

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0280445 DATA SHEET

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **SEP 25 1975**

DATE ENTERED **NOV 20 1975**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. John's-in-the-Prairie

AND/OR COMMON

St. John's-in-the-Prairie

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

C.R.
Green County Road #4

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Forkland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Alabama

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

01

COUNTY

Greene

CODE

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

STREET & NUMBER

521 North 20th Street

CITY, TOWN

Birmingham

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Greene County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Eutaw

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1935

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 type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1870</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's-In-The-Prairie is a one story rectangular board and batten structure with pointed arch windows and doorways.

The roofline consists of a sloping line which starts at one angle and then continues at a different angle creating a soaring effect emphasized by the vertical battens and the three windows of the facade. Two windows located on either side of the entrance are extremely narrow, but the window above the entrance is of a standard pointed arch size.

The narthex roofline is straight but flairs slightly at the eave line reflecting the roofline of the central portion of the church.

A pointed arch forms the entrance of the narthex. The wall within this section of the facade is faced with horizontal siding. The entrance door is in the form of a truncated drawn curtain arch framed with simple wooden molding following the shape of the door.

A unique feature of the church is a side entrance located on the right which is similar to the narthex.

Side windows of the nave are all pointed arch designs.

The interior has pointed arches to support the peaked roof which is painted blue with gold stars. The chancel windows are a grouping of three pointed arch windows.

A vestry room with a roofline lower in height than the main body of the church is located on the left. A pointed arch door leads to the outside.

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 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 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 1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's-In-The-Prairie at Forkland, Alabama, is an excellently proportioned, small, rural Gothic church which has been attributed to Richard Upjohn. The church has several features which make it unique among the Protestant Episcopal churches of Alabama. The curved roofline, found in none of the other churches, serves to make the building more Gothic in feeling. A covered side entrance similar to the narthex is also unique.

Traditionally the church has been attributed to Richard Upjohn, but documentary evidence is lacking.

The church was originally erected nine miles southwest of Greensboro where it was known as St. John's-In-The-Prairie. In 1870, the building was moved to Forkland, and in 1878-9 it was re-erected at Forkland.

The building was constructed in 1859. Bishop Cobb stated in his "Bishop's Address" in 1858 that the old building was in a very dilapidated condition, but efforts were being made for the erection of a new building.

In 1859 Reverend Francis R. Hanson reported that nearly \$2,500 has been raised to build a new church, and that "a contract had been entered into with a carpenter to erect on the site of the old church a neat Gothic building which should be ready for consecration within a few months."

