THE 2002 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK theme calls upon us to save and enhance the irreplaceable features that give our city its distinctive character. Please help preserve our spirit of place.

On Thursday evening, May 16 at 5:30 p.m., Birmingham Historical Society will spotlight an historic treasure: the splendidly refurbished Jefferson County Courthouse and honor those who preserve our spirit. We gather to present Preservation Awards in Judge Thorn’s Courtroom, pictured above, at 6:00 p.m. Entrance to the courthouse will be from the 21st Street.

Following the presentation, Giattina, Fischer, Adycock Architects, Inc. will lead tours of the award-winning historic interiors. A reception follows. Please come and bring friends to enjoy the historic courthouse and learn about the diligent and exciting people and projects to be recognized. The Awards Committee includes Wayne Hester, Chairman; Kyle D'Agostino; Pam King; Kyle Kirkwood; Chris Washington; and Marjorie White.
**Birmingham Historical Society**

**2002 PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**Jefferson County Courthouse**

When in 1988 county officials realized that patching and fixing of the then 60-year-old electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems of the courthouse (Architect: Holabird and Root, Chicago, Jack B. Smith; drawings 1927) would not do, they studied alternatives and decided to restore the historic shell. In 1993 they began to tear it apart and return it to “state of the art” with new technologies, systems and security . . . while continuing to use the building! They also restored significant features including the courtrooms, lobbies, terrazzo floors and halls as part of today’s modern, functioning building.

For: Sensitive rescue and reuse of the historic interiors of this major public space

The Jefferson County Commissioners: Gary White, President; Mary Buckelew, Bettye Fine Collins, Jeff Germany, Steve Small, and Chris McNair (retired commissioner)

**Birmingham Publishing Co.**

The transformation of the former print and saw works buildings into open spaces for architects and artists fosters “collaboration” between architects, consultants and clients and artists and community groups who work in the old saw works adjacent to the space pictured above. The original metal frame Hopper windows were restored and new ones built to match.

For skillful integration of old and new features and uses

Owner and Architect/Designer and Builder: Richard Pigford, ArchitectureWorks

**Graymont School-Jefferson County Office of Economic Opportunity (JCCEO)**

This neighborhood school, the site of the desegregation of the Birmingham schools on September 4, 1963, returned to new life as the headquarters for JCCEO. Under the inspired guidance of Gayle Cunningham, more than 600 persons work in the high vaulted classrooms. Children also attend Headstart programs here.

For: Restoring the spirit and physical structure of the school

Prime Mover: Gayle Cunningham, JCCEO Director

Architect: Charles A. Moss

**Cathedral Church of the Advent Stonework Conservation**

In 1997, the Ohio sandstone of the Advent walls was deteriorating. Advent planners studied the stone and identified causes for the deterioration: water retained in leaf-filled gutters, foundation plants and repointing with “hard” mortar, all of which keep water in the stone. Conservation methods developed include removing plants, cleaning gutters, replacing flashing and coping stones, and training masons in mortar removal.
For: Assessing and laboring to preserve the Ohio sandstone walls
Materials Specialist: Camille Agricola, Alabama Historical Commission
Dean: The Very Rev. Paul F. M. Zahl; Administrator: Bryan Helm;
Task Force Chair: Thomas A. Wilson
Architect/Conservator: Carraway and Associates Inc. Architects,
John C. Carraway, John Morse
Mortar Restoration: Brasfield and Gorrie, Jim Gorrie, Project Superintendent Matt Owen
Chief Mason: Charles Thomas

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Highlands United Methodist Church Addition
In this addition, Highlands Methodist sought to link its historic sanctuary and educational facilities, formerly divided by an alley and separate entrances, and provides drive-in access from 21st Street. The design for new construction links facilities on all levels and provides a multi-use foyer and a spectacular new front door for the total campus facility.
For: Effectively bridging the historic and the new
Highlands Methodist Sr. Pastors: Oliver Clark, Hughey Reynolds and administrator Reggie Holder; Church Members: Craig Rodgers, Bill Cone and Bill Satterfield
Architect: Richard Pigford, ArchitectureWorks

