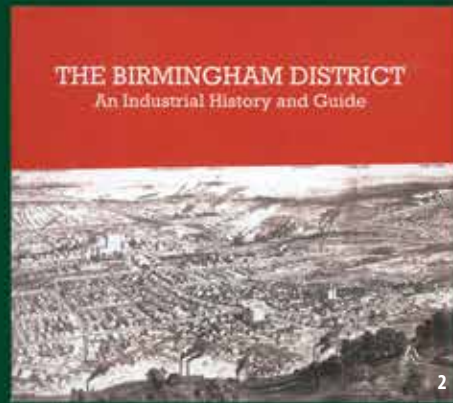




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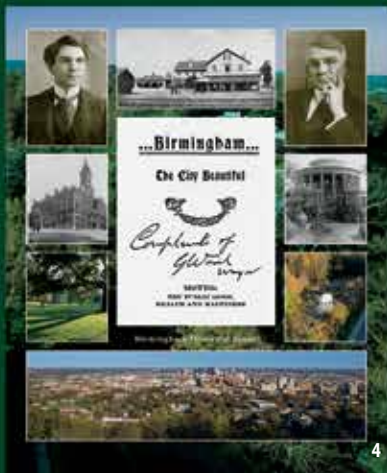
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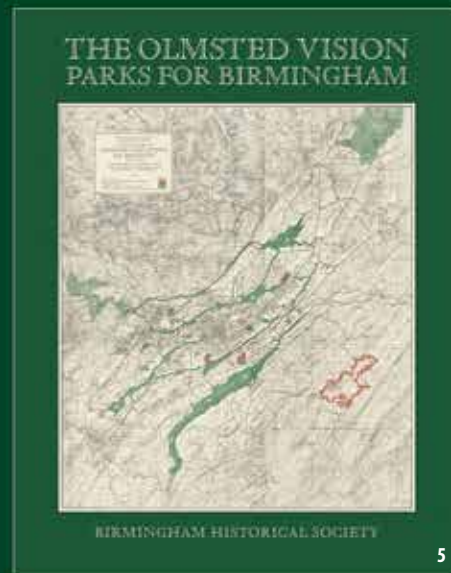
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Birmingham Historical Society

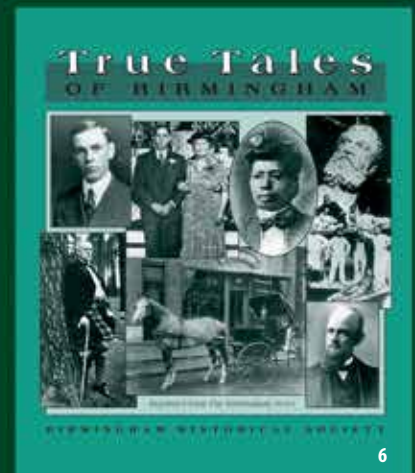
Mission, Accomplishments, and Justification for Support



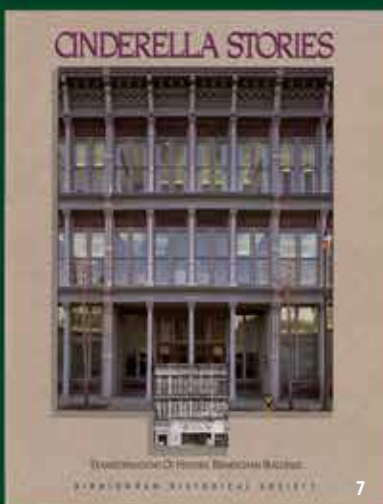
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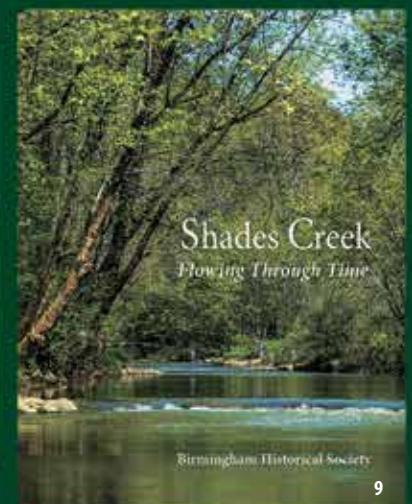
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Preface

The current leadership of the Birmingham Historical Society has been active since 1976, and during most of this time has not been compensated. The Society anticipates that eventual retirement of this leadership will result in the need to employ paid staff. In addition, the Society faces the necessity of paying rent for its office space, previously provided rent free. The substantial increase in operating costs resulting from these two factors necessitates an increase in the Society's endowment that has motivated the preparation of this case statement and associated capital campaign.

This document makes the case for substantial contributions to the endowment of the Birmingham Historical Society to more than double its market value to an amount likely to produce average annual investment income adequate to cover over time minimal overhead expense (full-time leadership, a curator, and rent) and assure the continuation of the important work that the Society has carried out for 80 years. In planning for its endowment, the Society has looked to precedents set by other Birmingham institutions that have endowed leadership positions. While a significant addition to its endowment will ensure institutional continuity, it is anticipated that the Society will continue to operate primarily as a volunteer organization supported by the talents and resources of its members and by grants and contracts paying the direct costs of its projects and publications.

The cover page and explanatory notes on the inside cover showcase a few of the Society's publications and activities through the years. The information that follows is organized in a pyramid structure beginning with a simple table of contents, an introduction, an annotated table of contents, charts and tables summarizing the Society's accomplishments, a description of the Society's organization and leadership, the history and governance of the Society's endowment, and then "the rest of the story," followed by appendices in a separate volume.

Please direct questions and requests for further information to Marjorie L. White, Chairman, and Wayne A. Hester, President.

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The appendices listed below are bound in a separate volume available to those with a sincere interest in making a gift to the Endowment who wish to review the documents.

Appendix 1	Birmingham Historical Society Articles of Incorporation, 1954
Appendix 2	Birmingham Historical Society By-Laws, amended March 8, 2022
Appendix 3	Birmingham Historical Society IRS Determination Letter, July 16, 1979
Appendix 4	Members of the Birmingham Historical Society Board of Trustees, 2022
Appendix 5	Birmingham Historical Society Financial Statements, December 31, 2021
Appendix 6	Birmingham Historical Society Endowment Fund Trust Agreement
Appendix 7	Birmingham Historical Society Investment Report, December 31, 2021
Appendix 8	Birmingham Historical Society Current Investment Policy
Appendix 9	Birmingham Historical Society Form 990 for 2020
Appendix 10	Recent Society Newsletters

Introduction

To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?

Marcus Tullius Cicero
Orator Chapter XXXIV 120

This document makes the case for contributions, hopefully substantial contributions, to the endowment of the Birmingham Historical Society for the purpose of assuring competent and committed future leadership of the Society. The word “Birmingham” in “Birmingham Historical Society” refers not only to the City of Birmingham but importantly to the “Birmingham District,” the geographic area comprising Jefferson County and portions of surrounding counties (and the numerous municipalities therein) defined in the late 19th Century by geological discoveries and the location of industries exploiting the minerals located by geologists. It is the history of this geographical area that the Society celebrates in publications, lectures, and other activities.

Organizational Mission and Value. Why should one provide financial support to a local organization that researches, publishes, and teaches Birmingham history? What has the organization accomplished? Can it be expected to contribute and to create value in the future as it has in the past? What tangible value does local history have anyway? The Birmingham Historical Society answers these questions about itself in this introduction and the pages that follow.

The mission of the Society is to help Birmingham citizens deal with Birmingham today by informing them about Birmingham’s past, its triumphs and tragedies, its strengths and weaknesses, its meaningful potential, and lost causes. The Society focuses on the past to enrich the present and the future.

What is the value of local history? An employer does not hire a new employee without checking out the candidate’s education and prior work experience. A company does not buy another company or choose a headquarters city without researching its history, past performance, and financial standing. A lobbyist does not support a politician without studying the politician’s background and voting record. A wise family does not move across the country to another city without learning about its educational system, culture,

amenities, and crime rate. And in current times, much as we would like to ignore some aspects of our city’s racial history, we need to remember and understand it, and to celebrate the truly uplifting chapters in that history. If we are going to make our city a better place, we need to know our history.

Accomplishments. What has the Society accomplished since its founding? The Society was founded as an unincorporated association by John C. Henley Jr., its founding President, on November 5, 1942. The Society was later incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under Alabama law on April 19, 1954 and was determined to be a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

In its early years, the Society collected and preserved historic records. One effort in 1950 deposited some 22 cubic feet of records in the Birmingham City Hall cornerstone with copies at the public library. The Society also led efforts to preserve Tannehill furnaces, save Arlington House, and save the statue of Vulcan from accumulated deterioration threatening its stability and inviting collapse. Beginning in the 1940’s and continuing to today, the Society has published a newsletter including news about Society events and usually a short essay on a historic topic of interest. For many years it published a journal. During a period of inactivity in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, demonstrating the consequences of not having a Society, Birmingham lost three of its best-known landmarks: the Terminal Station (torn down to make way for a government building that was subsequently built elsewhere), the original Tutwiler Hotel (dynamited to make way for an office building), and George Ward’s Temple of Vesta (torn down to make way for a church).

Renewed Energy and Activity. The bicentennial celebration of the American Revolution in 1976 was a signal event in the history of the Society. Warner Floyd, Director of the Alabama Historical Commission, asked the Society to host the annual conference of the Commission in Alabama’s largest city and the Society agreed to do so. An important part of the meeting was tours of Birmingham organized by the Society during which the state’s leading preservation architects and leaders from Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile focused on the historic structures in downtown Birmingham and near-in suburbs. This led to a fulsome understanding that the “dirty old buildings” in downtown Birmingham were in fact faded jewels ready to be shaped, polished, and renewed in preparation for a much longer period of functional use, and that the near-in neighborhoods

had been planned by leading landscape planners of the United States and were premium areas for those working in the city to reside.

A new focus on and celebration of the potential for preserving historic structures and landscapes grew out of the bicentennial celebration and the meeting of the Alabama Historical Commission here. In subsequent years, the Society focused on history tied to historic places and opportunities to enhance preservation of our city's built and natural environments. In pursuit of its mission to preserve structures and places having significant historic value, the Society does not file lawsuits or lie down in front of bulldozers. Rather, its strategy is to validate through research the historical significance of structures and places, publicize its research, and advocate for saving significant landmarks (not every old building or place is worth saving). The Society tries to make sure that historically significant sites such as the Terminal Station, the Tutwiler Hotel, and the Temple of Vesta "do not go quietly into that good night," but noisily and regretfully, if at all.

