

Historic Natchez Foundation
P. O. Box 1761
Natchez, Mississippi 39121

NONPROFIT ORG
BULK MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
NATCHEZ, MS
PERMIT 100



Volume 1

January 2016

HNF hosts annual meeting on January 28



**Historic Natchez Foundation
Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, January 28, 2016
5:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.**

108 South Commerce Street

Tricentennial Art Exhibit Opening

*Coming Home
A Tribute to Renowned Natchez Artists*

**Cocktail Reception
honoring**

*Vidal Blankenstein
Dale Campbell Fairbanks
Susan Colter Hollingsworth
Noah Saterstrom
Will Smith, Jr.*



The Historic Natchez Foundation will hold its annual meeting on January 28, 2016, at the Natchez Institute, 108 South Commerce Street. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the kickoff exhibit of several arts events scheduled throughout the city's 2016 Tricentennial.

The Tricentennial Arts Committee is sponsoring this first exhibit and sale to recognize successful artists who grew up in Natchez but no longer live in the city.

"Coming Home: A Tribute to Renowned Natchez Artists" will recognize the work of Vidal Blankenstein, Dale Campbell Fairbanks, Susan Colter Hollingsworth, Noah Saterstrom, and Will Smith, Jr.

The exhibit will open at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, with a cocktail reception and an opportunity to meet the artists. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the general public in the tradition of the foundation's annual meeting.

The reception will conclude at 7:00 p.m. with a short HNF business meeting to elect board members and present annual awards. No one has to be a member to attend and HNF has always encouraged people to come and bring guests.

Connie Burns is chairman of the Tricentennial Arts Committee. Marty Seibert is chairman of the exhibit and sale and her committee includes Kitty Bran, Missy Brown, Betsy Holleman, and Ginger Schwager.

HNF is excited about partnering with the Tricentennial Arts Committee and looks forward to 2016 when Natchez will commemorate its past, celebrate its present, and create its future.



Vidal Blankenstein



Dale Campbell Fairbanks



Susan Colter Hollingsworth



Noah Saterstrom



Will Smith, Jr.

Historic Natchez Foundation 2015 Awards

**George and Ethel Kelly
Restoration Award**

Randy and Helen Smith
205-207 North Canal Street

Fred and Sheila Lotterhos
609 State Street

**Mary Postlethwaite
History Award**

Jim Wiggins
Historian

Jeff Mansell
Historian

Special Merit Award

Dub Rogers
Steampunk Coffee Roasters
Smoot's Grocery



The few remaining members of Temple B'nai Israel in Natchez hope to enlist the community's assistance in preserving their historic building and the important legacy of the Natchez Jewish community.

As the congregation has dwindled, the responsibility for the temple has fallen on fewer and fewer shoulders. The membership consists of fewer than 10 active members.

Meetings with interested parties, including the Historic Natchez Foundation, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau, Natchez National Historical Park, and the Godring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) have resulted

in a fresh vision for the temple's future—a vision that includes a preserved temple but with greatly expanded functions.

The temple will still host an occasional religious service but function also as a cultural facility, accessible to all, with an elevator, museum exhibits, and special programming. Its location, 350-seat sanctuary, and large basement reception room with kitchen facility make it an ideal venue for conferences and special events seeking a unique historic setting. Having the temple open with exhibits will contribute to the city's tourism economy and broaden the appeal of the city's historic resources.

If Temple B'nai Israel can raise \$300,000 in 2016 to create an endowment fund, the Godring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL), headquartered in Jackson, has pledged to assume ownership and operation of the temple building.

Affiliation with ISJL will ensure that Temple B'nai Israel and its history are preserved and celebrated. It will also ensure that the temple continues to play an important role in the religious and cultural life of Natchez, which is the cradle of Judaism in Mississippi. Visit www.templebnaiisrealnatchez.org to learn more.



Mississippi Heritage Trust adds Melmont to the Ten Most Endangered List

On October 22, 2015, the Mississippi Heritage Trust, our statewide non-profit preservation organization, released its list of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places in Mississippi in 2015 and 2016. Named to the list was Melmont in Natchez.



Melmont has the form of a Greek Revival mansion but its detailing reflects the Italianate style. Like Magnolia Hall, the house was originally painted to resemble the fashionable brownstone houses of the Northeast.

