The mission of Historic Augusta, Inc., is to preserve historically or architecturally significant structures and sites in Augusta & Richmond County, Georgia.
Each year when Historic Augusta’s Preservation Committee considers properties to be named for its Endangered list, many factors are considered. There are so many historic buildings in Augusta that are endangered in some way that it is difficult to choose. In the first couple of years, most of the selections were obvious choices, long noticed by Augustans as likely having a precarious future without intervention. But since then, the committee has become more strategic in its selections. Pervasive issues are identified that effect many historic buildings, and then representative buildings that fit the criteria are selected.

Preservation is more than simply ensuring that a building stands in any form. Insensitive “remuddling” of historic buildings can have as much negative effect on the surrounding neighborhood as demolition. And sometimes that comes in the form of subtle change over time. Augusta’s iconic Bon Air Hotel on Walton Way has undergone such subtle change over a long period of time. A window here, a balcony there, an ornamental decoration yonder. On such a large building, who’s watching? Well, as it turns out, a lot of people are watching. The chipping away at the 1923 Willis Irvin designed hotel has gone on for many years, and the committee thinks it’s time to call attention to the insensitivity of this subtle change. Few buildings represent more of Augusta’s modern history than the Bon Air, and it deserves better.

Another building that comes under the category of insensitive and not-so-subtle change is 601 Broad Street, remembered by some as the Erbelding Building. Anchoring the corner of 6th and Broad Streets, it has undergone numerous architectural assaults in recent years by an out-of-town owner, in spite of being located in the locally protected Downtown Historic District. Replacing the original window openings with standard sized modern windows is the most noticeable insensitivity. But neglect also plays are role in this important early commercial building that is one of our best examples of an early 19th Century commercial block with residential space above.

We are sad to list two properties under the control of the Richmond County Board of Education. Joseph R. Lamar Elementary School on Baker Avenue is now being vacated following consolidation with the John Milledge Elementary School on Eve Street. It seems a fair question to ask, what will become of Lamar? Will it follow in the footsteps of old Davidson, old Sue Reynolds, A.C. Griggs and Weed School? Abandonment should not be an option, but the recent track record of other vacated Richmond County Schools strongly suggests that is the likely future for these community landmarks. Planning for adaptive use now is critical for the long term survival of Lamar.

The second school building that we are listing is practically invisible to most passers-by. Tucked back behind the Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School on Laney-Walker Boulevard is the Cauley-Wheeler Memorial Building, the last remaining structure that served Laney’s predecessor, the Haines Institute, founded by Miss Lucy Craft Laney herself. Plans are underway to demolish the building, which is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places, and rebuild a replica nearby! Surely not! Only two years ago a Georgia Historical Marker was placed in front of Laney High to explain the significance of the Cauley-Wheeler Building as well as the Haines Institute. Is this building to go the way of the Frank Yerby House, being replaced by a “historic” replica?

Finally, we are naming the Bohler House on Phillips Street, home to one of Augusta’s outstanding African-American families, which has been the subject of neglect for far too long. The Bohler House represents so many old homes in the Laney-Walker North Historic District that are similarly neglected. Many have been lost to new development, without any consideration given to the possibility of rehabilitation and reuse. It is time for revitalization efforts in the area to give equal consideration to rehab, as to new construction, before the National Register historic district loses so many of its representative buildings that it is unrecognizable to long-time residents.

In a perfect world, Historic Augusta would not need to have an annual Endangered Properties List, but reality sets-in whenever we drive around our beautiful and historic city. We can do better, and we can save what is significant about Augusta. Join us as we strive for that goal. EM
Owner: Privately Owned

History and Significance:
Known as the Erbelding Building, 601-603 Broad Street is one of the oldest existing downtown buildings in Augusta. Research indicates the building was constructed c. 1870 and was typically a mixed use property with commercial business on the first floor and residential units, both private and rental, on the second floor. Mr. E. R. Schneider, importer of wines and beer, is documented in the 1885 Augusta Chronicle newspaper as the local agent for the Anheuser-Busch brewery based in St. Louis, Missouri. 1897 advertisements report that the proprietress Mrs. T. E. Busch is operating the Busch House as a boarding house. In the early 1930s, the Erbelding Plumbing Company, run by well known business man Edward J. Erbelding, began occupying the building and is listed in the city directory until 1980. The use of the building waned over the next several years both commercially and residationally. Historic Augusta has been working towards revitalize the 500 and 600 blocks of Broad through our prior listing of the Reid Range Building at 586 Broad Street to the Endangered Property list and advocating for the rehabilitation of the former Nash dealership at 566 Broad Street. The Erbelding building sits prominently on the corner lot which makes the sensitive preservation of the exterior features, including windows and the second floor dormers, on the south and east facades critical. With the rehabilitation of the Miller Theatre one block up, there is great opportunity for the building to be placed back into regular service and the state and federal tax credits could be utilized to perform a certified rehabilitation of this historic building.

Threat: Inconsistent occupancy, alterations of historic character defining features, development pressure along Broad Street corridor

Potential Uses: Mixed use; commercial office space; income producing residential apartments

Preservation Tools: (1) A contributing resource in the Augusta Downtown Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is therefore eligible for all programs of the National Register which include available grant funds and tax incentives for certified rehabilitations; (2) located in the Downtown Augusta Historic District which means that any alteration to the exterior, including demolition, should be approved by the Augusta Richmond County Historic Preservation Commission.
Owner: Privately Owned

History and Significance:
The original Bon Air Hotel that was built in 1889 and consumed by fire February 3, 1921. The large Spanish Revival architectural masterpiece that sits on the hillside of the Summerville Historic District opened January 29, 1924 as the Bon Air-Vanderbilt Hotel and is located on nearly twelve acres of land. With over 300 rooms, the Bon Air hotel featured sparkling chandeliers and brass fixtures throughout the building. Many former employees also remember the marble and hardwood floors and many spacious facilities including the Terrace Room and the Crystal Room. The popularity of the hotel increased throughout the 1920s and with the beginning of the Masters Golf Tournament in 1934. During the 1950s, many conventions were booked at the hotel including an appearance by President Eisenhower’s Press Corps and staff. The Bon Air Hotel closed in 1960 after the owners were unable to secure a mortgage.

