



Foundation Forum



Foundation Forum and Historic Huntsville Foundation Newsletter

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.



A preservation grant will help HHF protect the historic Harrison Brothers storefront.

A 2020 preservation grant award from the Alabama Historical Commission for \$7,123 will help the Historic Huntsville Foundation make needed repairs to protect and preserve the original storefront and windows of Harrison Brothers Hardware. The storefront of Harrison Brothers Hardware dates to 1902. We believe Harrison Brother's glass pane windows are the oldest windows on a retail store in the downtown core and among the oldest, original glass windowpanes in a retail store in the state.

Work will commence in January 2020. The store's eight, single-paned glass windows will be temporarily removed from their frames. Prior to their removal, a safety and security film will be applied to their surface to strengthen the glass and prevent it from shattering. Plywood will be placed over the window openings. Repairs will begin to the storefront, which include repairing the wood around the window frames. Once complete, the windowpanes will be reinstalled, and all wood trim painted to match the existing green color of the store.

The protective film will stay on the panes to protect them for the future. As HHF board

member Andy Kelly explains, "The film strengthens the glass and turns it into something like a windshield. This repair project is one more fulfillment of the promise HHF made to preserve the store. We believe it necessary to take this preventative step to ensure nothing happens to a place that represents so much to the Huntsville community."

The HHF Board of Directors and Harrison Brothers staff are prepared for the attention they will receive when the plywood goes up over the store windows. The store will remain open to customers.

Along with being a destination for local shoppers, Harrison Brothers is also an ambassador for the state of Alabama. Approximately 60,000 people visit HBH annually, of which 70 percent are tourists. Many of these tourists are international visitors, drawn from around the world by the U. S. Space and Rocket Center, U. S Space Camp, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, or Toyota and Mitsubishi automotive plants.

A word from your Historic Huntsville Foundation Board Chairman...

As 2019 comes to an end, and even though the holidays are a swirl of activity pulling us to and fro, it's important to stop, take a breath and reflect on the year that's passed us by in what seems like a flash. This, the bicentennial year of our great state, has been a good one to Historic Huntsville Foundation. All the awareness and activities surrounding its celebration have brought with them a renewed interest in the importance of our Huntsville history and challenged us as an organization to find new, fun, unique and, dare we say, youthful ways to engage our growing audience of fans. Enough cannot be said about the hard work of our Executive Director, Harrison Brothers Hardware staff and volunteers, your Board of Directors and you, the membership, have put in to making this year a great one.

Now what? Though our success this year has been noteworthy, the 'win' for HHF comes with using this renewed energy to expand our reach, challenge ourselves to continue to impact the preservation of our community, offer greater value to our membership and ultimately leave our city and the Foundation better than we found it. Here's how we do just that as we move forward: We continue the incredibly successful *Color Me, Huntsville* and *Finding Huntsville* tours, programs and school system presentations. We continue to engage in the important community conversations happening around preservation in our city and the surrounding areas as we transition into a new age of what defines a "historical structure." We create amazing experiences for our long-term members; so incredible they bring new members into the fold. (if you haven't seen the membership renewal offerings, they're amazing! Seriously, go



Leslie Tuck Walker

take a look.) And lastly, we embark on a full restoration of the Harrison Brothers Hardware façade as well as preserve, catalogue, archive and create a meaningful and informative display of the Harrison brothers records and much-beloved "pile of stuff."

It's true this year has been a great one, with of much to be proud. However, rather than rest on those successes, we endeavor to charge forward into a new decade, the new year and a new day for Historic Huntsville Foundation.

Partners in Preservation

UAH and HHF Continue to Preserve the Legacy of Harrison Brothers Hardware



Reagan Grimsley, Head of UAH Special Collections and University Archivist, Drew Adan, Archivist, Caroline Gibbons and Caitlyn Schoenig carefully pack Harrison Brothers materials for their transfer to the UAH Library.

