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Form 10-300 (July 1969) . UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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DESCRIPTION:

Deminsions 30' X 36' X 10' walls, one room.

The church walls one of hard split and howed longlesf pine, exceted with matched corners. The original floor is thought to have been earth but the first wood floor is one inch by six inch rough boards on hard split pine leg joints. In recent years a one inch by four inch tongue and groove floor has been laid on top of the original board floor. The roof is now galvanised metal on two-by-four inch rafters secured with pine pole wind bracing and on one by six inch saved perling. The original gabled roof was: covered with rived pine boards (shingles). Doors are made of pine boards fastened with square nails and hung by strap metal kinges -- originally hung by hand made gate type iron hinges. A single door is located in the center of each of the morth, south and west walls. The east wall has two shuttered window openings also made of sine boards and originally home by gate type hinges. There has never been any type ceiling installed. The sables each have a single framed opening, originally closed with pine boards shutters. One window now has a six-page window such with pages missing. The building was originally heated with a small metal stove with the stove sipe extending through the Rest wall at the center. There are a number of early american pine powe put together with square mails still in the church. Original split pine log benches without backs and mounted on page have been removed. Wall cracks between the logs are severed by pine beards fastened with square nails. Some of these beards have been replaced in recent years. The sill leg on the west side was replaced a second time in 1973 with sawn pine timbers. Original pillers were of mative rock. All corner pillows were replaced with concrete block in 1973. 3 Stope at each door were originally split pine logs but have been replaced with severete. No part of the building has ever been painted, 73.4 NO a lavera 27.

☐ Pre-Columbian!☐ 15th Century	Appropriate) 16th Century 17th Century	☐ 18th Century (■ 19th Century	20th Century
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known) Cousti	sated between 1885	and 1890
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch.	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi.	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	······································
Architecture	☐ Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

Shoal Creek Reptist Church is said to be the oldest and possibly only hand split and hand hewned pine log church building still in existance and in use in Alabama. The builders used notehed corners to hold the logs in place. He pegs, nails or ether divices were used. The four corners were motched by local citizens: William Elijah Holley, Jon Mayo, W. W. (Bill) Thompson and Bill Holley (each notched a corner). The whole community joined in construction. It was constructed between the years 1885and 1890. This building is one of two similar buildings oxiginally on these grounds. The first building, was erected about 1845 and burned about 1935. Each building was used by the community for church services and for public school. These being the only community buildings in the area, the church building had a significant role in the development of the social, moral, spiritual and cultural growth and development of the people in the area. adjoining constary contains ancesters of people now residing ever the southeastern United States. Former members, decendants and friends maintain the church building, grounds and cometary and meet once each year for an all day secred hery singing. Secred Hery music was the music of the early aburch and is a part of the heritage of early emerica and this area. In addition the building see used each summer after the crops were "laid by" and before cotton picking time for singing echools where the young people of the community got their formal music leaves and learned facrod Harp and gospel music. These schools were usually taught by a minister. During the mineteen thirties the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, acquired all surrounding lands in the area and established the Talladega Mational Porest.

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[|]Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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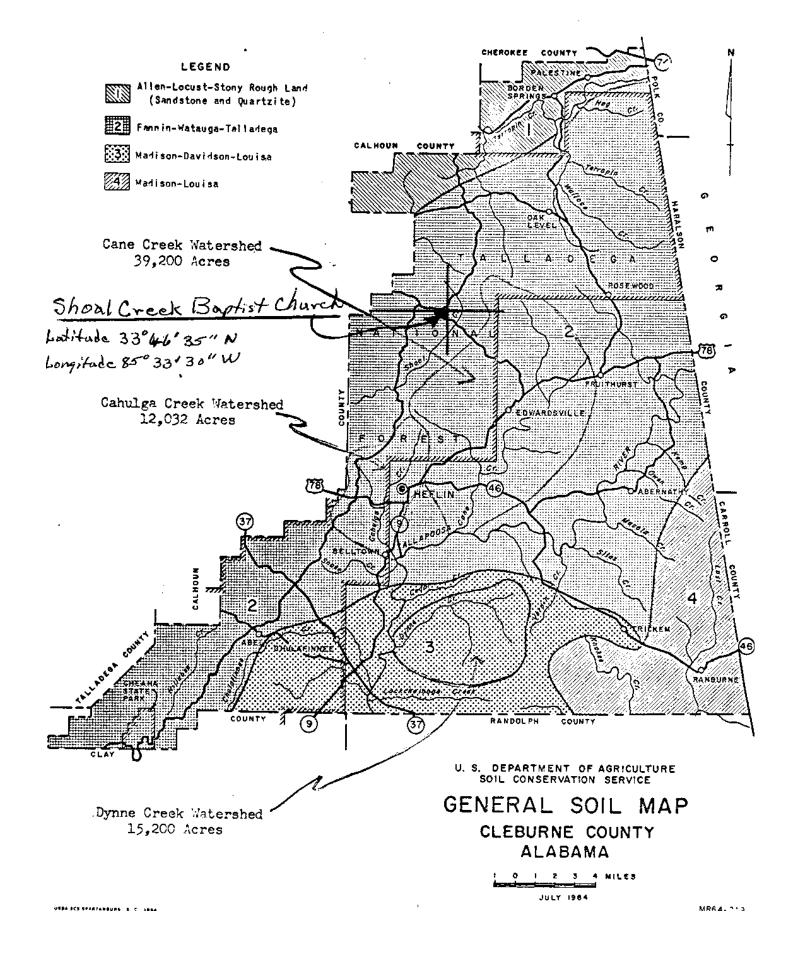


Exhibit 1

Ownership: Sheal Creek Esptist Church has no current membership. Available records (church minutes) indicate the church seased to function about 1914 or 1915. The last minutes are dated September 6, 1914. The last church clerk, R. A. Thompson was in possession of these minutes until presented to the Cleburne County Library August 7, 1973.

Some time following the apparent break up of the church former members, their decendants and friends began meeting once each year in the church building for a Sacred Harp singing. In recent years this meetings was moved from the fourth Sunday in August to Labor Day. This meeting is called the Annual Labor Day Sacred Harp Singing. Pink Holley, Route #3, Heflin, Alabama 36264, is chairman of this group. It is this group that has assumed sweership maintenance of the church building and grounds.

I R. A. Thompson would like to present the minutes of the Shoal Creek Baptist Church minutes to the Heflin Libary.

August 7, 1973

Ra Shongran R. A. Thompson Hettie Thompson



STATE OF ALABAMA ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104



January 31, 1975

Mr. R. J. Butler Shoal Creek Association Route 4 Heflin, Alabama

Mr. J. Newman Roach Route 1, Box 427 Jacksonville, Alabama

Gentlemen:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that Shoal Creek Baptist Church has been added to the National Register of Historic Places by the U. S. Department of Interior on December 4, 1974.

By this carbon that we are sending to the East Alabama Regional Planning Commission, we are suggesting that a public ceremony be set up so that the enclosed certificate can be presented to you and the general public can be made more aware of the importance of your landmark and the National Register.

Sincerely,

W. Warner Floyd

WWF/ljt

ENCLOSURES

cc: **4f.** Joel Thompson U. S. Forest Service

East Alabama Regional Planning Commission