The current use of the building is residential apartments for senior citizens and those in the low income demographic. The Bon Air is listed as a contributing structure in the Summerville Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over the last several years, the architectural character and historic integrity of the building has been compromised with the removal of significant defining features such as balconies and historic windows.

Threat: Insensitive alterations that will jeopardize historic integrity.

Potential Uses: Mixed use; commercial office space; income producing residential apartments; conference center.

Preservation Tools: (1) A contributing resource in the Summerville Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is therefore eligible for all programs of the National Register which include available grant funds and tax incentives for certified rehabilitations; (2) located in the Summerville Local Historic District which means that any alteration to the exterior, including demolition, must be approved by the Augusta Richmond County Historic Preservation Commission.
BOHLER HOUSE
1102 PHILLIPS STREET

Owner: Privately Owned

History and Significance:
The revitalization of the Laney-Walker and Bethlehem neighborhoods has been taking off over the last several months. But few historic buildings are being rehabilitated, and many threatened with demolition. Some empty lots will see new construction which will mark a new beginning for many residents. At the corner of Hopkins and Phillips Streets and across from Laney High School sits a large single family home built in 1926 and occupied by the Bohler Family. The Bohler family is best known for Lt. Henry Bohler who was an Augusta native and a graduate of the prominent Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. Henry would become the first African American pilot in the United States Military as part of the Tuskegee Airmen. The Bohler family still occupies the home and its condition is fair with the typical attention needed to various systems throughout the house, including a fresh coat of paint. The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History has remained in contact with the family in an effort to help with preservation of this community landmark and to bring awareness to its rich history and prominent history makers who called Augusta home.

Threat: Development pressure from surrounding neighborhood, condition continues to deteriorate.

Potential Uses: Single family home, income producing residential apartments; commercial office space; community center.

Preservation Tools: (1) Contributing structure in the Laney-Walker North Historic District which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which makes it eligible for all programs of the National Register, including available grant funds and the tax incentives for certified rehabilitations.
Owner: Haines Alumni Association  
Occupant: Richmond County Board of Education

History and Significance:  
The Cauley-Wheeler Building, completed in 1924, is located in the center of the campus of Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School. This historic building housed the primary school of Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, and was named for philanthropist Alice Wheeler of New York and her nurse Mary Cauley, a Lamar School of Nursing graduate. It is the last remaining building from the original Haines campus. The Haines Normal and Industrial Institute was developed by prominent African-American educator Lucy Craft Laney. The school offered a comprehensive education of “the heart, the hand and the head,” and Haines graduated respected leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers and nurses who would play an important role in African-American local, state, and national history. The Haines Normal and Industrial Institute was individually listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008 and also recognized with a historic marker by the Georgia Historical Society in August of 2009. Due to the building’s isolated location and development pressures on the campus, the building is in danger of being demolished so a more modern facility can be built on the current location.

Threat: Demolition for modern facility to meet the needs of Laney High School

Potential Uses: Continued current use as educational facility or as a multi-purpose building for school activities.

Preservation Tools: (1) Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places makes the building eligible for all programs of the National Register including available grant funds and the tax incentives for certified rehabilitations.
LAMAR
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
970 BAKER STREET

Owner: Richmond County Board of Education

Threat: Declared surplus by the Board of Education and recently vacated.

Potential Uses: Mixed use; commercial office space; income producing residential apartments; educational facility.

Preservation Tools: (1) eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which if actually listed would make it eligible for all programs of the National Register including available grant funds and the tax incentives for certified rehabilitations.

History and Significance:
Over the last few years, we have collectively listed historic neighborhood schools now considered surplus by the Board of Education. This year we include the Joseph R. Lamar School on Baker Avenue in the Woodlawn neighborhood. Located across from the Academy of Richmond County, the school opened September 24, 1934 with Mr. Arthur R. Tones as principal, who was formerly the assistant principal at John Milledge School. It was also known as the Sixth Ward School and served the white population of the area. The school was named after Lamar who had a distinguished career as a lawyer and would later become Supreme Court Justice of the United States in 1911. An article in The Augusta Chronicle reported that the first day’s enrollment at the school was 387 and members of the faculty included Miss Clemmons, Miss Lila Davidson, Miss Margaret Elliott, Miss Beulah Wise, Miss Juanita Lucky, Miss Sara Trayler, Miss Sara Mallard, Miss Mary Alice Legwin, and Miss Gertrude Poole who was listed as the pianist. The two story red brick school was built in the Art Moderne style and is very similar in appearance and layout to the former Davidson School on Telfair Street completed in 1933. Lamar Elementary has been vacated with the opening of the new Lamar-Milledge Elementary school on Eve Street. With the success of William Robinson School being rehabilitated into condominiums and efforts to find preservation minded buyers for the other school buildings, we continue to advocate for the reuse of these neighborhood landmarks.
Committee members and the staff have continued to work closely with owners and to encourage use of incentives, such as tax credits, to resolve issues that prevent properties from being rehabbed. Through our Real Estate Program, the continued Preservation for Profit workshop, and the launch of the new website, the Preservation Committee is eager to continue our mission of preserving and protecting historically and architecturally significant sites and structures in Augusta and Richmond County.

