ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 11, 2018

Debbie Collins
5962 Limestone Lane
Trussville, AL 35173

RE: Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery, 18879 US Highway 11, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Collins:

It is my pleasure to present to you the certificate for the above referenced property in honor of its listing in the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving Alabama's historic resources.

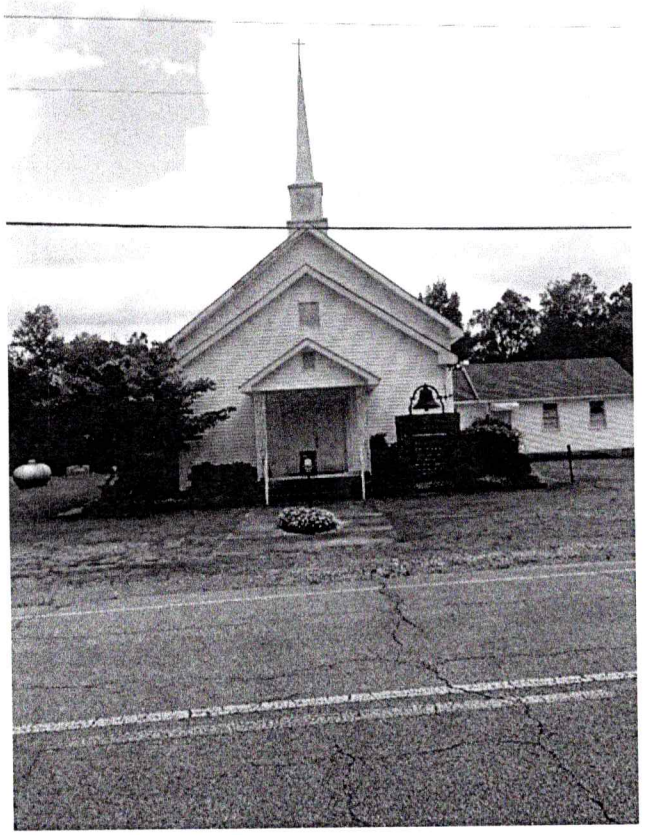
Best Regards,

Hannah Garmon

Hannah Garmon
Coordinator, Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage
(334)230-2644
Hannah.Garmon@ahc.alabama.gov

Enclosure

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH & CEMETERY

LOCATED IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY WAS LISTED ON

MARCH 29, 2018

GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Building name: Reeves Grove BC + Cemetery

Street address: _____

Type of Application: ___ HRTC ✓ AR ___ Section 106 ___ NR ___ Ad Valorem

For HRTC and Section 106:

___ Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

___ Located in existing National Register (NR) historic district
___ Contributing resource ___ Non-contributing resource

___ Individually eligible

___ Contributing resource in potential NR historic district

✓ Not eligible for NRHP

Criteria for Evaluation:

✓ A Events/History ___ B Persons ✓ C Architecture ___ D Archaeology

Aspects of Integrity:

✓ Location ✓ Workmanship

✓ Design ✓ Feeling

✓ Setting ✓ Association

✓ Materials ✓ Intact strata

Application:

✓ Sufficient physical description ✓ Sufficient description of past use/land disturbance

✓ Sufficient history

✓ Sufficient argument for meeting NRHP/ARLH criteria

Decision:

___ Additional information is required to make a determination:

✓ This property is eligible for the NRHP/ARLH:

___ This property is not eligible for the NRHP/ARLH because:

Notes:

Voting Results:

Yes	No	Absent	Committee Member
✓			Chloe
✓			Collier
✓			Hannah
✓			Chris
✓			Lee Anne
✓			Mary
			Stacye
✓			Taylor
✓			Eric
			Will
			Dorothy

03-29-18 Date Hannah Hetmon AHC Signature

ALABAMA REGISTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING

March 29, 2018
10:00 am

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

NOMINATIONS

Oxford Historic District
Oxford, Calhoun County
POS 1875-1978
Criteria A: Commerce
Criteria C: Architecture
19 contributing; 7 non-contributing

Alpine Baptist Church
Alpine, Talladega County
1871
Criteria A: Religion
Criteria C: Architecture
3 contributing; 0 non-contributing

Camp Fletcher
McCalla, Jefferson County
1926
Criteria A: Ethnic Heritage
Criteria B: Pauline Fletcher
Criteria C: Architecture
9 contributing; 9 non-contributing

Fort McDermott
Spanish Fort, Baldwin County
1864
Criteria A: Military History
Criteria D: Archeology
1 contributing; 0 non-contributing

Elba Theatre
Elba, Coffee County
1933; 1946; & 1953
Criteria A: Social History; Theater
1 contributing; 0 non-contributing

Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery
Steele, St. Clair County
1872
Criteria A: Religion; Funerary Art
Criteria C: Architecture
2 contributing; 0 non-contributing

Hardy Homeplace
West Greene, Greene County
1886
Criteria A: Agriculture
Criteria C: Architecture
3 contributing; 0 non-contributing

Pine Flat Presbyterian Church & Cemetery
Deatsvillle, Autauga County
1871
Criteria A: Religion; Funerary Art
Criteria C: Architecture
2 contributing; 0 non-contributing

Buck Creek Jail & Water Tower
Alabaster, Shelby County
1896 & 1916
Criteria A: Industry
Criteria C: Architecture
2 contributing; 0 non-contributing

OTHER BUSINESS AS NEEDED

ADJOURNMENT

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

AHC Staff
Alabama Register Checklist

Date Received: 10-19-17

Building name: Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Street address: 18879 US Hwy 11

County: St. Clair

Application Contains:

- ✓ Property information
- ✓ Floor plan & Site plan
- ✓ Physical description
- ✓ History
- ✓ Bibliography and geographical data
- ✓ Photographs

2 buildings 7C-7NC + Cemetery

Category: ☑ Building ☐ District ☐ Structure ☑ Site ☐ Object

Date of Construction: 1872

Alteration Date: 1940 + 1951, 1969, 1976, 1981, 1990, 200

Significance: ☑ A ☐ B ☑ C ☐ D

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ humanitarian	☐ politics/government
☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ industry	☑ religion
☐ agriculture	☐ education	☐ landscape architecture	☐ scientific
☑ architecture	☐ engineering	☐ law	☐ sculpture
☐ art	☐ ethnic heritage	☐ literature	☐ social history
☐ commerce	☐ exploration	☐ military	☐ theater
☐ communications	☐ funerary art	☐ music	☐ other:

Comments:

- more information about School
- Broom Brigade
- Need Cemetery history – filled out wrong form, Just need history

AHC Reviewer: Hannah Harmon Date: 10-24-17

Timeline -

1872 - Wood Frame from hewn logs + wooden pegs

1912 - Steeple added

1940's - Masonite siding + new pews

1951 - Classrooms added, front rooms added, new entry way

1950's - Pine paneling ~~[illegible]~~ added, pot belly stove removed

1969 - Restroom added

1966 - Fellowship hall + kitchen

1980's - Vinyl siding added, new steeple

2000's - Baptistry installed

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church Building

and/or Common Name:

Preferred name for Certificate: ☒ Historic Name or ☐ Common Name

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 18879 US Hwy 11

City: Steele

State: Alabama County: St Clair County Zip: 35987

Is the property located within the city limits? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Latitude: 33 52.215 Longitude: -86 18.462

Township: 13 S Range: 3E Section: 27 USGS Quad Map: 05-

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category:	☒ Building(s)	☐ District	☐ Structure	☐ Site	☐ Object
Ownership:	☐ Public	☒ Private	☐ Both		
Status:	☐ Occupied	☒ Unoccupied	☐ Work in progress		
Accessible:	☐ No	☐ Yes: restricted	☒ Yes: unrestricted		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Address: 18879 US Hwy 11

City: Steele State: Alabama Zip: 35987

Telephone: No church phone at this time: Call Debbie Collins (205) 515-8766 or Gary Hood (205) 504-1103

Email: No Church email at this time: use: Debbie Collins: debbco2@gmail.com or Gary Hood: brogarylh60@gmail.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. ATTACHED NO 5 EXHIBIT

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION **See Instructions for more information.**

Construction date:	1872	Source:	HISTORIC RECORDS
Alteration date:	1940 & 1951	Source:	HISTORIC RECORDS
Architect/Builder:	Members/Community	Contractor:	None
Physical condition: (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Ruinous)	Fair	Remaining historic fabric: (High, Medium, Low)	
No. of stories:	1		
Historic use of property:	Church and School House		
Current use of property:	None		
Architectural style category:	American Colonial	Architectural style sub-category:	
Basic typology:	Wood Frame	Basic shape:	Tee
Basic floor plan:	Open meeting area /classrooms	Historic Construction material(s):	Hand Hewn logs
Current exterior wall material(s):	Vinyl	Roof finish material(s):	Fiberglass shingles
Main roof configuration:	Gable Valley	Foundation material:	rock/block
Porch type:	concrete/brick		
Window type and materials:	wood/smoked glass		
Describe alterations:	2 classrooms added at entrance, masonite siding added, 6 classrooms added in rear.		
Number and type of all outbuildings on the property: (if significant, fill out separate survey form)	none historic		

Exterior Architectural Description:

Basic box shape with Gable Valley roof, Steeple on top of roof.

Description of Setting:

The church is located in a rural area on four acres of a large flat hilltop. It is surrounded by several large oak trees and a wooded area. A paved 2-lane county highway runs in front of the property. Another two acres are located in fron across the highwat where the newer cemetery is located on a small hillside.

AHached Exhibit 6
For more information

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)

☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ industry	☒ religion
☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ landscape architecture	☐ scientific
☐ agriculture	☒ education	☐ law	☐ sculpture
☐ architecture	☐ engineering	☐ literature	☒ social history
☐ art	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ military	☐ theater
☐ commerce	☐ funerary art	☐ music	☐ other: _____
☐ communications	☐ humanitarian	☐ politics/government	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Please see attached a collective statement of significance written by several members and relatives of founding forefathers.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Use attached sheets as necessary

Attached as Exhibit 8

9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: 1.75 and 4.75

Attach a map showing the location of the property. Attached Exhibit 9

10. Person Applying for Historic Register Designation Gary Hood & Debbie Collins

Name: Contact person for the Committee for Restoration and Preservationonary Baptist Church

Address: 5962 Limestone Lane

City: Trussville State: Alabama Zip: 35173

Telephone: (205) 515 - 8766

Email: debbco2@gmail.com for Debbie Collins and brogarylh60@gmail.com for Gary Hood

11. PHOTOGRAPHS:

Images are essential to the review process. Submit current, good quality digital images on a CD/DVD. Interior and exterior photos are required. Good quality 4" x 6" photos will be accepted, but do NOT staple or tape photographs. All images will become the property of the AHC and will not be returned.

2 CD + actual Photos

12. REMINDER:

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

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Hannah Garmon
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334.230.2644
Hannah.Garmon@ahc.alabama.gov

Old Section of The Cemetary
Behind Church

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Historic Preservation Office

468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
Voice: (334)242-3184
Fax: (334)262-1083
ahc.alabama.gov

Cemetary

Cemetery Permit Application

Please write or type all answers. If a question does not apply to your project, please print N/A (not applicable) in the block or space provided. If additional space is needed, attach extra 8 ½ "x 11" sheets of paper. If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Garmon at (334)230-2644 or Hannah.Garmon@ahc.alabama.gov

1. **Applicant's Name:** Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church
   Street Address: See Landmark Application
   City, State, Zip Code: _____
   Telephone Number: ( ) _____ Fax number: ( ) _____
   Mobile Number: ( ) _____
   Email: _____

   Property Owner's Name: (If different from above)
   Name: Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church See the Landmark form
   Street Address:
   City, State, Zip Code:
   Telephone Number: ( ) _____ Fax number: ( )
   Mobile Number: ( ) _____
   Email: _____

2. **Historic Cemetery Name:** Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church Common Name: _____
   Address: _____
   Nearest Cross Street: See Landmark application
   City/Town: _____ County: _____
   Proximity to Town: ☐ Within town limits ☒ Within 1 mile ☐ 1-5 miles ☐ 5 or more miles

3. Please attach a photocopy of the relevant USGS 7.5 series quadrangle sheet showing the site location. A supplemental map showing greater detail may also be attached, if appropriate.
   Section _____ Township _____ Range _____
   Quadrangle Sheet (USGS) Same as
4. GPS Coordinates (if known): Latitude _____ Longitude _____ Altitude _____
5. Tax Map: _____
6. *Historic Atlas of Alabama, Volume 2, Cemetery Locations by County* Number: _____
   This information can be obtained from the AHC Cemetery Program Coordinator

Landmark application

For Official Use Only
Date Application Rec'd _____
Date Permit Issued _____

25. Marker Designs (check all that apply):

☐ All-seeing Eye ☐ Anchor ☒ Angel ☒ Bible ☒ Cross ☐ Draped Urn ☐ Hand reaching down
☒ Hand with finger point up ☒ Heart ☒ Lamb ☒ Masonic ☐ Menorah ☐ Sleeping Child
☐ Star/ Star of David ☐ Weeping Willow ☒ Flower Motifs ☐ Other: _____

26. Grave Articles:

☐ bedsteads ☐ bottles ☒ ceramic objects ☐ clocks
☐ dolls/toys ☒ flowers/plastic flowers ☒ flower pots/vases ☐ jars
☐ lamps ☐ light bulbs ☒ marbles ☐ medicine bottles
☐ pinwheels ☐ milk jugs/plastic bottles ☐ plates ☐ sea shells
☐ none ☐ other: _____

27. Associated Historic Buildings/Communities/Neighborhoods: Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church

28. Landscape Features:

☒ casual and unplanned ☐ designed plantings ☐ designed drives and walks
☐ designed fencing and walls ☐ informal/ picturesque ☐ terracing/contouring
☒ other: unplanned

29. Ornamental Plantings/Historic Vegetation: yes Crepe Myrthes Scrubs

30. Additional Descriptions: _____

31. Provide a statement of the goals and objectives of the project. Describe all activities to be performed at the site. Be very specific on how the work will be accomplished. Address who will perform the work. Attach additional sheets if necessary. A Final Report is required that will detail the results of the project. Include photographs of all phases of the project with the Final Report.

AT This Time no work is planned. However we have just Formed a historical committee To preserve + restore the cemetery To a better condition in the future.
Future Fixes
① Fix broken headstones
2. Unmarked graves - name? Them

32. Include photographs (non-Polaroid) of the cemetery ***before*** beginning any cemetery work.

Attached

New Section

Cemetery Permit Application
Page 3

25. Marker Designs (check all that apply):

☐ All-seeing Eye ☐ Anchor ☒ Angel ☒ Bible ☒ Cross ☐ Draped Urn ☐ Hand reaching down
☒ Hand with finger point up ☒ Heart ☐ Lamb ☐ Masonic ☐ Menorah ☐ Sleeping Child
☐ Star/ Star of David ☐ Weeping Willow ☒ Flower Motifs ☐ Other: _____

26. Grave Articles:

☐ bedsteads ☐ bottles ☐ ceramic objects ☐ clocks
☐ dolls/toys ☐ flowers/plastic flowers ☐ flower pots/vases ☐ jars
☐ lamps ☐ light bulbs ☐ marbles ☐ medicine bottles
☐ pinwheels ☐ milk jugs/plastic bottles ☐ plates ☐ sea shells
☒ none ☐ other: _____

27. Associated Historic Buildings/Communities/Neighborhoods: Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church

28. Landscape Features:

☒ casual and ~~un~~planned ☐ designed plantings ☒ designed drives ~~and walks~~
☐ designed fencing and walls ☐ informal/ picturesque ☐ terracing/contouring
☐ other: _____

29. Ornamental Plantings/Historic Vegetation: None

30. Additional Descriptions: _____

31. Provide a statement of the goals and objectives of the project. Describe all activities to be performed at the site. Be very specific on how the work will be accomplished. Address who will perform the work. Attach additional sheets if necessary. A Final Report is required that will detail the results of the project. Include photographs of all phases of the project with the Final Report.

None at This Time

32. Include photographs (non-Polaroid) of the cemetery ***before*** beginning any cemetery work.

included (5)

ALL APPLICANTS MUST SIGN

I hereby apply for the permit for the activities I have described herein. If the property owner is known, I have obtained permission to access this cemetery and complete the project as described. The property owner also agrees to allow the duly authorized representatives of the Alabama Historical Commission to enter upon the property at reasonable times to inspect and photograph site conditions.

I hereby certify that there are adequate resources to carry out the proposed goals and objectives under the permit. I understand that work conducted under a permit will not be considered complete until all reports and documentation have been submitted and reviewed by the Alabama Historical Commission to meet all conditions specified as part of the approved permit. Failure to complete the conditions of the permit within the permitted time limit may result in revocation of the permit.

I hereby certify that the information submitted in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Deborah Collins
Applicant's Name (Please Print)

10-9-17
Date

Deborah Collins
Applicant's Signature

10-9-17
Date

REMINDER: Be sure to include attachments for Items 3, 8 and 32 above together with the basic application form. Send the completed application to:

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Hannah Garmon
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
(334)230-2644
Fax: (334) 262-1083
Hannah.Garmon@ahc.alabama.gov

NO. 5

FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

Of Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Of Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage Nomination Form

Office Of

St. Clair County Revenue Commissioner

Mrs. Elizabeth Mealer

Disclaimer: This map is for tax purposes only - Not to be used for conveyance

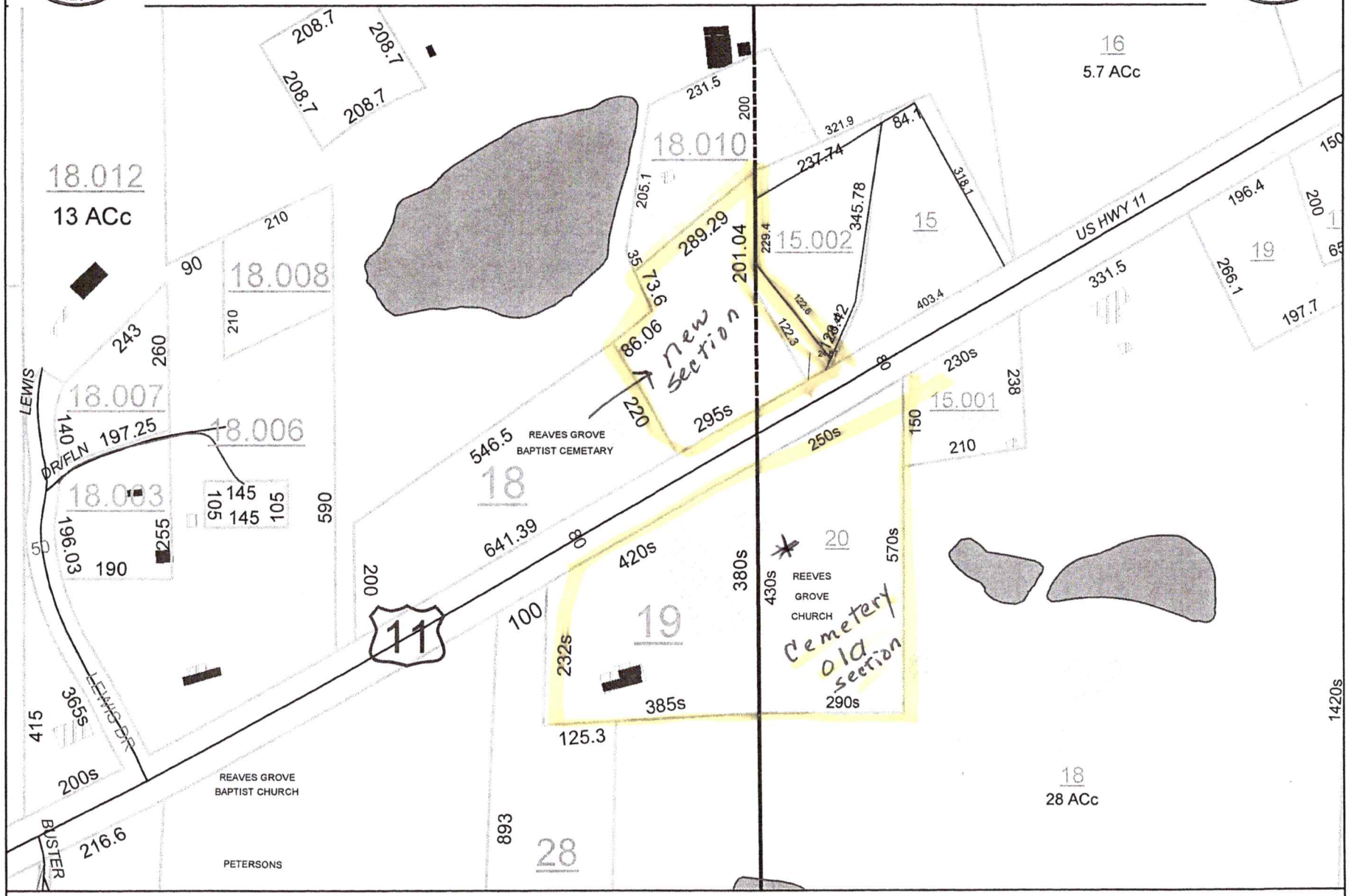
Old Church + Old Cemetery

Date:

