

Landmarks Committed to Serving All Alabamians



Photo – Michelle Lambert

—
Collier Neeley
Executive Director at Landmarks Foundation

Y'all, that was a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone who came to Oyster Fest! Once again it was a massive success for Landmarks and our community. Working events like this is challenging, but I'm thankful for the supportive staff, especially Ella Martin, our Special Events Coordinator, for keeping me straight and helping with the planning. Also, thanks to Lightning Line for their support and coordination. The proceeds from this event are going to support the ongoing updates in Old Alabama Town.

I'm not sure I can fully express the feeling I get in the exact moment the gates open, and people start filing in. All the hard work pays off when you see people enjoying themselves and in a setting like Old Alabama Town, it's especially gratifying. We have such a cool asset in that little museum. It's a place where people can relate to the past on their terms, learn lessons, celebrate the triumphs in our shared past and deal with the hard stuff. Our museum staff has been diligently working on updating the interpretation of the museum, drawing connections between the lived experiences of the residents of Old Alabama Town and the broader strokes of History. One connection worth highlighting is the thread between the Ordeman slave dwelling, the shotgun house, the church, and the cotton gin. This connection tells the story of life after emancipation, where Freedmen found difficult times, but also created the community that came with freedom, building institutions and relationships that would serve as the building blocks for a movement to overcome oppression and injustice.

This year is my fifth year as executive director. We've gone through so much as an organization and community in that time. Landmarks has stayed committed to serving Montgomery and our state by providing a unique educational experience in Old Alabama Town, while remembering our core mission of preserving Montgomery's historic places through innovative programs and initiatives. There's more to come on that front, but in the meantime, thank you for supporting us.

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Lessons Learned from the Past



Maurice Robinson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of History
Alabama State University
Department of History and Political Science

In many ways, Montgomery's current spatial configuration has a lot to do with roads and civil rights. In particular, the Interstate Highway System, which is the U.S.' largest public works project to date with 46,876 miles of road. The project, as we know it today, got its start with the passage of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, which was championed by the Eisenhower Administration.

Two years earlier, the U.S. was digesting the May 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling of *Brown vs. BOE* (Brown decision), which ended racial segregation in public schools. Proponents of the Brown decision in Montgomery chose to test the strength of the ruling and began an arduous and famous bus boycott that brought world-wide attention to Alabama. However, critics of the Brown decision, such as Samuel

The U.S. Interstate Highway System spans a dazzling 46,876 miles of asphalt, a system intentionally engineered to connect all states, bypass residential areas with minimal disruption, and maximize cost effectiveness. In Montgomery that same system was used as a political power tool to punish supporters of desegregation.

Engelhardt Jr., John Patterson, and MacDonald Gallion, chose to use their state political positions to stop desegregation and retaliate against Montgomery Bus Boycott advocates. The Interstate Highway System was one of their chosen methods to punish the intellectual and economic supporters of the boycott, which was considered a distinct embarrassment to members of the Alabama chapters of the White Citizens' Council. After the Brown decision, segregationists across the U.S., including Alabama's Engelhardt Jr., Patterson, and Gallion, became supporters of Massive Resistance, which led a charge to stop any policies to integrate public schools. One segregationist organization was the White Citizens' Council (WCC). Seen as a respectable alternative to joining the Klan, WCC membership encouraged supporters to identify civil rights activists and economically retaliate against them.



DOSSIER
 INTERSTATE

Interstates 85 (I-85) and 65 did not bypass Montgomery's residential areas, as originally planned. Instead highways were routed through non-blighted African American neighborhoods

Photo – ADAH

Economic retaliation involved classic Jim Crow tactics of: business owners firing employees, bankers calling in loans, or shop owners not allowing activists to shop at their stores. After the Alabama gubernatorial election of 1958, Gov. John Patterson, Attorney General Gallion, and Highway Dept. Director Engelhardt Jr., finally had the means to legally entrench segregation into the built environment during the urban planning phase of the interstate highway routes.

Before the passage of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, the Bureau of Public Roads published a 1955 document titled, General Location of National System of Interstate Highways. This document, also named the Yellow Book, presented the initial framework and preferred routes that the interstate highways would take. The committee worked with every state highway department, private sector engineers, and consultants to determine which cities would be connected.

Ethically, civil engineers were cognizant of making sure that routes through urban spaces were cost effective and as minimally disruptive as possible. In most cases, including Montgomery, the Yellow Book was expected to bypass cities if possible. Gov. Jim Folsom's state highway director Herman Nelson, an engineer by trade, assisted with Alabama's Yellow Book maps and selected a bypass plan for Montgomery.

