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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 21 1995

JUL 31 1995

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ala. Historical Commission

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grace Episcopal Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Louisville Street N/A not for publication

city or town Clayton N/A vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Barbour code 005 zip code 36106

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 8-16-95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper  
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action  
8-22-95

Entered in  
National Register

Grace Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Barbour County, Alabama  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls wood

roof asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1876

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Alabama Historical Commission

Grace Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Barbour County, Alabama  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6	6	4	6	6	2	0	3	5	2	7	6	8	5
Zone		Easting					Northing							

3 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

2 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeff Mansell

organization Cahaba Trace Commission date March 15, 1995

street & number Route 1, Box 147 telephone 205 665 7982

city or town Brierfield state AL zip code 35035

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

street & number 201 N. Balen, P. O. Box 13330 telephone 904 434 7337

city or town Pensacola state Florida zip code 32591-3330

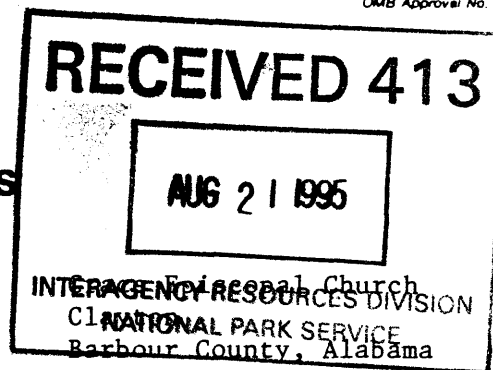
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### Architectural Description

Lying immediately south of the courthouse square in Clayton, Alabama and facing east, Grace Episcopal Church is a significant example of Gothic Revival architecture. Completed in February, 1876, the church is located on Louisville Street on lot 30 of the original town plan.

Resting on brick foundation piers, Grace Episcopal Church is a one story structure of balloon frame construction with simple weatherboarding exterior wall material. The main section of the church building features a steeply pitched gable roof and contains the sanctuary and a slightly raised chancel area. The main section of the church, however, is connected to a two tiered bell tower located approximately 13 feet off the northwest corner of the building. The bell tower is approximately 8 feet square and is capped by a pyramidal roof. Access from the chancel area to the bell tower is through a later addition, a single room constructed c. 1900. This later addition is supported by crude unfinished posts. Overall, the main section of the building is in good repair but the bell tower is in poor and deteriorating condition.

The three bay facade features a central double leaf entrance with a pointed Gothic arched transom containing a multi-pane stained glass window. The doors are embellished with raised Gothic arched panels over square panels. The flanking windows are 6/6 double hung sash capped by pointed Gothic arched 6 light transoms. All windows in the main section, with the exception of those stained glass windows, contain frosted glass panes. Located in the center of the front facing gable is a decorative trefoil of pierced woodwork. A wooden cross rests on the apex of the gable roof. The north and south elevations of the main sanctuary are similar with five windows, identical to those on the front facade, evenly spaced along each wall. The north elevation, however, contains a small door embellished with Gothic panels on the northwest corner of the elevation. The chancel area, projecting from the rear of the sanctuary, has a rectangular multi-pane stained glass window in the northern and southern elevations, a triangular stained glass window located in the upper section of the western wall of the chancel's gable roof, and a single panel door, embellished with raised panels identical to those on the front doors, located on the north wall. On the northwest corner of the main sanctuary, the later addition features a shed roof which is attached to the double tiered bell tower just beneath the eave of the pyramidal roof. In the later addition, paired 4/4 double hung sash windows are located on the western and northern elevations and simple paneled doors are positioned on the eastern wall and the southwestern corner. The two tiered bell tower is basically square in shape with rectangular vents located on the upper floor on three sides. Access to the tower is through a single door located on the southern wall which opens into the later addition.

