



The Rambler

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The Rambler is the newsletter of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

Americans Show Strong Support for Preservation as a Form of “Smart Growth”

A recent survey shows tremendous support for the use of tax dollars for the purposes of historic preservation, moving preservation into the top ranks of such “smart growth” initiatives as the purchase of land for green space and parks. The findings were revealed as part of a recent study conducted by the National Survey on Growth and Land

Development and commissioned by Smart Growth America, a nationwide coalition of more than 60 public interest groups including the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

More than 80 percent of the respondents across the country believe that government should give priority to maintaining services and infrastructure in established communities before subsidizing new sprawl. Rehabilitating older houses and revitalizing economically depressed neighborhoods also received the support of more than 80 percent of those polled.

The survey revealed that 78 percent of the respondents favor using low interest loans for preservation purposes and using tax dollars to purchase land for parks and open space to protect wildlife. “This study shows that in addition to tremendous support for green space, there is even more support for the rehabilitation of older houses, neighborhoods and downtowns, and for the state to adopt incentives to make that happen,” said Greg Paxton, president of The Georgia Trust. “Clearly,

Americans believe that historic preservation is a tool for smart growth, and many are calling for public investment into historic preservation efforts. This poll is a strong boost to our efforts to support enactment of a state historic rehabilitation income tax credit in the General Assembly.”

Don Chen, director of the Smart Growth America coalition, noted, “All the evidence shows that Americans support smarter growth, and our elected officials



Before (upper left) and after (above). The revitalized neighborhood of Huguenin Heights in Macon is a shining example of the benefits of tax credits for historic preservation projects.

better start paying attention.” Smart growth is defined in the poll as “giving priority to improving services, such as schools, roads, affordable housing and public transportation in existing communities, rather than encouraging new housing and commercial development and new highways in the countryside.”

An excellent example of this public-supported revitalization is the rebirth of the neighborhood of Huguenin Heights in Macon. The Macon Heritage Foundation realized the potential of the once-thriving

Continued on page 16



Greg Paxton
President and CEO,
The Georgia Trust

The Rambler is the newsletter of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the country's largest statewide preservation organization. With the support of more than 9,000 members, the Trust works to protect and preserve Georgia's historic resources and diverse cultural heritage.

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Re-thinking Highway Planning: Who Benefits?

Imagine living in a community in which you could shop for groceries, clothing, hardware, and drug store items by walking down the street to your local retail stores. Imagine your children being able to walk a couple of blocks to the neighborhood school and your grandmother to her doctor's appointment. This dream is, of course, the experience of nearly all who grew up in a neighborhood or community built before World War II.

Among the many changes occurring in post-WW II development is the "suburban model" of streets: dead-end residential streets now lead into feeder and collector streets before ultimately dumping traffic onto larger arterial highways, including interstates. A number of problems result from this model's impact on the traditional pre-WW II "grid system."

The grid system that has characterized in-town development for the past 10,000 years is a fancy name for the criss-cross of streets found in our old downtowns and neighborhoods. The simple beauty and functionality of this system is that most streets go somewhere, and you can choose from 10 or 15 routes. The grid system is designed to filter traffic like water flowing through wetlands.

Problems occur when the suburban system meets the grid. Suburban drivers leaving their houses frequently have, at the most, three options for convenient travel to their destinations. Arteries are usually old country roads, and there generally aren't enough of them to handle fully-developed suburban traffic. When these concentrated arteries, including interstates, dump their traffic onto a traditional urban grid, the effects are those of putting a sluice pipe into wetlands.

Since the 1950s, many highway projects have simply ended at city streets, leaving local neighborhoods with the problems caused by increased traffic but no funds to fix the situation.

Several Georgia cities have recently faced such challenges. In the early 90's, Savannah narrowly averted the use of Liberty Street, in the heart of the historic district, as an off-ramp for the Truman Parkway, and instead was able to route traffic around the district. In Macon, a

series of incompatible intersection improvements through the heart of the historic district were recently proposed, but neighborhood intervention again preserved the area's pedestrian qualities. Columbus has recently seen a proposal to widen two-lane Buena Vista Road to as wide as seven lanes and to install a concrete median. And in Atlanta, the 17th Street bridge and interstate exit are proposed to end across the street from historic Ansley Park.

The present standard of highway development, which offers very limited protection to intown residents, must change. While seeking solutions for regional transportation needs, planners must equally try to protect existing well-designed historic areas, which typically include property collectively valued up to hundreds of millions of dollars. Retrofitting neighborhoods after the fact is not enough.

Additional federal and state dollars must be authorized for compatible in-town improvements, such as maximizing opportunities to carry traffic around these areas rather than through them. Additional incentives include such programs as the Atlanta Regional Commission's initiative by the Livable Center to concentrate office, service and retail development in mixed-used urban-like areas. In areas of new suburban development, local governments must work with developers and homebuilders to create, a tighter grid of through streets to lessen burdens on arteries.

