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## Re-Activation of Historic Marker Program

Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

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: Re-Activation of Historic Marker Program  
RE-ACTIVATION OF HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

The Huntsville Madison County Historical Society has recently renewed its efforts on behalf of the Alabama Historical Association marker program which was instituted in 1951 to insure that historical places of importance were appropriately marked. Between 1953 and 1987, 37 state markers were erected throughout Madison County under the supervision of the local historical society with the aid of the Madison County Commission under the leadership of James Record. In recent years, the local historical society has assisted in erecting five markers—one at Ditto's Landing, two at New Market, one at Gurley, and one in the City of Madison—with the financial help of district county commissioners.

In 1993 the Alumni Association of William Hooper Councill High School requested that a state historic marker be placed on the campus of the school on St. Clair Street. A committee consisting of members of the last graduating class of 1966 requested the help of the society in wording the marker and planning a dedication ceremony. Included in this group were Catherine Madry Stewart and Shirley Fitchard Bush, co-chairs, and Andrew Brown, Richard H. Bush, Jr., Willie M. Clark, Earline Bellmon Ford, Earnest Horton, Adam Kellam, George Kelly, Willie B. Pope, Virginia Sledge Rice, Mamie Pendleton Ward, and Perry O. Ward.

In addition to the Alumni Association, the City of Huntsville, the Madison County Commission, and the Huntsville Madison County Historical Society contributed to the purchase of the marker. By city ordinance, sponsored by William Showers and James Wall, \$12,000 was appropriated to place six historic markers, one of which was the Councill High School marker.

The dedication of this marker took place on Sunday, March 27, 1994, at 3:00 p.m. at the Huntsville Madison County Library which occupies the site of the William Hooper Councill High School football field. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Henry C. Lacey who is Academic Vice President of Dillard University in New Orleans. The text of his address is included in this issue.

Presentation of the marker to the Alabama Historical Association was made by Earnest Horton and formally accepted by James Lee, President of the Huntsville–Madison County Historical Society, and Winston W. Walker III, chairman of the local marker committee, and a member of the board of the Alabama Historical Association.

Besides the placement of new historic markers, the Huntsville–Madison County Historical Society marker committee is surveying and compiling a list of all historic markers in Madison County for publication. So far the committee has documented 44 markers which are presently standing within the confines of

Huntsville and Madison County. These, along with two markers to be repaired, one on order, and four presently in the planning stages, will be included in the proposed historic marker publication. This will allow all those interested in local history to have a ready reference at their finger tips.



Historic Marker Dedicated March 27, 1927  
*(Photograph by Dessa Brown)*