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## **Three Skyline Properties added to the Alabama Register**

The Alabama Historical Commission recently listed three historic Skyline properties to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage: the Hosiery Mill, the Warehouse, and the Cotton Gin. The Skyline School and the Skyline Store are already listed in the Alabama Register.

The Alabama Register is an official listing of buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts. These properties, which may be of national, state, and local significance, are deemed worthy of preservation by the Alabama Historical Commission.

The Hosiery Mill, the Warehouse, and the Cotton Gin were part of the Cumberland Farms Project, later renamed the Skyline Farms Project. Established in 1934 by the Federal Emergency Relief Agency, the goal of this initiative was to offer jobs and social welfare to unemployed Alabama farmers devastated by the Great Depression. Land was divided into 181 farms, varying in size from 40 to 60 acres. It was one of 43 such projects throughout the U.S., but it was among the largest in terms of development, expenses and national publicity.

The Hosiery Mill was built in 1938 and was originally used by Dexdale Hosiery. The mill was built to provide industrial jobs to supplement farming income for the residents of Skyline. It is currently used by the Buccaneer Rope Factory. The Warehouse was built during the mid-1930s to serve as a storage facility for farmers who sold their goods at the Rock Store. For a short while, the warehouse was also used for school rooms when the original school house burned. The Cotton Gin, built during the mid-1930s, never actually functioned as a cotton gin. Residents soon learned that cotton did not grow well in the newly cleared fields because of the rocks and unconditioned soil. The structure did, however, contain different types of equipment over the years including a potato grader, corn sheller, and septic tanks production. It currently has been remodeled for use as an apartment dwelling.

Listing to the Alabama Register is an honorary designation and carries no restrictions or financial incentives.

To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama's state agency for historic preservation.

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