

# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

## Nomination Form

Added to Alabama Register  
2/25/99

### 1. Name

historic Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
and/or common Green Pond Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

### 2. Location

street & number 65 Presbyterian Church Road  
city, town Green Pond ---vicinity of  
state AL county Bibb zip 35074

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name Green Pond Presbyterian Congregation Phone number  
street & number 65 Presbyterian Church Road, P.O. Box 100  
city, town Green Pond ---vicinity of zip 35074

**5. Floor plan & site plan.** Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.  
Attached

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**6. Description** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.**

The Green Pond Presbyterian Church and Cemetery consists of a complex of 4.5 acres of property located in the northern part of Bibb County in the community of Green Pond, on Bibb County Road 12 just east of its junction with Alabama Highway 5. Green Pond is located north of the Bibb County community of West Blocton and east of the rapidly developing Tuscaloosa County community of Vance, very close to the junction of U.S. Highway 11 and Interstate 59/20. The building faces south on Presbyterian Church Road, a semi-circular drive joining County Road 12 (Greyhill Road) and Eastern Valley Road.

The church building is a medium-pitched gable-front frame structure dating from 1884. A decorative cornice and a circular panel ornament the front gable, and original slender vertical plank doors surmounted by a 4-lite transom provide access to the building. Original wood siding has been maintained. Asphalt shingles cover the gabled roof. Chimneys have been removed. The building rests on a foundation of continuous concrete block that dates from the 1950s. Four concrete (?) steps are flanked by a decorative iron rail (c. 1980), and a shed-type aluminum awning projects below the transom. Elongated replacement windows dating from the 1960s flank the front entry and extend along each side elevation (four symmetrically spaced along each side). Along the rear of the building are three classrooms that are believed by local historians (Ms. Lemond) to be original to the building, though recent materials are evident. A wheel chair ramp on the eastern side of the building was constructed in the 1970s.

On the interior, original vertical wainscoting, original flooring and original pews remain, as do original door and window surrounds. Upper walls have been covered with sheetrock (c.1960), the pulpit replaced (1952), and an acoustical tile ceiling installed (1980). Lighting consists of historic dropped globe fixtures and modern recessed florescent fixtures. The interior of the rear classrooms feature pine paneling, sheet rock walls, and double doors leading to the sanctuary.

At the rear of the church building is a cemetery dating from the time of construction of the church. It contains approximately 650 burials, ranging in date from 1889 to the present. Situated on a rolling hillside, the graveyard has been terraced with the use of brick and concrete block. Markers include two notable "Woodmen of the World" headstones, several small obelisks, decorative upright slabs featuring scroll and arch patterns, and a small arched-top box-type. A modern entrance features brick gate posts and a sign, and the area is enclosed by a chain link fence.



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**7. Significance** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: funerary art

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**Specific dates** 1884 **Builder/Architect**

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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).**

The Green Pond Presbyterian Church and Cemetery are eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criteria A and C in the areas of architecture and religion. The resource retains a high degree of integrity of design, setting, association and location and maintains a moderate degree of integrity of materials and workmanship. Organized in 1826, the church represents one of the earliest Presbyterian congregations both in Bibb County and in the state, and the building depicts a late-19th century vernacular architectural form. Its significance is furthermore enhanced by cemetery, which includes notable "Woodmen of the World" grave markers, late-19th century decorative upright stones, and unusual rounded box-type slabs. The resource is situated in a rural settlement that is potentially threatened by rapid development associated with the Mercedes industry in the Tuscaloosa County community of Vance. Church members have been successful in maintaining a high degree of integrity of setting.

**SUMMARY:**

The Green Pond Presbyterian Church and Cemetery consists of a 4.5 acre complex containing a late-19th century church and cemetery. Dating from 1884, the building is a gable-front frame structure featuring a medium-pitched roof and elongated windows (replacement). Original elements include the weatherboard siding, vertical plank entry doors, hand-carved pews, and wainscoting. Though the original windows and pulpit have been replaced and interior walls (upper portion) and ceiling covered, it retains a high degree of integrity of form. The cemetery contains approximately 650 graves, including notable Victorian period and early-20th century markers. Among these are two "Woodmen of the World" markers, numerous decorative upright stones, several obelisks, and unusual rounded box-type slabs.

Historically, the congregation dates to the settlement period of the state and is associated with the founding of the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church in Birmingham in 1871, from which the present-day Mountain Brook Presbyterian congregation was formed. The Green Pond Church was originally affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, but since its merger in 1906 with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA), it has maintained an association with that body (Garner).

The cemetery has maintained its association with the congregation through the years, and burials continue to the present time. Notable local figures have been interred here, including long-time church elder William Hayes, local postmasters & store owners, a daughter of Tannehill Iron Works builder Moses Stroup, and a descendant of Queen Victoria (see draft nomination).

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## 8. Major Bibliographical References

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Garner, Jesse. Pastor, Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church. Phone interview 2/22/99, (205-967-5037).

Lemond, Rosa. Draft nomination.

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## 9. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ 4.5 acres \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

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## 10. Form Prepared By

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Sally Moore (AHC)

name/title Rosa Lemond

organization Green Pond Presbyterian Church

date 2/25/99

street & number #1 Worthington Drive

telephone 205-938-2344

city or town Green Pond

state AL zip 35074

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## 11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

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Color slides are essential to the review process.