Office Of

St. Clair County Revenue Commissioner

Mrs. Elizabeth Mealer



Disclaimer: This map is for tax purposes only - Not to be used for conveyance

Scale:

Google Maps 18879 US-11

Imagery ©2018 DigitalGlobe, USDA Farm Service Agency, Map data ©2018 Google 100 ft

ST. CLAIR OBSERVER

A Newspaper Dedicated to Community Service

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1972 — PELL CITY, ALABAMA

Reeves Grove History Recalled

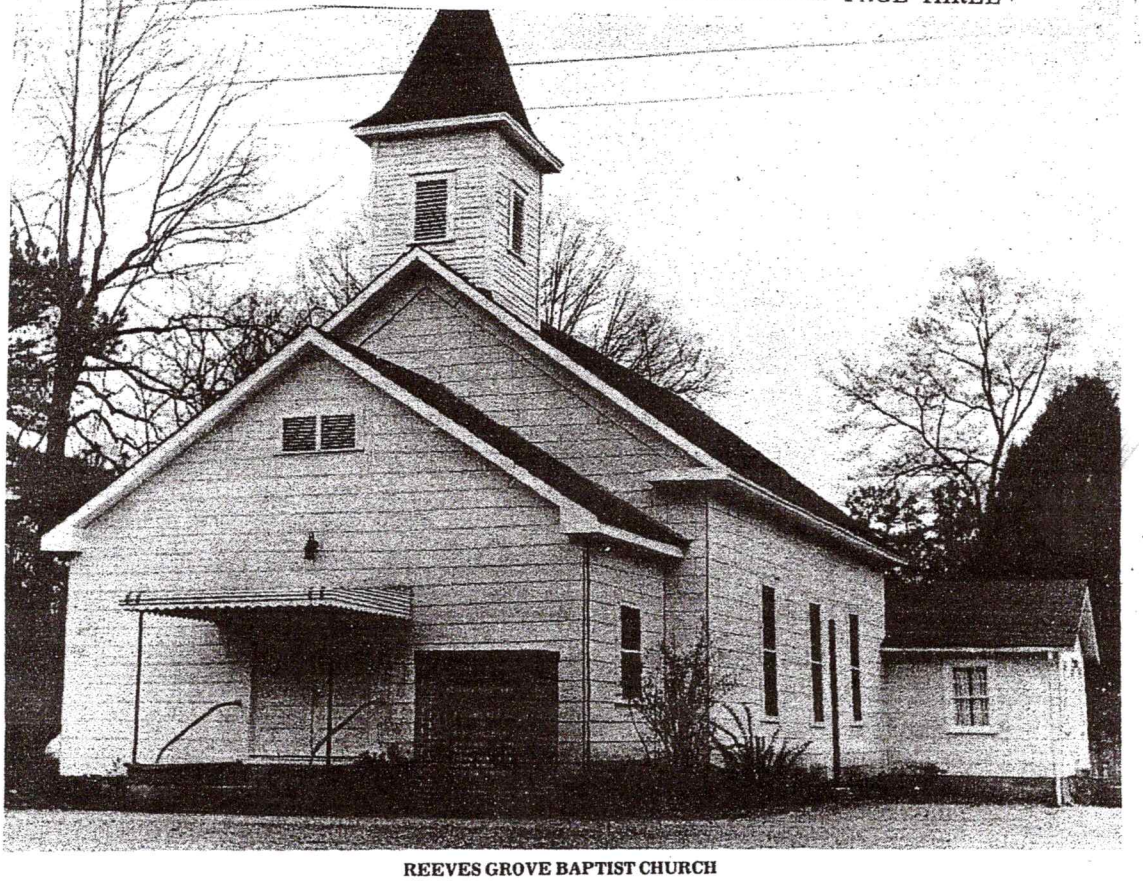
Singing school held at Reeves Grove Baptist Church around 1904. Seated front l to r: Clara Bell Sheffield, Stella Jones, Deliah Sheffield, 2nd row: Pluma Tellis, Annie Reeves, Della Vinyard, Mary Partlow, Chessie Mikle, Lonia Beason, Lee Mostella, Della Reeves, Essie Autry, Rosey Partlow (Owner of the picture), Pearch Sheffield, Fannie Partlow. 3rd Row: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Puckett (Ovada) and little daughter Bertie Bell Puckett, (Mrs. Puckett was the Singing School teacher), Alley Beason, May Vinyard, Maude Mostella, Lou Allaman, Kate Early, Delene Sheffield, Syble Mattison, Marion Partlow, Unknown, Farris McCain, Elvin Baggett. 4th row: Luther McCollough, Harry McCain, Wallace Beason, Will Battle, (?) Vinyard, Claude Ball, Jim Autry, Fate Vinyard, Rosco McCollough. 5th row: Joe Reeves, Dave Allaman, Porter Vinyard, Alfred Partlow.

Children who attended school in the Reeves Grove Baptist Church around 1902. They were dressed to present a "Broom Drill"

As Reunion Approaches

in a play about Alabama. L. to R: Alley Early, Lennie Mostella, Mary Tucker, Minda Reeves, Delene Sheffield, Rosey Partlow (Owner of the picture), Eunice Beason, Dealy Green, Maude Mostella and Fannie Partlow.

Mrs. Rosey Partlow Autry, the owner of these pictures is a descendent of early settlers of St. Clair County and founders of the Reeves Grove Baptist Church. John Partlow, born in Virginia in 1780 and his wife Elizabeth, born in South Carolina in 1790, entered land in St. Clair County and is listed in the 1830 census. Rosey Partlow married Phillip Houston Autry, another early St. Clair County family, March 22, 1908. Mrs. Autry, at age 85 is able to name who all these young people married. The pictures will be on display at the annual reunion of the Reeves Grove Baptist Church next Sunday and Mrs. Rosey will be there too.



REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

History Of Reeves Grove Church

BY LINDA BATTLES RUNYANS

In a sense, the history of Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church begins many years before the Civil War, in the Carolinas. Because it was from there the McCorkle family came to make their home in St. Clair County, Alabama.

Although the McCorkles were of the Baptist faith, they had no idea that one day a Baptist church would be built on the wilderness land which they entered, cleared and settled near the present crossroad village of Whitney.

The McCorkle plantation extended from the top of the ridge to where the railroad now is and from Mulkeroy Creek at the Whitney intersection to what is today the Peterson-Sheffield land line. The old McCorkle home was below the cemetery, behind the church and very near where the railroad is. The old chimney rock still marks the place.

Adjoining the part of the cemetery which is behind the church is the McCorkle family cemetery and in the part that is badly grown up with trees and under brush are the old slave graves.

In 1840, Elizabeth McCorkle died and her marked grave is in the family section. She left her entire plantation to her daughter, Louisa, who married Anderson Reeves. Their grave markers show that Anderson Reeves was born March 17, 1790, and died April 12, 1853. Louisa McCorkle Reeves was born September 12, 1799, and was erected near the McCorkle family cemetery. Wesley Sheffield (great-great-grandfather of Linda Runyans) collected the money to pay for the church. The people were scattered and Mr. Sheffield rode the grey horse which his son had ridden in the cavalry during the Civil War to visit each home and solicit funds for the new church. The lumber was sawed at a mill above Gadsden, brought down the Coosa River by raft to Greensport and hauled to the church site by ox cart. John Partlow, who had been taught to hew logs and split shingles, built the church with the aid of the other men who were members.

The church was built in 1872, but it was not until 1878 that the land was deeded by Louisa Reeves to the trustees. The deed is dated August 24, 1878, and it includes four acres of land from the old McCorkle estate, being a portion of the SW¼ of Section 26, Township 13, Range 3 East and a portion of the SE¼ of SE¼, Section 27, Township 13, Range 3 East. The trustees were Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow (also a great-great-grandfather of Linda Runyans). Louisa Reeves signed the deed with her mark.

The first letter Cahawba Valley Association (today the St. Clair County Baptist Association) received from Reeves Grove Church was dated 1875. The first associational minutes to record Reeves Grove Church bear the date 1881 and the church bers and the church had 69 members. By 1902, this number had grown to 109. In 1912, Mark Beason raised money to purchase a bell. Sunday school rooms were built in 1951 under the supervision of a committee made up of James E. Sheffield, C. C. Scoggins, Herschel Montgomery, Ethel Partlow and Annie Reeves.

In 1956, during the August revival, fourteen were baptized. But never in the history of Reeves Grove Church does any revival compare to the one in August of 1910. Brother Chadwick, the pastor, did most of the preaching with some help from Brothers Ramsey and Fergurson. Thirty members were added to the church roll; twenty by experience and baptism, nine by letter, and one by restoration.

The church had ordained a number of men to the ministry. In September, 1912, W. B. Goodwin; Mark Beason — date unknown; Jack Partlow, September, 1956; G. B. Sanders — October, 1960.

On July 21, 1951, Louisa McCorkle Reeves' granddaughter, Della Reeves Beason and her husband, W. W. Beason, deeded the acreage above the road to the church to be used as an extension to the cemetery.

It has been one hundred years since a small group of people pooled their resources to build a very small church. That church holds very dear memories for many of us. For me, it is the first place I attended Sunday School; it is the place I accepted Christ as my Saviour and joined the church; and it is the place where I was a bride. These memories make it a very sacred place to me.

Charles Mason, of Oneonta, is the present pastor of Reeves Grove Church.

Keeves Grove

building was sawed at a mill north of Gadsden, brought down the Coosa River by raft to Greensport, and hauled to the church site by ox-cart. John Partlow, an experienced wood-craftsman, hewed the logs and split the shingles, and with the aid of other male church members, built the church.

It was not until 1878, that the four-acre lot, containing the church and cemetery, was deeded by Louise Reeves to the church trustees, Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow. The first letter sent by the church to the Cahawba Valley Association (now the St. Clair County Baptist Association) was dated 1875. The first associational minutes to record Reeves Grove Church were dated 1881; the church sent two delegates that year—J. A. Autry and John Partlow. The first pastor of the church was Peyton S. Montgomery (grandfather of Mrs. Mildred Montgomery Franklin), a prominent preacher of his day, who was well versed in the scripture and was a strong believer in missions.

The descendants of Allie Early Sheffield own a small hymnal presented to her by the Reverend Montgomery on a Wednesday evening in 1902, when he visited and conducted a service in the home of her parents. On the following day he baptized Allie's sister, Emery E. Early.

In 1890, the church had a Sabbath School with thirty-five members and the church had sixty-nine members; by 1902, this number had grown to one-hundred nine. In 1912, Mark Beason raised money to purchase a bell. Sunday school rooms were added to the church in 1951 under the supervision of a committee which included James E. Sheffield, C. C. Scoggins, Hershel Montgomery, Ethel Partlow and Annie Reeves. In 1951, Louisa McCorkle Reeves' grand-daughter, Della Reeves Beason and her husband, W. W. Beason, deeded the acreage on the opposite side of the road from the church to be used as an extension to the cemetery.

In 1910, thirty members (the largest number to be received at one time) were added to the church roll—twenty by experience and baptism, nine by letter and one by restoration. The Reverend Chadwick, the pastor who was assisted by Brothers Ramsey and Ferguson, did the preaching.

The church has ordained to the ministry W. B. Goodwin, 1912; Mark Beason, date unknown; Jack Partlow, 1956; G. B. Sanders, 1960.

Because of fond memories associated with the church, it is sacred to many; and it is a positive force for good under the leadership of its present pastor, Charles Mason.

VIII
SCHOOL DAYS

Education is a theme that has run through the history of Steele. The early settlers demonstrated their appreciation of the value of education by providing for schools even though they were humble and modest. The first school in Steele was a one-room log building, which was heated by a large fireplace and supported by tuition. It stood on the hill near the Lonnie Willigham home, about one mile north of Steele. Pleasant W. Curry and his wife gave one acre of land for the schoolhouse and included privileges to use water from the spring and firewood from his primises for the school.[22] At one time, Miss "Pet" Cox taught in one room of her home which was located across the highway from the city hall. A Mr. Beck taught a school of eighteen continuous months in the log Baptist Church which stood near the location of the present Methodist Church. A fire blazed in the large fireplace while the children sat on puncheon benches, which were split logs with peg legs and no backs. Because of Mr. Beck's name as an able professor, several scholars boarded here to attend the school. Dollie Trotter, Lola Shanks and some of the Moore boys attended this school.

The one-room schools of that time were crude, poorly lighted and heated, and rather uncomfortable compared to modern schools. The building often served as a "meeting house" as well as a school. There were no blackboards and no crayons. Books were few and far between. There were no Title I, II, or III moneys, no accreditation standards, no new math!

Since lunchrooms and lockers were unheard of, each pupil carried his dinner bucket in one hand, and a few books, strapped together, were thrown over his other shoulder. Should there be snow on the ground, a snowball battle was in line; should the branch be frozen over, ice skating was in order. If a small stream was "up" after a rain, the boys never used the bridge, but accepted the challenge of wading across on the slippery rocks. In spite of poor housing, short terms, no teaching machines and no testing programs, many outstanding pupils received the major part of their education under such situations. The pupils' desire for knowledge, dedicated teachers and small enrollment of pupils were responsible for the good results.

As more settlers came, there were several small one-room schools scattered over this area of the country. Some of these in addition to Steele, were Sulpher Springs, Deerman's Chapel, Ceder Grove, Union

din was pastor of the church. L. W. Beason, Bob Staton, Hark Beason and Will Rickles and their families were leaders in the church at that time.

Some of the pastors who have served Union Church were the Reverend Johnny Murphy, Miles Thomas, Andrew Brand, Sam Crouch, Henry Large, Henry Hardin, W. W. Holstead, J. L. Garnett, W. M. Peed, George Eddie, Bensinger, Green, Crumpton, Lindsey, Wiggins, Morton, Miles, Kitchens, Johnson, Audie Gregg, J. L. McDill, Davis, John Anderson, L. D. Dular, James Keith, and William Hitt. Henry Large died a few years ago at the age of 101 years.

Union, being a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was on a circuit with Deerman's Chapel and Chandler Mountain churches for years. During that time the Reverend Wallace and Steve Murphree came from Blount County preaching God-fearing sermons and singing "Deliverance Will Come". After the Methodist Episcopal South churches united in 1939 these weaker churches were put on with stronger churches, Union was usually on Ashville circuit. Regular services are no longer held at the church; however, a few faithful descendants of the old families see to the upkeep of the cemetery. In 1972 a monument, erected by Lucille Ford Moore of Birmingham, honoring the memory of Captain Edward Beason and his descendants (including Mrs. Moore's mother and grandmother), was dedicated at the cemetery. The Beasons meet at the historic church and cemetery for their annual reunion.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH[20]

Information given by Annie Mae Nelson and Anice Hutchins

The Bethel Baptist Church was organizel in 1948. Some deacons from the Shiloh Baptist Church assisted in the organization. Some of the charter members were the Alton Hutchinses, the John Swindalls, the John Adamses, the Clifton Jameses, Margaret Dean, Anice Hutchins, and Floradell Swindall. The land on which the church stands was given by Sam Swindall.

Pastors of the church have been the Reverends Ollie Weddington, Jack Dunn, Henry Walker, Odell Smith, Don Tidwell, Otha Bickerstaff, Jack Butts, Velmer Dunn and John Wilson.

A list of superintendents of the Bethel Sunday School includes the following: Jesse Beatenbough, Calvin Steede, John Swindall, Alton Hutchins, John Nelson, Virgil Wise, Dock Boggs, Cecil Barnes and Bobbie Pierce.

Bethel Baptist Church may be small in size and young in years but it is doing a good work in the community.

STEELE NAZARENE CHURCH[21]

The Steele Nazarene Church was organized December 16, 1949. Sister Felix Miller, under the authority of the Superintendent of the Alabama District of the Nazarene Church, came from her pastorate in Alabama City and organized the church. Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Wallace A. Smith, George and Gladys Bearden, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Pope and Mrs. Glenda Pope.

A few years later a parsonage was built on the adjoining lot. In 1972 the sanctuary was redecorated and the church was brick veneered.

Pastors of the church have been the Reverend C. A. Hall, Downey, Jack Emmerson, McConnel, T. J. Farlow, William Jackson, Floyd Newfelt, George Armstrong, Sister Felix Miller, Wallace Bell, Sr., and the present pastor, Herbert Thompson.

Superintendents of the Church School have been Jesse Pope, Jesse Ray Pope, Max Hobgood, Billy Barron, Coy Galbreath, and Jack Emmerson. The Nazarene Young People's society was organized soon after the church was established.

Its presidents have been Bobbie Smith, Ruby Smith, Wanda Coffey and Linda Romer. Charlotte Kilgore is the president now. The first president of the Nazarene World Missionary Society was Mrs. Jesse Pope. Other presidents have been Mary Mason, Mrs. Mamie Smith and Mrs. Betty Romer who is president today.

The Nazarene Church, though having a small membership of about forty, is doing a great work as it ministers to the needs of its parish.

REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The history of Reeves Grove Baptist Church, located on Highway 11 near Whitney Junction, is most interestingly told by Linda Battles Runyans, who is a descendent of some of the founders of the church.

The McCorkles, a family of Baptist faith, came from South Carolina and entered land in St. Clair County. Their large plantation included the present Reeves Grove Church lot and the cemetery lot. At Elizabeth McCorkle's death in 1840, her daughter, Louiza McCorkle (1799-1892), who had married Anderson Reeves (1790-1853), fell heir to the plantation.

In 1872, a small Baptist church was erected on the McCorkle-Reeves land near the location of the present church and cemetery and also near the McCorkle family cemetery. Wesley Sheffield, riding the grey horse which his son had ridden in the calvary during the Civil War, solicited building funds for the church. Lumber for the

Reeves Grove Historical Church Building Improvements Through The Years

The original building was erected in 1872. This building was a wood frame building made from hewn logs and put together with wooden pegs which are still visible today in the attic. The outside of the building was covered with rough-hue boards that were unpainted. There were double doors on the front. There was also a single door entrance on the south side of the building. There were circular gray brick stairs at the front entry way. The pews were homemade and were simple wood slabs on the seat and the back. The old pulpit was built by Fred Battles and Inzer Sheffield. It was later refurbished and placed into the new sanctuary. In 1912 the steeple was added and a bell was purchased and installed.

Sometime in the 1940's Masonite siding was added and new pews were built. These pews are the same ones that remain in the current era which have been covered and padded.

In 1951 the rear Sunday school classrooms were added onto the back of the building, nearly doubling the size of the church. That same year two front rooms were built. These were used as classrooms. A new entry way was also included with the original double doors and a "vestibule" led which led between the rooms into the sanctuary. Included in the rear classrooms was a small kitchen which was supplied with water from a nearby spring and a well pump.

Later in the 1950's several improvements were made. Pine paneling was added along the bottom four foot of the inside walls and a similar wall was placed in front of the stage. A post which stood in the middle of the sanctuary was removed. The old pot bellied stove which stood near the old post was taken out and a propane gas floor furnace was added.