Several agencies are making strides in this direction. The Georgia DOT now works with many communities to balance their needs with transportation. The Georgia Regional Transportation Authority is studying alternative design. The Georgia General Assembly has authorized a joint study committee on urban road standards. These efforts come just in time to meet the growing demand for rehabilitating neighborhoods and revitalizing downtown areas in cities throughout the state. Make sure your local and state elected officials know that *you* support "small city" centers and neighborhoods, even in the state's larger metro areas. And, that you consider new development that complements these neighborhoods absolutely critical to quality growth in Georgia.

Craft Salute Fast Approaching

Start the new year off with style – get the first look at the craft creations of the 12th Annual American Craft Council Show Atlanta by attending the premier party “Salute to American Craft 2001,” The Georgia Trust’s largest fundraiser. Join us at the Georgia World Congress Center on March 16 from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

This year “Salute” honors Blanche Reeves, a pioneer spirit who fostered the modern crafts movement by supporting artisans and promoting the appreciation of American crafts through her Signature Shop & Gallery on Roswell Road, the oldest continuously operating craft shop and gallery in the United States.

Tickets: \$80/person; \$50/person for Young Craft Collector members 35



L-R: **Kathy York**, Salute co-chair, **Michael Reeves**, nephew of Blanche Reeves, and **Marcy McTier**, Salute co-chair.

and younger. Call Rebecca Rice at 404-881-9980 ext. 3273 for ticket information.

This year’s **Premiere Sponsors** of “Salute to American Craft 2001” are Brasfield & Gorrie Construction, as well as Ikon Office Solutions.

Platinum Sponsors are Atlanta Classic Cars, Atlanta Homes and Lifestyles, and SunTrust Bank. **Gold Sponsors** are Cingular Wireless and Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

Celebrating Success of Preservation Ball



Paula Rosput, president & CEO of AGL Resources and honorary chair of the 2000 Preservation Ball, welcomes Ball attendees.

The 2000 Preservation Ball, held in the Biltmore Ballrooms at the newly restored Biltmore Hotel, raised **\$64,000!** Almost 800 people attended the elegant affair for dancing, food, drinks and fun.

Special thanks to the 2000 Preservation Ball chairs, **Jennifer and David Curry** and **Dominique Love**, and the many volunteers and committee members who worked hard to make the evening a success!

Trust Staff Updates

Alison Tyrer joined the staff of the Trust in November 2000 as our new communications director. She came from the Atlanta History Center, where she worked in the public relations department. Her background includes stints as communications manager at the Margaret Mitchell House & Museum, retail store manager for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, and on-air personality at WFOX-FM in Gainesville and Atlanta. She is a graduate of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., and holds a master’s in communications from Georgia State University. Alison grew up in Asheville, N.C., and has been a resident of Georgia since 1980.

Joining Alison in the communications office is former communications associate **Lisa Strickland**, who is now the communications coordinator. She will continue to coordinate *The Rambler* and will take on responsibility for the Trust’s Web site (www.georgiatrust.org) as well.

Anna Ivey, who worked as the development assistant, left the Trust in December to work for the Georgia Tech’s Alumni Association as a special events coordinator.

Check out The Georgia Trust’s available jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities online at www.georgiatrust.org

Thank You 2000 Preservation Ball Sponsors!

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Dove Management/Biltmore Ballrooms

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Sneak a Peek into the 2001

Bring your family and join the Trust for our yearly celebration of Georgia's preservation successes.

The next Annual Meeting of The Georgia Trust, co-sponsored by the Sumter Historic Trust, will be held in Americus, April 6-8.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting include tours of historic buildings such as the Sheffield-Huntington Hardware Company Building, the worldwide Habitat for Humanity headquarters and the 1910 alumni house of Georgia Southwestern State University, private homes, and the 2001 Preservation Awards Ceremony. Trust members will also enjoy meals and receptions in grand settings and the opportunity to attend an organ concert at the award-winning Rylander Theatre.

Clearly, Americus, which hosted the Annual Meeting of The Georgia Trust in 1978 and a Ramble in 1992, is ready to show off its preservation work since our last visit. "We have vigorously restored and preserved our downtown," said Andrea Thomas, longtime Georgia Trust member and Americus chairperson for the Annual Meeting.

A tour of Americus

An ideal spot to celebrate Georgia's historic preservation efforts, Americus is a preservation-minded community with an active Main Street program that has enhanced the reno-

vation of the downtown area. Americus has been a designated Main Street city since 1983 and has consulted with the Trust on 14 design projects. A Friday tour of Americus' Victorian-era downtown, including the Thornton-Wheatley Building, will kick off the weekend. On Saturday, attendees will enjoy a tour of homes that includes a range of architectural styles, from an 1850s cottage to an elegant Craftsman home.

Dr. Gatewood Dudley, a local physician and member of The Georgia Trust and the Sumter Historic Trust who recommended and enlisted the homes for the tour, says he is sure this will be "the best tour you've ever had."