The Society has been far more than a preservation organization as later sections of this document reveal. Its publication list alone represents one of the largest extant bodies of knowledge about Birmingham. The annotated table of contents following this introduction is a guide to the many other accomplishments and initiatives of the Society.

Projects for the Future. The Society will shortly take up the publication of a guide to Birmingham emphasizing sites of historic significance in the history of Birmingham. Society publications on the civil rights demonstrations of 1963 are best sellers at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and it is well established that tourists and other visitors want to know about the history of the places that they visit. While the contents of the forthcoming guide have not been finally determined they will include maps as well as text and photographs and these will be coordinated and updated with information appearing on the Society's web-site, <https://birminghamhistoricalsociety.com>. Several Society members are contributing to the editorial content of the guide.

The Society is working with Barbara Shores (daughter of famed civil rights attorney and later Birmingham city council member Arthur Shores) on a history of "Dynamite Hill," the area of Birmingham where members of the Ku Klux Klan intimidated, threatened, and bombed the residences of those seeking to break the City's restrictive zoning code. This will be another history of how Birmingham citizens of stalwart faith, suffered, endured, and persevered to achieve fundamental civil rights.

The Society is exploring the possibility of collecting for preservation in an appropriate archive oral histories and documents relating to a prominent Alabama investment banking and brokerage firm (now passed from the scene through merger with a much larger firm) that supported business, industry, and governments in the greater Birmingham area and in the State of Alabama as a whole. The firm and the principals of the firm were leaders in sponsoring many of the initiatives that led to the growth of Birmingham, the "Magic City," until 1929 and the recovery of Birmingham from its declines in the Great Depression and the conflicts of the civil rights era. The archived materials are expected to lead to a history (hopefully more than one history) of the firm. Histories of other important Birmingham companies and institutions will no doubt follow.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is now more than 50 years old and has become by far the largest employer in Birmingham, if not the state of Alabama, while the industries that powered the progress of the Magic City have diminished in importance. In addition to providing an undergraduate education to approximately 14,000 students from Birmingham, Alabama, and many states and countries, UAB is a national leader in medical research and healthcare and is the driving force in Birmingham's participation in these expanding segments of the United States economy. The Society has published a history of Southern Research, now under the UAB umbrella, and will be looking for opportunities to explore how Dr. Joseph F. Volker, UAB's first president, his colleagues and successors have built a scientific, educational, and health care powerhouse in the period after World War II

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A list of Society publications in chronological order beginning in 1977.	
Birmingham Historical Society Programs, 1942-2022	8
This chart documents the ebb and flow of the principal Society programs: meetings, publications, promoting the preservation of historic sites, conducting tours, accepting façade easements, growing an heirloom garden, and building a digital collection of documents.	
Birmingham Historical Society, the Organization	10
A description of the Society's organization, governance, and financial systems.	
Building the Society's Endowment, 1984-Present	11
Beginning in 1984, the Society set aside funds received from donors of historic easements on city center property and year-end cash surpluses as a trustee-earmarked endowment. A trustee committee developed an investment strategy and earmarked capital and dividends for the future employment of a paid staff. In 2004, the Society retained an investment advisor. In 2018, the Society established a separate formal endowment under a trust agreement and began an annual appeal for contributions to the endowment. In subsequent years, one half of the Society's members have responded to this appeal.	
Industrial History	13
Publications and Programs on Birmingham's Industrial History	
The Birmingham District published in 1981 is a guide to the industrial history of the Birmingham region. It set a national precedent. The guide describes the geography and mineral resources and the industrial corporations organized to exploit these resources and build Birmingham into the industrial capital of the South. Projects with the National Park Service during the 1990's further documented historical industrial sites and contributed to the restoration of Vulcan Park, Rickwood Field, and the Sloss Furnaces, where the Society located its offices for many years in a restored industrial cottage with garden.	
Birmingham District-Historic American Engineering Record Projects, 1992-1997	
HAER recording projects include written histories, measured and interpretive drawings, and large-format photographs, all produced for deposit at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Included in the Library of Congress deposit were 800 large-format photographs made at historic sites across the five-county Birmingham District.	
Renewal of the City Center	15
The Society researched the architecture of the city center (downtown and Five Points South) and nominated many of the impressive collection of buildings of every period to the National Register of Historic Places, opening opportunities for their preservation. Educational tours and programs introduced hundreds of school children and their chaperones to downtown and highlighted opportunities for renovating historic buildings. Publications and festivals saluted the many historic preservation success stories.	

Civil Rights History, Site Identification, and Preservation 17

Publications and Programs Supporting Civil Rights History and Sites

Over the decade of the 1990's and with the assistance of the major players in the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's, the Society researched the story of the local Movement and the places where the Movement took place. The Birmingham Civil Rights District, the Center Street-Dynamite Hill District, and 19 Movement churches including 16th Street Baptist Church and Bethel Baptist Church were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to Society efforts, the 16th Street and Bethel churches were listed as National Historic Landmarks and placed on the Tentative List for inclusion as World Heritage sites leading in subsequent years to major funds for their preservation and interpretation as well as increased visitation.

Landscape History 19

Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, surrounded by forested slopes, with robust water resources, a temperate climate and varied soils, the Birmingham District had a superior environment for the development of an urban landscape. Throughout the early 20th Century, America's finest landscape architects and planners helped create parks and residential neighborhoods beautifully sited on the land. The Society has explored and re-explored this design heritage over many years.

Neighborhood Studies 20

Research on City neighborhoods laid the groundwork for listing as national and local historic districts and subsequent downzoning to prevent encroachment by inappropriate development. Undertaken with the cooperation of City and neighborhood leaders, these efforts supported restoration of historic homes and the revival of entire neighborhoods, including Pratt City, Thomas, and Roebuck Springs.

Harnessing History for a Revival of Five Points South 21

Starting in the 1980's, the Society researched and documented the history of the Five Points South neighborhood, worked to list it on the National Register of Historic Places, and generally helped to spark its revitalization as a robust mixed-use neighborhood.

Building a Digital Collection at the Alabama Department of Archives 23

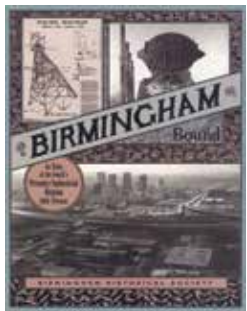
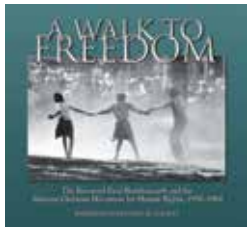
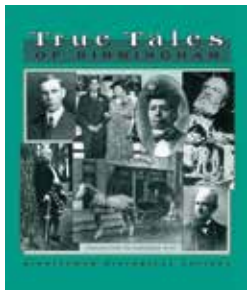
Alabama Department of Archives & History has agreed to accept into its permanent collection a variety of materials, collected and produced by the Society through the years. The availability of a large state financed institution to assume responsibility for important materials in the Society's collections greatly benefits the Society and those it serves.

People, Places, Parties, Promotions 24

Promotions and parties accompanied research and publishing efforts that showcased diverse aspects of our city's history and heritage. Among the most successful have been commissioning, publishing, and telling the tale of the ghost of the Sloss Furnaces and celebrating the significant work of the Olmsted Brothers park planning firm in Birmingham in the early years of the 20th century.

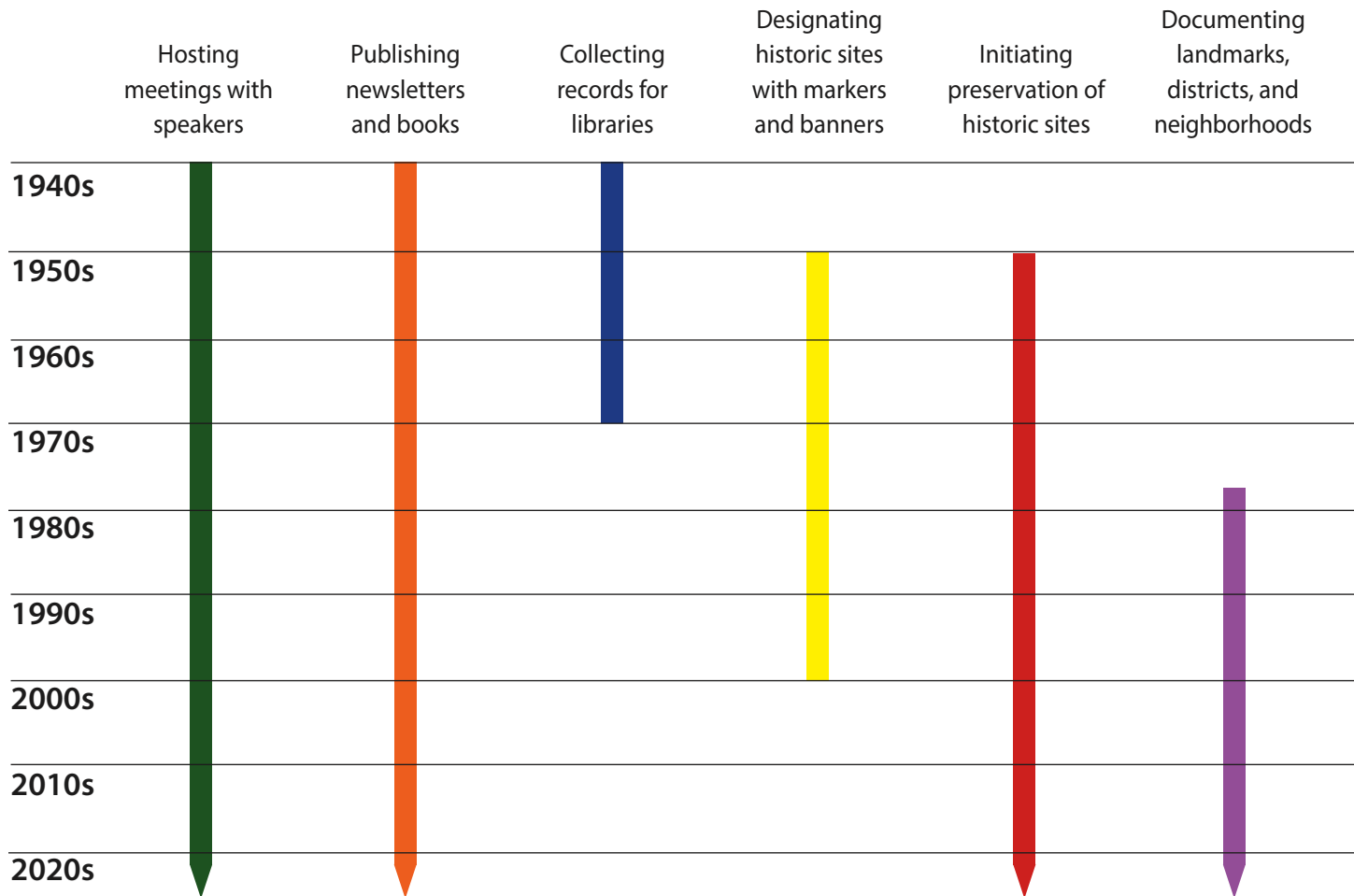
Contact Information for Society Back Cover

