

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0059668

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 8 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 21 1975

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Baptist Hill - Corner of Thach & Auburn Dr. South

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Auburn

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Lee

081

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Auburn Heritage Association

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2248

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Auburn

VICINITY OF

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

8th Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Opelika

Alabama

36801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ebenezer Baptist Church is located on the southwest corner of Thach and Auburn Drive South, and faces north onto Thach, a paved and well travelled street. Auburn Drive South, which runs along the eastern side of the structure is unpaved and lined with trees and small frame houses.

The structure consists of a large (66' 6" by 36') rectangular block which contains the sanctuary and a small addition on the south end which measures 16' 3" by 36' 6". Both sections have gabled roofs set at right angles to each other.

Native stone forms the foundation, portions of which have been replaced with concrete blocks and the exterior walls are clapboard.

The front entrance is through a square bell tower on the northwest corner of the structure. Access to a small vestibule within the bell tower is by double doors on the north and a single door on the west. The doors as well as all windows have simple wooden architraves.

Beneath the two windows on the north are panels ornamented with an irregularly sawn layer of wood. Above these windows is a single half-round ventilator with scalloped louvers. Four windows, measuring 34" by 77", each are located on either side of the main block and the eastern side contains a small brick chimney. The shingled roofs of the building have been replaced with galvanized metal.

A pyramidal roof with bracketed eaves crowns the bell tower and rests on double arches formed by colonettes and simple wooden spandrels. The bell tower is further ornamented with a wooden circular design on the northern and western sides.

Entrance into the sanctuary is through a single door from the vestibule and double doors on either side of the pulpit, located on the southern end. The 12' high ceiling is composed of narrow beaded paneling set in geometric designs. The rear section of the building is divided into three rooms of equal size, and contains one exterior door located on the east.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church was one of the early black churches organized after the Civil War and exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship in its construction.

Although black congregations existed in Alabama as early as 1820 the large majority of the slaves worshipped along with their masters. During reconstruction black freed men gradually withdrew from Alabama churches. Whites tried to forestall division by granting concessions but to no avail, and the number of black congregations increased dramatically year by year.

The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church was organized some time before 1868 under the leadership of the Reverend Thomas Glenn. Glenn, who was originally from Columbus, Georgia, was a noted preacher in the Auburn area prior to 1866.

On December 17, 1868 the Ebenezer Baptist Church was one of twenty-seven churches which sent delegates to the organizational meeting of the Colored Baptist Convention of Alabama. The Reverends T. Glenn and A. Blackburn represented the congregation.

The church, which was constructed entirely by congregation members was completed in 1870. The half acre of land had been donated by a member, Mary Clower, who had been given the land by Lonnie Payne. Although it has been assumed by later members of the congregation that Payne was a former slave owner, nothing is known about him.

In the same year that the church was completed, the Auburn District Association was organized at the Ebenezer Church. The main organizers were the Reverends T. Glenn, D. Phillips and I. M. Pollard. The district was made up primarily of the black Baptist Churches in Lee, Macon and Tallapoosa counties and contributed generously to the support of the Baptist Colored University in Selma and later to the formation of school for blacks in Opelika, Lee County.

Notable members of the church included: I. M. Pollard, the second pastor; I. T. Simpson, a leading orator and pastor in the 1880's; and F. L. Sanders, who hosted the Colored Baptist Convention at the Ebenezer Church in 1925.

In recent years the congregation has dwindled and the structure was recently acquired by the Auburn Heritage Association for restoration.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boothe, Charles S. The Cyclopedia of the Colored Baptist of Alabama, Their Leaders and Their Work. Birmingham: Alabama Publishing Co., 1895.
 Church Records and History of the Missionary Baptist Church, Lee County Courthouse, Opelika.
 McMillan, M. C. This Land Called Alabama. Austin: Steck-Vaughn Co., 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	643270	3608200	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

March 31, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

SIGNATURE

Nils B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

April 1, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. P. Montrose

DATE

4/21/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles H. Stenberg

DATE

4-17-75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Adin