PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES:
A Scrapbook of Huntsville & Madison County, Alabama
Compiled by Elise Hopkins Stephens
A drive down memory lane with Tiffany Stephens.


Photo Credit: Bob Gathany, photographer – single copies of cover photo may be ordered from:
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Compiled by Elise Hopkins Stephens for THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION, INC.

"Quick, while no one's looking!" Margaret Anne Goldsmith Hanaw and Elise Stephens in the Big Spring, 1984.
Credit: Margaret Anne Goldsmith Hanaw/Malcolm Tarkington, photographer
Adelaide Eugenia Sledge (Bankhead), Tallulah's mother, leads the Flower Parade, 1895.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
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Compiled by Elise Hopkins Stephens

Assisted by Lynn and Harvie Jones
GRAPHIC DESIGN & PUBLISHING BY SHIRLEY CORBETT

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DEDICATION

This collection is dedicated to all of the volunteers who make Huntsville and Madison County such a special place to live, work, worship, and play. Their extra effort shows up in many of the following photographs. They are this community's greatest resource.

Mrs. Chessie Harris, the founder of Harris Home, takes time to help one of the hundreds of children she has befriended over the years. Credit: Huntsville Public Library
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Margaret Anne Goldsmith (Hanaw) in front of the Big Spring, with Cotton Row in the background, 1945.
Credit: Margaret Anne G. Hanaw
INTRODUCTION

PHOTOGRAPHS GO STRAIGHT TO THE HEART. They speak to us in a direct, compelling language. The photographs in this collection have been selected from thousands to capture the spirit of Huntsville and Madison County. They tell us who we were and who we are becoming. They reflect the personality of our community, what we value, the ways we work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A family all decked out for the 1920 July 4th celebration, in front of the Elks Building on Eustis across from Nativity. The Elks Building was demolished in 1967 to make a parking lot. Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
"Our water courses, clear as crystal, teemed with trout, bream, red-horse and salmon. Great droves of stately, bronze-breasted turkeys roamed in the forests; vast flocks of pigeons... darkened the air,... bears inhabited the canebrakes in the river bottoms; wild geese and wild ducks of a dozen varieties haunted our streams and ponds during the winter season."


"There was a time, less than twenty short years ago, when the river ran wild in flood and destruction during the heavy rains of the winter. When the rains stopped falling, the river ebbed to a lazy, powerless stream."

The Tennessee River at Ditto Landing.
Credit: George O'Reilly

A Sunday outing to Ditto Landing.
Credit: George O'Reilly
Whitesburg Bridge.
Credit: The Huntsville Public Library

Old Guntersville Ferry at the Tennessee River, about 1928.
Credit: The Huntsville Public Library
A stroll on Flint River Bridge.
Credit: Spraggins Collection / Huntsville Public Library

Bathing in the Flint.
Credit: George O'Reilly

Bridge over the Flint River.
Credit: George O'Reilly
Fishing in the Paint Rock.
Credit: Margaret Henson

High times in the Tennessee River bottom.
Credit: George O'Reilly

River Reflections.
Credit: Tony Triolo
Photography
THE COUNTY

"The land around Huntsville, and the whole of Madison County, of which it is the capital, is rich and beautiful as you can imagine; and the appearance of wealth would baffle belief." - Anne Royall

A school somewhere in the county. Place and date unknown.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

New Market's Flint River at flood stage.
Credit: Mary Frances McCrary

A picnic in New Market, 1890.
Credit: Mary Frances McCrary
Owens Cross Roads School, 1924.  
Credit:  
Ernest C. Smartt

Coca-Cola is big at Fisk, Alabama Store.  
Credit:  
Ernest C. Smartt

The first wedding held in the New Market Presbyterian Church after renovation in 1980.  
Credit:  
Saint Photographer / Mr. & Mrs. Charles N. Vandiver
Top – Madison, Alabama, circa 1917, before electric lines were installed. Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Bottom left – Old Madison High School at Gurley. Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
Bottom right – Herman & Laura L. Chandler in front of Harvest High School, circa 1920's. Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Jeff, Alabama home of Thompson Rucker Kelly, Sr. To his left, daughter Adalene Kelly (Hay), to his right Thompson Rucker Kelly, Jr. and Joshua Oscar Kelly, Jr., around 1950.

