

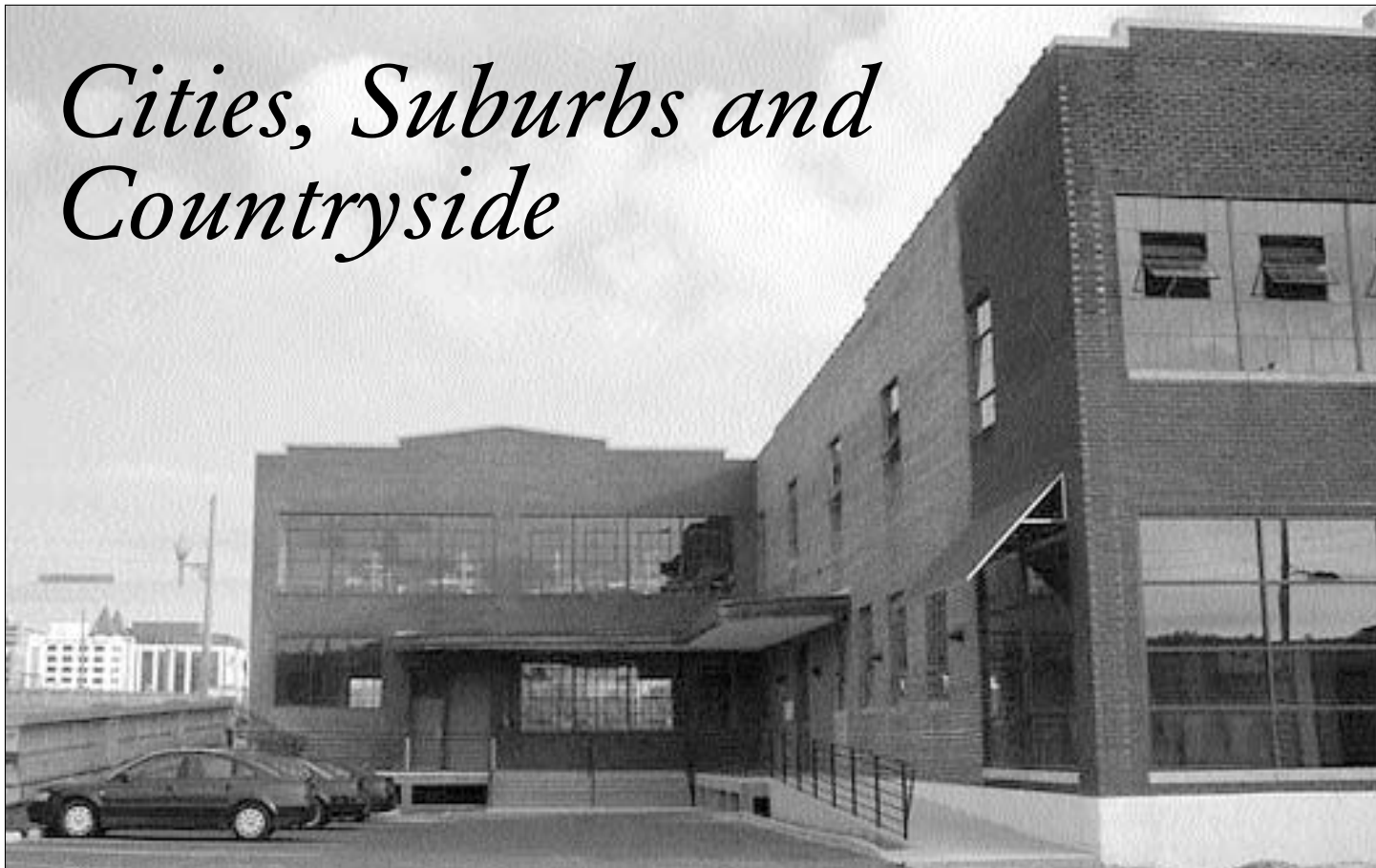
BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Preservation Week

May 2003

Cities, Suburbs and Countryside



The theme of Preservation Week 2003, *Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside*, calls on us to do all we can to recognize, save, and enhance the irreplaceable features that give our community its distinctive character.

Through its annual awards, Birmingham Historical Society salutes those individuals and corporations who are doing all they can to recognize, save, and enhance our spirit of place. Please join us for the awards presentation and tour on May 8.

Society Calendar

May 8, 2003 5:00 p.m.
Preservation Awards Presentation
Williams Blackstock Architects Offices
2204 Building
2204 First Avenue South
Followed by a reception and tour.

