



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.

The Best is Yet to Come

Do you feel a certain optimism in the air?

It's going to take while before we recover from the year we've just endured, but one thing is certain: We can't resist an opportunity to gather at events and parties and catch up with the friends we missed during Covid.



The HHF Board of Directors and the William Hooper Councill High Alumni Association at HHF's Preservation Awards Program

And over the past months, HHF created those gatherings at a dizzying speed. Since March, we've hosted seven member events! We've had three "Invitation to History" tours, dedicated a historic marker recognizing Huntsville suffragists, presented historic preservation awards to deserving recipients, debuted our "Rooted in History Art" show in Harrison Brothers Hardware, and threw a Rooted in History preview party that filled the store with artists, art lovers, and people who just wanted to enjoy a good time with friends.

We are taking the summer to catch our breath before we hit the ground running in fall. Our "Invitation to History" Tour of the H. C. Blake Art & History Center is scheduled for September. We will also dedicate HHF's historic markers recognizing Huntsville Women Who Made History. Soon, the names and contributions of Alice Baldridge, Mary Binford, Ellen Brandon, India Herndon, Lou Bertha Johnson, Dora Lowery, Celia Love, Dr. Frances Roberts and Franny Cabaniss will be permanently inscribed in the Huntsville landscape.

In fact, we just learned the Alabama Department of Archives and History's (ADAH) upcoming exhibit Justice Not Favor, about Alabama women's fight for suffrage, will include a display on Huntsville's Black suffragists Mary Binford, Ellen Brandon, India Herndon, Lou Bertha Johnson, Dora Lowery and Celia Love. The ADAH credits HHF for our research and documentation which brought the women's history to public attention.

And we've had all this fun without wavering from our preservation mission, which included celebrating the listing of Edmonton Heights to the National Register of Historic Places and supporting a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant by the City of Huntsville to survey Magnolia Terrace as a potential historic district.

During a year of uncertainty, your member support and sponsor donations have been a bright spot for our organization and its preservation mission. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

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



Chair Leslie Walker welcomes honorees and guests to the 2021 HHF Preservation Awards

We are officially halfway through 2021! How in the world did that happen?

Spending much of last year waiting as time crept slowly by and then realizing it eventually disappeared altogether, seems to have made this year move along even faster than usual. However, if you have watched Historic Huntsville Foundation's schedule of activities through our mailings, press releases, or social media channels over the past few months, you know we have been making very valuable use of these fleeting days and will continue to do so in the upcoming months.

As in-person activities have occurred with greater frequency, many of you have shown your incredible support through participating in our "Invitation

to History" events, historic marker dedications, Harrison Brothers Hardware tasting events, and our preservation awards ceremony. Did you know that Harrison Brothers even began presenting puppet shows in the store's windows? We simply cannot thank you enough for taking every opportunity to be part of all we have been working to create for this great organization and our incredible city.

The good news is we are not done yet! As you flip through this newsletter, you will discover we are planning more ways to immerse yourself in the Huntsville history experience. More markers dedicated to inspiring citizens of our past, more behind the scenes opportunities with artists and landmarks and places you never thought you could go, more regional art ("more" may not be

a strong enough word. LOTS more!), more quirky and fun ways to engage with Harrison Brothers Hardware and all the goodies available there; more is simply our promise for the remainder of this year.

If time insists on continuing to fly by, HHF will insist on putting a mark on each calendar day possible, making sure to stop and take purposeful count of as many of them as we can.

A FIERY START TO OUR NEW YEAR



A malfunction in the train's switching mechanism sparked a fire in the window of our 1897 hardware store.

It's the call we never wanted to receive.

On Sunday, January 10, three fire alarms activated in Harrison Brothers Hardware prompting a quick response by the Huntsville Fire Department, who averted potential disaster by extinguishing a small electrical fire in our store window. A malfunction in a

trainset set up as a holiday attraction started the fire. HHF Board member Andy Kelly arrived shortly after the fire fighters. As Andy recalls: "The store was quite fortunate; not only did the Huntsville Fire Department put out the blaze before any wood caught fire, but they did so before the water sprinklers activated. It is terrifying to think of the water damage that would have been done to the building's interior and store merchandise if those sprinklers had gone off."