By 1959, the newly elected Patterson administration, through new highway director Engelhardt Jr., got its chance to dismiss the engineer-led route selections through Alabama's urban spaces and deviated significantly from Yellow Book maps. Interstates 85 (I-85) and 65 did not bypass Montgomery's residential areas, as originally planned. Instead highways routed through non-blighted African American neighborhoods, such as Centennial Hill, and business areas off Holt Street. Both areas were where NAACP, Montgomery Improvement Association, and Women's Political Council members lived, worshipped, or worked. The new route of I-85 purposefully rerouted below Oak Park and as close to Alabama State College as much as possible. To the WCC, faculty and staff at the college and churches were some the instrumental supporters of the boycott and were to blame for Montgomery's racial problems.

There is a greater story of how the Interstate Highway System has impacted Alabama. However, a background of the people and processes that created this issue are helpful for future discussions of Montgomery's built environment. Transportation infrastructure policy has the ability to connect our communities, or keep our cities separated. The Landmarks Foundation is at the forefront of efforts to connect our history and spaces.

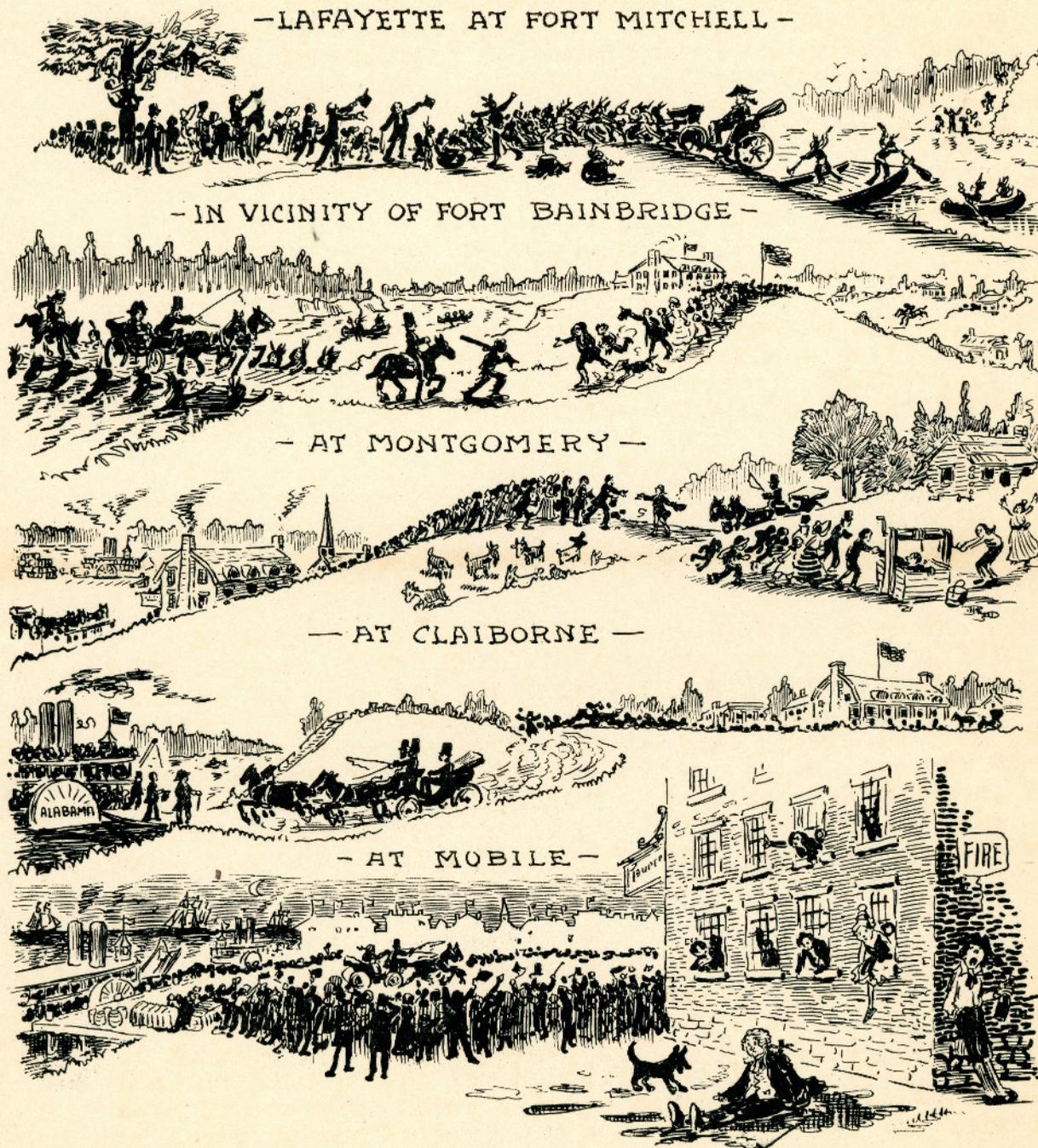
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Commemoration of
100th anniversary
of Lafayette's visit
to Alabama.

