

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

S of Browns

street & number 6 m N or RR tracks on Dallas Co. Road 21, on W. side — not for publication

city, town Browns vie. Martins Station vicinity of congressional district 7

state Alabama code 01 county Dallas code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Alex George, Trustee

street & number Azion Baptist Church, Route 2, Box 216

city, town Orrville, — vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dallas County Courthouse

street & number 105 Lauderdale

city, town Selma state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HABS has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1936 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date 1878

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a small, board and batten Gothic Revival structure based on the published plans of Richard Upjohn. Originally, it was located in Cahaba, the state's first capital; however, in 1878, the church was moved to its present location in Martin Station, some 20 miles west of Cahaba.

On its completion, the following description of the church appeared in the March 31, 1854 Dallas Gazette:

The church is a pure specimen of the early English, or lancet style of architecture, and was built after designs by Upjohn, the celebrated architect, and published in his work upon rural churches. It consists of a nave, chancel and tower, the latter building on the northwest corner....Its external walls are upright plank battened, and upon the corners, and opposite each main arch, are supported by buttresses which are divided into stages and capped.

The extreme length of nave and chancel is 78'. The extreme width from outside of buttress to outside, is 30 feet. The nave, or body of the church inside, is 58 feet by 22, the side walls being 23 inches thick.

There are six main truss arches, dividing the nave into five bays, starting about eight feet from the floor, and meeting at collar beams, about six feet from the ridge pole. The height of the walls is 17 feet. Resting upon them are rafters 26 feet long, making the whole height, from the floor to the ridge pole, 38 feet. The ceiling of the roof, which is heart pine, varnished to show the natural grain, is divided into three equal compartments by wall plate purloins and ridge pole. The plumb wall is of white plaster, hardfinished, and the arches are grained to resemble oak, as are also the pulpit, reading desk, chancel rail and pews.

The tower is carried up three stories, and is surrounded by an exceedingly graceful spire, making a height of 90 feet from the ground which deservedly attracts the admiration of all. Through it is the entrance to a gallery for servants extending across the west end or front of the church.

The pews, 34 in number, without doors or divisions are 9 1/4 feet in length, and what we rarely find are sufficiently wide to allow the congregation to kneel comfortably. They are entered from a noble aisle, six feet in width, which runs the entire length of the church.

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Upon the rights, at the chancel end of the nave, is a transept, 14 feet by 16 feet, with a separate entrance but communicating with the church which is occupied by the choir, and in which stands a Harmonion.... The chancel is 18 feet deep by 16 feet wide, and is ascended by two steps. The reading desk stands upon the right at the foot of the chancel arch. On the opposite side, just without the arch, is an octangular pulpit, raised two steps above the chancel floor. At the entrance of the chancel stands a massive font of freestone. At the east of the chancel is the sacrarium, raised one step and railed off, in which is a plain white altar, whose only ornament is a quatrefoil and a bishop's chair of solid oak, much admired for its antique design, upon which is carved a mitre and a cross. The ceiling is divided in the same way as that of the nave, and is supported by similar arches, except that they are pierced trefoil.

The sacristy or vestry room, opening out of the chancel, is 10 feet by 12 feet. The windows of lancet form are of plain enameled glass, set in metallic sash. The side windows, which are doublets, have richly figured borders. The chancel window, large triplet, is of great beauty....with its figured quarries and highly ornamented borders.... In the eastern gable of the nave, above the chancel arch is a circular window containing a monogram of the blessed trinity. The remaining windows are plain, with colored borders.

The church is elevated upon a brick foundation of some five feet.... The front of the church shows a width of 39 feet, including the tower, and is relieved by two windows opening onto the gallery. A graceful stoop, or porch, protects the main entrance, which is at the center of the church.

Today the church is located on a small lot in a sparsely inhabited area. It faces east, and because of the rise of the land, overlooks the paved two-lane highway which it fronts. The structure is in poor condition, with the tower and the entrance porch missing, a number of the windows boarded over, several of the buttresses gone, and a metal roof covering the earlier wood shingles. A flight of concrete steps provides access to the front entrance.

The walls of the nave and chancel have been paneled with modern material which simulates wood, a low fiber-board ceiling has been installed and the chancel windows are covered over. Although the recent alterations dramatically change the appearance of the interior, the historic fabric appears to be intact. Approximately half of the original pews remain.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Richard Upjohn, Arch./Davis Cumming,

Specific dates 1854 **Builder/Architect** contractor Mr. Likin, assistant to Cumming

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is significant as one of three antebellum, board and batten Gothic Revival churches in Alabama which were designed by Richard Upjohn and which comprise the largest collection of country Upjohn churches in a Deep South state (St Luke's Jacksonville, Calhoun County, 1857 and St. Andrew's Prairieville, Hale County 1854, NHL 3-3-74 are the other two). Although the church is in poor condition, it retains most of its original fabric and could be restored should funds be available in the near future.

Additionally, St. Luke's and its companion churches reflect the spread of the ideas of the Ecclesiological movement into the South and the sympathy with which they were received by Nicholas Hammer Cobbs, Bishop of Alabama (1844-1861). James Patrick in "Ecclesiological Gothic in the Antebellum South" states that while Bishop Cobbs was not listed as a patron of the New York Ecclesiological Society, he was sympathetic to its principals. During the 1850's, six Episcopal churches in Alabama were designed according to Ecclesiological ideology by architects approved by the New York Ecclesiological Society; three (Trinity Episcopal Church, Mobile, 1853; St. John's Episcopal Church, Montgomery, 1854-1855; The Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, 1857-59) were designed by Wills and Dudley, while the other three were the work of Richard Upjohn.

As early as 1822, Cahaba had an Episcopal congregation, which first worshiped in the county courthouse and later in a community church building. On May 4, 1839, at the Annual Convention of the Diocese, three delegates of St. Luke's Cahaba were seated and obtained a parish charter. On May 15, 1852, Bishop Cobbs visited Cahaba and interested the congregation in the erection of a church structure. Plans were obtained from Richard Upjohn, and construction of the buildings was begun in 1852. The church was completed and consecrated on May 14, 1854. A year prior to the completion of the church, the rectory was built and the Reverend J. M. Mitchell, Bishop Cobb's son-in-law, became the first resident minister.

