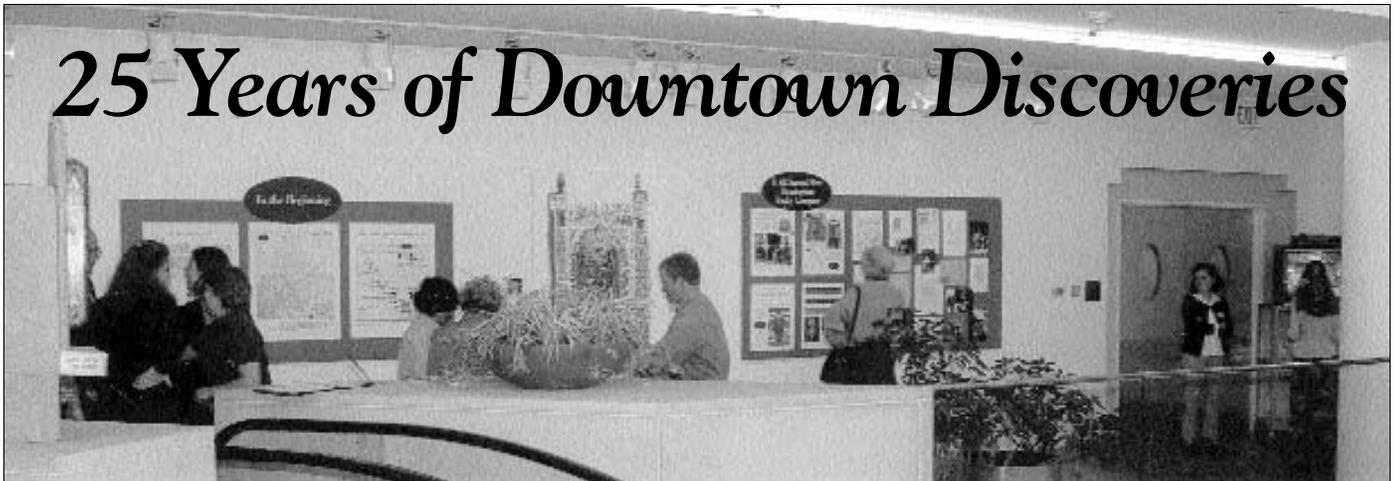


Telling Our Story

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS 2001



25 Years of Downtown Discoveries



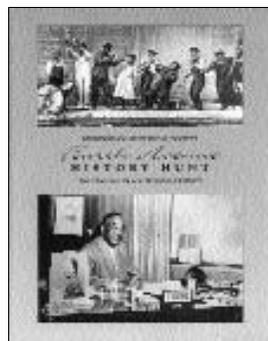
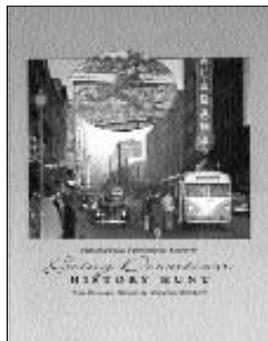
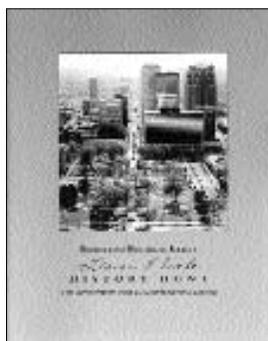
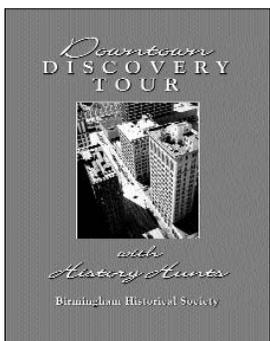
In 1976, the Birmingham Historical Society created its DOWNTOWN DISCOVERY TOUR, a guided experience of the city center, and a tour book. Downtown buildings were old, tired, unused and unappreciated. But the students on tours loved them.