**NOTABLE Updates**

**REGARDING PREVIOUS ENDANGERED PROPERTIES**

**PROGRESS:** Goodale House, 745 Sand Bar Ferry Road

In June, Historic Augusta, Inc., announced that it had received a National Trust Intervention Grant in the amount of $5,000 to be used to develop a stabilization plan and structural analysis for the Goodale House. The project was funded in part by a grant from the Daniel K. Thorne Intervention Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Cranston Engineering has completed their on-site scanning of the structure and is in the process of creating 3D models and a structural report that will be presented to the owner in an effort to move forward with the rebuilding of the western wall.

**LOST:** Immaculate Conception Church and School, 1016 Laney-Walker Boulevard. Named to Historic Augusta's 2010 Endangered Properties List, efforts to find a solution for reuse of the historic African-American Catholic campus were unsuccessful following a demolition order given by the Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah. No plans have been made public for a future use of the now vacant lot.

**2012 Preservation Committee Members:**

Tennent Houston, Chair

Robyn Anderson

Joe Bowles

Richard Fletcher

Anne Floyd

Bryan Haltermann

Julia Jackson

Rob Mauldin

Erick Montgomery

Heard Robertson

Digital scanning of the Goodale House to create a 3D model of the building which will be used for preservation planning and structural analysis.

Immaculate Conception School educated many African-American children throughout the Laney-Walker and Bethlehem neighborhoods. The historic buildings were demolished during the summer.
SAVED: The Pearson House, 1247 Laney-Walker Boulevard, since listing this property last year, Eta Theta Zeta has stabilized the home and it is being used for office and meeting space.

ENDANGERED: Dr. S.S. Johnson House, 1420 Twiggs Street, remains vacant and boarded up, rehabilitation has been proposed as part of the revitalization effort in the Laney-Walker and Bethlehem neighborhoods.

ENDANGERED: Coleridge, South Augusta, this “palatial residence” originally designed as the garage for a larger home that was never completed, captured the imagination and interest of many individuals who were awestruck by the story of the secluded house. The home remains vacant. The property has been listed for sale since its placement on the Endangered Properties List last year.
ὲ ENDANGERED: Former Augusta Public Library, 902 Greene Street, declared surplus property by Augusta-Richmond County, the structure was recently listed for auction. It is unknown if any offers on the building will result the library’s adaptive reuse for continued downtown revitalization and development.

ὲ ENDANGERED: Kahrs Grocery, 401 Greene Street. This prominent corner building in the Olde Town neighborhood has garnered considerable interest after its listing in 2011. The building remains vacant with no known plans for rehabilitation by the current owners.

ὲ ENDANGERED: Upper Broad Street Houses (1425, 1427, 1429 Broad Street). Unfortunately 1425 Broad Street was heavily damaged by a fire last year and has recently been demolished. The two remaining historic houses continue to deteriorate. Beautification efforts of the St. Sebastian corridor may spark a renewed interested in reusing and preserving the homes.

ὲ ENDANGERED: Weed School, 2403 Mount Auburn Street. Featured as part of our This Place Matters event which focuses on the preservation of historic resources in Augusta’s African American neighborhoods, the school has been considered for possible housing or as an education facility. No plans have been confirmed at this time.
2010 ENDANGERED PROPERTY LISTING UPDATES

ALTERED: Pontiac Master Auto Service Building, 1027 Telfair Street. The original auto showroom space with curved glass windows has been removed from the building.✉

ENDANGERED: Lyons-Callaghan House, 808-804 James Brown Boulevard. Remains vacant, deteriorating, and faces strong development pressures from activity along the Ninth Street Corridor.

SAVED: Jacob Phinizy House, 529 Greene Street. Rehabilitation is well underway by 2KM Architects who will be using the historic house for their company offices. The white paint is being carefully stripped from the building in an effort to restore the original appearance of the red brick.

ENDANGERED: Pontiac Master Auto Service Building, 1027 Telfair Street. The original auto showroom space with curved glass windows has been removed from the building.✉

IMMINENTLY THREATENED: C. T. Walker Home, 1011 Laney-Walker Boulevard. Residence of Rev. Charles T. Walker, founder of Tabernacle Baptist Church, the home is rapidly deteriorating and is unsecure. The demolition of Immaculate Conception across the street and the neighboring house suffering extensive damage by fire has accelerated Historic Augusta’s attempts to assist the owners in finding a new use for the building, securing it, and beginning rehabilitation work.

IMMINENTLY THREATENED: 916 Greene Street, though currently secure, years of being used by vagrants has left the interior of the historic home in poor condition. The current owners have no proposals for use of the building or rehabilitation.

UPDATE: 901 Reynolds Street. Augusta’s Trade, Exhibit, and Event center is scheduled to open in January 2013 and the historic cotton warehouse has been incorporated into the modern construction, preserving the building’s façade and presence on the corner of James Brown Boulevard and Reynolds Street.

ENDANGERED: Jessamine Hill, 3101 Richmond Hill Road, the antebellum home secluded on the grounds of the Green Meadows Golf Course remains vacant.✉
ENDANGERED: W.S. Hornsby House, 1518 Twiggs Street. The house remains vacant although revitalization effort throughout the Laney-Walker and Bethlehem neighborhoods may include this historic home in the near future.

PROGRESS: Harrisburg Neighborhood. Completion of the Kroc Center & First Stop Village is expected to jump start additional reinvestment in the area. The new Milledge-Lamar Elementary School on Eve Street was opened to students this year. The non-profit, Turn Back the Block, has also been seeking historic homes to rehabilitate for their home ownership program and have begun to work on several mill cottages on Broad Street.