In the 1870s the church was abandoned by its congregation which had dwindled. In 1878, Episcopalians in Martin Station requested Bishop Wilner to allow the church to be relocated there. It served the congregation until the end of the the century, when it was abandoned again. During the 1930's, the Martin estate gave the church to a local black congregation. At present a descendant of the Martins has agreed to deed the land to the congregation in hope that funding for restoration or stablization will be found.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED
AGENCIES NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Safford 7.5'

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	7	1	1	4	0	3	5	7	5	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary includes church and land. Boundary is described on the attached survey.

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 Ellen Mertins, National Register Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date June, 1981

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Orlo B. Soward Jr.

title SHPO Alabama

date 10-6-81

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/25/82

for factory
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Correspondence. Jack Parsons to V. B. Atkins, June 21, 1965. Abstract from Bishop's files (in possession of the Alabama Historical Commission).

Historic American Building Survey. Data Sheets - St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Dallas County, Alabama (Ala. 734).

Patrick, James. "Ecclesiological Gothic in the Antebellum South." Winterthur Portfolio Volume 15, Number 2, Summer 1980.

Thompson, Alan Smith. Gothic Revival Architecture in Ante-Bellum Alabama. Unpublished thesis, University of Alabama, 1963.

Upjohn, Everard M. Richard Upjohn: Architect and Churchman. DaCapo Press, New York, 1968 reprint of 1939 edition.

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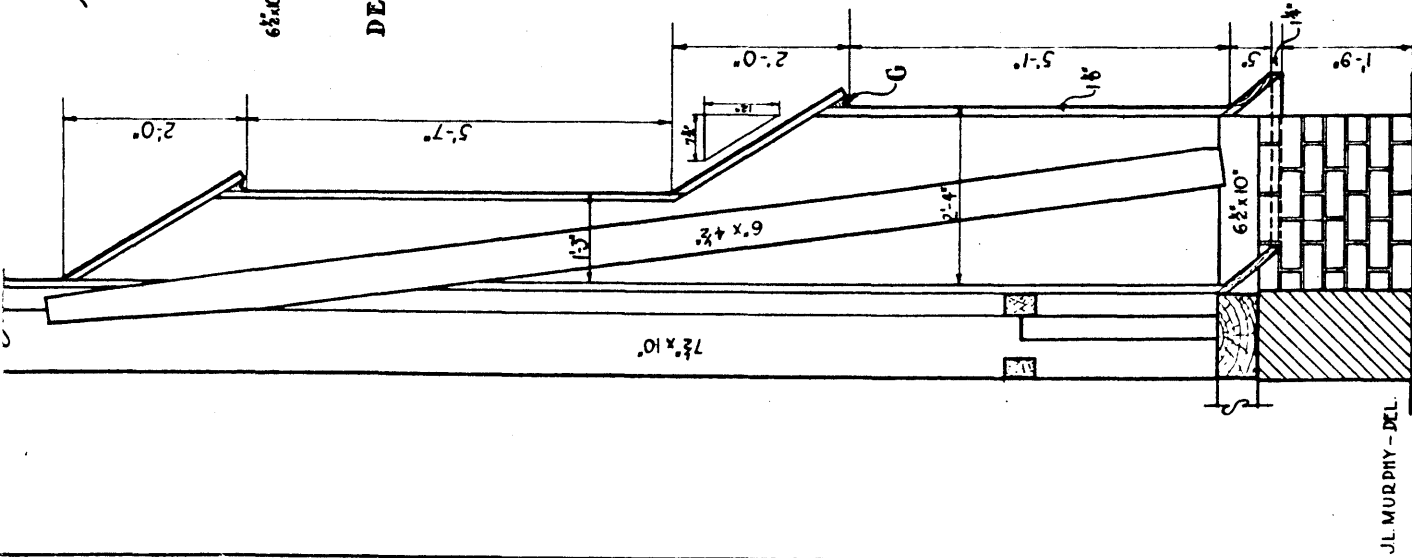
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

From an iron pipe at the southeast corner which is the established corner of section 31, township 16 north, range 8 east, which is 800' west of an I. P. at the S. W. cor. of the 8 acre tract of Martin Station County Public School, run S. 88° 00' W. for a distance of 1320' to the W. line of E 1/2 of E 1/2 of said sec. 31; thence run N 2° 00' W. for a distance of 4501' to a point; thence run S. 88° 00' W. and at right angles to said W. line of E 1/2 of E 1/2 of said sec. 31 for a distance of 35' to an I. P. on west right-of-way of county road #21 which is the point of beginning; thence run N. 74° 00' W. for a distance of 100' to a flagged stake; thence run N. 62° 00' W. for a distance of 150' to a flagged stake; thence run N. 41° 00' E. for a distance of 216' to a flagged stake; thence run N. 72° 00' E. for a distance of 100' to the west right-of-way line of said road #21; thence run S. 2° E. along said west R.O.W. line of said county road #21 for a distance of 282' to the point of beginning, containing one (1) acre and lying in NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4, Sec. 31, T. 16N., R.8 E., Dallas County, Alabama.

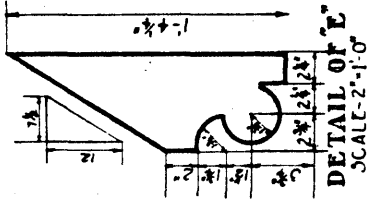
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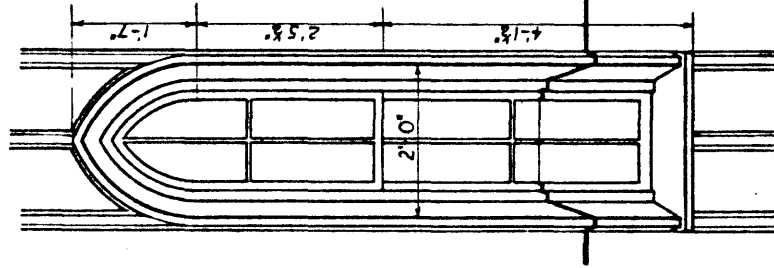
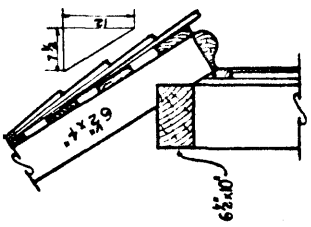
J.L. MURPHY - DEL.