The Rylander Theatre

The 2001 Preservation Awards ceremony will be held on Saturday morning at the Rylander Theatre, which won an Excellence in Restoration Award last year. The theater first opened in 1921 and accommodated both film and live perfor-

mances. The Rylander closed in 1951, but reopened in 1999 after a three-year, \$4 million restoration effort.

The restoration included a reconditioned 1928 Moller theater pipe organ donated by James Thrower of Marietta in 1998. Anne and Bradley



The Windsor Hotel, site of Saturday's picnic lunch.

Hale funded the complete restoration of the organ, named the "Frank Sheffield Memorial Organ." Mrs. Hale's father, the late Frank Sheffield of Americus, once played organ music at the Rylander and was an organ enthusiast all of his life. The organ is a little brother to the larger Moller organ at Atlanta's Fox Theatre.

In what promises to be a memorable Friday evening, there will be a pig pull (an Americus tradition!) at the Sumter Historic Trust headquarters, the fabulous Lee Council House. Following the festivities, organist Lyn Larsen will perform at The Rylander Theatre on Friday night. Larsen played the first benefit concert at the Fox Theatre in the 1975 "Save the Fox" campaign. Tickets for the concert will be \$10 and include a "meet the artist" reception at the Windsor Hotel following the concert.

Windsor Hotel

Following the awards ceremony on Saturday, a delicious picnic lunch, complete with fried chicken and freshly baked cookies, will be served at the Windsor Hotel, one of South



The Rylander Theatre, site of the 2001 Preservation Awards ceremony on Saturday, April 7.

Annual Meeting

Georgia's most famous restored historic buildings.

Outside, the Victorian-era hotel is a marvel of arches, balconies and towers. Inside, the wonders continue, from the original marble flooring in the lobby and tile flooring in the Grand Dining Room, to the carved oak three-tiered atrium lobby and the Victorian-style guest rooms.

The Windsor first opened in 1892, then struggled to survive in the flagging economy of the time. The hotel closed, was sold and renovated, then reopened in 1910. The Windsor prospered for many years, operating for a time as apartments before closing again in 1974. Four years later, the hotel was donated to the city. As the new owner of an out-of-date building with broken windows, a leaking roof and crumbling masonry, the city of Americus chose to restore the hotel.

"We couldn't have a five-story 'pigeon roost' in the middle of downtown and expect the city to thrive," said Russell Thomas, mayor of Americus. Instead of demolishing the building, the city decided to make the hotel part of a tourism effort. "Re-establishment as a hotel seemed most likely to bring in enough money to pay back the renovation," said Thomas. "It has been a key to rejuvenating Americus."

Paul Simo, the Trust's Main Street design assistance manager, recognizes the importance of the hotel. "The Windsor Hotel is a model for any downtown that has a vacant or boarded-up historic hotel property. The Windsor has brought heritage tourism travelers and conferences to down-



The Thornton-Wheatley Building in downtown Americus.

town Americus."

Other highlights

The Georgia Rural Telephone Museum, in the nearby town of Leslie, will be the site for Saturday evening's membership reception. The Telephone Museum not only boasts the world's largest collection of telephones and telephone memorabilia, but also features early cars, antique clocks and antique furniture.

The reception for Heritage level contributors and above will be at Chokee, the 1840s plantation plain style house of Henry Crisp, about 20 miles outside Americus.

Gray Moss will be the site for an elegant dinner Saturday night. Owned by long-time Trust member Charlie Crisp, Gray Moss was built in the 1830s and fronts the Flint River. The home, which has changed little over the years, is unusual for its columns, which are placed on plinths (blocks forming the lowest part of the base of a column or pedestal) set independently of the porch.

With the anticipated bloom of azaleas and dogwoods, the weekend will be filled with inspiring sights, warm hospitality and lively fellowship.

Invitations for the Annual Meeting will be sent to all members approximately four weeks in advance. If you have additional questions, please contact Laura Gaines, member events coordinator, at 404-881-9980, ext. 3232.

Carter Boyhood Home Dedicated Near Americus

The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site is located in Plains, only 11 miles from the Windsor Hotel in downtown Americus. No trip to Americus would be complete without a visit to this landmark.

The site includes the depot where President Carter planned his 1976 election campaign; Plains High School, the main visitor center and museum; and the newly-opened Carter Boyhood Farm, two miles west of Plains in Archery. Plains High School is also the home of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Education Program, which sponsors The Georgia Trust's *Talking Walls* heritage education program for Sumter County. For more information about this program, call Annette Wise at 229-824-4104. The depot, the high school and the farm are all open daily.

"The dedication of Carter's boyhood farm was one of those flag-waving, tear-flowing experiences," said Ellen Ivy, consultant to *Talking Walls*. Ivy attended the November 2000 ceremony. "The site is fascinating, partly because it is so complete," she added.

The historic farmhouse and the store belonging to the Carter family have been restored to the 1930s era, before the home had running water or electricity. Many outbuildings, including the barn, blacksmith shop, buggy shed and pump shed, have been reconstructed. The small wood house of Jack and Rachel Clark, an African American couple who worked for the Carters, has been included in the restoration to depict the lifestyle of sharecroppers.

