

George Alfred (Alfred) McCroskey is nominated to the Book of Golden Deeds by virtue of his many years of effort to preserve the heritage of the City of Florence and its surrounding area in Lauderdale County, secondly, for stimulating other people also to become interested in historical preservation, and thirdly, for 27 years of service as a volunteer in the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Mr. McCroskey was one of the initial appointees to the Historical Board of Florence. This Board was organized in 1968 under the auspices of Mayor Ben Craig. As treasurer for the Board, McCroskey set up the accounting system to handle the Board's share of the hotel-motel tax. One half of the tax went to the Historical Board and the other half went to the Chamber of Commerce. Alfred served on the Historical Board for sixteen years.

It was Alfred McCroskey's idea to delineate an historical district in Florence and obtain National recognition for the district. Upon his recommendation, the Historical Board hired a history student at the University of North Alabama to survey and describe all the structures to be included in the district. The student was Edgar Byler III who has gone on to become a well-known historian in Wayne County, Tennessee, and the editor/publisher of *The Wayne County Historian*. The area selected is now known as the Sannoner Historical District. To the best of our knowledge, this was the first historical district to be founded in North Alabama.

The Sannoner Historical District was the model for five more historical districts in the City of Florence. Most of these were established under the leadership of other individuals who frequently sought advice from Mr. McCroskey and the Historical Board on how to proceed. However, he also was the leader in the development of the North Wood Avenue Historical District and the North Court-North Pine Streets Historical District. He was an advisor to Billy Ray Warren on establishing the Walnut Street Historical District. The success of the Historical Board in establishing historical districts was recognized by the Alabama Historical Commission in Montgomery in 1972. During the recognition dinner, it was pointed out that 72 structures had been nominated and accepted by the National Register of Historical Sites. No other city or historical board in the State of Alabama had successfully nominated such a large number of sites to the National Register.

Alfred McCroskey was the first person to identify the Karsner-Kennedy House on Pine Street as an historical structure. He described the building in a newspaper article and brought it to the attention of Robert S. Gamble of the State Historical Commission. The Alabama Historical Commission describes the house as the best example of early Federal-type cottage architecture and among the few remaining examples in this part of the country. It was built in 1828. The