SCH. OF ARCH. & ALLIED ARTS
ALA. POLYTECHNIC INST.

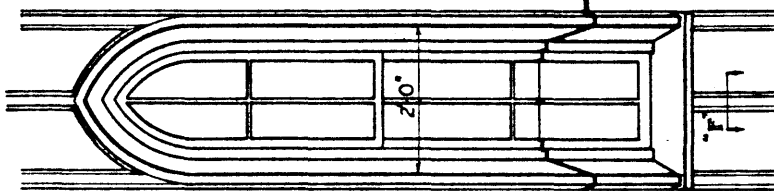
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN



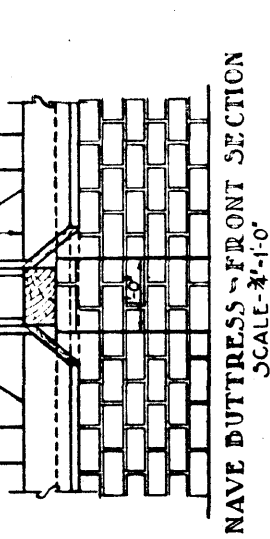
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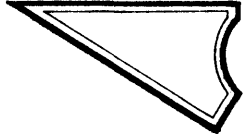
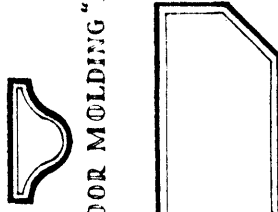
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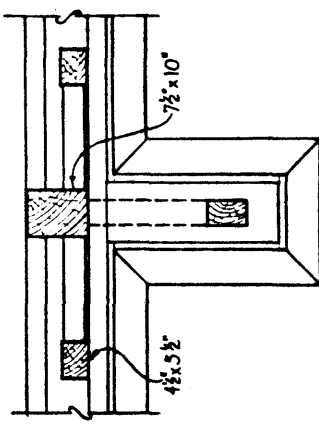
DETAIL OF CHANCEL WINDOW
SCALE - $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1'-0"



NAVE BUTTRESS - FRONT SECTION
SCALE - $\frac{3}{4}$ " = 1'-0"



F.S. MOLDING 'G'



NAVE BUTTRESS - PLAN
SCALE - $\frac{3}{4}$ " = 1'-0"

MARTIN'S STATION, ALABAMA

NAME OF STRUCTURE
SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DALLAS COUNTY