In 1969 two restrooms were installed which also required a septic tank system. City water was also connected and the old spring was not used anymore. Until this time there were two "out houses" one for men and one for women located to the rear on the right side of the Sunday school classes.

In the 1970's the old floor furnace was replaced by central heat and air. The pews were also covered, padded, and refinished. In 1976 a new Fellowship Hall and new kitchen were added onto the rear classrooms. The Fellowship hall had room dividers which could be closed off to make three small classrooms.

In the early 1980's Vinyl siding was added on the outside of the building and a new concrete porch was built onto the front entrance. Also in 1980 the old steeple was removed because the weight was causing the roof to cave in. In 1981 someone in the church family bought a new fiberglass steeple which was installed that same year. The church bell which was removed from the old steeple was installed on the brick church sign. New ceiling lights were added in the sanctuary along with wood paneling above the pine boards.

In the 1990's the old stage was enlarged and the pine board wall was removed. Another doorway was added on the right side of the sanctuary leading into the Sunday school rooms in the rear. New carpet was also installed and the pews were recovered, re-padded and refinished with cloth to match the new carpet. The old entrance doors were also replaced.

In the early 2000's a baptistery was installed in the front of the sanctuary above the stage. This necessitated rearranging the restrooms and adding additional roof covering over the rear of the classrooms. Later in that same decade a new metal building was built behind and to the side of the historic building to be used as a multi-purpose building and Fellowship Hall. It was also used for the Children's AWANA program. This building was never connected to the historic church.

Cemetery	Locale	Location	Church Affiliation and Remarks
Reeves Grove	24 - NW	T13S, R3E, Sec 27	Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church, established in 1872; also known as Early Chapel; over 360 graves; first known interment: William ***Reeves*** (1825-1827); ***Banks, Baswell, Battles, Beason, Bowlin, Churchill, Cox, Early, Elliott, Engle, Gibbs, Hollingsworth, Littlel, Mitchell, Montgomery, Mostiller, Murray, Neely, Partlow, Reeves, Sheffield, Tarrance*** and ***Vinyard*** are common to this active cemetery **(27)**
Rehoboah	15 - NW	T15S, R2E, Sec 4	former site of Rehoboah Church; also known as Pierce Cemetery; approximately 45 graves; first known interment: W.C. ***Pierce*** (1851-1864); last known interment: Thenie ***Shurbet*** (1858-1931); ***Braden, Glidewell, Hanner, Hartley, Jones, Laster, Reeves, Shrubet, Smith*** and ***Thomas*** are also found in this here **(1) (27)**
Robert Chapel	83 - SE	T17S, R4E, Sec 9	approximately 50 graves; first known interment: Ross ***Dandridge*** (1888-1953); ***Collins, Freeze, Gover, Nobles, Payne, Roberson, Turner*** and ***Wynn*** are common to this active cemetery **(27)**
Roberts	74 - SW	T17S, R3E, Sec 4	Roberts Mill Pond Cemetery; see Old Ginns Settlement Cemetery
Rocky Zion	78 - SE	T17S, R3E, Sec 12	Rocky Zion Missionary Baptist Church; approximately 300 graves; first known interment: Bud ***Swain*** (1904-1912); ***Allen, Beavers, Bedford, Cannon, Carmichael, Coleman, Collins, Curry, Embry, Evans, Hamby, Hill, Jefferson, Mixon, Oden, Ragland, Seals, Swain*** and ***Young*** are found in this active cemetery **(27)**
Saint Clair	54 - SE	T16S, R3E, Sec 12	Saint Clair Memorial Gardens; over 1,400 graves in a contemporary cemetery **(27)**
Saint Clair Springs	118 - NW	T15S, R2E, Sec 1	Saint Clair Springs Baptist Church; ***Baccus, Baker, Bevel, Dunnaway, Hudgins, Layfield*** and ***Mize*** are found in this active contemporary cemetery **(27)**
Seddon	81 - SE	T17S, R4E, Sec 4	approximately 425 graves; first known interment: Betsy ***Castleberry*** (1810-1840); ***Brewster, Bright, Crump, Dickey, Embry, Franklin, Frazer, Garrett, Glidewell, Haynes, Johns, Kosak, Polk, Rich, Richardson, Roberson, Smith, Taylor, Thompson, Turner, Truss, West, White*** and ***Williams*** are common to this active cemetery **(27)**
Spring Hill	50 - NE	T15S, R3E, Sec 13	approximately 20 graves marked only with field stones **(23)**
Springville	14 - NW	T14S, R2E, Sec 28	see Red Hill
Springville	13 - NW	T14S, R2E, Sec 31	approximately 800 graves; first known interment: Elizabeth ***Bythe*** (1795-1857); ***Aderholt, Anderson, Baswell, Bradford, Brooks, Cosby, Forman, Garner, Herring, Hill, Keith, McClendon, Osborn, Patterson, Pearson, Phillips, Presley, Terry, Walker, Williams*** and ***Woodall*** are common to this active cemetery **(27)**
Steele	100 - NE	T14S, R2E, Sec 31	also known as Antioch Baptist Cemetery; approximately 475 graves; first known interment: William ***Rorie*** (1790-1875); ***Barnes, Beason, Brown, Bryant, Buffington, Crump, Davis, Free, Gaines, Hammond, Little, Lutes, Moore, Pope, Russell, Sharpton, Shaw, Wilcox*** and ***Wright*** are common to this active cemetery **(27)**
Stewart Crossroads	68 - SW	T17S, R2E, Sec 20	Stewart Crossroads Church
Stewart	70 - SW	T17S, R2E, Sec 20	approximately 60 graves, many unmarked; first known interment: infant ***Adams*** (b. & d. 1875) ***Finch, Hollis, Isbell, McLaughlin, Patterson, Pennington, Seales*** and ***Stewart*** are common to this active cemetery **(27)**
Straight Mountain	20 - NW	T14S, R2E, Sec 1	Straight Mountain Mennonite Church; approximately 35 graves; first known interment: Charles Beal ***Sweatt*** (1916-1970); ***Fortner, Garrett, Gladden, Logan, Montgomery, Newton, Whittington*** and ***Wisner*** are also found in this active cemetery **(27)**
Sweatt	103 - SW	T16S, R3E Sec 17	see Cane Creek
Truss	81- SE	T17S, R4E, Sec 4	interments moved to Blooming Light Cemetery in 1964 **(27)**
Truss-Bradford	11 - NW	T15S, R1E, Sec 1	approximately 18 graves; first known interment: Nancy Hunt ***Bradford***(1790-1830); last known interment: Green ***Bates*** (1859-1902); ***King, Reavis*** and ***Truss*** are common to this cemetery no longer in use **(27)**
Turtle Rock	124 - SW	T17S, R2E, Sec 5	a new and active cemetery **(27)**
UAB	119 - SW	T16S, R5E, Sec 36	the recent graves of Mr, and Mrs. Ralph ***Shoemaker*** **(27)**
Unity	82 - SE	T16S, R4E, Sec 29	Unity Baptist Church, established in 1967; ***Barnes, Causey, Dunlap, Faw, Fincher, Foote, Gallegly, Gressett, Harris, Horton, Knop, Lackey*** and ***Smith*** are found in this active contemporary cemetery **(27)**
Valley Hill	79 - SE	T17S, R4E, Sec 18	Valley Hill Cemetery; over 1,100 graves with interments dating from 1924; ***Bain, Brascho, Coley, Dunaway, Funderburg, Gray, Hardwick, Jones, Lewis, Lovell, Lucker, Meehan, Rich, Rowland, Scott, Smith, Starnes, Tucker, Turner, Williamson*** and ***Young*** are surnames common to this active cemetery **(26) (27)**
Valley Hill	79 - SE	T17S, R4E, Sec 18	Valley Hill Memorial Gardens, adjacent to Valley Hill Cemetery above; an active contemporary cemetery of some 520 graves; ***Adams, Alexander, Alverson, Bain, Bunn, Church, Clements, Gravette, Hannah, Ingram, Lee, Macon, Nixon, Smith, Turner, Williams, Worthy*** and ***Wright*** are known to be found here **(27)**
Victory	121 - NE	T13S, R4E, Sec 19	Victory United Baptist Church; an active contemporary cemetery **(27)**
Walker	85 - SE	T17S, R4E, Sec 21	approximately 50 marked and 20 unmarked graves; first known interment: Williard Tandy ***Walker*** (1856-1858); ***Cavazos, Fant, Gurley, Jones, Lee, Mullins*** and ***Stone*** are also found in this active cemetery **(1) (27)**
Wester	59 - SE	T15S, R5E, Sec 29	approximately 20 marked and several unmarked graves; first known interment: Edward ***Wester*** (1783-1852); last known interment: Lucinda ***Graham*** (1865-1954); ***Bunt, Daffron*** and ***Stone*** are also found here **(1) (27)**
Wilson	31 - NE	T14S, R4E, Sec 2	see Gum Springs
Yorty	104 - SE	T16N, R3E, Sec 12	
Zion Hill	30 - NE	T14S, R4E, Sec 2	former site of Zion Hill Church, destroyed by a fire in 1920; 6 marked and several unmarked graves; first known interment: Harriet J. ***Sharpton*** (1854-1896); last known interment: Ed ***Foreman*** (1863-1937) **(5) (27)**

Cemeteries of Unknown Name

Cemetery	Locale	Location	Church Affiliation and Remarks
Unknown	19 - NW	T14S, R2E, Sec 12	
Unknown	65 - SW	T17S, R2E, Sec 22	
Unknown	71 - SW	T17S, R2E, Sec 26	
Unknown	72 - SW	T17S, R2E, Sec 26	
Unknown	110 - NE	T15S, R5E, Sec17	4 marked graves; William ***Vowell*** (1821-1893), Martha ***Vowell*** (1864-1881), Sarah ***Vowell*** (1812-1881) and Eugenia ***Vowell*** (1866-1881); approximately 20 unmarked graves **(24)**
Unknown	112 - SW	T17S, R2E, Sec 25	

Cemeteries of Uncertain Location

Cemetery	Locale	Location	Church Affiliation and Remarks
Argo	not plotted	Argo	Argo Central Baptist Church; an active cemetery **(27)**
Brogdon	not plotted	Steele	James E. ***Brogdon*** (1937-1994), Neal Stanley ***Brogdon*** (1932-2000), Nell Jo ***Brogdon*** (1941-2005), Walter C. ***Brogdon*** (1888-1976) and Mildred M. Brogdon ***Kiefer*** (1926-1996) are known to be found here **(27)**
Cane Creek	not plotted	Cook Springs	6 graves covered by three roofed structures **(27)**
Capehart	not plotted	Pell City	George ***Capehart*** (1813-1901) is known to be found here **(27)**
Carr	not plotted	Wattsville	John A. ***Karr*** (1845-1915), Clerissa Elizabeth ***Rowe*** (1842-1926) and George Washington ***Rowe*** (1830-1927) are known to be found here **(27)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

My name is Debbie Collins. I am still a member of Reeves Grove Baptist Church. I have long since moved away from the community back to my hometown of Trussville, Alabama. I attend a church near my home but have never moved my letter from Reeves Grove. I lived and attended Reeves Grove for 25+ years. I was baptized there when I was 27 years old. Both my daughters were baptized there as well. The Church has a special place in my heart. Unlike most of the statements you will read, I had no relatives that lived in this area. I could write many pages of my personal story of happiness joy and heartache that I felt while attending Reeves Grove. The Church was such a source of comfort to me and my family. Like all the stories you are about to read, we all have a personal connection with this Church.

After researching my own family tree the past 5+ years, it made me realize the importance of preserving our history and where we came from. I have spent a lot of time walking through the cemetery here at Reeves Grove and now feel I have a connection with the people who reside at Reeves Grove Cemetery. I wish sometimes I could sit down and talk with each one of them, for they all played a part in the history of this small community.

We recently came together to try and restore the old abandoned Reeves Grove Church. (a new sanctuary has replaced the old Church). We formed the Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Historical and Preservation Committee. Our goal is to restore and preserve the Church and cemetery for future generations For those in the community who did not attend the church, the people who lived there knew what the Church stood for and knew they could count on the Church if ever needed.

In your application No. 7 ask that we address a statement of significance for each area marked. I will attempted to do that in my statement below.

EDUCATION: As we have uncovered through working on this project, that during the late 1800s to early 1990s, Reeves Grove Church hosted a county school. It was a thrill for me to see, that what we thought was "our little church", was a school on the forefront of providing education to the young people in that community. I am still amazed at that fact. This wasa community of mostly farmers and other hard working people who wanted their children to receive an education. They had the insight to host a school along with practicing their religious beliefs. We hope to continue to educate the community of past history as well as sharing our love of the Lord for future generations to come. Since traveling back and forth to the nearest towns of Ashville, Steele, Springville and Oneonta was not possible, this was a perfect location to bring the community together for the children. The fact that our small church step up to the plate and supported this school is an important fact which few would remember. I look forward to hopefully uncovering more about this school at Reeves Grove.

RELIGION: Continuing the beliefs of the founding members of Reeves Grove is important to future generations because as I have often heard said "you cannot know where you are going unless you understand where you have come from." The more I study the Church's history, it makes me realize that they were people just like us. Who worked hard to give their

families a better life and a sense of community. Their struggles helped to give you and me the religious freedom we have today. This is just another reason to preserve this Church for future generations.

SOCIAL HISTORY: As I began to ponder the topic of social history of this church, it became clear to me how important this Church was to the community to accomplish this task by all the social events held over the church's history. Not only to the people who attended Reeves Grove but also the folks who passed by every day and attended many functions at the Church. There were Church Homecomings once a year in the spring to draw folks back to the Church to honor their ancestors. Folks would gather for dinner on the ground held on the 3rd Sunday of each month for fellowship. The Broom Brigade play put on by the young women of the Church (see picture in the Bibliographical section). Singing schools were held here at the school for folks in the community as well as hosting singing groups to come and perform periodically. Also the school activities which were attended by the children in the area. There are lots of social and civic meetings which Reeves Grove hosted over the years (see the pamphlet from the St. Clair County Assoc. held at RG in 1899).

CEMETERY: I no longer look at the cemeteries as headstones and footstones where people are buried, but as people of the past who lived in the very same community as I live now. We owe it to them to try and restore Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery and what they accomplished during their time here on earth and not let time destroy their presence as though they was never here.

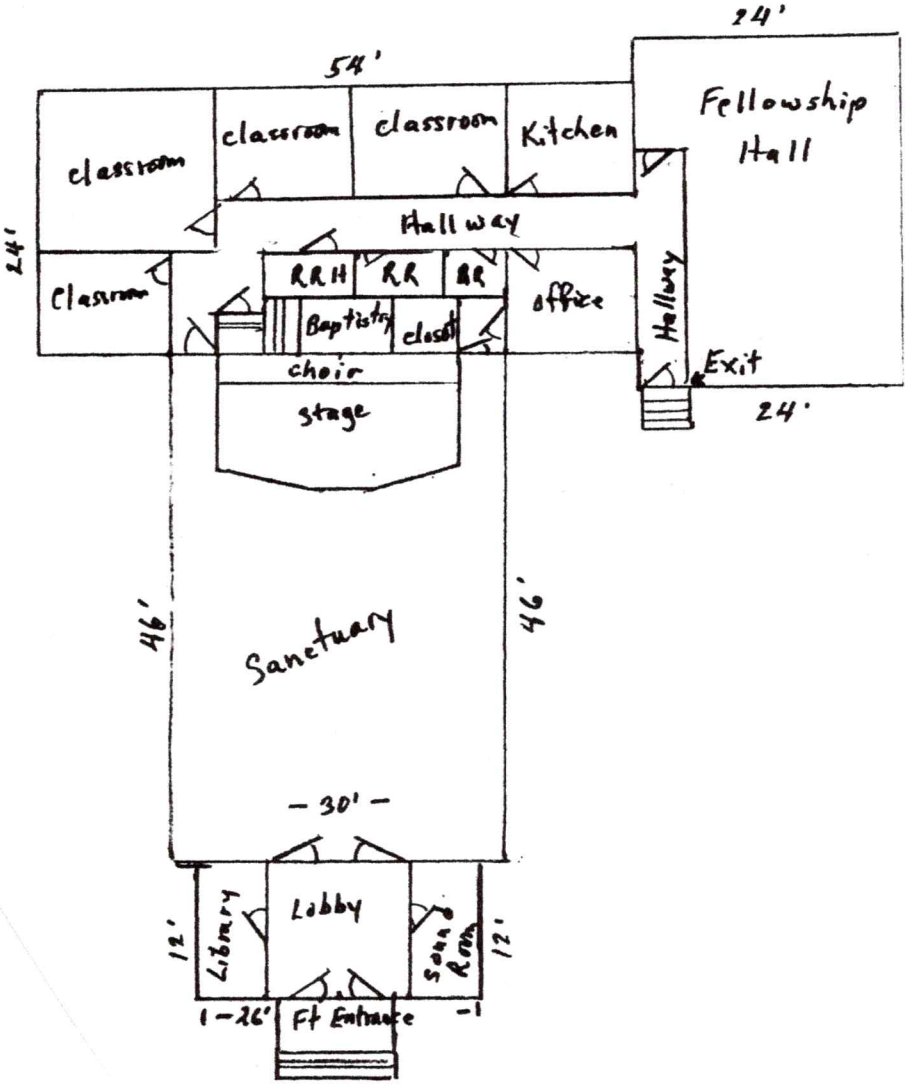
In summary our goals are to restore and preserve the building itself. We hope to be a place that the community can come and share its love of history and build new history for the future. We hope to be bring this church back to life so that others can continue to grow from its past. We hope to host all types of events which our founding members did in the past and make this church a Beacon of light in the future. Please help us show respect to the people who have gone on before us by helping us place this beautiful little country church on the Alabama Historical Register for all future generations to see our ***"footprint"*** in history.

Sincerely,

Debbie Collins

Debbie Collins

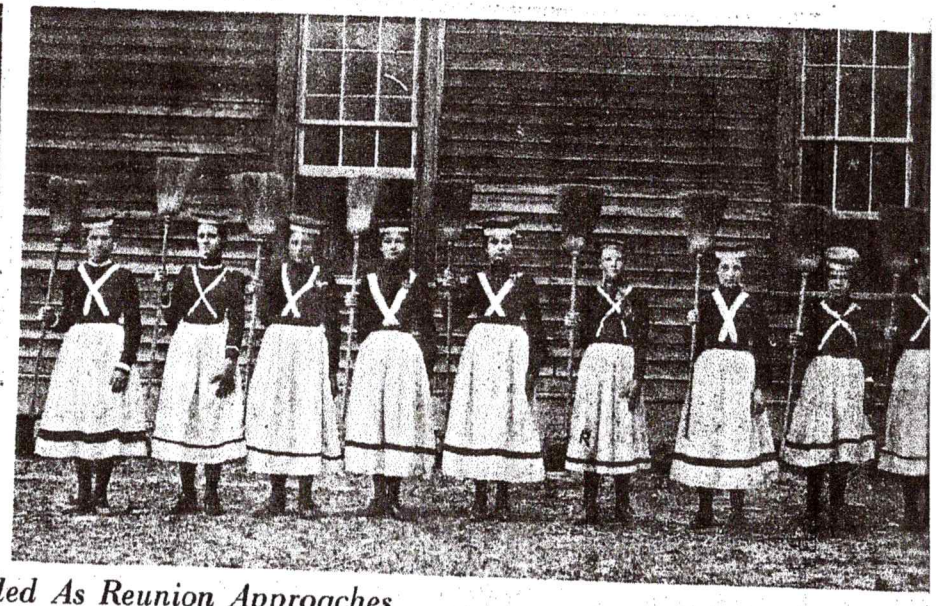
10/2017



Reeves Grove Baptist Church Floor Plan, 2017

Scene Of Art Show

Historic Springville Lake will be the setting for an art show and exhibit Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. Mountain arts and crafts peculiar to the area will be the feature of the day and especially oil and water color paintings. The beauty of the existing culture of the Blount and Chandler Mountain area will provide for an interesting and profitable day. Display tables will be provided for pottery items and some paintings and refreshments will be near by. Also included in the day's festivities will be an unusual "Parcel Post Sale" of items from across America sent to Springville by world famous movie, TV and recording stars, as well as America's sports figures and political figures.



