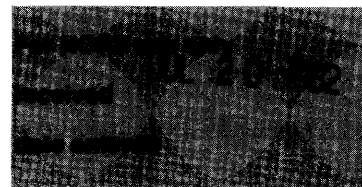


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Hamilton Baptist Church and Pastorium

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number State Highway 116 and Clay Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hamilton N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Georgia code 013 county Harris code 145

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Hamilton Baptist Church  
Mabry Collins, Pastor

street & number Hamilton Baptist Church

city, town Hamilton N/A vicinity of state Georgia

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Harris County Courthouse

city, town Hamilton state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Harris County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hamilton Baptist Church and Pastorium includes a late nineteenth century church and an early twentieth century pastorium on approximately one and one-half blocks of land in a residential neighborhood adjacent to downtown Hamilton. Hamilton is the county seat of Harris County, a rural county on Georgia's western boundary just north of Columbus.

The church, built in 1890, stands near the center of virtually an entire city block. It is a relatively large wood-framed structure, sheathed in weatherboard, with a gable roof. The structure rests on a brick and fieldstone foundation. The front facade features two corner towers with gabled roofs flanking the main, shed-roofed entrance. From the north tower rises a modern steeple which recently replaced the original polygonal spire. Gables and gablets are ornamented with a variety of Eastlake-style woodwork. A cross-shaped stained glass window in a circular surround is centrally located in the main gable. The double front doors, with their lancet panels, are original. The sides of the church feature tall, narrow, pointed-arched windows filled with translucent panes of clear glass. The rear of the church, which originally consisted of service rooms flanking a back porch with steps, is now fully enclosed. The interior of the church retains its original layout and spatial proportions. It is subdivided into an entrance vestibule with flanking service rooms, the sanctuary, and rear service rooms. Original interior features include plaster walls, windows, doors and doorways, floorboards (now covered with carpet), pews, altar enframement, and restored ceiling brackets. Original tongue-and-groove wainscoting has been replaced in the sanctuary, and the sanctuary's original tongue-and-groove ceiling has been covered with sheetrock; some original wainscoting and ceiling remain in the front and rear service rooms. A two-story wood-framed weatherboarded annex has been added in two stages (1948 and 1968) to the southwest rear corner of the church.

The pastorium, built in 1916, is located across Clay Street, to the rear and to one side of the church. It is a one-story wood-framed late Victorian-style house with Colonial or Neoclassical design influences. The exterior features a broad hip roof with gablets, weatherboarded walls, front and side bay windows, and a columned front porch. The interior is asymmetrically arranged and features spacious original rooms with relatively high ceilings, plaster walls, simple wood surrounds around doorways and windows, simple fireplace mantels and cast-iron fireplace screens, and horizontally paneled doors. The south front room has been refinished in modern paneling, and several rooms have been added to the rear of the house.

The church and pastorium occupy approximately one and a half city blocks in a residential neighborhood adjacent to Hamilton's small central business district. This land is generally level, with a moderate slope toward the west behind the pastorium. The grounds around the church and pastorium are informally landscaped with lawn, shrubbery, trees (some of which are historic), and gravel driveways and walks. There are no outbuildings associated with either structure.

Boundaries for the nominated property coincide with the current legal description of the church property. This property represents historic acreage associated with the church and its pastorium.

# 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/ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1890, 1916      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

In terms of architecture, the Hamilton Baptist Church and Pastorium is significant because it constitutes a typical but well preserved turn-of-the-century small-town religious complex. The physical relationship between the church and pastorium reflects the historic institutional relationship between the congregation and the pastor. Although common in Georgia towns, this relationship is especially well illustrated here. The church itself is a landmark building in Hamilton and Harris County. It is one of the largest and most impressive single historic structures in this rural part of the state. The building is a good example of carpenter-style Victorian Gothic architecture in Georgia, and it features exceptional Eastlake-style woodwork on its exterior. Although added to and altered, the church retains an essential degree of historic architectural integrity in terms of its overall design, details, and materials. The pastorium is likewise a good example of common late Victorian residential architecture. Its overall form, exterior detailing, interior arrangement, and interior finishes and details represent a type or style of house that is found throughout Georgia. Like the church, the pastorium has been added to and altered, but the front half of the house, which constitutes the historic portion of the structure, is largely intact on both the exterior and interior.

In terms of religion, the Hamilton Baptist Church and Pastorium is significant for representing the history of the Hamilton Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in Harris County. The church was founded in 1829, when this part of the state was first being settled, and it has maintained a strong presence in the area for more than a century and a half. The present church and pastorium reflect dramatic growth in membership and the prosperity of the congregation that characterized the church's late nineteenth century history. This period of vigor was also highlighted by the founding of the Pine Mountain Baptist Association in 1889 under the leadership of the Hamilton Baptist Church. The Baptists have always been among Georgia's most powerful and popular faiths, especially during the nineteenth century when the state's frontiers were settled, so it is appropriate that a major Baptist church represent the history of religion in this part of the state.

