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JENKINS CEMETERY IN NORTHPORT ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Jenkins Cemetery in Northport 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 11 cemeteries in Tuscaloosa County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 388 cemeteries statewide.

Jenkins Cemetery contains at least four marked graves and an unknown number of unmarked graves. Marked burials date between 1830 and 1845. James Jenkins and some members of his family are buried here. Jenkins came to Tuscaloosa County with his wife and children in 1818. In 1824, he homesteaded 80 acres on the Byler Road, which ran through his land. In the early 1820s, both Jenkins and his oldest son, John, were appointed as justices of the peace for Tuscaloosa County. Jenkins also served as a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Tuscaloosa, the only Methodist church in the area during that early period.

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.