Comprehensive List of Publications, 1977-2021



- 1977-1987 *The Journal of Birmingham Historical Society*, 14 issues
- 1978 *Downtown Birmingham: Architectural and Historical Walking Tour Guide*
- 1978 *Downtown Discovery Tour*
- 1978 *The Ghost in the Sloss Furnaces*
- 1980 *Birmingham Heritage Hike Guide and Patch*
- 1981 *The Birmingham District: An Industrial History and Guide*
- 1982 *Town Within A City: The Five Points South Neighborhood, 1880-1930*
- 1983 *Five Points Heritage Hike and Patch*
- 1984 *Old Birmingham, New Architecture: Student Projects for an Historic Downtown Context*
- 1985 *Go To Town, Birmingham: A Public Forum on a Vital City Center*
- 1986 *Image of the City*
- 1988 *House Detective: A Guide to Researching Birmingham Buildings*
- 1989 *Buildings Against Cities: The Struggle to Make Places*
- 1989 *Designs on Birmingham: A Landscape History of a Southern City and Its Suburbs*
- 1990 *Cinderella Stories: Transformations of Historic Birmingham Buildings*
- 1991 *Judge Clarence Allgood: His Brother's Keeper*
- 1991 *Mountain Brook Estates* (reprint of the 1926 publication)
- 1992 *True Tales of Birmingham*
- 1994 *The Birmingham Industrial Heritage District Map*
- 1995 *Vulcan and His Times*
- 1995 *Birmingham's Vulcan* (reprint of 1938 booklet)
- 1996 *Birmingham View: Through the Years in Photographs*
- 1997 *Birmingham Bound: An Atlas of the South's Premier Industrial Region, 1850-Present*
- 1998 *A Walk to Freedom: The Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, 1956-1964*
- 1998 *Low Virtues: The Value of Human Scale Architecture to Birmingham Urbanism*
- 1998 *In Celebration of the Restoration of Alabama Power Company's 1925 Tower*
- 1999 *Vive Vulcan!*
- 1999 *Walking Tours of Birmingham Churches Conducted from 1990 to 1999*
- 2001 *A Pizzella View: Governor Braxton Bragg Comer and His Family*
- 2001 *Aspiration: Birmingham's Historic Houses of Worship*
- 2003 *A Guide to Architectural Styles Featuring Birmingham Homes*
- 2004 *Art of the New South: Women Artists of Birmingham, 1890-1950*
- 2005 *A Park System for Birmingham* (reprint of 1925 Olmsted Brothers plan)
- 2006 *The Olmsted Vision: Parks for Birmingham*
- 2007 *Hand Down Unharmd: Olmsted Files on Birmingham Parks, 1920-1925*
- 2008 *D. O. Whildin: Alabama Architect*
- 2009 *Mountain Brook Village: Then and Now*
- 2010 *Digging Out of the Great Depression: Federal Programs at Work in and Around Birmingham*
- 2011 *The Jemison Magazine and The Selling of Birmingham, 1910-1914* (journal reprint)
- 2012 *The Jemison Magazine: Birmingham and Mountain Brook, 1926-1930* (journal reprint)
- 2013 *MINUTES-Central Committee, 1963: Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Southern Christian Leadership Conference*
- 2014 *Mountain Brook: A Historic American Landscape*
- 2015 *Bob Moody's Birmingham: A City in Watercolor*
- 2016 *For Science and Humanity: Building Southern Research*
- 2016 *Birmingham, 1915*
- 2018 *Warren H. Manning's City Plan of Birmingham*, a reprint of the 1919 plan
- 2019 *Pretty Posies: Powerful Healing, An Herbal Primer*
- 2019 *Shades Creek: Flowing Through Time*
- 2020 *Altamont: A Portion of Red Mountain and Its Park*
- 2021 *Birmingham: The City Beautiful, Compliments of G. Ward*

Birmingham Historical So



Hosting meetings with speakers (1942–)

Publishing bulletins and newsletters (1940s–), journals (1960–1977), studies (1980–1993), books (1977–), website, BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com (2002–)

Collecting records for libraries, especially Birmingham Public Library (1942–1960s+) and Alabama Department of Archives & History

Designating historic sites with markers (1950s–1980s) and banners (1987–1990s)

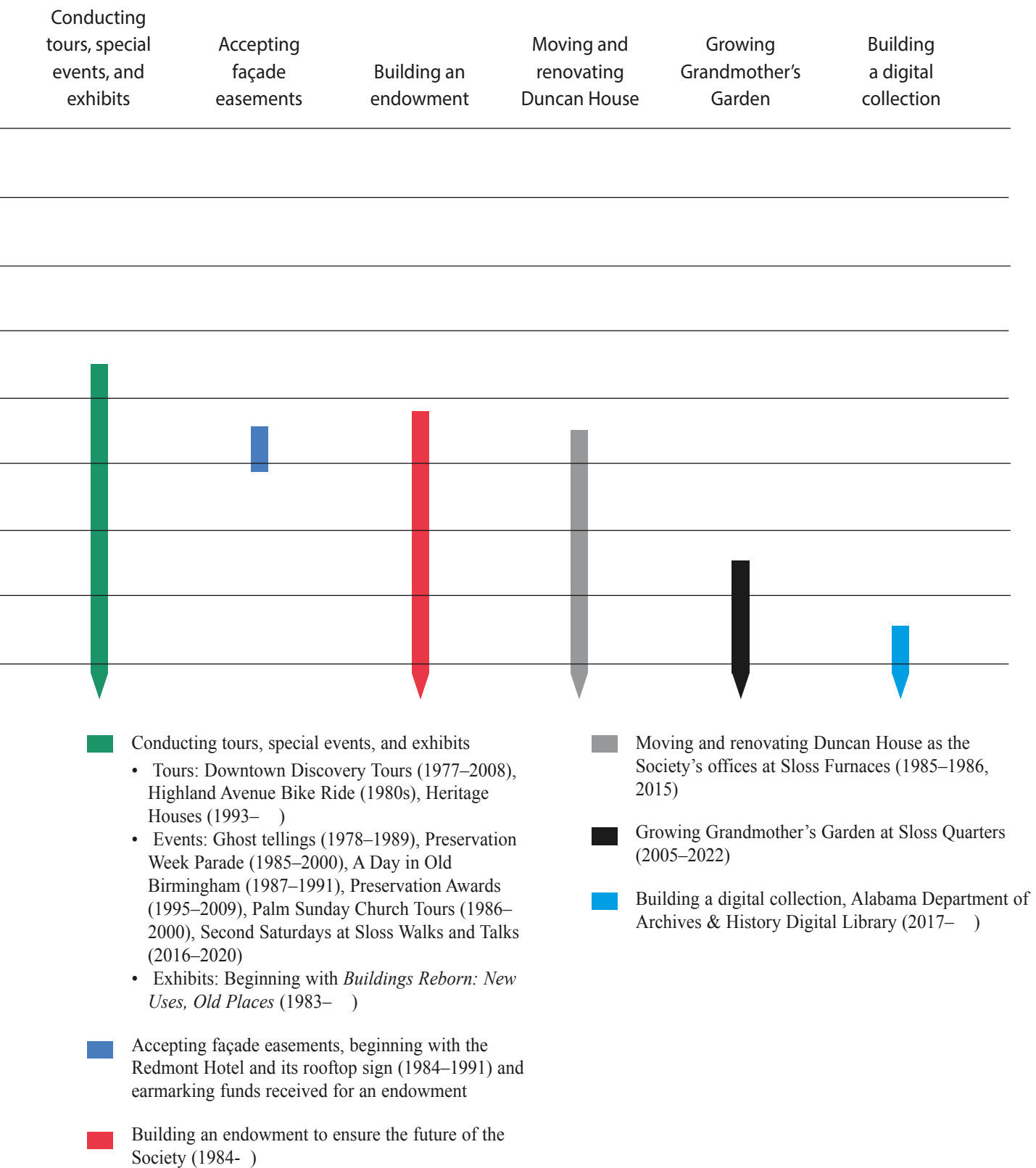
Initiating preservation of historic sites

- Tannehill Furnaces (1950)
- Arlington (1950)
- Sloss Furnaces (1978–1985+)
- Vulcan and His Park (1993–1999)
- Rickwood Field (1994)
- Bethel Baptist Church (1996–)
- 16th Street Baptist Church (1993+)
- Railroad Park (beginning 1989)
- Red Mountain Park (c. 2005)
- Ross Bridge (2017)
- Brock's Gap (2021)
- George Ward's Wild Garden at Vestavia (2021–)

Documenting landmarks, districts, and neighborhoods

- National Register surveys and nominations: Downtown, Five Points, Southside, Smithfield, Pratt City, Thomas, Roebuck Springs (1979–1987); Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights Mass Meeting Churches, Birmingham Civil Rights District, Center Street–Dynamite Hill District, Graymont School (1994–2006)
- National Park Service: The five-county Birmingham Industrial Heritage District (studies, 1992–1993)
- Historic American Buildings Survey (1993–1998)
- Historic American Engineering Record (1993–1998, 2017)
- National Landmark Nominations (initiated 1993, listed 2005, 2006)
- World Heritage Nominations (2007)
- Historic American Landscapes Survey: Mountain Brook (2010–2013)

Society Programs, 1942-2022



Birmingham Historical Society, the Organization

The Society was founded as an unincorporated association in 1942, incorporated as an Alabama non-profit corporation on April 19, 1954, and determined to be a 501(c)(3) organization to which contributions are tax deductible by the Internal Revenue Service in a letter dated July 16, 1979. Copies of the Society's articles of incorporation and by-laws, and the IRS determination letter, are included in a separate appendix. The articles of incorporation and by-laws provide for dues paying members (who receive newsletters and publications, and are invited to attend an annual meeting of the membership, but have no voice in the management of the corporation or the right to vote on any matter), a board of trustees of 35 members elected annually by the sitting trustees, and an executive committee consisting of the officers of the corporation (currently eight in number) elected by the board of trustees. The board of trustees customarily meets four times a year and it is the policy of the Society not to nominate a trustee to succeed himself or herself if the trustee has not been active in attending trustee meetings and otherwise supporting the Society. The board of trustees has ultimate responsibility and authority for the affairs of the Society. The executive committee has full power to act on behalf of the board of trustees between meetings of the board.

