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**Contact:** Lee Anne Wofford, (334) 230-2659  
[LWofford@preserveala.org](mailto:LWofford@preserveala.org)

## **TUSCALOOSA COUNTY'S HUGHES CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Hughes 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 10 cemeteries in Tuscaloosa County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 345 cemeteries statewide.

Established as a cemetery in the 1850s, Hughes Cemetery contains 35 marked burials and an unknown number of unmarked burials. It is the final resting place of Franklin Hughes (1818-1887) and sits on a hill overlooking a valley that Hughes homesteaded in 1859. Hughes Cemetery contains vernacular grave markers carved from local rock and remnants of the “swept cemetery style,” which reflect the early to mid-19th century burial customs found throughout the Upland South. Family names found in the cemetery include Garner, Gwin, Hughes, Lawrence, and Rains, which are still common names in this area. Poplar Springs Baptist Church adopted Hughes Cemetery on March 20, 2010.

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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