



*The Historic Huntsville
Foundation is committed
to building a vibrant future
for
Huntsville-Madison County
by preserving our past.
Since 1974, we have
promoted the protection
and preservation of
Huntsville-Madison County's
historically, architecturally
and culturally significant
structures and sites
through education, advocacy
and public policy.*

Foundation Forum

FOUNDATION FORUM AND HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



Artists Christina Greene, Christina Wegman, and Carole Foret

COLOR ME, HUNTSVILLE

MAKING A HOME IN OUR IMAGINATION

Donna Castellano

Kids, crayons and coloring books remain a winning combination, a timeless pastime whose appeal remains undiminished in the digital era. The Historic Huntsville Foundation will draw on the love of this beloved activity to launch a series of coloring books featuring Huntsville and Madison County's historic buildings, homes and sites. We think *Color Me, Huntsville* will become an instant classic by introducing new generations to the art of Huntsville and Madison County's historic places.

Rendering our most treasured and beloved historic places into coloring book sketches can only be accomplished by artists whose affection for Huntsville's historic places animates their work. Artists Carole Foret, Christina Greene and Christina Wegman embraced this challenge and donated their creative energies and artwork to the

project. Through this collaborative partnership, HHF will produce three books, each featuring the sketches of a single artist. *Color Me, Huntsville* will introduce the art of Huntsville and Madison County's historic places through the distinctive artistic styles of Carol, Christina and Christina.

Color Me, Huntsville is more than just a pretty book. It is our way to engender an ethic of preservation by sharing the history and architecture of our city and surrounding area with younger audiences. *Color Me, Huntsville* will capture the diversity of Huntsville Madison County's historic resources, bringing attention to the buildings and sites of all associated with our city's history—from LeRoy Pope's Poplar Grove, to the Big Spring, to the Mill Villages and the Carnegie Library on the campus of Alabama A&M University.

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COLOR ME, HUNTSVILLE continued from cover

We are grateful to the Doris Burwell Foundation that donated the seed money for the initial printing of the coloring books. *Color Me, Huntsville* will be offered for sale in Harrison Brothers and other retail establishments. We also recognize this book has a higher purpose. Our project fills a need for projects that teach the history of Huntsville in a fun, engaging and affordable way. The Historic Huntsville Foundation will earmark a portion of all proceeds to distribute the coloring books free to elementary school classrooms and after school programs throughout Huntsville and Madison County.

We are deeply appreciative to Carole, Christina and Christina for making this project possible for our community. We are all motivated by thoughts of children, of all shapes, sizes and colors, elbows on the table or cross-legged on the floor, crayons in hand, filling in the pages of their book using all the colors in the rainbow. We believe these images will make themselves at home in their imaginations and create an enduring appreciation for the place they live.

ABOUT OUR ARTISTS

Meet the incredibly talented team of artists who are lending their creative energies to *Color Me, Huntsville*.

Carole Foret hails from a long line of talented artists and has painted professionally for over 27 years. A member of the Oil Painters of American, Carole is one of our region's most recognizable names, having been featured in numerous magazines and was the keynote speaker for the Congressional Art Competition in Washington, D.C.

Christina Green's whimsical watercolors have made quite the splash in Huntsville since she and her family moved here a few years ago. A self-taught artist, Christina began painting after she asked her mom, also an artist, for her old brushes and watercolors

and used online tutorials to learn calligraphy and watercolor techniques. Christina's studio, the Turquoise Cardinal, adds to the creative energy of downtown Huntsville.

ArtHuntsville's 2018 Panoply Poster artist, Christina Wegman is also a self-taught artist, who many know through her gallery, Christina Wegman Fine Art, in the Clinton Row Project on Clinton Avenue. Christina's bold, expressionist style reflects her affection for her hometown. Christina's paintings have been featured at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Christina will soon begin a new adventure in Germany, with her husband Florian, but will maintain her connections to Huntsville through family, friends and her art.

The Spirits will flow on Randolph

Spirits on Randolph Ghost Walk will be a new Halloween Tradition

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 27 for the debut of Spirits on Randolph, as HHHF joins forces with Jacque Reeves of Huntsville Ghost Walk for a Randolph Avenue-centered ghost walk with a twist.

Jacque and her guides will share ghost stories from the porches of three Randolph Avenue houses and a Clinton Avenue garden, creating a tour experience that promises to be otherworldly. Light refreshments and wicked libations will get everyone in the Halloween spirit.