ENDANGERED: Lowrey’s Wagon Works and Confederate Shoe Factory, 301-303 Ninth Street. Historic Augusta has been interested in working with the owners to encourage their rehabilitation of the building. Beautification of the James Brown Boulevard Corridor in anticipation of the TEE Center opening will mean the wagon works building is situated in a prime location for high visibility from both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

ENDANGERED: Greene Street Presbyterian Church. A portion of the administrative building is in use though the main sanctuary space is vacant. The property remains for sale.

ENDANGERED: Greene Street Presbyterian Church. A portion of the administrative building is in use though the main sanctuary space is vacant. The property remains for sale.

ENDANGERED: 811 D’Antignac Street. This c.1870 house remains threatened. There are no immediate plans for sale of the property.

« ENDANGERED: The Denning House, 905 Seventh Street. The home has suffered further neglect and the remaining cottages along the 900 block are also in severe disrepair. Rehabilitation of all the properties would encourage further redevelopment along the fringe of the neighborhood.

« PROGRESS: Reynolds Street Depot. This surplus city property has been listed for sale but future development plans are unknown at this time. This historic property would be eligible for certified historic rehabilitation tax credits. The city installed a new metal roof in 2011.
Are you eager to learn more about rehabilitating and maintaining your older or historic home? Are you stumped about who to call when you need expert advice on your roof, plaster, windows, woodwork, landscaping, or other original features of your house? Have you always wondered about your abode’s architectural style or how to research its history? The Old House Fair is for you! Held at Sacred Heart Cultural Center on February 8 and 9, 2013, a $10 admission ticket will gain you entry to the vendor expo and all speaker sessions including the Friday evening keynote reception. The keynote address will be given by Pratt W. Cassity, Jr., director of the Center for Community Design, Planning & Preservation in the College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia. For tickets and more information, or to sponsor this event, contact Historic Augusta at 706-724-0436.

The 2013 Old House Fair will build upon the success of Historic Augusta’s first Old House Fair, which was held on March 5, 2012, also at Sacred Heart Cultural Center. Historic Augusta wishes to thank Laura Irwin, chair of the 2012 Fair (and the 2013 Fair!), the committee, vendors, speakers, sponsors, and volunteers who all helped to make the Old House Fair a comprehensive resource for owners of historic and older homes. JJ

2012 Old House Fair Committee
Laura Irwin, Chair
Melissa Aitken
Robyn Anderson
Christy Beckham
Jackie Blanchard
Whatley Bush
Julia Jackson
Libby Macuch
Erick Montgomery
Kelley Stroup

Thanks to our Old House Fair Sponsors in 2012!

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Pat Shelton

Volunteers
Holly Blanton, Patti Goodwin,
Rebecca Rice, Gracie Shepherd,
Ashley Hock Smith, Amy Walker,
Karon Williamson

Special Thanks to
Regina Brewer, Decatur Old House Fair
Sacred Heart Cultural Center

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Sacred Heart Cultural Center
The purpose of Historic Augusta’s Real Estate Program is to further Historic Augusta’s mission to preserve historically and architecturally significant sites in the Augusta area by bringing together buyers and sellers of historic real estate. The program seeks to resolve difficult preservation situations by acting as a clearinghouse for historic properties and to provide for the protection of the structures through preservation easements. The program targets historically significant contributing properties where the owner has a desire to enlist Historic Augusta’s assistance in finding a qualified buyer. In the program, Historic Augusta negotiates an option to purchase a historically significant site or building. Historic Augusta then markets the property to preservation-minded buyers through a number of media outlets. Once a qualified buyer is located, Historic Augusta exercises its option to purchase the property and sells the property to the buyer, retaining a preservation easement on the property. Historic Augusta may also elect to purchase or accept donations of historically significant real estate as a part of the program.

The inventory of historic properties included 586 Broad Street and 920 Greene Street, both recently sold. A list of available historic properties for sale is kept on Historic Augusta’s website under the Real Estate Program menu tab. We have also been working with the Board of Education with their several surplus school buildings including the Old Davidson School and Weed School. The committee has been very pleased with this year’s activities and will look to further expand the program in 2013.

In 2012, Historic Augusta accepted three new preservation easements on historic properties located in Augusta; 920 Greene Street, 586 Broad Street, and 409 Watkins Street. We currently monitor 30 preservation easements and protective covenants. The purpose of the preservation easement is to give Historic Augusta the permanent ability to protect the property against demolition, neglect and insensitive alterations, and to ensure that the building maintains its historic character. Property owners may be able to take a tax deduction for the fair market value of the easement when it is donated to Historic Augusta. Thanks are due to Historic Augusta President, Paul King, his wife, Adele Dennis, and to former Historic Augusta President Tennent Houston for donating preservation easements on these significant historic buildings. If you are interested in donating a preservation easement on your property or have questions about the process, contact Robyn Anderson at robyn@historicaugusta.org.

Recently purchased as a single family home, the preservation easement will ensure character defining features on the exterior and interior will be protected in perpetuity.
Historic Augusta is very pleased that its Preservation Committee has been successful in finding new owners for two important historic buildings in downtown Augusta through its Real Estate program. The first is the Henry-Cohen House at 920 Greene Street, a fine Italianate-style house dating to circa 1853. The new owner, Mark Donahue, has been rehabilitating the building according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. The large residence, which is architecturally intact, will be made into six upscale apartments, and should be completed before the end of 2012. Mr. Donahue previously rehabbed Castle Hall, a commercial building on 8th Street, which also contains upscale apartments. The Henry-Cohen House is protected by a perpetual historic preservation easement donated in favor of Historic Augusta, which will ensure its preservation long into the future.