But the fire left its mark. A fine layer of soot covered every surface in the store—the merchandise, floors, original shelving and cabinetry, the memorabilia. All the history that makes our store unique. Soot residue causes irreversible damage to everything it touches. We needed a restoration firm that could safely clean the store and all the original materials.

Fortunately, we found a Partner in Preservation with SERVPRO of North and South Madison County. Their cleaning and restoration techniques were a wonder to behold. Their staff cleaned every item in the store, including wiping down each individual nail in the bins.

Now, the only evidence of this potential catastrophe is a scorched mark on the floor of the west window where the fire started. We thought about restoring the wood, but decided it needed to remain as part of the store's history.



DISCOVER THE PLACES

Where Huntsville Women

★ **MADE HISTORY** ★

SAVE THE DATE

Black Suffrage Marker Dedication Tentatively set for Sunday, October 24

On Sunday, October 24 the Historic Huntsville Foundation, the William Hooper Council Alumni Association, representatives of Glenwood Cemetery, Lakeside Methodist Church, St. John AME, and the Twickenham Town Chapter of the NSDAR will join to dedicate the Alabama Historical Association (AHA) historic marker recognizing Huntsville's six Black suffragists who registered to vote in 1920, following the ratification of the 19th amendment.

At our first organizational meeting, Ollye Conley, former principal of the Academy of Science and Foreign Languages and a driving force behind Glenwood Cemetery's preservation, suggested we turn a "marker dedication" into a "community-wide celebration," to which we all agreed! We aren't quite sure what this means, but we are confident there will be history re-enactors, suffrage

attire, glorious hats, singing (even if we have to do it ourselves!) and yellow roses, which were the symbol of suffrage.

The only thing that could put a damper on our plans is if our historic marker is waylaid somewhere between the foundry and Huntsville, although I've been assured the marker is on its way.

If you would like to be involved in our event as an individual, business, or community organization, we would appreciate your help! Please email Donna Castellano, donna@historichuntsville.org, or call at 256.508.5372 for more information.

Invest in the Future of Huntsville-Madison County's History

Over the past years, we have shaped HHF's preservation mission to meet the needs of our community. Our new programs and projects have been recognized by national, state and local leaders for their success in bringing recognition to those whose history has been neglected or marginalized. This HHF Foundation Form newsletter is proof of our success.

As we launch programs associated with our *Places Where Huntsville Women Made History* project, we ask you to consider a donation to help fund this endeavor. These donations will support a special edition of our *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring book, sketched by artist Christina Wegman, solely dedicated to sites where Huntsville women made history. The kid-friendly format of a coloring book offers a creative introduction to Huntsville heroes such Mary Binford, Alice Baldrige, Dr. Frances Roberts, and Nurse LouJean Dent.

We will also debut a Women's History Trail that introduces residents and tourists to these amazing Huntsville women and the places they made history.

Yes! I want to help bring recognition to Huntsville women who made history!

Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Amount:\$ _____

Invitation to History Tours offer members

As many of us learned this past year, when the going gets tough, the tough adapt.

Launched during the covid pandemic in 2020, our successful "Invitation to History" tours provided safe gatherings for HHF members who wanted a behind-the-scenes tour of a historic house or building. Exhilarated by the promise of vaccines and a deep need to socialize with folks outside of our quarantine pod, we added TWO bonus tours to our planned 2021 schedule.

Stay tuned for details of the H. C. Blake Art + History tour planned in September!

Harrison Brothers Hardware

The 2021 Invitation to History Tours kicked off with a *Bonus Tour* in April sponsored by Brad Lowery, Owner and General Manager of SERVPRO of North and South Madison County.



Guests who attended the Invitation to History Tour in Harrison Brothers were treated to a dramatic reenactment of the Harrison Brothers fire by Jerry Barclay.



Brad Lowery explains the cleaning techniques SERVPRO used for the store's fire restoration. The scorched wood in the store window is visible on the right side of the photo.

