



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

COUNTY Butler

NAME: Present Pine Flat United Meth. Church Historic Pine Flat Chapel

LOCATION: Street and Number Hwy. 10, 16 miles W. of Greenville, Ala.

Town (Give directions if rural) (P.O.) Forest Home, Ala.

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM

CATEGORY: Building (X) Structure () Object () Site () District ()

USE: Present Church services Historic same

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private ()

Owner's Name Alabama-West Florida Conference

Mailing Address Forest Home, Ala., 36030

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

From where? (Give details in significance.)

CONDITIONS: Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Ruins ()

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

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

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

Acreage

For all categories other than a district and object give a site plan with a North arrow. Show related buildings.

For a district give a verbal boundary description and attach a sketch map of the district.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Why is this landmark significant? (X) associated with events, persons, or movements
Local (X) State (X) National ()
(X) a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

Explain: (Briefly state why the above is true)

An outstanding example of Greek Revival Architecture as reflected in rural churches.

Date of Construction or Period of major importance. 1858

Architect or Builder (Give name and biographies, if known)

Men of the community along with slave labor

Give a complete but concise history of the Landmark. Include information on important people and events associated with the landmark. (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

Register of names from 1858 to 1896 in the hands of Mrs. Joe N. Poole, Sr., church registrar.

DESCRIPTION: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LANDMARK MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

Complete as directed below for each category.

BUILDING:

Number of stories 1 Foundation _____ Basement _____

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)

Church has large hand hewn stone slabs for foundation.

Structural System: (If known)

Wood frame (X) Load-bearing masonry () Iron or Steel ()

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Roof Type: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination)

Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate)

Roof Trim: (Cornices, bargeboard, brackets, etc.)

Porches: Front (type and description) Unusual in as much as the columns rest on brick base one foot in front of the porch.

Rear (type and description) none

Side (type and description) none

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) double front doors with transoms above each. Glass is clear -- not stained.
Other entrances (location, description) none

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade 4 windows on each side with shutters & 2 on wall opposite doors. (On either side of the altar.) Glass is the original glass.
Types and number per floor for sides and rear

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.

Original altar, pews, chancel rail-unusual in that it is octagon shaped, wall cabinet holding brass cross & candle sticks. Original Altar now in the Poole home & reed organ from Old Camden Meth. Church now used in Pine Flat. very plain.

Stairways-slave gallery & stairs removed in 1870.

2 hanging wrought iron kerosene lamps with milk grass shades in center of church. Two kerosene lamps with chimneys with chimneys on either side of pulpit on wall & between windows on each side wall & two on either end of pulpit-church has no electricity. Antiques pedestal lamp by organ.

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

There have been no alterations other than replacement of the floor in 1967.

The shutters on the north side of the church are not the original ones.

As stated previously the slave gallery & outside stairs have been removed. (1870)

Outbuildings-adjoining community cemetery, screened pavilion used for homecoming dinners at the church. This is not an old structure.

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions if possible.

THIS IS NOT REQUIRED!

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the object. (See examples)
- SITE: On a separate sheet of paper give the present description of the site and how the site is believed to have looked during its period of importance.
- DISTRICT: On a separate sheet of paper give a general description of the district. Also needed is a numbered list of the structures in the district corresponding to the sketch map. This listing should include a name for the structure, a date of construction, a brief description, a statement of why the structure is significant, if it is.

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK 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: Black and white, glossy finish, 5 x 7, or 8 x 10, is preferred.

FORM PREPARED BY

Name Madge Hahn (Mrs. M. Davis) Date 5/14/78
 Address 1920-A Laurel Rd. Telephone 870-1751 bus.
979-2818 home
 Town Birmingham, Alabama, 35216
 Organization Butler County Historical Society

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP Butler County Highway Map

U. T. M. Reference

Zone Easting Northing

Thematic Category _____

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER _____

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

Not Available

John L. Wood

Pine Flat Methodist Ages Gracefully

by Kenneth Cumbie

The churches carried in Pioneer Electric's section of this magazine prior to this time have all been members of the Co-op. Pine Flat Methodist Church is an exception.