Guests will meet at the Cooper House parking lot at 405 Randolph Avenue, divide into groups, and rotate between host porches and garden.

The tour is limited to 100 people. Tickets are \$15 for HHHF members; \$25 for nonmembers. HHHF members will receive postcard invitations with reservation and payment instructions.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN THE ART OF HARRISON BROTHERS



Shh. Don't tell anyone. But there are a few perks of being Chairman of Board of the Historic Huntsville Foundation. No, it's not the stream of endless emails or unbalanced balance sheets or calls that the air conditioning in Harrison Brothers is on the fritz again,

but there other benefits that make up for these inconveniences.

And one of them is Harrison Brothers. The store is a treasure trove of historic artifacts, and every time I walk through the door a new layer of meaning is revealed to me. Case in point, an advertising poster positioned on a wall above the sales floor, opposite the cash register. The poster is of a woman in 1920s attire, hair in a bun, holding a platter of food fresh from the oven—a Princess oven!--smiling and wearing a crown. The ad reads, "Let a Princess Do Your Cooking." This poster always amuses me; I don't think naming an oven "princess" makes cooking a more regal chore.

A few weeks ago, we removed the poster from the wall to get a closer look at the piece and researched a bit for a better understanding of its history. The poster is an ad for the Princess oven, manufactured by the Allen Manufacturing Company, at their 310,000 square foot industrial complex in Nashville, Tennessee. Allen Manufacturing constructed the buildings between 1931 -1932, but the Great Depression forced the company into receivership in late 1932. Allen Manufacturing ceased operation but the buildings remained in use. Over the decades, Dortch Stove Company, Magic Chef Stove Company and Jamieson Bedding occupied the complex. The buildings are listed to the National Register and today is a repurposed retail shopping facility, the Factory at

Franklin, with over 80 retail vendors.

But I digress. We were excited to learn the history of this advertising poster, the history of the company who produced it, and the association of Allen Manufacturing and their products with Harrison Brothers and Huntsville families. So, we had the poster photographed using protective techniques and reframed with archival materials, and we will display a framed copy in the store where it can be seen by visitors interested in store history and as an example of print advertising in early twentieth century retail businesses.



Along with having a display poster in the store, we are also thinking that some people might want to have a personal copy of our posters. For example, there may be people, like me, who would enjoy drinking their morning coffee or eating take-out pizza in a kitchen adorned with the lady from the Allen Manufacturing princess poster smiling down upon them

Historic preservation is a story of adaptive reuse — preserving an original structure by bringing new purposes to old buildings. It appears that adaptive reuse can apply to items other than buildings, and we are exploring the many manifestations of those opportunities.

There are so many layers of Harrison Brothers history that can be shared with our community, and we are just beginning to scratch the surface.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Angi and Chuck Rogers of C&A Printing for sharing their expertise on the letter press printing process.



Please join us for the **ART SHOW** for Christina Wegman
The home of Donna and Mike Castellano, 436 Newman Avenue
2 – 5 pm in the afternoon – Sunday, August 12
Thirty Percent of all sales benefit **COLOR ME, HUNTSVILLE**
Email donna@historichuntsville.org to RSVP

*i*n the mid-20th century, downtowns and urban historic neighborhoods were in crisis all across the United States. The Housing Act of 1949 had instigated the “Urban Renewal” program which sought to redevelop cities where suburban flight had removed large portions of the population and urban decay had diminished property values. This Act provided funding to cities to cover the cost of acquiring areas perceived to be slums. Those sites were given to private developers to construct new housing, and oftentimes entire neighborhoods were razed and large numbers of ethnic and minority residents were forced to move. In Huntsville, this program resulted in the demolition of many historically significant structures as well as the removal of many of the city’s African American population. Because of the ways in which it targeted the most disadvantaged sector of the American population, novelist James Baldwin famously dubbed Urban Renewal “Negro Removal” in the 1960s.

In response to the devastating impact of Urban Renewal, a national historic preservation movement began and helped establish the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Huntsville joined this movement by identifying, surveying, and designating historic districts throughout the city both locally and on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1972, Twickenham Historic District became Huntsville’s first district to be listed to the National Register. To date, Huntsville has listed eight historic districts to the National Register, including four mill villages and the locally designated Old Town, Five Points, and Normal Historic Districts. In late 2018, McThornmor Acres, a mid-century

neighborhood near the University of Alabama in Huntsville campus, will become the city’s ninth historic district and Alabama’s first Space Age historic district.