Illustration -
Montgomery
Advertiser



FESTIVITIES CALENDAR

- Wednesday, April 2nd, we will welcome the Marquis to Lucas Tavern, where his party stayed on their way to Montgomery, with the debut of our new Lafayette exhibit and a reception.
- Thursday, April 3rd, our friends at the Archives will honor the Marquis with a Gubernatorial Proclamation, panel discussion of historians, and a reception afterwards.
- Friday, April 4th, will be a wonderful day at Old Alabama Town, giving students and visitors the opportunity to interact with living historians and learn about Alabama in 1825 from the perspective of Creek communities and American pioneers with "Alabama Fever". That night, we will toast to Lafayette with a black-tie soiree and send him on to Cahaba.
- Saturday, April 5th, Old Cahaba will host a Bar-B-Que celebration for our Marquis as he ventures to Mobile and onto New Orleans.

Commemorating Marquis de Lafayette's Visit

—
Collier Neeley
Executive Director at Landmarks Foundation

2025 is the 200 year commemoration of the Marquis de Lafayette's visit to Alabama and there is celebration happening all around the state. The last issue highlighted our Marquis' visit to Alabama, which started on **March 31st, 1825**, when Lafayette crossed over the Chattahoochee River near Ft. Mitchell. From there, he made his way with a sizable posse of Creek Indians and Anglo American settlers down the Old Federal Road to Montgomery, where Governor Israel Pickens and others met Lafayette with great fanfare! Legend has it, Pickens nearly bankrupted Alabama's treasury ensuring that our party for Lafayette was the best he'd seen on his trip to the United States.

Lafayette was considered the Nation's Guest when he came to the United States at the invitation of President Monroe in 1824. The United States was suffering from the effects of a deeply partisan and contentious presidential election between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. We Americans, in the contemporary time, can relate to the ill feelings shared between countrymen at that time. President Monroe, who presided during "Era of Good Feelings",

believed the country needed to be reminded of why the American experiment was so important, forged by the sacrifice of patriots and welded together by the cooperation and respect of fellow countrymen. Monroe invited Lafayette, a hero of the Revolution and an American celebrity in his own right, to visit and remind Americans of their founding in an effort to reinvigorate their zeal for the hard work to maintain the Republic.

200 years later, here we are, in the middle of another contentious Presidential election with the direction of the Republic in question and again, Americans need to be reminded that only together can we move forward in the pursuit of a more perfect union. A commemoration of the visit of Lafayette alone is not going to do that, but at least we can have a good time getting to that "More Perfect Union". Landmarks and our friends around Montgomery, including the Montgomery County Historical Society and the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History, are working together to remember this visit and the importance of Lafayette's legacy in our community's history.

Starting **Wednesday, April 2nd**, we will welcome the Marquis to Lucas Tavern, where his party stayed on their way to Montgomery, with the debut of our new Lafayette exhibit and a reception. **Thursday, April 3rd**, our friends at the Archives will honor the Marquis with a Gubernatorial Proclamation, panel discussion of historians, and a reception afterwards. **Friday, April 4th**, will be a wonderful day at Old Alabama Town, giving students and visitors the opportunity to interact with living historians and learn about Alabama in 1825 from the perspective of Creek communities and American pioneers with "Alabama Fever". That night, we will toast to Lafayette with a black tie soiree and send him on to Cahaba. **Saturday, April 5th**, Old Cahaba will host a Bar-B Que celebration for our Marquis as he ventures to Mobile and onto New Orleans.

More about this big week in April will be forthcoming through the end of the year and in the Spring. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities abound and we hope you can join us for Montgomery's 200 year commemoration of the visit of our Marquis de Lafayette..

