

HISTORIC
AUGUSTA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julia Jackson
Historic Augusta, Inc.
706-724-0436
julia@historicaugusta.org

Stovall-Barnes House - Grand Opening February 17, 11 am

Historic Augusta, Inc. is pleased to announce that the rehabilitation of the Stovall-Barnes House, located at 1211 Greene Street in Augusta, is complete. The public is invited to a grand opening ceremony and tour on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 11 am.

The Stovall-Barnes House was built in 1860 by Bolling Anthony Stovall, a prominent Augusta cotton broker. It was the boyhood home of Pleasant Alexander Stovall, who played baseball as a child with Woodrow Wilson on a team known as the Lightfoot Baseball Club. Pleasant Alexander Stovall was later proprietor of the *Savannah News* and Ambassador to Switzerland during World War I. The Stovall family sold the house in 1873 to George Thomas Barnes, who later served as a United States Congressman. Throughout the 20th Century a series of owners took in boarders or used it as rental property. By the 1950s the Stovall-Barnes House was known as the Greene Street Hotel. It continued to be used as apartments until recent years when it became occupied by vagrants, was neglected and then vacant.

The Stovall-Barnes House was placed on Historic Augusta's Endangered Properties List for 2007. The list aims to educate and raise awareness within the community of the value and significance of each structure or groups of related structures on the list and to highlight the tools available to protect and preserve them. Saved from an uncertain fate, the Stovall-Barnes House was purchased by a group of preservation minded investors known as Stovall-Barnes LLC in June 2007. The partners of Stovall-Barnes LLC consist of local businessmen Tennent Houston, Paul King and Thomas Robertson. All three have extensive experience with historic property ownership, historic preservation and rehabilitation. A certified rehabilitation according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards was conducted by Rex Property & Construction Management on behalf of the new owners. Four upscale residential apartments now occupy the main house with two additional apartments located in the detached service building.

The location of the 1200 block of Greene Street at the end of the Calhoun Expressway makes the historic structures on this block highly visible to tourists and local citizens. The 1200 block of Greene Street is a major gateway to Augusta's downtown. The rehabilitation of the Stovall-Barnes House has furthered the preservation efforts and economic development of the city and is to be commended and celebrated.

For more information, call Historic Augusta at (706) 724-0436 or visit www.historicaugusta.org.