Credit: Dusty Rhodes, Photographer
(N.Y.City)/Mrs. John C. Hay, Jr.

A rural landscape.

Credit: Tony Triolo Photography
"You will expect something of this flourishing town. It takes its name from a man called Captain Hunt, who built the first cabin on the spot, where the Court House now stands, (in 1805). In front of this cabin, which was built on a hill bluff, there was a large pond, which is now nearly filled up by the citizens. Captain Hunt cleared a small field west of his cabin, the same year. This was between his cabin and the Huntsville Spring. He spent much of his time in waging (sic) war with the rattlesnakes, who were very numerous in his day, and had entire possession of the Bluff at the Spring..."

- Anne Royall
A constant complaint of Huntsville womenfolk was the use of the Courthouse fence as hitching posts.
Credit: George O'Reilly

A 1940 street scene, corner of Randolph and Washington.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Cars and street cars come to town. Looking south on Washington, early 1930's.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

A 1958 view of the third County Courthouse was designed by Architect C. K. Colley and built in 1913-1914. It was torn down in 1967 to make way for a "modern" structure.
Credit: Charles Kratsch, photographer

I-565 veers within walking distance of downtown.
Credit: The Huntsville Times

Feeding the pet deer on the Courthouse lawn, circa 1905. In 1913 the deer were placed at Kildare.
Credit: George O'Reilly
Top Left – The Big Spring Freezes, January 1898.
Credit: George O’Reilly

Middle left – Big Spring in late 1930’s.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Botton left – Big Spring in 1964 surrounded by the city.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Top right – Looking west from Echols Hill, about 1895.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Middle right – Downtown, 1958
Credit: Charles Kratsch

Bottom right – The Square, 1964.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Top left – The second Courthouse was designed by architect George Steele and completed in 1840. It lasted longer than its predecessor or its replacement, 1840–1913.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Middle left – First National Bank, a Steele design.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Bottom left – Southside Square, 1870's.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Top right – Eastside Square in 1902, when the streetcar tracks were laid.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Middle right – Northside Square after 1902, looking east.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Bottom Right – Looking at Southside Square after 1905, when the Confederate monument was laid.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
Below – May 3, 1939, on Northside Square C. C. Robinson of Brownsboro exhibits his prize-winning mules.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Above – Close-up day scene of Cotton Row.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Left – East Side Square in the late 1940's before parking meters were installed in 1949.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
The Mountains

"THE MOUNTAINS – MONTE SANO AND GREEN – looked like the humps of two great, dark whales in the mist, though here and there lights twinkled on their brushy brows. It all reminded me that a man can get lost in nature and that the sight of wilderness beauty can erase, for awhile, unpleasant memories and self-imposed pain. If any man doesn't believe in God, let him walk into dawn on a day in spring. Let him bend and smell the flowers, then let him raise his head toward heaven and have the first warm rays of light strike his face. Let him see the eastern sky turn from salmon pink to baby blue. Let him face the sun as that fiery ball rolls like a jeweled chariot over the mountain's top. Let him listen and watch as life begins."

*Bill Easterling, Voices on a Cold Day, 1986.*

"On top of the world," Anne Hertzler (Thomas) enjoys the view from Monte Sano with two friends.

