

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 5 1987

date entered JUL 9 1987

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

1. Name

historic Dove Creek Baptist Church

and or common same

2. Location

street & number State Highway 72, just west of Elberton N/A not for publication

city, town Elberton N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Elbert code 105

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dove Creek Baptist Church c/o Mrs. Genora H. Biggs

street & number 361 Mill Street

city, town Elberton N/A vicinity of state Georgia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Elbert County Courthouse

city, town Elberton state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1979</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

#### Description

Dove Creek Baptist Church, constructed around 1880, is a one-story, wood-framed vernacular building with a front-gabled roof. It is located in a wooded rural setting on the south side of State Highway 72 about 5 miles west of Elberton. It was moved from a similar rural site one-fourth mile southeast of the present site in 1979, as a result of problems caused by vandalism and access. The church rests on a new concrete block foundation and has new wood steps at the front entrance. The double entrance door has a simple roof canopy. Other exterior architectural features include four-over-four double hung sash windows, fish-scale siding, and a louvered window on the front gable of the main facade, and a rear three sided addition that was added around 1952. The interior of the church has its original wainscoting, windows, and pews. The original tongue-and-groove ceiling, and flooring are intact underneath the existing materials.

The church is sited in a cleared, level area with a forest of pine trees to the rear. A Sunday School Annex about 50 feet adjacent to the church is under construction.

#### Boundary

Because this building has been moved, because its significance rests largely with its architectural features and historical associations to the building itself, and because the setting of the building, although similar to its original setting, is relatively undifferentiated in terms of topography and landscaping, the nominated property in this case consists of the building itself and just the land upon which the building sits.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

**Specific dates** 1880 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### Significance

Dove Creek Baptist Church is significant in the areas of architecture, black history, and religion.

In terms of architecture, the property is important as one of few remaining examples of small rural black churches built in the late 19th century in northeast Georgia. Founded by a small group of rural blacks who wanted their own church after the Civil War, Dove Creek Baptist Church is similar to other late 19th century rural black churches in Georgia in its simple frame construction and rectangular shape with gabled roof and little architectural detailing. Other characteristic features are the central entrance, rear extension, and weatherboard siding. Although the building was moved, it retains its overall structural integrity. In addition its new rural setting, which is only one-fourth mile to the northwest from its original location is virtually identical to its original setting and share the same relationship to the nearby Hamlet of Dove Creek. Because of its architectural characteristics, the property meets National Register Criteria C.

Dove Creek Baptist Church is significant in the areas of black history and religion for its association with a small black congregation, many members of which were former slaves and sharecroppers, who withdrew from the predominantly white Dove Creek Church after the Civil War to organize their own church. The original church land was donated by Mr. Al Oliver (1816 - 1882), a white landowner and former slaveowner in Elbert County. This small rural church is representative of the independent black religious community that withdrew from the older white church following emancipation, a practice that was common in Georgia and throughout the south in the latter part of the 19th century. The congregation consisted of about 50 to 75 members in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and it is still active today with about 75 to 100 members.

### Context

In 1984, Carole Merritt authored a study for the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office entitled Historic Black Resources. This publication documented, in general terms, the history and development of African-American resources in Georgia. Prominent among the important property types identified in this handbook is the late 19th-century rural church. In every respect, the Dove Creek Church fits the model of this important property type.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mims, Ed and M.J. Eaves. "Historic Property Information Form-Dove Creek Baptist Church", 1985. (On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Elberton West, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	1	7
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3	1	1	9	9	1	2	1	0
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3	1	7	7	1	1	7	1	0	1	0
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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Section 7

### 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 May 19, 1987

street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E. 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 6/1/87

### For NPS use only

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

for Moore Byers Entered in the National Register date 7-9-87  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   2  