SURVEY NO.
ALA - 734

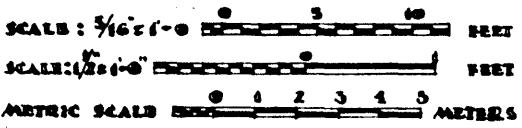
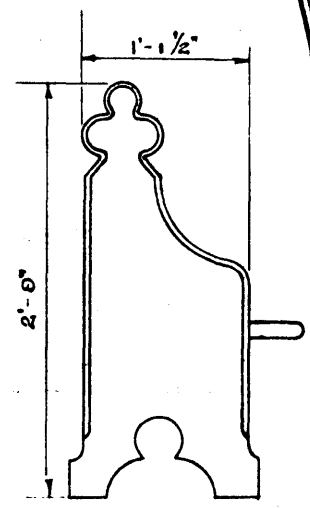
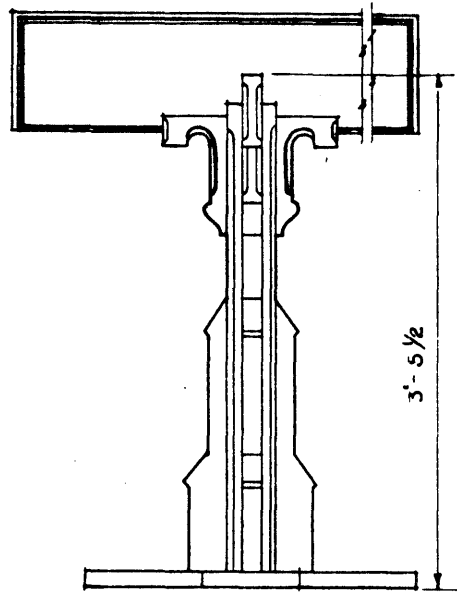
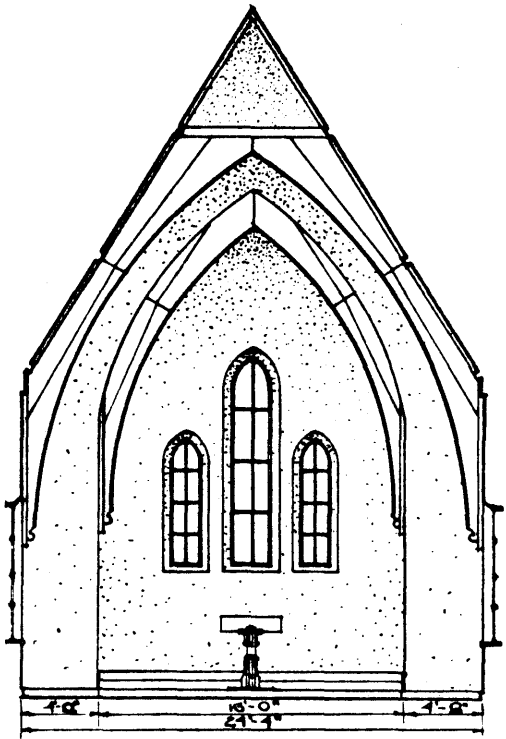
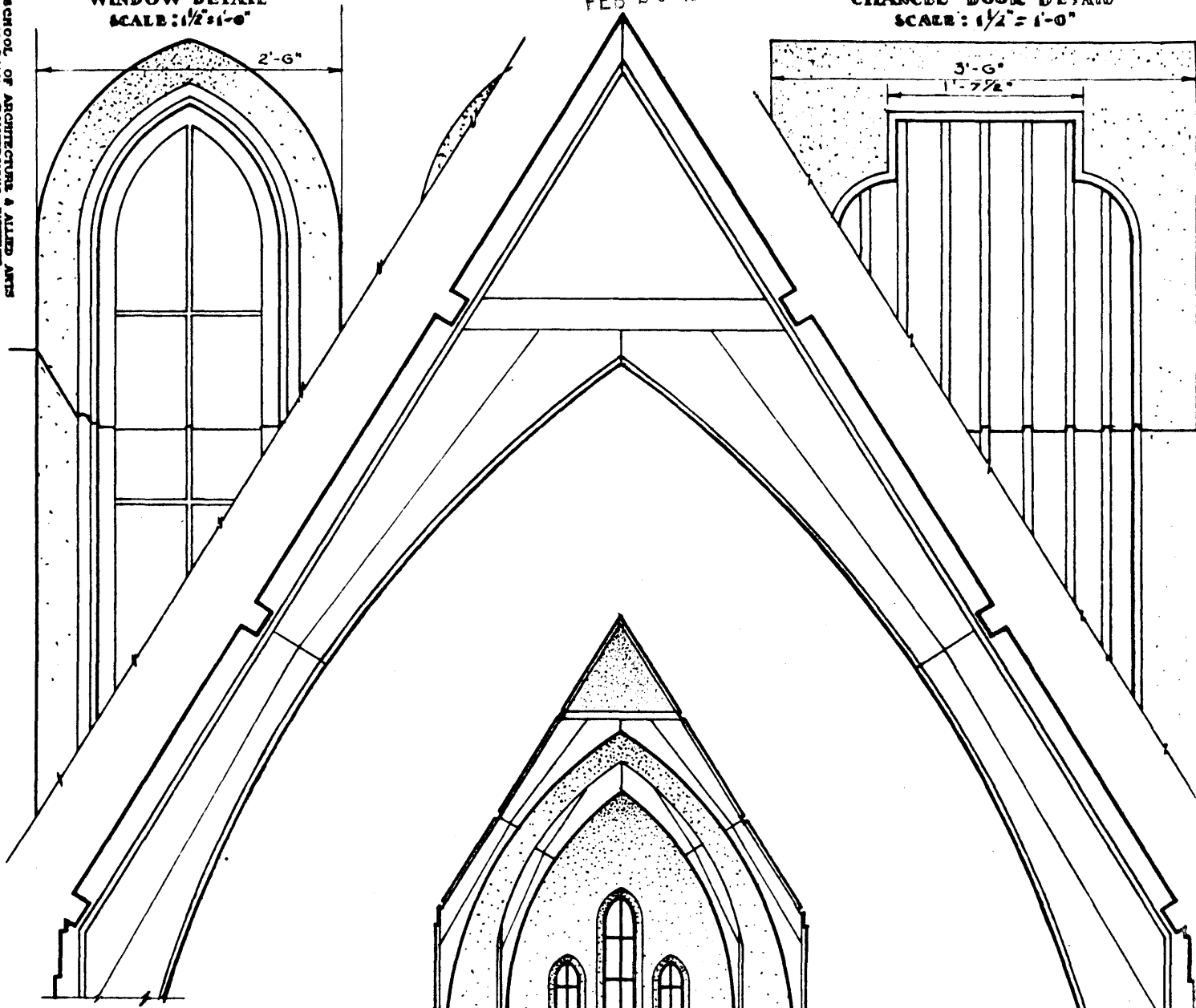
HISTORIC AMERICAN
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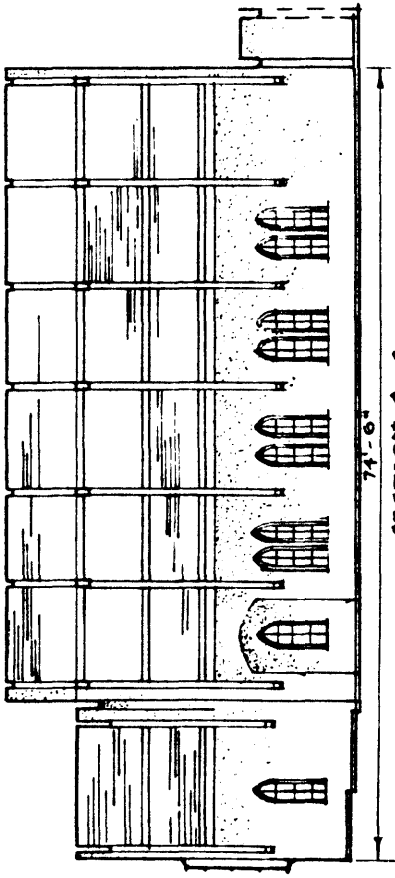
FEB 23 1982

