

THE ALABAMA TRUSTEE

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The Alabama Trustee encourages submissions of articles, photographs, and correspondence relating to historic preservation issues within the state of Alabama for consideration in its publication.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bryce Hospital billed as architectural and landscape treasure

When one thinks of Alabama, cutting edge architecture doesn't automatically come to mind. But, here in Alabama in 1861, a building was built in Tuscaloosa which with its architecture revolutionized the care of the mentally ill.

Bryce Hospital was the first institutional building in Alabama dedicated solely for the care of the mentally ill. This alone should be enough to preserve this grand old building.

When Bryce Hospital was first built, people from other areas came to look and study this then-unique design. Bryce is the oldest and most intact Kirkbride hospital still in existence.

At Bryce, the citizens of Tuscaloosa and Alabama have a wonderful opportunity to preserve not only historical cutting edge architecture but a historical landscape also. This is rare all across the U.S. but extremely rare here in Alabama. The landscape was part of the treatment at

Bryce, making it important also in the overall preservation of this complex.

It is true that Bryce has fallen into a regrettable state of disrepair, but it is not beyond saving. Perhaps our society's stigma attached to mental illness makes it hard to see Bryce as important as nearby Denny Chimes or the President's Mansion at the University of Alabama.

Citizens of Alabama need to wake up and recognize Bryce, and it's importance to the nation. Bryce Hospital should and must be restored and once again attract people from other areas to come study and marvel at the beautiful architecture and landscape. The Governor should support citizen efforts underway to study the situation to preserve this historic Alabama and National landmark before it's too late.

A concerned Citizen
Will Ponder
Dadeville, Alabama

ARCHITECTURE 101 TOURS MONTGOMERY



In May during Preservation Month, the Historic Architecture Group took an Architecture 101 class tour in downtown Montgomery.

The tour guide for the day was Robert Gamble with the Alabama Historical Commission.

Robert Gamble (shown center holding notepad) explains the placement of downtown buildings to Alabama Trust members.

