

1710084307  
~~1134-209~~

STATE: <b>Alabama</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Cleburne</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>DEC 4</b>	DATE <b>1974</b>

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Shoal Creek Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Four miles nw of Edwardsville, Ala. on Forest Service Rd 553** *Talladeega Nat'l Fd*  
*The church is 2/10 mile off Forest Service Rd 553 in the vicinity of Coleman Lake.*

CITY OR TOWN:  
**SW 1/4 of Section 26, T14S, R10E Congressional District: 3**

STATE <b>Alabama</b>	CODE <b>01</b>	COUNTY: <b>Cleburne</b>	CODE <b>029</b>
-------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	--------------------

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" 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:  
**Shoal Creek Church Association**

STREET AND NUMBER: **R. J. Butler J. Newman Roach**  
**Route 4 Route 1, Box 427**

CITY OR TOWN: **Heflin, AL Jacksonville** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Cleburne County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Heflin** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

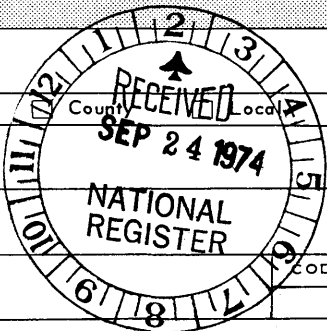
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shoal Creek Baptist Church consists of a single log pen which measures 30 feet by 36 feet and rests on native rock piers.

Walls are of hewn longleaf pinelogs and the corners are secured with full dovetail notching. The walls are 10 feet in height and there is no ceiling. Cracks between the logs are covered with pine boards which are fastened with square nails. The first wooden floor is 1 inch by 6 inches rough boards, but in more recent years a 1 x 4 inch tongue and groove floor has been laid on top of it.

Each wall, except the east wall, has a single door located in the center. The doors are made of pine boards, which are fastened with square nails. Originally the doors were hung by hand made, iron hinges, but these were replaced by strap metal hinges. The east wall has two shuttered windows. These shutters, like the doors are also made of pine board.

The gable on the south end has been covered with weatherboarding. Each of the gables had a single framed window opening with pine board shutters. The south windows opening now has a six pane window sash.

The roof which was originally covered with pine shingles is now galvanized metal on 2 x 4 inch rafters.

Original split pine log benches were mounted on pegs, but the church still contains a number of early American pine pews which were constructed with square nails.

Logs and materials which have had to be replaced over the years have been constructed by local labor with local materials.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

174 110

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Local History</u> |
| <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

Shoal Creek Baptist Church is one of the few remaining hand split and hand hewn pine log church buildings in the State. As one of only two community buildings in the area, the structure served a variety of purposes, doubling as a public school and meeting place and consequently played a significant role in the social, educational and religious activities of this predominately rural area.

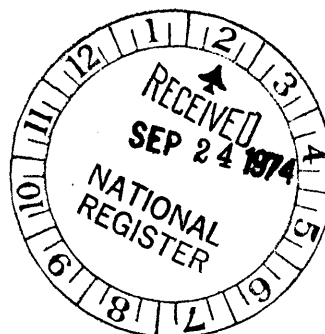
The church was constructed between the years 1885 and 1890 and was one of two similar buildings in the area. The first building, erected about 1845 and burned about 1935, was also used for a school and church. Most of the community joined in construction of the surviving building and the four corners were notched by local citizens William Elija Holley, Joe Mayo, W. W. Thompson and Bill Holley.

During the summer after the crops were brought in and before the cotton picking season, the building was used for a singing school where the young people of the community got their formal music lessons and learned Sacred Harp and gospel music.

It is evident that church services were abandoned about 1914 or 1915 as the last minutes are dated September 6, 1914. Some time following the apparent break up of the congregation members, their descendants and friends began meeting once a year for a Sacred Harp singing. In recent years the Sacred Harp meeting was moved from the fourth Sunday in August to Labor Day. This group of former members and friends assumed ownership and maintenance of the church building and grounds.

In the 1930's the U. S. Department of Agriculture acquired all surrounding lands in the area and established the Talladega National Forest.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

County Records, Cleburne County Courthouse, Heflin, Alabama.  
 Interview with William R. Corn, U. S. Forest Service.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

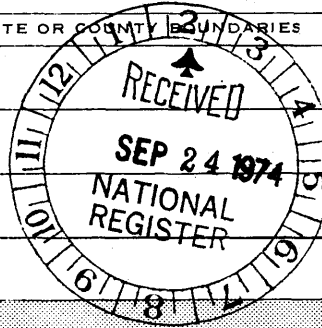
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33° 46' 32"	85° 33' 50"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
 16/632970  
 3738 000

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **Sept. 16, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**725 Monroe Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

**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 *Nils B. Howard Jr.*

Title *SAPO - Ala.*

Date *September 19, 1974*

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*W. Warner Floyd*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *12/4/74*

ATTEST:  
*George J. Emery*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *Dec 3, 1974*