

June 23, 2011

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

TWO PIKE COUNTY CEMETERIES ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Carter Cemetery in Goshen and Antioch Cemetery at Shellhorn 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 six cemeteries in Pike County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 388 cemeteries statewide.

Carter Cemetery was established on land once owned by the Carter and Lawrence families. There was at one time a one-room church/school in front of the cemetery, but it was removed in the 1950s. The oldest marked burial dates to 1861. John Simpson Carter settled this land and one of his sons, James Madison Carter, served in the Alabama legislature. The cemetery is well maintained and remains active.

Antioch Cemetery at Shellhorn was established as a community cemetery in the early 1840s. The cemetery contains approximately 480 marked and 10 unmarked burials. Next to it stands Antioch Church of Christ and Shellhorn School, which is not in use at this time. A Masonic Lodge that is no longer present was also associated with the cemetery. It continues today as a community 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.***