The Art Studio of Jahni Moore

John "Jahni the Artist" Moore hosted members for our third (and second bonus!) Invitation to History tour at his art studio. This c. 1925 building on Oakwood Avenue was originally a grocery store, recently a church, and now a place where creativity and genius dwell.

An artist in his studio. To his left, Jahni's painting of a young Harriet Tubman, "Our Moses," captures the intensity of the woman who escaped slavery and led approximately 70 enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad.



an insider's view to Huntsville history.

The Preservation Company

It's always fun to visit the Preservation Company, but even better when Christa and Jason Butler and their adorable kids are in the store! Guests listened as Jason explained the leap of faith required to purchase and renovate the 1927 Lincoln Mill Village Commissary.

Vaccinations allowed for safer socialization. To celebrate, we offered a pizza tasting by the Pizza Peddler, who taught us that fresh peaches were the pizza topping we didn't know we needed.



*What a way to greet guests!
The unmasked, smiling faces of
Lee Roop, Pat Ammons,
Charles Vaughn and
Tom Froehlich.*



Pizza Perfected

*Jason Butler explains how faith, family, and a passion
of historic architecture led to the founding of the
Preservation Company.*



*A pew left by the Victory Bible Fellowship Church offers easy seating for
guests, enthralled by tales of Jabni's artistic journeys.*



The lives of a building: from grocery store to church to artist studio.

Celebrating National Historic Preservation Month

Marking the Places Where Huntsville Women Made History Women's suffrage historic marker dedicated

There was nothing but blue skies and sunshine when the Historic Huntsville Foundation dedicated the state's first Pomeroy marker recognizing the Greene Street YMCA for its place in Alabama's suffrage history, at the public dedication ceremony on Wednesday, May 19 in downtown Huntsville.

As a lasting legacy of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS) partnered to create the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT), which commemorates the women, events, and places involved in the fight for women's suffrage. The NVWT includes sites in all fifty states. The Historical Marker Subcommittee of the Alabama Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (AWSCC) identified and nominated six Alabama sites for inclusion in the NVWT. Donna Castellano, HHF Executive Director, served on the Marker Subcommittee.

Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle welcomed everyone to the marker service, which included remarks from Marsha Weinstein, President, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites; Dr. Valerie Burns, Chair, Alabama Women's Suffrage Sites Committee; Dr. Alex Colvin, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Brenda Chunn, President, William Hooper Councill High Alumni Association; Sue Shaver, Chapter Regent, Twickenham Town Chapter, NSDAR; Janet Watson and Rebekah McKinney, owners of the YMCA building.

The Pomeroy marker commemorates events related to the Huntsville suffrage movement that occurred at the 1910 YMCA Building. In February 1912, suffrage representatives held an organizational meeting at the YMCA formally restoring the Huntsville Equal Suffrage Association (HESA) to activity. In 1914, the YMCA was the site of the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association



Dr. Valerie Burns, Chair, Alabama Women's Suffrage Sites Committee; Dr. Alex Colvin, Alabama Department of Archives and History; HHF Chair Leslie Walker and HHF Executive Director Donna Castellano welcome Huntsville's newest (and only purple) historic marker.



Mayor Tommy Battle with (L to R) Marsha Weinstein, President, NCWHS; Rebekah McKinney and Janet Watson, YMCA owners; Donna Castellano and Leslie Walker.



A gathering that included neighbors, DAR members, city council president Jenny Robinson, and a little girl peeking over the stair rail listen as Marsha Weinstein, NCWHS president, explains the National Votes for Women Trail.



(AESAs) convention. Suffrage organizations from around the state sent delegates to the convention, whose meetings and programs were open to the public.

The Pomeroy marker is Huntsville's second marker recognizing the suffrage movement. Last year, the Twickenham Town Chapter of the NSDAR dedicated a marker recognizing Huntsville suffrage pioneers at the former home of Alberta Chapman Taylor on McClung Avenue.



