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Skyline Farms Store added to the Alabama Register

The Alabama Historical Commission recently listed the Skyline Farms Store, Scottsboro vic., 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.

The store was constructed in 1935 of locally quarried stone and was part of the Cumberland Farms Project, later renamed the Skyline Farms Project. Established in 1934 by the Federal Emergency Relief Agency, the goal of this initiative was to offer jobs and social welfare to unemployed Alabama farmers devastated by the Great Depression. Land was divided into 181 farms, varying in size from 40 to 60 acres. It was one of 43 such projects throughout the U.S., but it was among the largest in terms of development, expenses and national publicity. Along with the store, the communal center of Skyline consisted of a school, a warehouse, and a manager's office. The Skyline School is already listed on the Alabama Register.

The Skyline store was used as community center, general store, homestead office and post office. Later, a restaurant, barber shop, service station and garage occupied the building. Today, it is owned by the Rice family.

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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