Reeves Grove History Recalled As Reunion Approaches

Singing school held at Reeves Grove Baptist Church around 1904. Seated front l to r: Clara Bell Sheffield, Stella Jones, Deliah Sheffield, 2nd row: Pluma Tellis, Annie Reeves, Della Vinyard, Mary Partlow, Chessie Mikle, Lonia Beason, Lee Mostella, Della Reeves, Essie Autry, Rosey Partlow (Owner of the picture), Pearch Sheffield, Fannie Partlow. 3rd Row: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Puckett (Ovada) and little daughter Bertie Bell Puckett, (Mrs. Puckett was the Singing School teacher), Alley Beason, May Vinyard, Maude Mostella, Lou Allaman, Kate Early, Delene Sheffield, Syble Mattison, Marion Partlow, Unknown, Farris McCain, Elvin Baggett. 4th row: Luther McCollough, Harry McCain, Wallace Beason, Will Battle, (?) Vinyard, Claude Ball, Jim Autry, Fate Vinyard, Rosco McCollough. 5th row: Joe Reeves, Dave Allaman, Porter Vinyard, Alfred Partlow.

Children who attended school in the Reeves Grove Baptist Church around 1902. They were dressed to present a "Broom Drill" in a play about Alabama. L. to R: Alley Early, Lennie Mostella, Mary Tucker, Minda Reeves, Delene Sheffield, Rosey Partlow (Owner of the picture), Eunice Beason, Dealy Green, Maude Mostella and Fannie Partlow.

Mrs. Rosey Partlow Autry, the owner of these pictures is a descendent of early settlers of St. Clair County and founders of the Reeves Grove Baptist Church. John Partlow born in Virginia in 1780 and his wife Elizabeth, born in South Carol land in St. Clair County and is listed in the Partlow married Phillip Houston Autry, anot County family, March 22, 1908. Mrs. Autry, at ag who all these young people married. The picture at the annual reunion of the Reeves Grove B Sunday and Mrs. Rosey will be there too.

St Clair Chronicle May 17-1977

Snapshots in Time: Pictorial History Of St. Clair County

Compiled by the St. Clair Historic Development Commission

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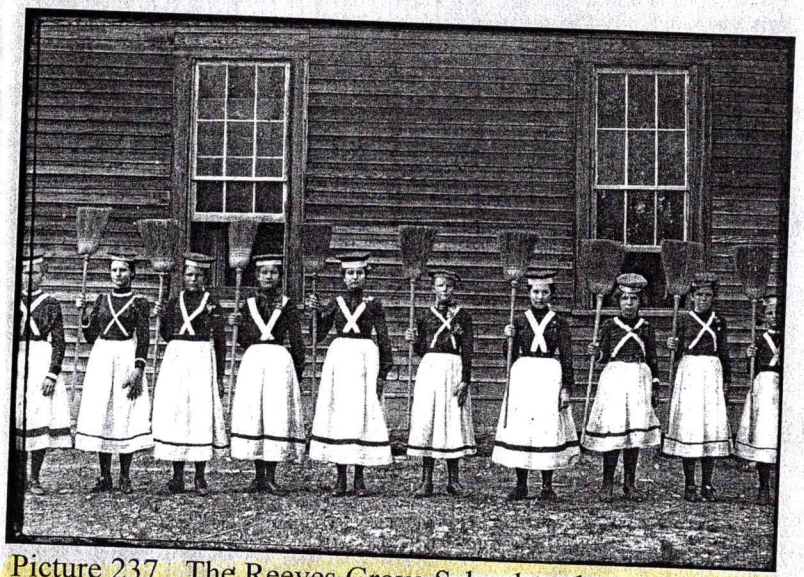
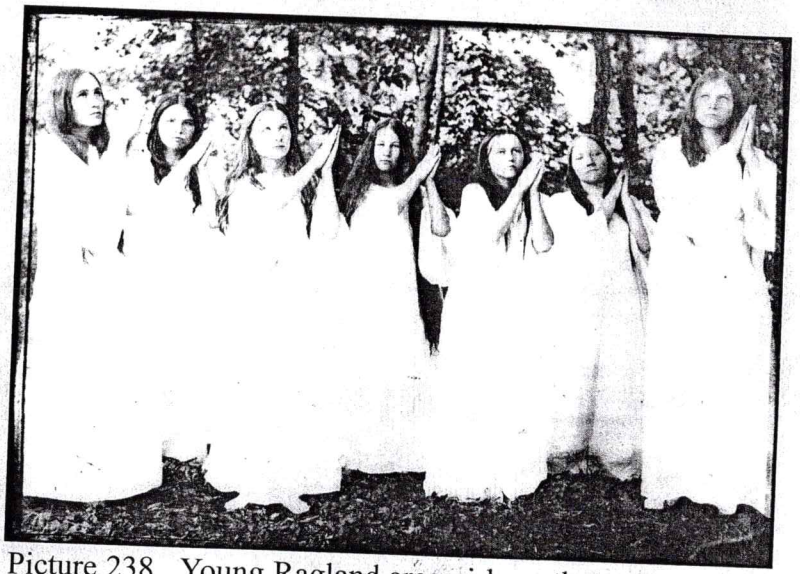
Funded in part through a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission

A very special thank you for all the kind citizens of St. Clair County who supplied their valuable photographs for this publication

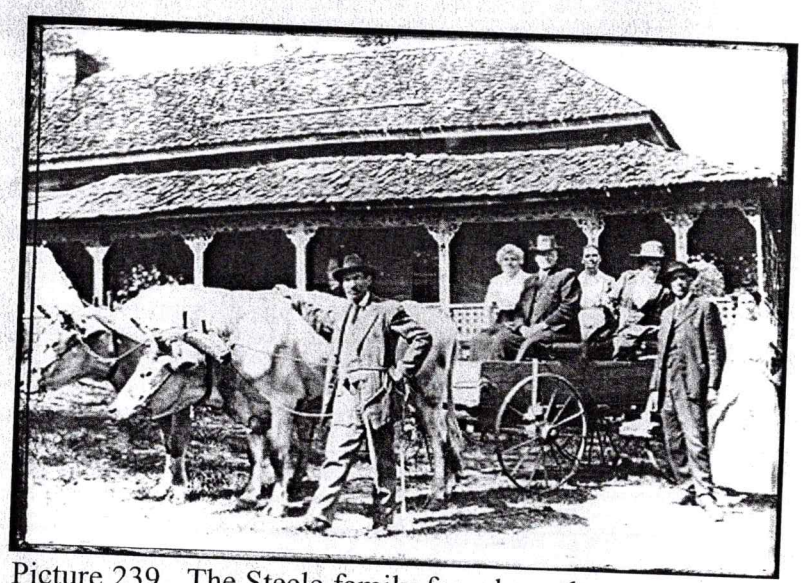
ST CLAIR HISTORIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
29851 U.S HWY 231
ASHVILLE, AL 35953
205-594-5541



Picture 237 The Reeves Grove School as they practice for the Broom Drill.



Picture 238 Young Ragland area girls as they prepare for a play.



Picture 239 The Steele family for whom the town of Steel was named.

NO. 6

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Of Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Of Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage Nomination Form

NO 7

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. Debbie Collins, Record keeper for the Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church Historical Preservation Committee. Member of Reeves Grove Baptist Church.

2. Linda G Battles Moyer, granddaughter of John Cowan Sheffield, one of the founding members of Reeves Grove (1899) and member of the RG Historical Preservation Committee.

3. Joe R. Sweatt. Great grandson of Louisa Reeves founding member of RGMBC and member of the RG Historical Preservation Committee.

4. Donna Jones, great granddaughter of John Cowan Sheffield, member of Reeves Grove and member of RG Historical Preservation Committee.

5. Jeannie Partlow Griggs, direct descendant of the John Partlow. One of the founding members of Reeves Grove and a member of the RG Historical Preservation Committee.

6. Gary Hood, son of Ralston Hood a former pastor ( ) of Reeves Grove. Former member of Reeves Grove and the Chairman of RG Historical Preservation Committee.

7. Mackie Branham, member of Reeves Grove and secretary of the Historical Preservation Committee.

8. Yvonne Battles, former member of Reeves Grove and member of the Historical Preservation Committee.

**** These are only a few of many statements written.

August 28, 2017

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please tell in your own words why this property is important to you and the community. Also why you think this property needs to be preserved and paced on the State of Alabama Historic Register.

There are many reasons why I want to preserve Reeves Grove Baptist Church and have it placed on the State of Alabama Historic Register.

First of all, I strongly believe that any structure of this era should be preserved for the educational usefulness it holds for future generations in order for them to develop a greater appreciation for the historical aspect of the founding and building of the church. I have family letters dated 1870 stating that the timbers for the church were grown in Etowah County, transported on the Coosa River, and brought to the church site by oxen.

Second, this building stands on land that was deeded by my great grandmother, Louisa Reeves, and therefore bears the name of Reeves Grove Baptist Church. As a small child, I remember ringing the church bell on Sunday mornings to summon the community to attend worship services.

Third, I have children who were saved and also married in the church. In addition, funeral services for my great grandparents, grandparents, parents and infant sister were held in the church. As a result, this building holds not only historic but present day value as well. In it are housed many precious memories.

From the historic educational value, to the ancestral ties, to the recent past, to the present day events, I strongly feel that the church should be preserved.

Joe R. Sweatt
19097 US Hwy 11
Steele, AL 35987
(205) 337-9027

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please tell in your own words why this property is important to you and the community. Also why you think this property needs to be preserved and paced on the State of Alabama Historic Register.

As I've grown older I've come to realize why Reeves Grove Baptist Church has always been such a special place to my relatives. I can recall stories about very special memories my grandparents and other family members handed down to my siblings and myself. when we were just children. and today I can pass down my memories along with their memories to my grandchildren.

Generations of past family members are lying to rest in the Reeves Grove cemetery and Im looking forward to that priviledge one day myself.

Sometimes small towns don't have much to offer tourist or visitors but one thing for sure about the Ashville/Whitney community is that we are rich in our traditions of God and family. Our churches are full of our families and we want to preserve a piece of that history not only for ourselves but for future generations to come.

Reeves Grove dates back to 1870 and our cemetery has graves marked as far back as the 1700s. There are old slave graves, indian graves, military graves and many other graves of decendants of our great country.

At our homecoming each year the topic of most importance to our members and visitors, besides putting flowers on the graves of their loved ones is when will we be able to go into the old sanctuary. They want to remember times gone past and also be able to show their loved ones where they got saved or baptised or even married.

I was married at Reeves Grove in 1968 and my two sons were both baptised there. But there were times remembered long before 1968 of Bible school, wearing my new dress on Easter Sunday. Having dinner after church outside under the old oak tree. These are the things I treasure as history - My history.

Our history should not only be preserved in some book about epic battles, or presidential conquest but also in the lives of the common God fearing men and women of a small town that lived their lives in and of the church. This is our history and though it may seem meaningless to many that never knew Reeves Grove as their place of worship. it means everything to those of us that did and still do consider it our home.

Sincerely
Donna Jones

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please tell in your own words why this property is important to you and the community. Also why you think this property needs to be preserved and paced on the State of Alabama Historic Register.

Reeves Grove Baptist Church was from it's inception and continues to be an important part of the community where it is nestled on the outskirts of Ashville, Al. It is personally important to me and my family due to the fact that we are direct decendants of the Partlow family that played a significant role in it's founding and actual hands-on construction. John Partlow hand hued the logs used for the building and was one of the first delegates elected to the association. It has always been my family's home church and is where my father, Jack Partlow, accepted his call to preach when I was 2 years old. Numerous family members, including my parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles are buried in the adjoining cemetery. I continue to attend Reeves Grove where I serve as pianist, treasurer and WMU Director.

Jeannie Partlow Gugers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reeves Grove Baptist Church holds an important place in my life and in the life of many people in the local community. As a meeting house it has been used, among other things for several weddings. Weddings are sacred meetings where two people who are in love gather with family and friends to celebrate a Holy union. These Unions begat children who become families which settled in the local community and eventually make up the family of the Reeves Grove Church. Through this family and the many activities of church life memories are made and lives are changed by the love of each other and the love of the Heavenly Father. In this church many new families have begun. This is something that I have personally experienced.

Not only have there been many weddings here, but funerals as well. Funerals are not meant to be sad occasions, but instead they are memorial celebrations of a life well lived in the local community. For the Child of God death is simply a promotion into heaven. Each of those who have passed from death to life and also have passed through these doors leave memories of joy, laughter, or sometimes pain behind. Many of these are buried in the church cemetery with memorial stones that help us to remember past fellowships and friendships. Last Spring I walked through the cemetery and I was amazed by the number of people that I have known since I first became connected to this church and community who are buried here. If my memory serves me correctly I counted 10 graves of men who have passed on that have widows still living in the community. I attended the funeral and even participated in the service of many of those men. My wife and I will one day lay our "temples" down in this same place.

Other occasions such as Homecomings, Gospel singings, Birthdays and Anniversaries have been celebrated here in this place. All of these events create memories that will live with us forever. In 1968 my Dad was called here for his first job as a pastor. I was only 15 years old at the time. We lived in Gadsden and drove the 20 or so miles 3 times a week for services. Whenever he left I stayed behind and eventually moved here and made this community my home. I did this because it felt like home. I made many friends and acquaintances here, many that I still have today. I married here and raised my 2 daughters here. I could not imagine living anywhere else. I suppose that I will also live out my life here until I join the others who have preceded me in their promotion to heaven.

These memories and events are but a few that I have experienced at Reeves Grove Baptist Church. But I am not alone. There are hundreds of others just like me, people whose lives have been touched, changed and blessed by their presence in this place. This is why we seek to preserve not only the memories but the structure, the building that is Reeves Grove Baptist Church. We want our children and grandchildren to continue to be able to have a place to call home as they receive blessing upon blessing.

Gary Hood
September, 31, 2017

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please tell in your own words why this property is important to you and the community. Also why you think this property needs to be preserved and placed on the State of Alabama Historic Register.

God had a reason that Reeves Grove Missionary Church (Reeves Grove Baptist Church) was established. The place/property was chosen by the Lord to begin a ministry in this community. Many lives have been saved and ministered to for His glory. Reeves Grove is a very important part of the history in this area and God is still using what He started in 1872.

Mackie Bratham

October 10, 2017

MY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A beacon of light, a reminder of simpler days go by, the heart of the community are just a few thoughts I think about when thinking about Reeves Grove Baptist Church.

Its quaint charm remains in a community where the term "If walls could talk" would speak of the history of so many families, love of God, that was taught then, triumphs and tragedies that have affected generations.

To me personally, my children spent many of their formative years in this church, Sunday school, vacation bible school, plays, children's choir are just a few memories. My children were taught life lessons that come from the love and salvation of Jesus Christ is priceless.

My heart will forever will be grateful for this meeting place that holds so many fond memories.

Yvonne Battles
Ashville, AL
Member of
Reeves Grove Baptist Church

NO 8

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Letter to Louisa Reeves data Sept. 20, 1870

2. St. Clair County Association yearly pamphlet dated September 9, 1899 held at Reeves Grove Baptist Church, Whitney, AL.

3. Church Bulletin dated May 16, 1981

4. Picture of The Reeves Grove School Broom Drill taken from book *Snapshots in Time:*
   Pictorial History of St. Clair County dated 2000

5. Excerpt from *History of Steele Alabama dated 1974*

6. William McCorkle and Anderson Reeves buried in Reeves Grove Cemetery taken from book *First Families of St. Clair Co & Northeast, Alabama*

7. Article from *The St. Clair Observer* newspaper about Reeves Grove Baptist Church dated May 17, 1972

8. Picture of children at Reeves Grove Baptist Church School. Not sure of the date. Still looking for more information on the school.

9. Bulletin for Homecoming services in 1976. Not sure of the actual date. Looking for another copy.

10. Church history taken from a bulletin honoring the 125th Anniversary 1872 – 1997 dated March 9, 1997

11. Picture of the old church before improvements were made with a note written. Source of note unknown. *I knew the old church Grandpa helped build and we went to church in an ox wagon pulled by two oxen named " Spot" and "Beau".*

12. Article featuring Reeves Grove Baptist Church as the Church of the Week in the St. Clair Times dated August 7, 2016.

This Letter to Louisa Reeves is about the wood that were bought for the church. Louisa Reeves' grandson found this letter in her Bible.

Trussville Ala
Sept 20th 1870

Mrs Reeves

I cant send your Roles by Freight trane without sending off for a bill which will Cause much delay when the Company appoints an agent for this station I shall ship all Wool by Freight trane the young man that sums my Cards has toled your wool there fore you are not in debt hee for any thing the priel I charged for Carding is

Louisa Reeves
Wahrill

as follows
for plain carding
12½ cts per lb
Mixing 15 cts or
when we sole the
4th lb and when
we furnish the gras
to gow on the wool
25 cts per lb and it
will take about one
lbs to every 15 lbs of
wool I sell wool
at 50 cts per lb
and Roles at 75 cts
Verry respectfully
J H Trup

held
at
Reeves Grove
Baptist Church
Whitney Junction
*1899

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(FORMERLY CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION.)

HELD WITH

Reeves Grove Baptist Church, Whitney, Ala.

September 9th, 1899.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A. A. HODGES, ... Moderator.
N. A. HOOD, ... Clerk.
J. M. ADKINS, ... Treasurer.

The next session of this Association will be held with Cedar Grove Church, which is situated on the Central of Georgia and the Southern Railroads, one mile from the town of Leeds, on Saturday, before the second Sunday in September, 1900, at 10 o'clock a. m.

ASHVILLE, ALA.
THE SOUTHERN ALLIANCE
1899.

Mrs. Eugene Ewing
1953

869

Statistics of St. Clair County Association, 1899.

