The mission of Historic Augusta, Inc., is to preserve historically or architecturally significant structures and sites in Augusta & Richmond County, Georgia.

Notable Updates from Prior Years!

Old First Baptist Church, 802 Greene Street
Following years of uncertainty and deferred maintenance, Old First Baptist Church as been purchased by Joe Edge and Connie Wilson, principals of Sherman & Hemsstreet Real Estate Company. Historic Augusta is working closely with his team as they begin to store interior stained glass panes and clean out the remaining debris. The owner intends to rehabilitate the Sunday School building and mothball the sanctuary space for future use. The exterior of the building will be stabilized, the roof and cupola will be repaired. The owner will be submitting an application for State and Federal Certified Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Stay tuned for more exciting updates and check out www.FirstBaptistAugusta.com for more updates from Joe and Connie about this iconic downtown Augusta landmark.

Augusta Trunk Factory, 840 Reynolds Street
Built in 1901 by Miss Mary Cleckley as the Augusta Trunk Factory, Historic Augusta worked closely with the building owner to stabilize and mothball the building. A local structural engineer was engaged to develop a plan that would allow for the temporary fencing for public safety to be removed. Historic Augusta continued in contact with the owner, the building can be preserved and potentially incorporated into future development plans, but the onset of the pandemic impacted those discussions, and the decision was made to raze the remaining structure.

Fifteen Years of Identifying Endangered Properties

Fifteen years ago Historic Augusta’s newly formed Preservation Committee came up with an idea. It actually wasn’t a new concept, as it had been used in various formats by other communities and states for a number of years. After attending a meeting of National Trust’s Preservation Partners, I came home with lots of input on how to implement our own program in Augusta. The committee and board members embraced the concept, and our first list was announced in the fall of 2006, for 2007.

Like new cars, our list is published in advance of the year it represents so that it is forward-looking and optimistic that goals can be accomplished. As an example of why such a list could help promote our mission, one of the first properties being considered was the old Bethel A.M.E. Church building on James Brown Boulevard (P St) Street. Just before we were finalizing our first Endangered Properties Special Edition of Historic Augusta News, I happened to drive along that street and saw that bulldozers had already demolished 2/3 of the building. It was too late to include Bethel on our list, but we featured it on the second page to help illustrate the point.

Over the years, we have seen some listed buildings saved, some lost, and some still in limbo. All of the buildings included on the list are challenging, and preservation solutions are not instantaneous. Sometimes it takes years to solve various issues in order to save a structure. But over time we have learned that if we don’t speak up, drawing attention to the needs, chances are slim that a positive outcome will occur in favor of preservation.

If you have something to offer with regard to this year’s listings, or for some that are still waiting for a solution from past listings, please let us know. Historic Augusta is only as effective as its membership makes it, and your help is always welcome.

Erick D. Montgomery
Executive Director
Historic Augusta, Inc.

For information:
Historic Augusta, Inc.
(706) 724-0436
info@historicaugusta.org
www.historicaugusta.org

Historic Augusta is still seeking a new owner for the historic Rev. C. T. Walker House at 1011 Laney Walker Boulevard, which has undergone stabilization and exterior repairs funded by generous grants from The Knox Foundation, The Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

COMING SOON!

Former Court of Ordinary
527 Telfair Street

Even during the pandemic, work has continued at a brisk pace to complete the rehabilitation of the former Court of Ordinary Building in anticipation of the Augusta Jewish Museum opening its doors in early 2021. This former endangered property has been undergoing a facelift to remove non-historic interior materials and uncover original features such as the checkerboard marble floor. The portico has been completely rebuilt and original columns have been re-installed. Historic Augusta continues to work closely with the Augusta Jewish Museum Board of Directors in anticipation of the opening and ultimate ownership of the property.

Electronic Service Requested
### Historic Augusta’s 2021 Endangered Properties List

#### Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street

**Potential Uses:**
- National Register of Historic Places, and is therefore eligible for all programs of the National Register which are tax incentives for certified rehabilitation and other potential grant funds when available

**Threat:**
- Proposed for demolition and replacement in SPLOST

**Preservation Tools:**
- not currently including in a historic district, could be listed individually or as part of a historic district and therefore eligible for all programs of the National Register which are tax incentives for certified rehabilitation and other potential grant funds when available

**Potential Uses:**
- remain recreational and public space

The Julian Smith Casino was completed in 1936 and designed by Drummond & Drummond architects. The Barbeque Pavilion was completed in 1938. Both were Works Progress Administration projects. The casino building is named in honor of a former Augusta mayor and another definition of the word casino is as a social gathering place, which is what citizens of Augusta remember this building for the most. In addition to the numerous dances that have been held in the hall since its construction, the Julian Smith Casino is also used for weddings and other events. James Brown even rehearsed within the space. A spiral staircase gives access to the crow’s nest revealing a view of Lake Olmsted from atop the stone building. The casino received a Preservation Award from Historic Augusta in 2009 for the rehabilitation work that was completed by the city. Architecturally, the building is unique, featuring the stone exterior with observation deck around the crown’s nest. The exterior features large windows with rounded arch frames. The interior features hardwood floors and solid wood beams in the open hall. The demolition of this historic structure would significantly impact any future historic designation of the recreational area and adjacent housing, and remove an iconic structure from Augusta’s landscape.

