



468 S. Perry Street ♦ Montgomery, AL 36104
334.242.3184 ♦ preserveala.org

June 23, 2011

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

MARSHALL COUNTY'S FREE HOME CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Free Home Cemetery in Grant 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 five cemeteries in Marshall County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 388 cemeteries statewide.

Free Home Cemetery had its first burial in 1909 and currently has approximately 2600 graves and grave sites. In 1914, Joe and Ida Henson sold 1.5 acres to the Free Home Baptist Church of Christ, later known as Free Home Missionary Baptist Church. Over time, more acreage was added to the cemetery allowing for expansion. The cemetery is nicely maintained and the Free Home Cemetery Foundation has been established for perpetual care.

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.

###