

Old Capitol Museum Closed Indefinitely; Other Sites Open

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has officially closed the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History until further notice. The National Historic Landmark property was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. "All staff must be relocated and all artifacts removed from the building before the extreme damage caused by the storm can be repaired," said MDAH director H.T. Holmes.

High winds from Hurricane Katrina rolled the copper roof from the south end of the Old Capitol and drove rain in, damaging both building and artifacts. Because of the wet plaster and saturated insulation, the building is facing severe mold and mildew problems. A temporary felt roof and the ruined insulation, flooring, carpet, and plas-

ter must be removed, said architect Robert Parker Adams, who is overseeing the stabilization effort for MDAH. "All these things must be done immediately before further deterioration occurs," Adams said.

All artifacts from the damaged areas—more than 3,200—have been moved to spaces throughout the building. Hundreds of artifacts were damaged, and conservation costs are expected to total up to \$400,000. Among the items damaged were original paintings by Marie Hull and William Hollingsworth, textiles, firearms and swords, Choctaw baskets, and furniture, all now in need of immediate conservation.

"Nearly all of the museum's fall and winter programs, including Christmas at the Old Capitol and the Christmas by Candlelight

Tour, must be canceled," said Lucy Allen, director of the Old Capitol Museum. "While we are closed to the public we will concentrate on our outreach programs and traveling exhibits."

All planned fall and winter programs have been canceled except for Demo-Dig 2005, which will be held outdoors on the Old Capitol Green, and the Teachers Workshop in November, to be held at an alternate location. For information on scheduling a speaker or program for the classroom or meeting, call 601-576-6920 during regular business hours.

The Old Capitol Shop will relocate to the first floor of the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, Jackson, and reopen by November 1.

**Call MDAH
at 601-576-6850 to
be referred to staff
in charge of
surveys or
conservation of
damaged materials.**

courthouses, city halls, public libraries, and historical societies in retrieving records or serving as their liaison with professional conservation agencies.

Old Capitol Museum staff members have aided in recovery efforts at Shearwater Pottery and consulted with many other museums and history organizations.

October Events

Old Capitol Museum

Jackson 601-576-6920

Wednesday, October 5, through Friday, October 7, *Demo-Dig 2005: Can You Dig It?* In celebration of Archaeology Month, a demonstration archaeology dig will be conducted on the Old Capitol Green for grades four through six on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; each program will last an hour. Reservations are required.

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, Natchez 601-446-6502

Thursday, October 6, and Friday, October 7, *Student Days*.

Local and regional fourth-grade classes learn about Native American culture, archaeology, and nature studies. The classes are open only to fourth-graders.

Saturday, October 22, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., *Music at the Mounds*. Volunteers perform gospel, country, and jazz music. Free admission.

Historic Jefferson College, Washington 601-442-2901
Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., *Antique Gun Show and Seminar*. Free admission.

Wednesday, October 20, and Thursday, October 21, *Pioneer Days: The Way It Was*. Local and regional third-grade classes learn about pioneer skills and activities.

Friday, October 28, 6:30 p.m., *Ghost Tales Around the Campfire*. Local and regional storytellers tell their best ghost stories

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Katrina Recovery Efforts

Historic Preservation staff members are conducting damage-assessment surveys of historic structures to gather information for FEMA. MDAH reminds owners of income-producing National Register eligible properties that tax credits are available with certified rehabilitations. Also, Community Heritage Preservation grants can be used for properties damaged by Hurricane Katrina (within grant parameters—historic courthouses and schools and in other

buildings in Certified Local Government communities). Additionally, the National Trust has been working with NCSHPO on a request to the U.S. Treasury and the IRS for administrative waivers to assist federal rehabilitation tax credit projects in the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Area. Staff members are also assisting in archaeological artifact recovery.

Archives and Library staff have spent the major part of their time since Katrina on rotating shifts to the coast, assisting

October Events at MDAH, continued

around a bonfire. Free admission. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets.