*Credit: Charlie Thomas*
Left – Soldier’s Guardhouse, Monte Sano, 1888, attests to the mountain’s reputation as a health resort. 
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Below – Monte Sano Hotel, the jewel of the mountain, built in 1887, torn down in 1944. 
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Monte Sano Toll Gate Keeper's House.  Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

The view of Huntsville from Burritt Museum and Park, 1989.  Credit: The Huntsville Times
Dude Ranch, Monte Sano State Park. Credit: Huntsville Public Library

A harpist adds music to the natural beauty of Burritt Park.
Credit: Betty W. Jacks, photographer.

Sunrise Service at Monte Sano's Burritt Park.
Credit: Tony Triolo Photography.
“When one stands, as I have often done, as close as safety will permit to the launching of a giant space vehicle or the testing of some great rocket engine with its indescribable scream and hiss and roar, it is easy to feel a fierce pride in the power and purpose thus displayed. Here is man, reaching up to the floor of Heaven, striving to thrust his questioning fingers into the unfathomable spaces between the stars.”


Star gazing in the Lunar Odyssey at the Space and Rocket Center. Skylab in the 1970’s expanded our knowledge of the heavens. Credit: The Huntsville Times
President Eisenhower and Wernher von Braun at the dedication of the Marshall Space Flight Center.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Redstone Saturn V dock, Tennessee River, Huntsville.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
The Saturn C–1 leaves the launch pad in its first flight on October 27, 1961. Saturn is a project of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

Credit: NASA

Apollo II Splashdown celebration, July 24, 1969. Dr. Wernher von Braun and his son Peter proudly wave as they go past Central Bank of Alabama building on the westside Square.

Credit: Marshall Space Flight Center.
The famed Patriot Missile, defender in Desert Storm, was developed by Raytheon. Since this firing in 1986, the Patriot has become a major weapon in MICOM's arsenal. Morton Thiokol/Huntsville produced the rocket motor.  
*Credit: The Huntsville Times*

Space Shuttle, Enterprise, was the first built. It visited Huntsville but resides at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.  
*Credit: Dave Dieter/The Huntsville Times*
"Thomas has just come in from making mud cakes, perfectly happy and contented with himself and all the world."

April 14, 1887. Diaries of Susan Bradley White, Huntsville, Alabama 1875–1896

Grand children of Henry Claxton Binford, circa early 1900's. 
Credits: Cora Barley Binford
General Joseph Wheeler reviewing the troops, Dec. 1898. The famed 10th Cavalry fresh from victory in Cuba passes in review. Cavalry Hill was named for their encampment in the city.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Employees at Merrimack Mill on excursion to Chase in 1928. Excursions were popular and frequent.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Madison County school bus before the day of the yellow bus.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

The S. R. Butler School football team in 1908.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Sixty pound watermelons sold on The Square in the early 1930's.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Black children attended school in the early 1900's at the Masonic Hall of Evening Star, Number 6. Notice baseball bats and ball.

*Credit: Ann Maulsby*

A family picnic was big fun.

*Credit: George O'Reilly*

"Boys will be boys... and girls will be girls."

*Credit: Margaret Henson*
A graduation class circa 1890, standing before the Huntsville Female College on Randolph Street, which burned to the ground in 1895.

Credit: Malcolm Tarkington

Credit: Rosemary Little
Family Reunion of Rhoda Abernathy and David Dixon Barley, 1956, at the family farm north of Pulaski Pike. 
Credit: Cora Barley Binford

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
A Tom Thumb wedding!
Credit: Charlie Thomas

Playing in the snow.
Credit: Margaret Henson

A neighborhood party,
Twickenham, about 1930.
Credit: Margaret Hutchens Henson
L–R: Naomi (Tacky) Russel (Church), Polly Finley, Bill Bell, Betty Flack (Smith), Margaret Adcock (Drake), mascot Thelma Jean Hanvey.

Credit: Margaret Adcock Drake

East Clinton School celebrates May festival, 1949.

