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

LAWRENCE COUNTY'S BOXWOOD PLANTATION DEPENDENCY ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added the Boxwood Plantation Dependency in the Hillsboro vicinity 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.

Constructed in c. 1854, the Boxwood Plantation Dependency is but one of eleven slave quarters remaining in Alabama. The building is the sole surviving vestige of the Boxwood Plantation. Located on Alabama Highway 20 near Decatur, the structure was almost demolished a year ago to make way for an industrial park access road being built by the Lawrence County Industrial Development Board. At that time, modern additions and vinyl siding covered the building's history. When the board learned of the building's significance, they rerouted the road days before its scheduled demolition.

Local resident Lisa Lentz has led the effort to reclaim the building. Lentz and other volunteers have removed the vinyl siding to expose the original brick, peeled off modern wallboard, and exposed the original fireplaces. Lentz has spent countless hours working to make Boxwood look like it did when it was built in 1854.

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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