



# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story church is a simple but delightful example of Greek Revival architecture. The building consists of a rectangle with pedimented gables on both front and rear. The brick work (common bond) extends up into the tympanum on both ends.

The entrance, located on the north, consists of double doors with a pilaster on each side and an entablature over the opening. There are no windows on the front elevation of the first floor level, but there are three bays of windows on the second floor that extends up through the balcony.

On the east and west sides there are five bays of windows. The lower sash are eight over eight and almost square as required by the low ceiling of the first floor. The upper sash are nine over nine and extremely long for their width. All the sash are shuttered. The lintels are limestone and the sills are wood.

An entrance door leads to a vestibule containing a circular stair on each side. Behind the vestibule is a meeting room, followed by three small rooms at the rear of the building. The meeting room has a brick floor, plaster ceiling and plaster walls down to a wood wainscot of plain boards run vertically. Two cast iron columns with integral cast iron capitols and bases carry the second floor.

The circular stairs that lead to the second floor are extremely interesting as they radiate from a semi-circular hollow core constructed of wood. This construction has not been seen in other parts of the state. One stair terminates at the second floor vestibule while the second stair continues to the balcony.

Two doors lead from the vestibule into the nave, a lofty room whose height is accented by the tall windows and the long glass lites. The window and door trim is shouldered. The doors contain four flush panels surrounded with molded stops. The room is wainscotted with vertical boards and a molded cap. The south wall is accentuated by two pilasters with a linking entablature. The original plaster ceiling has now been replaced and the original balcony is now sealed off. Wooden pews are original.

# 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 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 1857-1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Valley Creek Presbyterian Church is unequalled in Dallas County as a simple and elegant example of Greek Revival architecture, and is noted for its unusual set of curving staircases. While the structure dates from the late 1850's, the congregation is one of the oldest Presbyterian Churches in the State.

The congregation was organized by eight Scotch-Irish families who moved to the area around 1816 from Mecklenberg County, North Carolina. One of the first acts of the new congregation was the erection of a log church and the observation of a day of fasting and prayer. By 1822 the congregation numbered 57 members and in 1836 was selected as the location of the second annual meeting of the Synod of Alabama.

The present structure was built during the years 1857 and 1858 at a cost of \$15,000. The architect and builder of the structure are not known as the manse and the church records were burned during the Civil War by Wilson's Raiders.

The Valley Creek Church is the mother church of Presbyterianism in North Dallas County and has helped to found four churches in the Selma vicinity: The First Presbyterian Church, Pisgah Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church and the Alabama Avenue Presbyterian Church. During the late 19th century the basement of the structure was used for monthly meetings of the Grange.

At present the church has a sizable congregation, which along with the descendants of the original founders hosts an annual homecoming on the third Sunday in May.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Battle, Katherine Shopman, History of Valley Creek Presbyterian Church, Selma, Ala.: Hull Printing Works, 1908.
- England, Flora, Dallas County Alabama Genealogical Records; Vol. I, Tuscaloosa, Ala.: Willo Publishing Company, 1963.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.05

UTM REFERENCES

*497700*

A	1,6	46716,0,0	3,5	9,2	3,5,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd                      Nicholas H. Holmes

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

725 Monroe Street

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Montgomery

Alabama 36130

# 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

*Nils B. Howard, Jr.*

TITLE SHPO, Ala

DATE Jan. 23, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE 5/28/76

DATE 5-21-76

Keeper of the National Register

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Hardy: John, Selma: Her Institutions and Her Men,  
Selma, Ala.: Times Book and Job Office, 1879.

Hopkins, Molly Glass, Early Chronicles of Valley Creek Community,  
Privately Published by Katherine Hopkins Chapman.

Phillips, Sarah Ellen McIlwain, A Historical Sketch of Valley Creek Church,  
Unpublished, 1930.

Records from The Historical Foundation of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches,  
Montreat, N.C.