

Autos & Architecture in Alabama

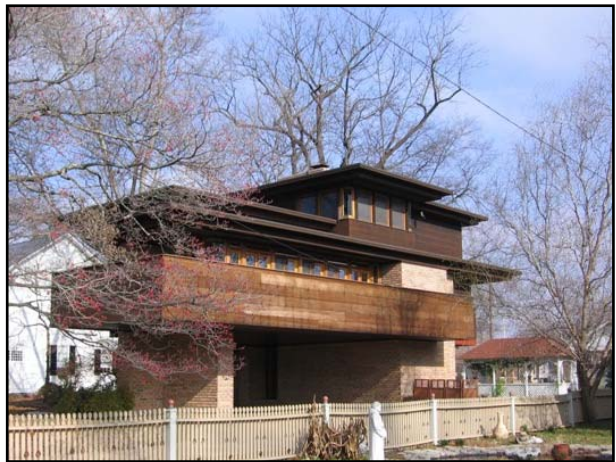
LCC's 2008 Fall Color Tour

November 7 – 9, 2008

Dogwood Region & Cumberland Region

Think you know Alabama? Think again! Join us from November 7th thru the 9th for *Autos & Architecture in Alabama*, a glorious fall drive through northern Alabama. We'll attend a captivating Friday night Cruise-in on the main street of Gadsden, Alabama, see amazing architecture by world renowned architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and Paul Rudolph, drive through Alabama's Lake district and visit Huntsville, the birthplace of America's aerospace industry.

Alabama is home to many spectacular 20th Century modern homes and buildings, and we'll tour some these art deco and Frank Lloyd Wright designed houses on our route. Getting there will be half of the fun, as every highway we'll take is landscaped with interesting houses, roadside architecture, vintage cars and classic salvage yards galore. We'll stop at several vintage car dealers, attend a large cruise-in and dine on delicious authentic southern cooking and Alabama barbecue from local eateries along the way.



Our adventure starts on Friday, but if you can't leave Friday morning you may join us Friday evening for the rest of the weekend's events. If you're really pinched for time you can leave early Saturday and still see many of the best sights on this tour.

Those coming from the Nashville area have the choice of joining us Friday in Gadsden either at noon lunch, or at 5:00 p.m. for the cruise-in, or they can join us Saturday by driving down the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway to Florence and meeting us at the Rosenbaum House and then drive with us to Athens and Huntsville.

Collector cars and car pooling are encouraged but not required. However you travel, do not miss this tour.

ITINERARY

Friday, November 7, 2008

9:00 a.m. EST - Dogwoodies depart from the Ansley Mall parking lot, heading west on I-20 to historic Anniston. We'll drive through downtown Anniston via the Quintard Parkway on our way northwest to Gadsden. On scenic highway 431, we will pass three or four old car lots (one example: a salvage yard with at least three old AMC Metropolitans) on our way.

Drive: Atlanta to Gadsden approximately 130 miles.



11:00 CST - Arriving in Gadsden, we drive down Haralson Avenue through the historic district to the 1930s art deco, flat roof, glass block home of Ms. Sheila Nesmith, at 211 Argyle Circle, who will take us inside for a guided tour of this architectural prize. The surrounding neighborhood will show us a wealth of Victorian, Tudor, Georgian and other interesting houses from the last two centuries.

12:00 noon - We drive one half mile to city center and park for lunch at The Courtyard Café for a delightful southern lunch [meat, vegetables, drink and dessert (cobbler or banana pudding) for \$7.00 plus tip]. If the weather permits we can enjoy the restaurant's namesake outdoor courtyard. Co-located with the restaurant is the Gadsden's Art & History Museum. After a peek inside the museum, we head southwest to look at old cars in their natural habitat.

1:00 p.m. - After lunch, with local resident and car enthusiast John Downey as our guide, we head out highway out Highway 11 to see Rogers Used Car lot (with its interesting variety of vintage cars for sale and GM parts cars on the hill), Po Boys' Vintage Cars, and more. Depending on time and tour goers' wishes, other vintage car lots or junk yards may be added.



3:00 p.m. - The group returns to Gadsden to check in to the Gadsden Inn & Suites on Albert Rains Boulevard downtown. Overlooking the Coosa River, this motel offers new rooms, breakfast and, if you want to work out, a short walk to the YMCA.

5:00 p.m. - After rest & relaxation, those with collector cars will drive over to Broad Street with its historic downtown to secure a prime spot for this evening's Cruise-in (no registration fee or reservation required). Park your car and walk around the downtown area and enjoy its Art Moderne buildings such as the Pitman Theater and the scores of collector cars at the Cruise In.