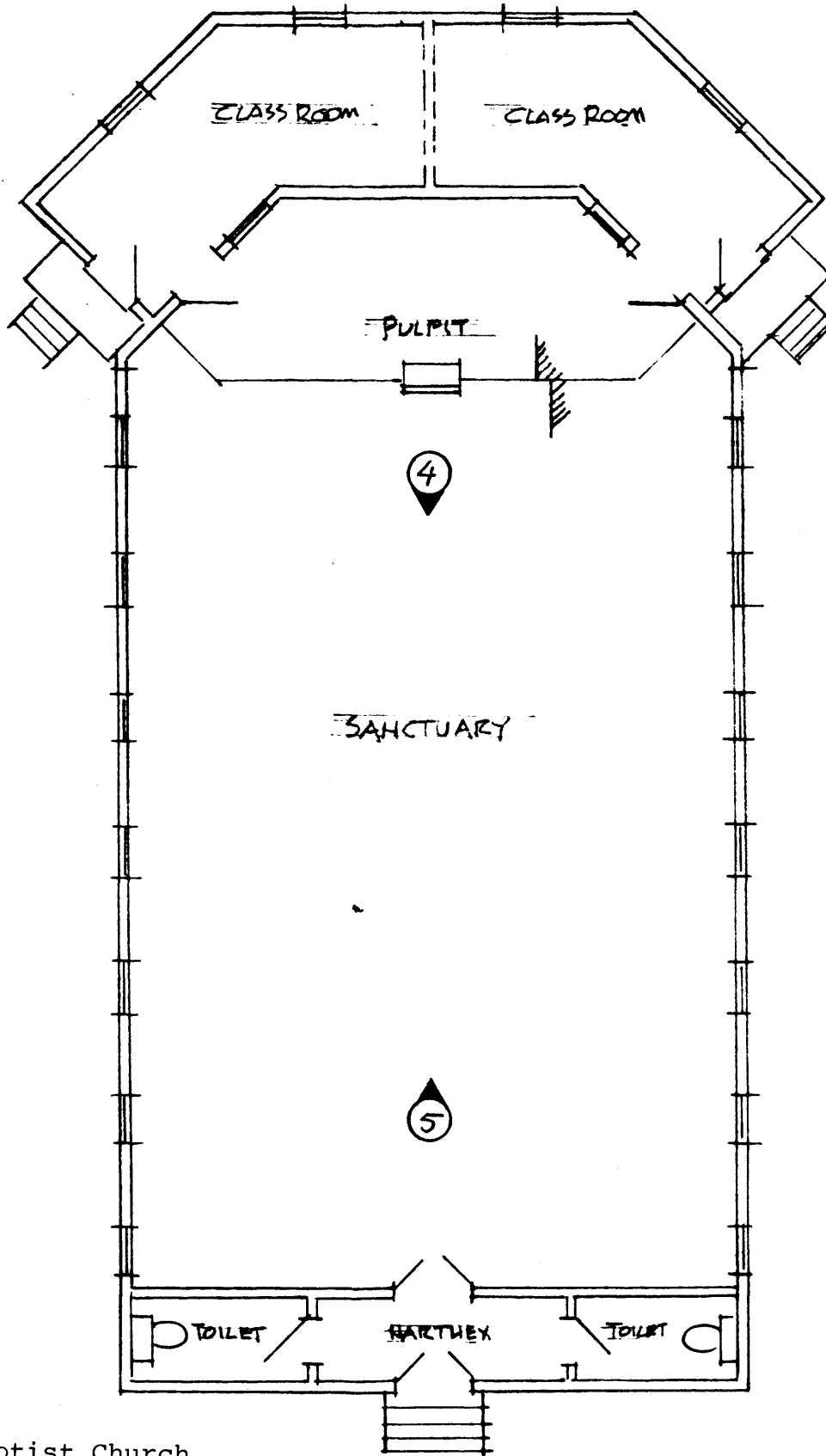
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National Register Criteria

Because it represents an important historic property type, with its characteristic features, the Dove Creek Baptist Church meets National Register Criteria "C". Because of its associations with the growth of free black congregations in rural areas of Georgia after the Civil War, it meets National Register Criteria "A". The historical and architectural significance of this church satisfies the requirement of Criteria Consideration "A" pertaining to religious properties. Because of its significance as a historic building and the only "public" historic structure associated with the postbellum rural black community of Dove Creek, and because the building was moved only a short distance to a compatible location, it satisfies the requirement of Criteria Consideration "B" pertaining to moved structures.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

1 contributing building



Dove Creek Baptist Church  
 Elberton, Elbert County, Georgia

1/2" PLAN & SCALE

Floor Plan

No scale

Photograph: (4)

North:

1ST CHURCH - ELBERTON, GA.

JUN 5 1987