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MOBILE COUNTY'S ALVAREZ-BAILEY CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added the Alvarez-Bailey ("Saraland") Cemetery to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now 37 cemeteries in Mobile County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 372 cemeteries statewide.

The Alvarez-Bailey Cemetery contains two distinct burial sections. The Alvarez section contains at least 12 burials and is the final resting place for descendants of Don Diego Alvarez, who received a Spanish land grant for the area that would become present-day Saraland. The oldest marked burial dates to 1859. Names found in this section include Alvarez and LaCoste.

The Bailey section contains 176 marked and 77 unmarked African-American burials. The oldest graves date to the 1920s. Several war veterans are buried here. This section of the cemetery is still in use.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*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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