"When you see this teeny town and the person who came from there, it is very powerful," Ivy said.

AROUND THE STATE

STONE MOUNTAIN

T.R.R. Cobb House May Move Back to Athens

The T.R.R. Cobb House may soon find itself on the road home to Athens.

Built in Athens c.1850, the home of Confederate general T. R. R. Cobb was threatened with demolition in 1985. The house was purchased by the Stone Mountain Memorial Association and moved to Stone Mountain Park to enhance the existing antebellum plantation attraction, which has been open since the 1960s. The house was never utilized by the park and was left fenced and locked.

Now the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, in partnership with the Revolving Fund of The Georgia Trust, is working to bring the house home.

"This is part of The Georgia Trust's strategic plan to work in concert with local preservation groups to preserve significant endangered historic properties in Georgia," said Revolving Fund Director Frank White. According to Laura Straehla, executive director of the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, "The Revolving Fund has been invaluable to us, providing helpful contacts throughout the state."



T.R.R. Cobb House

Because the house lost National Register status when it was moved to Stone Mountain, the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation and The Georgia Trust are seeking an appropriate site in Athens that would allow the house to be eligible for the National Register once again. Aside from finding an appropriate site for the house, preservationists are working with the Stone Mountain Memorial Association on the logistics of the move and are exploring adaptive use for the 6,000-square-foot house.

For more information, contact Laura Straehla at 706-353-1801 or visit www.achfonline.org.

RADIUM SPRINGS

Uncertain Fate for Radium Springs Casino

Radium Springs Casino, a landmark in southwest Georgia since it was constructed in 1925, faces an uncertain future. The magnificent structure, restored after sustaining extensive damage in a 1982 fire, and completely renovated following the 500-year flood that ravaged Albany in the wake of tropical storm Alberto in 1994, may not survive the devastation caused by a second flood in 1998. The casino is included on a list of flood-damaged properties in Dougherty County that may be purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and that agency is currently engaged in negotiations with the building's owner. All structures acquired with flood-mitigation funds must, pursuant to federal regulations, be relocated or demolished.

The casino overlooks picturesque

Radium Springs, located south of Albany. New York financier Barron Collier purchased the property in 1925 and constructed the original casino, which (until the Depression) served as a detour for wealthy travelers bound for Florida. The casino, which boasts a cupola and rare pecky cypress (cypress boards with a pattern of holes caused by fungi), traditionally hosted community social events, weddings and receptions, and operated as a restaurant from 1965-1982.

The decline of Albany's downtown and the resulting development of northwest Albany have frustrated efforts to revive the casino as a viable business. The costs of rehabilitation, the remoteness of the casino and the potential of yet another flood have deterred recent renovation efforts. Richard Laub of the

Georgia Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Historic Preservation Division reports the property is ineligible for inclusion on the National Register because of significant reconstruction following the 1982 fire. Radium Springs and approximately 90 acres surrounding it were purchased by DNR in 2000, although DNR does not own the casino itself.

"Many historic buildings in downtown Albany have been demolished, which magnifies the casino's significance for our community," said Albany City Commissioner Bo Dorough. Elizabeth Dean, planning manager for FEMA, added, "Radium Springs Casino is recognized by the people of Albany as an important part of local history."

AROUND THE STATE

DECATUR

New Organization Forms to Preserve Decatur's History

The Decatur Preservation Alliance (DPA), formed to save historic structures in Decatur, held its first public meeting in October.

"Before DPA was started, there wasn't a place for citizen direct action

and fundraising for the preservation of historic structures and green space in Decatur," said Stacie Monroe, chair of DPA's Education and Outreach Committee.

Now, after only a few months, DPA has a board, bylaws and a budget, as well as 44 members and two critical preservation projects. The first project is helping the city save an 1890s railroad depot. After railroad use of the depot stopped in the 1970s, the site was turned into a restaurant and music club. However, the now vacant building is in need of repair. CSX railroad wants the depot moved farther from the tracks because of heavy rail traffic on that line. Although the transfer of ownership is still pending, CSX has agreed to deed the depot to the city of Decatur if the city will move the building.

"The depot was our call to action," said Monroe. "Decatur has acquired more than half of the necessary funding to move the building, but that is not enough." DPA hopes to raise funds to help with the move and has representatives on the city's task force to determine future use



Decatur's 1890s Depot

of the building.

The second project is a multi-participant effort among the property developer, land owner, Friends of the Cemetery and DPA to save a c. 1870 "saddlebag structure" – an early Georgia building type characterized by a central chimney flanked by two rooms – endangered by local development. DPA believes the property and building were part of a homestead owned by Reverend Donald Fraser, a teacher at Oglethorpe University and a Presbyterian minister in the 1870s. The group is working with the property owner, the developer and the Friends of the Cemetery to move the small building to the historic Decatur Cemetery.

Following a goal-setting workshop offered by The Georgia Trust, DPA has set both long- and short-term goals and hopes to become a community resource. DPA lists preservation education and an architectural survey of Decatur and its resources as additional long-term goals.