May 20, 2003 7:00 p.m.
Beyond the Picturesque
Lecture by Charles Birnbaum
Historic Landscape Initiative,
National Park Service
Virginia Samford Theater

Birmingham Historical Society 2003 PRESERVATION AWARDS

Nelson Manufacturing-V & W Supply
2204 Building, 1921, 1925
2204 First Avenue South, Southside

Williams Blackstock Architects moved to town from Liberty Park, choosing a plumbing warehouse for their new design studio. Their high-tech renovation raised the floor to accommodate heat and air and retained exposed concrete joists as well as the character-defining steel frame windows. Mexican workers knocked out, scraped, puttied, glazed, and replaced the 2,200 glass panes.

For preserving historic warehouse features in an innovative office environment
Architects/Owners: Williams Blackstock Architects; Bill Williams, Joel Blackstock

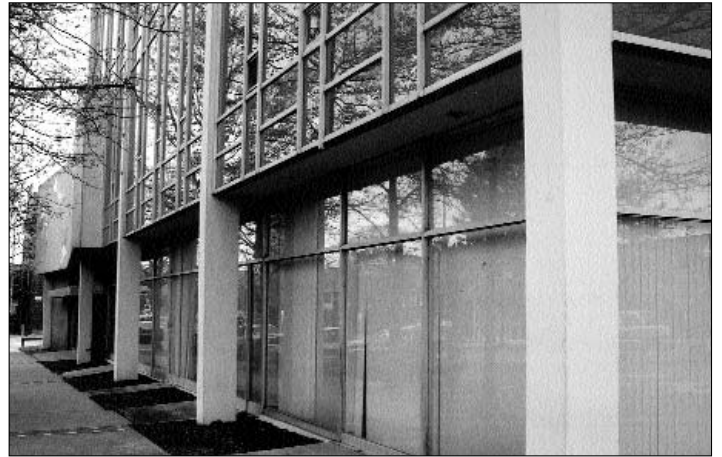
Contactor: Billy Harbert, Bill Harbert International Construction Inc;
Jim McGregor, Project Manager; Steve Creel, Project Superintendent.





A. G. Gaston Building & L. R. Hall Auditorium, 1959
Fifth Avenue North at 16th Street

Black entrepreneur A. G. Gaston consolidated diverse business enterprises (and his wife's business college) into this fine International style building, designed and constructed by a **St. Louis** firm. The Gaston Building included a 500-seat auditorium to accommodate conventions and social venues. The recent adaptation for commercial use recognized the value of this superb 1950s era building and maintained its architectural integrity.



For sensitive upgrading of Gaston's seminal headquarters
Owner: Dr. Richard Walker.

Developer: Bo Grisham, SouthPace Properties Inc.

Architect: Bob Moody, Moody & Associates.

Contractor: Charles & Vinzant; Charles Ferlisi, Project Manager; Andy Anderson, Project Superintendent.



Temple Emanu-El, 1911-1913
Highland Avenue at 21st Street South

When Emanu-El decided to restore its historic temple and provide significant new facilities for worship, education, administration, and parking, they did. The result is highly commendable. On the exterior, a new addition is clearly distinguished from the historic synagogue. Inside, a multi-story atrium provides an internal gathering space linking facilities. Within the synagogue, the original curved pews are back and equipped with speakers (no more dangling clusters!). The greatest challenge was working—at great heights—removing and reframing the copper sheeted dome.



For respecting and reviving the historic temple and for sensitive new construction

The Temple: Rabbi Jonathan Miller, Rabbi Scott Hausman.

Building Committee Co-Chairs: Ellen Elsas, Howard Dyer Smith.

Capital Campaign Committee: Jeffrey Bayer.

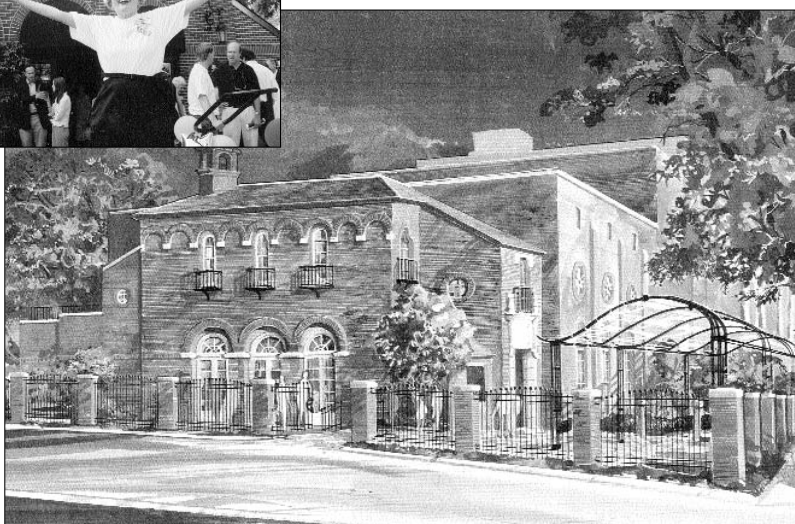
Architects: KPS Group; Murray Kidd, Project Manager; Susan Lineberry, Project Architect.