It's a new century. Most of downtown's buildings have been fixed up. Children who discovered them as students now lead tours and teach the children who take them, encouraging all to look and see, enjoy and care for our city's heritage.

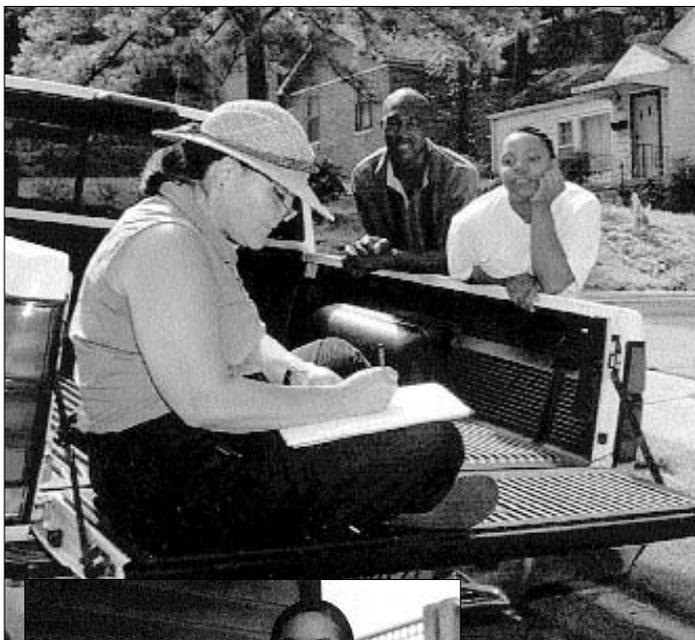
An exhibit at the Birmingham Public Library showcases the new *Downtown Discovery Tour + Heritage Hunts* and celebrates 25 years of tours.



Among participants at the opening reception, above, are Pat Camp and Marjorie Lee White, crowned with laurels in appreciation for their service; Society President Sara Ruiz de Molina and stalwart volunteer Emma Bell; left, McElwain students Jake Thomas and Asia Anchrum share the buildings they built for the exhibit with their families and tour guide Carole Sanders; and, right, Katherine Parker Shepherd (with Jim and baby Abigail) check out the Time Line of Birmingham she illustrated for the tour book. Photographs by Trustee Jim Strickland.



Research & Documentation



Research this year included the recording of house types from the city's earliest years to post World War II, the planning for development of public parks in the 1920s and 1930s, and civil rights history.



Above left, Prof Cheryl Morgan of the Auburn University Center for Architecture and Urban Studies sketches a Tudor style cottage in Bush Hills (photo courtesy The Birmingham News). Ms. Morgan, Peggy Balch and Anayi Reynolds, left, reviewed, photographed and drew architectural styles across the city.

Above right, showing landscape architectural historian Phoebe Cutler of San Francisco Avondale Park are Jim Waters, architect for the current park restoration; Natasha (& Richard) Randolph; Marjorie White; Catherine Brown, president of the Friends of Avondale Park; and Carol Slaughter. Photographed by Richard Randolph.

Below right, Powell School students and their Auburn architectural school Buddies photographed and drew details of the 1887 Powell School. New uses are currently being sought for the historic school building.



Volunteers Regan Huff and Edgar Marx help work on the Discovery Tour exhibit.



Left, Joy Philpot; right, Gregory Wilson, Victor Blackledge and Lola Hendricks led the try outs of the new History Hunts, as part of a Birmingham Cultural Alliance Program.



