

JUL 11 1997

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sardis Baptist Church
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Located in the Chattoogaville Community on Georgia State Route 114,
approximately 4.5 miles south of Lyerly, Chattooga County, Georgia
city, town Chattoogaville (n/a) vicinity of
county Chattooga code GA 055
state Georgia code GA zip code 30730

(n/a) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	1
objects	0	0
total	1	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of previous listing: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

July 1, 1997
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Ma J. M. [Signature]

8/21/97

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

[Signature]
for Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials:

foundation	concrete block
walls	wood
roof	asphalt
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Sardis Baptist Church is located in the unincorporated community of Chattoogaville, a rural community located in southwest Chattooga County, Georgia. The church is situated on a sloping hill on the east side of Georgia State Route 114. The building is oriented towards Georgia State Route 114 and is approximately 96 feet from the edge of the roadway. Concrete steps lead from the church down to the roadway. Large mature trees are located along the rear and the northern side of the building. A parking lot and mobile home are located just to the south of the building, and foundation plants surround the building.

The Sardis Baptist Church is a rectangular-shaped wood-framed building constructed c.1859. The architectural features of the front-gabled building include boxed cornice; frieze and architrave with returns; decorative Italianate-style roof line brackets; and diamond-shaped vents in front and rear gables. Two six-over-six double-hung windows are located on the front facade at balcony level centered over the symmetrical front doors, and three 20-over-20 double-hung windows are located along the northern and southern elevations. Wooden one-piece shutters are located in all the exterior windows. An original panel door, which leads to the balcony level, is located on the northern side of the building, and a new door and handicapped accessibility ramp, located on the south side of the building, were added in 1996.

The interior walls and 16-foot-high ceiling are clad with horizontal board and batten, and the original floor was covered with oak flooring in the early 1970s. Interior features include plain, chamfered, eight-inch baseboards and 16-inch-high plain wainscoting with five-inch-wide chamfered board at the window sill level. A balcony extends approximately 11 feet from the west wall, and the pulpit is located at the east end of the building. The balcony and space below the balcony were enclosed

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

c.1942, but sliding doors allow a view from the enclosed rooms into the church. Three sections of wooden benches create two aisles in line with the two front doors. Two original doors, which are directly in line with the front two doors, are located on either side of the pulpit which lead to a small rear addition built in 1949.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

Period of Significance:

c.1859-1947

Significant Dates:

c.1859 Construction of the Sardis Baptist Church.
c.1942 Interior remodeled.

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Sardis Baptist Church is a rare, ornate, rural church that has remained a viable building since its construction. The church is significant in the areas of architecture and religion.

The Sardis Baptist Church is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent intact example of a rural, gable-front church with Italianate features. Its quality and design is unusually sophisticated, showing great attention to detail and proportion. Intact historic features include boxed eaves with returns, overhanging eaves with brackets, and diamond-shaped vents in the front and rear gables. According to the Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings context, the Italianate style occurred in Georgia immediately preceding the Civil War and through the Reconstruction years, 1850s to the 1870s. The style was never very popular due to the overwhelming popularity of the Greek Revival style in Georgia. The distinguishing features include widely overhanging boxed eaves with decorative brackets that emphasize the cornice. The Sardis Baptist Church is a rare example of this style since the Italianate style was mostly found in more urban areas.

The Sardis Baptist Church is significant in the area of religion. The Sardis Baptist Church was formally organized in 1835 and its early meeting took place in a school house located about one mile south from the existing church building. The congregation built the church c.1859 on land donated by congregation members. Therefore, the Sardis Baptist Church is significant in religion since it is considered to be one of the oldest rural religious buildings in northwest Georgia to continuously serve its original congregation.

National Register Criteria

The Sardis Baptist Church is eligible under Criterion A as one of the oldest rural religious buildings remaining in northwest Georgia, and eligible under Criterion C as a rare, ornate, rural church built c.1859 in the Italianate style.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The Sardis Baptist Church is eligible under Criterion Consideration A since it derives its significance from its development as one of the oldest religious building located in northwest Georgia and from its architecture.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Sardis Baptist Church began c.1860, the construction date of the building, and ends in 1947, the end of the historic period. The Sardis Baptist Church has continued and maintained its original function as a church since its construction to the present.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The one contributing resource consists of the Sardis Baptist Church, constructed c.1859. The two noncontributing resources consist of a concrete block pump house, constructed in the 1960s, and a mobile home placed just south of the church building c.1986.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

A historical sketch written in 1896 by J.H. Glazner, then pastor of Sardis Baptist Church, gives the date of the church's organization as 1835. Meetings were held in a school house, where other denominations met, near Price's Bridge about one mile south of the present location. Chattoogaville was the name given the rural community in which the Sardis Baptist Church was organized. The community was located along the Brainard Road (also called the "Tennessee Road" or the "Alabama Road"), which ran from Tennessee through the northern western tip of Georgia into Alabama. Chattoogaville was established by farmers on the west side of a broad, fertile valley formed by the Chattooga River. Chattoogaville was originally located in Floyd County until Chattooga County was created on December 28, 1838. A post office was established at Chattoogaville on May 4, 1840 and operated until November 31, 1906. James Price was an early postmaster. Originally there were two churches and a school in the community.

