



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Pleasant Hill Methodist Church
and/or Common Name: _____

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 5181 Pleasant Hill Rd

City: Thomasville

State: Alabama County: Clarke County Zip: 36784

Is the property located within the city limits? Yes No

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Township: 10N Range: 4E Section: 11 USGS Quad Map: Fulton East

Latitude: 31.847761, Longitude: -87.635016

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category: Building(s) District Structure Site Object

Ownership: Public Private Both

Status: Occupied Unoccupied Work in progress

Public Acquisition: In process Being considered

Accessible: No Yes: restricted Yes: unrestricted

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Trustees of Pleasant Hill Methodist Church

Address: P. O. Box 38

City: St. Stephens State: AL Zip: 36569

Telephone: (251) 246-7250

Email: tcandrsmith@yahoo.com

5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

Attach sketched floor plan. If the property includes more than one building, submit a site plan showing the locations, dates of construction, and uses of the buildings.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION See Instructions for more information.

Construction date:	Approx 1876	Source:	See record of deed
Alteration date:		Source:	
Architect/Builder:	Unknown	Contractor:	Unknown
Physical condition: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Ruinous)	Good	Remaining historic fabric: (High, Medium, Low)	High
No. of stories:	One		
Historic use of property:	Church		
Current use of property:	Used only only for homecoming		
Architectural style category:	n/a	Architectural style sub-category:	n/a
Basic typology:	Level	Basic shape:	Rectangular
Basic floor plan:	30 x 40	Historic Construction material(s):	Pine
Current exterior wall material(s):	Yellow hard pine	Roof finish material(s):	Tin
Main roof configuration:	Front gable	Foundation material:	Stone and Brick piers
Porch type:	None		
Window type and materials:	6/6 wooden double hung windows		
Describe alterations:	None on the interior and a wheel chair ramp on front entrance and shutters on windows		
Number and type of all outbuildings: (if significant, fill out separate survey form)	Outhouse		
Exterior Architectural Description:	<p>One story, wood frame (yellow heart pine) front gable church with a metal roof. The front façade features two wood entry doors with concrete steps at each entrance. The side elevations feature four 6/6 wooden double hung windows. The church rests on a brick pier foundation. The interior of the church features a wood ceiling, wood floors, and wood walls. Three sets of wooden hand-hewn pews and a pulpit are also prominent features of the interior.</p>		

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria (check all that apply and explain below). See Instructions for more information.

Criterion A: Associated with historical events and activities relating to the property that are important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion B: Person or group with whom the property is associated is important to the history of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion C: Type, period, or method of construction represents architectural features that are significant in the development of the community, state, or nation.

Criterion D: Property has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in Alabama's history or prehistory (archaeological component).

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (check all that apply and explain below)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary art | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> other: historical for the time period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For each area of significance checked above, explain why this property is important. Use additional sheets as necessary.

Pleasant Hill Methodist Church is being nominated to the Alabama Register under Criteria A & C for Religion and Architecture. The church is an excellent example of a religious building built in 1876 in Clarke County. It represents the typical circuit rider church of the early Alabama Methodist Conference. Pleasant Hill was a thriving community and this church was an integral part of it. The cemetery associated with the church contains the burial of a Confederate soldier.

See attached for additional historical information.

Attached is a copy of the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church land deed and church history. This history was read during the 100 year anniversary celebration in October 1991.

This church is where my grandparents, great-aunts, and others worshiped. There is a cemetery on the North side of the church where my great-grandmother, grandparents, extended family members, Confederate soldiers, and other founding members are buried. The church opens on the second Sunday of October each year for homecoming.

I feel this particular church should be included in the Clarke County Historical Register because it retains the original structure, most of the original building materials, and an unaltered interior from 1891. The interior includes the original hand hewn pews and ceiling boards. When you look up to the ceiling you can see finger prints and hand prints from the original builders. The exterior still retains most of the original yellow heart pine lumber and all the replacement lumber is of a similar type. The original wood entry stairs have been replaced by a wooden handicap access ramp and wood shutters were added to the windows at some point in the last 50 years.