The interior of the sanctuary has a central aisle arrangement and is finished with plaster walls with a simple low lying chairrail running just under the sash of the windows. The entire interior has been painted white. The walls are capped by a wide cornice molding. The truncated ceiling features beaded board wall material broken by a series of exposed beams. A series of earthquake rods stretch above the cornice molding in the sanctuary. The upper portions of

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Grace Episcopal Church  
Clayton  
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the eastern and western walls are embellished with stickwork which creates a half-timbered effect. The western wall of the sanctuary is pierced by a large Gothic pointed arch framing the chancel area. The western wall of the chancel area is also embellished with cross stickwork and exposed rafter beams. Peeling paint indicates that the ceiling in the chancel area was at one time painted blue.

Most of the interior furnishings appear to be original to the structure including the chancel rail, Gothic altar chairs, altar table, pews and Gothic lectern. The larger lectern with Gothic arched panels was placed in the structure in the mid 1920s to commemorate the lives and services of Rev. DeBerniere Waddell and Rev. Dr. Erastus Wooster Spaulding. The main pews are attached to the side walls while toward the aisle, they have projecting side panels with carved trefoil motifs. Hanging from the ceiling are two brass Gothic lanterns; an electric five light chandelier is located in the chancel area.

Overall, Grace Episcopal Church retains a high degree of integrity reflecting original craftsmanship in regard to design, materials, setting, feeling and association. The nomination contains one contributing building.

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Clayton  
Barbour County, Alabama**Criterion C: Architecture**

Grace Episcopal Church is a significant example of Gothic Revival architecture, reflecting the popularity of that particular style for Protestant Episcopal Churches throughout Alabama and the United States. In addition, the church yields information regarding the styles, forms, construction methods, techniques and craftsmanship utilized by Alabamians in the late 19th century. The church retains a high degree of integrity in regard to design, materials, workmanship, feeling and setting.

**Historical Summary**

In 1763 France ceded Mobile to the British, although between 1763 and 1780 the settlement retained a decided French culture whose citizenry held allegiance to the Roman Catholic church. In 1764, however, the Rev. Samuel Hart, an Anglican clergyman from Charleston, South Carolina began conducting services in Mobile and its vicinity. Unfortunately, Mr. Hart became discouraged by the spiritual prospects in the struggling British colony and returned to Charleston. His work represented the first step in establishing the Protestant Episcopal church in the region which would become Alabama. From 1780 to 1812, while Mobile was under Spanish control, the only public religious services allowed were those of the Roman Catholic Church. Yet in 1812, when the Mobile District was annexed by the United States, a handful of Anglican churchmen were already located in the port city. (Inventory of the Church Archives of Alabama, hereafter cited as Inventory, p. 2)

The Episcopal church suffered as did many organizations during the 1810s and 1820s from popular prejudice against any institutions of British origin and therefore, the early years of church development were particularly difficult. The small group of Anglicans endured however, soon becoming the nucleus of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Alabama. By 1820, congregations were found in Mobile, Tuscaloosa, Greensboro, Montgomery, Demopolis and Huntsville. With immigration to the state mounting rapidly, the 1830s and 1840s witnessed a marked increase in the communicant roll, an increase due in large part to Alabama's indefatigable first Bishop, the Rev. Nicholas Hamner Cobbs. One of the primary goals of Bishop Cobbs was to plant the church throughout Alabama and his itineraries called for covering all sections of the state, preaching, confirming, and consecrating new church buildings. One of the many missions formed during this period was Grace Episcopal Mission in Clayton, Barbour County, Alabama. (Inventory, p. 2-5)

During 1844, the first settled minister of the area, Rev. J. L. Gay, who was conducting services in Eufaula, established a mission station in the town of Clayton. Bishop Cobbs visited Clayton in 1850 and again in 1860 when he confirmed two people. The Bishop of Alabama again visited Clayton in 1863, but this time, it was Rev. Richard J. Wilmer who had succeeded Cobbs as Bishop in 1861. In 1871, Wilmer visited the Clayton mission once again and expressed his hope that a suitable church building would soon be erected. During these years, the mission was served by the Rev. Thomas J. Beard from St. James' in Eufaula. The mission was formally accepted in the Diocese of Alabama as Grace Church on May 10, 1872. (Inventory, p. 38)

