes region in the United States. It includes the material remains of a unique body of mining practice and built environment. It also includes perhaps the largest and most homogenous group of black industrial workers and their families in the United States. These workers transplanted their rural sociocultural system with its African vintages into an industrial setting with but minimal impact by ethnic immigrant encroachments and assimilation. The cultural traditions which survive in these communities may be unique in the United States. A comprehensive study of the Red Mountain mining district documenting its technological and social features in a holistic fashion is recommended.

### **Technical Assistance Studies**

Many citizens groups and institutions in the District are actively attempting to understand, document, and preserve their industrial heritage. The biggest challenge they face is the lack of professional staff and technical expertise to support professional studies. Most of these groups recognize the need for technical assistance but lack the resources to obtain it. The Birmingham Historical Society has recently assisted one group, the Historic Shelby Association, in efforts to find the financial support to conduct a management study of the Shelby Furnaces. A National Trust funded study is currently dealing with issues such as site use, restoration and interpretation, curation, and management of archeological resources. Similarly, the Society and a Friends of Rickwood Field group have attracted National Trust support to research and develop construction specifications for an appropriate renovation of the baseball stadium's roof.

The Shelby Furnace Management Study reflects the general kind of technical assistance needed in the District. Related issues face the District as a whole. The many emerging preservation institutions and organizations, each with limited resources and staff, do not have collection policies or facilities. Is it feasible for each institution to maintain its own accessions, curation, and conservation programs? Could these services be provided more effectively by one centralized facility under the collective direction of all the institutions?

Should the District establish a uniform set of guidelines regarding archeological projects, collection policies, and procedures and other issues?

These questions imply the need for a District-wide assessment similar in structure to those conducted by the Institute for Museum Services for individual institutions. Such a study could serve several purposes including:

- . Identification of specific areas of need at individual institutions and within the District as a whole
- . Establishment of a uniform body of policies and procedures that could bring all the District's institutions up to minimum professional standards
- . Provision of the basis for prioritizing efforts to meet these individual needs.



# ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZING THE BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DISTRICT

Project planners used these worksheets to engage steering committee members in discussions on the subject matter indicated during review sessions held on June 24 and July 29, 1992. In the following listing, issues partners and funding sources are listed, but not always aligned.

## ISSUES

## PARTNERS

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### I. THEMES

- A. Unifying Theme
  - Concept of layering beginning with geology/geography; placement in landscape; turf, not timeline; meshing; composite of layers makes unique story; continuum of indus. development; process ongoing
- B. Specific
  - 1. Geology/geography
  - 2. Natural Resources
  - 3. Industry
    - a. iron
    - b. steel
    - c. coal/coke
  - 4. Cultural Geography
    - a. Communities
    - b. Planning
  - 5. Transportation/Economic Dev.
    - a. Railroads
    - b. Waterways
  - 6. Land Planning
    - a) Black/White
    - b) Ethnic
    - c) Convict
    - d) Agrarian to industrial to high technology

- 1) Cahaba River
- 2) Warrior River
- 3) Coosa River (?)

### II. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Historic
- B. Current
  - 1. Interstate Network
  - 2. Corridor X
  - 3. Northern By-Pass
  - 4. Signage
  - 5. Access
  - 6. Hiking Trails
    - a) Hiking Trails
    - b) Greenways
    - c) Tour Routes
    - d) Scenic Roadways
    - e) Interstate/Highway System
    - f) Signage

U.S. Dept. of Transportation  
Alabama Highway Department  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organizations (MPOs)  
Birmingham Regional  
Planning Commission  
West Alabama Planning  
& Development Council

ISTEA (Intermodal Surface  
Transportation Efficiency Act)  
Local government matching funds

Alabama Highway Department funds

Bibb County  
Jefferson County  
Shelby County  
Tuscaloosa County  
Walker County  
Corps of Engineers  
Municipalities



**ISSUES****PARTNERS****FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES****III. RECREATION****A. Rivers**

1. Cahaba
2. Warrior

Cahaba River Society  
Warrior Tombigbee  
Development Assoc.

