

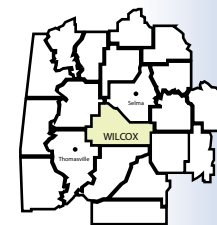
# Alabama's Front Porches

## The Gee's Bend Quilt Mural Trail



### A History of Gee's Bend

GEE'S BEND is surrounded on three sides by water. This water is a large bend in the Alabama River. The community is collectively known as Gee's Bend but has been renamed Boykin. This area was founded by the Gee family in the early 1800's. The Gee family sold the land to Mark Pettway in 1845.



**Directions:** From Montgomery, go west on US 80 to Selma. Go west on AL 22 that becomes AL 5 South. Near Alberta at mile-marker 32, go southeast on CR 29 for 14 miles. Turn left toward Boykin Nutrition Site for 1 mile to the Quilters Collective.

Established in November 2008.



**Top Row**  
Mary Lee Bendolph  
Born 1935  
"Housetop"  
variation

**Top Row**  
Minnie Sue Coleman  
Born 1926  
"Pig in a Pen"  
medallion

**Top Row**  
Ruthy Mosely  
Born 1926  
"Nine Patch"

**Top Row**  
Lottie Mooney  
1908-1992  
"Housetop- Four-  
Blocks. Half-Log  
Cabin" variation

**Top Row**  
Loretta Pettway  
Born 1942  
"Roman Stripes"  
variation or Crazy  
Quilt

**Bottom Row**  
Alonzia Pettway  
Born 1923  
"Chinese Coins"  
variation

**Bottom Row**  
Annie Mae Young  
Born 1928  
"Blocks And  
Stripes"

**Bottom Row**  
Loretta Pettway  
Born 1942  
"Medallion"

**Bottom Row**  
Jessie T. Pettway  
Born 1929  
"Bars and String-  
Pieced Columns"

**Bottom Row**  
Patty Ann Williams  
1898-1972  
"Medallion with  
checker board  
center"

**ALA-TOM RC&D**  
Post Office Box 355 • 16 West Front Street South  
Thomasville, Alabama 36784  
Phone (334) 636-0120 Fax (334) 636-0122

**Gee's Bend Quilt Collective**  
Location: N32°10'26.5"W087°21'42.2"  
Ms. Mary Ann Pettway (334) 682-2535

**Resources:**  
www.alabamafrontporches.com  
www.blackbelttreasures.com  
www.geesbendferry.com  
www.quiltsofgeesbend.com



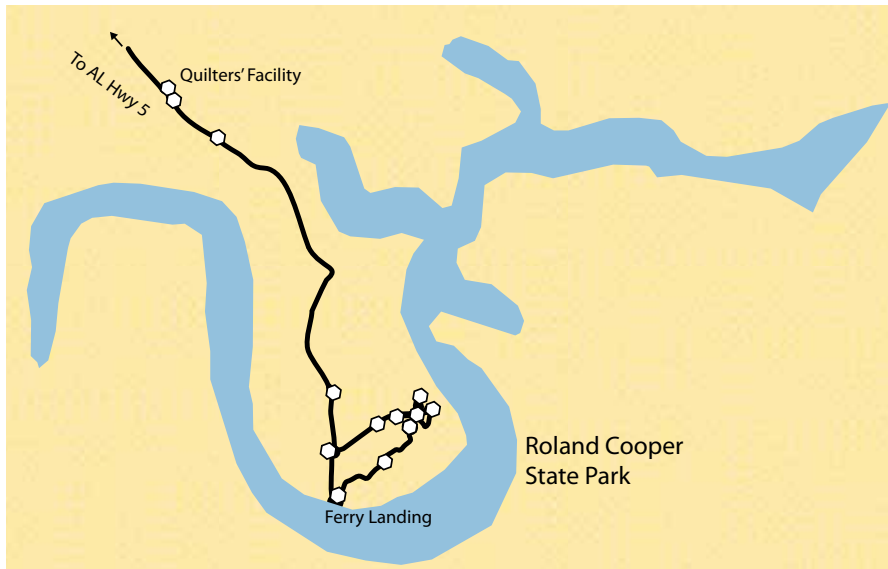
**Alabama's Front Porches:**  
*famous for great Southern food,  
hospitality and architecture,  
beautiful pastoral landscapes,  
a rich cultural and agricultural  
heritage, outdoor recreation  
opportunities and some of the  
finest antiques around.*

