PRESERVATION
Lyceum Series
2011
Preservation Lyceum Series

Lyceum - (li-se-am), a place for public lectures, debates, classes, concerts and entertainment.

Join the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation for the inaugural season of the Preservation Lyceum Series, a set of quarterly programs for preservation-minded individuals who want to know more about and visit historic preservation projects.

The 19th century Lyceum Movement that flourished in America provided hundreds of informal gatherings for the purpose of improving the social and intellectual fabric of society. Characterized by lectures and public discourse on a variety of topics and musical and theatrical performances in a retreat environment, lyceums peaked during the Antebellum Era. With the exception of the New York Great Lake’s Chautauqua Institute, best known for the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, few remnants of this vibrant phenomenon remain on the national landscape.

Drawing from the past, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation’s newly-formed program, the Preservation Lyceum Series, is travelling the highways, byways and crossroads of Alabama exploring, experiencing and engaging in preservation.

There’s a reason the sounds of “Sweet Home Alabama” touches the hearts of its native sons and daughters. Visiting the towns and valleys of Alabama’s Lookout Mountain, watching the sun set or rise over its peaks and hearing the rush of mountain streams, the fluttering of birds’ wings and whispering stories of its people, makes a believer of any – past or present - who experience the special charm of these Appalachian foothills.

During the late 19th century and because of its healing waters, Mentone became a favored mountain resort of the deep South. In November, the fourth ATHP Preservation Lyceum Weekend in the series, will return to this historic mountain town and explore the remnants of this era, visit sites of importance to the Cherokee nation, and tour Fort Payne’s grand 19th century public buildings.

Join the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation in Mentone and Fort Payne to explore Alabama’s Appalachian history, travel the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway and follow the Alabama-Tennessee Trail of Tears Corridor.

Front cover photograph courtesy of the Mentone magazine, a Times-Journal publication. Photographer, Melissa Smith.
FALL PRESERVATION LYCEUM
Sponsored by the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, and Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc.

When
Friday, November 11 – Saturday, November 12, 2011

Where
Mentone/Fort Payne

PROGRAM

Friday Evening

5:00 p.m.
Registration/Check-In
Lobby, The Mentone Springs Hotel
6114 Highway 117, Mentone

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Night On The Mountain: Reception and Dinner
Lobby, The Mentone Springs Hotel
6114 Highway 117, Mentone

Enjoy pre-dinner libations and dining at the historic Mentone Springs Hotel (circa 1884), one of Alabama’s oldest hotels. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the hotel in its heyday boasted two springs, Mineral Springs and Beauty Springs, which drew guests for their “strengthening and curative powers.” Next to the hotel, visit the historic White Elephant Antique Galleries (circa early 1900s).

Casual Attire
Complimentary Reception – 6:00 p.m.
Dinner – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Registration/Check-In/Welcome
Lobby, Mentone Springs Hotel

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
“Living On The Mountain”
Presenter: William (Bill) Wise, local historian
Learn about Mentone’s early settlers and life in the late 19th – early 20th century mountain resort.
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

TOUR OF HISTORIC MENTONE

Walk the heart of historic Mentone at the corner of Highways 117 and 89 with locals Bill Wise and Jim Rotch. Hear the stories of Mentone as it was and is. Experience mountain living embodied by Mentone’s two hotels (Mentone Springs Hotel and Mentone Inn B&B); its shops—the Gourdie Shoppe, Moon Lake Trading Company and Log Cabin Village; and its eateries—the Mentone Market, Moonlight Bistro and Wildflower Café and Country Store.

Summer Haven
132 County Rd. 650, Mentone
Home of Bill and Christina Wise

Built by A.A. (Arthur Abernathy) Miller, grandfather of the current owner, the Arts and Crafts-style house (circa 1922) commands a spectacular view of DeSota Falls on Lookout Mountain’s Little River. Enjoy the hospitality of Bill and Christina Wise. View the waterfalls and remnants of the first dam built on the river and one of Alabama’s earliest hydro-electric plants built by Miller.

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TOUR OF CHEROKEE HISTORIC SITES

Lead by local Olivia Baxter Cox, Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc.