For years, the cluttered business desk piled high with papers at the back of Harrison Brothers symbolized the brothers' penchant for disorderly orderliness and their unwillingness to part with a single scrap of paper. As time wore on, it became impossible to ignore that the papers displayed on the desk and upper wall were slowly deteriorating, and that when the papers were gone, the information they contained about the store and its history would be gone, as well.

With the legacy of Harrison Brothers crumbling before our eyes, we reached out to Reagan Grimsley and Drew Adan at the University of Alabama-Huntsville's Special Collections and Archives for help. In 2015, HHF donated the business ledgers and records of the Harrison Brothers to UAH Special Collections and Archives. With full confidence in the UAH Special Collections staff, we sought their advice for how to protect and archive the materials on and around the desk.

In early November, Reagan, Drew, and their team collected the materials and took them to the UAH library, where the papers will be scanned and digitized. The original materials will then be returned to HBH, for a series of displays and exhibits that explain the history of the store and its larger place within the Huntsville community.

HHF and UAH will seek grant funding and donations to support our Harrison Brothers history exhibition. If you would like to offer assistance, please contact Donna Castellano at donna@historichuntsville.org or 256.508.5372.

HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND!

HHF's Bicentennial Projects Have Made Themselves at Home

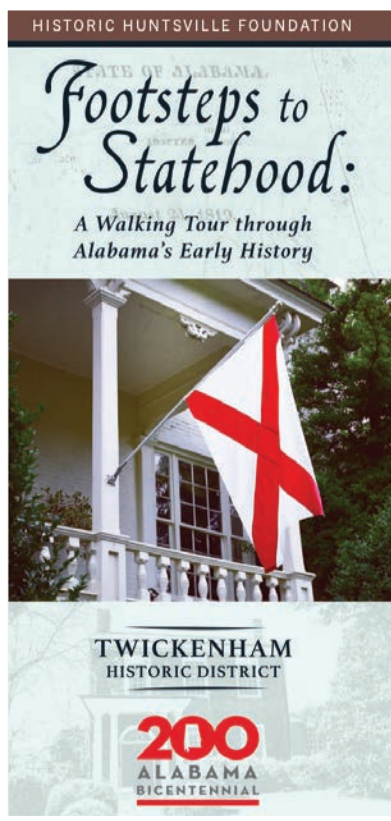
A few years ago, Alabama's Bicentennial was just a dream. Then reality set in; we began planning in earnest; we developed programs, received grants, and launched our projects to the satisfaction of all. The rest, as they say, is history.

Except when it's not. HHF's Bicentennial-inspired story will continue after the clock strikes twelve on the night of December 31, 2019.

Our history-based projects, *Footsteps to Statehood*, *Finding Huntsville: A Kid-Friendly Field Guide to Huntsville's Historic Architecture* and *Color Me, Huntsville* have made a home for themselves in the Huntsville community. Due to their popularity, they show no sign of leaving.



Finding Huntsville activity books and walking tours remain a hot-ticket item. We've had a hard time keeping up with the demand for the books from folks visiting the Convention and Visitors Center and from local schoolteachers using the activity books for Huntsville history lessons. HHF board member Carol Codori quickly assumed tour guide-in-chief role, and Carol is scheduling personally guided tours for groups and visitors in 2020.



Footsteps to Statehood is a beautifully illustrated, self-guided walking tour and brochure that tracks the path of Alabama statehood through nine houses in the Twickenham Historic District built in or before 1819. *Footsteps* goes beyond architectural descriptions and house histories. Our walking tour gives a comprehensive overview of the economic and political foundations of Huntsville's early development,

including a discussion about the lives and contributions made by Alabama's enslaved workforce. Funding by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville, *Footsteps* walking tours and brochures are available at the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Harrison Brothers Hardware, with plans to offer HHF walking tours in Spring 2020.



Color Me, Huntsville is the "little coloring book that could" and DOES get third graders excited about Huntsville history, our historic resources and why they should be preserved. In the past three months, HHF has visited thirteen elementary schools in Huntsville and Madison County, presenting programs and giving away over 1,100 coloring books to third-grade students, teachers, and school libraries. So far, principals from six elementary schools have requested *Color Me, Huntsville* programs in early 2020, representing a need for over 500 *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring books.