Manship House Museum, Jackson 601-961-4724

Tuesday, October 11, through Saturday, November 19, *Manships Marry: Weddings in the Nineteenth Century.* Exhibit of nineteenth-century wedding attire and setting of the 1879 “duplex wedding” of Jennie and Jessie Manship. Free of charge, reservations required for groups of ten or more

Wednesday and Thursday, October 12–13, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., *Manships Unearthed.* Classes can observe MDAH archaeologists conduct an excavation to learn more about Manship family.

Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Manship House Museum, Jackson. *Civil War Sites and Sounds.*** Magnolia Memories perform song-and-dance numbers of the Civil War era at 2 p.m. Civil War re-enactors encamp on the Manship House grounds 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free of charge.

William F. Winter Archives and History Building, Jackson 601-576-6850

Monday, October 3, noon-12:50 p.m., first of four discussions led by Eudora Welty biographer

Suzanne Marrs on Welty’s *The Golden Apples* (“Shower of Gold” and “June Recital”). Free. Tea and soft drinks provided.

Wednesday, October 5, noon to 1 p.m., first *History is Lunch* brown-bag series. MSU professor **Evan Peacock** will read from and sign copies of his book *Mississippi Archaeology Q&A*. Copies will be available for purchase. Bring your lunch. Drinks provided.

Monday, October 10, noon–12:50 p.m., *Golden Apples discussion* (“June Recital” and “Sir Rabbit”)

Monday, October 17, noon–12:50 p.m., *Golden Apples discussion* (“The Whole World Knows” and “Music from Spain”)

Monday, October 24, noon–12:50 p.m., *Golden Apples discussion* (“The Wanderers”)

Winterville Mounds, Greenville, 662-334-4684

Sunday, October 2, 2 p.m., “New Investigations at Winterville Mounds,” Dr. Ed Jackson, USM.

Sunday, October 9, 3 p.m., “A Prehistory of the Southern Forest,” Paul B. Hamel, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, Stoneville.

Sunday, October 16, 2–5 p.m., *Artifact Identification.* A panel of archaeologists will discuss preservation of archaeological

sites and identify artifacts of community members attending.

Sunday, October 23, 3 p.m., program on “**The Archaeological Conservancy,**” by Conservancy representative Jessica Crawford.

October is Mississippi Archaeology Month. For a statewide schedule, visit mdah.state.ms.us/misc/maaflyer.html

Columbus Antiques Forum and Show

The Columbus Historic Foundation’s Annual Decorative Arts and Preservation Forum and Antiques Show and Sale will be held November 3-6 at the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus. This year’s theme is “George Washington Slept Here: The Colonial Revival in America: 1876-1930s.”

The event features lectures by nationally known experts, an antiques identification session, historic house tours, and the well-known antiques show and sale. Lectures are free; a \$100 grand patron ticket includes the Antiques Show Premiere Party on Thursday night, dinner on Friday night, and breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. For details, please visit www.historic-columbus.org.

Milburn James Crowe, 1933-2005

Milburn Crowe, a longtime MDAH friend and the unofficial historian of the town of Mound Bayou, died September 10. Dedicated to promoting the rich heritage of his hometown, he regularly led visiting classes and groups on tours of the historic town. Crowe was a member of the Old Capitol Museum’s Community Advisory Committee that helped develop the museum’s *Mississippi 1500-1800* permanent exhibit and exhibits for the planned Museum of Mississippi History, a member of the Mississippi Historical Society Board of Directors, and a member of the State Historical Records Advisory Board. He had also been a driving force in the Mound Bayou Historical Foundation.

R. L. Burnside, 1926-2005

North Mississippi bluesman R. L. Burnside, who learned from the great Fred McDowell, died September 1. He became nationally known through the 1991 documentary *Deep Blues*, leading to a remarkable series of late-career recordings.

Join the Mississippi Historical Society. Call 601-576-6849.