STATEWIDE

Commission Presents Study Results for Civil War Trail

A proposed trail may soon link 400 Civil War sites around Georgia.

At the State Capitol in November, the Georgia Civil War Commission presented results of a study to develop a Georgia Civil War Heritage Trail System that would run from Chickamauga in northwest Georgia to Savannah in the southeast. While designated trails will highlight troop movements and their travel corridors, the project also will focus on the role of African Americans and women in the war effort. Travel to the sites may be possible by vehicle routes, bicycle lanes, horse paths or multi-use trails.

The Commission was awarded funds by the Georgia State Legislature to begin planning and developing the trail system, which will be implemented in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Historical Society. The trail system is intended to preserve, educate and increase heritage tourism.

"Because of the fascination millions of Americans feel for their country's history, preserved battlefields provide 'clean industry,' a previously untapped source of income for nearby communities. With relatively little expenditure, Georgia can attract history lovers by the thousands to visit the fields where brave men fought and died in pursuit of their beliefs," said Barry Brown, project coordinator of the Georgia Civil War Commission.

A demonstration project will incorporate New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill and Dallas battlefields in Paulding County, and Allatoona Pass in Bartow County. The Commission hopes to have the components of the project, including signage, site improvements and transportation links in place by the summer of 2001.

"The Georgia Civil War Commission is fighting against time. As the state's population grows more and more, hallowed ground is being threatened by urban sprawl," added Brown.

AROUND THE HOUSES



RHODES HALL

Descendants of Amos Rhodes, founder of A.G. Rhodes & Son (later Rhodes Furniture Company) recently visited Rhodes Hall for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the former family mansion. Wilmotine M. Ross (center), great-niece of Amos Rhodes' wife Amanda Wilmot Rhodes, reflected on visiting her family in the castle as a young girl. Other descendants told Rhodes Hall staff about family heirlooms, which once graced the mansion. Staff members hope to uncover more information about the lifestyle of the family that once lived in the "castle on Peachtree Street" by keeping in touch with the Rhodes descendants.



Descendants of the Rhodes family on the front porch of Rhodes Hall. Wilmotine M. Ross (center) spent time in the family mansion as a young girl.



MCDANIEL-TICHENOR HOUSE

The McDaniel-Tichenor House hosted its annual Christmas party, Christmas with the Governor, to display turn-of-the-century Victorian holiday trimmings that were showcased in every room in the house.



Guests sipped wine and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres as they strolled the halls of the home of former Governor Henry Dickerson McDaniel.



HAY HOUSE

Have you ever wondered what's beyond the closed doors you usually encounter on historic house tours? To satisfy your curiosity, Hay House invites you to attend "Behind-the-Scenes" tours in March and April. The tours will allow you to view upper levels of the house not normally open to the public and will include climbing Hay House's spiral staircase, viewing the cupola, and stepping out onto the widow's walk to see a bird's-eye view of Macon. Reservations are required and each ticket is \$20. Please contact Hay House at 478-742-8155 for more information and reservations.



THE GEORGIA TRUST PHOTO GALLERY

Historic Macon Holiday Tour of Homes



The Woodruff House, owned by Mercer University.

The 2000 holiday tour, presented by Hay House and The Georgia Trust, was a great success, with almost 700 attendees touring the eight homes on the tour. Plans are already underway for the 2001 tour, so make plans now to attend!



The Wight House, home of Georgia Trust Vice-Chair and Treasurer **Tom Wight**.

Landmark Dinner



This year's Landmark Dinner was held in the Legislative Chambers of the Old State Capitol Building in Milledgeville (right). (Above, L-R) **Pat Jordan** and her husband, former Georgia Trust Chairman **Dexter Jordan**, visit with **Ann Boardman** of Augusta at the Landmark Dinner.



Santa at Rhodes Hall



The REAL Santa visited Rhodes Hall in December to greet children in the recently restored parlor. (Above) The grandchildren of Georgia Trust Operations Associate **Johnette Gibbs** enjoyed meeting Santa (also known as Rhodes Hall volunteer **Del Gammill**).

Trust Mourns Passing of Long-time Friends

John Henry Cheatham, Jr.

Mr. John Henry Cheatham, Jr. of Griffin, a long-time friend and supporter of The Georgia Trust, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2000. The Trust family has enjoyed a long relationship with Mr. Cheatham: he was a member, a past Trustee, and served as an advisor until his death. "Jake was an active board member and, in recent years, one of our most involved advisors and we will miss him greatly," said Greg Paxton, president and CEO of The Georgia Trust.

Recently Mr. Cheatham surprised the Trust with a generous donation of \$150,000 to the Revolving Fund capital account. He originally planned to contribute through the planned giving program, but instead chose to make the donation outright.

Mr. Cheatham was a graduate of Griffin High School, Darlington School in Rome, and Washington and Lee University.

Mr. Cheatham was trustee emeritus, Georgia Rotary Student program, a past board member of Tift College; and a member of the Sons of Colonial War and The Elks and Moose Club. He was vice president of Dundee Mills, past president of the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society, a member of First Baptist Church and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and past president of the Griffin Rotary Club.