**Come join us on our front porch and sit a spell.**

For more on the Gee's Bend Quilt Mural Trail, visit [www.alabamafrontporches.com/quilts](http://www.alabamafrontporches.com/quilts)

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# The Gee's Bend Quilt Mural Trail



## The Gee's Bend Community:

The Gee's Bend community has become famous for its quilts, which are now highly prized by collectors and were celebrated nationally in 2006 in a U.S. postage stamp series. The quilters usually gather at the Boykin Nutrition Center by 8:30 am and quilt until 1:30 pm Monday through Thursday, but this may vary. Gee's Bend

quilts are housed at the Community House, which can be visited by appointment.

There is no food available in Gee's Bend, so plan accordingly.

The Gee's Bend Quilt Mural Trail begins at the Freedom Quilting Bee. Ms. Patty Ann Williams' quilt "Medallion with Checkerboard Center" is the first piece that you will see. The second quilt, "Blocks and Stripes" is by Ms. Annie Mae Young. The third quilt is by Ms. Minnie Sue Coleman "Pig in a Pen". At the stop sign turning toward the Gee's Bend Ferry you will see quilt number four by Ms. Lottie Mooney called "Housetop"-Four Blocks or "Half-Log Cabin" variation. Down from the Quilters Collective you will find the fifth quilt made by Ms.

Loretta Pettway called Medallion. The sixth quilt is by Ms. Mary Lee Bendolph and it is called "Housetop" variation. At the old school Ms. Ruthy Mosely's quilt is displayed; it is called "Nine Patch". You will then see the eighth quilt which is another piece by Ms. Loretta Pettway called "Roman Stripes" variation or the local name is the "Crazy Quilt". The ninth quilt is by Ms. Jessie T. Pettway called Bars and String- Pieced Columns. Coming back around to the Ferry you will find the tenth quilt by Ms. Alonzia Pettway called "Chinese Coins" variation.



## MAKING THINGS HAPPEN IN ALABAMA

Made possible by a grant from

ALA-TOM RC&D  
and the  
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The University of Alabama  
Center for  
Economic Development

- Southwest Alabama  
Tourism & Film Office

- Gee's Bend  
Quilters Collective

- Wilcox County  
Commission

Peggy Pugh: (334) 636-0120  
Linda Vice: (334) 636-5506

### A Perfect Ending

After traveling along the trail, take the Gee's Bend Ferry for a scenic ride across the river. End the day shopping at Black Belt Treasures.



### Gee's Bend Ferry

The Ferry crosses the Alabama River several times daily, linking Gee's Bend and Camden. Gee's Bend Park, on the left above the ferry stop, has a pavilion and a small deck overlooking the river. Here, you can observe many birds, including White Pelicans, Cormorants and ducks. (251) 861-3000. [www.geesbendferry.com](http://www.geesbendferry.com)

### Black Belt Treasures

Black Belt Treasures is a non-profit organization with a retail gallery featuring artwork, sculpture, pottery, woodwork, baskets, jewelry, books (and quilts from the Gee's Bend Quilters). Camden, Alabama. (334) 682 9878. [www.blackbelttreasures.com](http://www.blackbelttreasures.com)

Photos courtesy Joe Watts and Billy Milstead

We would like to express our thanks to Tyree McCloud for his artistic ability in putting the murals together for the trail.

[www.alabamafrontporches.com](http://www.alabamafrontporches.com)