



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEDIA RELEASE

The Alabama Historical Commission **protects, preserves, and interprets**
Alabama's historic place and is the State Historic Preservation Office.

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TWO ESCAMBIA COUNTY PROPERTIES ADDED TO ALABAMA REGISTER

Escambia County Training School in Atmore and the Damascus Travelers Well near Brewton were listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on June 23, 2016.

The Escambia County Training School, listed for its association with African American Heritage and education and for its architecture, is located on the same site as the City of Atmore Colored School and later a five-classroom, industrial type Rosenwald School, both of which are no longer extant. There are currently four buildings on the site, dating from the late 1950s, early 1960s, and early 1980s.

The site hosted facilities for the education of African Americans in Escambia County since the late 1920s, and was used as a middle school before closing in the 2000s.



The Damascus Travelers Well, located at the intersection of County Roads 71 and 69 in the Damascus Community, stands 42-inches high, and has a simply-pitched wood covering. Although the wood

covering is only about 3 years old, this type of gabled shelter has always been present at the well. It is a well-known landmark used for tourists through the area, and it served as a watering place for travelers and animals for at least 90 years before being filled with dirt.

Travelers would draw water by pulling a rope attached to a two-gallon bucket. The well itself was about 25-feet deep. There were always several long handled gourd dippers for drinking, but most would turn the bucket up and pour the water into their mouths. It was understood that any unused water would be poured into a cistern or trough beside the well which would then be used for watering animals.



Damascus High School was located about 200 yards from the well, and when the water pump at the school would break, the principal would send high school boys to the well to get water for the lunch room cooks for meal preparation and clean-up.

The Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage is an official listing of buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. These properties may be of national, state, and local significance. The designation is honorary and carries no restrictions or financial incentives. The Alabama Historical Commission created the Alabama Register to provide the public with a quick and easy way to document and recognize historic places, such as houses, schools, churches, and commercial buildings that are at least 40 years old.

A [list of properties in the Alabama Register](#) is available alphabetically by county

What is the process for getting your property listed? Start by completing the [Alabama Register Form](#) (refer to the [instructions](#)).

About the Alabama Historical Commission

Located in historic downtown Montgomery at 468 S. Perry Street, the Alabama Historical Commission is the historic preservation agency for the State of Alabama. The agency was created by an act of the state legislature in 1966 with a mission of safeguarding Alabama's historic buildings and sites. The Commission is tasked with the acquisition and preservation of historic properties and educating the public about historic sites in Alabama. For a complete list of historic sites, hours of operation, and admission fees please visit <http://preserveala.org/>

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