Historic Winston Place B&B
353 Railroad Ave., Valley Head

Skeletal remains at the Cherokee village Telonga, now Valley Head, date from 7,000 B.C. and 700 A.D. Native American council meetings were held under a large oak tree and children were taught the Cherokee alphabet on the grounds of the antebellum Winston Place mansion (circa 1931).

Cherokee Plantation
Intersection of 45th St. and Godfrey Ave. NE, Ft. Payne
Private home of Dr. Stephen Brewer

Cherokee Plantation house (circa 1821) and grounds were the home of Andrew Ross, a judge on the Cherokee Supreme Court, and his wife Susannah Lowery Ross. Ross was opposed to the ceding of Cherokee lands and westward removal of the Cherokee people.

Site of Historic Willstown Mission School
38th Street NE, Fort Payne

Willstown Mission School (circa 1823) offered instruction in English, vocational arts and Christianity to the Cherokee. The Willstown Mission Cemetery is certified by the National Park Service as an historic site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.
**Fort Payne Log Cabin Site**  
4th St. S, Fort Payne

Excavations at the site indicate a log structure was on the property prior to 1830. What remains is a stone chimney and a rock outline of the foundation. The site is associated with the Benge Detachment during the Cherokee Indian removal in northeast Alabama. The Fort Payne Cabin Site is listed with the National Park Service as a Certified Site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

**Saturday Afternoon**

**Fort Payne**  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Lunch

**The Strand**  
215 Gault Ave N., Fort Payne

Stop at the Strand Theatre building (circa early 1900s), enjoy the region’s favorite lunch special, browse the store and get the bonus of this respite with a briefing on Fort Payne. Formally a movie theatre, the building now houses the Box Office Grill, a favorite with locals, and Strand Antiques.

**“Historic Fort Payne: The Boom Days”**  
Presenter: Julie Brown, Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**TOUR OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PAYNE**

Walk the Boon Town Historic District of Fort Payne with Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc., members Julia Brown, Olivia Baxter Cox and Collins Kirby. Learn about Fort Payne’s late 19th century boom days, its great expectations and the buildings constructed to support the dreams of New England industrialist investors.

**Fort Payne Depot Museum**  
105 5th Street, NE

Formerly the train depot connecting Chattanooga and Birmingham, this Alabama sandstone Richardsonian-Romanesque-style building (circa 1891) was constructed by the Alabama Great Southern Railroad. Today the building houses artifacts, documents and collections relating to Fort Payne’s history.

**Historic Opera House Block**  
500 Block of Gault Ave. N

**Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company Building** (circa 1889), currently undergoing restoration for re-adaptive use, was the corporate headquarters for the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company, which was organized in 1888 with $5 million in capital. Fifty thousand stock shares were sold at $100 per share yielding $4 million of stock sold within five weeks of going on the market.
Next door, visit the **Historic Fort Payne Opera House** (circa 1889), the only opera house of its kind still in use as a theatre in Alabama. The building has been used as a movie theatre and currently hosts live theatrical events and public forums. The Fort Payne Opera House is on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Register of 19th Century Theatres in America.

Moving along to the north wing of the Opera House Block, see historic **Hunt Hall** (circa 1889), re-adapted as a venue for meetings, public events and exhibits, and the **DeKalb County Hosiery Museum** (circa 1889), which housed retail establishments. Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Historic Commercial District**

**Historic DeKalb Theatre**  
306 Gault Ave. N

Returning back through downtown Fort Payne on the north side Gault Ave., pause at the Art Deco-style Historic DeKalb Theatre (circa 1930s), which was renovated in the 1950s and converted by the city in the 1990’s to a multi-use theatre for movies, performances and special community events boosting its original footprint, lighting and architectural elements.

**Big Mill Antique Mall**  
151 8th St. NE

Located in an old hosiery mill (circa 1888), the building is an example of re-adapted use for abandoned mills throughout Alabama and the South. The building housed an antiques mall for a number of years and currently transitioning into an antiques, gifts and clothing emporium. Big Mill’s location in the historic commercial district prompts economic development downtown. The Mill and Davis House (circa 1922) across the street are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Davis House is re-adapted space for apartment living.