Celebrating The People Who Preserve Our History

HHF's 2021 preservation awards took place under the statue of William Hooper Councill, in the park that bears his name, on a beautiful spring day. Our program recognized property owners, community organizations, design and engineering professionals, and public employees who helped preserve the history of Huntsville-Madison County. These individuals placed history over expediency: valuing repair, imaginative adaptation, and an appreciation for the odd and quirky over the ease and convenience of ripping out or tearing down.

Councill Park reminded us of the fragility of our historic structures and underscored that not all history is bound up in the walls of a building. Standing in this park, conjured through the memories of Councill High alumni, many felt what William Faulkner meant when he wrote: "The past is never dead, it's not even past."

Join us in thanking our 2021 award recipients.

Pioneer Preservation Award

Presented for the pioneering use of Alabama's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program of residential properties.

Cynthia and Kirk Giles, homeowners
The c. 1915 Giles House



Leslie Walker, Cynthia and Joe Giles, HHF Board member Sheree Holland

Lisa Montgomery, homeowner
c. 1890 Betts House



Lisa Montgomery, Board member Sheree Holland

Preservation in Action Award

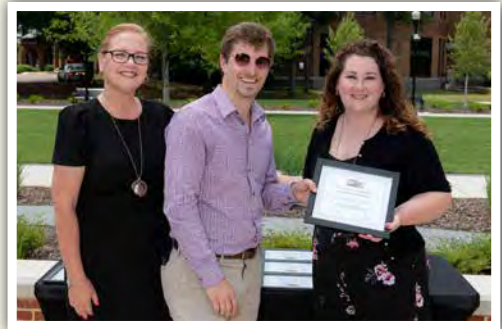
Presented to Huntsville Fire and Rescue - Station 1 for their quick action during Harrison Brothers fire.



Chiefs James Gates and Howard McFarlen, Katie Stamps (HHF ex officio) and Leslie Walker

Alabama Landmark Preservation Award

Presented to Samantha and Trey Bentley for the restoration of the c. 1836 Thomas Bibb House. Wind Bentley accepted on behalf of his family.



Leslie Walker, Wind Bentley, Katie Stamps

Economic Revitalization through Historic Preservation Award

Adaptive reuse of North Huntsville shopping center for H. C. Blake headquarters and H. C. Blake Art & History Center.



Leslie Walker, Bonnie and Jim Batson, Katie Stamps and William Hampton

Alabama Preservation Pathfinder Award

Honoring St. Joseph Mission School for the peaceful integration of Alabama schools.



HHF Board member Brenda Chunn presents award to Rev. Joseph P. Lubrano, S.D.S. and members of St. Joseph Catholic Church

Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation

Warden's Residence

The adaptive reuse of the c. 1941 Warden's Residence at Wheeler Wildlife Reserve and preserving its legacy of public health.



HHF Board member Sally Warden presents award to Betty Williams and members of the Triana Historical Society

William Hooper Councill Memorial Park

An enduring tribute to William Hooper Councill High School and its legacy. Due to the scope of this project and the talent required for its conception and construction, HHF recognized all those who had a hand in the park's creation.

The William Hooper Councill Alumni Association



General Services



City of Huntsville, General Services

Parks and Recreation



Leslie Walker, David Delisser, and Brenda Chunn

Design and Construction



Leslie Walker, Chad Bostick, Bostick Landscape Architects, and Brenda Chunn



Leslie Walker, Frank Nola Nola-VanPurse Architect, Sally Warden



Leslie Walker, Jason Phillips, Jason Phillips Construction, Brenda Chunn



Leslie Walker, Bruce Mullin, Pearce Construction, Brenda Chunn



Leslie Walker, Dan Burch, sculptor of W. H. Councill statue, Brenda Chunn

rooted in HISTORY

INTERPRETING ALABAMA'S FOLK-ART TRADITIONS

The idea born in the worst days of the pandemic, burst into life evening of Thursday, June 24 with a glorious preview party and art show that drew people from across North Alabama to celebrate the transformative power of art and its ability to communicate across space and time.

We are grateful for our partnership with The Artist Jahni Moore, who suggested the Rooted in History project. Through this partnership, HHF explored new ways to fulfill our community-based preservation mission and bring more cultural diversity to downtown Huntsville.