#### 1024 Reynolds Street

Reynolds Street has been transforming before our eyes with the opening of the Georgia Cyber Center. One of the most picturesque blocks of Reynolds Street is the 1000 block with the four brick Victorian houses across from the site of the former WJBF television station. 1024 Reynolds Street, built c. 1890, is one of the buildings known as the “Four Sisters” that survived the Great Flood of 1929. Prominent character defining features include the brackets under the overhanging eaves and window hoods. There was originally a full width one-story front porch like what is intact on the home furthest to the left of the row. The middle window on the second floor with the iron railing gave access to the porch roof. With Reynolds Street now a heavily travelled gateway into the Augusta Downtown Historic District, preserving the remaining residential homes and warehouses that once lined the streetscape is imperative. Historic Augusta seeks to educate property owners about best practices for their older and historic homes. The ongoing deterioration of 1024 Reynolds Street can be reversed and we look forward to working with the property owner.

**Threat:**
- Demolition by neglect, development pressures in business core

**Preservation Tools:**
- 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 are tax incentives for certified rehabilitation and other potential grant funds when available

**Potential Uses:**
- owner-occupied residential, income producing residential. Commercial office space

#### Reverend N. T. Young, Sr. House, 1112 Twelfth Street

This modest bungalow is very significant to the African American community in Augusta. A graduate of Morehouse College and the Morehouse School of Divinity, Reverend Nathaniel T. Young, Sr. (1910-2001) began his historic pastorate of Thankful Baptist Church on September 15, 1945 and served for 46 years. The third African-American elected to the Richmond County Board of Education, he filled that position for 12 years, including a term as vice president. He fought to equalize salaries between black and white educators, urged the Board to hire lunchroom managers in black schools where teachers filled these roles, persuaded the superintendent to allow black principals access to the Board’s business office and lounge, and joined a committee seeking a new high school for blacks, Lucy C. Lane. He worked with Dr. T.W. Josey to establish a camp for African-American Boy Scouts; presided over the Lincoln League; and for 30 years, visited inmates at the Richmond County Correctional Center, reducing recidivism. In 1963, he advocated before the Augusta City Council to desegregate public facilities and to remove “Colored” signs at the Municipal Building. Reverend Young was married to Mrs. Prudence Bolden Young, an educator for 30 years in the Richmond County School System.

**Threat:**
- Demolition by neglect, development pressures in neighborhood

**Preservation Tools:**
- a contributing resource in the Laney-Walker Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is therefore eligible for all programs of the National Register which are tax incentives for certified rehabilitation and other potential grant funds when available.

**Potential Uses:**
- owner-occupied residential, income producing residential. Commercial office space

#### 2575 Henry Street

Located prominently at the corner of Henry Street and Monte Sano Avenue in the Summerville Historic District, this large two-story eclectic home first appears in Augusta’s City Directory in 1915 with E. W. Doughty listed as the resident. Mr. Doughty is identified as a classer—someone who grades and classifies textiles, at Ceil Cochrane which was a cotton dealer business located at 712 Reynolds Street. Ironically, Mr. Ceil Cochrane is listed as living at 920 Greene Street, now known as the Henry-Cohen House and a former Endangered Property. The property is currently vacant and has been on the market for sale. The property is located within the Summerville Local Historic District, which means that all exterior alterations must be approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. If the property was proposed for demolition, it would also need to be reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. This home is well known within the neighborhood and thankfully the preservation ordinance does offer protection from demolition and potentially insensitive alterations. Use of state certified rehabilitation tax credits would be a significant benefit for a future owner to purchase this home and continue to use it as a private residence.

**Threat:**
- Demolition by neglect, development pressures in neighborhood

**Preservation Tools:**
- 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 are tax incentives for certified rehabilitation and other potential grant funds when available.

**Potential Uses:**
- owner-occupied residential, income producing residential. Commercial office space

**Potential Uses:**
- remain recreational and public space

#### 2021 E 10th Street

An educator for 30 years in the Richmond County School System.

**Potential Uses:**
- owner-occupied residential, income producing residential. Commercial office space