Contractor: Brasfield & Gorrie LLC; Jimmy Petus, Project Manager; David Harbison, Superintendent.

Photographer: David Bryant



Little-Clark-Virginia Samford Theater, 1927
26th Street at Caldwell Park



With the life of this grand theater in peril, actress, and arts administrator Cathy Gilmore took an option on the building. Virginia Samford Donovan, also an alumna of James Hatcher's Town & Gown Theater that performed here beginning in the 1950s, helped make possible the recent renovation. Today, the upgraded stage and facilities serve as the home of the Metro-politan Arts Council. The stage is alive again with multiple artistic venues.

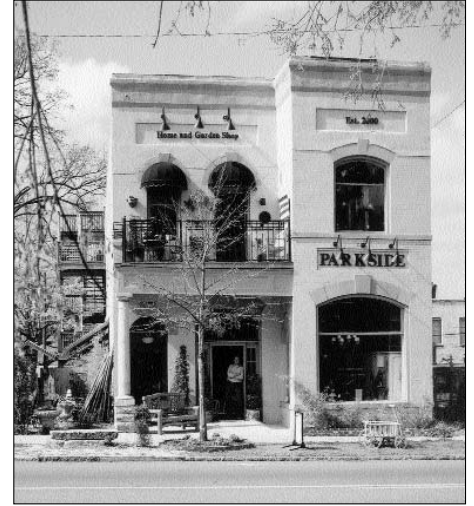
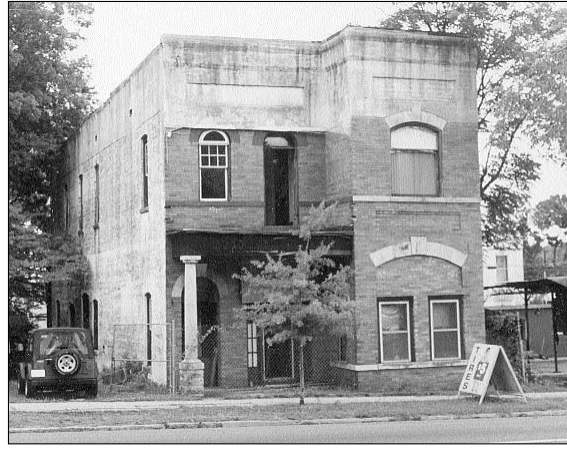
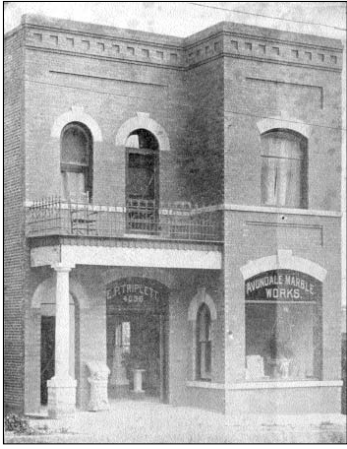
For preserving and invigorating the spirit of the place

Metropolitan Arts Council Director: Cathy Gilmore.

Major Benefactor: Virginia Samford Donovan.

Building Committee: Charles McCrary, Betty McMahon, Jim Miller, Garland Smith.

Project Manager: Floyd Harrell, Alabama Power Company.



Parkside Home & Garden Shop, 1900
4036 Fifth Avenue South, Avondale

Parkside originally as a marble works and showroom located along a busy streetcar route and across from Birmingham’s main park. In 1999, former New York merchandise buyer and Alabama native Tim Burt bought the condemned and dilapidated “one column building”, so nicknamed for its single marble column. Together with his carpenter, he restored original

features, including window openings which once again frame park views.

For bountiful efforts to enhance the historic showroom and its neighborhood
Owner & Proprietor: Tim Burt.
Master Carpenter: Ronald Aldredge, Anniston.

Highland Coffee Company, 1950s
2255 Highland Avenue



Architect Bill Pantsari calls the coffee house style “Retro-Modern.” His new construction salvaged structural clay tile walls and exterior sandstone for reuse in this new streamlined interior.

For raising the awareness of the 1950s architectural era
Principal Owner: Dr. Paul Roller.
Architect: Pantsari Architecture PC, Bill Pantsari.



