

# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

## Nomination Form

Added to ALABAMA Register 10-1-97

### 1. Name

historic Pelham-Bush Cemetery

and/or common Pelham-Bush Cemetery

### 2. Location

Sec 11, R 7, T 15S (east side of U.S. 431, just north of junction with Co Rd 109)

street & number Tomahawk Trail

city, town ---vicinity of Alexandria (approx 4 mi north of Anniston on U.S. 431)

state Alabama county Calhoun zip

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

### 4. Owner of Property

Set aside by Indian Oaks Development Corp. C.1970--this group no longer active

name c/o Adam P. Dasinger, Commander, Major John Pelham Camp #258, Sons of Confederate Veterans

street & number P.O. Box 62

city, town Heflin State AL Zip 36265

### 5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

Attached

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**6. Description** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.**

The Pelham-Bush Cemetery is situated on less than one acre of property located approximately 4 miles north of the city of Anniston in Calhoun County. It is in the vicinity of the community of Alexandria, on the east side of U.S. Highway 431, just north of its junction with County Road 109. Access to the cemetery is on Tomahawk Trail, part of an upper-middle class community development centered around a golf course and clubhouse. The neighborhood was developed during the late 1960s and early 1970s by the Indian Oaks Development Corporation, a group which is no longer active. The cemetery was set aside from the development and has been maintained by the Major John Pelham Camp #258 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The cemetery contains approximately 17 graves, including 14 marked burials. Dates of burial range from 1853 to 1900, with the grave of Floyd King Bush being the earliest and that of Robert J. McGehee the most recent. Markers include a number of small simple headstones, small marble obelisk-type posts, and a larger marble obelisk marking the grave of Captain William Floyd Bush (July 9, 1815-Feb 28, 1898). There are a number of unmarked graves, evident only by a depression in the ground, and believed to be slave burials. In the past year, the stones have been sandblasted, a new picket fence has been built around the graveyard, and the grounds have been landscaped and seeded. The fence encloses an area approximately 50' x 75' which is located on the front portion of a wooded lot measuring approximately 125' x 225'. The rear portion of the lot is not part of the subdivision.

## 7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) funerary art

**Specific dates** 1853-1900 **Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

The Pelham-Bush Cemetery is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criteria A and C, in the areas of settlement and funerary art. The cemetery depicts evidence of the early settlement and funerary monuments of Calhoun County, as well as memorializes the members of one of its prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century families. Essentially unchanged since the last burial in 1900, the markers and grounds have been cleaned and the property set aside by a fenced enclosure in the midst of a recent residential development.

### Historical Summary:

The Pelham-Bush Cemetery contains approximately 15 graves and 9 markers commemorating the burial of members of the Captain William Floyd Bush family. Bush (July 9, 1815-Feb 28, 1898) was an early settler in Calhoun County and was important in the social, economic and political development of the county. Originally from North Carolina, he was the brother-in-law of Dr. Atkinson Pelham and uncle of Lieutenant Colonel John Pelham. He represented Calhoun County in the Alabama Legislature from 1859-1861. During the Civil War, he was initially appointed Sutler for the 10<sup>th</sup> Alabama Regiment, but soon returned to Calhoun County as the Confederate Impressment and Tax Agent for the remainder of the war. Additionally, he commanded a company of home guards known as Bush's Mounted Rifles, later Company "D" Hardie's Reserve. He served as pall bearer at the funeral of John Pelham in 1863.

Bush's gravestone, the focal point of the cemetery, is a large obelisk giving the dates of his birth and death and commemorating the deaths of his three sons who are buried outside the state. First was Major Thomas Bush (Dec 6, 1838-Sep 5, 1862, "Killed at Manassas, VA-Buried Middlesburg, VA" who was in command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Battalion at the time of his death and was one of three men from Calhoun County who held regular commissions in the Confederate Army (the others being his cousin John Pelham and John H. Forney). Next Atkinson Pelham Bush (Mar 12, 1855- Dec 1885--buried at Cork, FL) and, finally, Henry Forney Bush (Jan 25, 1860-Apr 13, 1885--buried at Montgomery, Texas). Also inscribed on the monument and buried beside it are the graves of Bush's third wife Harriet Beall McGehee Bush (Oct 11, 1819-Mar 4, 1874) and infant son of Captain William F. Bush and Amanda Cobb Bush (his second wife).

