

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **MAY 9 1986**

date entered **JUN 5 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Adams Grove Presbyterian Church

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number South side of Cahaba-Greenville Road NA not for publication

city, town 5 miles S.E. of Cahaba NA vicinity of congressional district 7

state Alabama code 01 county Dallas code 047

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<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 William Kendall

street & number Route 1, Box 224

city, town Sardis NA vicinity of state Alabama 36775

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dallas County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Selma state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 ~~good~~ <sup>YAM</sup> ~~fair~~  
 fair

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Adams Grove Presbyterian Church is a one-story, frame, Greek Revival structure with a gable roof. The gabled end facade features a formal pediment with a flush board tympanum above a recessed entry porch. A pair of square in-antis columns in the center of the porch opening support a complete entablature which encircles the entire building. Flanking either end of the porch is an enclosed space--one contains a stairway leading up to a balcony inside the church and the other was used as a storage area. Each of these enclosed spaces has an access door opening onto the porch. Square pilasters, matching the two center columns, decorate the corners of each of the enclosed porch ends. In the flush board back wall of the porch is a pair of double-leaf, single paneled doors leading into the sanctuary beyond. Surrounding each of these doors is an architrave with a paneled span. Above each lintel is a shuttered sash window which provides light to the balcony inside.

The exterior sides of the building are covered with shiplapped siding. Square pilasters, matching those on the facade, divide the wall surfaces into sections with each section having two, 12/12 sash, shuttered windows.

The interior of the church features original plastered walls and wide heart pine flooring. The back of the interior has a balcony supported by a pair of square columns. The solid balcony balustrade has narrow, vertical recessed panels matching the recessed paneled ceiling of the church. At the front of the sanctuary is a very fine paneled wooden pulpit dais although the pulpit itself is gone. All of the baseboards, window surrounds and architraves are original.

The churchyard features a very fine 19th century cemetery with good examples of Greek Revival and Victorian tombstones.

Total Contributing Properties: 2

# 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** c. 1853      **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Adams Grove Presbyterian Church is significant as one of the least altered of the seven antebellum Greek Revival-style rural churches surviving in Dallas County, a county which boasts one of the highest concentrations in Alabama of early 19th century religious structures.

The Adams Grove Church well illustrates two aspects of rural 19th-century religious building practice in Alabama: (1) the reinterpretation of high-style characteristics in the austere meetinghouses traditional to evangelical Protestant worship; (2) the tendency for such meetinghouses, like other building types, to develop a certain peculiarly local architectural flavor. Thus the simple Greek Revival finish which occurs both inside and outside the building--a formal pedimented front, the in-antis portico with molded piers, corresponding molded pilasters at the front and along each side--lent an air of austere dignity without violating the basic tenets of Calvinistic worship. At the same time, the church itself deliberately imitated in overall style and form a larger Presbyterian Church built a few years earlier in the nearby community of Pleasant Hill. This pattern for churches within a given area to emulate a prototype structure, especially one of the same denomination, was a recurring theme throughout early and mid-nineteenth century Alabama.

Integrity:

The Adams Grove Church is one of the least altered structurally of all the antebellum churches in Dallas County. Except for the removal of the pews, the church retains all of its original architectural elements, including a slave gallery and paneled pulpit dais.

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Historical Summary:

On Nov. 13, 1837, John Sorrel conveyed the land described as being on the south side of the Cahaba-Greenville Road, five miles S.E. of Cahaba, Alabama to Thomas Watt and John Smith, deacons of the Shiloh Baptist Church, with the stipulation that the land would revert to Sorrel or his heirs, if it ceased to be used as a church site. Deed book T page 363 and 364 indicates that the land did indeed revert to Sorrel's daughter and son-in-law Henry and Rebecca Adams in 1853. The Shiloh Baptist Church, now located a few miles away in Sardis, was relocated to its current location, therefore, before 1853.

On Oct. 11, 1853 Henry Adams sold two and one-half acres of the former Shiloh Church site, including a graveyard and spring, to William S. Smith and Philip Millrous, trustees, for the purpose of erecting a Presbyterian Church. Adams Grove Church, therefore, was probably constructed shortly after this transaction.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Selma and Dallas County, 150 Years, (Selma Printing Service, 1968).  
Dallas County Courthouse Deed and Will Book Records

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7.8

Quadrangle name Selma

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	6	4	9	7	1	0	0	3	5	7	0	4	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14, Township 15 N. R. 10E. Deed Book 281, pg. 137.  
(see continuation sheet)

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Gamble and Tom Dolan, Architectural Historians

organization Alabama Historical Commission date 1/86

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

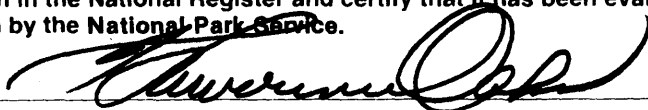
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

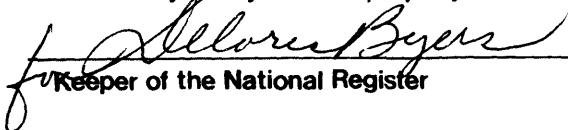


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-17-86

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6-5-86

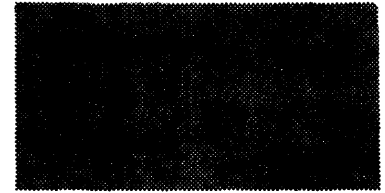
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Beginning at a marked Pine on the South side of the road running from Cahaba to Greenville known as the Greenville Road, and running northwardly nine (9) chains to a stake, thence square off westwardly ten (10) chains & thirty-two links to a stake thence square off southwardly nine chains to a marked Pine, thence square off eastwardly ten (10) chains & thirty-two (32) links to the point of beginning, including the site of said Adams Grove Presbyterian Church and the grave yard attached thereto.