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WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH & CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Washington Baptist Church and Cemetery in the Hawthorn community 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.

Washington Baptist Church is a typical one-room church common in the rural south, but which now have largely disappeared due to declining community populations or obscured by modern remodeling. The church is nestled deep in the piney woods of central Washington County in the community of Hawthorn. The present building was completed c. 1916. Original details still present include the windows and the pillars that support the church.

Though the present building was constructed in 1916, the Washington Church was established in 1883 and has had an active congregation since that time. Immediately behind the church building is a historic cemetery that is over 100 years old. The oldest death date on a headstone is 1901. Descendants of early church members continue to be buried here.

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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