

Press Release:

For Immediate Release

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45th Annual Historic Selma Pilgrimage Set for March 20-21, 2020

SELMA, Ala. — Exquisite homes and fabulous art will showcase the 45th Historic Selma Pilgrimage March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Presented by the Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society and the City of Selma, patrons will delight in events that include guided tours of six homes plus an impressive French Gothic church, circa 1904, and three museums. At 200 years old, Selma is home to the largest historic district in Alabama where a special blend of southern hospitality, Spanish Moss, heirloom blooms, wrought-iron fences and intricate architecture enchant locals and visitors alike. Private homes are on tour in the morning from 9 until 1, and a completely different tour of homes opens in the afternoon from 1 until 5 both days.

A special treat on the tour this year's will be the **Hooker-McEachern house**. Pilgrims will enjoy a tour of this Federal style home with Italianate details that dates to the mid 1800's. This house was originally the home of Hattie Hooker Wilkins. Hattie founded the women's suffrage movement for the state of Alabama and was the first female to serve in the Alabama legislature. Join us in celebrating the centennial anniversary of women receiving the right to vote whilst paying homage to such a true heroine.

Other homes on the tour this year include the **Lamar-Henry house**. This 1893 home is an outstanding example of Victorian architecture. It is exquisitely decorated with original artwork and family heirlooms. Visitors will also enjoy touring the **Cawthon-Williamson house**. This grand Victorian mansion features hand-painted frescoes, mahogany paneling and a grand stained-glass window. A must see on the tour will be the **Haralson-Carmichael house** constructed in 1869. This is an exquisite one story, four bay Italianate with richly detailed finishes including intricate Victorian stenciling. Visitors will swoon over **Brownstone Manor**, also on tour in 2020. This neo-classic mansion was built in 1898. The home was visited frequently by F. Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald (Fitzgerald authored "The Great Gatsby" among other American classics). This house is also included on the Alabama's Ghost Trail video series.

There will be an evening reception and tour of the **Mabry-Jones house** on Friday, from 6-8 pm. This Greek Revival was built around 1850 by Dr. Albert G Mabry. He was a Selma physician and the first president of the Alabama Medical Association. The home was later purchased by Captain Catesby ap Roger Jones, a confederate Naval hero in command of the CSS Merrimac. Captain Jones was also in charge of the confederate Naval Foundry in Selma. This grand home boasts many original furnishings and authentic memorabilia.

Visitors to the 2020 Historic Selma Pilgrimage will have the opportunity to experience reenactors detailing the history of our **Old Live Oak Cemetery** during an interactive tour on Friday and Saturday

from 4-6 pm. The historic cemetery was founded in 1829 and expanded in 1877. Several famous state and federal politicians are interred at Live Oak, including a Vice President of the United States.

The tour also features several museums that tell the story of Alabama's Black Belt – from its days as one of the richest areas in the nation to its role in social change. Much of Selma, a major Confederate munitions manufacturer during the Civil War, was burned in 1865 by Wilson's Raiders, and the surviving war-era homes are waiting to be shared. A hundred years later, Selma became a center for the Civil Rights Movement, and today, the Edmund Pettus Bridge and Selma Interpretive Center (NPS) are popular tourist destinations. The **Old Depot Museum** also shares local Civil Rights history and relics of the Black Belt from the days of native Americans to industry, women's suffrage, railroad years, a fire museum and antique agricultural implements. The museum has been renovated to show its layout during its days as an L&N Depot.

Pilgrimage begins at the **Vaughan-Smitherman Museum** which serves as ticket headquarters and the first stop on the tour. The three-story building has served as a girl's school, courthouse, Confederate hospital and a local renowned hospital during the 20th Century. Its collections are a microcosm of Selma history. **Sturdivant Hall** is also a must see on the tour! It is an antebellum house-museum furnished with lovely antiques true to the period. Visitors will feel as if they have gone back in time.

Other events include the **Selma Art Guild** show both days, as well as the **Alabama Plein Air Artists** Show and Sale on Saturday from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

Visit [selmapilgrimage.com](http://selmapilgrimage.com) where you can download a brochure and check special offers. Updates are posted on Facebook at "Selma's Historic Pilgrimage". For advance tickets visit Eventbrite - Selma's Historic Pilgrimage 2020.

Sponsored by the Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society, Pilgrimage began in 1976 as a way to share the city's exceptional variety of architectural styles and rich history. Selma's historic district features more than 1200 structures.