Alabama's Bicentennial challenged us to create projects to get people excited about our state and its history. And guess what? HHF did. We found our voice and discovered an audience eager for our message. And now, the show must go on.

Our preservation mission

*is fueled by the donations of individuals, families and business owners
who believe historic places make our community a better place to live, work and play.*

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Lifetime

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Wow! Is This Really in Huntsville???

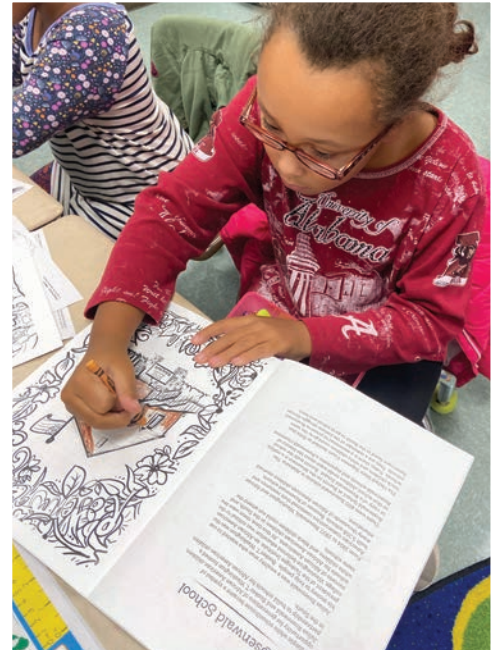
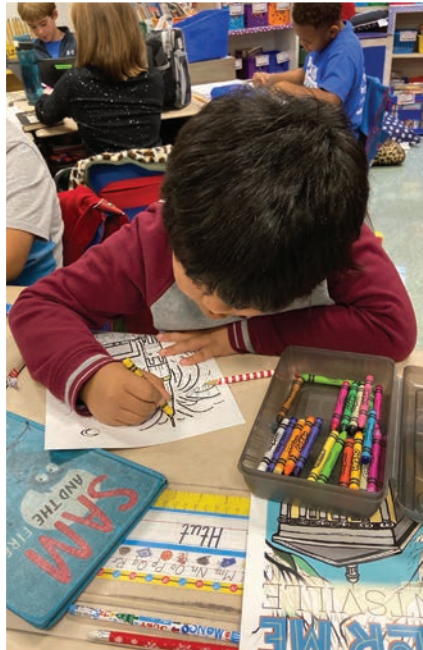
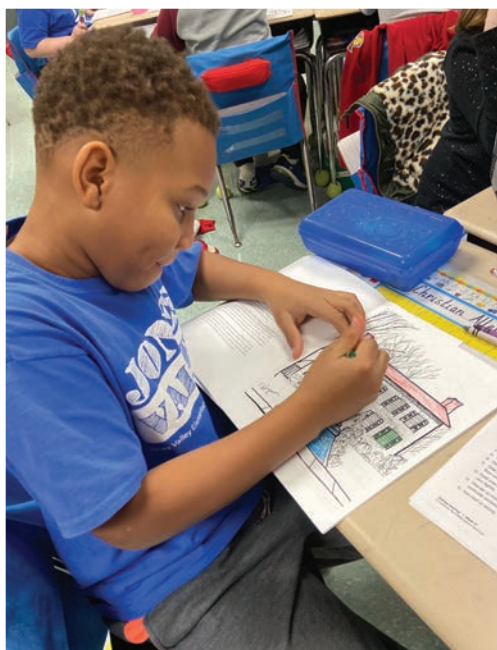
Let's Keep the Coloring Going!

Initially conceived as a fun way to use art, history and coloring to celebrate the Alabama Bicentennial, *Color Me, Huntsville* reached new heights after Huntsville City School personnel encouraged HHF to develop *Color Me, Huntsville* for classroom use.

This program is now wildly popular with Huntsville school administrators, classroom teachers and students. Dr. Timothy Scott, Deputy of Instruction at Huntsville City School, recently praised *Color Me, Huntsville*, stating, "HHF staff and volunteers have distributed the books personally through informative school presentations to the delight and fascination of both students and teachers. With every presentation, the educational benefits of *Color Me, Huntsville* become more self-evident."

