Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

PH0351121

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Claybank Log Church

AND/OR COMMON

Claybank Log Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Andrews Avenue   —NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ozark   — VICINITY OF   2

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Alabama	01	Dale	045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
—DISTRICT	—PUBLIC	—OCCUPIED	—AGRICULTURE	—MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	—COMMERCIAL	X PARK
—STRUCTURE	—BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—EDUCATIONAL	—PRIVATE RESIDENCE
—SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	—ENTERTAINMENT	—RELIGIOUS
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	—YES: RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT	—SCIENTIFIC
	—BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL	—TRANSPORTATION
		—NO	—MILITARY	—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Trustees, Claybank Memorial Association, c/o Mr. Martin Price

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN   STATE

Pinkard   — VICINITY OF   Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.   Dale County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN   STATE

Ozark   Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN   STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Claybank Church, which once formed the center of the small community of Claybank, is located on a narrow dirt road near the town limits of Ozark. The dense woods which surround the building have been thinned and cleared of underbrush to the south where picnic tables have been placed, while north of the church is a small cemetery which contains the graves of early settlers.

The church consists of a single log pen, which measures 30 feet 5 inches by 25 feet 3 inches and rests on hewn wooden sections. Walls are constructed of pine logs with rounded tops and bottoms and surfaces hewn somewhat flat. Corners are secured with dovetail notching. Logs range in diameter from 12 to 15½ inches and the walls, measuring from the top of the sill log to the bottom of the plate log, are 9 feet in height. Original flooring of one inch thick pine lumber, 10 to 12 inches in width, is still intact. Interior walls consist of the exposed logs; there is no ceiling.

Doors are located on the south and west elevations and consist of 1 inch thick pine lumber installed vertically. The north elevation contains two windows, symetrically arranged, while the east elevation contains a similar window toward the southern half and a central, smaller window located just below the gable. All windows have pine board shutters and, like the doors, are secured with metal hinges which replaced earlier ones. The gables are enclosed with weatherboarding on pine studs and the gabled roof is covered with pine shingles which have been replaced in the past ten years. The original pine pews are still in place, but the pulpit has been removed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X_1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1852	BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Claybank Church is one of the few remaining log churches in the state and is the only one located within the limits of a town. Constructed in 1852 as the second church on the site, the Claybank Church is the oldest in the area. Although it is not quite as sophisticated in its construction and design as the McIntosh Log Church (National Register, 11-20-74), it is a fine example of log construction and is believed to be the oldest remaining structure in Dale County.

Like many early churches in rural areas of the state, the Claybank Church had its origins as a small non-denominational log building erected by members of the Claybank Community and was used for a variety of community functions. This first structure was erected in 1829-30 on land donated by Elisah Matthews. Matthews was a prominent figure in county politics and, like many of the pioneer settlers in the area, was buried in the church cemetery.

The church was served by Methodist circuit riders beginning in 1829 and claimed as early preachers William Steagall and Robert Williams. Steagall was the grandfather of Henry B. Steagall, who served for thirty years as a representative in congress.

By 1852 the church was being utilized primarily by the Methodists and the present structure was built under the direction of a local Methodist minister, The Reverend Demsey Dowling. Logs for the building were cut from land owned by his son, and much of the construction work was carried out by members of his family. Although the church continued to be used for various community functions, it is unclear whether other denominations continued to use the structure.

By 1870 the population in the area had become concentrated in the town of Ozark, and in 1873 the Methodist congregation decided to move to a location nearer the center of town. A sizable number of members refused to move their letters and con-tinued to hold services in the Claybank Church for several years. Gradually the membership declined and by 1900 the church was being used for occasional revivals and annual picnics. The structure was maintained sporadically by members of the community until it was acquired in the mid 1960's by the Claybank Memorial Association, a non-denominational group which maintains the church, keeping it open to the public.
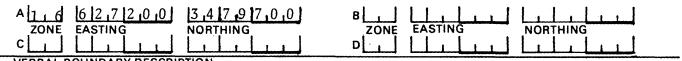
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miley, Don L. A History of the Ozark Baptist Church, Ozark, Alabama. Lakeview, Ga:
    C.S.A. Press, 1970.
Watson, Fred S. Forgotten Trails: A History of Dale County. Birmingham: Banner
    Press, 1968.
Wells, Glenn. History of First United Methodist Church of Ozark. Privately printed, 1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 8

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | | 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
ZONE   EASTING   NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Alabama Historical Commission	June 28, 1976

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   DATE June 29, 1976

GPO 892.453