

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 County Line Baptist Church

and/or common County Line Baptist Church

**2. Location**

street & number ~~.6 mi East of Dudleyville on a paved road~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Dudleyville ~~vicinity of~~ X vicinity of congressional district 3

state Alabama code 01 county Chambers code 017

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name County Line Baptist Church c/o Reverend James Johnston

street & number Route 1

city, town Camp Hill N/A vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chambers County Chourthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town LaFayette 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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered

Slightly

**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The County Line Baptist Church is a rectangular, one-story, wood-frame structure with a gabled roof. It measures 40' x 60', rests on a foundation of stone piers with cement block infill, and has narrow wood clapboard siding. The roof is composition shingles added sometime in the middle of this century.

The principal facade consists of two double leaf six-panel doors (replacements) to the sanctuary, both having a 3-light transom and a pedimented lintel. The gabled end is oriented to the principal facade, and has a bracketed boxed cornice with returns. At the apex of the gable, an ornamental collar tie and king post have decorative fan designs and a pointed finial. The sides consist of six bays with 2/1 sash. The wood surround trim rises above the windows to form lancet-shaped arches with a raised wood block "Keystones". The arched area is louvered. The eave is made up of a simple boxed cornice and undecorated frieze, with brackets occurring over each window and at the corners of the building. A shed and gabled roof wing was added to the rear in the mid-20th century and the original front stairs were replaced with concrete and brick.

**Interior:**

The interior consists of plastered walls, heart pine floors, a wide beaded-board ceiling and hand-hewn pine pews which date from an earlier building. The original kerosene light fixtures are still in the church, having been converted to electricity and supplemented with new fixtures. There are several notable refinements on the interior: the slight rise in the flooring from the pulpit to the front, the angling inward of the side walls flanking the pulpit, and the nicely-detailed enframing for the curtain behind the pulpit. The latter may have been added when the Baptistry was built behind the pulpit in 1912.

**Setting:**

The church is located in a rural setting approximately 1 mile east of the small community of Dudleyville and sits at the top of a hill with the cemetery just to the east of the building. The only other structure on the grounds is a small cinderblock bathroom to the northeast of the church.

# 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**      1889                      **Builder/Architect**      Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The County Line Baptist Church is a good example of a simple country church built in the second half of the 19th century and has some surprisingly sophisticated refinements for its time and rural location. The exterior windows are nicely detailed, the interior floor is sloped from the rear to the pulpit, and the walls flanking the altar are angled inward, creating a truncated triangular shape.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Original church minutes on file at Samford University  
 Original property deeds  
 McGinty, B. B., History of East Liberty Association, Chambers County, 1963.  
 Personal interviews with descendants of early area settlers

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5  
 Quadrangle name Dudleyville Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	D	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>
E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

See continuation sheet

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins, National Register Coordinator and Zana H. Wooddy

organization Alabama Historical Commission date June 14, 1982

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6622

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Ellen Mertins* date July 14, 1982

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Alton Byers</i></u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>8/19/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Almost due West from LaFayette, Alabama in Chambers County on a hill one mile East of the historic old town of Dudleyville—where General Montgomery was buried—sits a church building.

Here in this community on May 2, 1835, a group of people met for the purpose of organizing a church of the Baptist Faith and order. Less than two years before, this community was occupied by the Creek Indians. It was almost a wilderness, but some land had been cleared and crude homes had been built.

Three Baptist ministers, Elder Francis Calloway, Henry Perkin, and Benjeman Lloyd met with a group of people in the home of William C. Morgan and were consituted into a regular Baptist Church. It was voted to name the church County Line.

The charter members were Green Talbot, Deacon William C. Morgan, Tilmon Brawner, Charles Bussy, James Sanders, Mary Talbot, Lucindy Morgan, Sara Brawner, Almeda Bussy, and Cindaular Berry.

The church went into conference and appointed F. C. Calloway as moderator, who opened the doors of the church; and two slaves, Eliza and Charles, the property of Bro. G. Talbot, were received by letter as charter members.

A committee of charter members and friends were chosen to locate a site on which to build a church house. The site on which the church now stands was chosen. It is one mile East of Dudleyville, just over the County Line in Chambers County. Dudleyville then was on an established stage coach route.

County Line is one of the three churches whose original church minutes made it possible to determine without a doubt the date of preliminary meetings in the organization of an association.

Excerpts from B. B. McGinty's History of East Liberty Baptist Association 1836-1961

Notes of Interest

From County Line Baptist Church a number of preachers have been sent out. Namely, W. A. Hunter, John F. Bledsow, S. M. Perry, W. W. Sanders, J. P. Jarrell, T. J. Russell, S. M. Perry, W. M. Blackwelder, J. A. McCarley, J. P. Hunter, R. F. Stucky, Woodrow Owen, Robert Wooddy, and Jimmy Allen; the parents and grandparents of foreign missionaries, Mary Ellen Yancey, and Vivian Langley grew up in this church.

County Line church women were the first to form a woman's missionary society. They were first to send mission money to the association in 1882.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

At first Baptisms were administered in the near by creek but later a Baptistry was buildt behind the pulpit. Circa 1912.

