



402 LEE STREET
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601
September 9, 2025

Council Chambers

Historic Preservation Commission

4:00 PM

- I CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
- II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 10, 2025
- III PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV BOARD BRIEFING/BUSINESS:

Finished Projects Updates:
Carnegie Building Assessment

Finished Projects to Review:
National Register Nomination update for 2nd Avenue/Albany Commercial (CLG Grant) VOTE NEEDED
New National Register Nomination for Princess Theatre (Underrepresented Communities Grant) VOTE NEEDED
National Register Nomination update for Old State Bank (Underrepresented Communities Grant) VOTE NEEDED

Current Projects:
Civil War Marker by MSNHA (VOTE NEEDED)
Proposed Text: Primary Text: ~100 words
Decatur sits where the Memphis and Charleston Railroad once crossed the Tennessee River, forming a junction that led to Nashville. Its location upstream of the Muscle Shoals made it a gateway to steamboat navigation on the Upper Tennessee River. As such it was strategically important, and Union forces

occupied the town several times during the war. During these periods Unionists and enslaved people came to the city for protection and to join Federal ranks. In the spring of 1864 Union commanders ordered the city razed to make way for fortifications and new buildings. Only a handful of buildings survived, those remaining today include the Rhea-McEntire House, the Polk Dancy House, and the Old State Bank.

Image Caption: ~50-60 words

This May 1864 photograph shows Federal troops constructing fortifications near the Old State Bank building in Decatur. A defensive line of rifle pits, obstacles, and two forts—Fort One and Fort Two—surrounded the city in a rough arc. The soldiers depicted are working on the eastern side of one fort, with earthworks from Fort Two visible in the background.

Background Painting Description: ~100-120 words

Pictured, U.S. soldiers overrun a Confederate artillery battery during the 1864 Siege of Decatur at noon on October 28, 1864, over three hundred men of the Fourteenth USCI (United States Colored Infantry) moved to attack a Confederate artillery battery targeting Decatur. Colonel Thomas J. Morgan led the Fourteenth, which was mostly composed of formerly enslaved men organized into a fighting force just months earlier. They stormed the battery with support from a Federal gunboat and allied artillery, surprising the Confederates and disabling two guns. Hand-to-hand combat broke out as the Fourteenth retreated when the Confederates regrouped. But the mission was a resounding success—it won the Fourteenth praise in an army still skeptical of African American soldiers' abilities.

Old State Bank restoration (PASS Grant)

Old Town Tour (ETF Grant)

Digital Design Review Guide (ETF Grant)

Applied for Grants:

Survey Mid-Century Modern neighborhood around Walter Jackson

Future Grant Projects:

Cedar Lake (marker, history, National Register nomination for St. Peter Missionary)

Resurvey Albany Residential

Old State Bank Letter (VOTE NEEDED)