



“HEARTS RESOLVED AND HANDS PREPARED, THE BLESSINGS THEY ENJOY TO GUARD.” Smollett

January 2003

A Publication of the Historic Natchez Foundation

Natchez, Mississippi

## Foundation to host reception tonight, Thursday, January 23, at Magnolia Vale

The Historic Natchez Foundation will hold its annual meeting from 5:30 to 8:00 on Thursday night, January 23 at Magnolia Vale. The public is invited to attend.

Awards and elections begin the meeting, followed by a cocktail reception for the public to meet

the new superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park, Keith Whisenant and his wife Patricia.

A membership table will be available for those who wish to join or to renew their memberships.

The Foundation will also display furniture from the new Ficks Reed Natchez

Collection. Ficks Reed, based in Cincinnati, is an established upper-end manufacturer of rattan and wicker furniture.

Shuttle bus transportation is available to Magnolia Vale, located on the river front at the end of Learned Mill's Road. See story below for details.

### Shuttle bus transportation available for meeting

A shuttle bus will run continuously from 5:15 to 8:15 from the paved parking lot on the western side of Broadway Street between Cock of the Walk Restaurant and the old

Natchez Pecan Company to the front door of Magnolia Vale.

Those who want to drive their own cars may park outside the entrance gates to the Magnolia Vale

driveway.

People with special needs may park at the side or rear of the house, but the driveway and circular drive need to remain clear for the shuttle bus.

### Nominees proposed for 2003

The Foundation's nominating committee, chaired by Bill McGehee, proposed the following officers and board members:

Officers proposed to join 2003 President Edie Christian are Peter Burns (President Elect), Sherry Jones (Secretary), and Dennis Switzer (Treasurer).

Proposed new board members are Darryl Grennell, Carol Hobdy, Larry Holder, & Edward Killelea.



*Howard and Peggy Peabody dance at a benefit event for the Historic Natchez Foundation aboard the Delta Queen in 1980, six years after they held the first election of the Foundation's Board of Directors at their home, Magnolia Vale.*



*Magnolia Vale before it was destroyed by fire in 1946. The current house occupies the footprint of the older house and was designed by Koch and Wilson of New Orleans. This view includes a small portion of the elaborate Brown's Gardens, which were well known to river travelers.*

## First board of directors elected at Magnolia Vale

“The Historic Natchez Foundation elected its first Board of Directors at Magnolia Vale in 1974,” said Foundation executive director Ron Miller.

“Howard and Peggy Peabody, owners of Magnolia Vale, were instrumental in founding the Foundation, and they have again generously offered the use of their house for the election of our thirtieth board of directors.”

“We also want to recognize the Peabody family's

donation of a preservation easement on Magnolia Vale to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.”

“This year, as the Foundation returns to the site of its first election of directors, we will be reflecting on the bold vision of our founders.”

“Many of us will be thinking particularly of Howard Peabody and Tom Gandy, both of whom have experienced health problems in recent months.”



## Foundation to give awards for 2002 preservation work

Natchez residents continue to invest in preserving and restoring historic properties, although both the national and local economies are sagging. The Foundation will recognize these efforts at its annual meeting on January 23.

### Joe Stone

Joe Stone will receive the George M. D. and Ethel Kelly Restoration Award for the restoration of the Joseph Stone House, which has been owned by members of the Stone family since 1877.

The earliest section of the house was built in the 1850s as the billiard hall for The Elms, then the residence of the David Stanton family. About the time of the Civil War, an expansion and remodeling incorpo-

rated the existing billiard hall into a much larger residence.

The house originally faced Martin Luther King Street but was moved and turned to face Washington Street to allow for construction of Carpenter II School in 1913.

Joe Stone has worked for several years to remove later enclosures and additions to restore the house to its Civil War-era appearance.

### Jasper & Denise Seale

Jasper and Denise Seale will receive an Award of Merit for their rehabilitation of 166 Homochitto Street, built in the 1830s as the residence of Thomas Ellis. The house later became home to the families of Thomas Rose, archi-

tect/builder of Stanton Hall, and Oliver Wilds, who was involved in river commerce. During the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the house was known as the Dismuke Boarding House. Neglected for thirty years and subject to vandalism, theft, and poor attempts at restoration, the house stood vacant and deteriorating until it was acquired by Jasper and Denise Seale, who rescued it and made it their family residence.

### Worley Family

The Worley family will receive an Award of Merit for their rehabilitation of the Henderson Cotton Warehouse at 100 Main Street, which was built in two major stages. The earliest western section was built about 1850 for planter and cotton merchant Thomas Henderson and is important as the only surviving, antebellum cotton warehouse in Natchez. Between 1864 and 1886, a two-story brick addition (about 23 feet wide) was made to the eastern side elevation and a one-story brick addition added to the



*The Joseph Stone House at 804 Washington Street*



*The Thomas Ellis House at 166 Homochitto Street*

southern rear elevation. Between 1892 and 1897, while owned by wholesale grocers Rumble and Wensel, the two sections of the building were united

behind a common, elaborate, pressed-metal facade. The building now houses grocers Rumble and Bowie's Tavern, retail space, and bed-and-breakfast accommodations.

### *Progressive Preservation*

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*The Henderson cotton warehouse and later Rumble and Wensel wholesale grocers at 100 Main Street, now home to Bowie's Tavern and luxury bed and breakfast accommodations*

Awards (Continued from page 2)

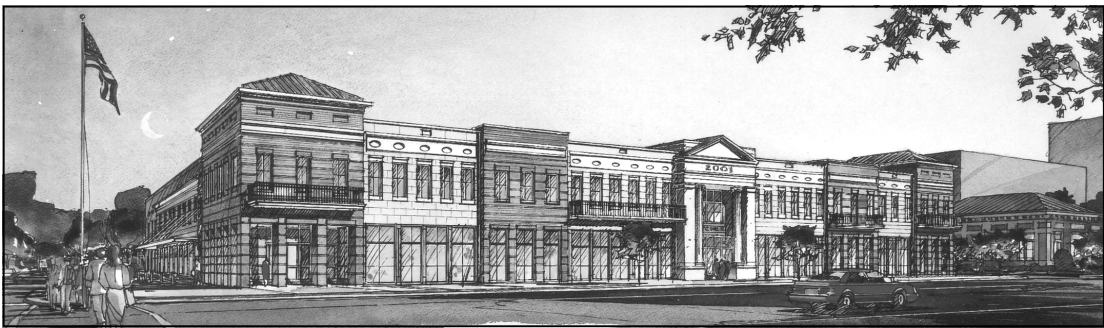
City of Natchez

The City of Natchez will receive an award for New Construction in a Historic District for the Natchez Convention Center.

What could been a jolting, oversized building became instead a convention

facility that echoes and reinforces the historic character of downtown Natchez in a contemporary way.

Lead architects were Waycaster and Associates of Natchez, associated with JH&H of Jackson, with design assistance from the Historic Natchez Foundation.



The Convention Center for the City of Natchez, in the 200 block of Main Street

2002 Donations to the Historic Natchez Foundation

On this list are the names of those whose gifts were dated during 2002. Gifts include dues, memorials, grants, and major donations to the foundation or the Church Hill Preservation Trust.

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- Great Mississippi River Balloon Race
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- Park Fountain Fund
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