Counties  
Municipalities  
Corps of Engineers  
Forest Service

**B. Lakes**

National Park Service  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
AL Department of Econ.  
Affairs (ADECA)

**C. Trails**

1. Greenways
2. Rails to Trails

See Funding  
AL Historical Commission  
AL Highway Department  
Tannehill Foundry and  
Furnace Commission

**D. Emphasis****E. Tying historic interp. to recreation****F. Link to planning efforts**

1. City of Birmingham
2. Jefferson County
3. Statewide Comprehensive  
Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
4. Contact TVA re River  
Heritage Program/Project

Bureau of Tourism & Travel  
Alabama Forestry Commission  
Private Non Profit Groups  
Private Groups  
Alabama Power Company

**G. Identify natural areas associated with sites****H. Link historic sites, communities to recreation areas**

National Park Service

- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Urban Parks & Recreation  
Recovery Program
- National Natural Landmarks  
Program
- National Scenic and Historic  
Trails

- Industrial Heritage Corridor  
Planning & Implementation
- Technical Assistance

Funding to State, Local  
Governments & Private Interests

- Statewide river activities
- Statewide trails activities
- River corridor planning
- Trail corridor planning
- Rails to Trails

- National and Regional Planning  
Activities

- National Wild and Scenic  
River System
- Nationwide Rivers Inventory
- Riverwatch

- National Trail System Planning

- Nationwide Trails Inventory
- Regional Trails Corridor Planning
- Metropolitan Trails Planning

Federal Surplus Real Prop. Program

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid Program  
(Restoration & Preservation of  
Wildlife)

- \* Dingell - Johnson Federal Aid Program  
(Fund boat ramp construction, fish  
habitat improvements, stream surveys,  
fish studies)

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

- \* U.S. Forest Service Recreation Oppor.
- \* Soil Conservation Service Rural  
Conservation and Development Program  
- water based recreation

U.S. Dept. of Defense -

- \* Army Corps of Engineers  
(Program now involves cost-sharing with  
state, local government or recreation  
councils)

## ISSUES

## PARTNERS

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### III. RECREATION continued

U.S. Dept. of Transportation  
\* ISTE  
\* Symms Recreational Trails Act  
AL State Agencies  
\* Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
\* State Parks Division  
\* Game and Fish Division  
\* Wildlife Management Area Program  
\* Nongame Wildlife Program  
\* Public Fishing Lake Program  
\* Marine Resources Division  
\* Recreational Fishing Access and Enhancement Program  
\* AL Highway Department  
- Access to Rec. Sites-  
Boat Access  
- Bridge Construction and Replacement Program -  
- Federal Aid Highway Funds  
\* AL Recreation and Capital Development Assistance Fund  
- Private land trusts  
- Local Resources

### IV. INTERPRETATION

#### A. Systemwide

##### 1. Signage

##### 2. Visitor center(s)

##### 3. Tours

###### a. Guided

###### b. Self-directed

##### 4. Maps

Birmingham District  
Birmingham Historical Society  
Tuscaloosa County  
Preservation Society  
Shelby County Historical Society  
Jefferson County Historical  
Commission  
Historic Shelby Association  
Tannehill  
Alabama Mining Museum  
Alabama Museum of Natural History  
Discovery 2000

National Park Service  
AL Historical Commission  
ISTEA  
County Resources  
Local Resources  
Private  
Individuals  
Corporations  
Foundations  
Trusts  
Congressional Appropriation

