Alabama Historical Commission

Historic Huntsville Foundation

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ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The loss of Harvie Jones to the historic preservation community in Alabama is immeasurable. In his quiet, unassuming way, no one has done more to help the people of our state understand and safeguard the places that they love. Harvie served on the Commission from 1973 to 1979, and for many more years on the National Register Review Board. Through that service his knowledge and thoughtful opinions guided the policies and the work of the staff.

But it is really through his work in the field that he distinguished himself to us. He prepared National Register nominations almost too numerous to count. He met us on the worst dirt roads and at the most inconvenient times to advise us and building owners on stabilization and restoration plans.

There is hardly a set of building specifications in the Commission office that does not have at its core an idea that Harvie freely gave. Most every drawn detail we use, and good preservation is all in understanding the details, came from something Harvie sketched and gave to us. Over the years, hundreds of envelopes from Harvie have arrived containing information in his almost illegible hand about buildings he had found or new preservation problems he had noticed.

His generosity to professionals and amateurs alike in sharing the insights he gained through many years of patient and loving study of Alabama’s historic architecture is simply beyond expression. This knowledge is one of the foundations from which we operate. In spite of Harvie’s good teaching, so freely given, we have not learned to go on without him.

Elizabeth Brown, Acting Director
Alabama Historical Commission
December 1998
An original drawing by Harvie P. Jones in a letter to his mother. Harvie was working on a two-bedroom design with a group of fellow Georgia Tech architecture students.

Courtesy Lynn Jones.
Photograph of Harvie P. Jones and his sister, Edith Jones, looking over model of two-bedroom house shown in drawing on page 4. Courtesy Edith Jones Ledbetter.
November 15, 1950

Mr. H. P. Jones
c/o Prof. Vernan Shipley
Architectural Department
Georgia Tech
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Jones:

Permit us to congratulate you on being the first prize winner in the recent design problem.

The LGM chair in red, offered as a first prize, is to be shipped to you in a day or two. We trust you will enjoy it. Thank you again for your fine cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

The HERMAN MILLER FURNITURE COMPANY

Letter of congratulations from the Herman Miller Furniture Company to Harvie P. Jones for his prize-winning solution to the design problem posed by the Miller company. Harvie referred to the chair as an Eames chair as seen in Life magazine and wrote to his mother that he "...wouldn't take $5000 for it." Courtesy Lynn Jones.
Photograph of the LCM chair awarded to Harvie as first prize by the Miller company. He gave the chair to his sister, Emily J. Good as a wedding present. Mrs. Good gave the chair to her daughter Leslie T. Good, PhD, associate professor and Director, Communications Studies Program, Portland State University in Oregon.

Courtesy of photographer Leslie T. Good.