Pleasant Hill Methodist Church

1865



Building 1891-1991

*Historical Glimpses
of Members, Pastors & Neighbors*

*Gary Drinkard
Mildred Overton*

PLEASANT HILL METHODIST CHURCH

One hundred years ago - on November 8, 1891, - on a lofty ridge in the hills of northeastern Clarke County, a new building was dedicated as the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church. That church still stands and is the site of an annual homecoming service for many former residents of the surrounding community which was also known as Pleasant Hill.

The origins of the church are even older: seventeen charter members came together in 1865 to begin services according to church records. The pastor in that year was Rev. C.C. Ellis. Those early worshipers originally met in a brush arbor called "Old Bushaby Church" at a site approximately 3 miles south of the present church. Soon afterward, in 1869, a more permanent log structure was built to serve both as a church and school. Seats were of handhewn planks with wooden peg supports.

The Church and the community grew and on October 18, 1875, two acres of land on the site of the present building site were deeded to the Trustees for "church and school purposes" by J.D. and Lovisa Clark. That deed was entered into Clarke County court records on November 23, 1875, and is transcribed below.

Lumber for the building is said to have been furnished by Mr. Lumpkin Williams Sr. who operated a sawmill nearby.

There was a sizable community in the surrounding area until around 1920, including a school near the Church and several stores. Census records show the area was included in the "Cane Creek" precinct until 1880 after which time it was listed as "Pleasant Hill." This name may have been in honor of Mr. Pleasant Drinkard, who settled in the area around 1856. At any rate, Pleasant Drinkard and his family have been connected with the church from the outset including his son John Loftin Drinkard who was one of the charter members. (Brief biographical notes on these early Drinkard settlers are given later in this sketch.)

Sixty pastors have served at Pleasant Hill since its inception, the latest being Rev. Morris Ingram. Several of these pastors are well known in Methodist annals. They include Rev. Bob Jones who served at Pleasant Hill in 1898 and later founded Bob Jones University in S. Carolina. Also deserving special mention are Rev. Robert Haskew and the long time pastor Curtis Ford.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the "New Church Building", the following sketch has been assembled. It shows some of the early members, pastors, key records, and has a list of nearby residents according to the 1900 U.S. census. As the 1890 census was lost due to fire, this is the nearest

full tabulation for the centennial that is available.

One interesting historical sidelight is that at the time Pleasant Hill was a "thriving" community, the town of Fulton came into existence. In 1896, the town was named after Fulton, New York, according to an article by M.M.Pugh in "Historical Sketches of Clarke County, Alabama." In the census of 1900, the "village of Fulton" is enumerated in the Pleasant Hill Beat. Several residents with New York and upper Mid West birthplaces are listed therein, reflecting the origins of the founders of the business that has come to be known as the Scotch Lumber Company.

The memories and traditions of Pleasant Hill Church are rich and stirring. Everyone is welcome and is encouraged to share them at the Annual Homecoming held every year on the second Sunday in October.