Rhodes Park Landscape Restoration
Formed in 1996 to undertake the restoration of Rhodes Park, this friends’ group, an offshoot of the Highland Park neighborhood association, which has been described as an “informal and remarkable team,” repaired the aggregate stone walls, wading pool and walkways; rebuilt a brick balustrade and patio from historic photographs; installed new irrigation, lighting and furnishing; landscaped with native shrubs; and creatively raised the funds to undertake the venture.
For: Championing careful conservation
Ball roller: Terry Slaughter
Prime Movers: Anne Hashuk, ASLA; Allison Glascock, Charles Glascock, Jim Kelly, Jim Cooper, Robin O’Neal

SPECIAL AWARDS

Turkey Creek Preserve & Commissioner Bettye Fine Collins
When the people of Pinson protested a jail planned for Turkey Creek, Commissioner Collins swung into action creating a task force to acquire and preserve the land with its exceptional natural, scenic, archeological and historic resources. Scientists and archeologists studied the creek and documentation consultant Richard Anderson, AIA, of South Carolina conducted field and archival research and oral interviews to identify and map archeological and historic resources.
For: Mapping historic and archeological resources in the future

A. M. Brown Memorial Community Center for Arts & Crafts
319 4th Terrace North, Smithfield
When high winds landed a tree on the Brown House (the former residence of a surgeon and physician Dr. Arthur McKinnon Brown (Architect: Wallace A. Rayfield; 1909), the Birmingham Art Club sought help to repair the residence and gained an ally. The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) now calls the Brown House headquarters. The Birmingham NOMA chapter is the only American chapter to have a home base.

Tire Engineers Two
3129 Sixth Avenue South
Fred Johnson, whose family tire rehaul business has been on Southside since 1948, envisioned reviving the late 1920s grocery and gas station, just across from his place, to period specifications. To fix it up, he demolished later additions and glassed in the drive-in space for fast oil changes, brake checking and tire rotating. A friend built the vintage pumps. (In the 1920s, gas was $.14 a gallon and you paid the going, unpublished rate.)
For: Imaginative adaption to automotive uses
Owner and Prime mover: Fred Johnston
For: Rescuing a tornado stricken landmark
Owners: Birmingham Art Club, Mrs. Juanita Vann. Mrs. Julia Emma Smith
Project Architect: Willie C. Oliver; Coordinator: Victor Blackledge; New Users: the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOAM), pictured above.

Roebuck Springs Preservation Society
House tours, workdays, workshops, fund-raising . . . you name it, this nonprofit (composed of property owners) organized to support and conserve its neighborhood of country estates and post World War II houses. Culminating a five-year effort, the Society won local historic districting for Roebuck Springs at the March 26, 2002 Birmingham City Council meeting.
For: Spearheading neighborhood conservation
Neighborhood Officers: Rodney Tucker, Jennifer James, Priscilla Newton

For: Their Boundless Enthusiasm for Living Downtown
Three Generations of Hardins: Jim and Linda Hardin, Eva Nell Brannon (Linda’s mother); Shari Hardin, James Hardin III (Jim and Linda’s children)

NEW NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS
Bessemer Downtown District Expansion
Movers and Shakers: Jim and Merte Byrum, Bessemer Community Development

Hollywood District, Homewood
Neighborhood Leaders: Angela Comfort (Spanish above, English left)

Norwood Boulevard District
Neighborhood Officers: Robert Gilmore, Joyce Braxton, Arthur Jean Jones (pictured below)

Photographs courtesy: Architecture Works; Kyle D’Agostino, Giattina Fischer Aycock; Kyle Kirkwood; Willie Oliver; Chris Washington; Marjorie White