WINDOW DETAIL
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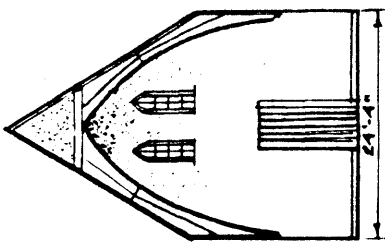
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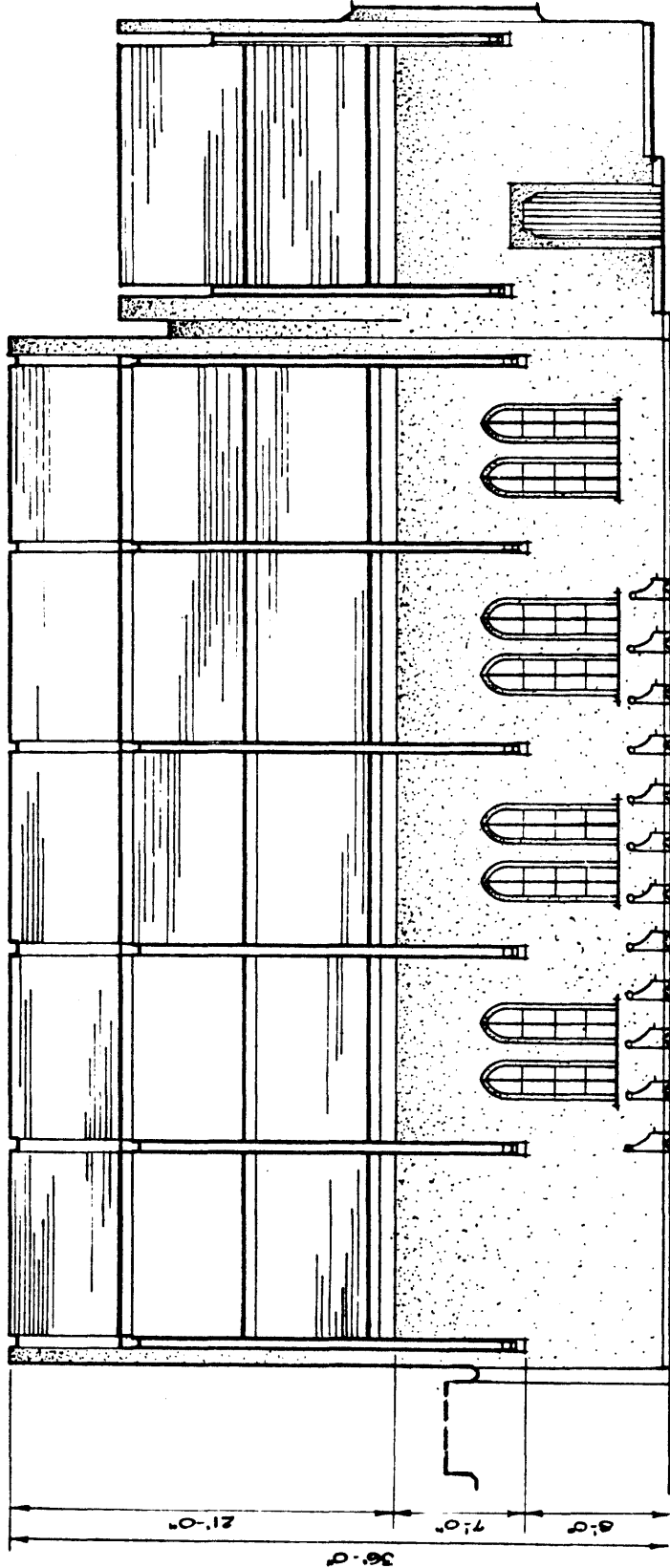
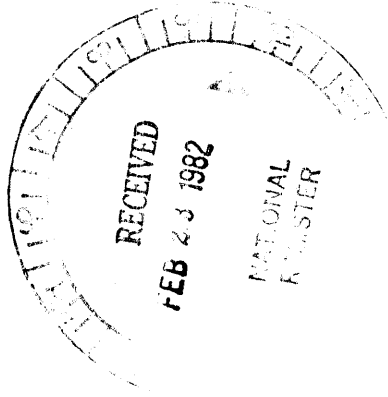
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 URBAN DESIGN CENTER
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN
 SAINT LUKES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 NAME OF STRUCTURE
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL CENTER
 DALLAS COUNTY
 SURVEY NO. ALA-734
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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 WORK FOR ALA 1981



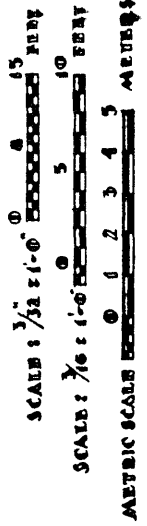
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SECTION A-A
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SECTION D-D
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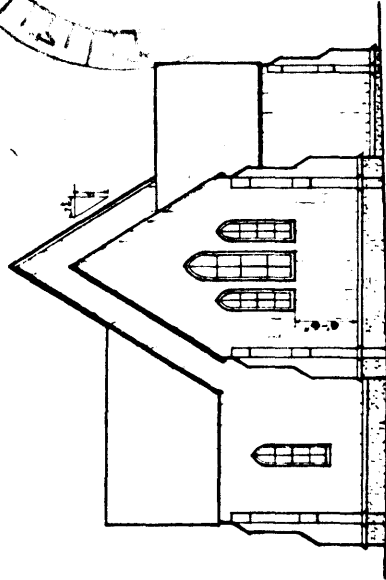


ROBERT ADAMS . DEL.

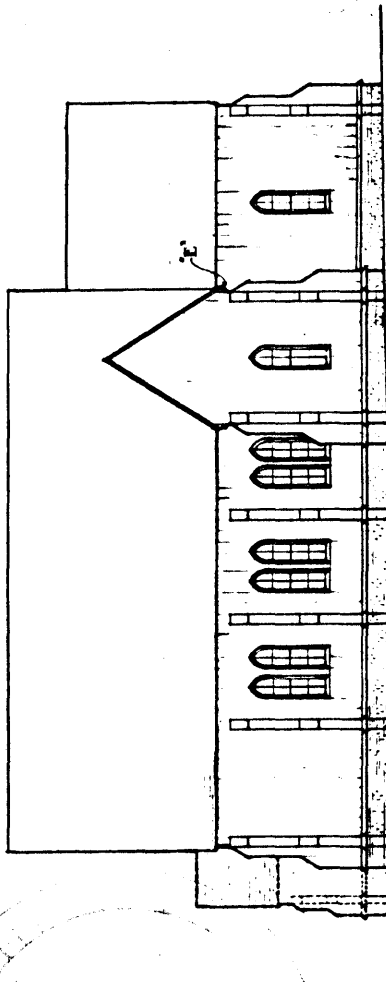
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ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS

NAME OF STRUCTURE
SAINT LUKES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

