

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Gadsden
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 24 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Old Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION *5 mi N of Quincy, Gadsden Co, Fla 65.*

STREET AND NUMBER: Located approximately 5 miles north of the town  
of Quincy, 1/4 mile west of the junction of highways 65 & 272.

CITY OR TOWN: Quincy CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: Florida CODE: 012 COUNTY: Gadsden CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Don May, Trustee, Old Philadelphia Endowment Association

STREET AND NUMBER:  
N. Madison Street

CITY OR TOWN: Quincy STATE: Florida CODE: 012

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Gadsden County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Quincy STATE: Florida CODE: 012

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

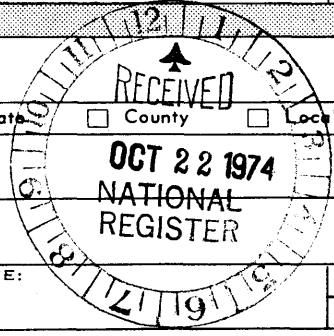
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Of braced frame construction with clapboard siding, this simple rectilinear church building rests on high brick piers. Its austere exterior details are classic revival combined with proportions of unusual vertical emphasis. All four corners are clasped by plain corner boards; a plain architrave set flush with the exterior sheathing is beneath the deep boxed cornice. The cornice makes short returns on the front and rear facades to suggest a broken pediment beneath the pitched roof. The main entrance to the narthex consists of double panelled doors with simple surrounds and an inset panel above. One exit door is situated at the rear and to one side of the building. Windows are elongated, double-hung sash with exterior louvered shutters. Cypress shingles surface the roof.

The rectangular plan has two longitudinal aisles separating the boxed pews into three groups. A partition runs through the middle section of pews separating the nave into womens and mens sides. The interior is two stories in height with a gallery at the rear carried on tapering squared columns corresponding to the Doric order. The altar and pulpit rest on a raised platform at the north end of the church and are enclosed by a simple balustrade. All painted surfaces are white with the exception of the exterior shutters which are black.

The building is in excellent condition, due primarily to the efforts of the endowment association set up to preserve and maintain it. Most of the restoration involved was done between 1936 and 1945. As well as refurbishing the structure, it was necessary to reconstruct the altar and pulpit which had been removed to another church after 1912. At this time, certain modern additions were made: unobtrusive electric lighting was installed, the crumbling brick piers were faced with concrete, concrete steps replaced wooden ones at the entrance, and two restrooms were installed under the building at the rear.

The church stands in a clearing in a wooded area set well back from the road. Many of the surrounding trees are quite old and the forest is reputed to be mostly virgin timber. The grounds also include the Old Philadelphia cemetery, the earliest grave dating from 1828. The association that holds the church in trust owns approximately 20 acres to assure a buffer against development.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1859**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The exact date of the founding of the Philadelphia congregation is not known, but certain references in church records and local tradition indicate that the church was formed in the early to middle 1820's. One of the earliest Presbyterian congregations in Florida, its members were mostly new arrivals from the Carolinas and Georgia. The first religious edifice on the site was a log structure built in 1828, and graves in the cemetery date from that time. The church operated without a regularly ordained minister until the Rev. Leander Kerr was appointed in 1832.

Philadelphia Church served Presbyterians from the entire county and parts of Southern Georgia. With the prosperity that the county enjoyed from lucrative tobacco markets in the 1840's and 50's, the present structure was initiated and constructed in 1859. Though the establishment of several other Presbyterian congregations in the vicinity diminished the number of Philadelphia members, the church operated continuously until 1912.

Since 1912, the old edifice has been owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Quincy, Florida, and has been used for various special and commemorative events on an intermittent basis. A private donation in 1936 began the process of restoration of the building, and in 1940 the Old Philadelphia Endowment Association was created to preserve and maintain it.

During its active years Philadelphia Church served as a center for community life of the tobacco planters in the area. Its architectural severity is indicative of the austere nature of Southern Presbyterianism in its time. The building has survived without the addition of the usual steeple or portico, and as a result seems oddly proportioned to contemporary viewers. Old Philadelphia is the oldest church building in Gadsden County and is widely recognized as an historical asset by the entire community, regardless of denomination.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*10/22/59*

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

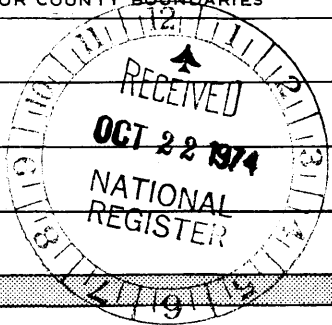
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N30° 38' 37"	W84° 34' 38"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
16732180  
3392430  
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: J. Rodney Little, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgt. DATE: 10-73

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 012

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Robert Williams  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: October 14, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. B. Martensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/24/75

ATTEST:  
Atty. George F. Emery  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: Feb. 20, 1975

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(Continuation Sheet)

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STATE Florida	
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(Number all entries) 8. Statement of Significance

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Note: Omit last paragraph of significance statement and substitute the following:

During its active years, Philadelphia Church served as a center for the community life of the tobacco planters in the area. It is the oldest church building in Gadsden County and is widely recognized as an historical asset by the entire community. Its architectural severity is indicative of the austere nature of Southern Protestantism in its time. The building has retained most of its original fabric, including several elements, such as the slave gallery, which normally have disappeared from churches of similar age in Florida. As well, Old Philadelphia differs from its few surviving contemporaries in that it has escaped the addition of steeple or portico and presents a more accurate reflection of ante-bellum taste in ecclesiastical architecture.



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(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References - -

First Presbyterian Church. Official Records of First Presbyterian and Philadelphia Presbyterian Churches, 1828-1945. Quincy, Florida. (Ms. and typewritten.)

Love, Mrs. H. A. Quincy Library Historical Papers. Collected and transcribed 1933-1950. Quincy Library, Quincy, Florida. (Ms. and typewritten.)

McIlwain, Rev. William E. The Early Planting of Presbyterianism in West Florida. Pensacola, Florida: Mayes Printing Company, 1926.

Milliken, S. J. "Sermon Preached at the Dedication of the Philadelphia Church in Gadsden County," The Quincy Republic, II, No. 89 (October 15, 1859), p. 1.

Stanley, J. Randall. History of Gadsden County. Quincy: Gadsden Historical Commission, 1948, pp. 64-67.