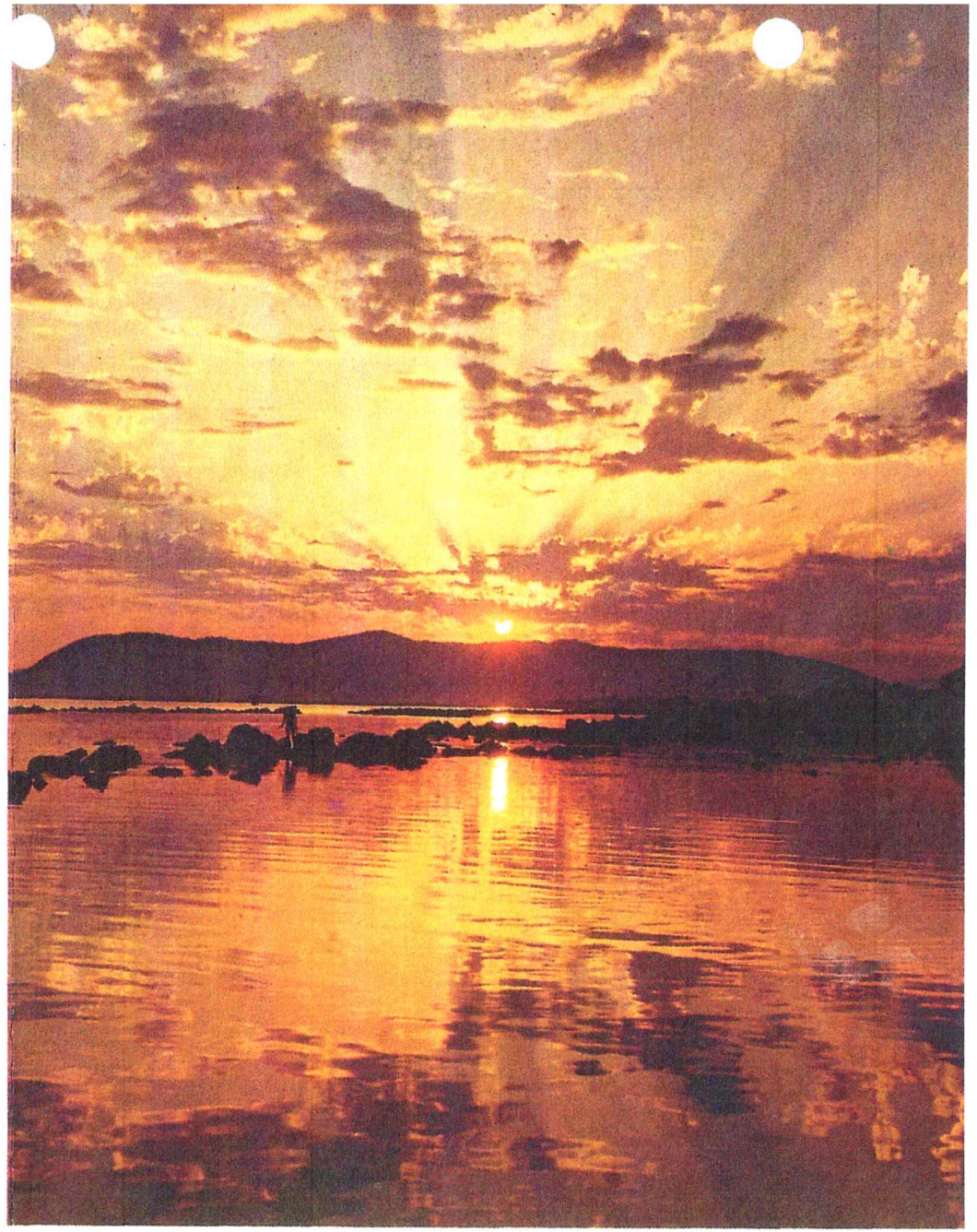
	CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST. OFFICE	Membership Last Reported.	INCREASED BY Baptism	INCREASED BY Letter	INCREASED BY Restoration	DECREASED BY Letter	DECREASED BY Exclusion	DECREASED BY Death	Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL Officers and Teachers	SUNDAY SCHOOL Pupils	SUNDAY SCHOOL Superintendent's Name and Post Office	Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Prayer Meeting	Reports Revival
1	Ashville	St. Clair	J A Glenn	R M Hodges	Ashville	149		9		5	1	1	151	5	70	J A Embry, Ashville.	2nd	yes	
2	Bethany	"	S J Hare	R B Cash	Partlow	43	1			5			39			Has S. S.	2nd		
3	Bethel	"	J SE Robinson	J F Wyatt	Taylorsburg	97	7	5	3	13	1		98	6	59	J T Willingham	3rd		
4	Beulah	Shelby	J H Butts	W H Falkner	Sterrett	85	4	2		5	4	2	80				1st		yes
5	*Cane Creek	St. Clair				50													
6	Cedar Grove	"	W P Lovell	F B Moore	Leeds	47	14	4		1			64						
7	Coal City	"	J A Glenn	GW Daughdril	Coal City	8	31	27	1	2	1		141	5	65	J W Waldrip, Coal City	4th		
8	Cooke Springs	"	J O Chaney	J R Carraker	Cooke Springs	69	1	2		7	1		64			Paul Carraker, Cook Springs			yes
9	Cool Springs	"	N A Hood	T D Moor	Oldtown	104	18	6	1	3		1	125	7	50	W J Whitfield, Oldtown	1st		yes
10	*Eden	Jefferson				42													
11	Friendship	St. Clair	J SE Robinson	Jno L Mize	Beaver Valley	151	8	3		9			153				4th		yes
12	Greensport	"	N A Hood	W J Watson	Canterberry	66		2	1	5		1	63				2nd		
13	Gum Springs	"	G W Lovell	C A Jester	Pulaski	167	9	1	2	3			176			W O Palmer, Pulaski	4th		yes
14	Harmony	"	W C McLaughlin	J J Lee	Moody	17			3		4		16						
15	Hopewell	"	J T Chadwick	R M Thomson	Hood	96	1	2		7	1		91				3rd		yes
16	Macedonia	"	J S Barber	J J Wood	Ragland	34			3				37				3rd		yes
17	Mt. Castle	"	J S Bowlin	H A Jackson	Fairview	44	1	4	1		3	1	46			Has S. S.			yes
18	Mount Pisgah	"	T K Trotter	W Z Smith	Easonville	169	1	4	1	12		2	161						
19	Mount Pleasant	"	C J Pike	J C Chaney	Wolf Creek	97	13	8	1	2		1	116				3rd		yes
20	*Mt. Zion	"				27													
21	New Hope	"	W P Lovell	J M Garrett	Eden	156	25	16		11	1		18	8	60	J W Lewis, Eden	4th		yes
22	New Hope	Jefferson	J W Lawley	M S Glass	Irondale	56	8	2			1	1	64	4		J P Cambron, Irondale	1st		yes
23	New Lebanon	St. Clair	J W Lawley	R C Simmona	Springville	43	1	3				1	46				3rd		yes
24	New Prospect	"	J S E Robinson	E M Chapman	Fairview	94	3	1	1				99						yes
25	*New Prospect	Jefferson																	
26	*Pleasant Grove	St. Clair				49													
27	Pleasant Grove	Shelby	W I Brasher	J M Mundine	Vandiver	81	10	1		2	1		89			Has S. S.		yes	yes
28	*Pleasant Ridge	"				17													
29	*Pleasant Site	"				50													
30	Providence	St. Clair	J O Layton	R A Green	Ragland	68				5	5		58			J W Wood			yes
31	*Ragland	"				32													
32	Reeves Grove	"	N A Hood *	J C Sheffield	Whitney	122	7	2			1	1	129		*	J C Sheffield, Whitney	3rd		yes
33	Rock Springs	"	W C McLaughlin	G T Allison	Moody	35	3	4	1	1			42		40	J W Inzer, Moody	2nd		
34	Sand Ridge	Shelby	W I Brasher	C T Isbell	Leeds	47	3		2	2	1		49						yes
35	Shiloh	St. Clair	J T Bowling	T J Johnston	Ashville	21						1	29				1st		
36	*Trinity	Shelby				22													
37	Union	St. Clais	J W Perry			26	5						31			P Windsor, Beaver Valley			
38	Union Springs	"	Z S Wyatt	R F Courson	Branchville	65	2			4	1		62				1st		yes
39	Pine Forest	"	J S E Robinson	J M McCrory	Pine Forest	33	5	4	1	6	1		36	6	60	A Stevenson, Pine Forest			

*Not Represented

*John Cowan Sheffield

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION, FOR YEAR 1899.

	CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Bible and Colportage.	Ministerial Education.	Orphans' Home.	Minutes.	Indigent Ministers
1	Ashville	13 07				15 84	7 00	2 50	
2	Bethany							30	
3	Bethel	1 50	1 50	2 00			3 30	1 50	
4	Beulah						9 48	1 40	
5	Cedar Grove							1 00	
6	Coal City	5 03		5 05	1 00	5 00		1 70	1 00
7	Cooke Springs				3 17		1 77	1 25	
8	Cool Springs	3 00	3 00	4 00				1 15	
9	Friendship							1 50	
10	Greensport		2 50	2 50				50	
11	Gum Springs							1 00	
12	Harmony							50	
13	Hopewell							1 00	
14	Macedonia		35	40				75	
15	Mount Pisgah		2 50					1 50	
16	Mount Pleasant			3 41				2 00	
17	New Hope		7 50					2 04	
18	New Hope (Jeff'n Co.)							1 10	
19	New Lebanon							65	
20	New Prospect							1 00	
21	Pleasant Gr'e(Sh'y co)							1 50	
22	Providence							50	
23	Pine Forest							50	
24	Reeves Grove	2 00	2 00	6 00				1 35	
25	Rock Springs						1 72	75	
26	Sand Ridge		15	25				80	
27	Shiloh							30	
28	Union							50	
29	Union Springs	75	75	1 00			2 50	85	
30	Collection at Asso'tion			15 0			4 15		9 12
	Total	$25 35	$20 25	$40 11	$4 17	$20 84	$29 92	$31 34	$10 12



"That Glorious Day"

Psalms 30:5

No. 4227

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MEMORIAL DAY

May 16, 1981

I'm In This Church. . . . . .Choral Welcome

When We All Get To Heaven . . . . . .Hymn No. 145

Where We'll Never Grow Old. . . . . .Hymn No. 25

Welcome . . . . . Rev. Bill Davis

Invocation

What A Day That Will Be . . . . . .Hymn No. 236

Devotional . . . . . Charles Tipton

The Unseen Hand. . . . . .Betty Davis
Karen Tipton
Joyce Walker

"Why Am I Complaining" . . . . . Barbara Cunningham

Joy Comes in the Morning . . . . . .Choir

"When All Is Done" . . . . . .Betty Davis

Heaven's Sounding Sweeter All The Time . . . .Choir

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Rev. 21:4

Individual Response. . . . . Orville Beam

Congregational Participation

Testimony in Song. . . . . .Neal Elders
Don Sharp

"He Is Coming" . . . . . .Phillip Sheffield

This Could Be The Dawning of That Day. . .Choir

"Safely Home" . . . . . .Linda Runyans

The Son Will Still Be Shining . . . . . Choir

Nearing the Shore . . . . . .Karen Tipton

The End of the Road . . . . . .Freddie Boyett
Sue Boyett

Sermon . . . . . .Rev. Bill Davis

Benediction

"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever."

Rev. 22:5

"In the beginning God"…" Most of us recognize these words to be the first phrase of a book that gives us the story of creation. Then the development of a garden and man was created to care for the garden. The story progresses through 39 books to present a nation and God's plan and purpose for His people, Israel. These books develop the Old Testament. Then comes the fulfillment of the prophecies of these 39 books, the inspired words of God. "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." The first verse of a connective book, Matthew joins the prophecy and the fulfillment together. The birth, life and death of Jesus and its purpose for mankind takes form through 27 additional books forming Gods word, the Bible. This is a summary of 66 books that is extensive beyond words. It is filled with characters of every personality, life experiences, and events that transcends man's natural comprehension. The reason being that it was a God inspired, directed, and completed spiritual work.

I believe the same is true for the history of a little country church that was erected in 1872 on the McCorkle plantation. "In the beginning God…" The preservation of the life stories, events and spiritual miracles must never be lost because of men's neglect. Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church was birthed by God through a people who loved God and sacrificed their time, labor and material goods to accomplish His purpose.

The story takes root in 1745 in Prince Edward County Virginia when Charles Brumfield was born. He and Lucy (Smith?) married in 1764 and had eight known children. Two of these children, Charity Brumfield 1777-1853 married Thomas Neely and Elizabeth Brumfield 1766-1840 married William McCorkle 1768-1847 (who homesteaded a plantation in Whitney, Alabama). The McCorkle daughter Louisa (1799-1892) married Anderson Reeves (1790-1853). In 1878 with two witnesses Louisa deeds four acres of her land to the Baptist Church that had been built above the Reeves family cemetery. The deed was probated on August 23, 1886. The two Brumfield women, their husbands and families became a foundational stone in the future birthing of this church. The ancestors of these families still remain a vital part of the community today. We realize that this heritage of ours is preserved through a power greater than human effort.

During the 145 years of this historical property, people have come from many walks of life honorable and dishonorable. Life and death experiences have taken place on these grounds that volumes of books could not contain. Various church events through the years consisted of times of building and times of wasting away. However each event is positioned in the proper place to form a segment of the story. It all took formation in the compound of the floor, walls and rafters of the hand hewn logs that were erected in 1872. Men, women and children have come and placed their mark in a chapter of the book. The book is not complete today, a chapter is being put in place to honor those who were forerunners in the faith of Jesus Christ. Now, 2017, is a time in history when many groups desire to obstruct and destroy historical values and properties. We have chosen to be a move of restoration to advance against the status quo. To be builders of bridges that will connect the past with the future.

We believe it is time to renew, restore and challenge future generations to honor their God given heritage. Our unity of purpose encompasses; 1. honoring our Fathers of the faith; 2. to have a visual presentation of our love for God, and our fellow man through this act of restoration and preservation.

We the Historical Preservation Committee unite as one to honor and preserve the historical past of this church structure and those who were its caretakers. We declare and commit that with our love for God and others that a united cause has been established. This cause will continue in order to maintain this historical church as a prestigious memorial in our community. Additional chapters in the future history book of Reeves Grove Baptist Church will continue to be written.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda G. Battles, Moyer
LINDA G. BATTLES MOYER

FIRST FAMILIES

OF

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

AND

NORTHEAST, ALABAMA

JERRY BARTLETT JONES, SR.

GADSDEN, ALABAMA

Ashville Museum & Archives
P O Box 1570
Ashville, AL 35953

Thomas and Charity Brumfield Neely. # 410.
He entered land in 1821 and 1822, NW1/4, Section 1, Township 14, Range 3
Children of David and Sarah Neely Montgomery:

1. S. M. Montgomery, no dates
2. Mary Beeson Montgomery, b. 1 Mar 1822, d. 30 Jul 1901, m. 20 Feb 1839, Dempsey Winburn Partlow, b. 13 Feb 1817, SC, d. 24 Oct 1889, son of John and Elizabeth Partlow.
3. William Pinkney Montgomery, b. Jul 1823, d. 12 May 1901, Calhoun Co Al, m. 17 Jan 1850, Mary Jane King, b. 1826, d. 1905, Calhoun Co Al
4. Teressa Montgomery, b. about 1826, d. about 1880, m. 27 Jan 1842, John Alford, b. 1819, d. about 1900, son of Archibald "Baldy" and Elizabeth Alford.
5. Thomas N. Montgomery, b. Dec 1827, d. Oct 1880, m. 6 Jan 1848, Martha Caroline Dearman, 1831-1880, daughter of Richard and Margaret Davis Dearman.
6. Augustus Montgomery, b. 1831, d. 1 Apr 1862, Corinth, Ms. in Civil War. m. 10 Feb 1857, Arminta A. Wood, b. 18 May 1829, d. 18 Feb 1873. daughter of William and Margaret Wood. Arminta m. 2nd, 14 Feb 1870, Curtis Grubb Beason, Jr. b. 2 Jun 1841, d. 2 Dec 1919, son of Curtis G. Beason, Sr., and Martha Clark Beason.
7. Robert Montgomery, b. about 1835.

House Hold # 442, HUGH ROWAN
1 m 15-20, 1 m 20-30, 1 m 40-50, 1 f 40-50
b. 2 Apr 1805, m. 25 Oct 1832, Elizabeth Hutchingson, daughter of Joseph and Mary Story Hutchingson, # 175

House Hold # 443, SHERWOOD S. JOINER
2 m 5-10, 1 m 10-15, 1 m 15-20, 1 m 40-50
4 f -5, 1 f 30-40
Isaac N. Joiner to Sarah Isaacs 7 Feb 1842
Martha Joiner to Grandson D. Taylor 25 Feb 1848
Emily A. J. Joiner to Thomas Alford 27 Jul 1848

House Hold # 444, ANDERSON REEVES
2 m – 5, 1 m 5-10, 1 m 40-50
1 f – 5, 3 f 5-10, 2 f 10-15, 1 f 30-40
Anderson Reeves b. 17 Mar 1790 SC d. 21 Apr 1853 m. Louisa McCorkle b. 12 Sep 1799 SC, d. 17 Jan 1892, daughter of William McCorkle, 1768-1847, and Nancy Walsh b. 1780. The old McCorkle cemetery located on the McCorkle farm which came to Louisa Reeves, their daughter. She gave additional land when the church was orgainized at the Cemetery, and was called Reeves Grove Baptist Church. Additional property, across U. S. Hightway # 11, was obtained, for use of a cemetery. This is the larger part of the cemetery. Anderson and Louisa Reeves were the parents of 15 children.

1. Elizabeth Reeves, b. 1817, d. 21 Aug 1890, m. Burwell McClendon, # 452, as his second wife. They had one son.
2. Margaret A. Reeves, b. 21 Jul 1821, d 21 Aug 1840
3. Emily Reeves, b. 1822, d. 10 Jan 1859, Shelby Co Al, m. 4 Dec 1845, Jacob Madison Leonard, son of James Leonard 1790-1850. Four children: Piety Elizabeth, b.1846; Anderson b. 1847; Susannah Louisa b. 1849; and Fannie A. Leonard, b. 1854.
4. Frances Elvira Reeves, b. 1823, d. 13 Oct 1896
5. Harriett Reeves, m. 7 May 1825, Thomas Crump, son of Silas and Sarah Riggs Crump. They were divorced, and she m. 2nd, Billy Kerr.
6. William Reeves, b. 5 Jul 1825, d. 2 Sep 1827

7. Lawson Reeves, b. 17 Aug 1828, d. 23 Aug 1890
8. Josephine Reeves, b. 1820, m. 20 Oct 1856, Simon W. Arnold, as his 2nd, wife.
9. Anderson Reeves, b. 1831
10. Charles Marion Reeves, b. 1833
11. Harvey Marion Reeves, b. 1834
12. Joseph L. Reeves, b. 4 Feb 1837, d. 6 Jan 1890
13. Jesse Reeves, b. 13 Nov 1839, d. 23 Jan 1913, m. Angeline "Ann" Galbreath.
14. Louisa Jane Reeves, b. 26 Nov 1841, d. 6 Jan 1904
15. Clementine C. Reeves, b. 22 Apr 1846, d. 18 Jan 1930, m. 18 Sep 1866, William McClendon, son of Burwell and Nancy Crump McClendon.
    children:
    a. Cordelia McClendon, b. 1868;
    b. Fannie McClendon, b. 1870;
    c. Nancy McClendon, b. 1875;
    d. Charles McClendon, b. 1875;
    e. Eliza McClendon, b. 1877

Estate records 1853 gives the living heirs of Anderson Reeves as:
Elizabeth Reeves; Frances Reeves; Charles M Reeves; Harvey J Reeves; Joseph L. Reeves; Jesse Reeves; Clemetine Reeves; and Louisa Jane Reeves.
Only one of his sons had children.
Court Records reveal that Anderson Reeves was made guardian of his granddaughter, Samantha Reeves, b. about 1838, m. 3 Jan 1861, Burwell McClendon, Jr. son of Burwell and Nancy Crump McClendon.

House Hold # 445, JERRY GREGORY
1 m 15-20, 1 m 40-50, 1 f 40-50
1820 Census 1-2-1-0-4
(There were two other Gregory's in the 1820 census, I. (Isaac) W. and J.W. Gregory.
Jerry Gregory was b. 26 Apr 1786 in Union Co SC. m. Thursa Benson, daughter of William Henry and Eleanor Key Benson of Greenville, SC
He was the son of Isaac and Mary Gregory and grandson of. Isaac H. Alse Gregory d. 1797 in Union Co SC 1 - Son - Terrell Gregory b. ca 1811 SC d. 30 May 1870, Etowah Co Al, m. 2 Feb1832 Eleanor Anderson b. ca 1814, SC. Gregory lived on the old Georgia Road that went up Sand Mountain, known as Gregory Gap, it was located near U. S. Highway 278, Etowah Co Al
Children:

1. Thursey Wyatt Gregory, b. ca 1834 m. Francis Marion Little, son of Hiram and Caroline Pridmore Little
2. Jerry (Jeremiah) Gregory, b. 1840
3. Martha Gregory, b. 1848 m. Levy Fulenwider
4. Harriet Gregory,
5. Sarah Frances Gregory, b. 1837 m. Russell Phillips (went to McLennon Co Tx.
6. James B. Gregory, b. 1846
7. William I. Gregory, b. ca 1833

Terrell Gregory Estate, Etowah Co Al. Case #G-1-2
Francis M. Little, Administrator, and Eleanor Gregory, Administratrix.
Heirs:
Eleanor Gregory, Widow, Etowah Co Al.
Thursey M. Little, wife of Francis M. Little
Jeremiah (Jerry) Gregory

4. Joseph Phillips, b. 4 Aug 1851, d. 22 Apr 1930 Cullman Co Al, m. 11 Jan 1897, DeKalb Co Al Margaret M. Fletcher, b. 11 Jan 1854, DeKalb Co Al, d. 14 Oct 1926, daughter of James A. Malinda Gunter Fletcher
5. Frances Phillips, b. 1852
6. Andrew J. Phillips, b. 1854
7. John Phillips, b. 1855
8. James W. Phillips, b.11 Jul 1857, d. 3 Oct 1914, m. 14 Nov 1878, Mary J. Walker, 1859-1880 m. 2nd 23 Dec 1880, Mary Ellen Gilliland, b. 1 Dec 1864, d. 20 Sep 1955, Blount Co Al
9. Celia Jane Phillips, b. 24 Apr 1859, d. 12 Nov 1918, Winston Co Al, m. 20 May 1884, William Pleasant Chambliss, b. 6 Nov 1859, d. 12 Nov 1918, Winston Co Al
10. Mary Phillips, b. 1860-1918, m. 5 Jun 1882, John William Martin, 1857-1918
11. Unica Phillips, b. 4 Dec 1864, d. 9 Jan 1963, m. 1883, Luther M. Ferguson, m. 2nd, 18 Aug 1889, Henderson Beasley, b. 18 Apr 1870, d. 24 Oct. 1920, Etowah Co Al.

