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## **DALLAS COUNTY'S PROVIDENCE SCHOOL ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added the Providence School near the Five Points community south of Orrville 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.

The Providence School building is listed in the Alabama Register for its significance as one of few remaining early 20<sup>th</sup> century one-room African American schools in Dallas County. According to Dorothy Walker, Public Outreach Coordinator of the Alabama Historical Commission, "The school building is a testament to efforts by African Americans in the community to establish educational opportunities for their children in the early twentieth century."

Built in c. 1910, the school is one of the oldest schools found to be remaining in the county and is the oldest school building remaining in this community. The Providence Baptist Church owns the building. The community would like to restore it as a museum to interpret African American education in Dallas County.

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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