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From the Chair...Diane Ellis

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From the Chair...Diane Ellis

Dear Foundation Friends,

As if you didn't have enough documents scattered about on your desks this tax season, here we come with a *Quarterly* full of forms and lists. Nothing anxiety-producing here, though, just more good information about some pieces of the preservation puzzle that were featured in the Fall issue: the National Register of Historic Places and the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

In the last *Quarterly*, we learned what the National Register is. In this issue we learn about the process of registering a property. And, we find a revealing list of Huntsville and Madison County properties that are on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. From the Memphis and Charleston Passenger Depot (added to the Register in 1971), to the Burritt Mansion (added in 1994), and Monte Sano State Park (added to the Alabama Register in 1996); from early-19th-century treasures to historic sites linked to the space age, the lists present a picture of a city and county rich both in history and in citizens who understand the importance of historic preservation and are willing to work for it.

Preservation is very much a participatory endeavor. It requires something from others: research, information, ideas, examples, advice, encouragement, materials. As Huntsville's community-based preservation organization, HHF is a valuable clearinghouse for all kinds of preservation needs, from ideas to artifacts. We collect, recycle, share and distribute. We educate. We advocate. We participate. Good things happen in communities when people get together and participate in the cause of preservation. Just look at those lists.

I hope you'll be able to come to our next covered dish supper, on Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church. The program will focus on approaches to revitalizing America's downtowns.