

SCOTTSBORO-JACKSON HERITAGE CENTER



SCOTTSBORO-JACKSON HERITAGE CENTER

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Visit us on the web at sjhc.us

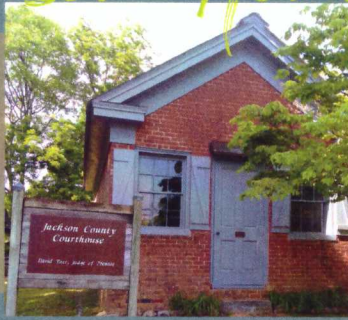
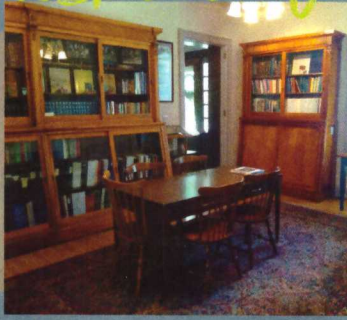
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Bringing the Past to the Future

THE SCOTTSBORO-JACKSON HERITAGE CENTER IS BOTH A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MUSEUM DEDICATED TO
PRESENTING AND PRESERVING THE RICH HISTORY, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS AND ART OF JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA.

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Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center



Research

The Center receives hundreds of researchers and historians every year. Patrons come from all over the country to research the genealogy of their Jackson County ancestors in the Walter B. Hammer, Jr. Library. They also use it for historical information on Jackson County to write research papers and articles. The Library and Little Courthouse are the proud home of Jackson County's early public records, dating as far back as 1820. They contain records such as Chattel Mortgages, Commissioner's Court, Chancery Court, Circuit Court and Orphan's Court. In addition, the Center possesses many newspapers, medical ledgers, store ledgers, maps, veteran's records dating back to early American wars, area histories and family histories. All of these records are indexed. The Center's website, sjhc.us, contains the Jan Boyd Robert's Deaths Database, in which researchers can find the name of their ancestor, the newspaper in which their obituary appeared and the date in which it appeared. Researchers can then come to the Heritage Center to view the digitized version of their ancestor's obituary. All of our old Jackson County newspapers have been digitized and are searchable by keyword on the computer. The Library also has access to records on Ancestry.com. Staff is always available to help with research.



Every year the Scottsboro Museum Commission hosts Holiday Open House. Delicious food is served along with the entertainment of local bands including a youth choir, community band, students from the Ben Sanford Boy's and Girl's Club, Les Hutson and the John Lovelady Family. Decorations are provided by the Scottsboro Garden Club.

Tours

The museum is composed of three separate exhibit areas: The Brown-Proctor House, the pioneer village named Sagetown and the Little Courthouse. A complete tour takes visitors back in time over 12,000 years when Native Americans first entered Jackson County. Visitors hear the history of the



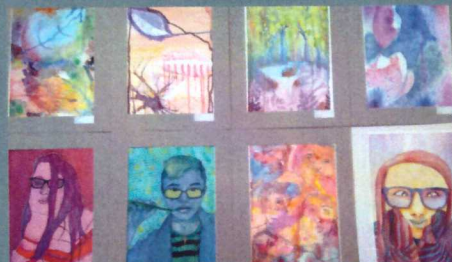
house and view various exhibits throughout. Upon entering the Little Courthouse, visitors learn about the establishment of Jackson County and its various county seats. Exploring the pioneer village, Sagetown, visitors see what pioneer life was like when Jackson County was first settled.

Events

The Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center is host to many events, including the Spring Art Exhibit, Holiday Open House, Santa at the Center, the Ice Cream Social for the Chamber Business After Hours, the lectures for Jackson County Leadership and meetings for the Scottsboro Book Club, the Scottsboro Garden Club and the Jackson County Master Gardeners. The Center has hosted Heritage Days, in which pioneer



Hundreds of children and their families come to the Heritage Center each year to have their picture made free with Santa Claus.



The Heritage Center hosts the Annual Spring Art Exhibit on Mother's Day to celebrate the artistic achievements of our young people in the local school systems. The Sidewalk Art Competition is held in conjunction with this event.

life is re-enacted in Sagetown, and the Native American Festival, in which Native Americans perform dances and demonstrations. The public is invited to most all of these events. The Center also hosts weddings, receptions, showers, teas, birthday parties, family reunions, other club meetings, picnics, memorial services, wakes and many other functions.

From the Past...

History



The Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center is located inside the Brown-Proctor House

The beautiful neoclassical Brown-Proctor House was built in 1881 by John A. Brown. Two similar homes were built by the Brown family within blocks of each other. As a result of the close proximity of the family homes and their dedication to the Episcopal Church, the area was known as "Episcopal Hill."

