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New Alabama Antique Trail Web site locates stores across the state

By Deborah Storey, The Huntsville Times
March 25, 2010, 2:23PM

HUNTSVILLE, AL -- Alabama has the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, a birding trail, a wine trail - and now the Alabama Antique Trail.

A new Web site - www.alabamaantiquetrail.com - lists more than 75 shops, with more added weekly.

The site includes maps, photos, addresses, phone numbers, hours and more details for the stores, as well as selections for one- or two-day antiquing trips.



AAT

Vignettes on Magnolia antique store in Auburn.

Click on the shop's name to see its own Web site.

Shops are also divided into four geographic sections of the state, or listed under each city's name.

With the support of the Auburn/Opelika Tourism Bureau, the Alabama Antique Trail has published a brochure that can be found in the information centers throughout Alabama.

Shops are diverse. One is made of recycled wood and tin. Some are in period buildings, such as cottages, bungalows, farmhouses, antebellum homes or even a log cabin. Others are in historical buildings that were once country stores, barns, banks or hardware stores.

Many items in the shops are from Alabama family estates, said Web site organizer Marcia Arnold of Auburn. Others have been imported.

Arnold said she was frustrated with outdated information about Alabama antiquing found on the Internet. She and her husband, Ray, visited at least 80 shops for research and plan to add more.

For example, in the Hartselle Antique Mall, Dale Kilgo and Gail Wilkins are authors of "A Collector's Guide to Anchor Hocking's Fire King Glassware." The book is in the Smithsonian, Arnold said.

In Oneonta, visitors can enjoy a chocolate nut sundae in a drugstore/antique store.
"In Marion, recognize Artifacts Antique Shop as the bakery where the eccentric Greek broke the window and stole the top of the wedding cake from Carson McCullers' book/movie 'The Heart is a Lonely Hunter,' " her research found.

In Birmingham, the owner of Attic Antiques has been in the business for more than 40 years.
Brundidge has numerous antique stores on one street, Arnold found. Antique Attic in Dothan, specializing in European antiques, has been in business in the same location since 1969.
The Alabama Antique Trail is "an experience in Southern hospitality," Arnold said.

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March 27, 2010, 8:19AM

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