The second property that recently was sold to a new owner is the Reid Range Building, 586 Broad Street, a rare Federal-style commercial building dating to the 1820s. Built by the Reid Family for whom Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church is named, it has served many businesses over the last two centuries, with residential space on the second and third floors. The Moog Family was the last to occupy the upper floors, and lived there for about a century. The new owners are Augusta newcomers Michael and Mia Weldon, who intend to use the first floor for their businesses, and the upper floor eventually as residential space. Historic Augusta holds a perpetual historic preservation easement on the property to ensure its future preservation.

A third property is still for sale, but has had lots of interest from ads that have been placed on historic real estate sites on the internet. 307 James Brown Boulevard is a three-story Second Empire-style townhouse that was built circa 1884 as an investment property by the Doughty Family. It was first used as a Chinese laundry on the first floor with residential spaces above. The 5,000 square foot building is being offered by Historic Augusta for $59,900.
A new Georgia Historical Society historical marker will be dedicated on December 7, 2012 in commemoration of the birthplace of Gen. Montgomery Cunningham Meigs, who was born in Augusta on May 3, 1816. Raised in Philadelphia, Meigs became a Brigadier General in the Union Army during the American Civil War, and served as Quartermaster General for the U.S. Army, and was largely responsible for establishing Arlington National Cemetery. The marker dedication will be held on the south side of the 600 block of Broad Street. More details will be forthcoming.

Historic Augusta Executive Director Erick Montgomery recently spent a week in Salem, Massachusetts at the invitation of the National Trust to participate in a new course on historic real estate financing. The class of 40 attended an intense four-day class that was taught by the National Development Council and funded by the 1772 Foundation. The first half of the two-part course focused on preparing pro formas, figuring return on investment, and understanding the needs of developer, banker, investor and public sector economic development professionals in making a deal happen. All of this ties into rehabbing buildings using historic preservation tools like tax credits, which are often used in Augusta preservation projects.

Robyn Anderson, Historic Augusta's Preservation Services Director, recently completed phase 1 of a three-part historic resources survey of the Summerville neighborhood. Summerville was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district in 1980, and in the ensuing 32 years, many changes have occurred. Updating information on the historic district will help with the ultimate goal of making more benefits available to more historic properties. During phase 1, nearly 430 buildings were photographed and inventoried, with data collected on architectural style, construction date, and any building alterations. The survey was funded by a Certified Local Government grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, through appropriations from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

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Lost: Original WJBF Building at Television Park, 1001 Reynolds Street
Augusta's first television station, WJBF-TV began operations on November 23, 1953 and was founded by local entrepreneur J.B. Fuqua. Purpose built as a television station in 1957, it was the second oldest such building in the state of Georgia. When WJBF moved to their new location in West Augusta, the original iconic modernist building on Reynolds Street was sold. It was determined that rehabilitation for reuse of the building was not feasible and it was subsequently demolished during the summer. Proposed for the site is a new building which will house several of Augusta’s economic development agencies including the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Augusta Downtown Development Authority and the Richmond County Development Authority.
The Story of a Recent Acquisition for the Wilson House

The Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson was purchased by Historic Augusta in 1991. Over the ensuing ten years the Wilson House Furnishings Committee, led by Shara Overstreet, painstakingly acquired the furniture, floor coverings, window treatments, and other domestic accouterments necessary to set the visual scene of how the Wilson family lived in the home during the 1860s. The most important items in the home are the 13 pieces of furniture actually used by the Wilson family, which are on loan from First Presbyterian Church. The other pieces of furniture and decorations were purchased from reputable dealers, loaned or received through deed of gift from generous patrons.

Several items have been added to the collection since this initial phase of acquisition. Historic Augusta’s Executive Director Erick Montgomery keeps a mental wish list of pieces which would help us to better tell the Wilson story. One of those items was a sewing machine. About a year ago, Julia Jackson relayed this desire to her former Sewanee roommate Catherine Salmon, a collector of antique sewing machines. Within a couple of months she received an email stating that Catherine had located an 1860s Singer sewing machine and that it could be purchased for a reasonable price. The only catch was that it had to be collected in person from the seller in Pennsylvania. After consulting with the current Wilson House Acquisitions Committee, chaired by Ann Claiborne Christian, it was decided that Erick would make the trek to Pennsylvania to see the sewing machine in person and to bring it to Augusta. The serial number indicated that the machine was made at the appropriate date and so the purchase was made.

As this purchase was unexpected and unbudgeted, the answer to our prayers of how to pay for it came this summer when the Questors Club of Dunwoody, Georgia made a visit to Augusta. Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell, who has a family connection to one of the members, was tasked with showing them around town. She made a personal invitation for them to tour the Wilson House, but was unable to conduct the tour. Julia Jackson was delighted to give the tour to this group because of her love of their mission to encourage an appreciation of antiques and the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks. The ladies of the Questors Club enjoyed their tour so much that at the end of the tour they asked if there was a special antique that we needed that they could help fund. Julia mentioned the recent purchase of the sewing machine including the cost of travel. Just a short time after the Questors Club visit to Augusta, a check arrived in the mail with a letter.

Historic Augusta is grateful to all who played a part in this story. We encourage everyone to see the Singer sewing machine which is now on view in the upstairs sitting room of the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson. JJ
Many thanks to **George Barrett** of Barrett Tree Company for donating a fine specimen of **Jefferson elm**, which has been planted on the Telfair Street side of the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson. Jefferson elms are rare, having been developed for several decades from an American elm that survived Dutch Elm Disease which blighted and killed most elms in North America. Two large hackberry trees had to be removed from the same area, and it is hoped that the new elm will be a beautiful replacement for many decades to come.

