

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

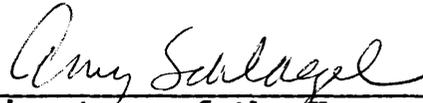
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88003078  
Old Brick Presbyterian Church  
Property Name

Date Listed: 1/9/89  
Colbert AL  
County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

1/9/89  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Since this is a religious property, and includes a cemetery, Criteria Considerations A and D should be checked.

Discussed and concurred in by Alabama SHPO on December 9, 1989.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 02 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Old Brick Presbyterian Church  
other names/site number Old Brick Presbyterian Church

2. Location

street & number Old Brick Road, north of Leighton  not for publication  
city, town Leighton  vicinity  
state Alabama code AL county Colbert code 033 zip code 35660

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 11-29-88  
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. [Signature] 1/9/89  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion-church

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion-church

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls exterior - brickinterior - plasterroof asphalt shinglesother \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Old Brick Presbyterian Church is situated in a grove of century-old cedar trees facing north, one mile north of Leighton. The Federal style building replaced an earlier frame meeting house which was destroyed by fire in 1824. The congregation formed in 1820 as the Mt. Pleasant Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The congregation split in the early 1900s, and one faction became the Old Brick Church. Architectural evidence suggests that the present building may date from the 1830s or 1840s, but church tradition places the date at 1828. The land the church sits on was bought from the government in 1818 by Moniah Hampton. Hampton also bought the land the cemetery is on in 1831. The church session report records plans to repair and plaster the church in April 1839. Church legend and the existence of a frame church before the brick building cloud the exact date of construction. However, the Old Brick Church is among the state's oldest extant church buildings.

The brick building is one-story with a three-bay facade, brick foundation, and gable roof. Along each side of the building, two sets of double-arched art glass windows appear to be a variation on the "Davisean" windows first utilized by New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis as early as the 1830s. They are casement on the bottom section and topped with a segmental arch. Alba Wood, a now destroyed residence in neighboring Lauderdale County dating from 1838, had similar large, narrow double windows. Early photographs of Old Brick Church reveal that the double-arched windows were originally filled with plain, multi-lighted triple-hung sashes. The Art glass was added in 1956 by members of the church in memory of loved ones. Pilasters are on either side of the windows and on the ends of the building. The pillars were originally molded at the top and carried a plain wooden entablature. Presently the pilasters are topped with molded concrete and painted white.

The facade is composed of three recessed brick bays interrupted by the central door. The double-leaf doors are surmounted by an art glass transom. Art glass windows also flank the front door on the ground floor and gallery level. The art glass transom dates from the early 1900s. When built, the facade had no windows and the transom was merely a blind arch. The four windows were cut in the front around the turn-of-the-century. An additional pair of windows of similar size was cut into the rear elevation about the same time. All the windows are now filled with 20th-century diamond-paned art glass with a casement lower section. The arched doorway originally contained double-leaf doors, each with two vertical panels. The doors were replaced with un-paneled double-leaf doors in 1975.

The exterior brick was kiln-fired and the interior brick sun-dried. The clay for the brick was taken from a pit still visible at the southwest corner of the building.

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Slaves possibly made the brick and the hand-hewn shingles and pews. The roof was originally wood shingle, replaced with tin in the 1930s, and with asphalt shingles in 1976.

The interior features original plaster walls and the original plain board hand-hewn "slip" pews. The pews were divided down the middle to separate men and women. The pews were cushioned in the mid-1960s. The rear of the sanctuary features a narrow slave gallery with a paneled facing. In 1950 the gallery was enclosed underneath to provide Sunday School rooms. A curtain partition was installed upstairs in the gallery to divide Sunday School classes. A single flight stairway on the west side leads to the gallery.

Major changes have occurred in the pulpit and choir area across the front. Originally a raised platform in the center measuring 14 feet wide and 9 feet deep held only the pulpit. The platform was flanked by pews in each corner. The pulpit area has a railing along the front. Four pews, which face the altar, are on either side of the platform.

Two square pillars carry the roof and are located on axis down the center of the church. A brass chandelier suspended from the center ceiling of the sanctuary was donated to the church in 1885.

A modern brick manse lies to the east side of the church and is a noncontributing building. A 1950s concrete educational building is on the south side and is also noncontributing. An early cemetery is located to the west of the church with many early 19th-century tombstones of church founders and members. The cemetery also contains many fine Victorian stones and Woodsmen of the World markers. The cemetery, located adjacent to the church, is an integral part of the site and contributes to the church site.

Contributing: 2

Noncontributing: 2

## Integrity

Exterior changes in the church occurred at the turn-of-the-century when windows were cut into the front and rear facade of the church. The changes did not harm the bulk, rhythm, or symmetry of the church. The capitals of the pilasters on the sides of the building were changed, but this is an unobtrusive alteration. The original cornice was also removed and replaced because of natural erosion.

On the interior the platform, which holds the pulpit, was expanded in the early 19th century. The gallery was enclosed underneath in 1950. However, the interior still holds the original gallery, pews, and pulpit. None of the changes have affected the Federal character of the building or its interior plan.