The oldest existing records containing information about Sardis Baptist Church are the 1842 annual minutes of the Coosa Baptist Association. Church membership at that time was 36. A.P.H. Jordon was appointed as the first pastor of the church in 1843. By 1846 membership had declined to 29, with 19 members being white and ten black. In 1847, membership increased to 39 and in 1848 the membership increases to 47, including 35 white members and 12 black members. William Newton, who lived at Alpine, was the pastor in 1849 and is believed to have served until at least 1853 or 1854. Total church membership in 1849 was 48.

On January 30, 1860, the heirs of James and Sarah Price, Eliza A. Jones, R.O. Gordon, Augustus C. Price, and Jefferson Johnson, donated "one acre of land upon which to build a church ... to the left of the public road leading from Summerville to Gaylesville" to Elijah Adams and Joseph Weaver, deacons of Sardis Church. The deed stipulated that the property could not be used for a burial ground. On September 9, 1869, Eliza A. Jones gave Elijah C. Adams an additional two acres for the

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

use of Sardis Baptist Church, again with the stipulation that no portion of the property could be used for a grave yard.

The Sardis Baptist Church was a charter member of the Chattooga Baptist Association when it was organized in October 1892. The association was composed of thirteen churches from the Coosa and Cave Spring Baptist Associations. J.H. Glazner was church pastor for much of the period from the 1860s to the early 1900s, serving on three different occasions. M.C. Jackson was pastor from 1891-93, followed by W.M. Bridges in 1893. J.H. Glazner served from 1893 to 1899 and was followed by M.N. McCall for one year. Reverend Glazner served for a third time from 1901 to 1904. Glazner is also recorded as being the first mayor of Lyerly (1891-99).

The Sardis Baptist Church experienced some of its best days in the 1890s, while J.H. Glazner was pastor. In 1895 church membership reached a high of 189. By 1901, however, membership had dropped to 98. Apparently, by 1896 a school building had been erected just south of the church building on church property. On May 1, 1896, the deacons of Sardis Baptist Church donated one acre of land and the school building thereon to the trustees of Chattoogaville high school. This school building no longer exists. Other pastors to serve at Sardis during the first three decades of the twentieth century include the following: J.M. Smith, W.N. Griffith, T.J. Tribble, J.S. Seymore, G.C. Garrison, and J.A. Sentell. David B. Maffett was made pastor of the church in 1928 and served until his retirement in 1951. During this time, several changes were made to the church building. The Chattooga Baptist Association assisted in restoring and replacing the roof of the building in 1942. Electric power was installed in 1944, and the three-room Sunday school addition was built in 1949. Marshall Dyches served as pastor from 1951 to 1954, during which time the church went from half-time to full-time service. The Sardis Baptist Church held a week-long sesquicentennial celebration from August 4 to August 11, 1985. Presently, the church holds three services per week and has an average attendance of 52. There are current plans call for the construction of a fellowship hall on the property in the near future.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Lathan, Dan H. Jr. "Sardis Baptist Church," Historic Property Information Form, July 17, 1996.
On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- 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, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 643130 Northing 3802140

Verbal Boundary Description

The Sardis Baptist Church property is indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy black line. The only map available showing the current legal description of the property is Chattooga County Tax Map 21 with a scale of 1"=660'.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Sardis Baptist Church encompasses the church and its associated remaining historic acreage, which is represented by the current legal boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 1997

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Dan H. Latham, Jr./Preservation Planner
organization Coosa Valley Regional Development Center
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() **consultant**
(x) **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Sardis Baptist Church
City or Vicinity: Chattoogaville
County: Chattooga
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 1996

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 6 View of the Sardis Baptist Church; photographer facing east.
- 2 of 6 View of the front and south elevation; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 6 View of the front facade; photographer facing east.
- 4 of 6 View of rear facade; photographer facing west.
- 5 of 6 View of interior (towards balcony); photographer facing west.
- 6 of 6 View of interior (towards pulpit); photographer facing east.

SITE MAP AND PHOTO KEY

Sardis Baptist Church
Chattoogaville, Chattooga County, Georgia
Not to scale

○ = Photo number and direction