Credit: Julia Wynn King
East Clinton School's 1954 May Day Court includes Roberta Watts, Mike Hooper, Nancy Cummings, and Redge Swing. 
Credit: Julia Wynn King

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Sandra Diane McCarver and Joe Thomas Stinnett, Jr., Queen and King of the Rison School, 1957. Mrs. Evelyn H. Hodge was their 2nd grade teacher.

Credit: Rison School Alumni Association

Credit: Huntsville Public Library

German rocket scientists and their wives become American citizens in April, 1955.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Top – Paul "Bear" Bryant visits Huntsville for Honor America Day.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Credit: Bob Cathany, photographer
Top left – Autumn’s favorite past time, bicycling.
Credit: Tony Triolo Photography

Credit: Lynn Jones

Top right – The Huntsville Concert Band plays at Panoply. Dave Mendel is conducting.
Credit: Glenn W. Baeske, photographer/The Huntsville Times

Credit: Lynn Jones
Top left – Panoply, a community celebration of the arts, began in 1982. Credit: Dave Dieter/The Huntsville Times

Bottom left – Bud Cramer, now congressman, won his bid for District Attorney. Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Top right – Swinging on the front porch is an old tradition in Huntsville and Madison County. Credit: Tony Triolo

Middle right – Alabama A&M Marching Band. Credit: Tony Triolo/The Huntsville Times

Bottom right – John Stallworth and his son. Credit: Joyce Jones, photographer
Happy Times, School is out!
Credit: Tony Triolo Photography

Cotton Row Run, 1989, an annual event that attracts runners nationwide.
Credit: Glenn W. Baeske/The Huntsville Times

Desert Storm veteran Sgt. Thelma Wells waves "thank you" as she rides past thousands along the parade route, Wednesday, June 12, 1991.
Credit: Alan Warren/The Huntsville Times
Some Sad Times Too

"July 5, 1878. From this day as long as I live I expect to record the passing events of my family. In the wisdom of God, we have passed through some sad, sad times of late."

*Diaries of Susan Bradley White, Huntsville, Alabama 1875 to 1896.*

Early morning fire destroys the old Dallas Mill Building, July 24, 1991. Credit: Eric Schultz/The Huntsville Times
Top – Joe Bradley funeral procession.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Middle – This tree on Adams Street was finally cut down to make way for traffic.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt

Bottom – A funeral at The Church of the Nativity on Eustis and Green Streets.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
Geese stroll amidst old Huntsville Hotel fire debris.  
*Credit: Huntsville Public Library*

On the northwest corner of the Square, the Huntsville Hotel fire rages, November 11, 1910.  
*Credit: George O'Reilly*

Fire destroys Huntsville-Madison County Fair Grounds in 1935.  
*Credit: George O'Reilly*
Cows trapped in the swollen Tennessee River, early 1900's.
Credit: George O'Reilly

Flood waters at Owens Cross Roads mean disaster for many.
Credit: Tony Triolo Photography

At Maple Hill Cemetery, a candlelight Christmas vigil at the graves of the unknown Confederate soldiers.
Credit: Dave Dieter/
The Huntsville Times
Alabama State Trooper Darryl Dalrymple recovers an American flag from the rubble of Gates Cleaners in the Whitesburg Shopping Center at Whitesburg and Airport Road.

Credit: Glenn W. Baeske/The Huntsville Times

A tattered flag flies from the back window of a car parked at Westbury Mall on Airport Road.

Credit: Dave Dieter/The Huntsville Times

Scene of Airport Road looking west.

Credit: Glenn W. Baeske/The Huntsville Times
Huntsville students write letters to the troops in the Persian Gulf War, 1991.

*Credit: The Huntsville Times*
SPECIAL PLACES & FACES

"WHEN I VISIT HUNTSVILLE THESE DAYS, I walk the malls and sit in cafes looking for faces that no longer exist.... I never expected time to stand still. None of us did. I also never expected to be remembering so many things about our lives and our town that no longer exist. People change, buildings change, and so do towns. I know that now. Memories are not supposed to.... Most of my memories of my childhood are smiles today.... I have since then learned that some of the greatest friends I would ever know were the people with which I shared my life during my high school days.... Today I wouldn't trade them for the world. The times we shared were also very special."