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Clayton  
Barbour County, Alabama

Construction of a suitable church building began on lot 30 of the original town plan of Clayton sometime in 1875. The church lot was owned by General Henry Delamar Clayton, a former Major General in the Army of Tennessee who would later become Judge of the 3rd Judicial Court, a gubernatorial candidate in 1886, and professor of international law at the University of Alabama. The project was assisted by a banquet held in 1875 to commemorate the arrival of the first railroad in Barbour County. Proceeds from the banquet, approximately \$550.00, were donated to the Grace Episcopal Church building fund. The Gothic Revival style was selected as the appropriate architecture for the church. Gothic Revival was highly favored by Episcopal congregations and had been deemed by one Episcopalian as the "only true setting for divine worship." (Owen, Vol. III, p. 347; Inventory, p. 38; Beasley)

Upon completion of the church building on February 26, 1876, the lot was deeded by General and Mrs. Clayton to the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Alabama. Bishop Wilmer formally consecrated the church on November 14, 1876. The only minister of Grace Church who made his permanent residence in Clayton was Reverend DeBerniere Waddell who served the church from 1876 to 1885. Reverend E. W. Spalding lived in Eufaula but served Grace Church regularly as its minister from 1885 to 1891. Since that time, various ministers from Eufaula, Troy, and Bainbridge, Georgia have held services in Grace Church, "sometimes on regular schedules and sometimes irregular ones." In the 1930s, according to the sketch of the church provided in Inventory of the Church Archives of Alabama, services were held only once a month. In recent years, the few Episcopal communicants in Clayton have attended services at St. James in Eufaula and Grace Church has been inactive. (Beasley; Inventory, p. 38)

**Archaeological Component**

Although no formal archeological survey has been made at Grace Episcopal Church, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Buried portions located on properties of this type may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.



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Grace Episcopal Church  
Clayton  
Barbour County, Alabama

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### Bibliography

Beasley, Rebecca and Mary Dixon. "Grace Episcopal Church," unpublished historical sketch, n.d.

Inventory of the Church Archives of Alabama: Protestant Episcopal Church. Birmingham: The Historical Records Survey, 1939. The Historical Records Survey Division of Professional and Service Projects Work Projects Administration.

Owen, Thomas McAdory. Dictionary of Alabama Biography. The Reprint Press: Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1971.

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Grace Episcopal Church  
Clayton  
Barbour County, Alabama

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### Verbal Boundary Description

Lot #30 according to the original survey of the town of Clayton, fronting the West side of Louisville Street 121 feet and extending back west 181 feet.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the original tract of land historically associated with the church, namely lot #30 of the original town plan of Clayton, Alabama.

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Grace Episcopal Church  
Clayton  
Barbour County, Alabama

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## Photographs

**Information contained in items #1-5 is the same for all photographs.**

1. Grace Episcopal Church
2. Barbour County, Alabama
3. Jeff Mansell, photographer
4. February 12, 1995
5. Negatives on file with Alabama Historical Commission
6. Facade, camera facing northwest
7. Photograph #1