| ISSUES                                       | PARTNERS  | FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES                |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| IV. INTERPRETATION continued                 |   |                                      |
| B. Sites                                     |   | Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel |
| 1. Archeological Sites                       | Civil Rights Institute                            |                                      |
| 2. Tie into system - Planning/review process | Red Mountain Museum                               |                                      |
| Site planning procedure                      | Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau |                                      |
|  | Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau         |                                      |
|  | Operation New Birmingham                          |                                      |
|  | Ruffner Mountain                                  |                                      |
|  | Sloss Furnaces                                    |                                      |
| V. PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION                 |   |                                      |
| A. Continued research/survey inventory       | National Park Service                             | National Park Service                |
|  | AL Historical Commission                          | Congressional Appropriation          |
| B. Landmarks nominations                     | Birmingham Heritage District                      | AL Historical Commission             |
|  | Birmingham Historical Society                     |                                      |
| C. National Register                         | Shelby County Historical Society                  |                                      |
| District nominations                         | Jefferson County Historical Society               |                                      |
|  | Historic Shelby Association                       |                                      |
| D. National Register                         | Tannehill   |                                      |
| Site nominations                             | Sloss Furnaces                                    |                                      |
|  | Walker County Historical Society                  |                                      |
| E. Collection Policies                       | Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society            |                                      |
|  | Alabama Museum of Natural History                 |                                      |
|  | Alabama Mining Museum                             |                                      |
|  | HAER  |                                      |
|  | HABS  |                                      |
| VI. THREATS                                  |   |                                      |
| A. General                                   |   |                                      |
| 1. Site dismantling/redevelopment            | Private owners/corporations                       |                                      |
| 2. Surrounding land use                      | Local governments                                 |                                      |
| 3. Vandalism                                 |   |                                      |
| 4. Level of awareness/sensitivity            |   |                                      |
| 5. Lack of funding                           |   |                                      |
| 6. Deterioration                             |   |                                      |
| 7. Lack of maintenance                       |   |                                      |
| 8. Highway planning/development              |   |                                      |
| B. Specific Site                             |   |                                      |
| Problems/Concerns                            |   |                                      |

# ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZING THE BIRMINGHAM INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DISTRICT

| ISSUES  | PARTNERS  | FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| VII. ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT               |   |                       |
| A. Tourism Impact                                 |   |                       |
| B. Role of current industry                       |   |                       |
| C. Recreation potential                           |   |                       |
| VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS                      |   |                       |
| A. Water quality                                  |   |                       |
| 1. Cahaba River                                   | Cahaba River Society  |                       |
| 2. Warrior River                                  | Warrior Tombigbee Development Association   |                       |
| 3. Coosa River                                    | Birmingham Water Works and Sewer Board  |                       |
| B. Strip mine reclamation areas                   |   |                       |
| C. EPA regulations                                |   |                       |
| D. ADEM regulations                               |   |                       |
| IX. EDUCATION                                     |   |                       |
| A. Link to higher educational institutions        | University of Alabama at Birmingham<br>University of Alabama<br>Miles College<br>Samford University<br>Stillman College<br>Public School Systems<br>Birmingham Historical Society |                       |
| B. Elementary, secondary education programs       | Birmingham Public Library<br>Discovery 2000<br>Alabama Geological Survey<br>Alabama Power Company   |                       |
| C. Public education programs                      |   |                       |
| D. Incorporation into museums (existing & future) |   |                       |
| X. PROMOTION                                      |   |                       |
| A. Local  | Chambers of Commerce  |                       |
| B. Regional                                       | Greater B. Convention and Visitors Bureau   |                       |
| C. State  | AL Department of Tourism  |                       |
| D. National                                       | Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau<br>Operation New Birmingham<br>Tannehill<br>Ruffner Mountain Nature Center<br>Sloss Furnaces  |                       |

| ISSUES   | PARTNERS  | FUNDING<br>OPPORTUNITIES |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| IX. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS<br>A. Continued HAER/HABS Projects  | Birmingham District Commission<br>Historic American Engineering Record<br>Historic American Building Survey |                          |
| B. Historic Survey Inventory   | Birmingham Historical Society   |                          |
| C. Additional Cultural Resource<br>Studies   | AL Historical Commission<br>AL Museum of Natural History  |                          |
| X. MANAGEMENT  |   |                          |
| A. External/Partnerships<br>1. Intergovernmental<br>a. Federal<br>b. State<br>c. Regional (MPO'S)<br>d. Local<br>e. Planning process:<br>project, sites<br>f. Regulation<br>2. Semi Public<br>3. Private<br>a. Industries, Companies<br>1. Financial Support<br>2. Communication<br>3. Tours<br>4. Other |   |                          |
| XI. MANAGEMENT<br>B. INTERNAL  |   |                          |
| 1. Possible establishment of Commission<br>2. Plan preparation<br>3. Site plan review process<br>4. Partnerships with existing preservation<br>groups, associations  |   |                          |
| XII. LEGAL   |   |                          |
| A. Liability Questions re<br>site interpretation of<br>archeological sites   |   |                          |

BHS