

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 2 1985

date entered AUG 1 1985

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

1. Name

historic N.A.

and/or common Historic Churches of Canon

2. Location

street & number Broad Street at Central Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Canon N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Franklin code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" 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 Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Franklin County Courthouse

city, town Gainesville state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structural Field Survey
title Franklin County

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Historic Churches of Canon district is comprised of three wood-framed churches, Canon Baptist, Canon Universalist, and Canon Methodist, located within a two-acre area on Broad Street in the center of the small town of Canon. The Baptist and Universalist Churches are located on the east side of Broad Street and the Methodist on the west side. The predominant architectural character of the district is that of rural, plain-styled, turn-of-the-century vernacular churches.

The Canon Baptist Church, constructed in 1896, is the oldest of the three churches. Its dominant architectural feature is the central projecting multi-sided tower with central window, two entrance portals, and multi-gable roof, and decorative chisel-cut shingles on the main facade gable roof. The interior of the church has original pews and pulpit furniture. A two-story addition has been added to the rear of the building.

The Universalist Church, located just south of the Baptist Church, is a rectangular building with a corner tower on the south side of the principal facade and a small projecting chancel on the rear facade. Significant architectural features include Gothic-arched doors and windows with stained glass, and louvered windows. The interior has original pews, wainscoting, and pulpit furniture.

The Canon Methodist Church is a rectangular structure with gable roof, central tower with entrance portal, gable roof and spire, pointed arched stained-glass windows, and one-story rear addition. Vinyl siding has recently been added over the original weatherboard siding. The interior of the church has original ceiling and new pews, choir, and pulpit furniture.

The churches are situated on the center of their lots, facing Broad Street, the major highway through Canon. The district is informally landscaped with grass, trees, shrubs, and sidewalks.

The district is located in the general area bordered by Church Street to the east, Central Avenue to the north, and Broad Street to the southwest. The district boundary is based on the current legal boundary description for each church property. The district is surrounded by a mix of historic and non-historic residential and commercial development.

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

Specific dates 1896 - 1905 **Builder/Architect** James Fleming

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Churches of Canon district is significant in the areas of architecture, communications, religion, and local history.

In terms of architecture, the district is important for its grouping of three turn-of-the-century vernacular churches, located within a two-acre area of Broad Street in the center of Canon. Such a grouping of churches is relatively unusual in small Georgia towns. The wood-framed structures themselves are representative of small-town churches in rural areas in Georgia and the southeast in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Sited on a slight rise of ground, they are also the largest and most architecturally imposing historic structures in the small town of Canon.

The district is significant in the area of communications for its association with the Universalist Herald, a religious publication of the Universalist-Unitarian Church that was purchased by John M. Bowers in 1896 from John C. Burruss of Notasulga, Alabama. The office of the Universalist Herald was moved to Canon where it continued as a religious weekly paper with a national distribution. Today, the paper is printed monthly and is still produced in Canon.

In terms of religion, the district is significant for representing the development of three religious institutions that served the spiritual and social needs of the citizens of Canon and surrounding rural communities at the turn of the century and continues to serve their needs today. These three churches represent Canon's importance as a community center. The district is important in the area of local history, for its association with Billy Bowers who was the first preacher at Canon Baptist Church in 1896, and with Reverend J.F. Yarborough who was partly responsible for the establishment of the Canon Methodist Church in 1905, and with John M. Bowers (brother of Billy Bowers) who helped establish the Canon Universalist Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jaeger, Dale. "Historic Churches of Canon - Historic District Information Form". March 1984. (On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natrual Resources).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres approximately

Quadrangle name Royston, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

1	7	3	0	5	9	5	1	0	3	8	0	1	2	1	0	0
Zone	Easting						Northing									

C

1	7	3	0	5	8	1	0	3	8	0	1	2	1	1	9	0
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

See description and justification included in Section 7 (last paragraph). The boundary, which follows property lines, is drawn to scale on the attached "property/sketch map".

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date 5-30-85

street & number 270 Washington Street SW telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/13/85

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

for Flores, Byron Entered in the National Register date 8-1-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date


Chief of Registration


Historic Churches of Canon
Canon, Franklin County, Georgia

Property/Sketch Map:

Scale: 1 inch = 500 feet

Direction of photograph:

District boundary: 

North: 

2