Gary Drinkard
Mildred Overton
October, 1991

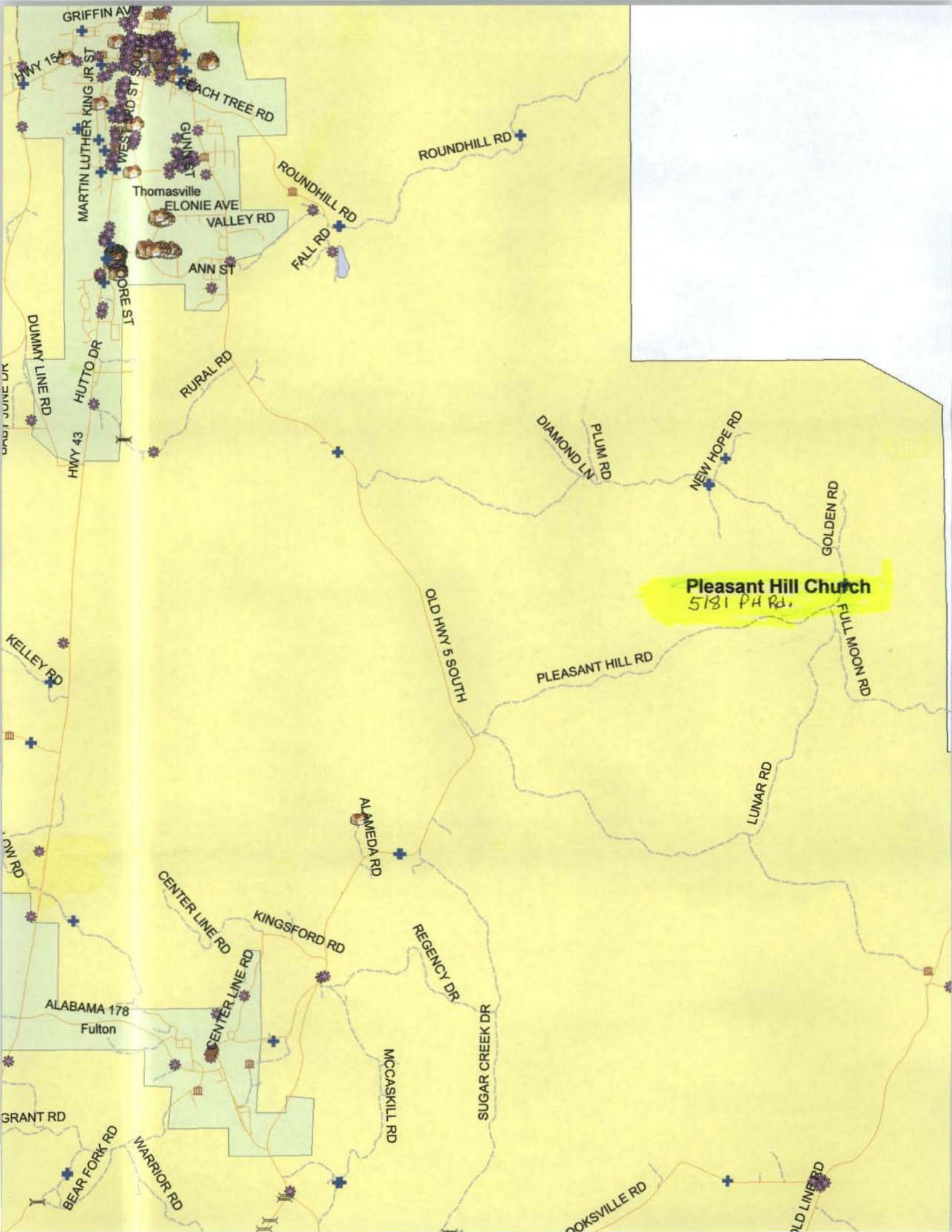
DEED FOR PLEASANT HILL CHURCH

Know all men by these presents, that for to me in hand paid by W. M. Davis, J. J. Hestle, William Carmichael, Trustees of the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church Lower Peach Tree, Circuit Selma District. The receipt where of is hereby acknowledged, I do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said Trustees, and their successors in office, the following described real estate to wit-

Commencing at the S/W corner of Subdivision E. West side of Boundary line, running East one hundred and forty yards, thence south seventy yards, thence west one hundred and forty yards, thence north seventy yards to place starting, containing (2) acres more or less, being in Section No. 11- Township No. 10, North of Range 4 East. To have and to hold for church and school purposes to the said Trustees and their successors in office forever. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seal, the 18 day of October AD 1875.

J.D. Clark (L.S.)
Lovisa Clark (L.S.)
W. M. Davis J.P. CC

Filed for record Nov. 23, 1875



Pleasant Hill Church

5131 PH Rd.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Use attached sheets as necessary

9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: 2 acres +-_____

Attach a map showing the location of the property.

10. Person Applying for Historic Register Designation

Name: Mrs. Rose Ann Smith_____

Address: P. O. Box 38_____

City: St. Stephens_____ State: AL_____ Zip: 36569_____

Telephone: (251) 246-7250_____

Email: tcandrasmith@yahoo.com_____

11. PHOTOGRAPHS:

Images are essential to the review process. They can be 4x6 color prints or digital images on a CD/DVD. All photographs will become the property of the AHC and will not be returned.

See previously submitted

12. REMINDER:

Along with this completed application, include attachments for Items 5, 9 and 11 and send them to:

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Lee Anne
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900