Slater Sales, 1910s
2209-2211 First Avenue North

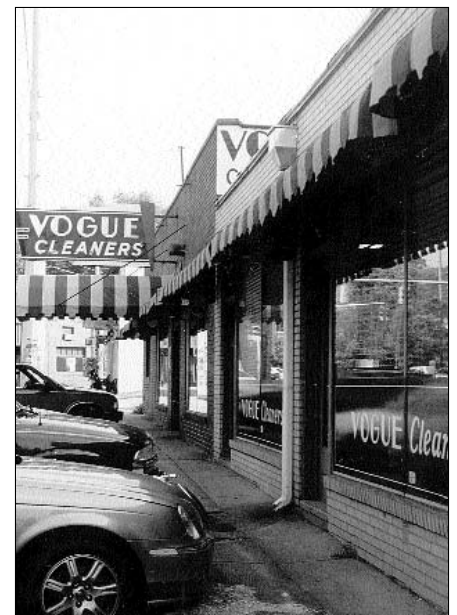
When Slater Sales, a retail clothing store, burned, limited fire insurance moneys were available to repair the damage. The result is a new “period” storefront that takes its cue from the surrounding and original buildings. The new storefront was built of solid mahogany and “from scratch” in an Avondale wood working shop.

For recreation of an historic wooden storefront
Owner: Barry Slater.
Architect: Giattina Fischer Aycock Architects Inc; Kyle D’Agostino, Project Architect.
Contractor: Larry Dipiano.

The Signs of Vogue Cleaners, 1949
910 23rd Street South, Southside

What a difference a few details make! Vogue Cleaners, a Southside landmark since 1949, recently repaired and repainted its historic neon signs as well as other painted signs on the premises.

For restoration of historic signage
Owner: Edward N. Burg, Jr.
Painter: Cleo Lyons.



NEW NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

Mountain Brook Estates Building, 1928

2803 Cahaba Road

Owners: Banks Robertson

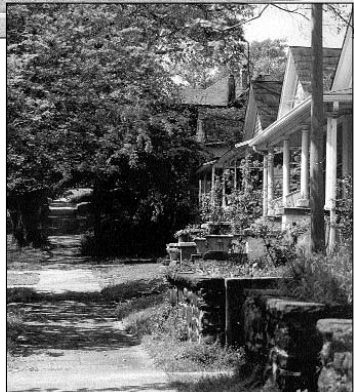
For listing this landmark on the National Register of Historic Places



Smithfield Historic District Expansion

For supporting the National Register of Historic Places Listing

Neighborhood Officers: Shirley Gavin Floyd, Maggie Johnson, Ruth Giles



Woodlawn Residential Historic District

For supporting the National Register of Historic Places Listing

Neighborhood Officers: Marylyn Creer, Bernetta Ann Eberhart, Adraina Northcutt

NEW BIRMINGHAM HISTORIC DISTRICTS



Avondale Park National Register Historic District

For seeking local historic district status

Neighborhood Officers: Catherine Browne, Sam Frazier, Jeff McGee

SPECIAL AWARDS



Newspaper Union-Magic City Casket Bldg., 1891

2229-2231 First Avenue South

In 2002, this modest corner building became home to the dynamic development team that is currently undertaking major renovations in the city center, and to architects and landscape professionals. The building has seen it all as its neighborhood has changed from residential, to red light, automotive and now professional uses. And, it probably never looked better.

For enhancing existing character with appropriate improvements

Developer: Corporate Realty Development LLC; Brian Giattina, Christopher Giattina, Jeff Golden, Robert Simon.

Architect: Giattina, Fischer Aycock Architects Inc; Project Architect, Christopher Giattina.

Architect, First Floor: Robert Walker Architects, Robert Walker.



Seaboard Saloon-Morton House & Garden, 1897

2131 First Avenue South, Southside

When sculptor Greg Morton and his wife Sheila bought their future home, it was open from the ground through the roof. The renovation features a new floor and an open plan, showcasing the original brick, tie rods, fireplaces, and original East Lake style mantles. The Morton compound now also includes a terraced garden, garage, and sculpture studio.

For creative residential use

Greg and Sheila Morton



V & W Plumbing-Nathan & Nathan, P.C., 1921

2215 First Avenue South, Southside

The Nathans –a husband and wife legal team– have two homes, one in Forest Park and one in a yellow brick building on First Avenue South, best

known as the V. & W. Wholesale Plumbing Supply House. Completed in November 2002, the reuse for legal offices retained significant features, including the massive windows flanking the front entrance, with its Art Deco surround, and an internal staircase, all the while introducing office use.

For preserving historic features

Owners/Developers: John & Donna Nathan.

Birmingham Historical Society

One Sloss Quarters

Birmingham, Alabama 35222

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