John Bowden Ellis, Jr.

The Trust regrets to report that long-time member John Bowden Ellis, Jr., of Atlanta, passed away January 21, 2001. Mr. Ellis and his wife Margaret were avid Georgia Trust ramblers. In fact, Mr. Ellis always delivered his Ramble reservations personally to the staff at Rhodes Hall, who remember him fondly. Mr. Ellis served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on the "Wasp" and was a member of the Wasp Association. He was a member of the Northside Methodist Church, the Atlanta Yacht Club and PI KA. One of Mr. Ellis' hobbies was woodworking; he made furniture for nine different churches as memorial gifts and as gifts for his grandchildren. He was also an avid bridge player. Mr. Ellis will be greatly missed.

Fellowship Honors Legacy of J. Neel Reid

The life work of J. Neel Reid, the architect who founded the Georgia School of Classicists and the creator of some of the most significant homes and buildings in Georgia, reflects inspiration from his travels abroad. The Georgia Trust now gives another generation of architects the opportunity to participate in the same type of study by offering the J. Neel Reid Prize.

This \$5,000 fellowship will be awarded annually to an architecture student, an architect intern, or a recently registered architect for study travel that honors the legacy of Neel Reid. Deadline for applications is March 2, 2001. Proposed projects should involve historic preservation of classic architecture, new construction that is traditional or related to existing contexts, or historic architecture built prior to Reid's death in 1926. Visit www.georgiatrust.org or call 404-881-9980 for more information.

The prize is made possible by The Georgia Trust endowment fund produced from the sale of the book *J. Neel Reid, Architect* by William R. Mitchell, Jr. To order your copy of the book, please call The Georgia Trust at 404-881-9980.



MACON, c.1910. Historic Stone Creek Lodge. 3,300 sq. ft. of hand hewn log construction. Completely restored with all modern conveniences. 1,350 sq. ft. great hall with massive stone fireplaces. 71 acres with 15-acre lake. Sold completely furnished. \$795,000. Color brochure available. Southern Land & Lumber Company, 912-986-4324.

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Greg,

After reading "Who is Richard Peters?" (September 2000) I couldn't help thinking about my connection with the Peters House and thought you might get an "historical kick" out of it.

When I was about 12 years old (1926), I lived in an apartment house across the street from the Peters House (on Ponce de Leon and Myrtle Street). Believe it or not, I had a pony (Billie by name), and I rode him every day on the streets (Ponce de Leon and Myrtle).

One day the lovely Mrs. Peters came down from her beautiful home and asked my name (which was Harriet Oxford). She informed me that she was so concerned that I had to ride on the street, that she wanted me to come and ride on the grass around her house.

I was delighted (and so were my parents), and every day, Billie and I went through the gate and rode all around the block in the grass and under the trees. I had Billie for a long time and never had to ride on the streets again.

I attended the Mansion restaurant several times, and every time remembering Billie was so delightful.

Hope you enjoyed this "historic story" from a very historic (87) member.

Sincerely,
Harriet O. Kidd

Photo: Peters House, c.1895

Editor's Note: *The future of the Peters property is still uncertain. Minor damage was sustained to the house in the fall due to a fire that appears to have started at a desk on the second floor. The Georgia Trust continues to talk with other preservation-minded organizations and individuals about possible uses for the property, which include an official Mayor's mansion, a visitor information area, or continued use as a restaurant.*

Trust Co-Sponsors African-American Culture Conference

"Places of Cultural Memory: African Reflections on the American Landscape," a conference sponsored by the National Park Service, will be held May 9-12, 2001, at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel in downtown Atlanta.

For nearly four centuries, Africans and their descendants have shaped the landscape of the Americas. This conference will focus on the imprint of African culture on the Americas. A wide range of topics will be discussed, from the African Burial Ground in New York City to the Gullah culture.

The conference provides a forum for interdisciplinary scholars and

preservation professionals, as both presenters and attendees. The goal of the conference is to enhance the understanding of the significant contributions of Africans to the cultural landscape of the Americas.

The National Park Service is coordinating the conference in cooperation with the National Park Foundation, The Georgia Trust, US/ICOMOS, Howard University, the Slave Route Project of UNESCO and other national, state, regional and local sponsors.

For more information on the conference, contact Brian Joyner at 202-343-1000, or e-mail brian_joyner@nps.gov.

Calendar

March 16

2001 Salute to American Craft
Georgia World Congress Center
7 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Premiere Party to kick off the American Craft Council's Show Atlanta. Call Rebecca Rice at 404-881-9980 ext. 3273.

April 6-8

The Georgia Trust Annual Meeting
Americus
Please see article on pgs. 4-5.
Contact Laura Gaines at 404-881-9980 ext. 3232.

April 14

Easter Egg Hunt
McDaniel-Tichenor House, Monroe
Sponsored by the Monroe Junior Service League and the McDaniel-Tichenor House. Please call Amber Singleton at 770-267-5602 for more details.