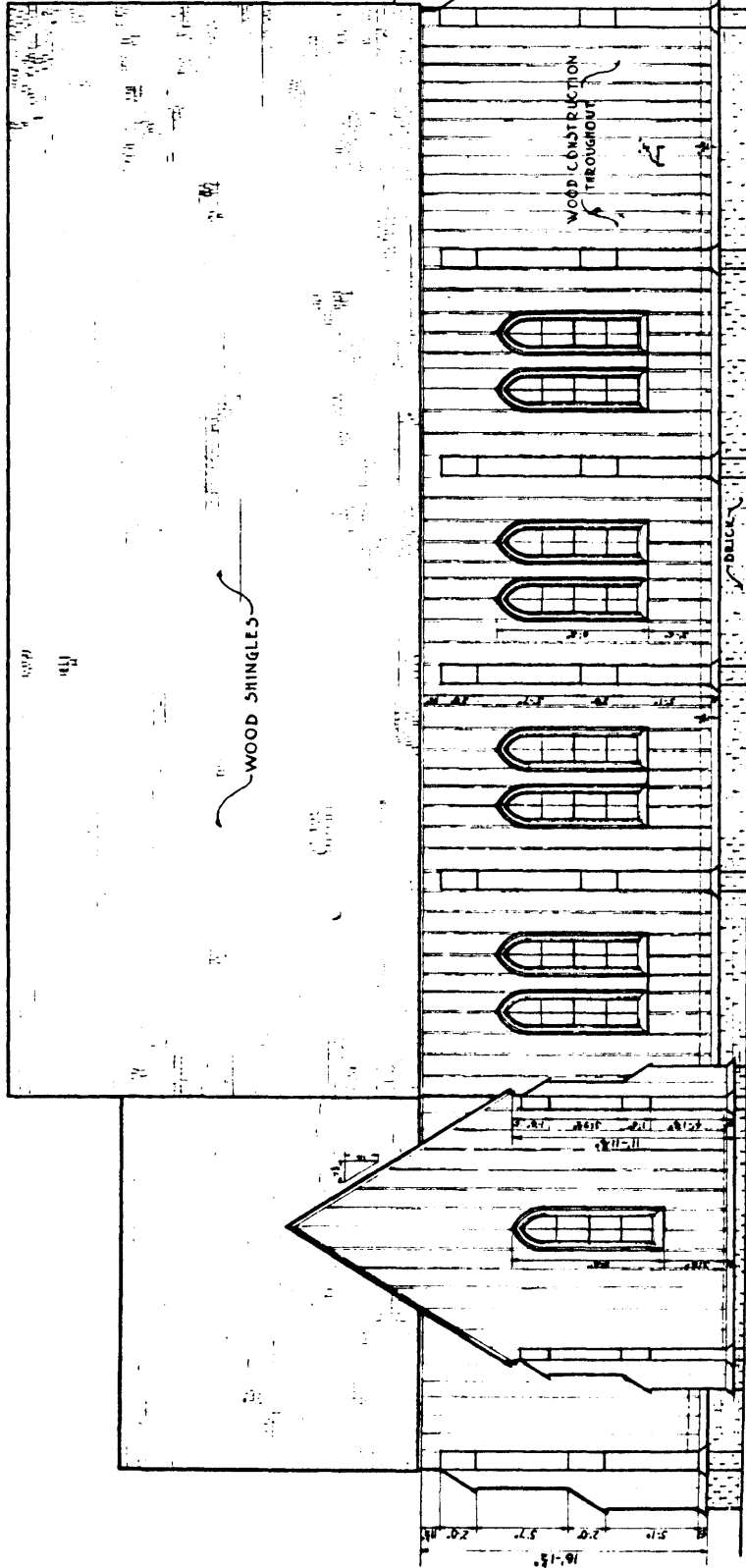
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INDEX NO. ALA-
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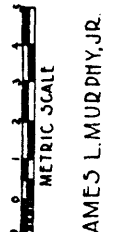
REAR ELEVATION
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NORTH SIDE ELEVATION
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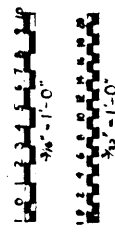
SOUTH SIDE ELEVATION
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JAMES L. MUDDHY, JR., DEL.

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OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN



NAME OF STRUCTURE

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARTIN'S STATION, ALABAMA

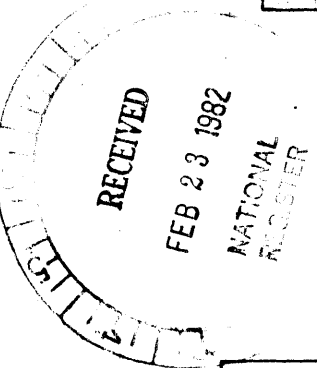


DALLAS COUNTY

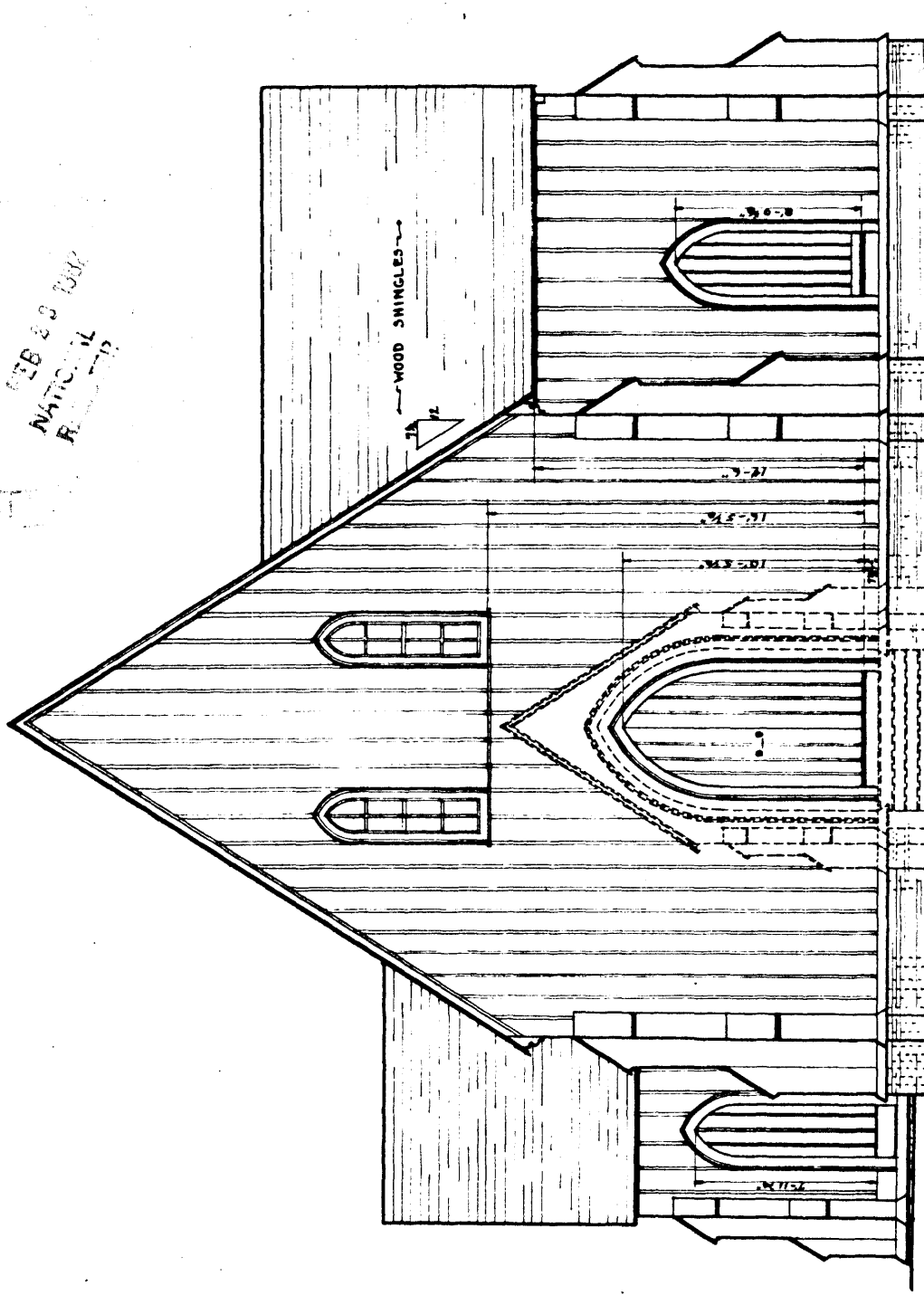
HISTORIC AMERICAN
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FRONT ELEVATION

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SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"
 SCALE OF FEET
 SCALE OF METERS



NAME OF STRUCTURE
SAINT LUKES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARTIN'S STATION, ALABAMA

SURVEY NO.
ALA-734

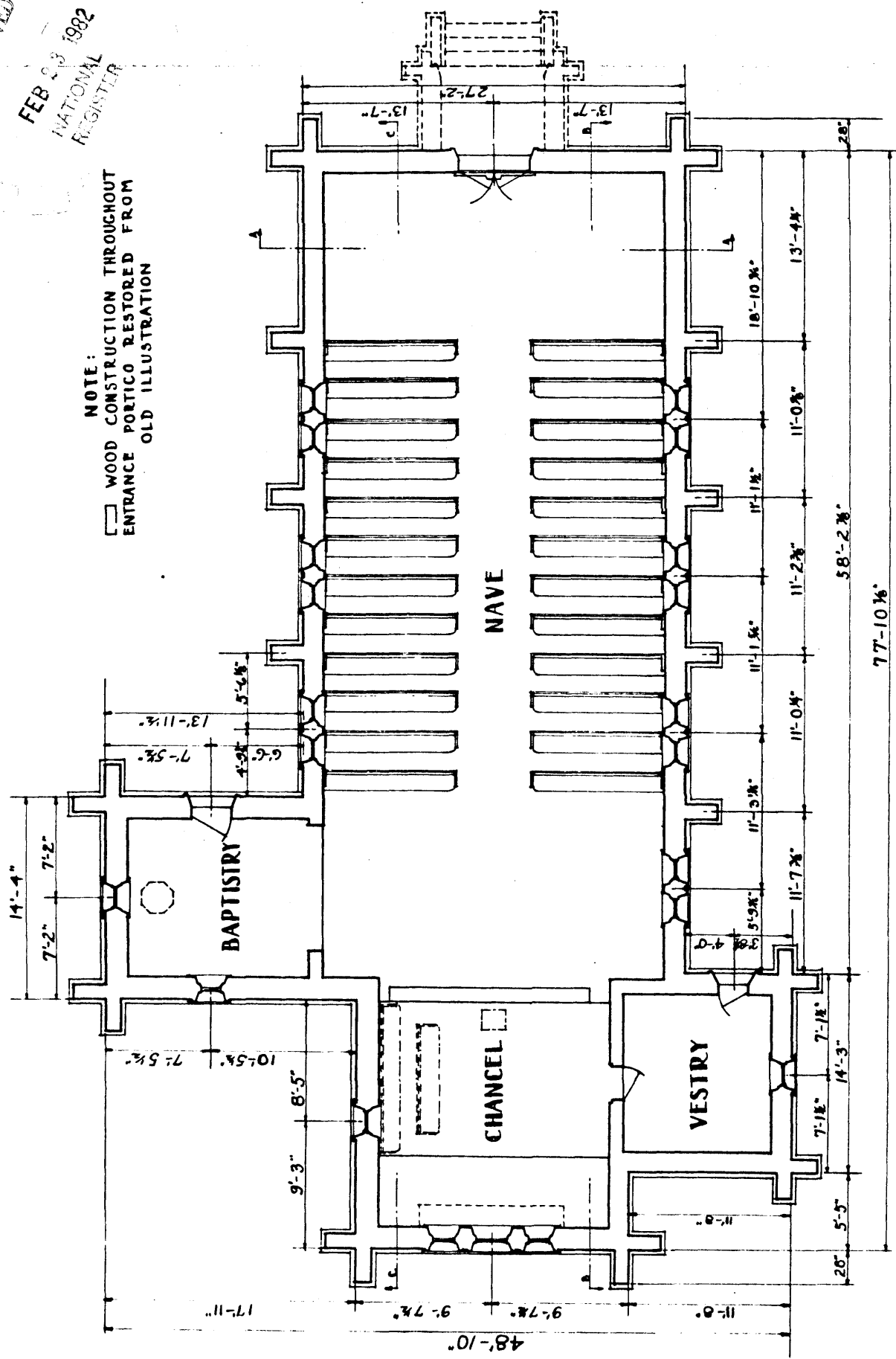
DALLAS COUNTY

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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 ALA
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NOTE:
 [] WOOD CONSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT
 ENTRANCE PORTICO RESTORED FROM
 OLD ILLUSTRATION