Other graves which are marked include that of Floyd King Bush (Dec 23, 1843-Nov 11, 1853); Elizabeth Maria Bush, wife of W.D. Bush (Sept 24, 1846-June 24, 1900); and William Dudley Bush (Oct 21, 1836-Dec 22, 1888). William Dudley Bush served as a sergeant with the Calhoun Guards (Company A, 2nd Alabama Infantry) and later as a sergeant with Company A, 51st Alabama Partisan Rangers. Both he and his cousin Lieutenant William Pelham were captured at Shelbyville, TN in June 1863 and spent the remainder of the war as a POW at Ft. Delaware, DE, being released in June 1865. Buried beside W.D. Bush are his wife and three infants.

Still other burials include Codelia J. Bush Sharley (Oct 19, 1841-Apr 21, 1893) and her husband Henry Sharley

(Aug 6, 1836-Dec 1880); Robert J. McGehee (Nov 22, 1823-Feb 5, 1900), the brother-in-law of Captain Bush and Atkinson Pelham; McGehee's daughter Pattie Pelham McGehee (Dec 21, 1856-May 22, 1898); McGehee's mother-in-law Mary W. Samuels (Oct 12, 1799-Sept 1882). His wife and other daughter are buried next to John Pelham in the Jacksonville City Cemetery, as is Captain Bush's second wife. No burials have occurred in the cemetery since 1900.

During the past year, the cemetery was refurbished for a rededication ceremony which was held in June, 1997. In addition to attendance of the Bush and Pelham descendants, there was also present descendants of Charles Bush, the slave of William Floyd Bush, who was born in 1838 or 1839 in Calhoun County. When Thomas Bush (son of WFB & also born 1838) organized Company B, 5th Alabama Battalion (Calhoun Sharpshooters), Charles Bush accompanied him to Virginia as a servant. He was possibly freed during this service (1861) when the Sharpshooters were under the command of General John Bankhead Magruder. Magruder had urged his commanders to free the slaves who had worked hard for the army and were deserving, and Charles later named his first child for General Magruder. Whatever the circumstances, Charles was with Thomas Bush when he was wounded at the Battle of Second Manassas and died on Sept 6, 1862. Charles returned to Calhoun County with Captain Bush's sword and flag of the Calhoun Sharpshooters and gave them to Captain Bush's mother (now located in the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Provenance 5th AL Battalion Flag).

After returning to Calhoun County, Charles Bush achieved a degree of prominence in his own right. He served as corporal in William Floyd Bush's Mounted Rifles Company, though they worked primarily as a home guard and law enforcement unit and only entered the Confederate Army in March 1865. Following the war, he worked with William Floyd Bush and William Dudley Bush in their horse and saddle business, and all three names appeared in the 1868 Calhoun County Voter Registration list. Charles later acquired some land from William Floyd Bush and became a relatively prosperous farmer. He was active in the United Confederate Veterans, as evidenced by photographs of him wearing a number of United Confederate Veteran Reunion ribbons (now in the possession of Dr. Helen Bush Caver, his great-granddaughter). He also was known to have frequently worn his United Confederate Veterans grey uniform. Charles Bush died in 1931, past the age of 90, and is buried in the old Liberty Baptist area (now part of Fort McClellan's Pelham Range).

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**8. Major Bibliographical References**

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Dasinger, Adam P. Draft nomination and biographical information.

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**9. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ less than one acre\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map) Attached.