The list of the current officers and members of the executive committee follows.

Chairman of the Board	Marjorie L. White
President	Wayne A. Hester
Vice Presidents	Kaydee Erdreich Breman
	Patricia H. Camp
	Julius E. Linn Jr.
	Richard W. Sprague
Secretary	Carol L. Slaughter
Treasurer	Allison A. Boone

The Society has benefited through the years from the volunteer services of numerous prominent men and women who have been leaders in the greater Birmingham community, some of whom are identified below.

Art Beattie	Martin Hames
Richard A. Bowron	Wyatt R. Haskell
Patricia H. Camp	John C. Henley Jr.
John C. Henley III	John Holcomb
Stewart M. Dansby	Margaret Livingston
Ben Erdreich	Philip A. Morris
Joseph Farley	William A. Powell
Hill Ferguson	William Spencer
Samuel Frazier	A. Steve Williams III

In recent years the work of the Society has been carried out largely by highly accomplished volunteers, most of whom have had successful careers requiring skills relevant to the work they perform for the Society: editorial positions at *Southern Living*, editing of medically related publications at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, public policy

research positions at Samford University, management positions at the Birmingham Public Library, and other similar jobs. In addition to routine news about Society activities, newsletters frequently present research notes on historical topics of interest. Recent newsletters headlined, "Birmingham's Olmsted Legacy" and "Celebrating Birmingham: The City Beautiful and its Champion: George Ward," are included in the Appendices as Appendix 10. The Society has benefitted from volunteer services from among the best research and editorial talent in Alabama.

Most of the current work of the Society relates to publications. Its goal is to produce at least one book a year on a subject relating to the history of the greater Birmingham area, as well as newsletters on other historical topics or news relevant to greater Birmingham history. Most often, grants or gifts are obtained for the "hard costs" of producing books with the proceeds of book sales applied to overhead costs of Society operations. In the past many of the activities described in this statement were financed through grants and contracts secured from national, state, and local governments. This source of financing has diminished in recent years, as have the activities of the Society formerly supported by them.

Financial Management

The Society has been a responsible manager of its financial affairs. Since at least 1976 the Society has operated under a budget approved by its finance and executive committees and board of trustees and has produced monthly financial statements. In all years 1976 to date, except one, the Society has balanced its budget. The loss year was attributable to a cost overrun on a publication, and the loss was defrayed through a special-fund raising effort in the subsequent year. Book inventories are carried at \$0 on the Society's books although valued for insurance purposes at over \$300,000. All production costs are expensed. A copy of the Society's most recent financial statement and its report to the Internal Revenue Service on Form 990 are included in the appendices.

The Society has approximately 330 members who pay annual dues of a minimum of \$50 and frequently more. Members are entitled annually to a book published by the Society. Many Society members also make annual contributions to the Society's endowment. In addition, members are invited to join the Society's "Heritage Society" and 82 members paid annual dues of a minimum of \$500 during 2021. Heritage Society members are invited to an annual event at a historic property and receive a specially prepared booklet on the significance of the featured property. A recent such event was held at Highlands Bar & Grill for those who were members of the Heritage Society during 2020 and 2021, the 2020 luncheon having been cancelled due to the SARS Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to the contributions of Pardis and Frank Stitt to cuisine in Birmingham and the United States, the luncheon celebrated the contribution of the Society to the revival of Five Points South that is described at page 21.

Building the Society’s Endowment, 1984-Present

For many years the Society carried on its balance sheet, and set aside in an investment account, funds functioning as a board designated endowment. The endowment originated with approximately \$20,000 received in connection with transfers of “façade” easements to the Society on historic buildings the owners of which realized charitable deductions as a result of the granting of the easements to the Society. The Society assumed responsibility for monitoring compliance with the terms of the easements and the payments were intended to compensate the society for the costs of this monitoring. At the same time, the Society began the practice of transferring operating surpluses to the board designated endowment and then to request specific contributions to the endowment.

Beginning in January 2004 (when the endowment had reached approximately \$400,000 in value) the Society retained a registered investment advisor, Porter White Investment Advisors, Inc., to manage the endowment. The investment performance since January 2004 is shown in the graph below. To date, all income on the endowment has been retained in the endowment and added to the fund balance. The graph analyzes increases in fund balance over time due to (i) contributions, (ii) investment income, and (iii) inflation. An investment report and the current investment policy for the endowment is included in the appendices.

**Birmingham Historical Society Endowment
Historical Market Value (Inception January 2004)
As of July 31, 2021**



The blue line in the graph represents the value of the endowment over time. The green line shows the cumulative contributions to the endowment less any withdrawals (of which there have been none). The yellow line shows the net contributions inflated to current value at the consumer price index.

Funds designated by a governing board as functioning as an endowment are subject to the weakness that the board retains the power to spend the principal as well as the income from the fund, thus potentially dissipating the fund contrary to the intent of donors. In addition, funds functioning as an endowment may be pledged as security for obligations and are subject to levy pursuant to judgments. Examples of these circumstances occurring in the case of endowments are not infrequent. To avoid these problems, in late 2017 the Board of Trustees of the Society established by agreement a separate endowment trust fund, the “Birmingham Historical Society Endowment Fund” (referred to as the “Fund”). A copy of the agreement is included in the appendix and the principal terms of the agreement are summarized below.

The Fund is governed by three trustees elected by the Board of Trustees of the Society from among its members to serve three-year staggered terms without compensation (“Endowment Trustees”). Powers and duties of the Endowment Trustees include the following:

- 1) To manage the Fund investments or to appoint an investment advisor to manage investments for reasonable compensation;
- 2) To make a distribution from the Fund to the Society (i) as requested by the Board of Trustees of the Society, and (ii) consistent with the objective of maintaining, and, if feasible, increasing the inflation adjusted value of the Fund; provided that the distribution in any calendar year shall be no more than 4.25% of the net fair market value of the Fund averaged over the preceding 16 calendar quarters calculated as of the end of the most recent calendar year end;
- 3) To decline to make a distribution and to accumulate income in the fund so as to increase over time the net fair market value of the Fund;

- 4) To accept or decline to accept gifts of real or personal property to the Fund.

The trust agreement includes spendthrift provisions preventing the Society from forcing expenditures from the Fund or subjecting the Fund to mandatory payments by agreement between the Society and third parties.

Due to adverse market conditions and inflation, the real value of the Society’s endowment has declined in 2022, and the Society anticipates that responsible spend rates from portfolios with asset allocations appropriate for a charitable organization will likely be in the range of 3% to 4% of market value. Assuming that a minimum distribution of \$100,000 in 2022 dollars is required to cover overhead expenses, an endowment market value of approximately \$3,000,000 in 2022 dollars is required to meet the Society’s needs. As securities markets and inflation are volatile, however, \$3,000,000 is an estimate subject to changing economic and market conditions.

The Society will not rely solely on its endowment for support and will continue as in the past to solicit funds for specific projects. Further, as previously stated, the Society intends to continue as primarily a volunteer organization, a major role of its leadership being to recruit, motivate, and supervise volunteers.

Assuming bad market conditions and poor investment results lead to endowment distributions below goal, the Society will do what it has done in the past, (i) raise additional funds for current operations, (ii) cut expenditures, (iii) increase reliance on volunteer services, and (iv) cut programs. It will sacrifice the present for the long-term future.

Industrial History

Coal, iron ore, and limestone, the minerals for making iron, are found here in abundance. With the arrival of the first railroads in 1871 and the location of the minerals, industrial firms opened mines and built furnaces to smelt the ores and produce pig iron. By the early 20th century, this out of nowhere city and region had become the railroad and industrial capital of the South, exporting more than 700 industrial products. While pig iron was further refined into steel, vast quantities were made into foundry products and pipe. Birmingham became and remains the nation's premier producer of iron pipe for waste and water transmission.

The Birmingham District: An Industrial History and Guide tells the story of the rise of area industry, charting the course through contextual essays and histories of the major industrial firms. The guide highlights mines, mills, and company towns and identifies resources remaining in 1981.

In 1978, the Society commissioned Alabama's noted ghost story writer Kathryn Tucker Windham to write a story. Windham's *The Ghost in the Sloss Furnaces*, both published and told at an increasingly popular fall festival, became the primary public relations effort encouraging city leaders to preserve the Sloss Furnaces, which were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1981. The Society's ghost telling festival was held annually from 1978 to 1989. Following the reopening of the refurbished site in 1985, the Society moved an industrial cottage to Sloss, restored it as the Society's offices, and began the restoration of company quarters located at the furnaces until the 1950s. Beginning in 2005, the Society undertook to develop an early 20th century home garden with vegetables, medicinal and kitchen herbs, and roses and perennials. Master gardeners from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System have developed the garden into a first-rate demonstration garden of early 20th century practice.

In the early 1990s with funding from the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, the Society undertook a survey of natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources across the five-county Birmingham District, the historic area in which the minerals and the facilities built to exploit them were located. The study produced four volumes, all published in 1993: *The Birmingham District: A Description, Brief History, and Assessment*, *The Birmingham District: A Survey of Cultural Resources*, *The Birmingham District: A Survey of Natural and Recreational Resources*, and *The Birmingham District Story: A Vision for an Industrial Heritage Area*. The major recommendation of the study was the building of a visitor center at Vulcan Park to tell the story of the region and encourage visitation at historic sites throughout the region.

From 1993 to 1998, the Society led the campaign to save the statue of Vulcan, then in significant decline. The

mayor of Birmingham and its business community were reluctant to become involved. The Society pioneered historic interpretation at the park by operating it as a visitor center during the Olympic summer of 1996. Costumed interpreters and guides welcomed visitors from across the globe who were enthralled with the historical lessons and the views. In 1995, the Society researched and published *Vulcan and His Times*, a tell-all about the iron man and his park. The Society's successful quest to obtain "Save America's Treasures" designation by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service finally led to widespread recognition of the value of investing in, preserving, and redeveloping the site. The Society developed a financial and management plan that included the creation of the Vulcan Park Foundation. The foundation currently operates the site.