Pioneer Electric service has been available to the church for many years; however as regular services are no longer held in the church; and its members have a desire to keep this shrine as nearly as possible to its original condition, electricity has not been installed.

We respect the desires of the members but felt that our readers would like to share this picture and excerpts from a delightful, short history of the church written by Mrs. Joe N. Poole which follows:

In the spring of 1858, the present Pine Flat Methodist Church building was erected by the men of the community with the help of their slaves. Virgin pine trees were felled and the timber sawed with a jig-saw at Bowen's Mill. The boards were then hand planed. The church lot was deeded by James and Martha Reynolds and is near the site where the first house was built in Butler County; this home was erected by James K. Benson, government surveyor in 1815.

On the fly-leaf of the pulpit bible is this inscription: "Presented to the Pine Flat Methodist Episcopal Church South by Mrs. Martha Reynolds in the early fifties (1852-58)." This with a statement by an older church member is a confirmation that there had been a group of Methodist friends and relatives meeting, in the Wesleyan tradition, in homes and at the Pine Flat Academy, and later at a small chapel.

In, "Memories of a Circuit Rider", a journal of the Rev. A.C. Ramsey, who served the Cedar Creek Circuit in 1834-1835-1837, he tells of preaching on a week day at "Dr Barges"., (John R. Barge) church, and that "Dr. Barge and wife, and Squire Benson and wife were in the congregation."

The church now standing, simple in design and construction, had a slave gallery extending across the front end. This gallery could be entered by stairs leading from the front porch. At morning services the slaves sat in the gallery and in the afternoon special services were held for the slaves who sat downstairs while the white people attending sat in the gallery. When the church was repaired in 1870 the slave gallery was removed. The pews, communion rail, table, half octagon-shaped pulpit, and doors are all constructed of heart pine and are put together with square nails or wooden pegs. At first the center pews were divided with a solid partition to separate the men from the women. The one odd small bench, in the style of a colonial deacons' bench, was one of three that were placed near the altar, and were used by those who came requesting the prayers of the congregation.

half octagonal



The original kerosene lamps, two swinging lamps, two pulpit lamps and two wall bracket lamps have been preserved. Dr. John James at one time, Presiding Elder of this district, said after holding a worship service at Pine Flat, that he was impressed with the classic simplicity of the church and felt that the walls were hallowed.

Though the membership was small, Pine Flat church continued to be a spiritual influence in the community. During summer and at Quarterly Conferences the grove surrounding the church was filled with buggies, carriages, wagons and saddled horses. "Dinners on the Ground" were enjoyed by large crowds coming from all directions, those coming by the road cut by Thomas Hill to Steen's ford, stopping at the spring near the church. Among the heirlooms preserved by decendants of charter members is a pitcher which was regularly filled from this spring and the water used to quench the thirst of the ministers who preached hour-long sermons.

In November 1966, under the ministry of Rev. Fred Folkes, there began a movement to repair the church and restore it to conform as nearly as possible to the original appearance. Decendants of early members and friends and families who have cemetery lots in the adjoining Pine Flat Cemetary have contributed generously to this fund in honor of and as a memorial to the founders, early members, and relatives. The present small membership will always hold in grateful remembrance those who shared in the preservation of this landmark.

To name the ministers who have served at Pine Flat would recall many dedicated and beloved pastors who labored in the Methodist Ministry and who gave comfort and counsel to many in the community. Likewise the rolls of Pine Flat Church members include many who have been faithful in attendance and service. We owe a debt of gratitude to these Godly ministers and concentrated church members who laid the foundation. It is our responsibility to follow the example of our forefathers and by our zeal and fidelity perpetuate Christian Discipleship.

T. 11 N

31°50' T. 10 N

T. 9 N

31°40' T. 8 N

840,000

840,000

840,000

WILCOX COUNTY

MONROE COUNTY

CONECUH COUNTY

TO PINE BLUFF

TO CAMDEN

TO MINDAY

TO BETHEL