We continue to have the services of wonderful volunteers who keep the garden plots at the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson well cared for. Pictured here are members of the **Spade and Trowel Garden Club** preparing their award winning garden plot in the back yard for the fall. Pictured left to right are: **Liz Murphy, Laraine Yarbrough, Nancy Lindroth, Elizabeth Tudor, & Fran Weber**.

**Camellia Garden Club** also attends to the four plot garden inside the picket fence at the Wilson House.
Historic Augusta nominated The Emporium Building, owned by Dr. Natalie McLeod, for an Excellence in Rehabilitation Award given by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. It was recognized for the outstanding work done on the building. Located in the Augusta Downtown Historic District at 1106 Broad Street, the building was constructed circa 1884 and the impact the rehabilitation has had for downtown Augusta is multi-faceted. The Emporium Building no longer sits empty and is one of the most attractive buildings along Broad Street. Both state and federal certified rehabilitation tax credit programs were approved for this substantial undertaking. The rehabilitation shows that there is a strong desire for upscale residential apartment units that appeal to young professionals, students, and even retirees who are interested in relocating from the suburbs back to the historic shopping and entertainment districts of the city. The Emporium Building also shows investors that the reuse of existing historic buildings is viable and that through working with state and federal officials, historic preservation is a sound financial investment. Congratulations to Natalie, architect Alan Venable, and contractors Capers and Associates for this great project! RA

NEW WEBSITE Launched October 20th

We are pleased to announce that our new website for Historic Augusta, Inc., was released on October 20th. Jennifer McDonald with Creative Flow Marketing has worked closely with the staff to develop an interactive and educational platform for individuals to find information regarding preservation information and current programs of Historic Augusta. The website is still a work in progress and we encourage you to visit the site and give feedback regarding the navigation and information available through its pages. Thanks also goes out to Tennent Houston, Erick Montgomery, Julia Jackson, Fiona Casey, and Samantha Sherman for their additional support during the development phase of the website. RA
Historic Augusta wishes to acknowledge and thank the following organizations for providing recent grant funds: Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board, for plaster repairs at the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson; National Trust for Historic Preservation Intervention Fund, for structural analysis of the Goodale House; Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Historic Landscape and Garden Grant, for fence restoration and a garden interpretive plan for the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson; and The Knox Foundation, for operating support. JJ

HISTORIC AUGUSTA IS THANKFUL FOR ITS INTERNS

Historic Augusta is grateful for invaluable assistance provided this year by interns Samantha Sherman, Traci Melton, and Ashley Herzberg. Samantha is a senior history major at Augusta State University. She began her internship this summer and has continued into the fall. She has conducted research for Walk with the Spirits and has assisted with This Place Matters and other projects.

Traci is a senior history major at Georgia College and State University. She interned in our office this summer primarily conducting research for Walk with the Spirits. Ashley is a high school senior homeschooled through Augusta Christian. She has helped with various projects in our office including work in our file archive.

Thank you interns! JJ

We are delighted to welcome Fiona Casey as our new Administrative Assistant, who came to us in June. Fiona is British with family from both Scotland and Uganda. She moved to North Augusta two years ago with her husband, Louis and 3-year old daughter Mar-Bel from Fitchburg, Massachusetts. She formally worked at the Fitchburg Art Museum and with the British Counsel, and has lived in many places around the world.

Our thanks go out to Kelley Stroup who served as Historic Augusta’s Administrative Assistant from March 2011 until June 2012. Kelley, who holds an undergraduate degree in Historic Preservation from Mary Washington College, and two masters degrees in Historic Preservation and Architectural History from the Savannah College of Art and Design resigned to pursue doctoral studies. Kelley came to Historic Augusta as a volunteer intern before she filled the administrative position. EM
For the past three years, the Junior League of Augusta has provided volunteer support to Historic Augusta so that we could staff a booth in the Arts in the Heart of Augusta children’s area. On September 14-16, 2012, we reached out to over 1,000 children by helping them to make a tartan pattern craft in honor of President Woodrow Wilson’s Scottish heritage. Special thanks go to the Junior League of Augusta Provisional Class leadership, Catherine Stewart, Megan Goldberg, and Cindy Ivey, who helped to recruit and organize the volunteers.

Hats Off to the Junior League of Augusta’s Provisional Class for Helping at the Woodrow Wilson Booth at Arts in the Heart of Augusta

Volunteers

Clay Anderson
Robyn Anderson
Vivian Barrientos
Natasha Bridger
Wendy Brown
Nell Cady
Tabitha Calhoun
Fiona Casey
Shawna Diederich
Amanda Farr
Trish Foster
Bobbie Jo Gainey
Marguerite Gentry
Renita Germany
Lakenya Greer
Jessica Haskins
Ashley Herzberg
Stephanie Herzberg
Julia Jackson
Kelly Jacobs
Ashley Jones
Dana Keen
Sarah Kinney
Austin Kusnir
Erin Madden
Heather McCoy
Amanda Mershon
Erick Montgomery
Leslie Nordmann
Jo Poe
Natasha Pratt
Karen Purvis
Stacy Roberts
Caroline Ward
Sarah Jane Whinghter
Ashley White
Rachel Winn

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Champions Retreat
DoubleTree by Hilton Augusta
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Martha Robertson
Rooster’s Beak

COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Martha Robertson, Gould Hagler
Robyn Anderson, Lindsay Casella, Kelly Cashin, Yahya Henry, Julia Jackson, Erick Montgomery, Laura Robertson, Erin Scheutze, Natalie Scoggins, Kelley Stroup

L’Amour at Café Lamar

A good time was had by those who attended L’Amour at Café Lamar on February 11, 2012 at the Supreme Court Justice Joseph R. Lamar Boyhood Home. Guests were entertained by music performed by Ben Casella and George Dale, while sipping Cupid’s Revenge signature cocktails and eating delicious hors d’oeuvres and sweets prepared by the committee. A Valentine-themed trivia game, complete with prizes, rounded out the fun evening. Proceeds from the event helped to fund children’s programming at the Wilson House. Thank you L’Amour at Café Lamar co-chairs Martha Robertson and Gould Hagler, their committee, sponsors, and everyone who came out to support the Wilson House.