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## 12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

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Alabama Register Coordinator  
Alabama Historical Commission  
468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900



# Green Pond Presbyterian Church & Cemetery

## Information Requested

Sanctuary & Classrooms built same time

Ramp - 1970's

concrete Foundation 1950's

Aluminum windows & sheet rock - 1960

Acustical Ceiling - 1980 - & florescent Lights

Exterior doors - steps - Original

rail 1980

interior wainscot - Original

pulpit 1952

pews - Original - built by hand

decorative globe light fixture - Original

## Cemetery Design UNKNOWN

Most graves date mid 20th Century - Approximately 650 graves  
earliest date on Tomb - 1889 - Some with Metal markers  
with no names or dates - latest 2 weeks ago

Cemetery dates to the building of Church

One picture shows the ~~fence~~ gate & fence

One shows how close the Church is to the Cemetery

William Hayes was an elder for 45 years

Parthenia Bowdy direct descendant of Queen Victoria

Ellie Manning  
→ Stroup oldest daughter of Moses Stroup - who helped build  
the Iron Works at Pine Hill. (~~Hickman~~) related to Hickmans

The black Tomb - belongs to a young man who hung himself  
in ~~fact~~ Bibb Co jail

Some of the Tombs were of interesting shapes

Smith  
One in memory of some one lost during WW II

There are several old Postmasters buried there (Shucklford)

Several people who were store owners (Money Myers)  
JOHNSON

Many early workers in the Church -

REC'D

JAN 12 1999

Ala. Historical Commission

Pasture

Road

Pasture

Road

Approximately 650 graves

Woods

gate

Green Pond Cemetery

gate

Church

Presbyterian Church Road

house  
was manse at one time

Trailers

Houses

Baptist Church

AP Grocery

[Three small squares representing houses]

Eastern Valley Rd

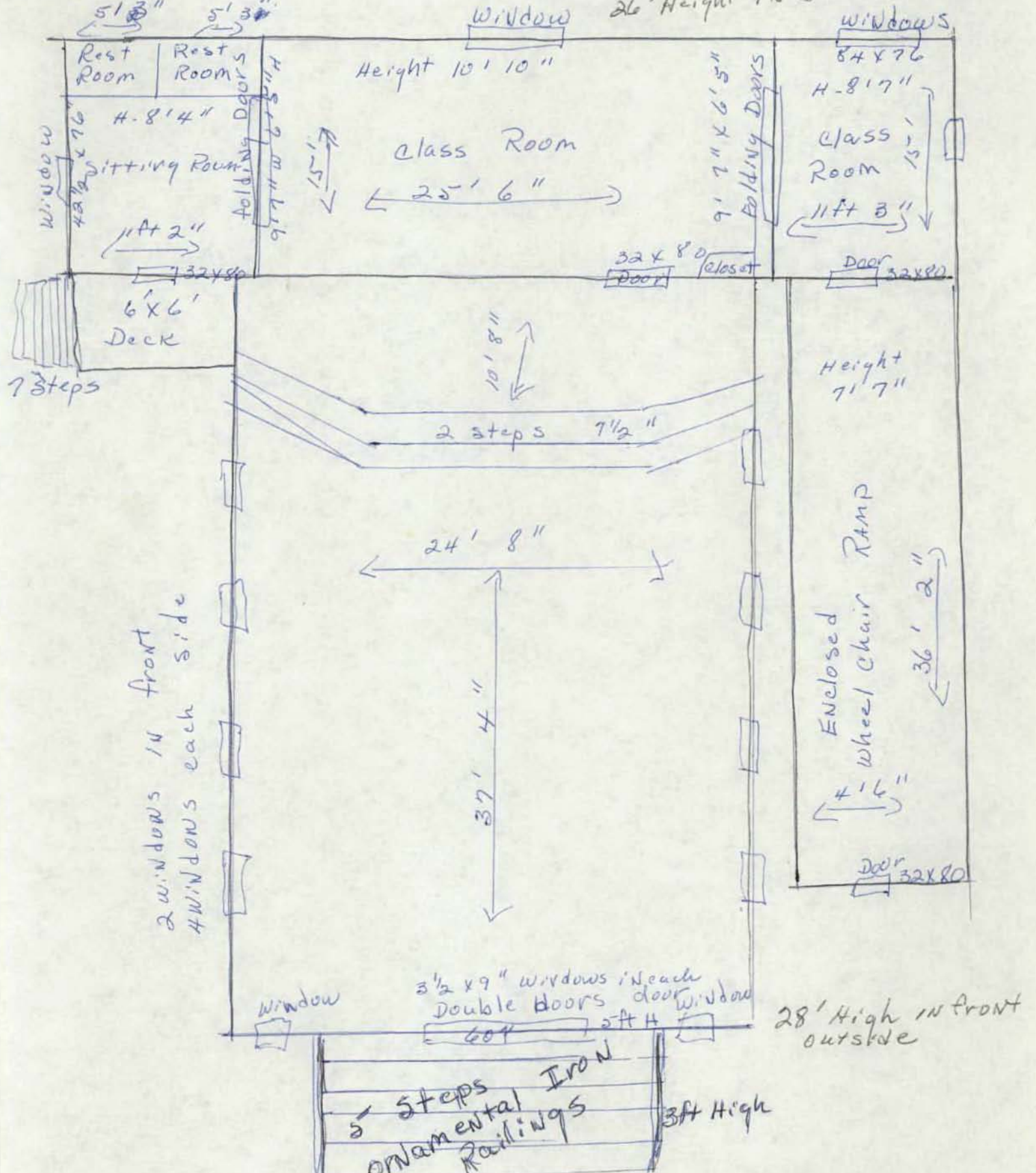
Green Pond Cemetery

Alway 12 - Greghill Rd

Library  
Green Pond Park



2 Light fixtures in church 3ft chain drop decorative globe with metal tassel below. 2 florescent lights recessed in middle Classroom drop cord 4ft with bulb on end. others have switches,



Green Pond Presbyterian Church Est. 1826



