

# The Historic Huntsville Quarterly

---

Volume 24  
Number 1 *Restoration and Remembrance: The  
Huntsville Pilgrimage*

---

Article 3

3-20-1998

## History of the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association

Jean Walker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly>



Part of the [Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Walker, Jean (1998) "History of the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association," *The Historic Huntsville Quarterly*.  
Vol. 24: No. 1, Article 3.

Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly/vol24/iss1/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Historic Huntsville Quarterly by an authorized editor of LOUIS.

# History of the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association

*by Jean Walker*

The Huntsville Pilgrimage Association, which celebrates its thirteenth anniversary this year, was the inspiration of Jayne Lowry and Leslie Crowson, partners in Huntsville Heritage Tours. On their travels to famous pilgrimage cities like Natchez and Savannah, they had found that Huntsville had as much or more to offer.

Their conviction was that Huntsville, which offers world-renowned exhibits in space exploration and rocket development, also affords beautiful historic areas rich in southern history. They found others in the community who shared their love of Huntsville and its historic past and organized the board of the Pilgrimage Association. That original board included Leslie Crowson, Jayne Lowry, Jack Burwell, Nell Bragg, Lynne Lowery, Bill Rutledge, Judy Ryals, Nanette Yarn, Alice Thomas, Christine Richard and Jean Walker. Margaret Strickland has served as secretary to the board.

The first Pilgrimage, which coincided with the blooming of the dogwoods, was held on April 13 and 14, 1985. The organization's objective was "To advance the appreciation and preservation of the historic heritage of Huntsville and Madison County." Everyone associated with this endeavor also realized the Pilgrimage's potential for bringing in tourists as a complement to the attractions already having an economic impact on the area.

Since that first Pilgrimage thirteen years ago, more than 120 homes in Huntsville's two historic areas and in Madison County have been open for tours. The tours have drawn tourists to our area and have also provided an opportunity for north Alabama residents to see Huntsville's history through the architecture and ambiance of beautiful old homes.

Proceeds from the Pilgrimage have been used for restoration and preservation of the historic area of Maple Hill Cemetery. When the Pilgrimage Association became aware of the need to protect this bit of Huntsville's history, which is victim to vandalism and disrepair, they worked with cemetery staff to supply craftsmen and materials for restoring historic

markers and the fences that surrounded their plots. Each year the Pilgrimage sponsors a stroll through the historic part of Maple Hill Cemetery, complete with period characters who explain their family history.

This April, when the dogwoods bloom again, the doors to more beautiful Huntsville homes will be opened for tours. The Huntsville Pilgrimage Association invites the *Quarterly's* readers to join the Pilgrimage of homes on Saturday, April 18 and the Maple Hill Cemetery stroll on Sunday, April 19.

### ***Huntsville Pilgrimage Association, 1997-1998***

Alice Thomas, President  
Vennette Charlton, Vice President  
Margaret Strickland, Secretary  
David Ely, Treasurer

Paula Brown  
Ron Cooper  
Margaret Belle Crow  
Ruth Ann Geer  
Margaret Henson  
Bertha Hereford  
Dr. John Rison Jones, jr.  
Jayne Lowry

Frank Moring  
Thomas R. Robinson  
Patricia Ryan  
Pam Stieglitz  
Perky Taylor  
Martha Vandiver  
Jean Walker  
Lisa Yokley

Marcia Cobun, Advisory Board Member  
Harvey Cotten, Advisory Board Member  
Lee Sentell, Advisory Board Member