Raised Funds for Children’s Programming at Wilson House

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Historic Augusta’s principal supporters gathered for an appreciation cocktail party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Knox on March 22, 2012. Everyone enjoyed mingling in the house, which was built in 1939 by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Goldberg, and in the beautiful gardens. Thank you to our hosts, to Heritage Party chair Beth Storey and to our board members and friends who provided donations of food and beverages. If you would like to upgrade your membership in order to be included in this annual party next year, please contact Historic Augusta’s office at 706-724-0436. JJ

Thanks to the following volunteers who contributed to the lovely party!

Holly Blanton
Ben Casella
Ann Claiborne Christian
Marian Clark
Mary Anne Douglass
Pam Doumar
Gould Hagler
Laura Irwin
Paula Knox
Libby Macuch
Lillian Magruder
Lynn Mays
Lynn Meybohm
Minta Nixon
Glen Owen
Rebecca Rice
Larry Rogers
Becky Smith
Emmie Ward
Karon Williamson

Historic Augusta’s supporters enjoyed the Knox’s patio & gardens

Tennent Houston, Bowdre Mays, Mary Houston

Heritage Party hosts Jeff & Catherine Knox

Terri Allgood, Robert Boyard, Mimi Boyard, Nancy Story
Historic Augusta’s Downtown Loft Tour is a great opportunity to see behind the scenes of the facades we have all passed for years. Tour participants on May 4 and 5, 2012 were able to see inside private homes, loft apartments and a swank office that they might not have ever been able to visit. Historic Augusta is grateful to everyone that made this exciting tour, for the eighth year in a row, a tremendous success in terms of attendance, funds raised to support our mission, and most importantly in showing the public what it is like to live and work in the historic gems we are so fortunate to have in our downtown. Thank you to Ben Casella, chair, to his committee, sponsors, volunteers, donors, ticket sellers, tour participants, and all of those who support this annual event. JJ

**COMMITTEE**

Ben Casella, Chair  
Robyn Anderson  
Christy Beckham  
Julia Jackson  
Peter Menk  
Brian Mirshak  
Erick Montgomery  
Emily Stevenson  
Kelley Stroup  
Branford Thompson

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Food Donors  
Ticket Sales Assistance

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**

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First Bank of Georgia, Hill Drug Company, Mellow Mushroom, New Moon Cafe

**VOLUNTEERS**

Clay Anderson, Katie Ashley, Kari Baker, Farrah Beckham-Brown, Cameron Bentley, Pierce Blitch, Betty Carter, Lindsay Casella, Allen Deacon, Andrea Donald, Mary Anne Douglass, Nadya Fleming, Chad Heard, Michelle Hertel, Ben Herz, Paula Jackson Herz, Tricia Hughes, Jefner Jones, Felicia Lamar, Michael Lamar, Gail Ledford, Glenda Matute, Marianne Maxwell, Elizabeth Mc Gee, Natalie McLeod, Cassie Mercier, Peggy Mosher, Amy Newman, Hyden Newman, Meredith Newman, June Newton, Jennifer Pennington, Suanda Plunkett, Heard Robertson, Lindsey Schwartzbaugh, Natalie Scoggins, Gracie Shepherd, Connie Skalak, Diane Smith, Jean-Marie Smith, Lindsay Thetford, Corey Treacy, Carolann Utley, Maria Westbrook, Will Wright
The sun made an appearance just in time for the Cotton Ball to start on Thursday, May 17, 2012. Several hundred members of Historic Augusta braved the weather and enjoyed what turned out to be a very lovely evening in the garden of “High Gate,” the home of Kate & Trav Paine on Milledge Road. Thank you to our gracious hosts, to the planning committee, to all of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, and to you, our many supporters and friends! Congratulations to raffle prize winner Nathan Huff, who was treated to a one-week stay at a private home in Highlands, North Carolina. JJ

\* LEFT TO RIGHT: JULIA JACKSON, TRAVERS PAINE, NATALIE PAINE, BENNETT BOWERS, ASHLEY HOCK SMITH, TRAV PAINE, KATE PAINE, ERIK MONTGOMERY, PAUL KING

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AB Beverage Co. Inc., Siobhan Carlile, Dixie Riverside, Inc., Pam James Doumar, Neil Guillebeau, Lillian Magruder, Lynn Meybohm, Kate & Trav Paine, Mr. & Mrs. George Sancken III, Transportation Solutions of Augusta, United Distributors, Inc., The Unmentionables, Wife Saver