6. Closeup of entrance doors, camera facing west
7. Photograph #2

6. Southern elevation, camera facing north
7. Photograph #3

6. Rear elevation, camera facing east
7. Photograph #4

6. Detail of bell tower and addition, camera facing west
7. Photograph #5

6. Entrance doors, camera facing west
7. Photograph #6

6. Interior, camera facing west
7. Photograph #7

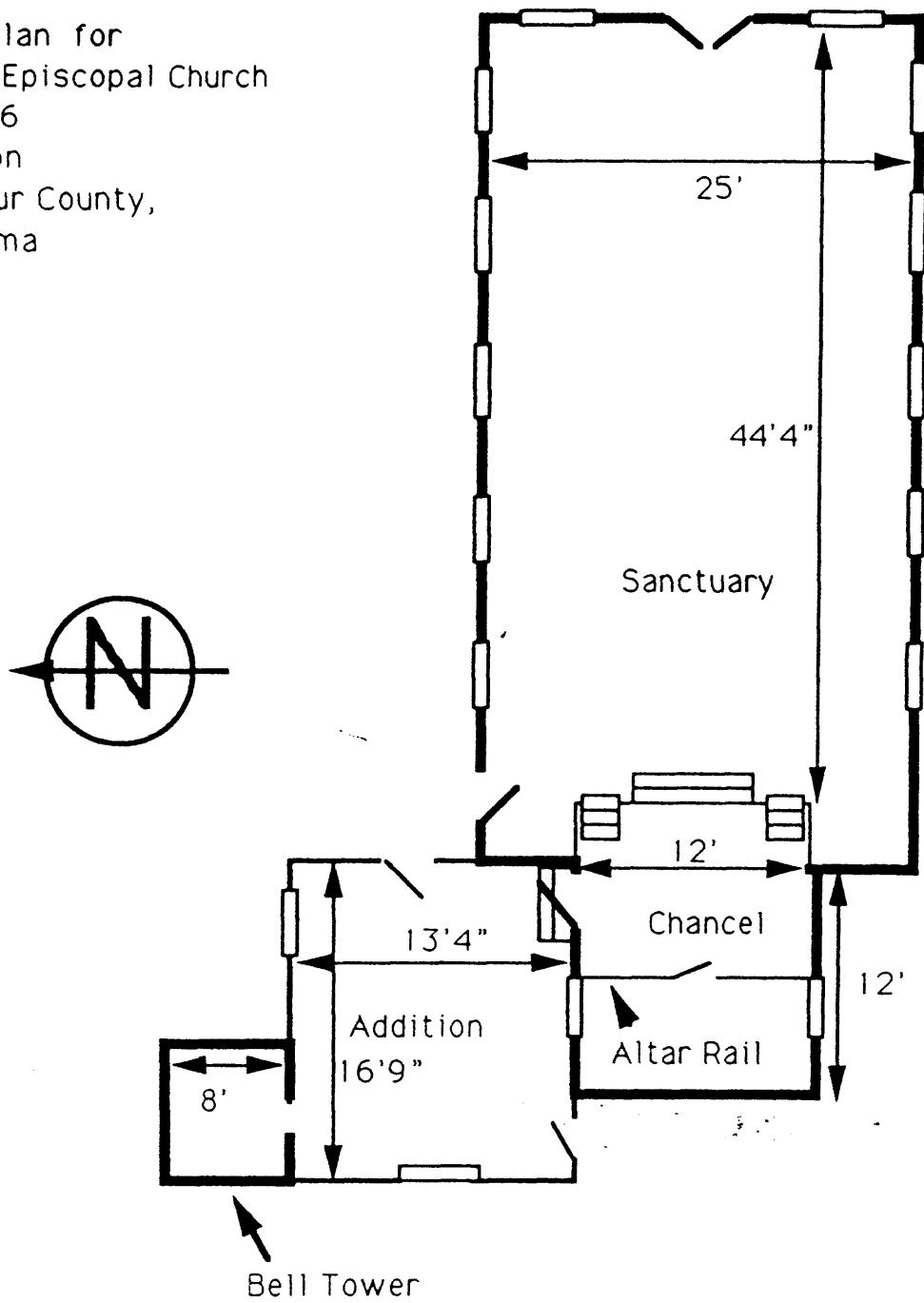
6. Interior, camera facing southwest
7. Photograph #8

6. Detail of pews, camera facing east
7. Photograph #9

6. Detail of chancel area, camera facing southwest
7. Photograph #10

6. Detail of doorway leading from chancel to addition
7. Photograph #11

Floorplan for  
Grace Episcopal Church  
c. 1876  
Clayton  
Barbour County,  
Alabama



Photograph Key for  
Grace Episcopal Church  
c. 1876  
Clayton  
Barbour County,  
Alabama

