

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEDIA RELEASE



The Alabama Historical Commission **protects, preserves, and interprets** Alabama's historic place and is the State Historic Preservation Office.

www.ahc.alabama.gov

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A PROJECT IN JEFFERSON COUNTY APPROVED FOR FEDERAL TAX CREDITS

In September 2016 the Lyric Theatre project in Birmingham, Alabama, was approved by the National Park Service for the twenty-percent federal rehabilitation tax credit program.



The Lyric Theatre building is a contributing resource in the Downtown Birmingham Retail and Theatre Historic District.

The concrete frame and masonry structure was constructed in 1914 by real estate developer Louis V. Clark for use as a vaudeville theatre and adjoining office building. Performers such as the Marx Brothers, Mae West, and Sophie Tucker entertained audiences through the 1930s. It was then used as a movie theatre until its closure in the 1980s.



After sitting vacant and deteriorating for several decades, a full rehabilitation of the theatre

began in 2014. The lobby area was restored, and a new concessions area was created in the former retail spaces. Artisans painstakingly restored and repainted the existing decorative plaster in the auditorium and replicated sections that were missing. New lighting, heating and air systems, and seating completed the transformation of this incredible performing arts center.

The National Park Service oversees the Preservation Tax Incentive program jointly with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). To qualify, the building has to be listed in the National Register, either individually or in a historic district. Additionally, the property must be used for income-producing purposes. For more information concerning standards and guidelines please visit www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm and http://preserveala.org/taxcredits.aspx?sm=i_b

The Alabama Historical Commission manages the program for the National Park Service in the state of Alabama. The Commission administers the federal restoration guidelines so the historic materials and look of the building remain.

Renovating and reusing these historic buildings is a win-win situation for the owner and the community.

To learn more about the tax incentive, visit www.preserveala.org/taxcredits.aspx or contact Chloe Mercer at 334-230-2669/ chloe.mercer@preserveala.org.

About the Alabama Historical Commission

Located in historic downtown Montgomery at 468 S. Perry Street, the Alabama Historical Commission is the state historic preservation agency for Alabama. The agency was created by an act of the state legislature in 1966 with a mission of safeguarding Alabama's historic buildings and sites. The Commission is tasked with the acquisition and preservation of historic properties and educating the public about historic sites in Alabama. For a complete list of properties owned and operated by the AHC, hours of operation, and admission fees please visit www.ahc.alabama.gov

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