

Alabama Register Property Information

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JUL 24 1991



Ala. Historical Commission

1. Name

historic Sardis Baptist Church

and/or common Sardis Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number Five miles from Union Springs, Alabama on Alabama 223S, in the Sardis Community.

city, town SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 20, Township 13, Range 23, Cahaua Land Dist, State of Alabama and _____ vicinity of

state SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 20, Township 13, Range 23 county Bullock County

3. Classification

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

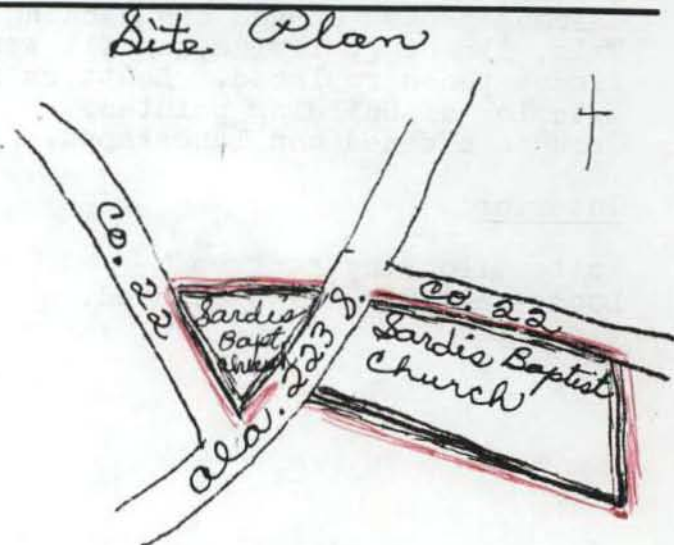
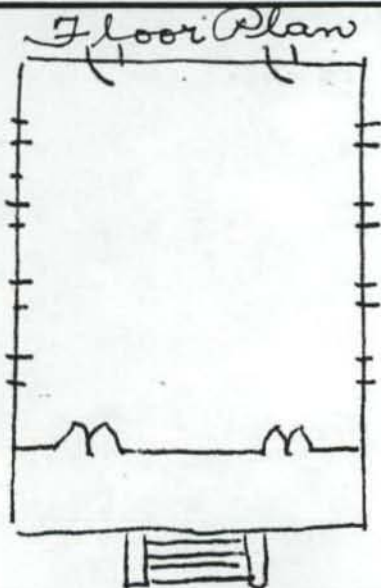
4. Owner of Property

name Sardis Baptist Church
Sardis Baptist Church Building Fund Committee

street & number c/o Mrs. Pauline Cook Banks, Treasurer
Rt. 3, Box 201

city, town Union Springs, Alabama 36089
_____ vicinity of state

5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.



6. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>July 23, 1991</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building is one-storied, Greek Revival, three to five feet above ground, brick pillars on rock and/or cement, mortise and tenon frame, wood plank wall.

Porch: There is one porch, covered by the extension of the main roof and supported by four columns. There are two pilasters.

Roof: The roof is tin gable with full entablature.

Porch: There is one porch. There are two double, two-panel doors opening from the porch. The two back doors were closed outside because of vandalism but inside the building, they appear to be usable.

Windows: There are eight 18-panel windows, most with original glass. The windows have the original shutters.

Walls and

Ceiling: The ceiling is wide plank; the walls are plaster with chair-rails; the floor is wood plank.

Hardware: Some door knobs and original hinges are missing.

Repairs: Following vandalism during the 1980's, a few concerned citizens of the community formed a committee to save the church. The response from many in Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky, to the efforts of the committee enabled the committee to begin restoration. The following repairs have been made since August of 1989:

Exterior:

Rotten sills removed and replaced.
Back doors secured.
Five pillars rebuilt with proper cement footings.
Rotted porch planks replaced.
Loose roof and rafters fastened.
Columns jacked up and new decking placed underneath.
Trim, flashing, freize, soffit were repaired.
Window panes replaced. Shutters repaired and rehung.
Exterior of building painted.
Grounds cleaned and landscaped.

Interior:

Rotten flooring replaced.
Loose ceiling boards secured.