As the years have passed and more neighborhoods have become eligible for listing on the National Register, it is clear that the City has a long way to go in order to properly recognize and document Huntsville’s historically significant African American sites and communities. One step towards this goal was the National Register listing of the Normal Historic District in 2001. Located on the Alabama A&M University (AAMU) campus, Normal is unlike Huntsville’s other historic districts, which are primarily residential, including 46 historic campus facilities and artifacts that were constructed from 1927 to 1962,



with a few structures that remain from the turn of the 20th century. Edmonton Heights is a historically African American neighborhood with close ties to AAMU. By 2020, it will become Huntsville’s first African American residential historic district to be listed to the National Register.

When Edmonton Heights was constructed in 1959, Huntsville was still a segregated city. It was one of few neighborhoods where African Americans were allowed to live and purchase property. The devastation of Urban Renewal brought

in displaced African American residents from the heart of downtown, and Edmonton Heights served as a refuge for many black citizens. At the heart of that refuge was AAMU. Given the proximity of the neighborhood to AAMU, many of the residents were faculty and staff for the University. AAMU provided residents with the first African American primary school in the county (Councill Training), the first African American hospital in the county (Virginia McCormick Hospital), a public library (Carnegie Library), among other

resources. Many of Huntsville’s African American citizens would not have had access to these resources if not for Edmonton Heights and AAMU. The Edmonton Heights neighborhood served as an incubator for progress providing a sense of community, identity, and unity.

On March 19, 1962, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited Huntsville and spent the night in a house located at 101 Whitney Avenue in Edmonton Heights. This moment in time was the height of the civil

rights movement in Huntsville. During his stay, Dr. King visited the First Baptist Church on Church Street and made a speech at Oakwood University. That evening, King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech in the Oakwood gym that he would deliver again during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963.

Dr. King and his top aide, Reverend Ralph Abernathy, were unable to spend the night in a hotel or motel because of segregation. The local Reverend Ezekiel Bell welcomed them into his home in Edmonton Heights. Bell lived in the house with his wife, Eltie, and two young sons. Bell had arrived in Huntsville in 1959 with the intent to impact positive change for Huntsville’s African American community.

He started Fellowship Presbyterian Church on Meridian Street, his first church, and was named the chair of the City’s first civil rights organization, the Community Service Committee, in 1962. Bell’s house was used for community meetings, Sunday school and church.

Unfortunately, 101 Whitney Avenue is no longer standing. Despite this loss, Edmonton Heights remains an enormously significant historic neighborhood in Huntsville. It has many examples of unique mid-century architecture and provided living space to

When Dr. Martin Luther King spoke at Oakwood College in March, 1962, he spent the night in an Edmonton Heights home as Huntsville hotels would not accept African-Americans.

Huntsville’s African American community at a time when segregation denied them the freedom to choose where they lived.

As with all of Huntsville’s National Register historic districts, the effort to survey and list Edmonton Heights on the National Register involved collaboration between many different community partners. The Edmonton Heights Neighborhood Association, Normal Historic Preservation District Association, Historic Huntsville Foundation, and City Councilman Mark Russell worked together with the City of Huntsville’s Historic Preservation Consultant to ensure this neighborhood would be recognized for its historic significance.

If you are interested in learning more about the National Register of Historic Places or local historic district designation, please contact City of Huntsville Historic Preservation Consultant Katie Stamps at 256.650.479 or katherine.stamps@huntsvilleal.gov.

Edmonton HEIGHTS

PRESERVING HUNTSVILLE’S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

By Katie Stamps



Celebrating

THE PEOPLE WHO PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

May's National Preservation Month Festivities recognizes community leaders at preservation events

AWARDS DAY

The Historic Huntsville Foundation's "Ranch Houses in the Rocket City" program on May 3 became an opportunity to recognize community leaders who have actively contributed to the preservation of Huntsville-Madison County's historic resource. Our honorees create a successful preservation culture in our community and inspire others to follow in their footsteps.



HHF Board member Jan Dorning, Councilman Kling and Donna Dutton

Councilman Bill Kling and Donna Dutton were recognized for their contributions to recognize and list McThornmor Acres to the National Register of Historic Places.