The Brown-Proctor House was advertised for sale in 1882.

The local newspaper described the house as

A new two-story brick residence in the town of Scottsboro, with six rooms besides spacious halls, on a beautiful lot of ground containing two acres- good well, barn and stables- fine garden, young fruit trees, and all the conveniences that good taste and energy could secure. The residence and improvements are just completed in modern style, and cost in cash, beside the labor of the owner, \$3,200.00. He will make a sacrifice to secure the sale of this property.

Mr. A. W. Brooks purchased the property in 1883 and then sold it to General John R. Coffey in 1884. General Coffey had returned to Jackson County after the Mexican-American War and became a leading citizen and the largest land owner in the county. The General died in 1896. Ownership of the house passed to his daughter, Sarah Coffey Brown. Sarah was married to Charles W. Brown who served as a representative and senator in the Alabama Legislature.

In 1907, John Franklin Proctor purchased the house. Earlier, Mr. Proctor served as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, the Alabama Senate and the Constitutional Convention of 1901. Mr. Proctor was a solicitor in Scottsboro until his death in 1939. Following Mr. Proctor, two more generations of Proctor lawyers lived in the house.

Mr. Proctor extensively remodeled and enlarged the house between 1907 and 1911. Additional bedrooms, modern bathrooms, a new staircase and a new kitchen were built. The neoclassical portico was also added at this time.



The Brown-Proctor House was vacated in 1974. Maintained in good repair until that date, it was vandalized over the following years.

Acquired by the Scottsboro Museum Commission in 1981, the house was restored and is now listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*, the *Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage* and the *Alabama Tapestry of Historic Places*.



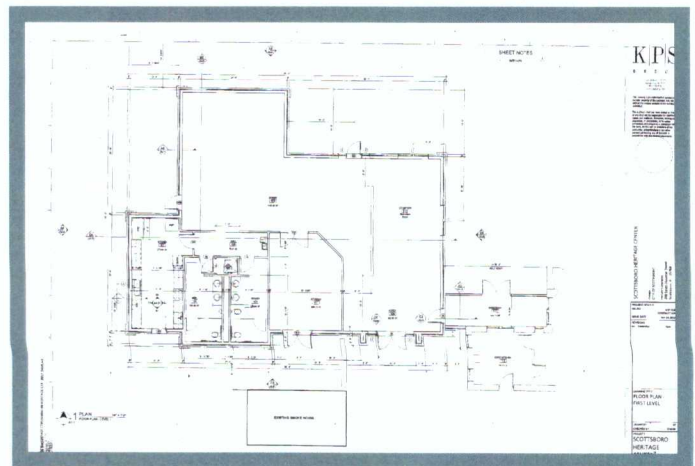
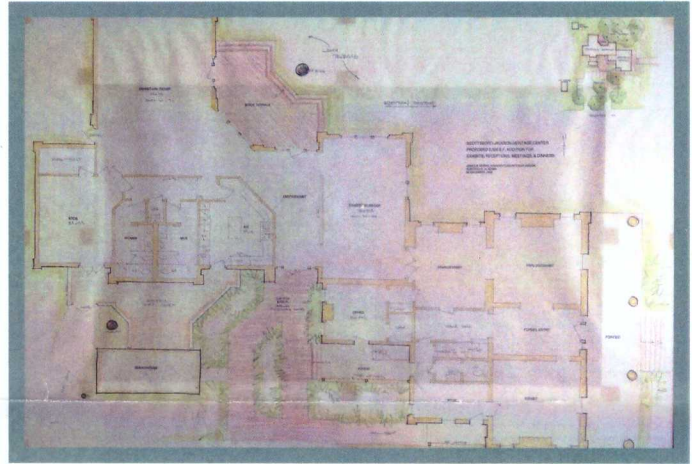
...To the Future

Vision

Since the inception of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center, plans for a 3,000 square foot addition have been in place. This space would be beneficial to the community in that it would host larger exhibits for students and families to see. For example, these exhibits would come from places like the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Bicentennial Commission.

The addition would provide meeting space to fit 200 to 250 people comfortably. This would bring more lectures, meetings and events to downtown Scottsboro.

The 3,000 square foot addition will include handicapped access, two large meeting rooms, bathrooms, a kitchen and storage. It will also offer the Heritage Center to expand its Research Library



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE AND HELP US IN ACHIEVING OUR VISION AND GOAL OF ADDING AN ADDITION TO YOUR MUSEUM TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR PRESERVING OUR RICH HISTORY, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS AND CULTURAL ARTS SO THAT WE MAY SHARE IT WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Without learning from our past, we cannot hope to be successful in advancing our future.