

Media Release
January 21, 2014

**DEMOPOLIS HISTORIC DISTRICT UPDATE & BOUNDARY
INCREASE IN MARENGO COUNTY ADDED TO THE NATIONAL
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

The National Park Service listed the Demopolis Historic District Update and Boundary Increase in Demopolis, Marengo County on the National Register of Historic Places on January 10, 2014.

The Demopolis Historic District originally encompassed the commercial core of the town and was listed in 1979. The updated nomination greatly expands the boundaries of the district. It now includes historic neighborhoods, a school and churches.

Demopolis has been an important commercial center in the western Black Belt since its founding in 1819. The Demopolis Historic District illustrates the development of the town from the antebellum era through the mid-20th century. The Tombigbee River gave the small market town access to the port of Mobile on the Gulf of Mexico. It evolved into an important cotton market prior to the Civil War. Demopolis's economy rebounded from the war's devastation in the late 19th century. Improvements in railroads, river transportation and roadways helped the community to prosper up until the Great Depression. Demopolis experienced some additional growth after World War II.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historic places worthy of preservation—www.preserveala.org/nationalregister.aspx. The Alabama Historical Commission administers the program in Alabama.

Contact **Susan Enzweiler** at 334-230-2644 or susan.enzweiler@preserveala.org for more information.

*The Alabama Historical Commission **protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama's historic places** and is the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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