ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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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 statewide list that celebrates buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts that tell Alabama's story through their history, architecture, or archaeology.

What does listing in the Alabama Register mean?
Listing in the Alabama Register is an honorary recognition that highlights a property's historical significance and encourages its long-term care and preservation. It's a way to celebrate the places that matter to Alabama's communities.

Being listed does *not* place restrictions on how private property owners use, develop, maintain, or sell their property. While owner permission is not required for listing, the Alabama Historical Commission prefers that owners are notified of the nomination. If an owner strongly objects, the nomination will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

How is the Alabama Register different from the National Register?
The Alabama Register offers a more flexible and community-friendly path to recognizing historic places. Unlike the National Register, its process is less rigorous, allowing a wider range of properties--even those that might not qualify for the National Register--to be celebrated for their importance to Alabama's history.

What kinds of properties are eligible for the Alabama Register?
To be eligible, a property is generally at least 40 years old and should still look and feel connected to the time when it was built. This means it should retain key, intact features—enough of its original location, design, or materials to convey its historic character. Because the Alabama Register recognizes places that still exist today, properties that have been completely demolished cannot be listed. If you wish to honor a building or structure that no longer survives, a historic marker available through the Alabama Historical Association may be a better way to commemorate it.

How can I nominate a property to the Alabama Register?
All Alabama Register applications and required attachments must be submitted in electronic format to the Alabama Historical Commission **HERE**. While the AHC provides the nomination form at no cost, applicants are responsible for completing the research, writing, and photography needed for the submission. If you need extra guidance, AHC staff are happy to arrange a site visit to offer on-site advice and assistance.

How long does the process take?
The timeline varies depending on the completeness and quality of the application. Once all required information has been submitted, the nomination will be added to the schedule for staff review. We will notify you if additional details are needed along the way.

For more information, contact Paige Thomas at 334-230-2643 or Paige.Thomas@ahc.alabama.gov

Thank you for your interest in the Alabama Register!