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GARNER MEMORIAL C.M.E. CHURCH ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Garner Memorial C.M.E. Church in Decatur to the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage.

The Alabama Register is a prestigious listing of historic, architectural, and archaeological landmarks. The AHC considers the notable historic properties in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition.

Garner Memorial C.M.E. Church is an excellent example of a locally significant African-American religious building. Located within the Old Northwest district of Decatur, the church was constructed in 1945. Construction of Garner Memorial Church was simultaneous with the development and in proximity of the Cashin Federal Housing Project. Local city directories and Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate that both the church and the housing units were built c. 1945. While the housing development has been razed, Garner Memorial Church continues to serve Decatur's African-American community. Although the Old Northwest neighborhood has lost many of its original historic structures, there remains a strong sense of community pride and efforts are underway to preserve the existing housing stock as well as revitalize the entire neighborhood.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Register program, which gives the public a simple way to bring recognition to historic properties.

The Alabama Register officially recognizes and honors buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts that are at least 40 years old.

The Alabama Register designation is honorary and carries no restrictions on property and offers no financial incentives.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.***

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