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## HH Foundation News...

Historic Huntsville Foundation

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## HHFoundation News...

The Foundation wishes to recognize and thank the following persons and businesses who have supported the activities of the **Historic Huntsville Foundation** during the past year with special memberships.

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### Benefactors:

Frank and Stevenson Realty  
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Sophie Lowe Young



The Historic Huntsville Foundation has hired Jennifer Nickel to be its first executive director. She began working for the Foundation on Monday, February 15, and her first duty was to locate an office to serve as the Foundation headquarters. The office selected is a room on the second floor of the Steamboat Gothic House on Lowe Avenue, and after alterations are completed, the office will be open each weekday afternoon—probably from 1 to 5 p.m.

Jennifer graduated from the University of North Alabama with a bachelor's degree in mass communications and a minor in sociology. While working toward her degree, she served an internship with WLAY Radio in Muscle Shoals and then took a position at the station as a news assistant. The following year she worked as a news assistant for WAAY Radio where she both gathered news and reported it on the air. From 1979 to 1981 Jennifer and her husband Patrick lived in Mannheim, West Germany, while he served in the military. During this period abroad, Jennifer was employed by the City College of Chicago as registrar and director of public relations. Currently she works part time for WAAY-TV as producer and hostess of "Morning WAAY," a live news and public affairs program aired daily.

Jennifer's responsibilities as executive director of the Foundation will be to assist in the development of programs and activities, manage the day-to-day operations, and broaden the base of membership and financial support in the community. Specifically she will co-ordinate with the appropriate Foundation committees the various activities such as the lecture series, membership development, educational programs, and special projects.

Jennifer will be primarily responsible for keeping the work of the Historic Huntsville Foundation before the public by maintaining good channels of communication with the news media of Madison County. She will write articles for publication and arrange for broadcast news stories about Foundation activities, work with other preservation groups,

represent the Foundation in speaking engagements and other functions, and monitor the status of endangered properties.

Already Jennifer has plans to initiate a monthly newsletter for members to keep them current on Foundation functions and on the latest news of preservation successes and crises. Also she is arranging for a series of public service announcements on local radio stations and television channels.

For the present time, Jennifer will work twenty hours a week for the Foundation. In order to keep the office open each afternoon, she will require several volunteer assistants. Any member who can donate some time for answering the phone and doing clerical work at the Steamboat Gothic House office should contact Jennifer at 534-1700.

**Historic Huntsville Foundation Office**  
**205 Lowe Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama 35801**  
**205-534-1700**  
**Hours: 1 to 5 p.m.**



The **Lyric Theatre** on Washington Street burned the night of January 8, bringing to a close a tradition that had begun in 1912. In that year the original Lyric opened—in approximately the same location—to show two-reel silent moving pictures accompanied by a “two-piece orchestra.” The price of admission was 5¢. In the late 1920s the first talking picture in Huntsville, “My Man” starring Fanny Brice, was presented at the Lyric. A Christmas morning fire in 1930 destroyed four buildings including the Lyric, but the theatre was rebuilt and opened again in December 1931. The above photograph shows the theatre as it appeared in the 1940s when it still retained its old marquee. The Lyric closed in 1978, but memories of Saturday afternoons spent there will linger in the minds of many Huntsvillians.