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ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE FACT SHEET

What is the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage?

The Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage is a listing of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts of historical, architectural, and/or archaeological significance.

What does listing in the Alabama Register mean?

Alabama Register listing is an honorary designation and exists to bring attention to and promote the property's historical significance, thereby encouraging its long-term preservation. The Alabama Register does not restrict the rights of private property owners in the use, development, or sale of the property. While property owner permission is not required to list a property, the AHC prefers that property owners are notified of the nomination. If an owner strongly objects, those nominations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

How is the Alabama Register different from the National Register?

To keep recognition of historic properties accessible to the public, the Alabama Register standards and application process are not as rigorous as the National Register. In addition, the Alabama Register includes properties that normally may not qualify for the National Register.

What kinds of properties are eligible for the Alabama Register?

Properties should be at least 40 years old or older and show the authenticity of its location and construction. The property should convey a feeling for the time and place of construction. Building memories (demolished buildings or structures) cannot be listed for the missing building or structure. A historic marker may be a better way to commemorate lost buildings.

How can I nominate a property to the Alabama Register?

To determine initial eligibility for the Alabama Register, all applicants must submit a Preliminary Information Form (PIF). The PIF is Step I of the Alabama Register process and is only used to judge potential eligibility. It is not the actual application to nominate a property. AHC staff use the PIF to determine if an applicant should move forward before time, effort, and potential costs are expended. If the PIF contains enough information to move forward with the formal nomination process, AHC staff will provide guidance on the next steps. The AHC provides access to all forms at no cost, however, it is the applicant's responsibility to perform all necessary research, writing, and photography.

How long does the process take?

The length of time before the nomination is presented to the staff review committee is dependent upon how complete the application is, and the reasons given as to why the property should be listed in the Alabama Register.

For more information, please contact Jada Jones at 334.230.2444 or Jada.Jones@ahc.alabama.gov

Thank you for your interest in the Alabama Register!