Holidays at the Tavern

Saturday, December 7th
10:00am-4:00pm



Holidays at Lucas Tavern

310 North Hull St
Montgomery, AL 36104
334.240.4617

Free
Admission to
the Tavern

± landmarksfoundation.com

Landmarks kicks off the Holiday season at Lucas Tavern in Old Alabama Town. Special Decoration Tours of the Ordeman-Mitchell-Shaw House held at 11am, 12 and 1pm, Wednesday - Saturday, will feature a look at traditional German Holiday customs and decorations of the celebration. Tickets (\$15) available at the Tavern.

In Lucas Tavern, libations will feature German goodies and beverages. Lucas Tavern Museum Store is filled with gift ideas including local publications. Mary Johns Wilson will be signing her new book, 100 Things to Do in Montgomery, Alabama Before You Die, which has been a big seller with our visitors. The Timeless Toy exhibit with artifacts from Landmarks Permanent Collection will be displayed in the Church.

Holidays at the Tavern is a part of the Christmas on Madison Avenue annual event on Saturday December 7th, with Southern Art & Makers Collective, featuring holiday events in the businesses along Madison Avenue. Landmarks Rescued Relics, at 423 Madison Avenue, will also be open from 10:00 until 12:00 to shop for your salvage and home improvement needs.

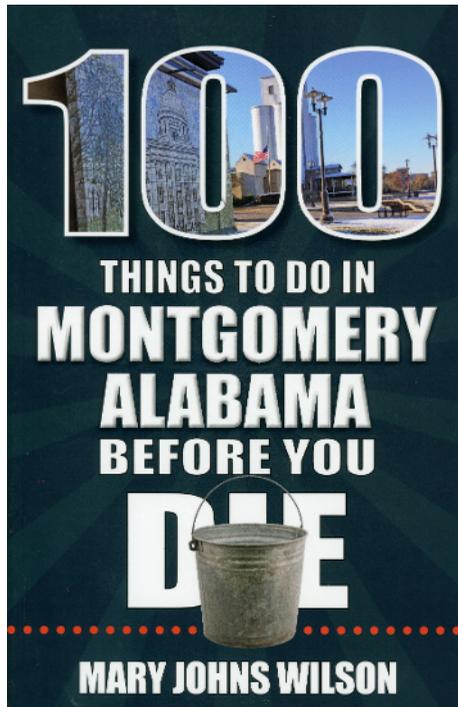
HONORABLY MENTIONED

Landmarks' Co-Founding Father Inducted into Alabama Men's Hall of Fame

Milo Barrett Howard Jr. (1933-1981), one of Landmarks' founding fathers, was inducted into the Alabama's Men's Hall of Fame on September 17th. Sophie Law of the Alabama Department of Archives and History nominated Howard for the honor and has been researching his life and professional career. Founded by the state legislature in 1987, the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame recognizes men "whose lives have impacted the state, nation, and world." Howard served as the fourth director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History from 1967 until he died in 1981. Owing to the dozens of historic lectures he delivered across Alabama, Howard was renowned as a man of great intellect, exceptional memory and wise counsel. Howard is remembered and revered for advancing the cause of historic preservation in Alabama, both as the inaugural State Historic Preservation Officer and as co-founder of the Landmarks Foundation.



Portrait of Milo Howard by Hettie Murchison, 1980. Landmarks Foundation Permanent Collection.



Meet & Greet with the Author

100 Things to do in Montgomery Alabama Before You Die is available at Lucas Tavern (\$18.00). Mary will be on hand at the Old Alabama Town Holiday festivities, in Lucas Tavern also.

Saturday
December
7th
11am - 1pm

—
Carole King
Curator at Landmarks Foundation

Local author Mary Johns Wilson has called the River Region home for more than a decade, and this new book, 100 Things to do in Montgomery Alabama Before You Die, is her tribute to locals who have dedicated their time and energy to making the River Region a better place. In 100 Things to Do..., you'll discover interesting historic locations, but you'll also find restaurants, art and music venues, parks, special events, shopping excursions, and outdoor adventures. This book celebrates the entire River Region of Montgomery, Elmore, and Autauga Counties.

As a central location for the Civil Rights Movement and the Civil War, the historical significance of Montgomery is heavy. But that heaviness created a strong foundation for the area's vibrant present and dynamic future. Mary includes some suggested itineraries as well as activities by seasons. Mary divides sites into food and drink, Music and entertainment, sports and recreation, cultural and history, and shopping and fashion. She also included detailed contact information for each site and helpful tips for the traveler.

