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HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVE PROJECT CERTIFIED FOR LAFAYETTE'S VINES FUNERAL HOME

On February 11, the National Park Service (NPS) certified a building rehabilitation project for Vines Funeral Home and Ambulance Service, an African-American owned business located at 211 B Street S.W. in LaFayette.

Prior to operating a successful business, Julius Summers Vines served in WWII, fighting in the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. Vines returned from the war and earned a Mortuary Science degree in 1948 from the Welch School in Birmingham. Aspiring to open his own business, he purchased land in his home county and used a GI bill loan to build his business. Vines built this brick building in 1952 to house his new funeral home and ambulance service, and he served as the sole proprietor for the next 50 years. It was a common practice in the segregation era for African-American funeral homes to provide ambulance service. As a business owner, Vines exemplified an entrepreneurial and community spirit that earned the respect of blacks and whites alike.

In operation since 1952, Vines Funeral Home and Ambulance Service is still family-owned and is operated today by Mr. Vines' daughters. The successful business is the only funeral home in Alabama with an ambulance service. The National Park Service listed the building in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 2008. Owner Merilyn F. Vines is planning a historical marker celebration for early summer.

The NPS jointly administers the Preservation Tax Incentive program with the IRS. The program offers a 20% tax credit to owners who rehabilitate an historic building that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The building can be listed individually, or as a contributing structure in a National Register historic district. To be eligible for the tax incentive, the property must be used for income-producing purposes.

The Alabama Historical Commission manages the program in Alabama.

To learn more about the tax incentive, visit: www.preserveala.org/taxcredits.aspx.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission**, the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*