Tommy Towery,
A Million Tomorrows... Memories of the Class of '64, 1990.
Parade rest!
The Madison Rifles, organized in 1855, part of the Seventh Alabama Infantry in the Civil War, is here pictured by the First National Bank on the Square.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Crew laying wire for Huntsville's first electric system, circa 1887-1890.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

"Uncle Matt", a well-known figure on Huntsville streets, drives his team with friendly pride. In 1899 he drove down the streets of Manhatten in the Spanish-American War victory parade as the mascot of the 69th New York Infantry which had been stationed in Huntsville.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
Right – Dilworth Lumber Company (circa 1890), still doing business in 1991 at Church and Depot.
Credit: Penn Dilworth

Below – The Huntsville Fire House in City Hall on Clinton Street after 1892.
Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
At the corner of Holmes and Church, the heavyset man is Joseph Bradley. Credit: Huntsville Public Library.

Students at William H. Councill High School, about 1915. Credit: Ann Maulsby
Right – Merrimack employees, before child labor laws passed.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Below – Interior of Dunnivant’s Department store on Washington at Clinton in 1914.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Left – Harrison Brothers
Hardware store on the Square,
1908.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Below – Merrimack Mill workers pose for their picture, 1926.
Credit – Springs Industries, Inc.
Completed in 1892, the City Hall housed the fire engines. It was located on the corner of Clinton and Washington where an earlier City Hall had been built in 1874.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library

A touch of New Orleans or Mobile, the McGee Hotel built in 1877 on the corner of Jefferson and Clinton, was the prettiest hotel in Huntsville, until it burned down in 1924.

Credit: Ernest C. Smartt
A busy Huntsville passenger and freight depot in the 1930's.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Below: Built in 1888-90, the majestic Federal Post Office building between Eustis and Randolph on Green Street was destroyed to make room for a parking lot in 1954.
Credit: Dr. Frances Roberts
Above – Carnegie Library was a prince of a building. Built in 1915, it served until 1966 when destroyed to make room for the first municipal parking garage.

Credit: Joyce Jones, photographer

The Carnegie Library reading room had a touch of home about it. Notice the dog.

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Above: An old fashioned Book Mobile that opens on the side.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Left – Grunches and Grins, the Huntsville Public Library’s popular story-telling combo, seen on Alabama Public TV. From L. to R. Pyxamella – Patti Reny, Tyro B. Ginner – Patti Reny, and Miss Sara – Sara McDaris.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Right – Mr. W.T. Adcock, president of the local CIO Union, and H. S. Williams, State Director, visit with David Cason of the Card Department at Lincoln Mill.
Credit: Margaret Adcock Drake

Below – Huntsville Police Force in 1939.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Employees of the Russel Erskine Hotel posing for a picture on the roof, about 1940.
Credit: Cora Barley Binford

A popular eating place, the Russel Erskine Hotel Coffee Shop. The head waiter, Franklin, is serving watercress salad.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Top – Lakeside Methodist Church Congregation members, 1946.
Credit: Cora Barley Binford

Bottom – First Methodist Church congregation.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
In June, 1931, led by Thomas Quick and the Jaycees, Huntsville christened a new airfield, 150 acres west of Alabama Street, between Bob Wallace and Thornton. It was called Mayfield Aviation Field. Boys with their autos survey the terrain which appears too rough for auto or plane!  

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Above – West Clinton School, 4th grade class, 1950.
Credit: Julia Wynn King

Tallulah Bankhead, a native of Huntsville, returns for a guest appearance at the Arsenal. To the left is popular mayor R.B. "Speck" Searcy.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Since 1914, the Lyric Marquee has summoned attention on Washington Street. Destroyed by fire in 1930, it was rebuilt immediately.

