

1350  
Rural Churches of Baldwin County

#2 01 26 1988

(Thematic Group)

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Historic Name: Latham United Methodist Church

Common Name: Latham United Methodist Church

Location: East side Highway 59, Latham

Verbal Boundary Description:

Begin at the intersection of Highway 59 and County Road 96, proceed up Highway 59 in a northerly direction more or less 1.7 miles to a point on the east side of Highway 59. From there proceed in a northwesterly direction 240 feet along the shoulder of Highway 59 to a point, thence east 570 feet to a point, thence southwesterly 240 feet to a point, thence west 570 feet to the point of beginning.

Acreeage: 3.1

UTM: 16/420/760/3440/600

Date of Construction: 1906

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance

Criterion C-Architecture:

The Latham United Methodist Church is significant as the best of three surviving frame vernacular Gothic Revival religious buildings in Baldwin County. It is also significant for the almost total lack of interior or exterior alterations.

Integrity:

Latham United Methodist Church retains its integrity of location, materials and design. Exterior changes to this church are limited to concrete steps with iron rails and wire underpinning between the brick piers. Interior integrity is excellent as well. Carpet down the aisles and new light fixtures are the only interior alterations. Original ceilings, walls and pews remain.

Description:

The Latham United Methodist Church sits on the east side of Highway 59 north of Stockton. It is a one-and-a-half story frame, 2x4 bay structure resting on brick piers. There is a gable roof to the front and a two-story tower with pyramidal roof at the northwest corner of the building. The facade features a large lancet window center with a smaller one above in the half story. The square corner tower features two, 4 panel doors with a transom. A hipped skirt delineates the second story of the tower which features louvered lancets and a pyramidal roof with wooden spire caps the whole. The main roof line flairs slightly along the sides and features a boxed cornice.

The sanctuary is a single open space with an elliptical beaded board ceiling and beaded board wainscoting with chair-rail. The sanctuary is entered through the tower. The double wooden doors into the building are angled so as to be a corner entrance. Pews are divided by two aisles and a balustraded chancery rail fronts the altar.


Historical Summary:

Latham, known as Red Hill until 1878, had a Methodist congregation as early as 1847. Members met in a log house half a mile from the present building. The community, located several miles north of Stockton, was a loose collection of farmers and lumber men. A post office was organized in 1878 and the community's name changed to Latham. A frame church was erected in 1886 by the Methodists but was destroyed shortly thereafter. The present church building was constructed in 1906 on donated land for \$1500. Today the congregation consists of 19 members.

Contributing Building	1
Contributing Site	$\frac{1}{2}$
Total	2

#2

5


  
 2
   
 74 Ac. (c)

Latham Methodist Church
   
 Latham, Baldwin County, Alabama

Scale 1"=400'

3
   
 57 Ac(c)

242.14' 343'
   
 4
   
 293.4' 237'

5
   
 66 Ac

N

100'

+

90' 119.46' 225' s
   
 155' s 200'
   
 240(s) 570(s)
   
 8
   
 570(s) 240(s)

59

HWY

7
   
 80 Ac. (c)

24