



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

COUNTY Butler

PRESENT NAME First Presbyterian Church HISTORIC NAME Hopewell Presbyterian Church

LOCATION (Street and number) 215 East Commerce Street

TOWN (Give directions if rural) Greenville, Alabama 36037

PRESENT USE House of Worship HISTORIC USE House of Worship

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private (X) Public acquisition being considered ()

OWNER'S NAME First Presbyterian Church

MAILING ADDRESS 215 East Commerce Street - Mail - 409 Oak Street
Greenville, Alabama 36037

CONDITION: Excellent (XX) Good () Fair () Ruins ()

INTEGRITY: Original site (X) Moved () When?

From where? Give details in significance

THREATS: No (X) Yes () By what?

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered () Underway () Completed (X) Not planned ()

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land () Woodland () Scattered buildings ()
Highway building density () Commercial (x) Industrial ()
Residential (X) Rural ()

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District? Yes, several old homes near by. Catholic Church in next block.

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important (x) associated with events, persons, or movements
Local () State () National ()
(x) a good example of a type or style of structure
(x) other Original building that burned on this site used as dead-house for Federal soldiers during occupation of Greenville.

Explain:

Site of first church in Greenville, Hopewell Pres. Church, later First Presbyterian. This church burned in 1883 and was replaced by present church in 1886. A lovely brick church, mellowed with age, and completely restored in 1969.

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Date of Construction Officially dedicated
1886 Date of additions Sunday School Plant - 1945

Architect or Builder Unknown

Give a complete but concise history of the structure.

This lovely old brick church was dedicated on October 20, 1886. The original wooden frame church had burned in 1883. (October 16, 1883). This church is a true example of a church of that period with a steeple on the right narthex. The original bell, purchased in 1869 is still used every Sunday.

In 1820, when Alabama was a year old, Greenville was incorporated as a town. It was that same year that 7 persons received the sacrament of Holy Communion from Rev. Thomas Alexander and were organized as a congregation of the Pres. Church in the U.S. It is the oldest organized church in Greenville. In 1821 the first Presbytery in Alabama was held and Greenville was listed as one of the four churches of the Presbytery. In 1825, under Rev. Geo. McWhorter, according to records, the Church held monthly meetings.

During the Civil War when Federal troops occupied Greenville, the original frame sanctuary was used as a dead-house. Many of the sons of its congregation defended the South.

State sources of information for the above:

Record of minutes of meetings of Session of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, later First Presbyterian Church.

Articles from Greenville Advocate.

Booklet of the 128th Anniversary of The First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, Ala.

DESCRIPTION

(For bridges, trestles, viaducts, tunnels, canals, railroad lines, or objects see supplement Form I)

Make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions, related structures, and north arrow. Also indicate front of structure.

Floor Plan of Building attached.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Not now in use.

Number of stories One Foundation _____ Basement X
~~At one time SS rooms~~

WALL MATERIAL: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)
 (clapboard, brick, stone, wood shingle, board and batton, stucco over wood
 or brick, metal, logs) PLEASE NOTE TYPE OF BRICK BONDING AND LOG NOTCHING.

Brick outside. Inside wainscoting and plaster.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM (If known) Wood frame () Load-bearing masonry () Iron or steel ()

ROOF TYPE: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination)

Gothic structure

ROOF COVERING: Wood shingle () Asphalt (X) Tile () Metal () Slate ()

ROOF TRIM: (If any)

**Steeple with original bell extending above right
 narthex.**

CHIMNEYS: (Number, location, and material)

None

PORCHES Front _____ Type _____
 Rear _____ Type _____
 Side 2 Type Enclosed portico

DOORS: Describe entrance doors. **Double doors - six panelled - pine**

Describe other doors. **Entrance from narthex to church. Double doors - six panelled
 pine. Single six panel doors to pastor's study and Sunday School.**

WINDOWS: Types and number of each floor **Nine stained glass windows - six panels to
 widow. Seven windows in sanctuary, one in each narthex.**

INTERIOR: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.
**Church interior has wainscoting 40" high with plastered walls above. Roof was
 raised in 1968 to make beamed ceiling - six beams. Original bell in steeple.
 It is thought pews are original ones, too.**

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

OTHER: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other features of the structure and its surroundings.

In 1969 Sanctuary was renovated. No real structural changes were made, however. Ceiling was raised in nave and new pulpit for preaching of the Word was constructed.

In 1945 an addition torear of Church in form of Sunday School annex was built.

A MAP WITH THE STRUCTURE MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

Photographs: Must be black and white, glossy finish and either 5 x 7 or 8 x 10.

PREPARED BY Mrs. R. M. Watts
Mrs. P. A. Glenn DATE 8-26-76
ADDRESS 409 Oak Street PHONE 382-5053 or 382-5100
TOWN Greenville, Alabama ORGANIZATION _____

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

Map Reference: Map _____ Site number _____

Thematic Category _____

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER _____

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential _____

U T M _____

Latitude

Longitude