

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

Alabama Historical Commission
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Oak Grove Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5 miles North on AL 185

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

CODE

COUNTY

Butler

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Oak Grove Methodist Church Congregation, (Shirley Roberson, Jr., Pastor)

STREET & NUMBER

423 Bolling Street

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Alabama 36037

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Butler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oak Grove Methodist Church is a one story frame end gable structure. Concrete block piers support large hand hewn wooden beams. The structure has beveled siding covering the wood stud frame. The roof is covered with metal and has boxed cornices and returns.

The facade has 2 single leaf doors with vertical panels and a small sign. Wooden steps lead directly to each door. The North side has 3 double hung 9/9 windows and a single leaf door with steps; the south side has 4 double hung 9/9 sash windows. The rear of the building has 2 9/9 windows. The doors and windows are framed by simple board trim. Old shutters have been placed to each side of all the windows.

The interior walls and ceiling are of narrow tongue and groove paneling, painted white. The original alter, pews and chancel rail with round balusters are unique features of the church. Square nails were used in the construction of the floor which is made of wide heart pine boards. Two large square beams located in the center of the church support the 14 foot ceiling. A wood-burning pot-bellied stove is located to the right center of the church.

The only major alteration to the structure has been the replacement of the original brick piers with concrete blocks. Vandalism has plagued the church for many years. Gas heaters had been installed in the church, but these were stolen and it was decided to go back to the old wood-burning, pot-bellied stove. Old shutters taken down from the Monterey Methodist Church have recently been painted green and added to the building. Electricity and minor modernization has maintained this structure in a useful condition.

8 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oak Grove Methodist Church was built in 1872 on a two-acre site donated by the Grant family. The building stands today about a mile north of the Fort Dale Cemetery on Alabama 185 North. The church of simple vernacular styling is an excellent example of the type country church built shortly after the Civil War up to the early 1900's.

Oak Grove Church is located on a four and one half mile portion of the Butler County Bartram Trail. *See #3. William Bartram in 1776 traveled through Alabama studying the natural settings. In Butler County, as in other parts of the state, he followed ancient Indian trails which in later years became major roads of settlement.

Located about one mile to the south of the church was Fort Dale, the original county seat of Butler. The Fort was erected in the spring of 1818, by order of Colonel Samuel Dale, Commandant of the State Militia. Governor Bibb had sent the soldiers into this section to try and control the hostile Indians. The fort was used by the settlers extensively in 1818, but with the removal of the Indian threat, the stockade was abandoned. The first court in the county was held at Fort Dale in 1818 and the first store in Butler County was opened at Fort Dale in 1819. Fort Dale existed as a town until shortly after 1822, but because of the dense settlement of the area it continued to be important to the county.

*#3 Much of Butler County's earliest history occurred along this portion of the Trail which was formally dedicated in 1976 as having great historical significance for this county as well as the State.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greenville Advocate, file papers

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Ft. Dale

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 5331110 3529210
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Braxton, President

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Foundation of Butler County

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Alabama

12 FOR ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION USE ONLY

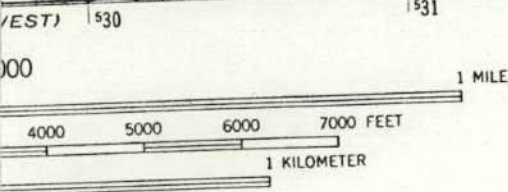
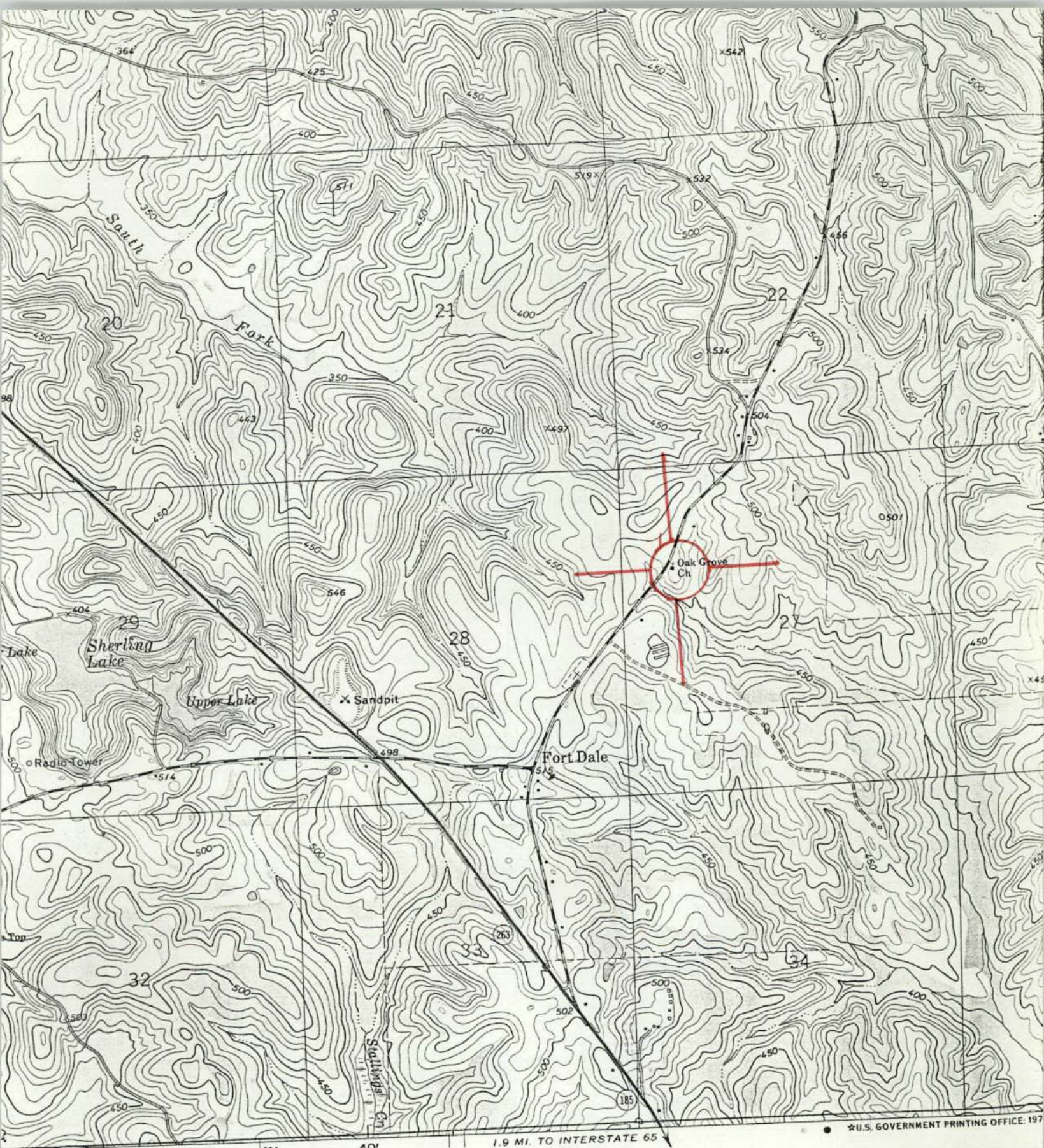
Staff Member _____

ADDED _____ Number _____

Thematic Category _____

National Register Potential

Added to National Register _____



Oak Grove Church



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ———— Light-duty road, improved surface

Secondary highway, hard surface ———— Unimproved

○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route

FORT