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**10. Form Prepared By** \_\_\_\_\_ Sally Moore (AHC) and \_\_\_\_\_

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name/title Adam P. Dasinger, Commander

organization Major John Pelham Camp #258 Sons of Confederate Veterans date Oct 1, 1997

street & number P.O. Box 62 Telephone 205-463-5607 (h); 205-463-2012 (w) 253-2146

city or town Heflin state AL zip 36265 Hollis School  
Pleasant Grove

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**11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.**

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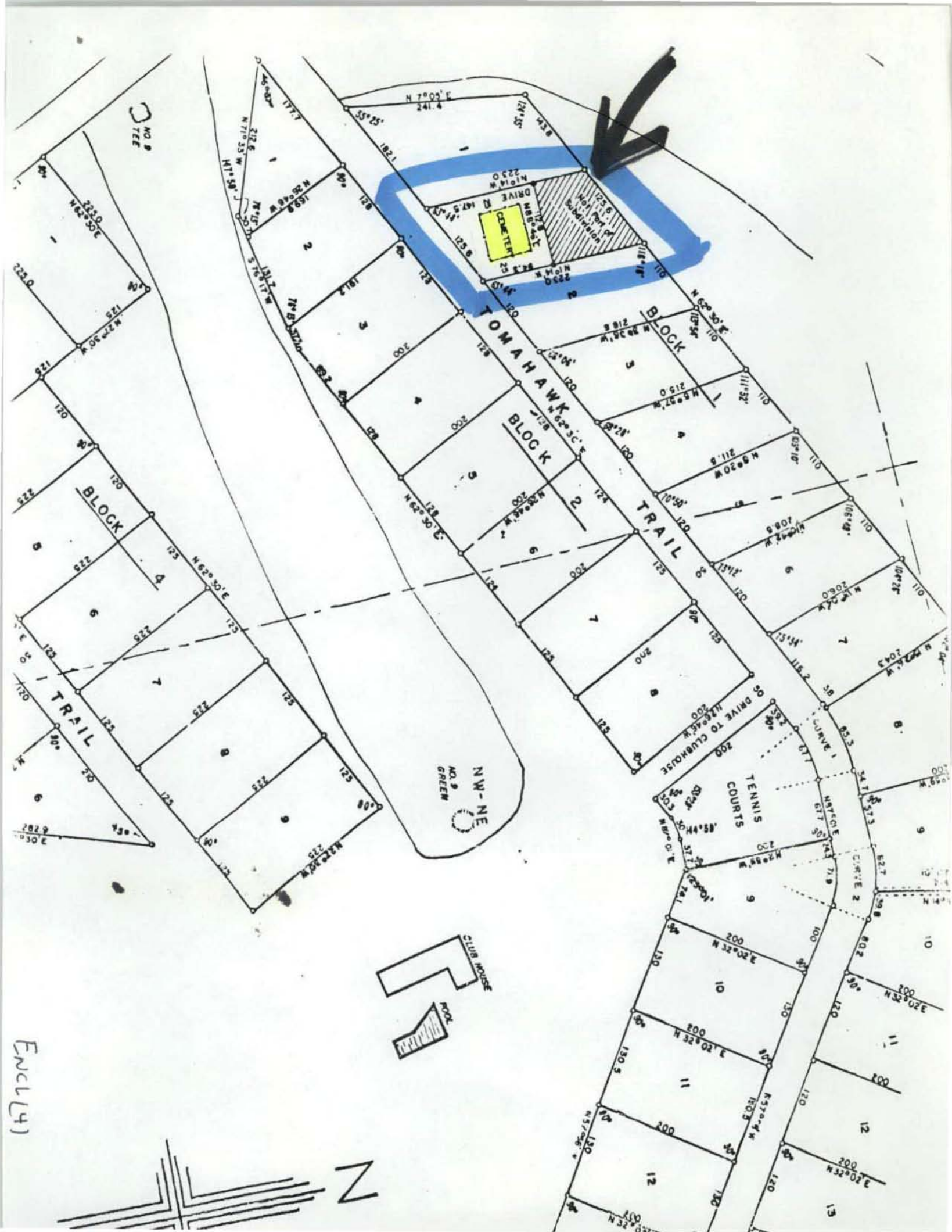
Color slides are essential to the review process.

