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DALE COUNTY'S GREATER OLD SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Greater Old Salem Missionary Baptist Church 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 three cemeteries in Dale County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 368 cemeteries statewide.

Greater Old Salem's church history spans more than 150 years. The church was previously located on land that eventually became Fort Rucker. The oldest marked grave in the cemetery dates from 1886. There are over 200 burials in the cemetery and approximately 10 unmarked 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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