Credit: Franklin Bryson, photographer/Huntsville Public Library
The McKee family watches as history rolls slowly by. The Humphrey-Rodgers House as of March, 1991 is a part of Constitution Hall Village, having been moved from its original moorings on the northwest corner of Clinton and Monroe.

Credit: Michael Mercier/The Huntsville Times

Christopher Lang teaches cabinet making skills at Constitution Hall Park Village, 1991.

Credit: Michael Mercier/The Huntsville Times
Dr. William Henry Burritt at his Monte Sano home which he bequeathed to the city of Huntsville for a museum.

Credit: The Huntsville Times
Above left – The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra’s third conductor, Dr. Marx Pales.
Credit: Buel Case Studio

Above right – Enjoying boating on the Tennessee River, Russell Gerhart was the second conductor of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Above – The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1954 by Alvin Dreger, first chair cellist and its first conductor, Dr. Arthur Fraser, pictured above, performing in the Huntsville High School auditorium in the late 1950’s. Then called The Huntsville Civic Orchestra, it became nationally recognized under the baton of Dr. Marx Pales. Credit: Dr. William A. Kates, Jr./E. Price, photographer.
Above – The Bavarian Sauerkrauts play at Gazebo Concerts. Pictured are L. to R. Dave Pitfield, Bianca Cox, and Werner Smock. Bianca Cox started these enormously popular Monday evening summer events in 1986.

Credit: Glenn Baeske, photographer/The Huntsville Times


Credit: Elfriede Richter-Haaser
Above – Civic, space, and rocket leaders: L. to R. Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger, James R. Record, Sr., Chairman of the Madison County Commission, Joe Davis, Mayor, Maj. Gen. Edwin Donley, MICOM, Eberhard Rees, and Wernher von Braun, MSFC – NASA.

Credit: The Huntsville Times

Right – Monkeynaut Miss Baker minus Able, her partner, who accompanied her when they made history as the first living creatures to complete a flight in the American space program, May 28, 1959. Here she is 25 years older.

Credit: The Huntsville Times
Upper Left – Miss Baker's tombstone stands along the walk, under the trees at the Space and Rocket Center.
Credit: Dave Dieter/The Huntsville Times

Below – Former Astronaut John Glenn with Jeff Swing, a camper at Space and Rocket Center's Space Camp.
Credit: Dave Dieter/The Huntsville Times
Upper Right – A landmark at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.
Credit: Tony Triolo Photography

Credit: Huntsville Public Library
Left – Dr. Peter Yu at Huntsville Hospital performs Alabama's first nuclear-powered pacemaker-implant surgery on Mrs. Jacqueline O'Leary, a Huntsville Police Department safety patrolwoman, December 21, 1976.
Credit: Joyce Jones, photographer

Credit: The Huntsville Times
Historic Councill Home Economics Building atop Alabama A&M's campus has been renovated and renamed, April 1990. It houses the State's Black Archives Research Center and Museum.

Credit: Eric Schultz/The Huntsville Times
Huntsville Madison County Library, the busiest place in town, was opened in 1987.
Credit: Michael Mercier/The Huntsville Times
Right – Anthony Sansone at the City Shoe Shop, 110 Holmes Ave, 1980's.
Credit: Huntsville Public Library

Credit:
Margaret Anne Hanaw/
Malcolm Tarkington, photographer
Above – Oakwood College’s world famous recording group, "Take 6," 1989.  Credit: Glenn W. Baeske/The Huntsville Times

Below – Twins Anne and Sarah Clark enjoy the swans at the Huntsville-Madison County Botanical Garden’s party. Their Aunt Nolan Clark named the swans Flora and Fauna Aussie.  Credit: Glenn W. Baske/The Huntsville Times
HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION, INC.
established 1974
a non-profit, citizen organization
dedicated to historical awareness
and architectural preservation.