

# preserve ALA

## ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### **Boynton Home Listed to the Alabama Register**

The Alabama Historical Commission recently listed the Samuel W. and Amelia Platts Boynton Home, located at 1315 Lapsley Street in Selma, to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

The Alabama Register is an official listing of buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts. These properties, which may be of national, state, or local significance, are deemed worthy of preservation by the Alabama Historical Commission.

The Boynton's modest turn of the century home was the central meeting place for some of the most notable 20<sup>th</sup> century leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. George Washington Carver. These meetings resulted in events that would lead to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 giving all Americans the right to vote.

The Boyntons were tireless advocates for African American representation in the political process. In 1964, Mrs. Boynton ran for U.S. Congress, the first African American woman in Alabama to do so. According to Civil Rights Activist, Dick Gregory, who submitted a letter of support for the nomination of the house to the register, "...the Boynton family...went beyond providing shelter, they also played an active role in the planning and strategizing for how the tactic of nonviolent social resistance would be choreographed in Selma." The family, who still owns the house, would like to restore it as a museum.

Listing to the Alabama Register is an honorary designation and carries no restrictions or financial incentives.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama's state agency for historic preservation.*

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