Our preview party



*Jahni Moore and Kenny Anderson,
Multicultural Affairs Officer, City of Huntsville*



*Artists Kathryn Price, Robin Monroe
with HHF Board member Andy Kelly.*



*Tiavalya Befecadu. Her work, which
includes Rose Park in the background,
won an Award of Distinction.*



Artist Christy Joy



*Michelle Lucas, Willoughby Lucas
Hastings and Bobby Bradley*



*Lee Roop, Arts Huntsville Executive
Director Allison Dillon-Jauken, and
HHF Board member Pat Ammons*

I have an affinity for preserving legacies and traditions. I often think of the ingenuity of my ancestors, who made quilts from their clothing. Rooted in History was the perfect combination of infusing folk art with modern interpretation. The show brought together diverse communities in our area. Professionally, Rooted in History allowed me to become a part of a new network of creatives and art enthusiasts.

Tiavalya Befecadu | Rooted in History Artist | Recipient, Award of Distinction

After an evening filled with conversation and art sales, artists joined Mayor Tommy Battle to officially opening the Rooted in History art show with a press conference on Friday, June 25.



HHF Executive Director Donna Castellano, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Rooted in History artists Timothy Joe, Jahni Moore, Sue Hensley, HHF manager Cheryl Sexton, Hilary Simmons, Carston Culbertson, Christina Wegman, Sonya Clemons, Tiavalva Befecadu, Carrie Alderfer.

The Rooted in History exhibit brought together a diverse group of artists and organizers exploring Alabama's rich folk-art traditions in the heart of downtown Huntsville. The work in the show speaks in a variety of southern accents. From red clay to rockets, this show is a powerful glimpse of a southern history that is still being written.

Jahni Moore
Co-Founder, Rooted in History



A view of Rooted in History through the windows of Harrison Brothers

I felt called to enter the Rooted in History contest to showcase art that represents connection, stability and heritage. Harrison Brothers has the perfect venue to host such a project. Historic Huntsville did a fantastic job with artist outreach. They also supported and marketed the event so well.

Christie Joy, | Rooted in History Artist

Please join us in thanking the generous sponsors of Rooted in History: Interpreting Alabama's Folk Art Traditions.

Presenting Sponsor
Virginia and Parker Griffith

Supporting Sponsors
Judy and Jim Link
Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Properties, Inc.

Contributing Sponsors
Arts Huntsville
John and Candy Burnett
Ann Upchurch
Wendy Wilson and Curtis Benzle

Friend of Show
Sheri and Mike Belmont
Cynthia and Gregg Geis
Cara and John Greco
Kay and Sam Lowry
Diane and Jan Williams



124 Southside Square
Huntsville, AL 35801

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Huntsville, AL
Permit No. 34

2021 Membership Levels & Benefits

Individual/Family Membership \$50

- Guest to "Invitation to History" Members-Only Tours
- Recognition in HHF newsletter,
- 10% Discount at Harrison Brothers Hardware, excluding sale and consignment.

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

- ClaybyLaura Pottery Keepsake**
- Recognition as Patron in HHF newsletter

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

- Advanced Early Bird registration for "Invitation to History" Tours
- Recognition on Donor Board in Harrison Brothers Hardware

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

- Name or company recognized in *Color Me, Huntsville* coloring books.

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

- All of the above, plus sponsorship signage at all HHF events

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

- Recognition as a Preservation Partner at all HHF events
- Recognition as Preservation Partner on HHF website

Membership Levels

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

Name _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Make checks payable to: The Historic Huntsville Foundation

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

HHF Board of Directors

Officers

Leslie Walker
Chair

Jerry Barclay,
Vice Chair

Sheree Holland
Secretary

Ellie Lastinger
Treasurer

Pat Ammons
Brenda Chunn
Andy Kelly
Judy Link
Susan Markham
Olivia Reed

Vicki Van Valkenburgh
Sally Warden

Katie Stamps
Ex Officio

Donna Castellano
Executive Director

Cheryl Sexton
HBH Store Manager

Designed and printed by
C&A Printing

Donna Castellano
Editor