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The history of Christmas trees has many roots, ranging from the use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome to the German traditions of candlelit trees that made its way to America in the 1800s. Discover the history of the Christmas tree, from the earliest winter solstice celebrations to Queen Victoria's decorating habits

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, many ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition by the 16th century when sources record devout Christians bringing decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first records of Christmas trees being cut for display comes from the 1820s in Pennsylvania's German community, although trees may have been a tradition there even earlier. As early as 1747,

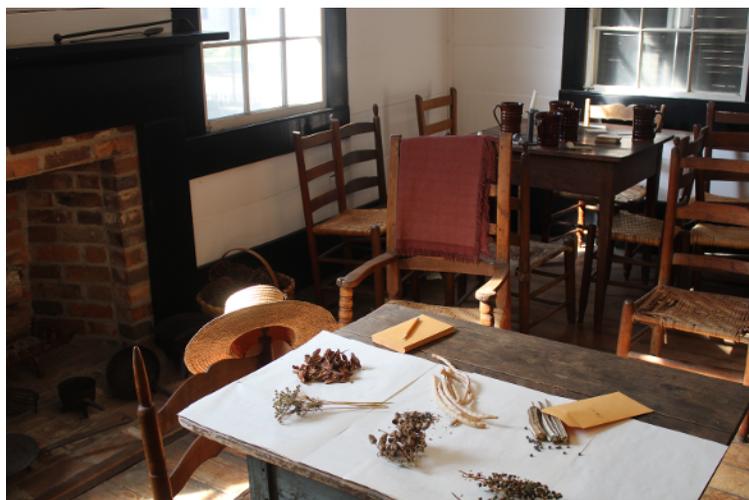
Specialty Holiday Decorations Tour

Are you aware of the origins of our Christmas tree, or why our decorations changed over the years? A Holiday Decorations tour of the Ordeman-Mitchell-Shaw complex during the December month lets you discover our Holiday traditions.

Moravian Germans in Pennsylvania had a community tree in the form of a wooden pyramid decorated with candles. But, as late as the 1840s, Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

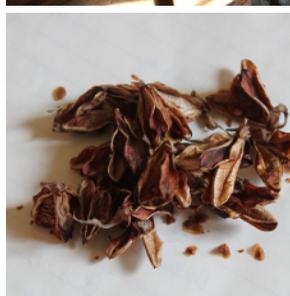
HOLIDAY DECORATION TOUR

During the Holiday season Old Alabama Town offers specialty Holiday Decoration Tours (\$15) at the Ordeman-Mitchell-Shaw complex. The Holiday tour season kicks off at Lucas Tavern, 310 North Hull St, on Saturday, December 7th. Tours start on the hour throughout the day. Our Museum is open Wednesday - Saturday, from 10am - 4pm.



Preparing for Next Year's Flower Beds

Jacob van Megen
Horticulturist at Landmarks Foundation



Seedy Saturday

Urban Teaching Farm EAT South, annual seed swab event, is on Saturday, January 11th, 2025 from 10am-12pm in the Global Classroom at the Juliette Hampton Morgan Library, in Montgomery.

Tips for Seed Collectors

They are ready to harvest after the flowers are done blooming and the petals have turned brown and/or fallen off.

- Cut flower head with scissors.
- Collect the ripe seeds from the flower head and place on some old newspapers.
- Allow the seeds to dry for about a week.
- Clean the seeds by removing any husks or pods.
- Place seeds in an envelope and seal. Store in an airtight container in a cool, dark, dry location.
- Sow the seeds in spring. You can plant them directly in the garden or get a jump on the season and start them early indoors.

Many annuals and perennials produce enough seeds to save and sow for the upcoming growing season. Since Landmarks had some great heirloom bloomers last summer in the flower beds at Old Alabama Town, we started collecting seeds throughout the year. That way, we can easily grow the same varieties in our flower beds next summer, and we also have plenty of seeds to share with friends and family.

The best plants for saving seeds are heirlooms, lost varieties, and open-pollinated plants, because the seeds usually grow into plants that look just like the one you had. If you save seeds from hybrids, they likely won't grow into the exact same plants next year. But if you want to experiment and see what you get, hybrids can be fun to grow from saved seeds, too.

We planted most perennial seeds in the garden in the fall in a protected spot in loose, well-drained, soil, giving them a light covering of mulch, and watering them well after planting. They'll wait out the winter and sprout in the spring. Depending on the specimen, some seeds are stored and started indoors in late winter or very early spring. Don't expect the perennials to bloom in the first year because the plants will use all their energy to grow roots and leaves; most of them will bloom in the second year.