Located adjacent to the UAH Campus and significant for its association with the space program, McThornmor Acres will be Alabama's first Space Age historic district. Councilman Kling was an early supporter of this project and his leadership secured critical funding for the nomination process.

Donna Dutton performs the true yeoman's work of preservation—answering homeowner questions, addressing concerns and organizing countless meetings.



David Moore, Reagan Grimsley, Drew Adan and Arik Daley.

The staff of the University of Alabama Huntsville – Special Collections and Archives were recognized for their work to preserve the primary source materials and documents that capture our city's history.

The UAH Library and the Special Collection and Archives is a tremendous resource for historic preservationists. Within their archives, is the Harvie Jones collection, the Frances Roberts collection, the Goldsmith-Schiffman family collection, the Heinz Hilten collection and soon the Harrison Brothers Hardware collection.



Councilman Mark Russell

Through his service on the Huntsville City Council over the past sixteen years, Councilman Mark Russell helped create a booming economic environment in our city that has fueled investment in historic buildings, homes and neighborhoods.

Mark also served on the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission.

During Mark's tenure on the Commission, Huntsville added four Mill Villages to the National Register of, began the nomination of McThornmor Acres, and initiated the listing of Edmonton Heights to the National Register.

When approved, Edmonton Heights will be Huntsville's first residential African-American neighborhood listed to the National Register. Edmonton Heights is in Mark's council district, and he led efforts to bring community stakeholders together to garner support this project.



Ollye Conley, Joseph Lee and Brian Walker, representing City of Huntsville, Department of Landscape Management, were recognized for their contributions to the preservation of Glenwood Cemetery.

African Americans made their mark on Huntsville from the earliest days of its settlement; it is challenging to mark the places and buildings associated with African Americans when too many of these sites are marked with signs that read, "on this place once stood..." Recent efforts have led to the recognition of Glenwood Cemetery, an African American cemetery established by the City of Huntsville in 1870 and which replaced Georgia, the original burial ground of slaves and their descendants.

Mrs. Ollye Conley, as a teacher at the Academy for Space and Foreign Language, has been on the forefront of the effort to preserve Glenwood cemetery. She engaged students and

their parents to research those buried at Glenwood Cemetery.

Dr. Joseph Lee, a Professor of Urban Planning at Alabama A&M University and a member of the Normal Historic District Preservation Association, led efforts to have Glenwood placed on the Alabama's Historic Cemetery Register.

Ms. Joy McKee, and her staff at Huntsville Landscape Management, coordinated efforts to document all graves and those buried there, map the cemetery, and create a database so this information is accessible to the public.



HHF Executive Director Donna Castellano speaks at the City of Huntsville's #ThisPlaceMattersHSV kick off press conference, announcing activities for May's preservation festivities.



124 Southside Square
Huntsville, AL 35801

2018 Membership Levels & Benefits

Individual/Family Membership \$50

- Guests at holiday membership reception
- Receive invitations to HHF special events and programs
- Receive Foundation newsletter
- Recognition in HHF newsletter

Patron \$125 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Patron Member in HHF newsletter

Benefactor \$250 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Benefactor Member in HHF newsletter
- 10% shopping discount at Harrison Brothers Hardware, excluding consignment and sale merchandise
- Individual or corporate recognition as Benefactor on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware
- Benefactor recognition at HHF's Movies in the Park film series.

Preservation Society \$1,000 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Preservation Society member in HHF newsletter
- Individual or corporate recognition as Preservation Society on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware
- Individual or corporate recognition as Sponsor at HHF's Movies in the Park film series

Preservation Partner \$2,500 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Preservation Partner in HHF Newsletter
- Individual or corporate recognition as Preservation Partner on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware
- Recognition as Supporting Sponsor of HHF's Movies in the Park film series

Thank you for building a more vibrant future for Huntsville-Madison County by preserving our past!

Membership Levels

- ☐ Yes, Please renew my membership in the Historic Huntsville Foundation.
- ☐ Individual & Family \$50
- ☐ Patron \$125 to \$249
- ☐ Benefactor \$250
- ☐ Preservation Society \$1,000
- ☐ Preservation Partner \$2,500

Name _____

Print name as it should appear on our membership levels and mailings.

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Make checks payable to: The Historic Huntsville Foundation

Please send your membership dues to: The Historic Huntsville Foundation
124 Southside Square, Huntsville, AL 35801

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