Calling attention to the area's historic industrial resources through the National Park Service study led to the involvement of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), the documentation branch of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. HAER brought teams of architects and historians to the city each summer from 1992 to 1997 to document significant historic industrial resources. More than 800 large-format photographs were also made. Thirty-six sites were recorded through the making of photographs and measured or interpretive drawings and the writing of site histories. These included the Red Mountain ore mines at Ruffner, Sloss, Pyne, Valley View, and Muscoda; Birmingham Railroads, including the Birmingham Mineral Railroad; the Tannehill Furnaces; the Jones, Stockham, and U.S. Pipe foundries; Smith Hall at the University of Alabama; Republic Steel's Furnaces, Cokeworks, and Company Town at Thomas; the Vulcan Statue and Park; Rickwood Field; The Woodward House—now the Residence of the President of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB); the Billy Gould Mines and Coke Ovens; and the Bethel Baptist and Sixteenth Street Baptist Churches. This documentation led directly to the subsequent preservation of the Vulcan statue and park, Rickwood Field, and the 16th Street and Bethel Baptist Churches. The assembled physical photographs, drawings, and histories were placed both at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and in the Archives of the Birmingham Public Library. Much of this documentation has been digitized and is now available online from the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. The Society summarized HAER's work in the publication *Birmingham Bound: An Atlas of the South's Premier Industrial Region* and the *Making It in the Birmingham District* exhibition of drawings and photographs. This exhibit was designed for a 1994 showing at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. and showed in Birmingham, Bessemer, Jasper, and

Montgomery before moving to McWane Science Center where it is currently enjoying a reprise. *Above Birmingham*, another photographic exhibit, showcased HAER photographs at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery.

In 2017, HAER returned to Birmingham to join the Society in documenting the Civil War era Ross Bridge railroad culvert, an important monument at today's Ross Bridge community in Hoover.

Publications and Programs on Birmingham's Industrial History

1981 *The Birmingham District: An Industrial History and Guide*

1985-1986, 2015-2017 Moving and renovating Duncan House, the Society's offices at Sloss, initiating the recreation of Sloss Quarters, company housing at this industrial site

1990-1992 Birmingham District five-county survey for the proposed Birmingham Industrial Heritage District

1992-1998, 2007 Historic American Engineering Record documentation

1993 *The Birmingham District: A Description, Brief History, and Assessment; The Birmingham District: A Survey of Cultural Resources; The Birmingham District: A Survey of Natural and Recreational Resources; The Birmingham District Story: A Vision for an Industrial Heritage Area.*

1994 *The Birmingham Industrial Heritage District Map*

1994 *Historical Reports: Vulcan Park, the Mines, and Mineral Railroad*

1995 *Vulcan & His Times*

1996 *Vive Vulcan: Save Our City Symbol, Activities for Students of All Ages*

1998 *Birmingham Bound: An Atlas of the South's Premier Industrial Region, 1850-Present*

2001-2011, 2020-2021 *Making It in the Birmingham District*, an exhibit at the Birmingham Public Library, Alabama Power Company Building, National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., Bessemer Civic Center, Jasper Public Library, and McWane Science Center

2002 *Turkey Creek Cultural Resource Mapping Project for the Proposed Turkey Creek Preserve*

2017 HAER documentation of Ross Creek Culvert, the centerpiece of the Hoover neighborhood of Ross Bridge

2021 Documentation of Brock's Gap, the final link in the building of the railroad that led to the founding of Birmingham in 1871

Birmingham District-Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Buildings Survey Recording Projects, 1992-1997

The Society served as a sponsor for these recording projects, providing offices, research, tactical, and other services and hospitality for the architects and historians who came to the city to participate in the summer projects.

HABS-AL-37	Alabama Theatre, Birmingham, Jefferson County
HABS-AL-977	Bethel Baptist Church of Collegeville, Birmingham, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-16	Billy Gould Coal Mine and Coke Ovens, Helena, Shelby County
HAER-AL-18	Boshell's Mill, Townley, Walker County
HAER-AL-13	Hardie-Tynes Manufacturing Company, Birmingham, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-28	Pyne Red Ore Mine, Bessemer vicinity, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-14	Republic Steel Corporation: Thomas By-Products Coke Works, Birmingham, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-15	Thomas Community and Worker Housing, Thomas-Birmingham, Jefferson County
HABS-AL-897	Rickwood Field, Birmingham, Jefferson County
HABS-AL-898	16 th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-17	Sloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron Company: Brookside Coal Mine, Brookside, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-26	Sloss No. 2 and Ruffner Red Ore Mines, Birmingham vicinity, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-49	Stockham Pipe & Fittings, Birmingham, Jefferson County
HAER-276	Tannehill Furnace, Bucksville, Jefferson County
HAER-AL-29	Vulcan Statue and Park, Birmingham, Jefferson County

Renewal of the City Center

Buoyed by the awe of knowledgeable visitors to our city, a photographic building by building survey of the streets and avenues of the business district was compiled from black and white contact prints pasted together end on end. Research on the history of each building together with photographs of what “downtown Birmingham” looked like in its past glory days was published in 1978 as *Downtown Birmingham: An Architectural and Historical Walking Tour Guide*. With the support of the First National Bank of Birmingham, 5,000 copies of the paperback were distributed in a month via the bank’s branch offices. In subsequent years, the book became a prime guide for investment properties as local businessmen began purchasing and renovating buildings for owner-occupied offices. These new owners included many Society trustees and trustee-spouses.

At that time in the American South, preservation of historic structures was limited to those that were “old.” That meant “antebellum.” Hence, Birmingham, founded in 1871, was not antebellum thus not regarded as “old.” It was quite a stretch for Birmingham residents to understand that their history and their buildings were worthy of preservation especially when they were covered with the soot of our industrial heritage. By bringing outside experts to the city from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and from Charleston, South Carolina, our pitch became: Birmingham has buildings representing every period of its history and they are worthy of preservation and reuse.

The photography and research undertaken for *Downtown Birmingham* provided the data for the first major nominations of commercial property to the National Register of Historic Places: the Downtown Birmingham and Fourth Avenue Historic Districts, completed with the advocacy of then Mayor Richard Arrington Jr. in 1980. These nominations paved the way for the federal tax incentives that helped underwrite renovations of many commercial structures. Throughout the Arrington administration, the City of Birmingham undertook purchases, land banking, and renovations of the Fourth Avenue district, returning ownership of the renovated buildings to black businesses. The 16th Street Baptist Church was also individually listed on the National Register at this time, and later as a National Historic Landmark.

Photographs and research for *Downtown Birmingham* likewise formed the basis for the Society’s nationally precedent setting heritage education programs: *Downtown Discovery Tour* and *Downtown: An Outdoor Classroom*. With program materials funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Junior League of Birmingham, the guided tours were offered gratis by Society

volunteers to area school children in the third and fourth grades for the next three decades. Workshops and materials provided background for participating teachers in advance of the tours. Adults were hesitant to come downtown for the tours; the new guides recruited to help each year would get lost trying to find their way to the start of the tours. But the children loved the dirty buildings and could see with eyes of love and appreciate the beautiful architecture of Birmingham, the industrial capital of the South. “The region’s industrial and service sectors” businesses were housed in fine “old buildings.” The Society’s pioneering efforts in heritage education were awarded the Award of Merit from the American Society of State and Local History in 1981.

Local architects also volunteered to lead the tours and helped the Society expand the educational programs centered on the downtown buildings. When in 1992 Auburn University opened its urban design studio in Birmingham, students in the fourth-year class at the Auburn University Center for Architecture and Urban Studies (AUCAUS) participated in Buddy Up for Birmingham, a program for inner city students to study, draw, and build replicas of historic buildings and other landmarks. Each year, hundreds, yes, hundreds, of city and suburban students in the third and fourth grades built cardboard buildings. Children and buildings marched to the tunes of middle school bands in the annual Preservation Week Parade up 20th Street from Morris Avenue to City Hall and then set up their buildings and displays for the general public to see at the “Party in the Park” at Linn Park. The annual parades took place from 1985 to 2001. In the later years the Society revised and enlarged the printed *Downtown Discovery Tour* guide to include self-guided heritage hikes leaving from major landmarks across the city center. The Society’s heritage education materials are currently available gratis at the Society’s website: BirminghamHistoricalSociety.com

Heritage education also took to the streets in the form of a festival event. Hosting a festival was the major recommendation of the *Destination Birmingham: A Public Forum on Image Appeal* hosted by the Society and the Junior League of Birmingham at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in 1986. For the next five years, together with the financial support of the City of Birmingham and volunteers from the Junior League of Birmingham and the local chapters of the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and Women in Construction, the Society presented the *A Day in Old Birmingham* festivals at different locations in downtown. The festival

showcased recently restored commercial buildings that were opened for tours, and also provided music, children's building activities (Box City and Edible Architecture), and locally themed refreshments such as "Hot Dog, Let's Eat." *A Day in Old Birmingham* closed after convincing George McMillan to orchestrate the City Stages festival, which featured music and refreshments in the streets among the recently renovated buildings. City Stages continued for the next 20 years. The Society's 1990 book *Cinderella Stories: Historic Transformations of City Center Buildings* featured case studies of more than 150 commercial properties recently returned to new uses.

To further encourage preservation of city center buildings, the Society conducted annual preservation awards from

1995 to 2009 showcasing owners, architects, and contractors who invested in and designed and constructed these projects. The Society also accepted historic easements on the façades of city center buildings, providing additional incentives for their preservation, and making the Society a watchdog for their continued preservation in perpetuity.

With the counsel of cultural geographer Pierce Lewis of Penn State University, the Society in 1996 published a collection of photographs documenting the city's growth from frontier to metropolitan status in a brief time span as *Birmingham View: Through the Years in Photographs*. Other educational programs included photographic exhibits at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery, the Harbert Center, the Pizitz Building, and the Fourth Avenue Visitor Center.