The above areas of significance support eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C. The architectural significance of this historic religious complex, the extraordinary architectural qualities of the church, the representative architectural qualities of the pastorium, and the historic significance of this major rural Baptist church all justify the eligibility of this religious property.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Pine Mountain S.W., Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1,6	6,9,8,9,4,0	3,6,2,6,1,9,0
	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 is described by a heavy black line on the attached sketch map and is justified in Section 7.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Cloues, National Register Coordinator

organization <u>Historic Preservation Section</u>	date <u>July 15, 1982</u>
<u>Georgia Department of Natural Resources</u>	

street & number <u>270 Washington Street, SW</u>	telephone <u>404 656-2840</u>
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city or town <u>Atlanta</u>	state <u>Georgia</u>
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# 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 <u>Elizabeth A. Lyon</u>
<u>Elizabeth A. Lyon</u>

title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer.</u>	date <u>7/15/82</u>
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For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Allorea Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>8/19/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

Alexander, Nancy. "Historic Property Information Form," September 13, 1981 (on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

---. Interview with Mr. Ben Smith, in Hamilton, Georgia, on August 27, 1981.

Barfield, Louise. History of Harris County (1961; reprinted 1978).

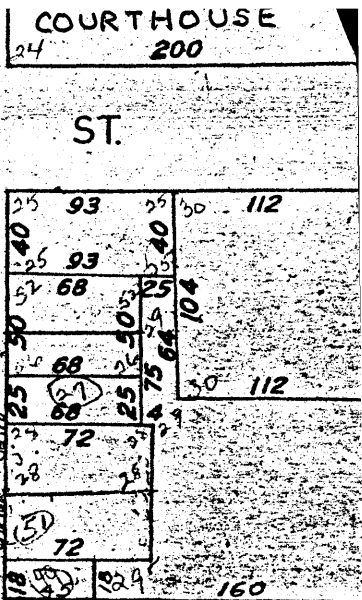
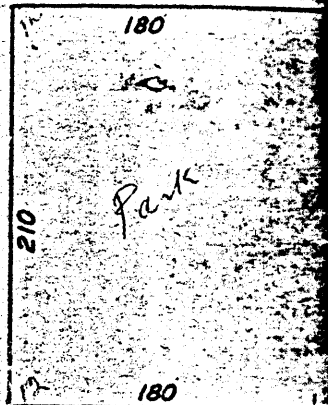
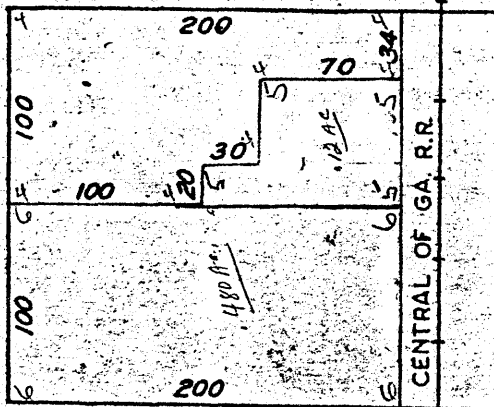
Campbell, Jesse H. Georgia Baptists: Historical and Biographical (Richmond, Georgia, 1874).

Hamilton Baptist Church. History of Hamilton Baptist Church (no date indicated).

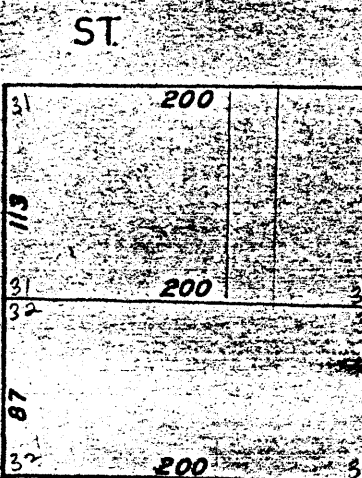
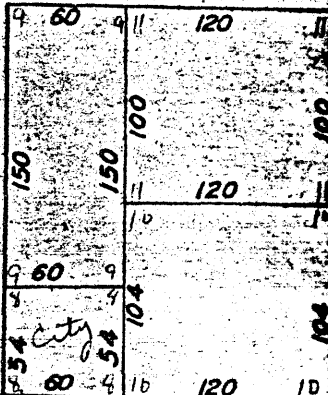
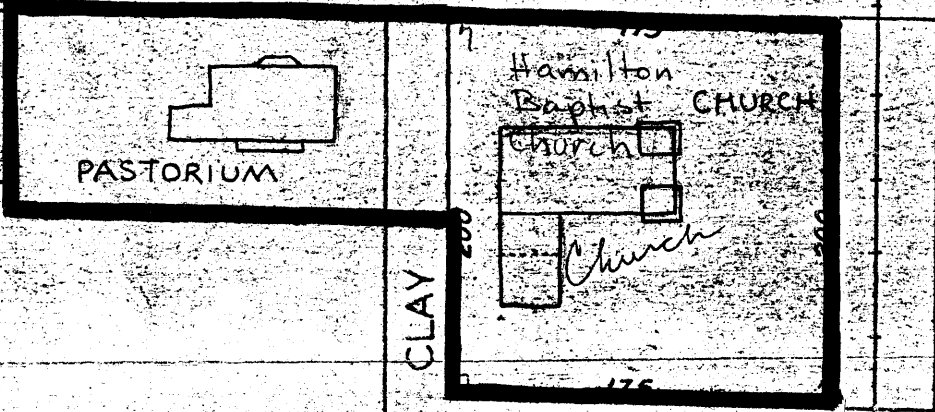
---. Minutes of the Hamilton Baptist Church.

SEE SH. 34

MILLS



FIFTH



SIXTH



Hamilton Baptist Church and Pastorium  
Hamilton, Harris County, Georgia

SKETCH MAP

North: ↑  
Scale: 1" = 100'

Boundary of nominated property:

SEE SH. 34-3