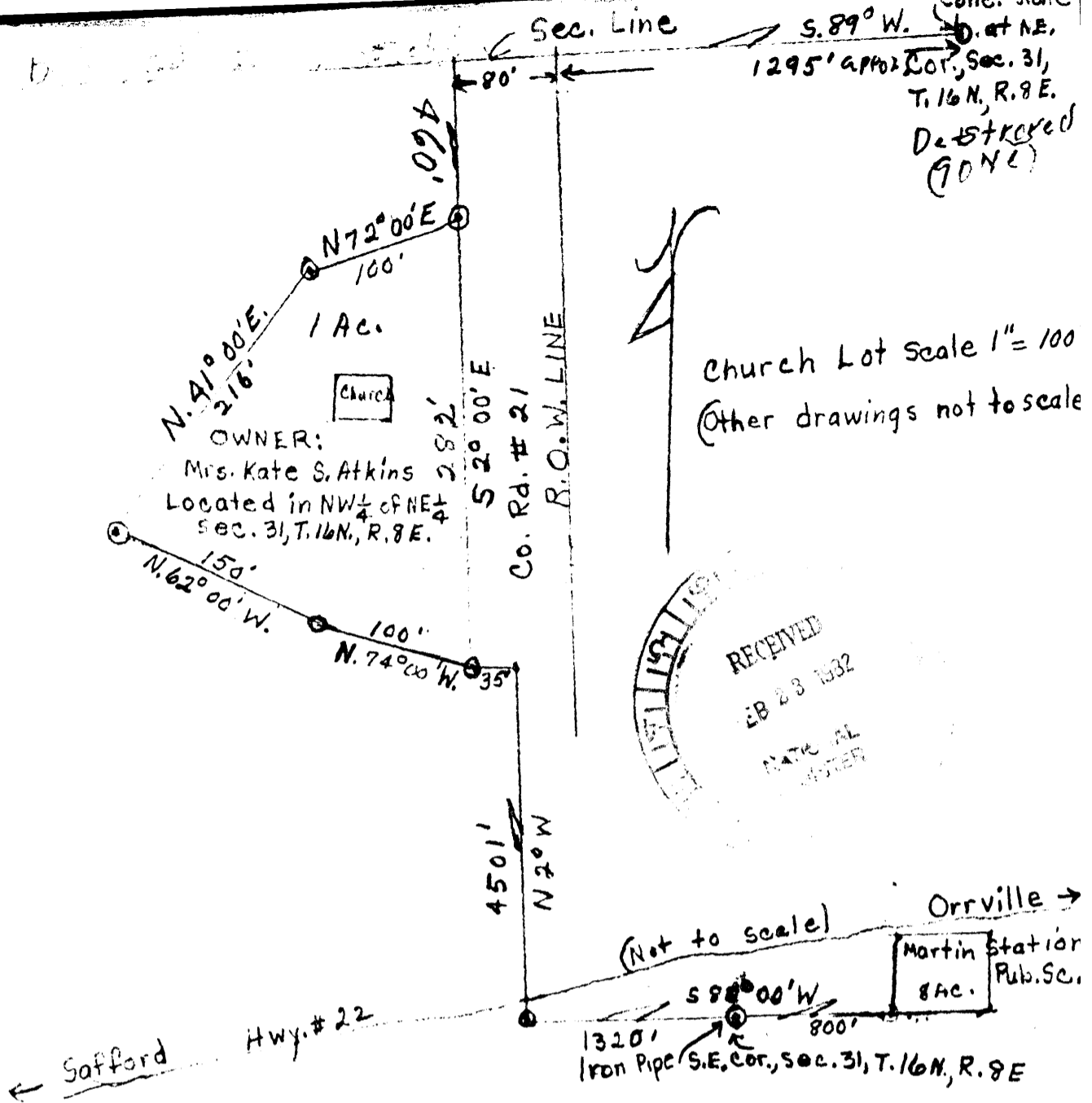


FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"
 SCALE OF FEET
 SCALE OF METERS

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 ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
 UNDER AUSPICES OF
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE: **Saint Luke's Episcopal Church**
 NAME OF SURVEY: **ALA-734**
 DALLAS COUNTY
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS
 INDEX NO. 74-100-7



DESCRIPTION OF ONE (1) ACRE CHURCH LOT; OWNER; MRS. KATE S. ATKINS

From an iron pipe at the southeast corner which is the established corner of section 31, township 16 north, range 8 east, which is 800' west of an I.P. at the S.W. cor. of the 8 acre tract of Martin Station County Public School, run S. 88° 00' W. for a distance of 1320' to the w. line of E½ of E½ of said sec. 31; thence run N. 2° 00' W. for a distance of 4501' to a point; thence run S. 88° 00' W. and at right angles to said w. line of E½ of E½ of said sec. 31 for a distance of 35' to an I.P. on west right-of-way of county road #21 which is the point of beginning; thence run N. 74° 00' W. for a distance of 100' to a flagged stake; thence run N. 62° 00' W. for a distance of 150' to a flagged stake; thence run N. 41° 00' E. for a distance of 216' to a flagged stake; thence run N. 72° 00' E. for a distance of 100' to the west right-of-way line of said road #21; thence run S. 2° E. along said west R.O.W. line of said county road #21 for a distance of 282' to the point of beginning, containing one (1) acre and lying in NW¼ of NE¼, Sec. 31, T. 16 N., R. 8 E., Dallas County, Ala

I, M.P. Boswell, registered land surveyor of State of Alabama, certify this 21st day of January, 1980, that this map is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

M.P. Boswell
 M.P. Boswell, Lic. # 1170
 725 Arsenal Place
 Selma, Alabama 36701