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LESTERS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Lesters Chapel United Methodist Church in Columbiana 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.

Built c. 1950, Lesters Chapel is the third church building for the congregation and the second building at this site. The first church site was located on Highway 333, nearer to Yellow Leaf Creek than the current building. Sometime in the 1800s, church members built a clapboard building, which stood for decades at this site. In 1950, the current building was constructed using the original pine board floors and some of the pews.

The site of the chapel on top of a hill where the highway curves is historic as well, for at the nearby spring, men were mustered into the Confederate Army and later at the same place, returning soldiers were discharged in front of the church. Highway 47 intersects and then follows the old Yellow Leaf Narrows and Double Mountain trail used by Native Americans, early explorers and settlers going to and from the Mississippi Territory.

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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