

preserve

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Baldwin County's Malbis Plantation Historic District Listed in Alabama Register

The Alabama Historical Commission recently listed the Malbis Plantation Historic District 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, and local significance, are deemed worthy of preservation by the Alabama Historical Commission.

Malbis Plantation was established in 1906 as a colony farm by two Greek immigrants, Jason Malbis and William Papageorge. Within a decade or two, the colony farm became a self-sufficient plantation and commercial enterprise known as Malbis Plantation, Inc. supporting a cannery, bakery, dairy, ice plant, machine shop, electrical plant and plant nursery. The plantation served as a starting off point for many Greek immigrants.

Perhaps the most memorable accomplishment of Malbis Plantation, Inc. was the construction of a majestic Greek Orthodox Church, dedicated in 1965. Constructed in the Neo-Byzantine style under the supervision of the architectural firm Frederick C. Woods and Associates, Malbis Memorial Church was modeled after a church in Athens called Panagia Chytsospyliotissa (Our Lady of the Golden Cave). Some artwork and religious relics were brought from Greece and all of the interior marble was mined from the same quarries that supplied the ancient Parthenon. Although never having an active congregation, religious observances, special services, weddings, and funerals take place in the church.

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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