

The First Baptist Church, in Hayneville, Lowndes County listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage

The First Missionary Baptist Church in Hayneville is significant for its role in the 1966 elections in Lowndes County. Local black community leaders joined with members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to form a third party, the Lowndes County Freedom Party to run a slate of African Americans in the county's November 1966 election. The church served as the site for the Freedom Party convention. On Tuesday, May 3, 1966, some 900 registered black voters descended on the church and cast ballots in the convention. The 1966 convention was a momentous event for members of the black community who were voting for the first time. In the mid-1960s, the church also held mass meetings to support the Civil Rights Movement. The current building was constructed in 1959 by Johnny Morgan, a local craftsman. It looks much as it did when it took center stage during the Lowndes County Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

The **Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage** is an official listing of places worthy of preservation. The Alabama Historical Commission administers the program, which gives the public a simple way to bring recognition to historic properties. The Alabama Register officially recognizes and honors historic places that are at least 40 years old.

For more information about the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, visit: www.preserveala.org/alabamaregister.aspx.

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*The Alabama Historical Commission protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama's historic places and is the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*

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