

December 3, 2010

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

## **RUSSELL COUNTY'S ST. PETER AME CHURCH CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added St. Peter AME 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 Russell County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 368 cemeteries statewide.

St. Peter AME Church is one of the oldest African-American churches in Russell County, dating to about 1881. The cemetery is located at the site of the original church, which is no longer standing. A new church was built in 1966 at a different location. There are at least 167 marked graves and an unknown number of unmarked graves in the cemetery. Several of the grave markers have been destroyed over time. Over the years, local descendants of people buried here have undertaken significant efforts to clean and maintain the cemetery.

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.***

###