

# Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions

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## Biographies of Board of Directors 2005-2006

### Region 1

**Monica Callahan Kocher** is Planning & Community Development Director for the City of Madison. She staffs seven citizen commissions appointed to oversee a range of community planning functions - including historic preservation, downtown development, greenspace conservation, corridor management, cemetery stewardship, comprehensive planning, etc. Originally from Ashburn in Southwest Georgia, she attended Mercer University as an undergraduate and graduate school at the University of Georgia. She is a principal in Piedmont Preservation, a firm devoted to cultural resource management providing a range of preservation services through the Southeast. Through her work as both a public servant and a private consultant, Monica encourages all local planning decisions to incorporate a preservation perspective.

### Region 2

**Michael Page** is a registered architect and maintains licenses in Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky. A native of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Architecture from Louisiana State University, he is an active member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and is certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). Michael has worked for architectural/engineering firms in Louisiana and Georgia and currently owns his own architectural firm in Rome providing complete architectural, engineering, design/build, project management and program management services. He has served on the historic preservation committee for the City of Rome and in 2003 was reappointed to the Rome Historic Preservation Commission, where he serves as an active and dedicated commission member.

### Region 3

**Dianne Davison** has served for the past four years on the West Point Preservation Commission. A native of West Point, she graduated from college in New York and worked for the City of New York until her retirement. She is active in her community, chairing the marketing effort for West Point as part of the Better Hometown program. Dianne serves on the board of directors for the Senior Center in West Point as well as on the board of the regional senior citizens program. She is also president and on the board of directors of the animal control program in LaGrange.

### Region 4

**Sybil Roberts Willingham** is a 1976 graduate of Georgia College in Milledgeville with a degree in art. While there, she fell in love with the architectural heritage of Georgia's beautiful ante-bellum capital. Much of her work experience has been in drafting and mechanical design. Since 1986, Sybil has owned and operated a mail order worms-for-composting business. She is Secretary of The Georgia Strawberry Festival, and chair the Taylor County Historic Preservation Commission. Other activities include membership in a number of hereditary organizations and service as 2002-2004 President of the Georgia Division United Daughters of the Confederacy.

### Region 5

**Mark Petermann** serves on the board of the Tifton Historic Foundation and as the Vice Chairman of the Tifton Historic Preservation Commission. His interest in preservation began early in life when he helped his father reuse wood gathered from farm barns near his home. After graduating from Virginia Tech, he entered the United States Air Force, serving in medical administration, before retiring as a Colonel at Moody AFB in Valdosta, Georgia. During his career, his interest in historic preservation grew from his various assignments in Americas' places of history. In particular living in New Mexico and near Williamsburg, Virginia afforded the opportunity of seeing, inspecting, and working on the recreation of historical places. After moving to Tifton Georgia he became involved in the local preservation efforts after purchasing a home in the local historic district.

### Region 6

**Gwendolyn Fortson Waring** is a graduate of Princeton University and she received her JD from Georgia State University College of Law in 1992. An attorney, she is currently serving a second term on the Savannah Historic District Board of Review as the Parliamentarian. She is a past Chair of that Review Board; and she also serves as Vice President for the Historic Savannah Foundation. From 2002-2004 she served on the Board of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). In addition, she serves on other boards which reflect her love of art and African-American history which include the Telfair Museum of Art as well as serving as the Chair of the Negro Heritage Trail Tour <sup>TM</sup> – an historic tour of Savannah's African American journey – and on the Board of the King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation.

## **Region 7**

**Anne S. Floyd** has served as the Regional Historic Preservation Planner for the CSRA RDC since 1987. In 1996, she was promoted to Director of Local Government Services, while still retaining the historic preservation planner position. She actively works with three small city historic preservation commissions. Anne graduated from Hollins College in Roanoke, VA, with a B.A. in art history and from the Cooperstown Graduate Programs, SUNY at Oneonta, with an M.A. in history and American museum studies. From 1975-1986, she was Director-Curator of the Museum of Coastal History and Coastal Georgia Historical Society headquartered in the lighthouse keeper's cottage and lighthouse

## **Region 8**

**Shelagh Fagan** is the current Chairperson of the Eatonton Historic Preservation Commission. She also serves on the Eatonton Better Hometown Design Committee where she is the primary façade grant administrator for the downtown businesses. She also heads up an Ordinance Review Committee that makes changes to city ordinances, which are then typically approved by council. Shelagh squeezes the volunteer work around running an historic Bed & Breakfast in Eatonton. Prior to "retirement" in 2003, Shelagh spent 40 years in the Corporate Information Technology arena. Her primary responsibilities were in project management, often of large projects in banking and sometimes with an international aspect. This experience has been invaluable in helping various adjunct preservation activities, such as managing the Middle Georgia Historic Preservation Directory web site.

