

# Prentiss Club Rescue — 1976

In 1928, the Prentiss Club disbanded and sold its headquarters, which became a Masonic Temple, a use it enjoyed until it was sold to Deposit Guaranty National Bank in 1973. In 1976, the Prentiss club came very close to being demolished for a bank parking lot.

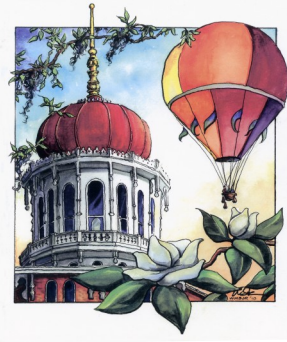
Learning of the proposed demolition, concerned citizens mounted a campaign to save the building. At that time, the Natchez Preservation Commission had no authority to deny demolition, since the city’s outdated preservation ordinance protected only pre-Civil War buildings.

A petition drive and a large meeting of concerned citizens proved successful in getting the bank to grant a stay of execution,” recalls Ron Miller, executive director emeritus of the Foundation.

“The bank gave our group only two months to find a buyer but set a reasonable price.” As the weeks went by, my wife Mimi and I became more and more panicked that we might have to buy the building and live in it, with no money to even pay the utilities.”

Sisters Helen Spencer and Dorothy Covington and sister-in-law Miriam Montgomery stepped forward and bought the building. Their families owned and preserved it for approximately thirty years, before selling it to Buzz Harper. The Prentiss Club is today owned by Bob Dean of Baton Rouge, who owns the Eola Hotel and uses the Prentiss Club as his Natchez residence and an adjunct hotel facility.

## Balloon Race shirts and posters



The Great Mississippi River Balloon Race had a successful year in logo sales. Good weather and a great design by Natchez native William Smith combined for record sales.

The Historic Natchez Foundation still has a few 2010 Balloon Race shirts available for Christmas gifts but sizes are limited to adult XXX, XX, and children.

The Longwood Gift Shop has a good selection of 2010 short sleeve sizes at reduced prices. Call Longwood’s Gift Shop at 601-442-5193 to check on sizes and price.

The Foundation office has 2010 posters and posters from approximately ten previous years. Staff members are happy to provide a free tube to make it easier to gift wrap the poster.



*“Hearts resolved and Hands Prepared, the Blessings They Enjoy to Guard.” Smollett*  
DECEMBER 2010  
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

# HNF Annual Meeting set for Thursday, December 9



The Historic Natchez Foundation will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Prentiss Club at 211 N. Pearl St. The meeting begins with a cocktail reception from 5:30 to 6:30 that is free and open to the public. The foundation encourages all who come to bring a friend. The Eola Hotel is co-sponsoring the meeting.

At 6:30 p.m., the foundation will host a short meeting for the election of board members and presentation of awards, followed by a short presentation by the Mississippi Museum of Art

about upcoming Natchez Day on January 8. The meeting will end with a short presentation by Robert Ogle of Lamar Community College in Colorado, who will discuss the economic benefits of a preservation school in Natchez under the auspices of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Joining representatives from the Mississippi Museum of Art as special guests are staff members of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which initiated the discussions about starting a preservation

craftsman program in Natchez.

Other organizations participating in the ongoing discussion and planning for such a program include Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez National Historical Park, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the Historic Natchez Foundation.

The meeting should adjourn before 8:00 p.m. No reservations are necessary. Members and guests who would like transportation, please call the foundation office at 601 442-2500.  
(See related story on page 4)



