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SHELBY COUNTY'S OLD STERRETT CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Old Sterrett 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 19 cemeteries in Shelby County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 354 cemeteries statewide.

Old Sterrett Cemetery, also known as Cedars of Beulah Land Burial Ground, is located on property originally homesteaded by Henley Webster in 1824. One of the most distinctive features of this cemetery is the 16 prominent cedar trees that adorn the site. The first recorded burial is that of Henley Webster's daughter, Polly, who died in 1841. An effort has been made to account for all possible grave plots. There are approximately 252 marked graves and 324 unmarked or unknown graves.

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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