**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)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1830s

1830 to 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1830s

c. 1900s

Cultural Affiliation

none

Significant Person

none

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Criterion C - Architecture

The Federal design, local craftsmanship, and interior arrangement of seating make the church architecturally significant. The church was constructed by local labor and planned by members of the church. Kiln-dried and sun-dried bricks of local clay were used in the construction. Despite alterations to the building, it is significant for its Federal design. The pilasters and arched doorway are typical of the Federal style. The exterior changes did not alter the symmetry, bulk, or rhythm of the building. The interior contains the original slave gallery and hand-hewn pews. The pews divided men from women, and the gallery separated blacks and whites. The interior design is significant for its division of sexes and races.

Criterion A - Social History

In the rural community of Bricksville the church held an important judicial role over the congregation. Church members guilty of drinking, cursing, slander, and other offenses were called before the church session. Members confessed their sins in front of the congregation or were removed from the church. The church established an important judicial role in the community by policing the moral standards of the members.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Session Minutes and Church Register of Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Oct. 8, 1831-Sept. 1, 1854.  
Session Minutes and Church Register of Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Aug. 9, 1908-April 2, 1944.  
Lawrence Co. Tract Book, Page 198.  
Gentry, Dorothy. Life & Legend of Lawrence County, Alabama, Tuscaloosa, 1962.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # AL-382
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Old Brick Presbyterian Church

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 6 acres

UTM References

A 

1	6
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4	5	2	0	2	0
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3	8	4	7	5	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Commence at the NW corner of the said section 30; thence east a distance of 1021.5' to the point of beginning of the tract herein described; thence 57° 29' E along an old fence a distance of 495.25' to a point; thence East along an old fence a distance of 648.8' to a point; thence N 1° 35' W a distance of 459.3' to a point in the south line of Mt. Pleasant Rd; thence West along the south line of Mt. Pleasant Road, a distance of 671.5' to the point of beginning, the tract herein described and containing around seven acres.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries reflect the land currently owned by the church which contains the church building and related cemetery and buildings.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mary Mason Shell/Cultural Resources Coordinator  
organization Alabama Historical Commission date September 1988  
street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184  
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130

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## HISTORICAL SUMMARY

From 1780 to 1800 the Brick community was established by trappers and farmers who settled among the Indians. In 1830 a Post Office was established in Bricksville. By the early 1800s many residents began working to establish a Presbyterian church. Carson P. Reed, a traveling preacher, held a revival in the community in 1812. The revival was held for two weeks, and 45 family heads received baptism and communion. These members agreed to establish a church with Rev. Reed as their preacher. They formed the Cumberland Presbyterian Church under Carson P. Reed in October 1828.

In September 1837 the session required each member to contribute 12½ cents toward a church fund. In April 1839 the session planned to plaster and repair the church. The architectural evidence suggests the church was constructed in the 1830s or 1840s. The church fund and repairs mentioned in the session records support an 1830s date to the church, not 1828 which is the date supported by current church members.

The Old Brick Church building was used to host several revivals and held a music school in 1905. The church body also provided a judicial service to the community. The church elders would call members guilty of wrongdoings before the church session. Members could be called up for slander of fellow church members, drinking alcohol, adultery, and any other act classified as immoral behavior by the session. The punishment ranged from having to confess the wrong before the congregation on several consecutive Sundays to complete renunciation of the wrongdoer as a member of the church. The church session records list several members who were dismissed from the church body. The church established an important judicial role in the community by policing the moral standards of the members.

The church, constructed of brick from local clay, exhibits local craftsmanship. Local farmers and probably their slaves furnished the labor for constructing the church. A depression in the ground where the laborers got the clay is still visible at the southwest corner of the church. Exterior bricks were kiln-dried, and the interior bricks sun-dried. Local labor also made the hand-hewn pews, still in use today, and the original hand-hewn shingles which were replaced with asphalt shingles. Church records do not name an architect or builder responsible for the design but state the congregation built the church. The fine craftsmanship and design of the church are a result of local building techniques.

The interior of the church is significant for its spatial arrangement of members. The gallery, which is still present but altered, seated slaves apart from the white congregation. Antebellum farmers encouraged slaves to participate in religion. In particular, the Presbyterian church encouraged the religious education of slaves by appointing committees to investigate proper procedures and catechetical classes for the religious education of blacks. Slaves are recorded in the baptismal records of the church. The Old Brick Church congregation provided slaves with church membership, baptism, seating, and religious education in a segregated environment. After the Civil War another church building was constructed for black members, but many chose to remain in Old Brick Church.

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Information in items 1-5 is the same for nos. 1-8

No. 1

- 1) Old Brick Church, Old Brick Road
- 2) Leighton, Alabama, Colbert County
- 3) Unknown
- 4) 1982
- 5) Alabama Historical Commission
- 6) interior chandelier

No. 2

- 6) pulpit and pews

No. 3

- 6) north - gallery

No. 4

- 6) pulpit and pews

No. 5

- 6) pulpit

No. 6

- 6) Southwest - facade and east elevation

No. 7

- 6) Southeast - facade and west elevation

No. 8

- 6) Southwest - rear and east elevation

No. 9

- 1) Old Brick Church, Old Brick Road
- 2) Brickville, Alabama, Colbert County
- 3) Unknown
- 4) c. 1900
- 5) Unknown
- 6) Southwest - facade and east elevation

