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ESCAMBIA COUNTY'S PILGRIMS REST CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Pilgrims Rest Cemetery in Brewton 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 four cemeteries in Escambia County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 252 cemeteries statewide.

Pilgrims Rest Cemetery was established around the same time as Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, which was founded on September 17, 1854. The church moved to north Brewton in 1878 and a Methodist Church was founded in the same location in 1889. It was known as Alco Methodist Church until it was sold by the Methodist Conference in 1990. Edmund Troupe Brewton, the city of Brewton's namesake, was buried here in 1896. Some Confederate and Union veterans of the Civil War are buried here along with veterans of World War 1 and 11.

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, Alabama's state agency for historic preservation.

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