April 28

Collectibles & Antique Show
McDaniel-Tichenor House, Monroe
Bring your antiques and collectibles for appraisal. For information, contact Amber Singleton at 770-267-5602.

June 9-10

Spring Ramble through Eatonton
Coming soon -- look for more details in the next *Rambler*! Invitations will be mailed four weeks prior to event. Contact Laura Gaines at 404-881-9980 ext. 3232 with additional questions. Ramblers are encouraged to make hotel reservations early by calling one of the following area hotels:

Hampton Inn Jameson Inn
706-342-9003 706-453-9135

Holiday Inn Comfort Inn
706-342-3433 706-342-0054

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706-342-2121

Traveling with the Trust

Study Tours Set Off to Philadelphia and to the Normandy, Brittany and Channel Islands

Make history a part of your next vacation by joining The Georgia Trust on one of its upcoming study tours. Georgia Trust study tours are designed exclusively for Trust members by Ken Ward Travel, Inc. to give you the opportunity to experience the cultural heritage of cities and towns across the United States and abroad.

This summer the Trust will travel to one of our nation's first cities, Philadelphia. Don't miss out on this opportunity to bring your children or grandchildren on this family-oriented adventure June 14 - 18. A private coach and historian will lead you on a grand tour of the city, including a trip to Independence National Historical Park, often called "America's most historic square mile," which includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court and the Betsy Ross House. We will also visit museums and the Valley Forge National Historical Park, site of George Washington's 1777 - 1778 winter encampment. Meals are another highlight of the trip, and include dinner at the

Moshulu, a restored 100-year-old sailing ship moored on the Delaware River.

If you'd like to travel a little further from home, join the Trust as we journey to Paris, Normandy, Brittany and the Channel Islands for an autumn study tour September 8 - 19. This adventure to both sides of the English Channel begins with a visit to the landmarks of Paris and continues to Deauville, Rouen, Honfleur in Normandy; St. Malo in Brittany; and the islands of Guernsey and Sark in the Channel Islands. Highlights include visits to World War II sites such as Omaha Beach, one of the American landing beaches, and Bayeux, the first town to be liberated by the Allies. We will also tour private residences, visit museums, and explore some of the region's most historic and beautiful towns with local residents.

These one-of-a-kind tours are offered only through The Georgia Trust, so don't miss out on this special opportunity! Please call Ken Ward Travel at 404-261-1688 or toll free at 800-843-9839 for detailed itineraries and costs.



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Do you love exploring Georgia's history and historic sites but hate planning trips? Let The Georgia Trust plan a perfect getaway for you by joining us on a **weekend Ramble** this year! Instead of our former Friday-Saturday format, we will now begin holding Saturday afternoon-Sunday Rambles beginning with the Ramble through Eatonton on June 9-10. Now you can bring the whole family, or friends who can't take time off during the week. Rambles also now feature special children's activities. As always, The Georgia Trust will plan meals, activities and tours into private homes and buildings not normally open to the public. Look for more information on the Ramble through Eatonton in the next issue of *The Rambler*, or call Laura Gaines at 404-881-9980 ext. 3232. Invitations will be mailed approximately four weeks before the Ramble.



COCHRAN, c. 1910. This restored beauty has 3600+ sq. ft., 3 BR/3BA, leaded glass foyer, 7 original f.p., 2 parlors, lg. pillared d.r., hdwd. floors, 10' 11" ceilings on 1.3 acres, 20 x 40 pool & outbldgs. Call for more info! Alice Davidson, KEG Realtors, 912-922-1664/912-922-7701 or Jerri Tuck, Tuck Realty, 912-934-4325.



CULLODEN, historic home deeded 1857. One hour 15 minutes from Atlanta. On Monroe Co. register. Three formal rooms, 3 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, large kitchen with top line appliances. Central air, many extras. 2700 sq. ft. with 38 + acres plus 720 sq. ft. outerbuilding for office/workshop. Price \$269,000. Call 912-885-2222/ 912-885-2407/ e-mail lec@gnat.net.



GOOD HOPE, c. 1824. Casulon Plantation. Antebellum estate 6BR/3BA. Superbly restored. 10 outbuildings on 15 pristine secluded acres. Numbered structural beams. Kit garden w/original rock wall. 150 yr old boxwood parterre garden. National Register. Home of former governor. Truly significant historic treasure. Northside Realty 404-252-7600. Barbara Matton 404-351-8368. (p) 404-672-8987.



LAGRANGE, beautifully restored Victorian home four blocks from LaFayette Square. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile baths, large master suite. Seven fireplaces, two with gas logs. New wiring and plumbing, roof five years old, central heat and air conditioning. Side building (16 x 12) for workshop or studio. Call Cheryl Pitts at J. Copeland Realty, 706-884-2824.



MOULTRIE. 1940s. Neo-Classical in style with 5,800 sq. ft., curved, suspended stairway, elegant mouldings, fireplaces with marble facings, oak flooring, 4 BR/4 1/2 BA, garage apartment. This magnificent home is nestled on a 2-acre wooded lot. Well-rounded community with 18-hole golf course, community arts center, YMCA, Olympic diving well, hunting preserves. Contact Patsy Browning, Browning Brass Key Realty at 912-985-3032.