VOLUNTEERS
Historic Augusta’s annual benefit auction was held on September 20, 2012 at Saint Paul’s River Room. The scene was set with beautiful flowers, delicious food, a wine tasting, and cocktails. Donations of unique experiences, fine antiques and premium wines were available for purchase during the silent auction and many people went home with some delightful finds and good times planned for the future. Thank you to Julie Ann Boardman and the entire benefit auction committee for their tireless efforts to make our largest fundraiser of the year a fun time and a successful endeavor which provides much needed support for Historic Augusta’s mission and operations. We are grateful to all of our sponsors, donors and patrons for your part in our success. Congratulations to raffle winners Lynn and Bowdre Mays, who won the Santa Fe vacation; Andy Magruder, who won the VIP/all event Westobou Festival tickets; and Gerrie Sobel, who won the jewelry. JJ
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About 500 people attended Historic Augusta’s guided tours of Magnolia Cemetery during Walk with the Spirits on October 13 & 14, 2012. Thank you to Danny Craig for chairing the tour once again, to Sissie and Billy Morris for hosting the “Sip” with the Spirits sponsor party at their home, and to Maureen Floyd and her family for providing delicious refreshments. We are grateful to all of our “spirit” actors, volunteers and sponsors for helping us to increase awareness of Augusta’s past by connecting current residents and visitors with the people and places that still influence us by their contributions and cultural legacy. JJ

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Robyn Anderson
Whatley Bush
Fiona Casey
Missy Hargrove
April King
Julia Jackson
John R.B. Long
James Mason
Traci Melton, intern
Sallie Metzel
Erick Montgomery
Laurie Montgomery
Cobbs Nixon
Bob Rollins
Samantha Sherman, intern

Special Thanks to
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Special Thanks to
Clay Anderson, Keith Beckum, Sarah Blake, Thomas Blake, Caren Bricker & Vintage Ooolkee, Louis Casey, City of Augusta Dept. of Recreation-Parks and Facilities-Darrell Bennett, Jerry Murphy, and Fred Oatman, Danny Craig, Susan Craig, Maureen Floyd, Renita Germany, Ben Herz, Paula Jackson Herz, Paige McNeil, Wright Montgomery, Traci Melton, Mr. & Mrs. William S. Morris III, John Robertson, Laura Robertson, Samantha Sherman, Jean-Marie Smith, Ingrid Tutt, Joe Willis
Historic Augusta and the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History have collaborated for three years now on an effort to promote the preservation of Augusta’s African-American communities. A two-day forum entitled “This Place Matters” was held at the Sand Hills Community Center on October 19 and 20, 2012. Almost seventy people attended the keynote address on Friday evening by Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Associate Professor of History at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, who shared personal stories of growing up in Augusta and provided inspiration and encouragement for saving the sites that help give a visual reminder to our history. Thirty-five people returned the following morning to ramble through historic sites in the neighborhood including: Cumming Grove Baptist Church, Elim Baptist Church, Fitten Street Cemetery, Rock of Ages CME Church, and Weed School. The group was then treated to a panel discussion of current and former neighborhood residents who shared memories of growing up and living in the neighborhood and about its history. Thank you to panelists Andrena Carpenter, Ellis Johnson, and Catherine Tompkins. Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell, Director, Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University, provided closing remarks about the history and development of the neighborhood within the larger context of the history of the surrounding area. Thank you to Christine Miller-Betts for her leadership in chairing this committee once again and to all of the volunteers, sponsors and participants who added to its success. JJ

This Place Matters Committee
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Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell, Andrena Carpenter, Hugh Connolly, Linda Gardenhire, Louise Garrett, Julia Jackson, Erick Montgomery, Corey Rogers, Alice Stills, Catherine Thompkins

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For the second year, eight of Augusta’s historical and cultural institutions teamed up to present a symposium which observed the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Held on November 9-10, 2012, a nice crowd gathered to hear lectures on this year’s theme, “Making War.” The talks focused on Southern industrialization, reflecting Augusta’s significant role in the manufacture of gunpowder, ordnance, ammunition, and other materials for the Confederacy. Though all of the lectures provided enlightenment and insights into this period in our nation’s history, Historic Augusta was particularly excited about the keynote address on Friday evening, “Georgia’s Industrialization and the Confederate War Effort,” presented by Mary DeCredico, PhD, Professor of History, United States Naval Academy. This address was co-sponsored by Historic Augusta and the Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University as the annual Dr. Edward J. Cashin Memorial Woodrow Wilson Lecture. Many of you may remember that young “Tommy” Wilson’s father Rev. Joseph Ruggles Wilson took him to visit the various mills, the arsenal and other sites associated with making war in Augusta. The effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction had a profound impact on Wilson’s views as he served in leadership roles throughout his life. Participating organizations for the symposium included the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, the Augusta Civil War Roundtable, the Augusta-Richmond County Historical Society, the Augusta Museum of History, Historic Augusta, Inc., the Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, and the Morris Museum of Art.
The following list consists of personal members who have paid dues, new or renewed during the following dates: **February 7–September 30, 2012.** If you paid your dues during this period, your name should appear below by category. If your name is missing or not in the proper category, and you paid your dues during this period, please let us know.

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Marie (Frenchie) Batley Bush March 12, 2012

Robert Stanford Woodhurst April 4, 2012


Dorothy Barnard September 8, 2012

Eleanor Nixon Hoernle September 20, 2012

Caroline Hull Eve October 6, 2012

Historic Augusta News
Front Cover: The Bon Air Hotel. No, it’s not in South Florida, but on The Hill in Augusta’s Summerville Historic District! The iconic landmark designed by Willis Irvin is approaching its 90th year. Does it have a prominent place in Augusta’s future? See page 5 for more information.

Historic Augusta News is published quarterly by Historic Augusta, Inc., PO Box 37, Augusta, Georgia 30903-0037. Offices are located at 415 Seventh Street. For more information concerning Historic Augusta, the Boyhood Homes of President Woodrow Wilson and Supreme Court Justice Joseph R. Lamar, or historic preservation activities in Augusta-Richmond County, call Historic Augusta, Inc. Phone: 706-724-0436 Fax: 706-724-3083 Wilson House: 706-722-9828

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