## **Metro Atlanta Region**

**Regina Brewer** serves as the neighborhood representative on the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. Currently a graduate student in the Georgia State Heritage Preservation Program, Ms. Brewer coordinated the successful local designation of the Inman Park neighborhood and has spent the last eight years involved in citywide planning and zoning initiatives. A native of Washington DC, Ms. Brewer graduated from the University of Maryland and worked for the U.S. Department of State until her relocation to Atlanta in 1995. She currently lives in Inman Park with her husband Joe and their three children.

## **At Large**

**Beth English** is a member of the Vienna City Council and serves as its liaison to the newly established Historic Preservation Commission. She co-founded the Vienna Historic Preservation Society in 1981 and continues to serve in leadership capacities within the organization. She served as the first Chairman of the Vienna Better Hometown program and is past Chairman of the Middle Flint Historic Preservation Advisory Board. She and her husband have restored a historic home built in 1897. Beth serves as Executive Director of Easter Seals Southern Georgia – a non-profit organization that serves a 39-county region. She has been involved in genealogical research for over 40 years. Currently, Beth serves as Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee chair for the Georgia Municipal Association as well as on the Legislative Policy Council and Congressional Action Team.

**Ken Kocher** is a native Illinoisan who now calls Monticello his home. He received a Bachelors Degree in History from the University of Illinois and completed the Master's in Historic Preservation program at the University of Georgia. He is a founding partner of Piedmont Preservation, a historic preservation consulting firm specializing in historic resource surveys and historic district design guidelines. Past positions include Design Coordinator for Main Street Louisiana and Certified Local Government Coordinator for the State of Mississippi. In addition to his work with Piedmont Preservation, Ken serves as staff for the Monticello and Madison Historic Preservation Commissions.

**James K. Reap** is an attorney who specializes in historic preservation issues. He has served as chair of the preservation commissions in the City of Decatur and DeKalb County and as vice chair in Athens, Georgia. His is a founding member of both the Georgia Alliance and National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. He teaches preservation law at the University of Georgia and Georgia State University and conducts preservation commission training around the country. James was one of the first two preservation planners in Georgia and served as Deputy Executive Director of the Northeast Georgia RDC. He is currently President of the Legal Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

**Evelyn Green Reece** has served as Historic Preservation Planner for the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department for 4 years and serves on the Lexington HPC, as secretary. A native of New Orleans, Ms. Reece came to Athens to study preservation. She holds a Masters of Historic Preservation from UGA, a BA in Art History and Office Administration, and an Associates Degree in Construction Technology. As an architectural technician, she worked for several architecture and design firms in Louisiana, and was selected to produce drawings for the Historic

American Engineering Record, first in Pittsburgh, PA and later leading a team on assignment in Birmingham, Alabama. As Preservation Planner for Athens-Clarke County, Ms. Reece is charged with administering the local government's preservation programs.

**Jessica Dempsey Tullar** is Senior Planner for the City of Gainesville, Department of Planning and Development. In this role, she reviews and processes zoning and historic preservation applications, writes staff reports and code amendments; as well as reviews and approves plats and development plans. She provides support for the Gainesville Planning and Appeals Board and Gainesville Historic Preservation Commission, and works on various special projects for the City. Originally from the Atlanta metropolitan area, she attended the University of Georgia as an undergraduate and received her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Georgia.

**Dinah Wayne** is a member of the Flowery Branch Historic Preservation Commission and current Chairman of the Flowery Branch Better Hometown, Inc. After writing her thesis on the Historic Depot in Flowery Branch and volunteering in its rehabilitation efforts, the city appointed her as the first Historic Preservation Coordinator. After Flowery Branch became a Better Hometown Community, Dinah was hired by the city as the Manager for the downtown revitalization program. During that time she also served as staff for the Historic Preservation Commission, coordinating the implementation of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, District designation and the Certified Local Government status.