

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 1: HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES BY THEME & COUNTY

THEME 1 - NATIVE-AMERICAN HISTORY

Prehistoric Era

Colbert County

LaGrange Rock Shelter

Leighton Vicinity, it holds evidence of the area's earliest inhabitants. Carbon-dating confirms the use of this natural formation since at least the Early Archaic (8,500-6,000 BC) period. Use of the rock shelter, however, is thought to date back to the Paleoindian culture some 11,280 years ago, indicating that these nomadic peoples used the natural landscape for temporary habitation. The geological feature has a restricted Leighton address. It does not appear that the site has any current form of interpretation.

Rock Creek Archaeological District

Address is restricted, located in the vicinity of Natchez Trace Parkway. The district is associated with prehistoric Native American (Middle Archaic through Late Woodland) occupation. In 1980, Memphis State University Anthropological Research Center conducted investigations for the NPS in the area that led to the nomination of the district to the National Register. These excavations occurred in anticipation of construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Recommendations were made to shift the proposed route of the Parkway through this area, to prevent potential destruction of any cultural resources. Among the findings were a Late Mississippi village with over 400 artifacts and nine human burials.

Franklin County

Five-Oaks Spring

Russellville: Supplied Native Americans fresh drinking water and was the primary natural feature attributed to the establishment of the town. Listed on the Alabama Register. There appears to be no historical marker or other interpretive wayside displays at this site.

Lauderdale County

Edith Newman Culver Memorial Museum

Waterloo – This 1872 dwelling was purchased in 1918 by Ohio native Joseph Newman. The house remained in the family, eventually passing to Newman's grand-daughter Edith and her husband Ezra Lee Culver. In 1995, Culver gave the building to the city of Waterloo. As a museum, the former dwelling houses a range of historic pieces, from Native-American artifacts to Civil War relics to nineteenth-century antiques. A historical marker describes the house's occupants and history.

Seven Mile Island Archaeological District

Florence Vicinity – This site has a restricted address. As a site of former Native-American occupation, it has contributed immensely to our understanding of prehistoric cultures of the Southeast from over 10,000 years ago. In the past, TVA archaeologists have partnered with area student groups for field natural history projects within the district. Seven Mile Island Wildlife Management Area, in the vicinity, is open to hunters appropriately licensed.

Indian Mound and Museum

Florence – The museum features one of the largest domiciliary mounds in the Tennessee Valley. A historical marker was erected at the mound. The adjacent museum includes artifacts ranging from the Paleo to historic periods. According to Florence Main Street organization, “(t)he museum is operated for the purpose of showing, teaching, and interpreting the cultural and natural history of the native Americans who inhabited this area within a 200-mile radius of Florence.”

Lawrence County

High Tower Path

Bankhead National Forest - The High Tower (also Hightower) path is derived from its Indian name “Etowah.” Numerous historical markers for the trail have been erected across north Georgia, though there do not appear to be any markers in Alabama. From the Georgia markers it is known “the Hightower Trail was a major Indian thoroughfare and part of a network of trails connecting Augusta with the Etowah River area and Alabama.”...“This trade and travel path connected the Creek and Cherokee Nations, which the river divided.”

Kinlock Historic District

Bankhead National Forest - Listed on the Alabama Register 4118-acre district feature a rock shelter used by Native Americans, 300’ wide 100’ tall, with 18 petroglyphs from the Mississippian period (1250 A.D.) This site is accessible to hikers within the Bankhead National Forest, just outside Sipsey Wilderness area, Alabama largest and most frequently visited. Taking the name “Kinlock” from a nearby former plantation, the rock shelter is located near a former CCC work camp off Kinlock Road. At the site, Native Americans observed the Winter Solstice ceremonial rituals.

Oakville Indian Mounds Park

Located SE of Moulton from Hwy 157, off C.R. 187, at 1219 County Road 187 Danville, AL 35619. At the small community of Oakville in Lawrence County, is a group of twenty mounds from the Middle Woodland Period, preserved today as the Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum, a state park of 83 acres. It is a tourist and visitor attraction as well as an educational facility for all North Alabama school children, only rivaled in Alabama by the Mound State Monument in Moundville, Alabama. Artifacts within the museum range from the Paleoindian period to the Woodland period.

While the Park is open to the public, it emphasizes education of local students in their tribal roots. The Indian Education Program focuses on children from pre-school through high school. The program’s target audience is school children and their teachers in seven surrounding counties. The Indian Education Program and Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum are tributes to the Indian citizens and their heritage, serving 1700 students. Most of the students are members of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama and are of Cherokee, Chickasaw or Creek Indian mixed blood heritage.

Archaeologists from Mound State Monument with the University of Alabama assisted with the initial preparation of the site from 1990 to 1992, conducting an intensive study in the immediate vicinity. They identified some 100 archaeological sites at Oakville and surrounding areas. A five-year development plan was completed for the Park, and construction of the Indian village began. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs funded \$126,400.00 for initial construction of the museum and office building. The Lawrence County Board of Education provided all additional funds for their completion in 1995. Design of the Oakville Indian Mounds Museum was based on the Cherokee Capitol at the village of Chota and by explorer-naturalist William Bartram’s description of a council house at Cowe. The seven sides of the museum are representative of the sacred Cherokee number seven. During 2000, the Lawrence County Board of Education received an Alabama Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant for the purchase of fourteen historical markers that were erected throughout the Park, as well as eighteen other markers placed at historic landmarks throughout the county. The Lawrence County Historical Commission provided matching funds for this grant to be secured.

Historic Era

Colbert County

Old Natchez Trace

Cherokee Vicinity: Listed on the National Register. The Natchez Trace, originally a Native-American Trace, was a significant route of trade between the Nashville and New Orleans during the early nineteenth century. Today the Natchez Trace Parkway follows the historic path through thirty-three miles of Alabama in Colbert and Lauderdale Counties, with some remnants of the historic Old Natchez Trace still extant.

Buzzards Roost

Located at 320.3 milepost on the Natchez Trace Parkway, it is listed on the National Register. At this site is the spring that served an inn owned by Levi Colbert on the historic Natchez Trace. Scots-Chickasaw brothers Levi and George Colbert operated inns separated by a two-hour horseback ride. The Colbert brothers operated a ferry across the Tennessee River at a site found at milepost 327.3 on the Natchez Trace Parkway, an inter-state scenic highway. Historical markers at these sites detail the influence of the Colbert brothers not only on local transportation but on Chickasaw tribal affairs during the first three decades of the nineteenth century. There is a national Park Service Station near the site of Colbert's Ferry Landing.

Sacred Tears Statue and Markers

An extensive memorial to the Trail of Tears is located in Spring Park in Tuscumbia, including bronze statues and plaques honoring the many people of different tribes who traveled the Trail of Tears. The statue represents their sorrow and perseverance. The large plaques at the statues provide a detailed history of the events leading up to and including the removal of Native Americans from the area. Several other historic markers have been erected within the park to offer contextual background of Native-American habitation of the area before and during European-American settlement.

Tuscumbia Landing Site

Sheffield: The Tuscumbia Landing Site is a significant steamboat landing on the Tennessee River. It connected with the Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur Railroad and was used to transport Cherokee in 1838 during the Trail of Tears. The landing site is also important for its role in regional transportation. This site is presently closed to the public. The National Park Service and local officials are currently studying the site to plan for its use and interpretation.

Franklin County

Five-Oaks Spring

Located at Russellville, supplied Native Americans fresh drinking water and was the primary natural feature attributed to the establishment of the town. Gen. Jackson used site as camp grounds for his men laying out the Military Road. The presence of the spring caused Russellville's relocation here in 1818. Listed on the Alabama Register. There appear to be no historical marker or other interpretive wayside displays at this site.

Lawrence County

High Tower Path

Bankhead National Forest - The High Tower (also Hightower) path is derived from its Indian name "Etowah." This thoroughfare ran from Augusta, Georgia, to Alabama. Numerous historical markers for the trail have been erected across north Georgia, though there do not appear to be any markers in Alabama. From the Georgia markers it is known that the road was "a well-established route in the

1700s” and that “pioneers also followed the ancient trail into the region transforming the footpath into a wagon road, remnants of which were still visible to 20th century residents living here when the area was still rural.” Within the Bankhead National Forest, hikers can explore remnants of the path; therefore there are at least signs indicating these remnants.

Melton’s Bluff

This site was the former plantation of settler John Melton and his Cherokee wife, beginning about 1780. It is located on the south side of the Tennessee River at the head of the Elk River Shoals. The book *Dead Towns of Alabama* (1977) by W. Stuart Harris describes Melton, thusly:

“This unfriendly man accumulated a fortune by robbing pioneers on the flatboats traveling on the river below the bluff. With this money he purchased many slaves and established a tavern.”

A historical marker on C.R. 300 (or 400, some discrepancy) details the varied Native-American history of the site. For example, Melton died (1815) owning a fine house, tavern, cotton gin, and many slaves. “The gin was placed hear under the terms of the Cotton Gin Treaty of 1806, which was signed by [Chief] Doublehead. Ginned cotton was shipped south via the Tennessee River and the 1805 Gaines Trace,” an important trade route laid out from Melton’s Bluff westward into Mississippi (see below). “Sequoyah and Andrew Jackson signed the Turkey Town Treaty (Sept. 1816), which took Indian lands in this area. On 22 Nov. 1816, Jackson bought Melton’s Bluff from David Melton, of mixed ancestry, and later renamed it the Muscle Shoals Plantation.” Later Jackson and General John Coffey surveyed the bluff, dividing the land into 658 lots for sale. The short-lived town of Marathon was established here as the county seat, until it was removed to Moulton in 1820. President Jackson’s Indian Removal Act (1830) led to the Cherokee removal that passed Melton’s Bluff by water and rail. The Town of Marathon last appeared on a map in 1850, and much of the land became part of Gen. Joseph Wheeler’s Plantation. “On 10 Nov. 1890, George W. Goethals, later of Panama Canal fame, completed the Muscle Shoals Canal along the river’s south bank.” A portion of Melton’s Bluff is now owned by TVA, lying below the waters of the Tennessee River, two miles above Lock A. At Melton’s Bluff, Lawrence County established a public park on the banks of the river in 1955. The park has met with the same demise as the former town of Marathon, having been abandoned. Entrance columns and concrete steps are the only remnants.

Lauderdale County

Tom Hendrix’s Memorial Wall

Florence - Near the Natchez Trace in this part of the county is the Tom Hendrix Memorial Wall. There is no existing interpretation, per se. The wall’s builder, Mr. Hendrix, does invite visitors to enjoy his creation, a thirty-year “work in progress” memorial to his Native-American great-grandmother, who returned to her Alabama home after enduring the grueling Trail of Tears to Oklahoma. According to family lore, the Native-American girl who was forced to leave her home found no music in the streams of Oklahoma and returned to the “singing river.” According to online visitor reviews to the site, Hendrix happily stops his work to engage guests, many of whom bring token contributions to the wall, such as shells or non-local stones. See Tom Hendrix’s website for contact information to arrange a visit <http://www.ifthelegendsfade.com/index.html>.

Old Natchez Trace

No. 310-2A, Florence vicinity

Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride

This annual event attracts thousands of riders, who begin tracing the Trail of Tears path in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The ride makes stops pertinent to the original journey made by Native Americans forcibly removed from ancient homelands. The route is U.S. 72, which passes through Florence in Lauderdale County. The ride ends with a three-day powwow in Waterloo.

*Limestone County*Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride

The route of this ride enters the Heritage Area from Madison County into Limestone County. Following U.S. 72, the route passes near Athens. The ride takes place the third weekend of September each year.

*Morgan County*Rhodes Ferry Park (Trail of Tears)

Decatur - Rhodes Ferry Park is a popular destination for Morgan county residents and visitors and hosts numerous outdoor activities and events. As a former site of a ca. 1810 ferry dock, it is a designated trail head for the Trail of Tears National Historic Route. Yet, information on this segment of the trail is not readily available, whether through Decatur's parks department or the National Park Service, who manages the TTNHR.

In August of 2011, Decatur City Council approved a proposal to request the National Park Service incorporate its Trail of Tears project with the city's current project. The proposed trail would run from Rhodes Ferry Park to Tuscumbia Landing in Tuscumbia. Currently, interpretive site development of the Tuscumbia Landing site is in the planning stage.

THEME 2 - TENNESSEE RIVER

Agricultural Economy Sub-Theme

Driving Tour

"Limestone County Antebellum Trail"

This driving tour provides an overview of the cotton economy of Limestone County before the Civil War and the types of "city" houses built by the area's rich planters as well as rural plantation homes. The tour begins in Athens, winds through the southern part of the county and ends in the important 19th century community of Mooresville. The houses in Athens and Mooresville are easily viewed from the street and sidewalks while historic markers help to identify the four rural properties.

Historical Markers

Morgan County

There are interpretive wayside markers at each of the three antebellum buildings in Decatur – the Old State Bank Building, the Dancy-Polk House, and Riverside.

Individuals Sites

Fork of Cypress

Lauderdale County – The impressive remnant of these plantation ruins is the peristyle colonnade, a row of columns that originally encompassed all four sides of a plantation house. The structure burned to the ground in a fire in 1966. The property hosts sporadic tours; Halloween is a popular occasion at the ruins. Tour information is available at Florence/Lauderdale Tourism.

Belle Mont

The plantation house of this property is distinguished as exemplifying Jeffersonian architecture, which is subconsciously pleasing to the eye in its geometric design and scale. The site is open for tours, which highlight antebellum life. It is also available for private functions such as weddings.

Civil War Sub-Theme

"Alabama Civil War Trail"

The state's self-guided driving tour brochure describes the war in Alabama and important sites across the state. In the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, "Forrest's North Alabama Cavalry Raid" is featured along with short descriptions of the fighting at Athens and Sulphur Branch Trestle in September of 1864. The brochure also has information on the "Decatur Demonstration" of Hood's attempt to cross the Tennessee River with his army in October of 1864. The engagement at Town Creek is part of the tour of "Streight's Cavalry Raid" in 1863. Individual sites in the region included in the brochure are the Blue & Gray Museum and Civil War Walking Tour in Decatur, Pond Spring near Hillsboro, the home of Confederate General Joe Wheeler, and Pope's Tavern in Florence.

Limestone County

"Athens-Limestone County Civil War Trail"

This brochure provides information on the Civil War history of the county and the battles that took place during the war. The self-guided tour provides a map to visit sites such as Fort Henderson in Athens, the Sulphur Creek Trestle battlefield and Athens City Cemetery which contains 180 graves of Confederate soldiers. The site of the Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle can be accessed by the Richard Martin Trail. This trail is a "rails to trails" project along the bed of the Nashville & Decatur Railroad. A plaque is located next to the trail at the site but a modern house now stands on the actual fort location. An Alabama State Historical marker describing the battle is located on State Highway 127, one mile west of the fort site.

Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives

This museum is located at 100 West Pryor Street in Athens in the historic Louisville & Nashville Freight Depot. The museum contains over 2,000 artifacts from the nation's wars including the Civil War.

*Lawrence County*Town Creek Battlefield

NRHP Eligible. Ca. 1863 site includes 4 bivouac areas, 1 picket line, 1 battle line, 1 railroad bridge site, and 1 railroad bed. Part of General Dodge's orders was to destroy the Memphis-Charleston Railroad from here. An Alabama Historical Association marker was placed at the Town Creek Battlefield site in 2007 which describes the battle and is about 3 mi out of town creek on Hwy 101.

*Morgan County*Decatur's Civil War Walking Tour

This tour is located in the Old Decatur and New Albany Historic Districts, just off the southern bank of the Tennessee River near downtown Decatur. The self-guided walking ranges thirteen total blocks and chronicles events surrounding Confederate General John Bell Hood's attempted advance across the Tennessee River, a four-day battle that took place in October of 1864. The tour also showcases the largest concentration of Victorian-era cottages and bungalows in Alabama. The Civil War Walking tour, part of the national Civil War Discovery Trail, begins at the Old State Bank Building (925 Bank Street NE). The tour also includes the Blue and Gray Museum on Bank Street which has one of the largest private Civil War collections in the country.

Colbert County

On the south side of the Tennessee River are a series of Confederate earthworks on TVA property with the potential for visitation and interpretation. A potential historic district containing the earthworks was identified in a TVA archeological study in 2002.

*Transportation Sub-Theme**Limestone County*Elkmont Depot

Listed on the Alabama Register. This 1886 Louisville & Nashville Railroad depot exemplifies small town train depot. Though the depot is not an official historical site or museum, its walls bear numerous items of local history. The building, which now houses the Elkmont Senior Center, is open daily.

"Richard Martin Trail"

This “rails to trails” walking and biking trail follows the original railroad bed of the Nashville & Decatur Railroad. It provides access to the Sulphur Creek Trestle Civil War site and extends through the railroad town of Elkmont.

Louisville & Nashville Freight Depot

Athens - Built 1928, the two-story brick depot was constructed to handle the shipping of cotton and other goods for the city. The building has been rehabilitated to house the Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives, but displays also detail the history of the building and its importance to the transportation history of Athens and the county.

Athens L & N Passenger Depot

Built in 1907, the Athens Passenger Depot was used for that purpose until 1970. The building now houses a commercial business.

Belle Mina Depot

This small depot served near-by plantations, shipping their cotton to market. It was originally built ca. 1900 by the Southern Railway. The building is currently vacant and in fair condition, in need of preservation. The building retains original weatherboard siding and wrought iron door hardware.

College Inn and Newby Gas Station

Athens - Constructed in the 1920s, the College Inn and Newby Gas Station are restored examples of the rise of the automobile culture of the early 20th century. The property was acquired in 1947 and the College Inn was a popular restaurant while the station provided gas and other services to the locals and visitors. Both buildings have been rehabilitated and can be toured.

Colbert County

Old Natchez Trace

Along the modern Natchez Trace Parkway, and at National Park Service stations, there are markers and signs indicating historic sites along the route.

Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur Railroad

Begun in 1832, this railroad was acquired by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad in 1850. In 1899, it merged into the Southern Railway, which built a depot in Decatur. Since 1982, the line has been operated by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, serving as a vital link between the Shoals and the city of Decatur. Its importance is interpreted at the *Tuscumbia Railway Depot*. Built in 1888, the depot is a resource of the Colbert County Courthouse Historic District, listed on the National Register. Replacing the original depot in 1888, the Tuscumbia Railway Depot was restored as a museum in 2004-2005 after years in a state of abandonment. Construction of a roundhouse and turntable should be completed in 2012. The museum relates the significance of the multi-modal transportation system to the development of the region.

A connector joined the original depot (not extant) and *Tuscumbia Landing*, where river transportation could safely resume. Listed on the National Register, the Tuscumbia Landing is also a Trail of Tears site, from where members of the Creek Nation were removed in the 1830s. The site received a grant for archaeological survey, and interpretive plans are in development.

Lauderdale County

Old Natchez Trace

Along the modern Natchez Trace Parkway, and at National Park Service stations, there are markers and signs indicating historic sites along the route.

Jackson's Military Road

In Florence, there are historical markers relating to the road.

Pope's Tavern

A former stop on the historic road, is today open to the public as a museum. It is one resource among several included in the *Jackson Military Road Historic District*, listed on the National Register.

Lock #3 of the Muscle Shoals Canal

When TVA built Wheeler Dam in the 1930s, joining the earlier Wilson Dam, much of the late nineteenth-century canal system on the Tennessee River became inundated under reservoir waters. Lock # 3, located a couple miles downstream from Wheeler Dam at the mouth of Bluewater Creek, adjoins private property. However, it is accessible by boaters, and fishing on the lake and in Bluewater Creek is superb.

*Lawrence County*Town Creek Depot

Located at 1257 Railroad Street, the depot is currently used as a senior citizens' community center.

Courtland Depot

The Old Southern Railroad Depot was in service from the 1830's to the 1980's. During the Civil War the railroad facilities were destroyed. The present structure, rebuilt after the war, is the town's community center. Near the depot, at 244 College Street, there is a historical marker about the Decatur-Courtland-Tuscumbia Railroad, Alabama's first. Like the Courtland Depot, much of this rail line was destroyed and then rebuilt after the Civil War.

*Morgan County*Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur Railroad

Begun in 1832, this railroad was acquired by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad in 1850. In 1899, it merged into the Southern Railway, which built a depot in Decatur. Since 1982, the line has been operated by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, serving as a vital link between the Shoals and the city of Decatur. There is a historic marker in Decatur at Bank Street and Wilson Street, near the Old State Bank Building.

Southern Railway Depot

Decatur - Listed on the National Register. The depot was built in 1904 and was designed by architect Frank Milburn. Currently the building is vacant and in good condition. The City of Decatur has proposed adaptive re-use plans for the building, perhaps as a museum. The City has discussed seeking a Transportation Enhancement Grant for that purpose.

Hartselle Depot

Hartselle's Train Depot is located at 110 Railroad Street and was built in 1914. The building contains displays provided by the Hartselle Historical Society which tells the story of the depot and the significance of the railroad to the growth and development of the city. Adjacent to the depot is the Hartselle Commercial Downtown Historic District which contains over seventy buildings listed in the National Register. The Hartselle Chamber of Commerce currently occupies the restored depot.

L & N Freight Depot

Hartselle - Listed on the Alabama Register. Ca. 1915 depot for railroad town, through which much of the county's agricultural products were shipped. Each year (2012 will be the 32nd) Hartselle hosts Depot Days in September, a multi-day festival with music, car and truck shows, arts and crafts, and 5K and one-mile fun runs. The city embraces its founding as a rail town along the North and South Alabama Railroad, which connected mineral-rich areas to the south with northern ports. The Freight Depot is now home to the Freight House Restaurant, a dine-in and catering venue.

Community Development Sub-Theme

"The Hallelujah Trail"

This tour is directed by a brochure which highlights the religious development of the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The trail encompasses all of north Alabama's sixteen counties and twelve churches are featured in the six counties within the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. Except on Sunday, visitation would be exteriors only unless prior appointments are made with the churches.

Historic District Walking Tours

Colbert County

Tuscumbia

The Colbert County Historic Landmarks Foundation, Inc. offers a brochure for a self-guided walking tour through Tuscumbia. The tour features residential architecture representing various styles, and numerous buildings and sites open to the public, such as commercial buildings, churches, the Tuscumbia Railroad Depot museum, Helen Keller's childhood home and museum, the Colbert County Courthouse, and Spring Park, with memorials to the Trail of Tears and WPA structures.

Sheffield

Currently, Sheffield does not offer a walking tour, however, during the holiday season, there is a tour of historic homes in Sheffield, beginning at the Wedding Chapel on Seventh and North Montgomery Avenue where visitors may obtain a map to historic homes from Victorians and bungalows, decorated beautifully for the Christmas Season.

Limestone County

Athens

Athens has a self-guided walking tour brochure for the Robert Beaty Historic District. This residential district is described in detail with information on many of its 19th and early 20th century residences.

Morgan County

Decatur

"A Walking Tour of Historic Decatur, Alabama" is a self-guided walking tour of the Old Decatur and Albany Historic Districts. The tour features the remaining ante-bellum buildings in the downtown area as well as dwellings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the two residential districts. These neighborhoods boast the largest concentration of Victorian-era cottages and bungalows in Alabama. The two historic districts also feature houses and buildings built from the early 1800s to the present, including representations of the Colonial Revival, California Cottage, Dutch Colonial and Frank Lloyd Wright influences. At the Decatur Convention and Visitor Bureau's website, http://www.decaturovb.org/activities/outdoors/item/walking-tours-trails?category_id=2, there is a printable brochure of the walking tour with photos and details of each historic house. Additionally, the website offers a podcast of the Walking Tour.

Hartselle

At various times of the year (April, July, December), Hartselle offers guided walking tours of both the historic downtown and residential neighborhoods. This April, the city offered guided tours with a knowledgeable tour guide from the historical society, taking place each Saturday of the month. The tours began in front of the historic depot on Railroad Street and progressed through historic downtown, past the historic Oden House, and ended back at the depot. From mid-June through July 4, the city also participated in a Guided Tour of the Historic Commercial District of Hartselle in conjunction with Alabama's statewide Saturday Walking Tours. Hartselle boasts more contiguous buildings on the

National Register than any other city in Alabama. And during December, Hartselle's Historic District opens its doors to visitors during the annual Hartselle Tour of Homes, sponsored by the Hartselle Beautification Association. The event is held each December as part of the town's Christmas activities. For more information visit the Hartselle Chamber of Commerce's Website.

Lauderdale County

Florence

The "Walking Tour of Downtown" provides information on the growth and development of the downtown area and features prominent commercial and governmental buildings. In Florence there are eight residential historic districts surrounding the campus of University of North Alabama. The visitor can drive or walk among these neighborhoods, many of which abut one another. A local street map is recommended. Within the district there are historical markers with relevant information.

Lawrence County

Courtland

A "Walking Tour of Courtland" provides visitors with a self-guided tour of over one hundred 19th and early 20th century homes and commercial buildings in the historic railroad community of Courtland. Visitors can obtain the brochures at Town Hall at 361 College Street and local businesses. There is a historical marker about Courtland's early architecture at 284 College Street.

Moulton

In September, Moulton offers a unique Candlelight Garden Tour. The Nighttime tour of local gardens is followed by garden party with food and entertainment. In December, the town hosts a Christmas Open House and Walking Tour.

Other Sites, Districts & Tours

Colbert County

LaGrange College Site Park

Located at 1491 LaGrange College Road, this site was the home to Alabama's first chartered college. LaGrange College was established in 1830 and stood until it was burned during the Civil War. The site now contains a replica of a mountain town, a restored Civil War cemetery and a marker commemorating the college.

Ivy Green

The birthplace of Helen Keller, this historic house museum tells the story of her prominent family of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and her own struggle to overcome her disabilities.

Franklin County

Red Bay Museum

The Red Bay Museum is located at 400 4th Street and houses numerous artifacts from the town's 19th and early 20th century growth and development. The museum also has displays relating to country music star Tammy Wynette and other regional music figures.

Lauderdale County

Frank Lloyd Wright - Rosenbaum House

Built in 1939 for Stanley and Mildred Rosenbaum, this dwelling is the only property in Alabama designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. While the house is notable for its association with Wright and its Usonian style, the house also speaks to the social and economic vitality of Florence in the mid-20th century.

Limestone County

“Glory Road Driving Tour”

As a variation of the “Hallelujah Trail,” Limestone County has developed its own self-guided tour of 35 churches from the 19th and 20th centuries. While many of these are in Athens, the tour takes visitors throughout the county.

Houston Memorial Library and Museum

Athens - Commemorating two-time Alabama Governor and U.S. Senator George S. Houston, this two-story Greek Revival style dwelling is located at 101 N. Houston Street in Athens. The museum contains memorabilia associated with Houston as well as the growth and development of Athens. The building also houses the public library and research facilities.

Mooresville

Mooresville was established in 1818 and is the oldest incorporated town in the state. The community retains many 19th century buildings including the 1820s Stage coach Inn and Tavern, the 1839 community church and 1840 post office. A self-guided walking tour is available to stroll the streets and view the historic architecture.

Industry & Hydroelectric Development Sub-Theme

Across the Heritage Area, the damming of the river not only provides abundant electricity, but also recreational opportunities at **Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Lakes**. The **Wilson Dam**, spanning the river between Colbert and Lauderdale Counties is no longer open for guided tours, but there is a pull-off on the south side that offers an overlook and wayside exhibits about the dam’s construction. The famous shoals are quite visible from this vantage point. Also, the surrounding grounds have trails of hiking. Numerous game fish, including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and crappie, are abundant in Wilson Lake, which boasts 154 miles of shoreline, on the north and south banks. Wilson Dam was named a National Historic Landmark in 1966. Over 3,700 vessels pass through Wilson Dam’s locks each year.

Wheeler Dam, up-river from Wilson Dam, was built in the mid-1930s by TVA. Alabama State Route 101 crosses over the dam. On the south bank of the river is a historical marker, located near the visitor center parking lot at the base of the stairs leading to the power house. The marker explains how the TVA system protects the Tennessee (and by extension, the lower Ohio and Mississippi) Valley, an area of 41,000 square miles, from flooding by storing and gradually releasing an average of 52 inches of rain that falls on this area per year. Careful monitoring of water levels stabilizes navigation year-round, regulates flooding, and generates electrical power. The only other similar marker is located at South Pittsburg, Tennessee, at Nickajack Dam. At 72 feet in height and 6,342 feet in length, Wheeler Dam impounds 67,070 acres. Wheeler Lake, a major draw for recreation, attracts four million visitors each year for fishing, boating, and camping.

A couple of miles downstream from Wheeler Dam are the remains of **Lock #3 of the Muscle Shoals Canal**. The structure is located at the mouth of Bluewater Creek and is accessible to boaters. It adjoins an isthmus of land that appears to be a private cul-de-sac.

Down-river from Wilson Dam is **Pickwick Lake**. Pickwick Dam is actually located in Tennessee, with the majority of the impounded lake in Lauderdale County, Alabama. The total surface area of Pickwick Lake at full summer pool is 47,500 acres. McFarland Park at Florence hosts major fishing tournaments, with record catches reported. Recreational information is abundant from Alabama tourism agencies.

Nitrate Village No. 1 – This unique collection of stuccoed Spanish Colonial and Bungalow designs was built in 1918 for employees of the Wilson Dam construction project. This planned community is significant for its architecture and community planning. Although the village can be toured from the

street, the directional signage to the village is not clear. An Alabama Historical marker is in the center of the village but no other interpretation is available.

THEME 3 – MUSIC

General

“Roots of American Music Trail”

Informational brochure providing a map and information on the W.C. Handy Home and Museum as well as the major sound studios in Sheffield, Muscle Shoals and Tuscumbia.

Alabama Music Hall of Fame

Open Monday through Saturday, the Hall of Fame delves into the region's scope of musical influence on American popular Music. It houses memorabilia, exhibits, and various items showcasing the state's famous musicians and their contributions to music.

W.C. Handy and the Blues Sub-Theme

W.C. Handy Home and Museum

W.C. Handy was born in a log house which has been reconstructed and moved to its present location at 620 West College Street in Florence. This building is open for tours Tuesday through Saturday. The museum includes a library with books about Handy, music, and black history and culture. Highlights include Handy's personal papers and sheet music, in his hand-writing.

The Recording Industry Takes Root Sub-Theme

Sound Studios

The Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, the Cypress Moon Sound Studio, FAME Studio and Wishbone Productions are working studios and can be accessed by appointment only.

Alabama Music Hall of Fame

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame was established by the State Legislature in 1980 to preserve and promote the musical heritage of the state of Alabama. The current facility opened at 617 Highway 72 West in Tuscumbia in 1990. The museum houses exhibits and artifacts related to the music industry including Sam Phillips, W.C. Handy, Rick Hall and Buddy Killen.

Red Bay Museum

The Red Bay Museum is located in downtown Red Bay and contains a collection of memorabilia related to Tammy Wynette, the “First Lady of Country Music.” Ms. Wynette was born in Tremont, Mississippi, eighteen miles southwest of Red Bay. The museum also contains memorabilia related to musicians Mac MacAnally, Jerry Bridges and others.