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BESSIE W. MUNDEN RECREATIONAL PARK IN WILCOX COUNTY ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added the Bessie W. Munden Park near Camden 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 Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park is significant as a community park built in 1959 to provide recreational opportunities for African Americans who were prohibited from using white parks in the county during the segregation era. Civic leader Bessie W. Munden founded the park. Munden was a teacher and administrator in the Wilcox County School system for many years. The park is an important community asset that operated continuously for three decades until 1989. Local community leaders have established an organization, the Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park, Inc., to oversee the restoration of the park which began in 2004.

The 22-acre public park includes a restored baseball field, original concrete block dugouts, original concrete stands, a basketball court, playground equipment and a recently constructed 40'x100' picnic pavilion with concessions and bathrooms.

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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