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News...

Historic Huntsville Foundation

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News...

THE 11th ANNUAL ALABAMA Preservation Conference was held in Selma on August 11th and 12th. The Friday morning session featured talks by Leopold Adler of Savannah and Chris Delaporte of Washington, D. C. Adler presented the excellent slide lecture on restoration activity in Savannah that he had delivered in Huntsville in June.

Chris Delaporte is director of the newly created Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (Department of the Interior) which administers the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. His talk was a plea for preservationists to become active in policy planning and to encourage public participation at the local level. His office can best provide technical assistance and financial support to those programs that have already demonstrated an ability to involve the local government and community in their activities. The future of the preservation movement depends on broadening its base to attract new people and ideas and on developing creative new preservation methods as an alternative to simply asking for more money.

There was a tour of the site of Cahaba before the afternoon session which featured workshops. Mrs. Lambdin of Natchez gave an excellent lecture on how to run a successful architectural pilgrimage. Harvie

Jones of HHF conducted a workshop on the problems encountered in the renovation of older homes. A buffet supper at Sturdivant Hall concluded the day's activities.

Saturday morning's general session began with Dwight Young of Charleston who is director of the Southern Field Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He stressed that the preservation program must enlarge its scope and focus its attention on small houses, commercial and industrial complexes, and streetscapes in addition to the traditional mansion. Young then outlined the National Trust funding programs that are currently available. None of them, however, can be used for construction; they are all to be utilized for planning activities.

Clem Labine, the editor of THE OLD HOUSE JOURNAL, spoke on the theme of the preservationist as a modern day pioneer. It is his contention that as the geographical frontier disappeared, the pioneer type among us turned instead to the decaying city center as the frontier of this century. Preservationists are the leaders in an attack on the values of our throw-away society by demonstrating that recycling the past is energy conservative and absolutely essential if we are to survive the next century.

They are showing the way to a new life style that places a high value on the conservation of our natural and man-made resources, and consequently, preservationists are the real futurists in our society.

The last morning talk was delivered by Warner Floyd, director of the Alabama Historical Commission, who outlined the activities of his office during the past few years.

A box lunch was served at Kenan's Grist Mill and more workshops filled the afternoon. A cocktail party at the John Tyler Morgan House preceded the awards banquet which concluded the conference. Harvie Jones received an honorary membership from the Live-in-a-Landmark Council for his many contributions to the restoration of state landmarks.

The 12th Annual Preservation Conference will be held in Tuscaloosa next August.

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PROFESSOR JEFFREY BAYER will be the first speaker on the Historic Huntsville Foundation's Program Series for the 1978-79 season. Professor Bayer, who is chairman of the U. A. H. art department, will present a slide lecture on "Victorian Architecture." It will be held Tuesday evening, October 17th, at 8 in Parlor B, Von Braun Civic Center. The Program Series is open to the public, so come and bring your friends. Admission is \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members.

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NANCY HOLMES OF MOBILE will be in Huntsville on November 14th to address the membership of the Historic Huntsville

Foundation on the topic of historic preservation in Mobile. She is very active in the National Trust and has done much local preservation work in Mobile. This should be an informative and interesting evening; details will be in the next Newsletter.

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THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, with the encouragement and assistance of the Historic Huntsville Foundation, has applied for a matching grant from the Alabama Historical Commission in the amount of \$39,000 for restoration of the exterior of the O. R. Hundley House. The City is appropriating \$19,000 in in-kind services, and the County, \$20,000 to match the grant. The City is also taking care of immediate emergency roof repair to stop leaks. The City will apply for a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for interior restoration.

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THE EDITOR WOULD LIKE TO extend her heartfelt thanks to Richard Pope who generously gave of his time and knowledge to teach her a crash course on the mechanics of printing - which made this issue of the QUARTERLY possible. *

In Memoriam

THE FOSTER HOUSE, 408 Clinton Avenue, Old Town, ca. 1900. Demolished September 12 without permission of the Historic Preservation Commission or a demolition permit, by Minimum Housing at the request of the owner, Temple B'Nai Sholom.