Publications and Programs in Support of a Vital City Center

1978 *Downtown Birmingham-An Architectural and Historical Walking Tour Guide*

1978 *Downtown Discovery Tour*, a publication used for guided tours for area school children; Discovery tours conducted 1977-2008

1978 *Downtown: An Outdoor Classroom*, a teachers' handbook for preservation education

1980 National Register of Historic Places districts: Downtown Birmingham and Fourth Avenue

1980 *The Birmingham Heritage Hike*, a self-guided exploration of the city center

1983 *Buildings Reborn, New Uses Old Places* exhibit at the Birmingham Museum of Art

1984-1991 Eleven façade easements for the preservation of city center architecture accepted

1984 *Old Birmingham, New Architecture*, an exhibit and publication featuring the Auburn University School of Architecture student projects at the South Central Bell Building and Sloss Furnaces

1985 *Go To Town, Birmingham, A Public Forum on a Vital City Center*

1985-2000 Preservation Week Parade and Banner Day for Birmingham conducted for school children participating in the Downtown Discovery Tour and Buddy Up for Birmingham programs

1987-1991 A Day in Old Birmingham Festival: A Celebration of Restoration in the City Center

1990 *Cinderella Stories: Historic Transformations of City Center Buildings*

1990 *20th Street: A Century of Change*, an exhibit at the Harbert Center

1991 *Birmingham's Broadway*, a photographic exhibit at the Harbert Center

1991 *Fourth Avenue*, a photographic exhibit at the Urban Impact Visitor Center on Fourth Avenue

1995-2009 Preservation Awards, annual commendations to owners, architects and contractors contributing to historic renovations

1996 *Birmingham View: Through the Years in Photographs*

1998 *In Celebration of the Restoration of Alabama Power Company's 1925 Tower*, a history written to celebrate the restoration of the historic building and the opening of the new tower

2008 *Architecture as Art: Drawings from the D. O. Whilldin Collection of Architectural Drawings of the Birmingham Public Library*, an exhibit at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery

2008 *D. O. Whilldin: Alabama Architect*

Civil Rights History, Site Identification, and Preservation

In 1992, the Society completed a survey of natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic resources in a five-county area for the Southern Regional office of the National Park Service in Atlanta. The purpose of that study was to determine sites of national significance. The study recommended further study of civil rights sites. At the time, these were unknown. Historical scholarship had focused exclusively on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and author of the “Letter from the Birmingham Jail.” In 1992, the story of the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s had been told only by the national and international news coverage of this era, culminating in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. Civic leaders did not want more coverage of fire hoses and police dogs confronting demonstrators.

When in 1993 the Society sponsored Historic American Buildings Survey documentation of 16th Street Baptist Church, the National Park Service could not identify a professional historian to work with the summer team to tell its story. Following press coverage of the project at 16th Street Baptist Church, our telephone continually rang with pastors calling to say that “We left them out.” Who were they and what role did they play?

Over the next decade, the Society undertook surveys and studies to determine not only the sites where the Birmingham Movement took place but also the story of what transpired from the perspective of Movement participants. At this time Movement leaders—Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church of Collegeville, the South’s fearless freedom fighter, President of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) and Secretary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); Lola Hendricks, ACMHR secretary; Stone Johnson, Shuttlesworth’s bodyguard; and Aldrich Gunn and Reuben Davis from Bethel Baptist Church were alive and worked with us to help recall and tell their story. When in 1998 the Society published its pictorial chronology of the Birmingham movement, Shuttlesworth, Hendricks, and Johnson autographed it at book signings and presentations, acknowledging their pride in its accurate portrayal of their contributions. *A Walk to Freedom* remains the best-selling memoir of the Movement at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Working with Lola Hendricks and other Movement leaders and members over a period of many years, the Society was able identify 60 churches that hosted mass meetings and document the growth of the nation’s strongest of local Civil Rights organization built as Reverend Shuttlesworth and Movement members tested every segregation law. Of the churches identified, the Society, with consultants and funding from the City of Birmingham, prepared National Register of

Historic Places documentation for 19 churches, and National Landmark and World Heritage documentation for Bethel Baptist Church and 16th Street Baptist Church. It took nine years until the National Park Service acknowledged the national significance of the Bethel Baptist Church in 2005, longer than it took the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth’s ACMHR to dismantle Birmingham’s legal segregation laws. In 2007, the Society’s application of Bethel and 16th Street to the Tentative List for World Heritage was successful.

In 2006, the Society initiated and won a Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Trust and the National Park Service that kick started the campaign to restore the Bethel Baptist Church.

In 2005 and 2006, the Society prepared documentation and a nationally significant nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Birmingham Civil Rights District in downtown Birmingham. The district included the segregated core and the march routes to the retail district and city hall, where Movement participants in the marches and demonstrations of spring 1963 sought their civil rights. In 2017, President Barack Obama declared portions of this district and the Fourth Avenue District as the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument.

In 2007, the Society completed nominations of Dynamite Hill’s Center Street Historic District, acknowledging the role of attorney Arthur Shores in defeating local and national laws limiting access to housing, and together with his neighbors, enduring of repeated Ku Klux Klan bombings of their homes. Graymont School, site of desegregation of Birmingham schools in the fall of 1963, and the Ensley Baptist Church parsonage, the residence of the Rev. A. D. King in the early 1960s, were also listed. In 2012, the Society presented *Attorney Shores’ Scrapbook—The Life and Times of Birmingham’s Civil Rights Lawyer and Civic Leader, 1939-1975*, an exhibit at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery. On the occasion the Society released *Minutes: Central Committee, 1963 of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Southern Christian Leadership Conference*, a first-hand account by Ruth Barefield-Pendleton, the Secretary of the organizations supporting the marches and demonstrations in Spring 1963.

In June 2006, at the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ACMHR, an old-fashioned mass meeting organized by the Society at the Sardis Baptist Church celebrated the occasion. The Society presented markers to the 60 ACMHR meeting churches. Representatives of each of the surviving institutions showed up to claim their markers.

The Society then planned a Birmingham Civil Rights Trail, a system of wayside and interpretive markers to tell

the civil rights story and link together civil rights sites across the city. This was organized with the support of the City of Birmingham planning department. Mayor Larry Langford's staff completed the project as the Civil Rights Trail with a series of large markers with text and photographs. The trail project was the first phase of the Society's plan for seeking World Heritage status. For the past few years, the State of Alabama Department of Travel and

Tourism has funded further study in preparation for the World Heritage Civil Rights Nomination.

Listing on the National Register at the nationally significant level provides authorization for federal funding, as well as protection from adverse impact from federal actions. In subsequent years to the listings, federal and other private funds have flowed to help with preservation, interpretation, and increased visitation of Birmingham's civil rights sites.

Publications and Programs Supporting Civil Rights History and Sites

- 1980 Preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations for Fourth Avenue Historic District and 16th Street Baptist Church
- 1993 Sponsorship of documentation of 16th Street Baptist Church by the Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service
- 1996 Documentation of Bethel Baptist Church of Collegeville for the Historic American Buildings Survey
- 1997 Identification and mapping of the 60 Birmingham churches that hosted mass meetings of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights from 1956 to 1963; publication of this map with support from the State of Alabama Department of Tourism and Travel
- 1997 *Research Report Addressing the Importance of Birmingham Civil Rights Leader: Fred Lee Shuttlesworth, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church (1953-1961), President, Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (1956-1969), Secretary, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (1960-1970)*, prepared for National Historic Landmark staff.
- 1998 *A Walk to Freedom: The Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, 1956-1964*
- 1998 Symposium on Birmingham Civil Rights at 16th Street Baptist Church, followed by an old-fashioned mass meeting at Bethel Baptist Church. The symposium talks were published as *Birmingham Revolutionaries* by Mercer University Press. The symposium and mass meeting were held to argue for National Historic Landmark status for both the Bethel Baptist and 16th Street Baptist Churches.
- 1998-2007 Preparation of National Register nominations for the Birmingham Civil Rights District in the city center, including the segregated core and the march routes to the retail district and City Hall, the Center Street District on Dynamite Hill, Graymont School, and 19 Civil Rights mass meeting churches.
- 2006 Organization of a mass meeting celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) at Sardis Baptist Church, the church where the first meeting of the ACMHR was held June 5, 1956.
- 2006 Preparation and distribution of markers for all churches that participated in the mass and other meetings of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights
- 2006 Submission of a successful nomination to the Save America's Treasures program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service that provided funding to kick-start the restoration of the Bethel Baptist Church
- 2007 Submission of a nomination to the World Heritage Tentative List for Bethel Baptist and 16th Street Baptist Church, both listed on this tentative list for future submission to World Heritage
- 2008 Preparation of a study in preparation for World Heritage submission, produced in conjunction with the Heritage Landscapes national planning firm and funded by the City of Birmingham
- 2008 Preparation of a Birmingham Civil Rights Trail of directional and interpretive signage linking civil rights sites across the city.
- 2012 *Attorney Shores' Scrapbook: The Life and Times of Birmingham's Civil Rights Lawyer and Civic Leader, 1939-1975* at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery
- 2012 *Minutes: Central Committee, 1963 of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Southern Christian Leadership Conference*, the you-are-there guide to the marches and demonstrations by the Movement secretary
- 2021-2022 Working with the children (now adults) who grew up on Dynamite Hill during the 1950s and 1960s, a neighborhood history and a map of the bombings is being researched for an anticipated fall 2022 release.

Landscape History

Birmingham is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, its city center flanked by Red and Shades Mountains and drained by seven creeks. To the north is Village Creek, the creek on which Birmingham industrial facilities located and depended. In 1984, a project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided the opportunity to research not only the uses of the creek over time, but also the neighborhoods tragically built in the floodplains of the creek (and cleared in the years following our study). The Village Creek study uncovered the Olmsted Brothers' 1925 park plan for Birmingham. In the 1920s, the Olmsted firm was the nation's premier park planning firm. The Birmingham study highly recommended developing the surrounding mountain ridges and the floodplains of area creeks as open space and parks. Subsequent Society studies over a period of many years explored the ideas presented by Olmsted Brothers. Nationally, the Olmsted legacy was being made known through the scholarly publication of the Olmsted papers, the restoration of the Olmsted offices at Fairsted, Massachusetts, and publication and listing of Olmsted plans and other documents for projects nationwide. In 2005 and 2006, the Society faithfully reprinted the Birmingham park planning report, analyzed its recommendations, and identified community players who were pleased to learn that they were implementing this plan. The Society published and exhibited their projects as *The Olmsted Vision: Parks for Birmingham*. The Society also transcribed and published the correspondence of the Olmsted firm with Birmingham park advocates as *Hand Down Unharmed: Olmsted Files on Birmingham Parks, 1920-1925*.