**5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Cocktails at The Oaks**  
250 Forest Ave., NW  
*Historic Home of Darlene and Jim Rotch*

End the Lyceum weekend with a visit to The Oaks (circa 1884), a Queen Anne Victorian-style house, was named for a stand of giant oak trees that once characterized the property. Enjoy the hospitality and comfort of this private home, meet local preservationists and relax before leaving Lookout Mountain to head home – or stay another night to explore more of Alabama’s heritage and historic treasures. Cocktail Party compliments of Darlene and Jim Rotch

**PRE-LYCEUM RAMBLE**  
**Friday Afternoon, November 11**

Arriving in the afternoon? Sample the culinary treats of local Mentone chefs at the Mentone Market, Moonlight Bristo and Wildflower Café and County Store. Visit the studios of local Lookout Mountain artisans. To be confirm if a studio will be open on November 11, visit website for contact information.
ARTS AND CRAFTS

Miracle Pottery and Art Gallery
Valley Head
www.miraclepottery.com

Walters Forge
Walter Howell, Blacksmith
Henagar
www.waltersforge.com

Orbix Hot Glass Studio
Cal Breed, Glassblower
Little River Canyon
www/orbixhotglass.com

Wood Studio
Dylan, Keith & Randy Cockran, craftsmen
Ft. Payne
www.woodstudio.com

POST-LYCEUM ADVENTURE
Sunday, November 13
Sunday optional for Lyceum participants who wish to explore the natural history of DeKalb County.

DeSota Falls State Park
On the outskirts of Mentone, the West Fork of the Little River plunges off a 100-foot Lookout Mountain cliff to create the tallest and most visited of Alabama waterfalls.
www.exploresouthernhistory.com/desotofalls1

Little River Canyon National Reserve
The Little River Canyon National Preserve is 14,000 acres of beautiful and rugged mountain country atop Lookout Mountain. Called the "Grand Canyon of the East," canyon was carved over thousands of years by Little River – one of the longest rivers in North America and flows almost entirely on the top of a mountain. The canyon is twelve miles long and reaches depths of over 600 feet.
www.exploresouthernhistory.com/littleriver1

Lookout Mountain Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway spans three states as it stretches across Lookout Mountain from Gadsden, Alabama to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Within its 93-miles are waterfalls, canyons, scenic brow vistas, unique towns and villages, state and national parks and preserves and many more natural wonders.
www.alabamabyways.com/2010/05/25/lookout-mountain-parkway

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Request reservations for the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

The Mentone Springs Hotel (circa 1887)
6114 Highway 117, Mentone
256-634-4040

The Mentone Inn B&B (circa 1927)
6139 Highway 117, Mentone
256-634-4836

Summer Haven B&B (circa 1922)
132 County Rd 650, Mentone
256-273-4467
PRESERVATION LYCEUM REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Fall, 2011 – Mentone/Fort Payne
Lyceum Weekend packets with tour information available for pick-up Friday afternoon at the Mentone Springs Hotel or Saturday morning.

For ATHP Members
$50 per person
Includes Saturday lunch and Cocktails at The Oaks

For Non-Members
$75 per person
Includes Saturday lunch, Cocktails at The Oaks and a one-year membership in the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

Registration Form on Following Page
Name(s)__________________________________________
Address__________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Daytime Phone _________________________________ E-mail __________________________

**Friday Night - Reception and Dinner**

Yes ___

**Saturday Lunch at The Strand**

Yes ___

**Saturday Cocktails at The Oaks**

Yes ___

**ATHP Members**

# Reservations ____ $____
$50 per reservation

**Non-Members**

# Reservations ____ $____
$75 per reservation
Fee includes one-year membership

**Contributions**

Alabama Trust For Historic Preservation $____

Endangered Properties Trust Fund ____ $____

**TOTAL** $____

If Payment by Check, make check payable to The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. Mail to: ATHP, UWA Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470.

If Payment by Credit Card, mail to the ATHP, UWA Station 45, Livingston, AL 35470 or call 205-652-3497.

Master Card ____ Visa ____

Name on Card:_____________________________________

Address on Card:___________________________________

Card Number:______________________________________ Date of Expiration: _____________

Signature:_________________________________________ Date: ______________

To make reservations by phone, call the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation at 205-652-3497.