7:00 p.m. - After the evening's cruise-in, our group will pull out and head down Rainbow Drive to Uncle Sam's Barbecue. A different menu from lunch, this local favorite has a variety of good things on and off the menu. Dinner items include barbecue, and as an added attraction the waiters are young and handsome.

Friday after dinner: Your evening is free to stroll downtown, walk by the river, drive up to Noccalula Falls, see the mountain or just enjoy being in Etowah County.

Saturday, November 8, 2008

8:15 a.m. - After a hearty breakfast (included at Gadsden Inn & Suites, on your own at Motel 6), we head out promptly through Cullman, Alabama on a scenic drive to Florence, Alabama, the jewel of the Tennessee River Muscle Shoals area.

Drive: Gadsden to Florence approximately 140 miles.

11:00 a.m. - Taking the scenic route northwest from Gadsden to Florence, Alabama over the Wilson Dam (circa 1912), we arrive at Frank Lloyd Wright's Rosenbaum House (1940, 1948). The house, now owned by the city of Florence, and after a million dollar renovation, is open for guided tours (\$8, group rate). This is the only Wright structure in the state, and the guides know its history well. There's a quick



driving tour of historic Florence. After a full hour tour of the Rosenbaum house, we make the short drive east on highway 72 for lunch at Lawler's Barbeque in Athens, Alabama, our next destination.

Drive: Florence to Athens 45 miles.

1:00 p.m. - We arrive in antebellum Athens, Alabama. After a delicious lunch at Lawler's (order on your own, but we suggest their superb Brunswick Stew), we drive through Athens for an architecture tour; highlights will include the 1986 Frank Lloyd Wright style house set in a row of antebellum mansions on Clinton



Street, and then on to architect Paul Rudolph's modern masterpiece Wallace House, as seen in LIFE magazine in 1964. Paul Rudolph was a native Alabaman, whose architecture is the subject of many books, the dean at the Yale school of architecture, and, coincidentally, was gay! From here we can drive directly to Huntsville or we can go back through Decatur, AL, seeing its historic district and thence to

Huntsville (group will decide depending on energy levels and enthusiasm). We'll arrive back by 4:00 p.m., at the latest, with time to relax and cocktails before dinner.

Drive: Athens to Huntsville 35 miles.

[Please Note: Those unwashed heathens electing for no architectural tours on Saturday can head to Huntsville via Guntersville, Boaz and Arab, Alabama, where there are beaucoup junkyards and more car lots. We can provide them with a simple map and list of junkyards and car lots and for them to see on their own.

4:00 p.m. - We arrive in Huntsville (Madison), Alabama. Check in at the Huntsville Marriott at the Space & Rocket Center. There should be time to visit the nearby Space & Rocket Center museum or relax before dinner.



6:30 p.m. - We spend the evening out in Huntsville with time afterward to socialize. We'll dine at Chef's Table, 2030 Cecil Ashburn Drive SE, 35802 (great food in lovely surroundings). After dinner, you can choose from nightlife at "Club Ozz", one of the oldest gay bars in the eastern USA or a visit to "Upscale", another gay club with a great dance floor and a downstairs a piano bar.

Sunday, November 9, 2008

7:00 to 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast at your hotel.

9:00 a.m. - We check out of our hotel and drive up Governor's Drive to Panorama Drive for a view of the Werner Von Braun neighborhood and its mid-century houses (developed by the German space scientists brought to the USA after WWII for our rocket program); returning down Governor's Drive (NO stopping at the infamous scenic overlook!) for returns to our respective home towns (Atlanta, Nashville, or Chattanooga). Those who



wish to return by way of the Unclaimed Baggage store in Scottsboro, AL may head towards Chattanooga, or you may drive back through Lake Guntersville to Gadsden to Atlanta, where you will see more used car lots and great junk yards on the way.

2:00 p.m. - Return to Atlanta, GA or Tennessee.

Drive: Huntsville to Atlanta approximately 220 miles.



Additional Notes:

BE PREPARED:

Bring your hand-held, CB, or walkie-talkie radios if you have them. Cell phones and AAA cards are nice to have along as well.

Check belts, hoses, fluids, and tires *before* you leave.

Our total mileage for the weekend, without any additional trips beyond those mentioned above, will approximate 570 miles.

RESERVATIONS:

Friday, November 7th

Gadsden Inn & Suites

200 Albert Rains Boulevard

Gadsden, Alabama 35901

Phone 256-543-7240

Web <http://www.gadsdeninnandsuites.com>

Saturday, November 8th

Huntsville Marriott

5 Tranquility Base

Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Phone -256-830-2222

Web <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hsval-huntsville-marriott>