The Shaw family owned Melmont until 1898. It changed hands frequently in the early 20th century and underwent a substantial Colonial Revival remodeling on the interior.



These two views of Melmont illustrate the house as it appeared in the 19th century and today.

Melmont, located at 715 North Rankin Street, was built in 1855 for Colonel Henry Basil Shaw (1812-1869), an attorney and veteran of the Mexican War. The house was named for his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Lattimore (1821-1913). The Shaws used her initials—MEL—and added mont at the end since the house was built atop a small hill.

The architect and builder of Melmont was James McClure, originally from Cincinnati, who also remodeled Monmouth and designed and built Weymouth Hall and Monteigne. He worked in Natchez from 1853 to 1855 and popularized the Italianate style.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Basil Shaw

Absentee owners who allow historic properties to deteriorate are problems for historic cities and preservation organizations. Natchez is no exception.

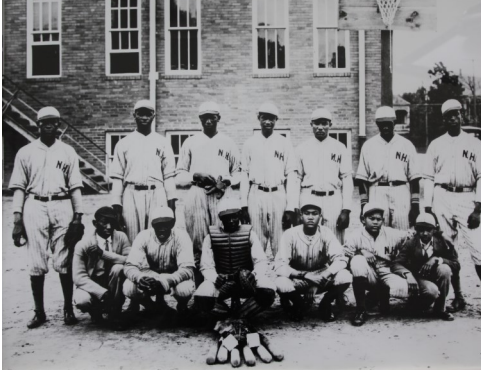


1934 Natchez High School Basketball Team

Those on the top row, left to right, include unknown, unknown, Brent Forman (first president of the Historic Natchez Foundation), William Livingston, Jack Kisner, and Tom Green. Those seated, left to right, are Oscar Hardy, Earnest Walters, Walter Doughty, Sam Tabor (?), and Bobby French.



Jefferson College celebrates six sports



Boys baseball team at Brumfield School



Natchez High School's girls basketball team

Dates set for sports exhibit

The Mississippi Humanities Council has coordinated with the Historic Natchez Foundation to set the dates for the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit *Hometown Teams*, produced by the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program. HNF learned in May that its proposal to be a host site was approved.

Hometown Teams will open on May 5 and close on June 26. The exhibit time has been extended for an additional week which will cover almost the entire month of June, designated as the Tricentennial Health, Fitness, and Recreation month.

HNF is collecting information about the city's sports history and encourages anyone in the



community with a historic sports related photograph or artifact to contact the foundation at 601-442-2500. In most cases, historic photographs can be scanned while you wait. We would also like to photograph any memorabilia that relates to Natchez's sports history.



Historic Natchez Foundation Scrapbook

Frank Gresock (right) seemingly became part of an exhibit at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art during the foundation's November excursion to Arkansas. Frank was photographed with George Segal's *Depression Bread Line*.



Penguins Puddles and Splash wowed the crowd at the 2015 Great Mississippi River Balloon Race. Splash became a hero Friday night when he became the only balloon brave enough to battle the high winds to inflate and glow. The penguins came to Natchez after wowing the crowd at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.



A chubby Batman soars over the fitness facility at the 21c Museum Hotel in Bentonville, Arkansas, a much enjoyed stop on HNF's Arkansas trip.



The unexpected public response to the Tricentennial's weekly program, "Natchez Legends and Lore," overwhelmed the Historic Natchez Foundation on January 4. On January 11, approximately 115 people showed up to hear Jim Wiggins speak on the topic "A Foundation Built on Slavery." HNF had prepared by setting up the event in the large hallway rather than the smaller lecture hall.

JOIN TODAY TO PRESERVE THE PAST FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Membership expiration dates are printed above your address on every mail-out from the foundation. Each membership and donation is very important to us.

Name	_____
Address	_____ _____ _____
Phones	_____
E-mail	_____

The Historic Natchez Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Return this form with your donation to:

Historic Natchez Foundation, P. O. Box 1761, Natchez, MS 39121 601-442-2500 and hnf@natchez.org

Suggested Membership

Student	20.00
Senior Citizen	35.00
Individual	50.00
Family	100.00

Special Donor Levels Pillars of Support

Tuscan Order	500.00
Doric Order	1,000.00
Ionic Order	2,500.00
Corinthian Order	5,000.00
Portico	10,000.00