Preservation Lyceum Series

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

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation announces the inaugural 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 flourished in America, providing 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, will travel the highways, byways and crossroads of Alabama exploring, experiencing and engaging in preservation.

Our Winter Lyceum, the first in the 2011 series, will focus on the successful restoration of Huntsville’s historic textile mills and mill buildings. Fearing for the future of these magnificent industrial structures, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation and Alabama Historical Commission named cotton mills to the 2010 Places in Peril list. At a period when many of Alabama’s cotton and textile mills sit unused and abandoned, the buildings of Huntsville’s Lowe and Merrimack mills have been restored and repurposed as arts and entertainment centers. Join us in Huntsville on the weekend of January 28 and 29 to explore how the arts produced a “second act” for Huntsville’s textile mills.
**WINTER PRESERVATION LYCEUM**

Sponsored by the

Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation and The Historic Huntsville Foundation.

**When**

Friday, January 28 – Saturday, January 29, 2011

**Where**

Huntsville, Alabama

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**PROGRAM**

**Friday Evening**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Southern Hospitality: Twickenham Style**

Dinner

436 Newman Avenue

The Twickenham Historic District, the first historically designated district in Huntsville, contains one of the most diverse collections of historic architecture within the state, including examples of every major period of American architecture from the early nineteenth century through the space age. The 1929 Arts and Crafts Bungalow of Donna and Michael Castellano provides a warm environment for a casually elegant supper, where guests will enjoy the Castellano’s diverse collection of contemporary southern art. Proceeds benefit the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation.

**Saturday**

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Historic Weeden House Museum**

Coffee, Check-in and Tour

300 Gates Avenue

The Weeden House Museum is home to the artwork of poet Maria Howard Weeden. Built in 1819, the house was occupied by the Weeden family, with the exception for the Civil War years, when it was requisitioned for the use of Federal Officers, from 1845 until it was sold in 1956. The Weeden House Museum will open early for a private showing for Lyceum participants.

(Lyceum packets and materials will be available for pick-up at the Weeden House check-in.)

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment Center**

Guided Tour of Historic Lowe Mill, circa 1901

2211 Seminole Drive, SW

The Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment is a successful example of preserving an industrial structure for adaptive re-use by creating a center for more than 50 visual and performing artists studios and an open market place. Once weaving yarns, gingham and shirts, Lowe Mill now weaves the threads of arts and culture into fabric of Huntsville. David Edwards, Manager of Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment Center will lead the tour. Lowe Mill was recently recognized in Mother Earth News Magazine for its sustainable design and building methods, while promoting a compelling community arts venue.
11:15 a.m. – Noon
**Historic Merrimack Hall**
Guided Tour of Merrimack Hall, circa 1900
3320 Triana Boulevard, SW

At one time, Merrimack Mill was the largest textile mill in the southeast. Today, 297 mill village houses and Merrimack Hall are all that remain of this industrial giant. Merrimack Hall, a 25,000 square foot structure, is being transformed into a performing arts center for dance, drama and music. Join owner Debra Jenkins, the irresistible force behind the transformation of this historic building, for a tour of Merrimack Hall as she shares tales of the good things that happen when historic preservation and the arts join forces.

*Traditional Home* magazine honored Debra Jenkins with its “2009 Classic Woman’s Award” in recognition of her volunteer and charitable efforts.

Noon – 1:30 p.m.
**Huntsville Park Baptist Church**
Panel Discussion with boxed lunch
3120 Triana Avenue, SW

“A Funny Thing Happened on our Way to Build an Arts Center”
How the transformative power of the arts can breathe life into abandoned industrial buildings and revitalize historic mill neighborhoods

Panelists
David Edwards, Manager, Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment Center
Debra Jenkins, Executive Director, Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center
James Marek, President, Merrimack Mill Village Organization
Moderated by Donna Castellano, Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

1:30 p.m.
Self-guided tours of the following:

**Artist Marketplace – Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment Center**
Shop with the artists of Lowe Mill and enjoy the diversity of artwork offered by local Huntsville artists.

**Historic Merrimac Mill Village**

**Twickenham Historic District**

**Historic Huntsville Uptown/Downtown**

Tour Information included in registration packet at check in.
REGISTRATION

Winter Preservation Lyceum
Courtesy of The Historic Huntsville Foundation, all registrations include a signed copy of Through The Garden Gate: The Gardens of Historic Huntsville by Donna Castellano and Charles Seifried.

“...a 130-page book beautifully photographed and beautifully written about twenty-seven private gardens lovingly cared for in three historic districts of Huntsville: Twickenham, Old Town and Five Points.”

For ATHP Members
$75 per person
Includes Friday night supper and Saturday lunch

For Non-Members
$100 per person
Includes Friday night supper; Saturday lunch and one-year membership in the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation

Friday Night Supper Only
Reservations: $45 per person

Saturday Only
Reservations: $50 per person

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Embassy Suites & Spa
800 Monroe Street, SW
256-539-7373
# Reservations | $______
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ATHP Members | $75 per reservation
Non-Members | $100 per reservation
Friday Night Only | $45 per reservation
Saturday Only | $50 per reservation
TOTAL | $______

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

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

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Signature: ____________________________ Date: _______________

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