



**[voteyourmainstreet.org/monroeville](http://voteyourmainstreet.org/monroeville)**

MONROE COUNTY  
MUSEUM  
*Bringing People and History Together*

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MONROEVILLE  
MAIN STREET  
*Write your chapter here.*

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We are extremely thrilled to be named one of the top twenty finalists in this year's Partners in Preservation: Vote Your Main Street competition! Our museum's age is showing, and immediate repairs are critical to protect the building, according to noted preservation architect Nick Holmes III of Mobile. The brick veneer on the courthouse's south side has visibly bulged and shifted out of place. Mr. Holmes says the



museum should move quickly to determine the cause and extent of the damage, and arrest it. "It appears to be an isolated area, but you won't know if the structural support wall underneath is involved until you get in there," he said. Moisture also has taken a toll inside the museum, damaging interior plaster walls near several windows. We have every intention of preserving this structure, not simply because of what it means to our community here in Alabama, but because of what it symbolizes to the nation as a whole. There will be tremendous costs associated with the repairs and we need to secure as much as we can in grants. The Partners in Preservation: Vote You Main Street competition is a vital source for much needed funds to save the wall. This will be our main funding for the repair. Please go online and cast your vote to help us save the wall.

## Brief History of the Courthouse

In 1903, Probate Judge Nicholas J. Stallworth hired Andrew Bryan, a prominent southern municipal architect to design a new courthouse for Monroe County. He envisioned it as the future "Hub of Southwest Alabama." Four of the other six courthouses designed by Bryan still stand in Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. A Louisville, Kentucky contractor, M.J. Lewman, was contracted to build the structure for \$ 29,000.00, but foundation blueprints were missing and basement plans were added, causing the cost to rise. Unfortunately, the citizens of Monroe County were not very impressed with what some called "*Stallworth's Folly*," and he lost his bid for reelection. Not everyone was so negative: according to the Monroe Journal, "*The new courthouse is one of the handsomest and most conveniently appointed in the state and one that would do credit to a county far exceeding Monroe in wealth and population...*"

The exterior bricks and other building supplies for the Courthouse were shipped in by rail. Rail service had been established to Monroe County on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in 1900. Roads in this area were still dirt wagon tracks. The dome of the Courthouse is made of sheet metal and has been painted both silver and white at different times. The dome clock strikes on the hour now as it did from the beginning. Truman Capote mentions it in "A Christmas Memory": "*the courthouse bell sounded so cold and clear.*" Nelle Harper Lee was born in Monroeville in 1926 and grew up with the old courthouse as the center of all activity on the square. She was a great reader as a child much like her neighbor Truman Capote. One imagines she would have been inspired by the the elegant courtroom of the 1903 courthouse. It is said that she insisted the movie director come here to see it before constructing the set for the movie *To Kill A Mockingbird*.



PLEASE JOIN

*Governor Kay Ivey*

AT THE

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM

FOR A

*Special Announcement*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 1:00 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH LIMITED SEATING

MONROE COUNTY  
MUSEUM

MONROEVILLE  
MAIN STREET

**“Today, I am extremely proud to announce the Monroe County Museum has been named one of the top 20 finalists in this year’s Partners in Preservation competition! While this is incredible news, there is still much work to be done. I encourage each citizen of the state of Alabama to do their part in helping the Monroe County Museum win this competition by visiting the Monroe County Museum or Monroeville Main Street websites and casting your vote daily!”**

*Governor Kay Ivey*

# HELP SAVE THE WALL!



**1** Go To [monroevillemainstreet.com](http://monroevillemainstreet.com)  
OR [monroecountymuseum.org](http://monroecountymuseum.org)  
and click *Vote Here* daily

OR  
SCAN HERE



**2** First Time Voter: Click *sign up* and follow instructions.  
Repeat voter: click *log in* and enter your information

**3** Click **+** 5 times in the Monroe County Museum  
voting window, then click *confirm votes* submit votes when  
prompted



Want a daily reminder?  
Click the *calendar reminder* on either website.



YOU MAY SUBMIT 5 VOTES PER DAY PER  
REGISTERED EMAIL ADDRESS.



## VOTE DAILY through October 29th!

MONROE COUNTY  
MUSEUM

MONROEVILLE  
MAIN STREET

# Partners in Preservation

## Important Points

- Partners in Preservation is a community-based partnership, created in 2006 by The National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express, to engage the public in preserving historic places.
- Partners in Preservation: Main Streets is back for its third year in a row with all of this year's sites having a special emphasis on historic places that celebrate the contributions of women in Main Street communities across America in honor of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment.
- This year's 20 sites from across the country will compete for a share of \$2M in grants from American Express, where the top Main Streets will receive funds to preserve their historic site.
- Beginning Sept. 24 through Oct. 29, anyone can vote for their favorite Partners in Preservation: Main Street at [VoteYourMainStreet.org](http://VoteYourMainStreet.org), hosted by media partner National Geographic. Up to five votes may be cast each day per person, leading up to announcement day on Oct. 30.
- Each local partner is receiving an initial grant of \$10,000 to increase public awareness of the importance of these historic places and build grassroots support for their Main Street district. Over the past 13 years, the program has provided more than \$25 million in support of more than 250 historic sites across the United States, and has engaged more than a million people.
- The project connects people across the country through a common rallying point: saving local history and recognition for important places in their communities.
- Preservation of our Main Streets is important not only to understand our nation's past, but also to create local economic opportunities and provide a space where communities can come together.
- Partners in Preservation has a proven track record of creating positive change in local communities

For general Partners in Preservation: Main Streets  
inquiries please contact:  
Beck Media for Partners in Preservation,  
[PIP@beckmedia.com](mailto:PIP@beckmedia.com).

# ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

It is such an honor that the Monroe County Museum has been chosen as a top 20 finalist in this year's Partners in Preservation competition!

It has been twenty years since the initial restoration of this building, and today there are extensive needs to continue to preserve this, the most famous of America's courthouses, for the future. I am thankful for the partnership of Monroeville Main Street and the Monroe County Museum in spearheading this great project. It is up to all of us, as citizens, to cast our votes and make this a winning competition for Monroe County Museum! Let us all unite behind this common cause, and make this happen!

**Sandy Smith**

Mayor

Monroeville, Alabama

It is an honor to promote and support the Partners in Preservation grant sponsored by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation from Monroeville Main Street. Monroeville became a designated Main Street City in 2014, they have been a force to get things done in Monroeville and the Black Belt Region of Alabama. This grant will assist with revitalizing the Monroe County Museum which anchors Monroeville's downtown district. The iconic Monroe County Museum is prominently featured in Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird" Pulitzer Prize Winning Novel, truly a woman who impacted Main Streets all across our nation, and helped to shine a light on racism.

**Mary Helmer**

President & State Coordinator

Main Street Alabama

The Partners in Preservation grant competition gives us a unique opportunity to financially support the Monroe County Museum without opening our wallets! Historic preservation in our downtown supports the museum but it also supports our businesses, city, county, and state. Partnerships are the key to success. When we work together we can do great things and winning this competition would be a GREAT THING!

Please vote DAILY to help save the iconic Monroe County Museum!

**Anne Marie Bryan**

Executive Director

Monroeville Main Street

# \*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*

**MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM TO HOST PUBLIC "OPEN HOUSE" VOTING EVENT ON OCTOBER 3RD AS PART OF 2019 PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION: MAIN STREETS CAMPAIGN**

**THE MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM IS ONE OF 20 PARTICIPATING U.S. HISTORIC SITES HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY COMPETING FOR A SHARE OF \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS AND THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

ONLINE PUBLIC VOTING OPEN **NOW THROUGH OCT. 29** at [VOTEYOURMAINSTREET.ORG/MONROEVILLE](http://VOTEYOURMAINSTREET.ORG/MONROEVILLE)

**WHO:** Monroe County Museum or Monroeville Main Street

Interviews available - Wanda Green, Executive Director of the Monroe County Museum or Anne Marie Bryan, Executive Director of Monroeville Main Street

**WHAT:** As one of the 20 historic sites participating in the 2019 Partners in Preservation: Main Streets campaign, Monroeville's own Monroe County Museum is competing for a share of \$2 million in grants awarded through public voting. The Monroe County Museum will be hosting an Open House event/ Stallworth's Folly Day on October 3rd, during which community members can cast their votes in-person.

### **STALLWORTH'S FOLLY DAY**

Free Monroe County Museum admission all day; Group Tours at 10am and Noon including the Literary Capital Sculpture Trail, Monroe County history vignettes by local playwright, Stephanie Salter, and History of the Courthouse with Rabun Williams.

WMFC Remote from 9 am – Noon

BBQ Plates available by advance ticket \$10.00

**WHEN:** October 3, 2019

Open 9am – 4 pm – In Person Voting from 10 am – 2 pm

**WHERE:** 41 North Alabama Avenue

### **MORE:**

Partners in Preservation is a community-based partnership in which American Express, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, awards preservation grants to historic places across the country.

Through this partnership, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation seek to increase the public's awareness of the importance of historic preservation in the United States and to preserve America's historic and cultural places. The program also hopes to inspire long-term support from local citizens for the historic places at the heart of their communities.

This year's program will have a special emphasis on historic buildings and sites that celebrate the contributions of women in Main Street communities across America to honor the upcoming 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

### **CONTACT:**

**To attend the Open House event, please contact:**

***Anne Marie Bryan, Executive Director***

***Monroeville Main Street***

***251-575-1457 – Office***

***251-362-0433 – Mobile***

***monroevillemainstreet@outlook.com***

For general Partners in Preservation: Main Streets inquiries

please contact:

Beck Media for Partners in Preservation, [PIP@beckmedia.com](mailto:PIP@beckmedia.com).

**Open House:**

An opportunity for in person voting and  
\$50,000.00 in additional funding !

# STALLWORTH'S FOLLY DAY

Help the  
museum win  
\$50,000.00  
Stop by 10am - 2pm  
and VOTE!



**Thursday, October 3rd**  
9 AM to 4 PM

***Guided Tours beginning at 10am & Noon***

*Group Tours include:*

*Literary Capital Sculpture Trail*

*Monroe County History Vignettes  
with local Playwright Stephanie Salter*

*1903 Monroe County Courthouse History  
with Rabun Williams*

**FREE  
Museum  
Admission**

*Open Early  
9AM - 4PM*

**BBQ Plate Tickets Available  
in advance for \$10.00 from the Museum**

*BBQ Plates include - BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich,  
Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert and a Beverage*

**WMFC  
Live Remote  
9 am - Noon**

# Monroe County Museum