

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **OCT 17 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic First Presbyterian Church of Talladega Alabama

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 130 North Street ^E East N/A not for publication

city, town Talladega N/A vicinity of

state Alabama code 01 county Talladega code 121

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The First Presbyterian Church of Talladega

street & number ATTN: Rev. W. H. Ralston 130 North Street East

city, town Talladega N/A vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talladega County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Talladega 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

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	(minor)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This is a one-story, brick church with an entrance tower and a series of smaller additions on the rear which replaced a small, semi-octagonal apse during this century. The main block of the building measures 58' X 46' and rests on a low brick foundation. The exterior exhibits the major characteristics of the Romanesque Revival, particularly as it was popularized by Samuel Sloan--round-arched windows with heavy hoodmolds, corbled dripmolds, recessed panels, triple round-arched windows in the tower and blind roundels.

In 1910 a small addition was made to the rear to house church support functions and a Sunday school, and in 1949 another addition was made. In 1966, the two earlier additions were rearranged and a third constructed.

The original structure has been little altered. The heating system, originally wood or coal heaters, was replaced first by a hot water furnace and later by gas. The kerosene lamps were converted to gas and later electric lights were installed and the original gas chandeliers removed. A pressed tin ceiling was added probably at the same time. In 1915 the clear glass windows were replaced by art glass. The interior finishes and trim appear to date from this time. At some point the wooden steps were replaced by concrete and in 1957 the steps to the balcony were reversed. Doors leading from the original building to the new additions were added, one in 1949 and the false door opposite was, in 1966, converted to a real opening. These doors are at the front of the sanctuary; prior to 1949 access to the newer part of the building was through a door in the choir loft.

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 1860–1868 **Builder/Architect** Possibly John S. Stewart

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Presbyterian Church of Talladega is architecturally significant as the most fully-developed of the mid-19th century Neo-Romanesque churches built in Alabama. The building has many features of the style as it was popularized by Samuel Sloan and may have been based on a plate from Sloan's The Model Architect. There are three other 19th century churches with strong similarities to the Talladega church--The First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville (1859–1865, NRHP), Kahl Montgomery (1862) and the First United Methodist Church, Oxford (1875)--leading to speculation that John S. Stewart, Sloan's partner may have provided the plans for these buildings. The Talladega church is the most orthodox expression and the only one to retain (or to have originally had) a monumental spire,

* * * * *

The congregation was organized November 29, 1834, in a log building near the town spring. Shortly thereafter the congregation purchased the current log for the church and erected a 30" X 40" frame building constructed by George and Charles Miller, contractors. By 1859, the congregation had outgrown the earlier structure and had raised by subscription between ten and eleven thousand dollars for the construction of the new church. The congregation determined to begin work on the church in spite of the war, operating on the theory that the money was in hand but might not be available after the war. Consequently, construction began in June of 1861. A local church historian claimed in 1893 that the plans had been provided by a Philadelphia architect and originally included a basement. The plans were subsequently loaned to a Methodist congregation who passed them on to another church. After the roof was framed and shingled, the windows and doors were closed with planking. In 1868, the congregation proceeded with the work and the building was dedicated on October 18, 1868.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Toole, Dr. B. W. "Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church of Talladega"
Read at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Dedication of the Church,
October 18, 1893

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____ .86 _____

Quadrangle name Talladega

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

116	581361010	31691971510
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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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINATION SHEET

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Rogers, Church Historian; Ellen Mertins & Robert Gamble

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date September 30, 1983

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

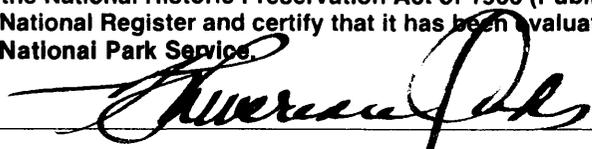
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

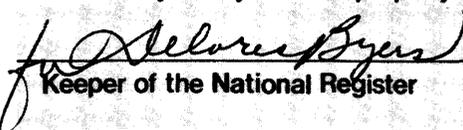


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 30, 1983

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 11/17/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY: A part of Lot No. 88 of Block 133A according to the original survey of the City of Talladega, Alabama; being 150 feet \pm easterly and westerly by 250 feet \pm northly and southerly; bounded on the east by Hill Street, on the south by North Street, and on the west and north by property of The First National Bank (formerly Isbell) of Talladega, Alabama.