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**12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:**

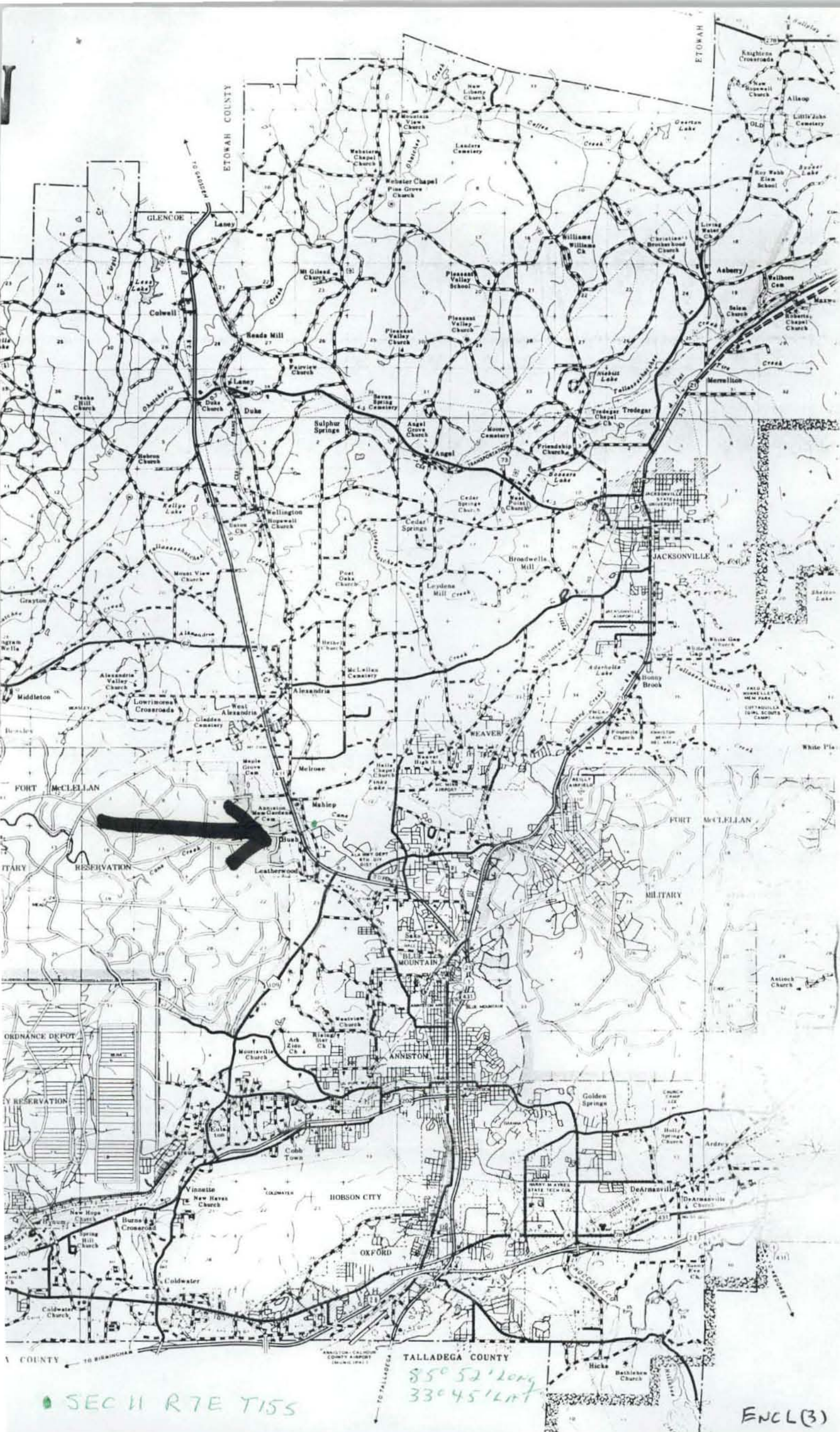
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Alabama Register Coordinator  
Alabama Historical Commission  
468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900



ENCL (4)

N



SEC II R 7 E T 15 S

85° 52' 20" Long  
33° 45' 14" Lat

ENCL (3)