

**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 First Presbyterian Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 200 East Clinton Street ___ not for publication

city, town Jacksonville ___ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Alabama code 01 county Calhoun code 015

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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 North Alabama Presbytery

street & number 5011 Whitesburg Drive

city, town Huntsville ___ vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calhoun County Courthouse

street & number West 11th Street

city, town Anniston ___ vicinity of state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HABS has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1935 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington ___ vicinity of state D.C.

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	(slightly)		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This is a one story, brick church with an entrance tower and a small, semi-octagonal apse. The main block of the building measures 42' x 57' 7" and rests on a brick foundation covered with cement plaster. The exterior exhibits the major characteristics of the Romanesque Revival, particularly as it was popularized by Samuel Sloan - round arched windows with heavy hoodmolds, corbeled dripmolds, recessed panels, triple round-arched windows in the tower, a small apse and a blind, arched fan above the central door. The building, however, retains vestiges of earlier stylistic influences, seen in the Gothic Tracery of the windows and the Classical detailing of the interior, much of which seems to be based on the early plates of Asher Benjamin and which was executed by local craftsmen. One of the most notable features of the building is the unusual segmental vaulted ceiling.

The building has had only one major alteration - the replacement of the original spire, which toppled in 1912, with the current one in 1921. The brick belfry and tin-covered steeple replaced a wooden (cedar) bell tower, rectangular in design and mounted atop the tower. Lighting was initially provided by a large spoked wheel suspended from the center of the ceiling. Twelve lamps around the rim of the wheel were tended by raising or lowering the wheel with a pulley. By 1910 the wheel had been replaced by a long string of electric light bulbs which extended around the interior above the side windows and chancel archway - lending a Christmas like atmosphere. This arrangement was replaced c. 1930 by eight large pendant bulbs, four on each side of the ceiling. the present set of chandeliers (four in the nave and one in the narthex) was donated in 1974.

The original heating system consisted of two Franklin-type iron stoves, one in the center of each side of the nave with pipe extending straight upward through the ceiling and roof. These stoves were replaced in 1934 by a coal-fired furnace located in an excavation below the foundation at the northeast end of the building. The furnace had a single large radiator in the floor area east of the altar platform. This was followed by three gas space heaters c. 1950 and then the present heat pump (combined with air conditioner) which was installed in 1960.

Other additions include the large wooden cross in the chancel (1951) and the balustrade for the choir loft (1974), removal of pews in the loft to provide space for the organ (1971), and the bricking up of a small door in the north wall (date unknown).

The church is currently undergoing restoration in small phases as the money is raised.

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 c. 1859-1861, 1865 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville is architecturally significant as one of Alabama's earliest examples of the mid-19th century revival of the Romanesque style. The building has many features of the style as it was popularized by Samuel Sloan. The work many have been based on a plate from Sloan's "The Model Architect". There are four other 19th century churches with strong similarities to the Jacksonville church -- Kahl Montgomery (1862), the First United Methodist Church, Oxford (1875), and the First Presbyterian Church, Talladega (late 1860s) -- leading to speculation that John S. Stewart, Sloan's partner may have provided the plans for these buildings. In addition the church is significant for the quality of the locally-crafted interior woodwork and the unusual segmental vaulted ceiling.

The Congregation was organized by the Reverend Robert Halman on November 15, 1834. Construction of the present building began in 1859 and continued to the outbreak of the Civil War, with final completion coming in April of 1865. Local traditions indicate that the pews were made by slaves under the direction of John H. Crawford, a local cabinet maker. Gilliam Southers, one of the church's ruling elders, is said to have supervised the interior woodwork and to have executed most of the carving. Southers may have been responsible for the classical interior and the slightly Gothic tracery in the windows.

During the war, some of the Confederate wounded from the battle of Chickamauga were brought to Jacksonville and the church was temporarily converted to a hospital. Thirteen of the wounded died and were buried as unknown soldiers in the Jacksonville Cemetery.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre (100' x 60')

Quadrangle name Jacksonville West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

South 100' of Lot 24, Old Plan of Jacksonville. (100' x 60'). This includes church only. Education building (c. 1951) is on adjacent lot and is not included.

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 Worden Weaver Ellen Mertins/National Register Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission date June, 1981

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Chico B. Howard Jr.*

title *5 HPO Alabama* date *10/26/81*

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<i>Belva Byers</i>	date <i>2/4/82</i>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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For HCRS use only
received JAN 5 1982
date entered FEB 4 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Minutes of the Session, First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, May 19, 1861
January 15, 1928

Sanborn Maps: 1885, 1889, 1894, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1928

The Jacksonville Story. First National Bank of Jacksonville, 1977

Interviews: Mr. Alfred F. Roebuck, Mr. Knox Ide, and Mr. John B. Nisbet, Jr.
(Church elders during the period of building restoration, 1976 to date)
by Worden Weaver.