



**ALABAMA
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**
The State Historic Preservation Office

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ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CRITERIA

The Alabama Historical Commission developed the following criteria to guide those interested in nominating archaeological sites to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

An archaeological site may be defined as “the physical remains of any area of human activity greater than 50 years of age for which a boundary can be established. Examples of such resources would include the following: domestic/habitation sites, industrial sites, earthworks, mounds, quarries, canals, roads, shipwrecks, etc. Under the general definition, a broad range of site types would qualify as archeological sites without the identification of any artifacts.”*

Things to consider:

1) Surface Observation/Integrity of Site

- a) Is there physical evidence of human activity remaining at the site? (i.e. house ruins, wells, privies, fence rows, foundation piers, chimneys, outbuildings, and historic vegetation)
- b) Have artifacts been found on the surface **without digging**? If so, the location of where each artifact was found should be mapped and documented. Photographs should be taken of each artifact.
- c) Have there been any excavations by professional archaeologists?

2) Historical Documentation

- a) Do maps, deeds, or photographs exist that describe or show the site? Is the setting still recognizable as shown in photographs or maps?

3) Significance of Site/Historic Context

- a) What happened at this site? Are there associations with certain people, specific historical events and/or architectural patterns or features? How does the site’s history fit in with local and state history?

If you are interested in nominating an archaeological site to the Alabama Register, please contact
AHC State Archaeologist Stacye Hathorn for more information at 334.230.2649 or
Stacye.Hathorn@ahc.alabama.gov

* Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1996