



468 S. Perry Street ♦ Montgomery, AL 36104
334.242.3184 ♦ preserveala.org

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Contact: Lee Anne Wofford, (334) 230-2659
LeeAnne.Wofford@preserveala.org

WAYMAN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Wayman Chapel A.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.

Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Church is a good example of a locally significant African-American religious building. Located within the Old Northwest district of Decatur, the church was constructed in 1907 with alterations in the 1920s. The Old Northwest neighborhood was settled in the late 1800s as Decatur's industrial base was booming and employment opportunities could be had along the river at various industrial sites. Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Church was one of several African American churches that served as the religious, social, and community centers for Decatur's African-American residents. 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 and 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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