



P. O. Box 300900 ♦ Montgomery, AL 36130  
(334) 242-3184 ♦ preserveala.org

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**Contact:** Lee Anne Wofford, (334) 230-2659

## **SHELBY COUNTY'S WILSONVILLE CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Wilsonville Cemetery in Wilsonville 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 17 cemeteries in Shelby County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 329 cemeteries statewide.

The oldest marked grave dates from 1854, but local tradition holds that the cemetery was in use prior to this time. The cemetery contains over 1300 burials and 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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