Setting the stage for the Olmsted park planning in Birmingham was the major study by Warren H. Manning, the Boston landscape and environmental planner, trained in the office of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., who, just as his mentor, developed a significant national practice. Conducted from 1916 to 1918, the Birmingham city plan presented the strategy for the fast-growing industrial center to expand in harmony with its natural resources. The plan for the future greater city addresses not only locations of parks, greenways, and schools, but also through routes and other transportation issues. It provides a still relevant road map for the greater Birmingham area. The Society faithfully reprinted and distributed the Manning plan and brought the leading Manning scholar to the city for talks and review of Manning's work across America. In *Birmingham, The City Beautiful: Compliments of G. Ward* (2021), the Society documented the career of visionary Mayor and City Commission President George Ward and his support of the Manning plan as well as Ward's lifelong commitment to leading and campaigning for beautification and conservation. The 2019 publication *Shades Creek: Flowing Through Time* explored the conflicts in Birmingham's near-in suburban communities as they expanded into the floodplains of Shades Creek.

During 2022, the Society participated in the city-wide celebration honoring the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted, America's first and most successful landscape architect, with a talk and newsletter exploring the Olmsted legacy in the region.

Publications and Projects in Support of Planning and Landscape History

- 1985 *Village Creek: An Architectural and Historical Resources Survey of Ensley, East Birmingham, and East Lake, Three Village Creek Neighborhoods, City of Birmingham.*
- 1989 *Designs on Birmingham: A Landscape History of a Southern City and Its Suburbs*
- 2005 *A Park System for Birmingham*, reprint of Olmsted Brothers' 1925 park plan
- 2006 *The Olmsted Vision: Parks for Birmingham*
- 2007 *Hand Down Unharmed: Olmsted Files on Birmingham Parks, 1920-1925*
- 2009 *Mountain Brook Village: Then and Now*
- 2014 *Mountain Brook: A Historic American Landscape*
- 2017 *Warren H. Manning's City Plan of Birmingham*, a reprint of the 1916 plan, published in 1919
- 2020 *Shades Creek: Flowing Through Time*
- 2020 *Altamont: A Portion of Red Mountain and Its Park*
- 2021 *Brock's Gap: Gateway to Birmingham*, a newsletter
- 2021 *George Ward, The Birmingham Audubon, and the Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary at Vestavia*, a newsletter
- 2021 *Birmingham: The City Beautiful, Compliments of G. Ward*
- 2022 *Birmingham's Olmsted Legacy*, a newsletter

Neighborhood Studies

Following initial research and nomination of historic resources in downtown Birmingham, working with the Alabama Historical Commission and the planning department of the City of Birmingham, the Society undertook neighborhood surveys: 2,000 properties on Birmingham's Southside, a city-wide survey of extant residences built before 1902, 2,000 properties in Pratt City and Thomas, 800 properties in Smithfield, and 200 properties in Roebuck. These studies led to designations of National Register Historic Districts and publications of neighborhood histories, including *Town Within a City: The History of the Five Points South Neighborhood* and educational programs for school groups and scouts. Maurie Van Buren's slide programs explored residential structures: *House Styles at A Glance*, a program of heritage education later packaged and sold by EBSCO to teachers across the United States. The Society also developed the *Five Points Heritage Hike*. The Smithfield Historic Districts of 1984 were the first African American residential districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2003, *A Guide to Architectural Styles featuring Birmingham Homes* provided an illustrated guide to historic Birmingham house types in the city's 99 neighborhoods. A course for realtors extended knowledge of historic architectural types among these professionals.

Outside of the city center, which is relatively flat, the complicated topography of the region challenged developers as they attempted to cut roads and subdivide the terraces, knolls, and ridges to access the higher ground of the surrounding mountains. A 1987 study of the land comprising the Roebuck Springs neighborhood introduced the Society to these efforts. Further research for the 1989 *Designs on Birmingham: A Landscape History of a Southern City and its Suburbs* reviewed historic and contemporary city and suburban development and brought attention to the fine quality of both planners and landscape designs across the region. The American Association of Landscape Architects awarded this nationally precedent-setting volume its Award of Merit.

From 2010 to 2013, the Society undertook another nationally precedent setting project to document a subdivision for the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), then a new branch of the National Park Service. The HALS-AL-2 project documented Jemison & Company planning for Mountain Brook from 1926 to 1929, among the finest and most intact landscapes designed by Warren H. Manning. This HALS documentation for Mountain Brook joins HABS-HAER documentation on the Birmingham area available online at the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. In 2013, the Society published this formal documentation in a softback edition *Mountain Brook: A Historic American Landscape*.

Publications and Programs in Support of Neighborhoods

- 1981 *Southside Neighborhood Survey*, 2000 properties and recommendations for historic districts
- 1981 Southside-Highlands Report: Architectural and Historical Resources, Preservation Recommendations, 1981
- 1982 *Town Within a City: The History of the Five Points South Neighborhood*
- 1982 Inventory of Early Birmingham Suburbs for the Alabama Historical Commission
- 1983 *Five Points Heritage Hike*
- 1984 *Village Creek: An Architectural and Historical Survey of the Creek Neighborhoods in Ensley, East Birmingham, and East Lake* for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 1984-1986 Surveys of Smithfield, Pratt City, and Thomas Neighborhoods and preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations
- 1987-1988 Survey and nomination of the Roebuck Springs and Roebuck Terrace landscapes to the National Register of Historic Places
- 1989 *Designs on Birmingham: A Landscape History of a Southern City and Its Suburbs*
- 2003 Survey of historic structures in Birmingham parks as a Jan-term photographic studio at Birmingham-Southern College
- 2003 Field survey of Birmingham house types in the City's 99 neighborhoods and publication of *A Guide to Architectural Styles featuring Birmingham Homes*
- 2005 *A System of Parks for Birmingham*, a reprint of Olmsted Brothers' 1925 park plan
- 2005 Grandmother's Garden: an early 20th Century home veggie, perennial, and herb garden at the Society's offices on the grounds of Sloss Furnaces
- 2006 *Olmsted Vision: Parks for Birmingham*: an exhibit at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery and AUC AUS followed by a publication of the same name
- 2010-2013 Survey of the Planning for Mountain Brook, 1926-1929 for the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), a documentation division of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 *Mountain Brook: A Historic American Landscape*
- 2019 *Warren H. Manning's City Plan of Birmingham*, a reprint of the 1916 plan, published in 1919
- 2020 *Altamont: A Portion of Red Mountain and Its Park*
- 2021 *Birmingham, The City Beautiful, Compliments of G. Ward*

Harnessing History for a Revival of Five Points South

In the 1970s, as the nation focused on its bicentennial, interest heightened in history and the newer field of historic preservation. Buildings and landscapes, like documents, record a place's identity: what shaped it, how people lived, what they valued . . . and what distinguishes one place from others and makes it special. Preserving such physical reminders can provide clues to understanding and impetus for revitalization. These were new thoughts back then.

Like many cities, in the 1970s, Birmingham's historic commercial centers, retail districts and residential neighborhoods were suffering the consequences of suburbanization. Businesses and residents had moved outside the city. Five Points South and the adjoining Southside neighborhoods did not escape. Though Five Points retained remnants of its former prominence—some of the city's earliest churches and synagogues, historic apartment buildings, fine retail and office structures, along with traces of its bohemian charm—it needed help. Fortunately, it was ripe for revitalization, given the right resources.

The Birmingham Historical Society became one of those resources. In 1979, the Society launched an initiative to harness history in the revival of this special place. An exhilarating collaboration was established among people and private interests who shared this goal. The Society first undertook an architectural and historical resource survey of 2,000 properties in four historic neighborhoods and recommended strategies to preserve their character. The survey, funded by the City of Birmingham and the Alabama Historical Commission, covered the Five Points South, Southside, Highland Park, and Glen Iris neighborhoods.

The survey and preservation recommendations, published as *Southside-Highlands Report* in 1981, was packed with information to guide preservation planning. From this robust foundation, the Society prepared a nomination of the Five Points South Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. This brought certain protections (albeit limited) and eligibility for financial incentives to rehabilitate commercial buildings. The district was listed on the National Register on March 16, 1983.

Research for the survey—for understanding and evaluating what the buildings and landscape represented—had uncovered a rich trove of facts and insights about distinctive homes, commercial structures, churches, and other buildings that graced the neighborhood. But as detailed data about the physical structures accumulated—dates of construction, architects and builders, original inhabitants, how development occurred and an understanding of what it represented—something else began to take shape. The Five Points South neighborhood came alive, and we started to imagine—and feel—what

life might have been like in the early days of this bustling streetcar suburb. We were intrigued to press on, learn more, and dig deeper, to expand our quest to understand not simply what the buildings represented, but also the people who lived or worked in them, to more fully understand and interpret the life of the neighborhood. To undertake this deeper level of research and interpretation, we found funding, principally through a competitive national research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Entities in the neighborhood and the Birmingham community also saw the value of this work and invested in the effort: the Five Points South Neighborhood Association, Southern Life and Health Insurance Co., the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, and Protective Corporation. The grand result was a special 90-page edition of the *Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society* entitled “Town Within a City: The Five Points South Neighborhood 1880-1930.”

This deep and multifaceted Five Points work fed two larger purposes. The first was to discover how issues and trends on the city, state, and national levels could be seen in the granules that made up a particular neighborhood. In other words, a history that enriched the meaning of the local by interpreting it in a fuller context. “Town Within a City” did not aim to be a typically flattering account of the lives and homes of “outstanding citizens” but rather to tell a more complete story of the neighborhood's rich diversity and intermingling of its inhabitants from many different backgrounds and experiences. Five Points was the city's common denominator, reflecting a sample of every segment of Birmingham's population.

The second purpose was—by raising awareness of the neighborhood's distinctive historical and architectural character, much of which was unrecognized and underappreciated—to support the City and neighborhood association initiatives to breathe new life into the commercial center and its surrounding residential area. Although “Town Within a City” focused on the heart of Five Points South (the Town of Highland) from 1880 to 1930, an epilogue brought the story to the early 1980s, noting aspects of neighborhood decline in the 1930s-1950s and, in the 1960s-1970s, unfortunate destruction of historic resources in favor of nondescript structures with no relation to their setting. By the late 1970s-early 1980s, however, the Society, the City, the neighborhood, and others converged in recognizing the value of this special place and the need to renew and protect it.

People played a critical role in bringing the many facets of the Society's Five Points work to fruition, starting with its staff: Ann Burkhardt, with her singular creativity, and Steve Stella, with his perceptive insights, especially related to architecture. A host of dedicated and talented volunteers included Pam King, Gary Dobbs, Bitsy Williams, Delores Falls, Joanie

Pigford, Linda Nelson, Sandy Killion, Madge Barefield, and Deyerle McNair. Beyond its own work, the Society worked closely with City of Birmingham Planning Director Larry Watts and neighborhood liaison planner Mike Dobbins and with the Five Points Neighborhood Association led by its president Betty Bock.