House Hold # 69, WILLIAM THOMASON
1 m 5-10, 1 m 40-50
b. about 1770, Mecklenburg Co NC, d. 1859 Richland Parish, La, son of John and Elizabeth Diamond Thomason, m. 1804, Serina Salman.

1. Elizabeth Thomason
2. Richard C. Thomason
3. Elie M. Thomason
4. Rebecca Thomason, m. John Willis
5. John Diamond Thomason, b. 28 dec 1806, Ga, d. 26 Nov 1874, Richland Parish, La. m. 27 Jan 1826, Demeries Brothers, b. 26 Dec 1808, d. 27 Jan 1860, Richland Parish, La. daughter of Philip and Hannah Houston Brothers. # 555

House Hold # 70, WILLIAM McCORKLE
Entered E 1/2 SW 1/4 26-13-3-1819
1 m 20-30, 1 m 60-70, 1 f 20-30, 1 f 60-70
1820 Census 1-3-1-1-6-0-2-8
William McCorkle, b. 1757 York Co Pa, son of Stephen and Ann Forbes McCorkle. Stephen was b. Ireland, d. York Co SC, Anne was b. York Co Pa, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Forbes. m. Elizabeth Brumfield, b. 1766 York Co Pa. d. Aug 1840, daughter of Charles Brumfield aged 74, is buried in Reeves Grove Cemetery in family plot of Anderson and Louisa McCorkle Reeves. William McCorkle was in the 1805 Jackson Co Georgia Land Lottery His house in St. Clair County was located at the rear of Reeves Groves Baptist Church, near the
Railroad.
Children:
Louisa McCorkle, m. Anderson Reeves #444
Margaret McCorkle, m. 30 Sep 1835 David D. Heship
James McCorkle, m. 25 May 1843, Nancy E. Hampton, daughter of James and Margaret Chandler Hampton #120

House Hold # 71, EDMOND LOVORN (LOVING, LOVVORN, LOVERN, LORN)
Entered SE ¼, Section 28, Township13, Range 3 in 1819 – which his widow, Nancy McCartney Lovorn claimed as her dower.
1 m -5, 1 m 5-10, 1 m 15-20, 1 m 50-60,
1 f 10-15, 2 f 15-20, 1 f 50-60.
1820 Census 1-2-1-5-9 – Edmond Lorn
Edmond Lovorn b. 11 Oct 1773 in Pittsylvania Co Va.

ASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

As we are celebrating our Nations two hundreth year, we are also celebrating one hundred and four years of a very meaningful relationship with this Church and Community. May God continue to enrich and bless Reeves Grove Baptist Church in the future, as much as He has in the past.

REEVES GROVE CHURCH

1872-1976

Let The Spirit of '76 Be The Holy Spirit

"On behalf of the Church Family at Reeves Grove Baptist, I would like to welcome you, our guests, to this special worship service. We pray that you will sense God's presence as we worship Him and celebrate His goodness to us these past 125 years."

Rob Allman
Pastor

I remember the old church grandpa help build and we went to church in an ox wagon — pulled by two oxen named "Spot and Ben"

REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

History Of Reeves Grove Church

BY LINDA BATTLES RUNYANS

In a sense, the history of Reeves Grove Missionary

was erected near the McCorkle family cemetery. Wesley Sheffield (great-great-grandfather of Linda Runyans)

bers and the church had 69 members. By 1902, this number had grown to 109. In 1912, Mark Beason raised money to pur-

Goodwin; Mark Beason — date unknown; Jack Partlow, September, 1956; G. B. Sanders — October, 1960.

Church of the Week

St. Clair Times
Th. Aug. 4, 2016

Reeves Grove Baptist Church

18830 US 11
Steele, AL 35987
Pastor: Bro. Paul Alexander
Sunday school, 10 a.m.
Morning worship, 11 a.m.
Evening worship, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible study, 7 p.m.

NO. 9

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Of Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Of Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage Nomination Form

LRMSRCL **STCLTAX** ABSTRACT SEARCH LRWSRC97/A2

Acct 111225 REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH **PPIN 2346**
Parcel Name REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH **Ac. 4.70**
Address 18830 US HIGHWAY 11 **Delete**

Type R R/P Abstract S ExCat
Exempt Codes Acct
City/St/Zp STEELE AL 35987 **Changed 2 17 2004 PLH**
Property Address **Tax District 00**
Parcel/Alt Parc. 05-08-27-0-000-019.000
Brief Legal..... BEG 715' N OF SE COR SE/4 SE/4 TH N TO NW R/W US HWY 11 NE
ALG HWY 75' NW 122.3' N 201.04' SW 289.29' SE 73.67' SW
***MORE* 86.06' SE TO SE R/W SD HWY SW ALG HWY 255' S 232' E 385' TO**
Mortgage Company None **Acct**
Improvements....
Comments.....
Flags..... Assm Notice Assessor Fee Special/Amount
Subd/Condo
Subd Lot/Block.. S/T/R 27 / 13 S / 3 E
Previous Owner..
Deed:Tp/Bk/Pg... 0159 0000036 Note Date 12 30 1986 F18=Links

F1=APPRAISAL F6=VALUES F7=NOTES F8=OWNERS F9=HIST F10=LEGAL F19=ACCT NOTE
F11-ALERTS F12-PRT F13-CHG FORMS F14-PLINK F15-MAP CHGS F23-TAXHIST F24-EXIT

LRMSRCL **STCLTAX** ABSTRACT SEARCH LRWSRC97/A2

Acct 111720 REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH **PPIN 2203**
Parcel Name REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH **Ac. 1.75**
Address 18830 US HIGHWAY 11 **Delete**

Type R R/P Abstract S ExCat
Exempt Codes Acct
Changed 7 28 2005 EWT

City/St/Zp STEELE AL 35987
Property Address 18830 US HWY 11 **Tax District 00**
Parcel/Alt Parc. 05-07-26-0-001-020.000
Brief Legal..... COM @ SW COR SW-SW N 690', TO POB N TO SE ROW HWY
#11, NE 250', ALG ROW S 570', W BACK TO POB
***MORE* 26-13-3**
Mortgage Company None **Acct**
Improvements.... 2 CHRC
Comments.....
Flags..... Assm Notice Assessor Fee Special/Amount
Subd/Condo
Subd Lot/Block.. S/T/R 26 / 13 S / 3 E
Previous Owner..
Deed:Tp/Bk/Pg... P 0000525 Note .75 Date F18=Links

F1=APPRAISAL F6=VALUES F7=NOTES F8=OWNERS F9=HIST F10=LEGAL F19=ACCT NOTE
F11-ALERTS F12-PRT F13-CHG FORMS F14-PLINK F15-MAP CHGS F23-TAXHIST F24-EXIT
F17 TO SELECT THIS RECORD AND EXIT SEARCH OPTION

" Deed Book "
P
1884 - 1886

Pg. 525-526

Ashville Museum & Archives
P O Box 1570
Ashville, AL 35953

James Robert Walker

This Indenture made this Twenty fourth day of August one thousand Eight hundred and seventy eight between Louisa Reeves of the first part and Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Pattlow as Trustees of the second part in Trust for the uses and purposes herein after mentioned all of the County of St. Clair and State of Alabama: Witnesseth, That said Louisa Reeves the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the Love and sympathy that she has for and with the Baptist Church of God hath gratuitously given granted, bargained Released, Confirmed and Conveyed and by these Presents do give, grant, bargain, release, confirm and convey unto them the said Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Pattlow and their successors trustees in trust for the uses and purposes herein after mentioned and declared, all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever either in law or in equity which she the said Louisa Reeves have in and to or upon all and singular a certain lot or piece of land situated lying and being in the County of St. Clair and State of Alabama bounded and butted as follows, viz: a portion of the South West fourth of South West fourth of Section Twenty six and a portion of the South East of the South east fourth of Section Twenty seven all of Township Thirteen of Range three East containing four acres beginning at the North East corner so as to embrace the Spring of water convenient for the purpose known as the Stone Corral, then running West one hundred and forty yards, then South one hundred and forty yards then then East one hundred and forty yards, then North same distance to the beginning containing four acres more or less, this lot has heretofore been known as the old Baptist Church near Mr. Reeves the same being granted together with all and singular the houses, woods, waters, water privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise pertaining to have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described lot of land unto them the said Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Pattlow and their successors in Office forever in Trust that they shall erect and build or cause to be built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Baptist Church according to the Rules Regulations which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the Ministers and Members. Also they shall be at Liberty of having a school at the same place, at the same time when they fail to keep up the above described lot as a place of worship or Burying ground the same shall fall back to the Estate from whence it originated or

In Testimony whereof the said Louisa Reeves have hereto set her hand and seal the day and year above written
Sealed and Delivered in the presence of
J. B. Reynolds } Louisa her x mark Reeves
Francis E. her x mark Reeves
Rec'd in office and duly recorded August 23rd 1886
E. J. Robinson Judge of Probate

(Right line above)

The State of Tennessee } Know all men by these pre-
Hamilton County } sents that We Hiram J. Springfield and his wife Mary E. Springfield of said County and State, in consideration of the sum of One hundred Dollars to us in hand paid by Jesse Reeves of St. Clair County State of Alabama, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have this day bargained, sold and conveyed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Jesse Reeves the following described lands situated in said County of St. Clair state of Alabama, to wit: The West half of the North West quarter (W. 1/2 of N. W. 1/4) of Section Thirty five (35) Township Thirteen (13) Range Three (3) East, Containing Eighty acres more or less. To have and to hold the same together with all the rights privileges and appurtenances belonging or in any wise appertaining to the same, to said Jesse Reeves his heirs and assigns forever. And we the said Hiram J. Springfield and his wife Mary E. Springfield for ourselves our heirs, administrators and executors and assigns hereby warrant and will forever defend the title to said land in the said Jesse Reeves his heirs or assigns against the lawful claim or claims of all persons whomsoever. In Testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals on this 11th day of May A. D. 1875.
In presence of T. B. Vorhees } Hiram J. Springfield (Seal)
A. T. Siler } Mary E. Springfield (Seal)

State of Tennessee } This day before me John P. Long
Hamilton County } a Commissioner of Deeds for the State of Alabama in Tennessee, came Hiram J. Springfield and Mary E. Springfield his wife the makers of the foregoing deed of conveyance with whom I am personally acquainted who acknowledged the execution of the same for the purpose therein expressed and the said Mary E. Springfield wife of the said Hiram J. Springfield having been examined separately and apart from her said husband acknowledged the execution of the same freely, voluntarily & understandingly and without compulsion or constraint from her said husband

Deed To property For a portion of Land in The "New" Section of The cemetery across The street.

VOL 159 PAGE 36

This instrument was prepared by

(Name) McGinnis Realty

(Address) Springville, Al. 35146

Form 1-1-37 Rev. 1-66
WARRANTY DEED—Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation, Birmingham, Alabama

STATE OF ALABAMA
ST. CLAIR COUNTY } KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That in consideration of TEN ($10.00) and 00/100----------DOLLARS and other good and valuable considerations

to the undersigned grantor (whether one or more), in hand paid by the grantee herein, the receipt whereof is acknowledged, I or we, Herbert Collett, an unmarried man and Elizabeth Millar, an unmarried woman

(herein referred to as grantor, whether one or more), grant, bargain, sell and convey unto Earnest Tucker, Charles Tipton and Douglas New, and their successors in office, as Trustees of the Reeves Grove Baptist Church

(herein referred to as grantee, whether one or more), the following described real estate, situated in St. Clair County, Alabama, to-wit:

From the Southeast corner of the NE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 27, the point of beginning of property herein described, run S0°07'W along the quarter quarter line 53.40 feet; thence N30°38'W along the existing boundary of the cemetery lot 125.87 feet; thence continue along the cemetery lot line S59°42'W 193.94 feet; th4nce N24°17'45"W 73.67 feet; thence N64°43'20"E 289.29 feet to a point on the east line of said quarter-quarter; thence S0°07'W 147.64 feet to the point of beginning; being a part of the E½ of the SE¼ of Section 27, Township 13 South, Range 3 East, St. Clair County, Alabama and containing ½ acre, more or less.

Tax	$ [illegible]
Mtg. Tax	
File Fee	
Recording Fee	$ [illegible]
Indexing Fee	$ [illegible]
Total	$ [illegible]

1987 JAN -7 AM 11:23

90424

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD to the said grantee, his, her or their heirs and assigns forever.

And I (we) do for myself (ourselves) and for my (our) heirs, executors, and administrators covenant with the said GRANTEES, their heirs and assigns, that I am (we are) lawfully seized in fee simple of said premises; that they are free from all encumbrances, unless otherwise noted above; that I (we) have a good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid; that I (we) will and my (our) heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said GRANTEES, their heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims of all persons.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands(s) and seal(s), this 31st day of December, 1986.

(Seal) Herbert Collett (Seal)
Herbert Collett

(Seal) Elizabeth Millar (Seal)
Elizabeth Millar

(Seal) (Seal)

STATE OF ALABAMA
ST. CLAIR COUNTY }

General Acknowledgment

I, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said County, in said State, hereby certify that Herbert Collett, an unmarried man and Elizabeth Millar, an unmarried woman whose names are signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who are known to me, acknowledged before me on this day, that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance they executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand and official seal this 31st day of December A. D., 1986

My Commission Expires: 3-14-86

George B. McGinnis
Notary Public.

VOL 159 PAGE 36

Deed To Property For "New" Section across the Street. Cemetery

VOL 72 PAGE 235

Warranty Deed

This Indenture, made this 21 day of July 1921

between Wallace W. Beason and wife Della Beason

of the first part, and Reeves Grove Baptist Church of the second part.

Witnesseth, That the party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of ONE AND NO/100----- DOLLARS

to them paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, doth hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said party of the second part the following described real estate, to-wit:

Begin at a point on the Section line between Section 26 and Section 27, Township 13, South Range 3 E, which point is 53.4 measured southerly and along said Section line from the NE corner of the SE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 27 Township 13, S, Range 3 E; thence continue in a southerly direction and along said Section line a distance of 123.5 t the NW right of line of the Atalla-Birmingham Highway; thence 5.56 degrees 37' West and along the NW right of way line of said highway a distance 205.5 to a point where right of way line intersects the North line of Reeves Grove Church property; thence west and along the North line of said Church property a distance of 17.7 feet to the NW corner thereof; thence N 33 degrees 23' W a distance of 120 feet. Thence N 56 degrees and 37' East, a distance of 280 feet. Thence South 33 degrees 23 minutes East a distance of 123 feet and back to the point of beginning being in the SE¼ of the SE¼ and the NE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 27, Township 13, South, Range 3, East, St. Clair County, Alabama.

To Have and to Hold to the said Reeves Grove Baptist Church, heirs and assigns forever.

And the party of the first part will forever warrant and defend the title to the same to the party of the second part, and to Their representatives and assigns, from every lawful claim whatever.

In Testimony Whereof, the party of the first part have signed and sealed these presents on the date above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

Della Beason (L. S.)

Wallace W. Beason (L. S.)

(L. S.)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA ETOWAH COUNTY:

I, H.L. HAMMOND, NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County, hereby certify that the WALLACE W. BEASON AND WIFE DELLA BEASON whose name S ARE signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who ARE known to me acknowledged before me on this day that being informed of the contents of the conveyance, HAVE executed the same voluntarily, on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand, this the 21 day of July 1951

H.L. Hammond
NOTARY PUBLIC

THE STATE OF ALABAMA ETOWAH COUNTY:

I, H.L. HAMMOND, NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County, do hereby certify that on this the 21 day of July 1951, came before me; the within named DELLA BEASON known to me to be the wife of the within named WALLACE W. BEASON who, being examined separate and apart from her husband, touching her signature to the within conveyance, acknowledged that she signed the same of her own free will and accord, and without fear, constraint, or threats on the part of her husband.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand, this 21 day of July 1951

H.L. Hammond
NOTARY PUBLIC

Mail - Mrs. W.W. Beason 503 S. 4th St Attalla Ala

18257

WARRANTY DEED

WALLACE W. BEASON AND WIFE DELLA BEASON

TO

REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

THE STATE OF ALABAMA

XXXXXX ST. CLAIR County

Office Of Judge Of Probate Court

I hereby certify that the within Warranty Deed was filed in this office for record on the 21 day of Aug, 1951 at 1:00 o'clock P. M., and duly recorded word for word, on the 21 day of Aug 1951, in Book 72 of Deeds, Page 235, and examined.

M. W. Farmer
Judge of Probate Court.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA

St Clair County

I, M. W. Farmer, Judge of Probate for said County, hereby certify that the following Privilege Tax has been paid on the within instrument as required by Acts of 1902 and 1903, viz:

$ 50¢ cents

M. W. Farmer
Judge of Probate.

Recording Fee, $ 1.05

1.55 Paid

INDEX

1. Narrative by Debbie Collins

2. History of Reeves Grove Church

3. Hand written deed from Louisa Reeves and Jessie Reeves to Dempsey W. Partlow As Trustee to church property. St. Clair County, Alabama, Deed Record Book P 1884 – 1886, Page 525-526.

4. Excerpt from book *Remembering Whitney*, by Wayne Ruple, 1999.

5. Letter dated May 16, 1967 from the Alabama Baptist Historical Society Re: Reeves Grove Baptist Church, St. Clair County – stating in1900 $3.00 pledged for support of W.O. Palmer in school.

This is at The End
with handwritten Deed at End Too.

NARRATIVE BY DEBBIE COLLINS

- My name is Debbie Collins. I am a member of the Reeves Grove Baptist Church Restoration and Preservation Committee. We have submitted our application but needed more information about the School and the Cemetery. Below I am reattaching the History of Reeves Grove Church. Louisa Reeves deeded 4 acres to Jesse Reeves and Dempsey Partlow, a trustee of the Baptist Church (name unknown at this time) for a Baptist church. Also the cemetery which was already the McCorkle Family Cemetery.

2. There is mention in this old deed which was not recorded with the courthouse until 1986, about the purpose of a school. Down at the bottom of the first legal page of the handwritten deed it says as follows:

- Thence the said Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow and their successors in office forever in Trust that they shall erect and build or cause to be built thereon a house or church according to thereon Rules Regulations which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the minister and members. Also they shall be at Liberty of having school at the same place, at the same time. When they fail to keep up the above described lot as a place of worship or Burying ground the same shall fall back to the Estate from whence it originated. Ac

- From everywhere I can find. There was the McCorkle family plantation which had at that time a small family cemetery. The church was erected in front of this family cemetery which became the Reeves Grove Church cemetery. Louisa Reeves died in 1840 (attached is a picture of the headstone of Louisa Reeves).

3. I have also attached an interview of Wade Partlow, who lived near Reeves Grove Church at Whitney (Whitney Junction) Alabama. On the second page of this interview, Mr. Partlow says he went to school through the third grade at Reeves School, located almost in front of Reeves Grove Baptist Church. I am looking for the date of this incident.

4. Attached is a copy of a letter from the Alabama Baptist Historical Society dated May 16, 1967 stating that around 1900 there was a $3.00 pledged for support of W. O. Palmer in school.

5. I can get an affidavit from one of the members stating that J. Cowan Sheffield was the head school master at Reeves Grove School during the early 1900s. she is the granddaughter of J. Cowan Sheffield.. Before he was the school master at Reeves Grove, he was the school master at Springville Academy. If you need that I can get it for you.