A visit from HHF's *Color Me, Huntsville* team consists of a presentation about Huntsville's founding, our historic buildings, the people associated with these places, and why they should be preserved. At the end of the program, children choose one of the three coloring books and HHF donates a full set to each classroom teachers and the school library.

Please consider a gift to *Color Me, Huntsville* and help fund our educational programs for 2020. (*There is a place for this on the membership form at the back page of the newsletter.*) Community leaders will praise your preservation foresight in 2117, when planning commences for Alabama's Tricentennial.



HHF Debuts New Membership Benefits for 2020

More Events! More Tours! And Exclusive Invitations into Historic Homes

There is no doubt. 2019 will go down in the history books as a banner year for HHF. We wondered if we could ever top the success of the Bicentennial year...then we got an idea...a wonderfully marvelous idea...an idea for a new menu of membership benefits sure to appeal to all our history-loving members. You received the details in your invitation to the holiday reception, but here's a reminder just in case things got lost in the busy-ness of the holidays.

Members Only Walking Tours

Free to all HHF Members

Sacred Sanctuaries

Sunday, May 17, 2020 from 2 pm to 4pm

HHF members enjoy a walking tour that includes four historic places of worship.

First United Methodist Church, *tour led by Nancy Van Valkenburgh*

Randolph Street Church of Christ, *tour led by Rosemarie Webb*

Temple B'nai Sholom, *tour led by Pam Rhodes*

Central Presbyterian Church, *tour guide TBD*

These tours are FREE to all members.

Stovehouse Expedition

Fall, 2020

Dr. John Kvach takes HHF members on an amazing, behind the scenes tour of Stovehouse, a former stove manufacturing factory that's been reimagined as Huntsville's most dynamic dining and entertainment venue.

An Invitation to History

A series of three home and garden tours, exclusively for HHF members. Limited tour size allows guests to enjoy the property at your own pace while learning about the residence from the owners. Free admission and early registration are available to members who join at the Benefactor and above level. Tours begin at 2:00 and 3:00



La Belle Epoqué

Nell and David Johnston open the doors of the 1902 Van-Valkenburgh-Johnston house and share what it means to live in one of Huntsville's most recognizable historic properties.

Sunday, June 7, 2020

Two tours; 40 guests per tour;
\$20/person admission

The Collector's House

The Steele Street home of Jerry Barclay offers a master class in how to blend a period restoration with the convenience of modern life.

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Two tours; 25 guests per tour, \$20/person admission



Mid-Century Masterpiece on Monte Sano

The home of Tom Froehlich and Charles Vaughn on Monte Sano Mountain will open your mind to the possibilities of a ranch-style house.

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Two tours; 30 guests per tour,
\$20/person admission





124 Southside Square
Huntsville, AL 35801

2020 Membership Levels & Benefits

Individual/Family Membership \$50

- Guests at holiday membership reception • Invitations to HHF Special Event
- Receive HHF newsletter • Recognition in HHF newsletter, 10% off shopping discount in HBH, excluding sale or consignment.

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

- Recognition as Patron in HHF newsletter

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

- Recognized as Benefactor Member in HHF newsletter
- Recognition as Benefactor on Community Sponsors and Donor Board displayed in Harrison Brothers Hardware
- Free admission and early registration to Invitation to History Home Tours

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

- Recognition as a Bicentennial Partner in the *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book

Preservation Society \$1000 *All of the above, plus:*

- Recognized as Preservation Society member in HHF newsletter
- Community Sponsors and Donors Board, and *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book

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

- Recognized as Preservation Partner in HHF Newsletter
- Community Sponsors and Donors Board, and *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book

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
- ☐ Benefactor \$250
- ☐ Bicentennial Partner \$500
- ☐ Preservation Society \$1,000
- ☐ Preservation Partner \$2,500

ADDITIONAL DONATION

- ☐ *Color Me, Huntsville* donation of \$ _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

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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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