Inspired by our research on the architecture in the block where her father grew up, visual artist Carol Sokol (now Carol Cooper) created an exhibition shown at the Birmingham Museum of Art. The Society also created a Five Points Heritage Hike for scouts and school groups launched in 1983.

Happily, the Society's research, planning recommendations, publishing, and nomination for an historic district in Five Points did feed the revitalization efforts here. As they gained steam, the City funded a facelift at the Five Points Circle. In spring 1983, the Society dedicated an historical marker to celebrate completion of these improvements and the listing of the area on the National Register of Historic Places. Meanwhile another serendipity blossomed there, a restaurant. The now nationally renowned Highlands Bar & Grill opened its doors in the charming Spanish Stores—and 40 years later, it is still a crowning jewel of not just the neighborhood or the city but far beyond.

Note: This section of the case statement was written by Alice Bowsher, director of the Society from 1979 to 1982.

Five Points South Historical Marker

The neighborhood developed in the 1880s as one of Birmingham's first streetcar suburbs. It was the Town of Highland from 1887 to 1893, when it became part of the City of Birmingham. The heart of the neighborhood was the Five Points Circle, a major streetcar intersection lined with houses and small stores. In the 1920s, the circle was transformed into one of the state's most distinctive shopping areas. Known for its outstanding collection of Spanish Revival and Art Deco buildings, nearby houses, churches, temples, and apartment buildings also contribute to Five Points architectural quality and serve as reminder of the prominent citizens who lived in the neighborhood during its first 50 years. On March 16, 1983, the Five Points South Historic District was entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

Historical Marker Erected by Birmingham Historical Society in cooperation with the Five Points South Neighborhood Association May 14, 1983. Text by Richard W. Sprague, chairman, Birmingham Historical Society's Marker Committee.

Building a Digital Collection at the Alabama Department of Archives & History

In April 2017, the Alabama Department of Archives & History agreed to host PDFs (searchable and ready to download) of BHS newsletters, Journals, and selected

publications (see below). They are located on the web at digital.archives.alabama.gov → Genealogy & History Publications → Birmingham Historical Society.

The screenshot displays the Alabama Department of Archives & History website's digital collection interface. The header features the department's logo and navigation tabs for Digital Collections, Genealogy and History, and Browse All. A search bar is prominently displayed at the top. Below the search bar, a sidebar on the left allows users to add or remove collections to their search, including Alabama Genealogy and History Publications, Alabama Audiovisual Collection, Alabama Civil War and Reconstruction Newspapers, Alabama Folklife Association, and Alabama Folklife Collection. The main content area shows a grid of 80 historical publications, each with a thumbnail image and a title. The publications are organized into rows and columns, with titles such as "Quarterly Bulletin of the Birmingham Historical Society, Spring 1944", "Bulletin of the Birmingham Historical Society, September 1953", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 1", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 2", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 3", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 4", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, June 1979", "News Sheet (Birmingham Historical Society), March 1976", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, May 1978", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, September 1976", "Downtown Birmingham: Architectural and Historical Walking Tour Guide", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 5, Number 1", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 5, Number 2", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, March 1977", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, May 1977", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, October 1977", "Downtown Discovery Tour", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, August 1978", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 6, Number 2", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, January 1978", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 6, Number 4", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, October 1978", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, December 1978", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 6, Number 1", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, January 1979", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 6, Number 2", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, June 1979", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, March 1979", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, September 1979", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 6, Number 3", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, January 1980", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, July 1980", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 6, Number 4", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, March 1980", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, May 1980", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 7, Number 1", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 7, Number 2", "The Birmingham District: An Industrial History and Guide" by Marjorie, "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 7, Number 1", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 7, Number 2", "The Birmingham District: An Industrial History and Guide" by Marjorie, "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 7, Number 3", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, April 1982", "Birmingham Historical Society Newsletter, December 1982", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 1", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 2", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 3", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 4", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 5", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 6", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 7", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 8", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 9", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 10", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 11", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 12", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 13", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 14", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 15", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 16", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 17", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 18", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 19", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 20", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 21", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 22", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 23", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 24", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 25", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 26", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 27", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 28", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 29", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 30", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 31", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 32", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 33", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 34", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 35", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 36", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 37", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 38", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 39", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 40", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 41", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 42", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 43", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 44", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 45", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 46", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 47", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 48", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 49", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 50", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 51", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 52", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 53", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 54", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 55", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 56", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 57", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 58", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 59", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 60", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 61", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 62", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 63", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 64", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 65", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 66", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 67", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 68", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 69", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 70", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 71", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 72", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 73", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 74", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 75", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 76", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 77", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 78", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 79", "The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Volume 8, Number 80".

People, Places, Parties, and Promotions

Parties and promotions often accompany research and publishing efforts to showcase diverse aspects of our city's history and heritage. Among the most successful have been:

- ***True Tales of Birmingham***, 60 essays highlighting the person for whom a local landmark is named. These appeared on *The Birmingham News*' Saturday morning Comic page in sequential weeks, following which they were published in 1992.
- **A radio broadcast** highlighting the history of Arlington Historic House and the opportunity to preserve it in the 1950s
- ***The Ghost in the Sloss Furnaces***, a published tale and tale telling with Alabama's storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham. Windham's story about an ironworker helped encourage the preservation of the Sloss Furnaces in the 1980s.
- **The Preservation Balls**, held in the 1980s to celebrate the earliest restorations of large historic properties in the city center, and to attract tenants to the renovated offices and districts. Most memorable were a party in the former Cadillac showroom to showcase the historic automotive district and "The Pepper Upper," a party celebrating the reuse of the Dr. Pepper Syrup plant, today's Pepper Place and historic market, these projects being the earliest revitalization of historic structures on Birmingham's Southside. Other balls were held at the Alabama Power Company tower to celebrate its restoration and the addition of the new building and at the Federal Post Office following its conversion to federal courts.
- **Railroad Reservation Charette**, held in 1990 with the support of the National Trust for Historic Places, the charette brought together community leaders to explore accomplishing something in this historic strip of land running through the heart of the city. The Society had identified it in historic plans. Efforts over many years led to the creation of today's Railroad Park.
- **The Heritage Society Gatherings at Historic Homes**, begun in 1993. Organized to showcase and support stewardship of Birmingham's amazing variety of historic homes, the annual gathering features a home tour accompanied by stories about those who designed, built, and have lived in the residences.
- ***The Olmsted Vision***. The Society reprinted and explored the 1925 Olmsted Brothers plan and in 2006 brought together community players working to implement this vision of a region in harmony with its natural resources and full of parks, especially greenways along creeks and mountain ridges.
- **The Palm Sunday Church Tour**, conducted by Dr. John Schnorrenberg of UAB for several decades, and soon to be revived by David Bains of Samford University, the tour featured visits to churches in downtown, Southside, and citywide neighborhoods.

Front Cover Photographs:

1. ***Brock's Gap***, blasted in 1871 through the hard rock summit of Shades Mountain permitting the passage of railroads and leading to the creation of Birmingham and exploitation of mineral resources in the surrounding district. Photographed exploring and documenting the gap in 2020 are rail historian John Stewart and landscape architect Birgit Kibelka.
2. ***The Birmingham District: An Industrial History and Guide***, published in 1981, explores the rise of area industries and communities, documenting the people and companies that mined the coal, iron ore and limestone, manufactured iron and steel, and thousands of other industrial products to make Birmingham, the industrial capital of the South.
3. ***Opening Night at the Making It in the Birmingham District exhibition at the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.*** The exhibition included panels showcasing the rise of area industry and photographs and drawings from the Historic American Engineering Record's documentation of extant industrial plants and communities made in 1992 and 1993. The *Making It* exhibition resides at McWane Science Center where it is currently enjoying a reprise. Pictured in 1994, *left to right*, are Susan Jones, director of the National Building Museum; Alabama Congressmen Ben Erdreich and Tom Bevill; Society officers Philip Morris and Marjorie White; and Robert Kapsch, director of the Historic American Engineering Record, a documentation division of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
4. ***Birmingham: The City Beautiful, Compliments of G[eorge] Ward***, published in 2021, documents the life and impact of the legendary Birmingham mayor, investment banker (founder of Ward Sterne, the forerunner of Sterne Agee), and builder of his country estate at Vestavia. Throughout his life, Ward advocated for city planning, parks and greenspace, and conservation, bringing the community together time and time again to accomplish "the public good."
5. ***Olmsted Vision: Parks for Birmingham***, published in 2006, documents the many Birmingham communities and environmental groups that are working to implement recommendations of the 1925 Olmsted Brothers' plan: *A Park System for Birmingham*. The Society also reprinted the 1925 report that included the drawing, *shown on the cover of the book*, showcasing then future and now extant parks and greenways along area creeks and mountain ridges.
6. ***True Tales of Birmingham***, conceived as a series of weekly features published on the Saturday morning Comic Page of *The Birmingham News*. The 60 tales showcasing portraits of compassion and courage linked to landmark sites were republished as a book in 1992.
7. ***Cinderella Stories: Transformations of Historic Birmingham Buildings***, published in 1990 as a picture book showcasing the City Center's commercial preservation success. The book features case studies of more than 150 commercial properties recently returned to new uses.
8. ***Speakers assembled at the 16th Street Baptist Church to make the historical case for National Historic Landmark status for the Bethel and 16th Street Baptist Churches, 1993.*** Symposium speakers included historians and Movement participants, *left to right*, Historians Glenn Eskew, Georgia State University, Atlanta and Rev. Wilson Fallin, Birmingham; Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, Brooklyn, New York (right-hand man to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and chief of staff for operations of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the Birmingham demonstrations of spring 1963); Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and leader of the Birmingham Movement; historian and symposium organizer Marjorie White, Birmingham; sociologist and authority on grassroots movements Dr. Aldon Morris, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois; and biographer of Reverend Shuttlesworth, Andy Manis. Remarks at the symposium were published as *Birmingham Revolutionaries* by the Mercer University Press. National Landmark status was finally granted to the Bethel and 16th Street churches in 2005 and 2006. In 2007, the Society completed successful applications to the World Heritage Tentative List for these churches. These listings led to the National Monument designation by President Barack Obama in 2017 and subsequent financial funding for restoration and development of educational programs for visitors.
9. ***Shades Creek: Flowing Through Time***, published in 2019, explores the ecological and human history of the 330-million-year-old creek that today runs through the suburban communities of Irondale, Mountain Brook, Homewood, Hoover, and Bessemer enroute to its confluence with the Cahaba River.