Just like many perennials, there are lots of annual plants with seeds that are easy to save. Harvest them after the flowers bloom and follow the same instructions above for saving perennial seeds. It's such an easy job to collect seeds and just sow them again.



Landmarks Green Bridges Certification

GreenBridges is an initiative to encourage home and community gardeners to support fragile natural areas by creating safe passage to native plants and pollinators across our nation. Landmarks is applying to get certified.

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Jacob van Megen
Horticulturist at Landmarks Foundation

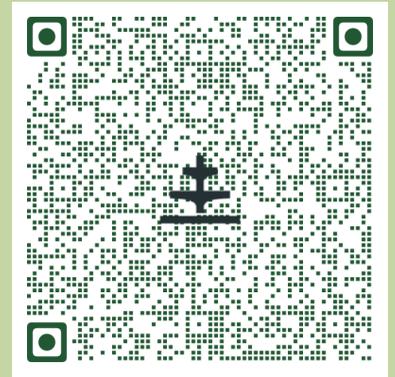
For 55 years, the Landmarks Foundation has been committed to preserving, interpreting, and educating the public on Central Alabama's architecture, history, and culture. Historic structures from Montgomery and surrounding counties are gathered on 9.6 acres in North Hull Historic Montgomery. The gardens surrounding these structures are of historic significance and planted with period-appropriate plant life in the manner in which they were used in the 1800's.

In 2023 Landmarks introduced its Historic Garden Renovation Project. To grow our historic Alabama plant collection Landmarks expanded our garden's function as an outdoor classroom for presenting central Alabama's history through botanical storytelling. Renovating the historic flower beds at Old Alabama Town is at the heart of this project. To underline the historic significance of our flower beds, Landmarks Foundation is preparing its application for the GreenBridges Certification. This certification will motivate Landmarks to work along a set of requirements for sustainable gardening and invest in the installation of

environmentally friendly solutions. These include pollinator fields, bee hives, composting, a propagation program, drip irrigation in all our flowerbeds, soil improvement for plant diversification, collection building, installing a native orchard, reviving the lost vegetable garden in the Ordeman backyard, renovating the historic rose garden at Thompson House, and providing plant ID tags for our Alabama native plants for the enrichment of our museum experience.

In order to get certified Landmarks already started working along the GreenBridges requirements, following the principles of basic organic gardening without the use of chemicals. After Landmarks is certified this program will include interactive modules on ornamental horticulture and developing and maintaining historic gardens for adults and students. Additionally, this project offers underserved communities the opportunity to connect with the skilled members Capitol City Master Gardeners, the Alabama Herb Society, local garden clubs, and Montgomery's urban teaching farm, E.A.T. South.

DONATE TO OUR MISSION!



**To preserve, interpret, and
present Alabama's architecture,
history, and culture.**



Landmarks Foundation

It is hard to believe that 2024 is almost over! Autumn has gotten here quickly, and we will be well into the holiday season before we know it.

Thank you so much for such a wonderful year. Landmarks has really started pushing the boundaries of what we can be as an organization, expanding opportunities with our field trip offerings, preservation consulting, educational programming, and updates in Old Alabama Town. We can't do this without you - our supporters, members, and friends!

We're looking into 2025 now and we have an exciting calendar lined up with multiple events, our Preservation Leadership Seminar in May, Oyster Fest 2025, and a host of other events. We're also completing our interpretive planning for Old Alabama Town, with a goal of implementation in February 2025. This year's Loeb Memorial End of Year Campaign is focused entirely on Old Alabama Town and the needed updates around the museum. In some cases, they are subtle, a new coat of paint on the grocery, and in

others they will be noticeable, like a new exhibit in the Tavern dedicated to Lafayette and Early Alabama or a new tour about the stories of the Black experience in Old Alabama Town.

Please, take a moment and follow the QR code in the upper right corner and invest in the future of Old Alabama Town. Your contribution will help us accomplish our funding goals, knock out a few projects, and preserve our unique corner in Downtown Montgomery!



Landmarks
Foundation

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Montgomery AL, 36104

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IN THIS ISSUE — Urban Renewal with Dr. Maurice Robinson ● Book Review ● Announcement
Lafayette Festivities ● Holiday at the Tavern ● GreenBridges Certification



The Newsletter of the Landmarks Foundation — Fall 2024



Momentum