## Prentiss Club built in 1904

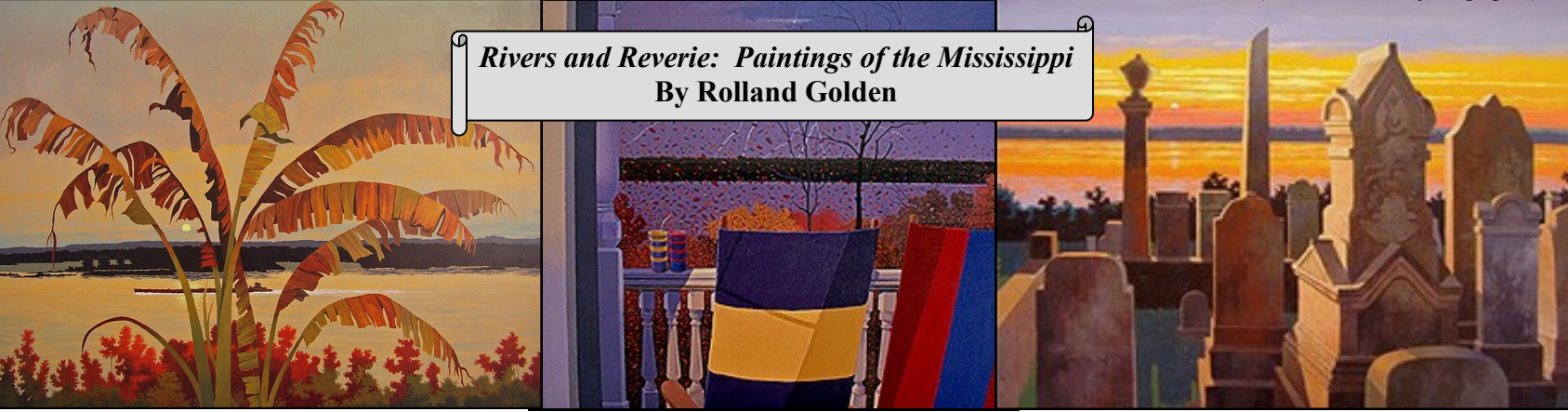
The Prentiss Club’s official charters dates to 1903 and states that the club was created for “social and literary purposes only.” Its charter members were Approximately half Jewish and half Gentile. The club was named for Seargent Smith Prentiss, a Natchez attorney, U. S. Congressman, and nationally acclaimed orator, whose portrait bust adorns the façade.

The architectural firm of Soule and MacDonald of New Orleans designed the building, which was built by local contractors Stietenroth and Dowda. The building was first occupied in May 2005. Its Second Renaissance Revival style was popular for private clubs in America.

The first story were originally used as a library, club room, and billiard room. The upstairs consisted of a ballroom, three cards rooms, and a dining room. The basement housed the kitchen, bowling alley, and shooting gallery. Other original features included speaking tubes and dumb waiter that ran from the basement kitchen to the second-story dining room. Located at the rear were a swimming pool and bath house. (See related story on page 4)

# Mississippi Museum of Art - Natchez Day - January 8

(See related story on page 3)





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	<b>Alan Perkins</b> Cynthia Bailey
	<b>Betty Thornhill</b> Rife Family
	<b>Frances Trosclair</b> Cynthia Bailey

## 2010 Foundation Awards

<b>Mary Postlethwaite History Award</b> <b>Natchez City Cemetery Association</b> Angels on the Bluff
<b>St. Mary Basilica Archives Committee</b> Preservation of St. Mary’s Archives and Website
<b>George M. D. Kelly Restoration Award</b> <b>Bob Adams</b> Restoration of 209 Arlington Avenue
<b>Marlon and Charlotte Copeland</b> Restoration of Sweet Auburn
<b>Doug Horne</b> Restoration of Springfield
<b>Greg Iles</b> Restoration of Edelweiss
<b>Natchez City Cemetery Association</b> Restoration of Cistern Houses
<b>Maureen Radzewicz</b> Restoration of Tower, 313 Clifton Avenue
<b>Mac and Teri Thomas</b> Restoration of Laurietta Plantation
<b>Special Merit Awards</b> <b>Lindsey and Katherine Callon</b> Removal of Siding, 401 South Pearl Street
<b>Concordia Bank and Trust Company</b> Design of Drive-Through, 300 Main Street
<b>Glenn and Bridget Green</b> Restoration of 608 Oak Street
<b>Lucy Miller and Skip Denet</b> Porch Restoration, 307 North Union Street
<b>Sis Salmon and Amelia Salmon</b> New Construction, 404 North Pearl Street
<b>Cappy and Judy Stahlman</b> Renovation and Courtyard, 503 Franklin Street
<b>Linda Wilborn</b> New Construction, 411 North Commerce Street

2010 Honorariums

Peggy Pipes Peabody

Mr. and Mrs. David McKenzie

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Blount

Clinton Bagley

Mike Blattner

Mr. and Mrs. Randall L Smith

# Mississippi Museum of Art to host Natchez Day, Jan. 8

In partnership with the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Mississippi Museum of Art will celebrate Natchez in conjunction with the exhibit *River and Reverie: Paintings of the Mississippi* by artist Rolland Golden.

The Mississippi Museum of Art invites citizens of Natchez to view the new museum and participate in museum events that celebrate the city. During the first week of 2001, current and

former residents of Natchez will receive free admission to the exhibition. The week will culminate on Saturday, January 8, with a day of activities planned to host Natchezians as well as others who feel connected to the river city.

Planned activities include brunch and bloody Marys at the museum with an illustrated lecture by Natchez native Joanna Biglane McNeel on the historical art of Natchez. brunch with illustrated

lecture by Natchez native Joanna Biglane McNeel on historical art of Natchez. Natchez artist Rolland Golden and curator Daniel Pierson will direct a