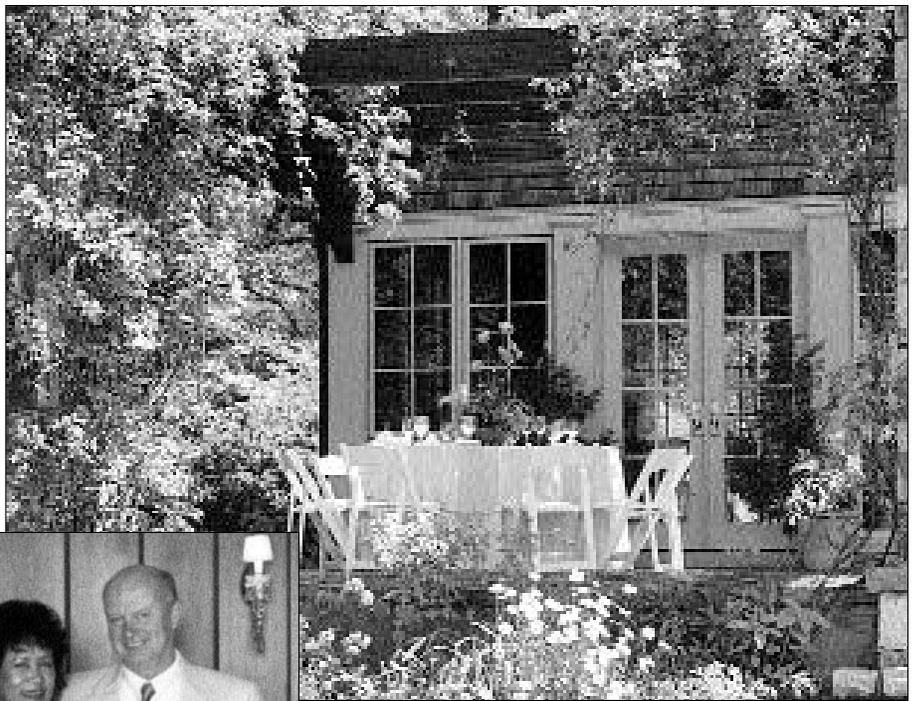
Praises to Peggy for holding down the fort at the office and getting this report to you.

Meetings & Events



Trustee Martin Hames hosted the **Annual Meeting** in honor of Gov. B. B. Comer and his descendants at The Altamont School Fine Arts Center. Talks by Ellen Cooper Erdreich, Gillian Goodrich and Mr. Hames introduced the

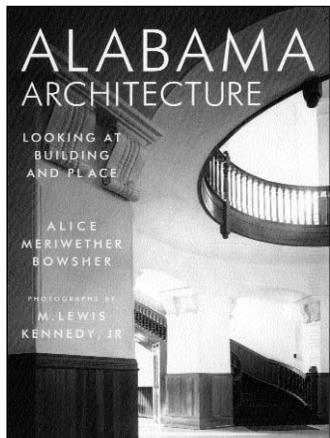
showing of Comer family pastel portraits. Pictured, above, are Mr. Hames and Craig Crockard with a portrait of his grandmother, Mignon Comer Smith, and Mike and Gillian Goodrich with her grandfather, Hugh Nabers.



The gracious Susie and Peter Janders, left, hosted the annual **Heritage Society Party** at their beautifully restored home, the J. Warner Shook house. Pascal Shook told stories of growing up at Uncle Warner's in the early 20th century as the younger generations listened.

Accomplishments 2001

- Published the new *Downtown Discovery Tour + History Hunts*, self-guided explorations of city center for students of all ages
- Celebrated 25 Years of Downtown Discoveries at Birmingham Public Library with an exhibition & reception featuring the new guide & honoring program volunteers
- Researched Civil Rights landmarks, Avondale, Turkey Creek & Vulcan Parks, Shook Hill & architectural styles
- Developed a typography of Birmingham houses & conducted a summer field survey (drove every street) of 99 neighborhoods, analyzing extant types
- Feted B. B. Comer, Alabama's education governor & his family with talks, an exhibit & published catalog of family portraits
- Sold publications across the city & the nation



The Society joined the Alabama and Birmingham chapters of the America Institute of Architects in sponsoring a **Preservation Week Reception** to honor Trustee Alice Bowsler and her new book *Alabama Architecture*

Dr. John Schnorrenberg led the annual tour of sacred places to the churches of Five Points South.