MT. AIRY, c. 1879, 1 hr. north of Atlanta. Neo-Classical home to Ty Cobb, Alexander Rudolf Lawton and statesman Benjamin Harvey Hill. 5 + BR, 5 1/2 BA, 5,000 +/- sq.ft, 8 frpls, sleeping porch, den, parlor, sunrm, dining rm, eat-in kitchen. 8 and 14 ft. ceilings. Grounds inc. guest cottage, garage, playhouse. Great for B&B. 1/4 mi. from Lk. Russell St.Prk. \$399,000. Carol Cahill, Harry Norman Realtors, Inc. 404-233-4142. carolcahil@mediaone.net



ROSWELL, c.1842. Historic Great Oaks in Roswell Historic District. One of Roswell's most important homes, 786 Mimosa Blvd., 2.34 acres. Approximately 4,500 sq. ft., 6 fireplaces, 5 BR, 2 FB, 2 HB. \$1,400,000. Lynne Byrd, Byrd Realty, 770-216-9334. Back on market - contract fell through!



SANDERSVILLE, 1930. Ice house, rare building. In pending historic district. Rehabilitation eligible for tax freeze and investment tax credits. 2,000 +/- square feet, historic facade easement. 1/3 Acre. Ample space in rear for parking and entry. City of Sandersville accepting bids in March. Call Jo Cummings, 478-552-5030 or email: jocummings@sandersville.net.



TENNILLE, Washington Co. 1890s. 5 BR/2BA Victorian-era home, 4,000 sq. ft. Well maintained and modernized: C H/A, storm windows, newly remodelled kitchen with cherry cabinets. Located 2 hrs. from Atlanta/Savannah and 1 hr. from Macon/Augusta. \$263,500. Beverly Webb 800-741-5681 or e-mail townandc@mylink.net. See more at www.tandcrealestate.com.

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Greg Paxton, president & CEO of The Georgia Trust, is searching for a very large bookcase to hold all of his reference materials. You can help him out by donating your old bookcase to the Trust. It's a tax-deductible way to clear up space in your home or basement! Call Gloria Tinsley at 404-881-9980 ext. 3211 for details.

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"Smart Growth" (continued from page 1)

neighborhood, which dates back to the 1880s. To showcase this potential and interest others in the revitalization of the neighborhood, organizers used private investment in the form of a revolving fund from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to provide funding for the project and incentives offered by Mercer University to its staff, coupled with the state property tax freeze to catalyze the project into action. Macon Heritage Foundation purchased and renovated 17 homes in the neighborhood and so far they have found buyers for all but one. "This has exceeded our wildest expectations for the project," said Kay Gerhardt, chair of the neighborhood revitalization committee. "It just makes sense to revitalize existing housing in an area."

"Although this and other historic preservation efforts would not have happened without the limited tax incentives currently available, imagine the number of projects that could be sparked by the tax credit proposed in House Bill 118 (see sidebar)," Paxton added. "The benefit to the community has been immeasurable."

Preservationists also know that rehabilitating one significant building or section of a historic area can start a ripple effect. The Fulton Cotton Mill in Atlanta operated from the 1880s until 1977, with the adjoining neighborhood, Cabbagetown, serving as home to the mill workers. When the mill closed, Cabbagetown experienced an economic depression until Aderhold Properties began rehabilitating the mill into a loft development. Today, Cabbagetown is being revitalized and property values have increased as new businesses open nearby.

Preservationists have long known that preservation creates jobs, enhances property

HB 118 – State Income Tax Credit for Historic Rehabilitation

The Georgia Trust, the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and preservation partners across the state have worked with Rep. Jeanette Jamieson to introduce a new piece of legislation, House Bill 118 (State Income Tax Credit for Historic Rehabilitation), in the 2001 General Assembly. HB 118 encourages in-town reinvestment by providing a 30 percent state tax credit for residential properties and a 25 percent state tax credit for income-producing properties. The legislation allows for the credits to be bundled and purchased by individuals and corporations in order to lower their tax liability. What can you do to ensure that HB 118 passes? Contact your state representative and senator and let them know that HB 118 is good for your community.

values, revitalizes existing communities and boosts tourism, all without adding to sprawl or destroying open spaces within and around existing communities. This new study reveals the popular appeal of preservation and an understanding of its role in promoting smart growth.

Smart Growth America commissioned the survey in September 2000 from the opinion research firm Belden, Russonello & Stewart, who conducted a geographically balanced telephone poll of 1,007 adults aged 18 or older. Results were weighted by gender, age, region and race to achieve a representative sample. The findings of the Smart Growth poll support a 1999 survey by the Pew Center for Civic Journalism, which found that Americans rank traffic and urban sprawl as their number one concern, tied with crime and ahead of jobs and education. The complete report is available at: www.smartgrowthamerica.com.



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