The early church minutes record that church services were halted for a period of time due to the hostility of the Creek Indians.

The first two acres of land were given by William C. Morgan who bought it from the Creek Indian Nation; therefore the deed has only one name in transfer of property. The original deed shows that later three more acres were purchased from Henry Jarrell in 1888 and added to the two acres given by Morgan making a total of five acres of church property.

In the church cemetery are well marked graves of James and Fannie Moore. James was born in 1760.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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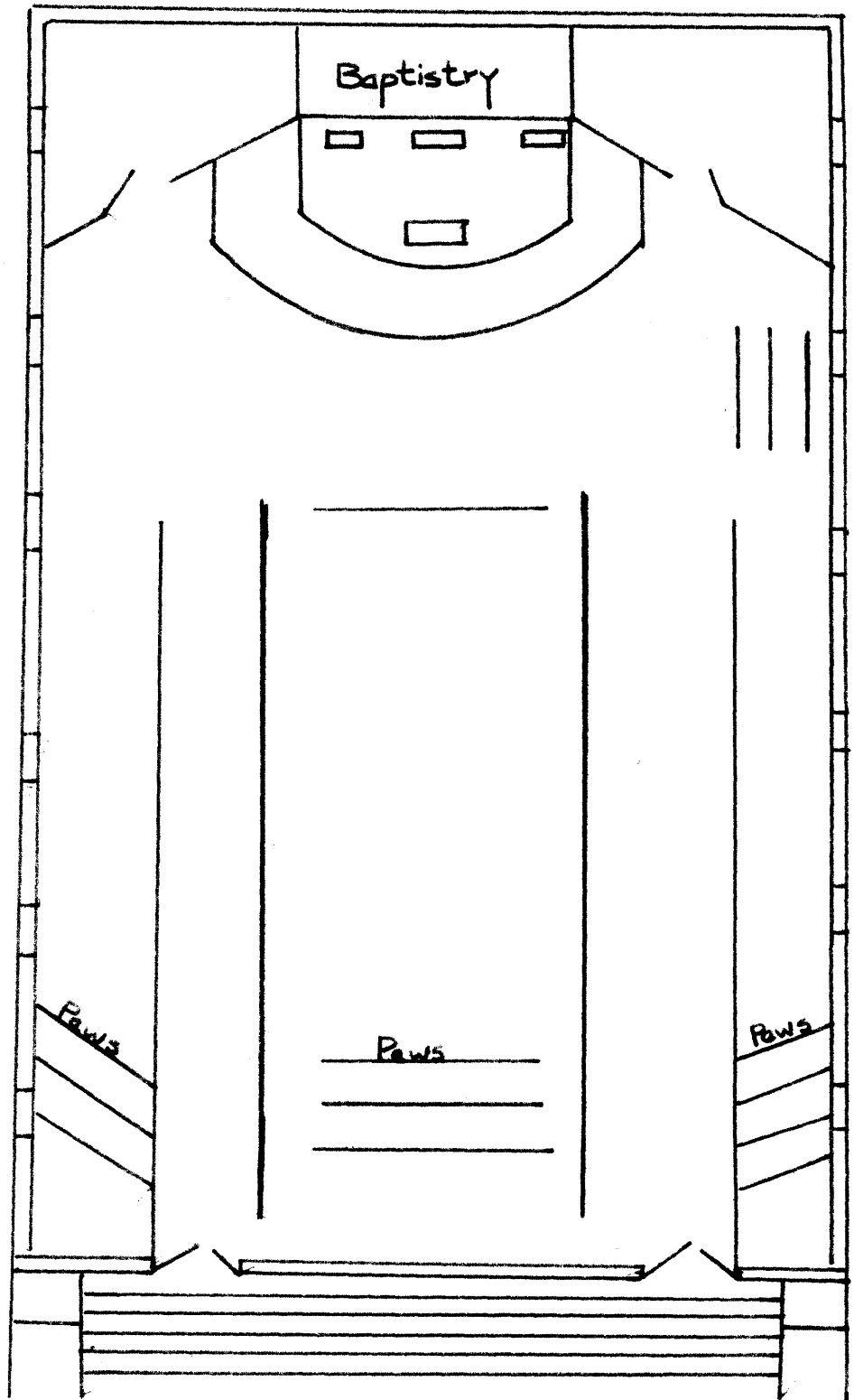
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

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Commencing at the S.E. corner of the S.W. 1/4 of the S.W. 1/4 of Sec. 6. Thence N. 4° W. 10 rods to stake. Thence W. 4° S 20 Rods. Thence N. 41° W. 10 Rods. Thence W. 4° S 6 Rods. Thence S 4° E 36 Rods is stake. Thence 4° N 33 Rods corner. Thence E 20° S 16 Rods is stake. Thence N 4° W. 4 Rods. Thence W 30° N. 18 Rods. Thence N. 4° W. to place of beginning.



County Line  
Baptist Church

Dudleyville Vicinity  
Chambers County