That is all I have at this time. Let me know if you need more.

Again Hannah, thank you for all you help. I don't know what I would have done without your help.

Debbie Collins

THE HISTORY OF REEVES GROVE CHURCH

In a sense, the history of Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church begins manyyears before the Civil War in the Carolina's. Although the Mc Corkle's were of Baptist belief they had no idea that one day a Baptist Church would be built upon the land which they cleared and settled in Whitney, Alabama. The McCorkle plantation extended from the top of the ridge to the railroad and from Muckleroy Creek at the Whitney intersection to what is now the Peterson-Sheffield line. The old McCorkle home place was below the cemetery behind the church near the railroad and the old chimney rock still marks the place. In the cemetery behind the church in the lower part was theMcCorkle family cemetery before the Civil War and the lower part that's covered with brush and trees is where the negro slaves were buried. In 1840, Elizabeth McCorkle died leaving the entire plantation to her daughter, Louisa. Louisa married Anderson Reeves and their home was the same house that Rachel Partlow lived in until just a few years ago. This house is now located on land belonging to Mrs. Cordelia Bowlin. Anderson Reeves, born March 17, 1790, died April 21, 1853. Louisa, born September 12, 1799, died January 27,1892.

Anderson and Louisa had a son named Jesse who was an old man when he joined the Church. Jesse married Angeline Galbreath,whom most everyone called cousin Ann. Jesse and Ann had four children; Della Reeves Beason, Annie Reeves Warner, Armenda Reeves and one son, Joseph Reeves, who married Lizzie McKay. All of these have been members of this church at one time or another.

In 1872 a very small church was erected before the McCorkle Family cemetery. Wesley Sheffield rode a gray horse which his son had ridden in the Calvary of the Civil War(Approx.1863-1865) to collect the money to build the church. The logs were sawed at a saw mill above Gadsden and brought down the Coosa River by raft to Greensport and hauled to this site by oxen cart.

A group of men, among them was John Partlow who hued the logs because he had had huing lessons, erected a small church in 1872.

It was not until August 24, 1878 that Louisa Reeves deeded four acres of land from the McCorkle estate to be used as a place of worship. This land being a portion of the SW¼ of Section 26, Township 13, Range 3 East, and a portion of the SE¼ of the SE¼, Section 27, Township 13, Range 3 East. The deed was to Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow, naming them as trustees. Louisa's deed states ,"this lot being known as the Old Baptist Church near Mrs. Reeves", that they shall erect and buil or cause to be built thereon, a place of worship." Signed, Louisa Reeves with her mark.

On July 21, 1951, Louisa's granddaughter, the daughter of Jesse and Ann, Della Reeves Beason and her husband, W. W. Beason, deeded the property above the road to Reeves Grove Baptist Church to be used as a cemetery. It is on record that Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church was not recorded until 1875, when the association received a letter. Reeves Grove was not recorded in the associational minutes until 1881 or 1882. The association at that time was called the Cahaba Valley Association which has grown into the Southern Baptist Association. In 1881 or 1882, Reeves Grove was represented by two delegates, J. A. Awtrey and John Partlow. The first pastor was P. S. Montgomery, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Mildred Montgomery Ritchie who now resides in Ashville. He was very active in church work and believed strongly in missions.

The Rev. Montgomery visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Early,one Wednesday night in 1902. On this night he sang hymns from a hymnal that Mrs. Allie Sheffield's family still has in their possession. The next day he baptized Emmery E. Early, Mrs. Sheffield's oldest sister.

The pastors that followed Rev. Montgomery are listed below:

W. A. Watson,1883-1884
G. D. Staton, 1890
N. A. Hood,1891-1903
C. J. Pikel903-1906(109 Members)
F. M. Humphonis 1906-1909
J. M. Chadwick,1909-1912
J. H. Lackey,1912-1913
Dozier Steele,1913-1915
J. M. Flood,1915-1916
W. M. Tubbs,1918-1919

W. J. Watson,1919-1921
A. E. Rogers, 1921- ?
J. M. Jordan, 1929-1934
T. B. Talley, 1934-1939
John Maples,1939-1941
Fletcher Renfroe,1941-1941
Leonard Franklin,1941-1942
Ray Cheppel,1942-1944
Hillery Johnson,1945-1946
I. D. Browdwell,1946-1947
Oscar Mitchell,1947-1951
James Bergman,remainder 1951
Hillery Johnson, 1952
J. A. Williams, 1952-1960
G. B. Sanders,1960-1963
Hillery Johnson,1963-1964
Windell Saffles,1964-1964
G. B. Sanders,1964-1965
Leonard Franklin,1966-1967
Roston Hood,1968-1971
Charles Mason,1972-1973
Billy C. Weaver,1973-

The following have been ordained by this church:

W. B. Goodwin, Sept. 1912
Jack Partlow, Sept. 1956
G. B. Sanders, Oct. 1960
Joe Jester, July, 1974

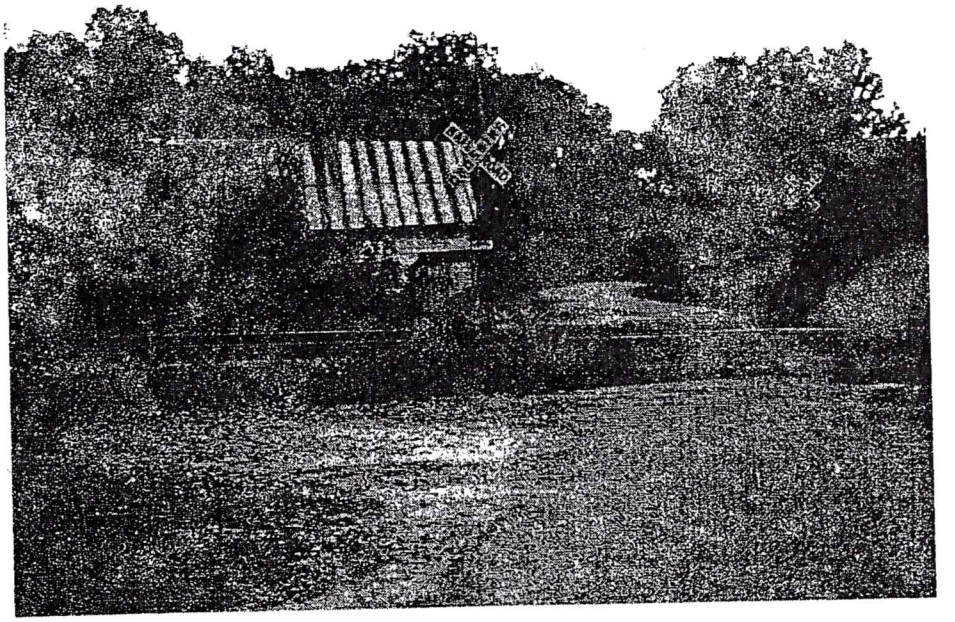
The first church letter was received by the association in 1875, and recorded in the Associational Minutes, which at that time was known as Cahaba Valley Association. The first delega were J. A. Awtrey and John Partlow.

In 1890 there were thirty five in Sunday School and sixty in church. By 1902 this number had grown to a total of one hun nine. The church was growing and in 1912, Mark Beason, Chairm the bell committee raised the money for a church bell.

The Sunday School rooms were added in 1951, and the member of the building committee were James E. Sheffield, C. C.Scoggi Hershel Montgomery, Ethel Partlow and Annie Reeves.

In 1956 during the August revival, there were fourteen bap This was the largest number recorded since 1934 when nineteen baptized. But never in the history of Reeves Grove does any re vival compare to the August revival in 1910. The revival ran August 20, 1910 to August 28, 1910. Rev. J. M.Chadwick , the pastor, did most of the preaching and Rev. Rumsey and Rev. Fer helped. Thirty was added to the church, twenty by experience Grace and Baptism and nine by letter and one by restoration.

REMEMBERING WHITNEY



BY

WAYNE RUPLE

Ashville Museum & Archives
P.O. Box 1570
Ashville, AL 35953

REMEMBERING WHITNEY

BY

WAYNE RUPLE

This manuscript was made possible through the generous efforts of Cash & Heard American Legion Post 170, Ashville, Alabama

Thanks for your assistance

Wayne Ruple

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by
Wayne Ruple

WADE PARTLOW

Wade Partlow recalls his early days while living on the Sweatt Road - an old dirt road connecting what would now be U.S. 11 with what is now Pinedale Road southwest of Ashville.

Partlow lived in a house near what is now I-59 and the family barn was located on the other side of what is now I-59.

His father, J.D. "Jim" Partlow operated a blacksmith shop and they went on to live in several homes in the Whitney Junction area.

Partlow said his recollections date from the early 1940s to the present.

Among the older homes in the area, Partlow recalls, was an old log home which they once lived in near the present home of Forest Tucker just south of Whitney Junction.

"We lived in that old log house and I can remember people coming by and really kickin' up the dust on that old road," he noted.

Another old home, now occupied by Jerry Edwards, was located almost directly across what is now U.S. 11 and farther up the highway, north of the junction, was an old home behind the present Dennis Osborn Sr. home.

"Jerry's home was closer to the road at that time. They moved all these houses back for right-of-way when they were building this (U.S. 11) highway," he recalls. "I remember the first A-Models and T-Models running this thing and come upon a horse and wagon and scare those horses to death."

Another old home place was that occupied by Lizzie Reeves, almost behind Partlow's present home.

He said Hersnel Montgomery's store was the first business to locate at the junction and in later years there was a service station, located across present U.S. 231, and a restaurant combination known as Ma Washington's Restaurant. The Corbin family would later operate the business.

Partlow remembers a grist mill, located on Early Creek, which was operated by Uncle Jim Bowlin. Just below the mill, Early Creek and Union Creek merge to create Muckleroy Creek.

"Union Creek starts in the middle of a pasture. It's a huge spring. I don't know where Early starts," he said.

Partlow recalls the prison camp and his four sisters, all older than he, "going up there at Christmas time - going up there and having a party."

He said the prisoners would have Christmas parties and invite the people of the community to come. "One time snow was on the ground and they had a snowball battle," he remembers.

The prisoners did all the local road work, much as state highway department workers do today, and they used some road machines - many pulled by horses and mules.

After the camp closed, locals built a ball park. "I played ball, my brother did. All the kinfolks played ball. They had that park as far back as my dad. Dad was a catcher. My older brother played. We played other towns. People didn't have that much of a way to go back then. We played Ashville and beat 'em."

Sometimes, he said, a band of gypsies, "talking in their tongue" would come through the area.

Partlow said he went through the third grade at Reeves School, located almost in front of Reeves Grove Baptist Church at the present site of the Rayford home.

Teachers included Calvin Sheffield and Annie Mae Whitfield.

His other memories of Whitney Junction include three individuals who came by his father's blacksmith shop with animals to shod. "They had the meanest animals - Wrestler Jones, Ross Battles and John Autrey". He said Battles would tie his horses to a tree and whip them into submission but he always had to whip them each time he brought them in.

He said Autrey would use a nose twist on his horses and Wrestler Jones would just pick the horse up, either front or back, while Partlow's father put shoes on.

"Dad always got them shod without getting hurt," Partlow adds.

North of the junction across from the present home of Ruth Partlow was a honky-tonk. "It was wet everywhere, then it dried up and then they voted it wet gain," Partlow adds.

Alabama Baptist Historical Society

Sponsored by
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

Depository and headquarters
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

May 16, 1967

Subject: Reeves Grove Baptist Church, St Clair County - Date of organization 1872 ? Historical table in 1922 St. Clair Baptist Assn. Minutes states it was organized in 1875.

1880 It is not listed in the Cahaba Valley B/A Minutes (Name of Assn before it was changed to Saint Clair B/A.

1881 -82 Are missing in the A.B.H.S. Collection at Samford

1883 Listed. They did not petition for membership so should have joined either in 1881 or 1882.Rev. W. A. Watson was pastor and J.A. Awtry and John Partlow were delegates to the Assn. They had 50 members.

1884 J.H. Awtry gave $ 2.00 to support a missionary for the state missions and $ 1.00 for minutes of the Assn. Total members 59.

1885,6,7 Missing

1888 G.D. Staton, Pastor:Church Clerk J.C. Montgomery. J.W. Partlow and Montgomery delegates. Membership 62 with preaching on the third Sunday.

1890 G.D. Staton, Pastor W.R. Edwards delegates membership 69 Sunday School 35.

1891 Rev. N. A. Hood, Pastor, J.C. Sheffield Church Clerk membership 69.

1892 " " " " " " " " " " " 70

1893 " " " " " " 81 " 35

1894 Same A.B.C. Goode Church Clerk

1895 Same J.C. Sheffield " " 81

1896 Same

1897 Same Same and Sheffield was S.S. Supt. 106 "

1898 Same 122 "

1899 Same 129

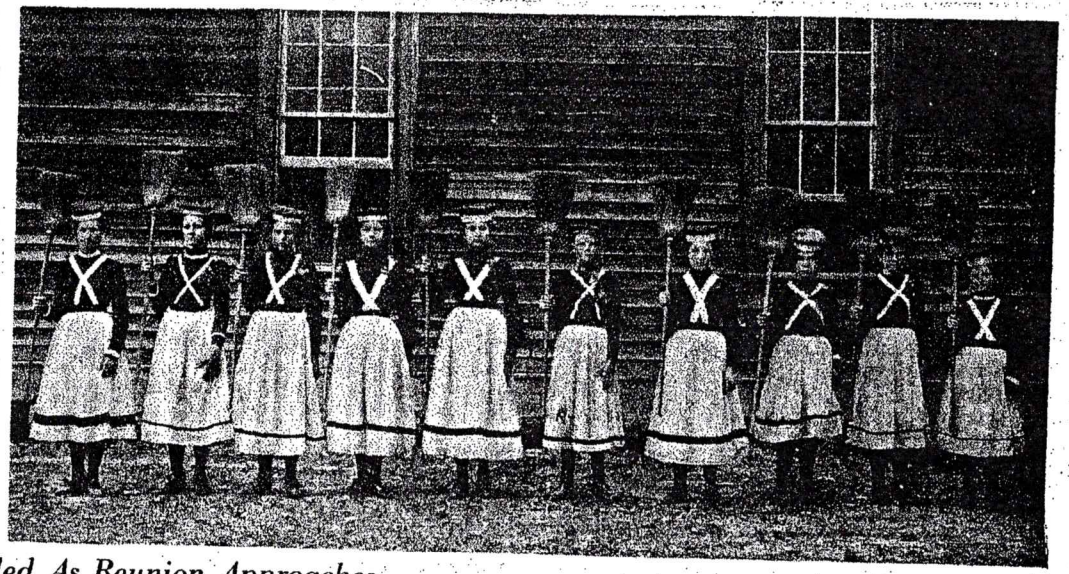
1900 $ 3.00 pledged for support of W.O. Palmer in school. $ 10.00 suggested for missions

1922 Historical table states the church was organized in 1875. Rev. A.E. Rogers was Pastor and J.L. Reeves Church Clerk.

ene Of Art Show

l be the setting for an art show and exhibit Saturday, May 20, in arts and crafts peculiar to the area will be the feature of vater color paintings. The beauty of the existing culture of the n area will provide for an interesting and profitable day. l for pottery items and some paintings and refreshments will e day's festivities will be an unusual "Parcel Post Sale" of sent to Springville by world famous movie, TV and recording rts figures and political figures.

* Picture of The Broom Brigade at the School.
A big picture with the narrative has already been sent in Application



Reeves Grove History Recalled As Reunion Approaches

yard, Maude Mostella, Lou Allaman, Kate Early, Delene ffield, Syble Mattison, Marion Partlow, Unknown, Farris Cain, Elvin Baggett. 4th row: Luther McCollough, Harry Mc- n, Wallace Beason, Will Battle, (?) Vinyard, Claude Ball, Jim ry, Fate Vinyard, Rosco McCollough. 5th row: Joe Reeves, e Allaman, Porter Vinyard, Alfred Partlow.

hildren who attended school in the Reeves Grove Baptist rch around 1902. They were dressed to present a "Broom Drill" in a play about Alabama. L. to R: Alley Early, Lennie Mostella, Mary Tucker, Minda Reeves, Delene Sheffield, Rosey Partlow (Owner of the picture), Eunice Beason, Dealy Green, Maude Mostella and Fannie Partlow.

Mrs. Rosey Partlow Autry, the owner of these pictures is a descendent of early settlers of St. Clair County and founders of the Reeves Grove Baptist Church. John Partlow born in Virginia in 1780 and his wife Elizabeth, born in South Carolina in 1790, entered land in St. Clair County and is listed in the 1830 census. Rosey Partlow married Phillip Houston Autry, another early St. Clair County family, March 22, 1908. Mrs. Autry, at age 85 is able to name who all these young people married. The pictures will be on display at the annual reunion of the Reeves Grove Baptist Church next Sunday and Mrs. Rosey will be there too.

Mars Chronicle May 17-1977

*

DEED FROM LOUISA REEVES TO JESSE REEVES & DEMPSEY W. PARTLOW, TRUSTEES TO REEVES BAPTIST CHURCH IN 1875

This indenture made the Twenty fourth day of August one Thousand Eight Hundred seventy eight between Louisa Reeves of the first part and Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow as Trustees of the second part in Trust for the uses and purposes herein after maintained all of the County of St. Clair and State of Alabama: Witnesseth, that said Louisa Reeves the said Party of the First part for and in consideration of the love and sympathy that she has for and with the Baptist of God hath gratuitously given, granted, bargained, released, confirmed and conveyed and by these presents do give, grant bargain, release, confirm and convey unto them the said Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow and their successors, Trustees in Trust for uses and purposes hence after mentioned and declared, all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim de _____ whatsoever either in law or in equity which she the said Louisa Reeves have in and to or upon all and singular a certain lot or piece of land situated lying and being in the County of St. Clair and State of Alabama _____ and butted as follows in a portion of the South West fourth of South West Fourth of Section Twenty six and a portion of the South East of the South East fourth of Section Twenty Seven, all of Township Thirteen of Range Three, East Containing four acres. Beginning at the North East corner or as to embrace the Spring of water convenient for the purpose known as the Stone corner, there running West one hundred and forty yards, thence south one hundred forty yards, thence North same distance to the beginning. Containing 4 acres more or less, this lot has heretofore been know as the Old Baptist Church near Mrs Reeves the same being granted together with-all and singular the houses, _____, waters, wais privileges and appertances thereto belonging or in any wise pertaining to have and to hold and singular the same maintained and

described lot of land with there the said Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow and their successors in office forever in Trust that they shall erect build or cause to be build thereon a house or church according to the Rules or Regulations which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the minister and members. Also they shall be at liberty of having school at the same place , at the same place, at the same time when they fail to keep up the above described lot as a place of worship or burying ground the same shall sell back to the To thee from which it originated. (ac)

In testimony whereof the said Louisa Reeves have hereto set her hand and seal the day and year above written .

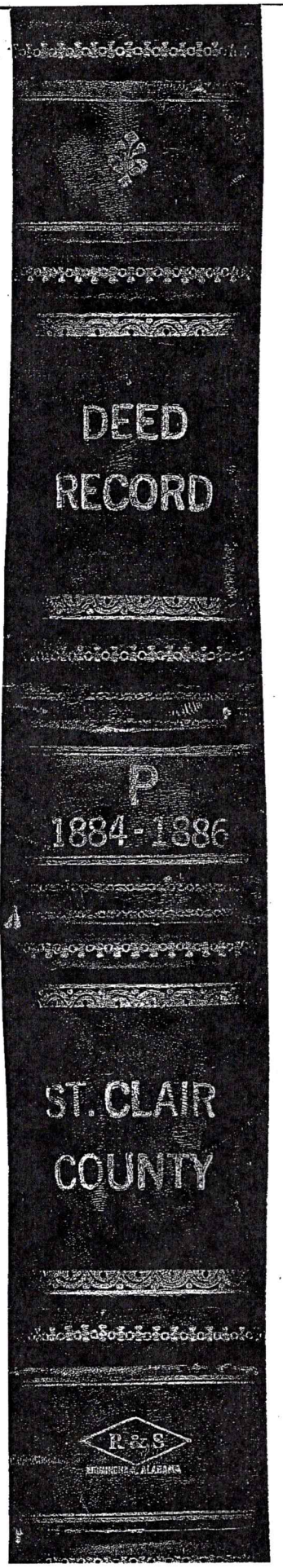
Sealed and Delivered in the pressure of

J. B. Reynolds) Louisa Reeves (her mark)

Francis E. Reeves (her mark))

Received in office and duly recorded August 23, 1886

E. J. Robinson Judge of Probate



Deed From
Louisa Reeves
To
Jessie Reeves
Dempsey + W. Martha
Trustees of The
Church

pg. 525-526

This Indenture made this Twenty fourth day of August one thousand Eight hundred and seventy eight between Louisa Reeves of the first part and Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow as Trustees of the second part in Trust for the uses and purposes herein after mentioned all of the County of St. Clair and State of Alabama: Witnesseth, That said Louisa Reeves the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the Love and sympathy that she has for and with the Baptist Church of God hath gratuitously given granted, bargained Released, Confirmed and Conveyed and by these Presents do give, grant, bargain, release, confirm and convey unto them the said Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow and their successors trustees in trust for the uses and purposes herein after mentioned and declared, all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever either in law or in equity which she the said Louisa Reeves have in and to or upon all and singular a certain lot or peice of land situated lying and being in the County of St. Clair and State of Alabama bounded and bounded as follows, viz: a portion of the South West fourth of South West fourth of Section Twenty six and a portion of the South East of the South east fourth of Section Twenty seven all of Township Thirteen of Range three East containing four acres beginning at the North East corner so as to embrace the Spring of water convenient for the purpose known as the Stone Corral, then running West one hundred and forty yards, then South one hundred and forty yards then East one hundred and forty yards, then North same distance to the beginning containing four acres more or less, this lot has heretofore been known as the old Baptist Church near Mrs Reeves the same being granted together with all and singular the houses, woods, waters, water privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise pertaining to have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described lot of land unto them the said Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow and their successors in Office forever in Trust that they shall erect and build or cause to be built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Baptist Church according to the Rules Regulations which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the Ministers and Members. Also they shall be at Liberty of having a school at the same place, at the same time when they fail to keep up the above described lot as a place of worship or Burying ground the same shall revert back to the Estate from whence it originated or

In Testimony whereof the said Louisa Reeves have hereto set her hand and seal the day and year above written
Sealed and Delivered in the presence of
J.B. Reynolds } Louisa her x mark Reeves
Francis E. her x mark Reeves }
Rec'd in Office and duly Recorded August 23d 1886
E. J. Robinson Judge of Probate

(To Right [illegible])

The State of Tennessee } Know all men by these pres-
Hamilton County } ents that We Hiram J. Spring-
field and his wife Mary E. Springfield of said County
and State, in Consideration of the sum of Any hundred
Dollars to us in hand paid by Jesse Reeves of St. Clair
County State of Alabama, the receipt whereof is hereby
acknowledged, have this day bargained, sold and con-
veyed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and
convey unto the said Jesse Reeves the following described
lands situated in said County of St. Clair state of Ala-
bama, to wit: The West half of the North West quarter
W.½ of N.W.¼ of Section Thirty five (35) Township Thirteen
(13) Range Three (3) East, Containing Eighty acres more
or less. To have and to hold the same together with all
the rights privileges and appurtenances belonging or in any
wise appertaining to the same, to said Jesse Reeves his
heirs and assigns forever. And we the said Hiram
J. Springfield and his wife Mary E. Springfield for
ourselves, our heirs, administrators and executors and
assigns hereby warrant and will forever defend the title
to said land in the said Jesse Reeves his heirs or
assigns against the lawful claim or claims of all
persons whomsoever. In Testimony whereof we have
hereunto set our hands and Seals on this 11th day of
May A.D. 1875. } Hiram J. Springfield Seal
In presence of T.B. Varnell } Mary E. Springfield Seal
A. T. Silcer }

State of Tennessee } This day before me John P. Long
Hamilton County } a Commissioner of Deeds &c for the
State of Alabama in Tennessee Came Hiram J.
Springfield and Mary E. Springfield his wife the marks
of the foregoing deed of Conveyance with whom I am
personally acquainted who acknowledged the execution
of the same for the purpose therein expressed and the
said Mary E. Springfield wife of the said Hiram J.
Springfield having been examined separately and apart
from her said husband acknowledged the execution of
the same freely, voluntarily & understandingly and with-
out compulsion or constraint [illegible]

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Albertville, Alabama

HISTORY OF STEELE ALABAMA

Saint Clair County

Revised Edition

CHANDLER MOUNTAIN

SUPPLEMENT

By

Vivian Buffington Qualls

REEVES GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

125TH ANNIVERSARY
1872 ~ 1997

Worship Service

March 9, 1997

"Amazing Grace" ..... Choir

Pastoral Prayer ..... Rob

Testimonies ..... Congregation

"Precious Memories" ..... Hymn 123

Presentation of Award ..... Riley Green
Alabama Children's Home

"Bringing in the Sheaves" ..... Hymn 320

Announcements and Offering ..... Johnny

Special Presentation ..... Dr. Frances Hamilton
Director, Alabama Baptist
Historical Commission

"I'll Fly Away" ..... Hymn 179
Welcome Song

Introduction of Guest Preacher ..... Rob

"How Great Thou Art" ..... Choir

Sermon ..... Dr. Timothy George
Dean, Beeson Divinity School

Invitation ..... Hymn 374

THE HISTORY OF REEVES GROVE CHURCH

In a sense, the history of Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church begins many years before the Civil War in the Carolina's.Although the Mc Corkle's were of Baptist belief they had no idea that one day a Baptist Church would be build upon the land which they cleared and settled in Whitney, Alabama. The McCorkle plantation extended from the top of the ridge to the railroad and from Muckleroy Creek at the Whitney intersection to what is now the Peterson-Sheffield line. The old McCorkle home place was below the cemetery behind the church near the railroad and the old chimney rock still marks the place. In the cemetery behind the church in the lower part was the McCorkle family cemetery before the Civil War and the lower part that's covered with brush and trees is where the Negro slaves were buried. In 1840, Elizabeth McCorkle died leaving the entire plantation to her daughter, Louisa. Louisa married Anderson Reeves and their home was the same house that Rachel Partlow lived in until just a few years ago. This house is now located on land belonging to Mrs. Cordelia Bowlin. Anderson Reeves, born March 17, 1790, died April 21,1853. Louisa, born September 12, 1799, died January 27, 1892.

Anderson and Louisa had a son named Jesse who was and old man when he joined the Church. Jesse married Angeline Galbreath, whom most everyone called cousin Ann. Jesse and Ann had four children; Della Reeves Beason, Annie Reeves Warner, Armenda Reeves and one son, Joseph Reeves, who married Lizzie McKay . All of these have been members of this church at one time or another.

In 1872 a very small church was erected before the McCorkle Family cemetery. Wesley Sheffield rode a gray horse which his son had ridden in the Calvary of the Civil War (Approx.1863-1865) to collect the money to build the church. The logs were sawed at a saw mill above Gadsden and brought down the Coosa River by raft to Greensport and hauled to this site by oxen cart.

It was not until August 24,1878 that Louisa Reeves deeded four acres of land from the McCorkle estate to be used as a place of worship. This land being a portion of the SW 1/4 ,Section 27 Township 13, Range 3 East, and a portion of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 27 Township 13, Range 3 East. The deed was to Jesse Reeves and Dempsey W. Partlow, naming them as trustees. Louisa's deed stated ,"this lot being known as the Old Baptist Church near Mrs. Reeves", that they shall erect and build or cause to be built thereon, a place of worship. "Signed, Louisa Reeves with her mark.

On July 21, 1951, Louisa's granddaughter, the daughter of Jesse and Ann, Della Reeves Beason and her husband, W. W. Beason, deeded the property above the road to Reeves Grove Baptist Church to be used as a cemetery. It is on record that Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church was not recorded until 1875 , when the association received a letter. Reeves Grove was not recorded in the associations minutes until 1881 or 1882. The association at that time was called the Cahaba Valley Association which has grown into the Southern Baptist Association. In 1881 or 1882 , Reeves Grove was represented by two delegates, J. A. Awtrey and John Partlow. The first pastor was P. S. Montgomery, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Mildred Montgomery Ritchie who now resides in Ashville. He was very active in church work and believed strongly in missions.

The Rev. Montgomery visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Early , one Wednesday night in 1902. On this night he sang hymns from a humnal that Mrs. Allie Sheffield's family has in their possession. The next day he baptized Emmery E. Early, Mrs. Sheffield's oldest sister.

The first church letter was received by the association in 1875, and recorded in the Associations Minutes, which at that time was known as Cahaba Valley Association. The first delegate were J. A. Awtrey and John Partlow.

The Sunday School rooms were added in 1951 and the members of the building committee were James E. Sheffield, C. C. Scoggins, Hershel Montgomery, Ethel Partlow and Annie Reeves.

In 1956 during the August revival, there were fourteen baptized. This was the largest number recorded since 1934 when nineteen were baptized. But never in the history of Reeves Grove does any revival compare to the August revival in 1910. The revival ran from August 20, 1910 to August 28, 1910. Rev. J. M. Chadwick, the pastor, did most of the preaching and Rev. Rumsey and Rev. Fergerson helped. Thirty was added to the church, twenty by experience of Grace and Baptism and nine by letter and one by restoration.

In 1980 the old steeple was removed from the top of the church and placed on the church sign. The weight of the old steeple was causing the roof to sag. So it was removed and a lighter fiberglass steeple was installed..

The fellowship hall was added after 1976 and the church was sided with vinyl siding in 1981. Giving the building the look it has today.

The church entered its second real building program in 1992 when it erected the new metal building in the back. Principally to house the AWANA youth program, although there are plans to install a new kitchen , four Sunday School classrooms and new restrooms in the future.

The Pastors that followed Rev. Montgomery are listed below:

W. A. Watts, 1883-1884
G. D. Staten, 1890
N. A.Hood, 1891-1903
C. J. Pike 1903-1906
(109 Members)
F.M. Humphonis 1906-1909
J .M. Chadwick, 1909-1912
J. H. Lackey 1912-1913

Dossier Stele, 1913-1915
J. M. Flood, 1915-1916
W. M. Tubs, 1918-1919
W. J. Watts, 1919-1921
A. E. Rogers, 1921-?
J. M. Jordan, 1929-1934
T. B. Talley, 1934-1939
John Maples, 1939-1941

Fletcher Renfroe,1941-1941
Leonard Franklin,1941-1942
Ray Cheppel, 1942-1944
Hillery Johnson,1945-1946
I. D. Browdwell, 1946-1947
Oscar Mitchell, 1947-1951
James Bergman, remainder 1951
Hillery Johnson, 1952
J. A. Williams, 1952-1960
G. B. Sanders, 1960-1963
Hillery Johnson, 1963-1964
Windell Saffles, 1964-1964
G. B. Sanders,1964-1965
Leonard Franklin, 1966-1967
Roston Hood,1968-1971
Charles Mason, 1972-1973
Billy C. Weaver, 1973-1976
Bill Davis, 1976-1983
Doug New, 1983-1988
Mike Ballard, 1988-1990
Freddie Keener, 1990-1995
Rob Allman, 1995-1997

The following have been ordained by this church:

W. B. Goodwin, Sept. 1912
Jack Partlow, Sept. 1956
G. B. Sanders, Oct. 1960
Joe Jester, July 1974

October 9, 2017

Attention: Hannah Garmon
Alabama Historical Commission
468 S Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

RE: Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage
Nomination Form and Cemetery

Dear Hannah,

Please find attached Reeves Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery's application to be considered for placement on the Alabama Historical Register. We have included everything listed in your instructions. We wanted our application to reach you and be considered before your next board meeting.

Our goal is preserve this beautiful country church from being torn down and to preserve the cemetery for future generations. I would also like to thank you for all your help over the past few months in helping me get this application ready to submit. You have made the process a lot easier to understand. Again please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information or we left something out. My phone number is (205) 515-8766.

Very truly yours,

Debbie Collins

Debbie Collins
RBBC Historical Documents

dc

New Section of The Cemetary Across The Street

Cemetery Permit Application
Page 2

7. Beginning Date of Work: _____ / _____ / _____ Ending Date of Work: _____

8. Attach a written statement of the landowner's permission both to perform the proposed work on the property and to allow the duly authorized representatives of the Alabama Historical Commission to enter upon the property at reasonable times to inspect and photograph site conditions.

9. Dates of burials: Oldest Property deeded 1951 Most recent: Last month

10. Approximate number of marked graves: over 250 unmarked graves: 0

11. Threats to cemetery: none

12. Does a burial listing exist? ☒ Yes (location: Cemetery Committee) ☐ No ☐ Unknown

13. Cemetery Access: ☒ Public access ☐ Private property

14. Primary Access: ☐ Walk ☒ Drive Distance from nearest road: on The road

15. Is the cemetery still active? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

16. Type:
☒ Community ☐ Family ☐ Hospital ☐ Memorial Park ☐ Military ☐ Municipal ☐ Pet
☐ Potter's Field ☐ Prison ☐ Religious ☐ Other: _____

17. Condition (all that apply):
☒ Maintained ☐ Not maintained ☐ Partially maintained ☐ Neglected/Forgotten ☐ Overgrown
☐ Trash/Dumping Ground ☐ Evidence of vandalism ☐ Other: _____

18. Size: ☐ City Lot ☐ Less than 1 acre ☒ 1 to 10 acres ☐ 10 to 50 acres ☐ More than 50 acres

19. Setting: ☒ Rural-Undisturbed ☒ Rural-Developed ☐ Small town ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban

20. Perimeter: ☐ Fence (type: _____) ☐ Wall ☒ Vegetation ☒ Road(s)
☐ Vacant Land ☐ Buildings ☐ Other: _____

21. Evidence of Segregation or Grouping by:
☐ Race ☐ Religion ☐ Family ☐ Military ☐ Occupation ☐ Fraternal organization
☐ Socio-economics ☐ Gender ☒ None ☐ Other: _____

22. Orientation of Graves:
☒ East-West ☐ North-South ☐ Toward central monument ☐ Toward a river ☐ Toward road
☐ Other: _____

23. Marker Types (check all that apply): ☐ above-ground tomb ☐ box tomb ☒ column ☐ comb grave
☐ coping/curbing/cradles ☒ foot stone ☒ headstone ☐ ledger stone ☐ obelisk ☐ rock cairn
☒ statuary ☐ tablet stone ☐ Other: _____

24. Veteran's Gravestones:
☐ American Revolutionary War ☐ War of 1812 ☐ Civil War (Union) ☐ Civil War (Confederate);
☐ Spanish American War ☐ World War I ☒ World War II ☒ Korean War ☒ Vietnam War
☐ Operation Desert Storm ☐ Operation Enduring Freedom ☐ Operation Iraqi Freedom
? ? ?

Old Section
Behind The Church

Cemetery Permit Application
Page 2

The Reeves Grove Cemetery is divided into 2 sections. The old and the new.

We have a report for each section.

7. Beginning Date of Work: _____ Ending Date of Work: _____

8. Attach a written statement of the landowner's permission both to perform the proposed work on the property and to allow the duly authorized representatives of the Alabama Historical Commission to enter upon the property at reasonable times to inspect and photograph site conditions.

9. Dates of burials: Oldest 1853 Most recent: 2017 (old & new sections)

10. Approximate number of marked graves: 200 unmarked graves: 50 +

11. Threats to cemetery: Some old Monuments need stabilizing

12. Does a burial listing exist? [X] Yes (location: with church records) [ ] No [ ] Unknown

13. Cemetery Access: [X] Public access [ ] Private property

14. Primary Access: [ ] Walk [X] Drive Distance from nearest road: _____

15. Is the cemetery still active? [X] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown

16. Type:

[X] Community [ ] Family [ ] Hospital [ ] Memorial Park [ ] Military [ ] Municipal [ ] Pet
[ ] Potter's Field [ ] Prison [ ] Religious [ ] Other: _____

17. Condition (all that apply):

[X] Maintained [ ] Not maintained [ ] Partially maintained [ ] Neglected/Forgotten [ ] Overgrown
[ ] Trash/Dumping Ground [ ] Evidence of vandalism [ ] Other: _____

18. Size: [ ] City Lot [ ] Less than 1 acre [X] 1 to 10 acres [ ] 10 to 50 acres [ ] More than 50 acres

19. Setting: [ ] Rural-Undisturbed [X] Rural-Developed [ ] Small town [ ] Urban [ ] Suburban

20. Perimeter: [ ] Fence (type: _____) [ ] Wall [X] Vegetation [X] Road(s)
[X] Vacant Land [X] Buildings [ ] Other: _____

21. Evidence of Segregation or Grouping by:

[ ] Race [ ] Religion [ ] Family [ ] Military [ ] Occupation [ ] Fraternal organization
[ ] Socio-economics [ ] Gender [X] None [ ] Other: _____

22. Orientation of Graves:

[X] East-West [ ] North-South [ ] Toward central monument [ ] Toward a river [ ] Toward road
[ ] Other: _____

23. Marker Types (check all that apply): [ ] above-ground tomb [ ] box tomb [X] column [ ] comb grave
[ ] coping/curbing/cradles [X] foot stone [X] headstone [ ] ledger stone [ ] obelisk [X] rock cairn
[ ] statuary [ ] tablet stone [ ] Other: _____

24. Veteran's Graves tones: ? ?

? [ ] American Revolutionary War [ ] War of 1812 [X] ~~Civil War (Union)~~ Civil War (Confederate);
[ ] Spanish American War [X] World War I [X] World War II [X] Korean War [ ] Vietnam War
[ ] Operation Desert Storm [ ] Operation Enduring Freedom [ ] Operation Iraqi Freedom

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 4, 2018

Debbie Collins
5962 Limestone Lane
Trussville, AL 35173

RE: Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery, 18879 US Highway 11, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Collins:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery has been favorably reviewed and is now listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

The Alabama Register is a prestigious listing of historic, architectural, and archaeological landmarks. These selected Alabama landmarks are worthy of both recognition and preservation. Listing on the state register is an honorary designation imposing no benefits or restrictions on property owners.

The Alabama Historical Commission sponsors a historical marker and plaque program to recognize properties that contribute to the unique history of Alabama. Properties that have been listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage are eligible to purchase a historical marker through this office. Please contact me if you are interested in purchasing a marker or plaque for this historic property.

For additional information on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register and other programs offered by the Alabama Historical Commission, please contact me or visit our website at www.ahc.alabama.gov.

The Alabama Historical Commission appreciates your efforts to preserve Alabama's historic resources. I wish you much success in all endeavors and look forward to working with you on future preservation projects.

Very truly yours,

Hannah Garmon

Hannah Garmon
Architectural Survey, Alabama Register & Cemetery Preservation Coordinator
334.230.2644
Hannah.Garmon@ahc.alabama.gov

c: Mayor Roger Adams
Steele City Council
St. Clair County Commission
St. Clair County Historical Society
Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
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Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 4, 2018

The Honorable Roger Adams
4025 Pope Avenue
Steele, AL 35987

RE: Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery, 18879 US Highway 11, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama

Dear Mayor Adams:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the above referenced property has been favorably reviewed and is now listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

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Very truly yours,

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Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 4, 2018

St. Clair County Commission
165 5th Avenue
Ashville, AL 35953-3238

RE: Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery, 18879 US Highway 11, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama

Dear Commissioners:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the above referenced property has been favorably reviewed and is now listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

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ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 4, 2018

St. Clair Historical Society
P.O. Box 1570
Ashville, AL 35953

RE: Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery, 18879 US Highway 11, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama

Dear Friends:

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ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 4, 2018

Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 8268
Gadsden, AL 35902

RE: Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery, 18879 US Highway 11, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama

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Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 4, 2018

Steele City Council
4025 Pope Avenue
Steele, AL 35987

RE: Reeves Grove Baptist Church & Cemetery, 18879 US Highway 11, Steele, St. Clair County, Alabama

Dear Council Members:

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