7. Significance

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"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1841 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sardis Baptist Church is significant in historical Alabama because of its definite Greek Revival architecture which has not been altered in its 150 years of existance. The church is inactive at this timebecause of its condition, but it has been active in community religious, social, and musical life.

As indicated by a statewide survey by the Alabama Historical Commission, the Sardis Baptist Church is one of the oldest Baptist church buildings still standing anywhere in Alabama. In a letter dated February 6, 1989, from Robert Gamble, Architectural Historian of the Alabama Historical Commission, to Dr. Wayne Flynt, Mr. Gamble states "...Of the pre-1865 churches we have identified in our recent statewide inventory of early houses of worship, we regard the Sardis Church as one of the most important and also one of the most immediately endangered due to neglect and abandonment." In a letter dated October 13, 1988, to Pauline C. Banks, Mr. Gamble states "Sardis, after all, is one of the oldest Baptist church building still standing anywhere in Alabama - - as a recent statewide survey by this office has determined." In a letter dated March 10, 1989 from Mr. Gamble to Quentin Porch, Mr. Gamble states "...the Good Hope Church (1858) at Uchee in Russell County; and the Sardis Church (circa 1858 [1841] near Union Springs in Bullock County. Both are exceptionally fine examples of rural antebellum church architecture following the Greek Revival style"

The following is a direct quotation from Historic Assets, Bullock County, Alabama, from an article written by Hobson Roughton, Bullock County historian: "The Sardis Baptist Church was organized in 1837. Although early church records have been lost, it is believed that the church was constructed in 1841. Macon County Courthouse records indicate that in that year, John M. Dozier and his wife deeded the Sardis Church four and one half acres of land for the church and cemetery. The negotiations became final with the payment of \$6.62 being made to the Dozier family. In 1860, an additional two thirds acre was deeded to the Sardis Baptist Church for additional graveyard space. The deed was signed by J. M. Crawley and wife, Lucinda, and William A. Martin and wife, Nancy. The frame structure exemplifies a rural carpenter's version of Greek Revival architecture. Four Columns support a full entablature and low pitched gable roof. The two primary entrances consist of paneled double doors, trimmed with unadorned molding. A series of four shuttered windows are found on either side of the building."

The church was the focal point of rural life of the period. The families who settled the Sardis community and established the church were from Edgefield District of South Carolina and were prominent in community and county growth and development.

(Continued on insert)

8. Major Bibliographical References

1. Quotes from Alabama Historical Commission:
Letter, Oct. 13, 1988 Robert S. Gamble to Pauline C. Banks.
Letter, Feb. 16, 1989 Robert S. Gamble to Wayne Flynt.
Letter, Mar. 10, 1989, Robert S. Gamble to Quentin Porch.
Quote, Hobson Boughton, Historic Assets, Bullock County, Alabama.
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9. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 5 1/6 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Pauline Cook Banks, Treasurer

organization Sardis Baptist Church Building/ Fund Committee
date July 23, 1991

street & number Rt. 3, Box 201 telephone (205) 738-2456

city or town Union Springs, state Alabama 36089

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

Enclosed: 4 color slides
3 color photographs
Article, The Clayton Record
Article, Historic Assets, Bullock Co.
2 letters, Alabama Historical Commission

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

(Significance continued)

Future plans are to complete the renovation of the church building and to use it as a place of worship, for weddings, funerals, community activities such as musicals, art shows, and reunions.

It is anticipated that a trust will be established to maintain the building and grounds.

The greatest threat to the building is vandalism of the building and abuse of the grounds.

Historic Assets, Bullock County, Alabama,

HISTORIC/Common NAME

Sardis Baptist Church

So. Central Development Comm.
July, 1978 (Union Springs Library)

DATE/PERIOD

1841

STYLE

Greek Revival

LOCATION

Sardis



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The frame structure exemplifies a rural carpenter's version of Greek Revival architecture. Four columns support a full entablature and low pitched gable roof. The two primary entrances consist of paneled double doors, trimmed with unadorned molding. A series of four shuttered windows are found on either side of the building.

As membership began to decline in later years, Methodist ministers of Union Springs would often travel to Sardis to conduct Sunday afternoon services. However, worship services have not been held in the Sardis Church in a number of years.