

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

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

For NPS use only
received **NOV 24 1982**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Siloam Baptist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 503 Washington Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Marion

N/A vicinity of

state Alabama

code 01

county Perry

code 105

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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>N/A</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 Siloam Baptist Church

street & number 503 Washington Street

city, town Marion

N/A vicinity of

state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Perry County Courthouse

street & number 300 Washington Street

city, town Marion

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			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The original portion of Siloam Baptist Church is a good example of temple form Greek Revival. Doric columns, distyle in antis, rise between side vestibule which contain stairways. The facade extends for 1 bay, articulated by applied Doric pilasters, either side of the columnar section. A fully raised basement serves as a podium for the 51' x 85' structure. The original steeple was destroyed in 1949 and replaced with the current one. The front stairs appear to have been reworked in the early 20th century.

In 1926 an educational building (47' x 73') was constructed on the west end, changing the original rectangular shape into a "T" form. In 1963, a larger educational structure was built on the north side of the sanctuary, but jointed only to the earlier educational building on the rear.

The interior of the sanctuary is finished with heart pine flooring, and plaster walls above 12" wide beaded board wainscotting. The ceiling is beamed and encircled by a dentiled cornice. The original balcony configuration was altered during the first decade of the 20th century. The basement level has been subdivided for Sunday School rooms.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1848–49	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

RELIGION:

Siloam Baptist Church is significant as the building which housed Alabama's most influential and important Baptist congregation in the mid-19th century. Located in the blackbelt town of Marion, it served as "the strongest denominational center in Alabama and was one of the strongest in the South."¹

The Alabama Baptist Convention, which gradually became headquartered in Marion, met there frequently during the first half of the 19th century, and offices for the secretary of the Convention were located in Siloam from sometime in the 1840s until the Convention moved to Montgomery, in 1892. From 1845 until 1882, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention was located in Marion and offices were within the church. The present structure, built in 1848–49, is associated with the period of the congregation's influence, which began in the 1820s and began to wane in the 1880s.

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The present building is the third occupied by the congregation, which was established in 1822. Marion was the home of the two major 19th century Baptist educational institutions, Judson College and Howard College (now Samford University), both of which were established by the founders of Siloam. The Alabama Baptist, the major 19th century periodical of the faith in the state and the forerunner of today's Alabama Baptist, began publication in town (1843–1852, 1872–1877), and at one point, under the name of The South Western Baptist, was a major regional journal. In 1844, the State Convention met in Marion and passed the "Alabama Resolutions" which led to the separation of the Southern and Northern Baptist.

¹ A. Hamilton Reid, Baptists In Alabama: Their Organization and Witness

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lovelace, Julia Murphy. A History of Siloam Baptist Church, Marion, Alabama.
privately published: Marion, 1943

Reid, A. Hamilton. Baptist in Alabama: Their Organization and Witness. Montgomery,
1967.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .65

Quadrangle name Marion North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning intersection northerly right of way Early Street and westerly right of way Washington Street; thus North 173.5' along westerly right of way Washington Street; W 110' s; S 55's; W 75's; S 117's (124's) to northerly right of way Early St.; E 189' along said right of way to POB in Sec. 7, T 19 N, range 8 E.

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 Ellen Mertins & Mrs. S. H. Hurt, Church Trustee

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date August, 1982

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

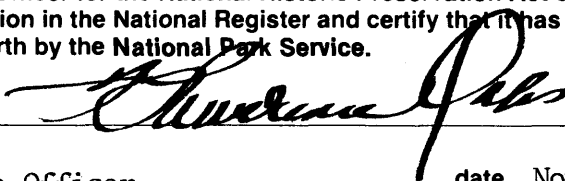
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 November 10, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

12/27/82

for  Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration