United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02001067

Date Listed: October 3, 2002

Property Name: Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery

County: Cullman

State: Alabama

none Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper

October 3, 2002 Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10: Geographical Data

The Acreage of the Property is hereby amended to 8.4 acres to reflect the true size of the parcel historically associated with the church and cemetery.

The acreage of the property described in the Boundary Justification is hereby amended to 8.4 acres.

The Alabama State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)	RECEIVED 2230	OMB No. 1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	AUG 2 2 2002	1067
1. Name of Property	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	
Historic Name: <u>The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery</u> Other Names/Site Number: <u>N/A</u>		
2 Location	•	

Street & Number: <u>Ruby Community 2.7 miles West of Logan</u> Not for Publication: <u>N/A</u> City or Town: <u>N/A</u> Vicinity: <u>Logan</u> State: <u>Alabama</u> Code: <u>AL</u> County: <u>Cullman</u> Code: <u>043</u> Zip Code: <u>35055</u>

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \underline{X} nomination _ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \underline{X} meets _ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _ statewide \underline{X} locally.(___ See continuation sheet for additional a opmments.),

Signature of certifying official

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office) or State Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property __ meets __ does not meet the National Register criteria. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: _______ See continuation sheet. ______ determined eligible for the National Register ______ See continuation sheet. ______ determined not eligible for the National Register ______ removed from the National Register ______ other (explain):_______

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

10/3/02

July 31,2002

-

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- X___ private
- ____ public-state
- ____ public-local
- ____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- _X____ building
- ____ district
- ____ site
- ____ structure
- ____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0 buildings	
1	$\underline{0}$ sites	
0	<u>0</u> structures	
0	0 objects	
2	0 Total	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.): N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Category: <u>Religion</u> <u>Funerary</u>	Subcategory: religious facility cemetery	
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Category: <u>Religion</u> <u>Funerary</u>	Subcategory: religious facility cemetery	:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) <u>Mid 19th Century Revivals: Gothic Revival</u>

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Brick
roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
walls	Wood
other	Glass

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

۰,

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our age.
- X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant an distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- \underline{X} A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ___B removed from its original location.
- ____C a birthplace or a grave.
- _ D a cemetery.
- <u>E</u> a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ___F a commemorative property.
- ___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) <u>Architecture</u>

 Period of Significance:
 1892-1893

 Significant Dates:
 1892-1893

 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above):
 N/A

 Cultural Affiliation:
 N/A

 Architect/Builder:
 Beltz, George Conrad

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

- _____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- _____ previously listed in the National Register
- _____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- _____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office

- ____ Other State agency
- ____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- _____ University
- ____ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 7 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>496730</u>	<u>3777640</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Gene A. Ford and Linda B. Ford, Architectural Historians/Christy Anderson, AHC Reviewer

Organization: Private Consultant/Alabama Historical Commission Date: April 26, 2001

Street & Number: 26 Cherokee Hills/468 S. Perry Street Telephone: (205)556-5388/(334)242-3184

City or Town: Tuscaloosa/Montgomery State: Alabama Zip Code: 35404/36130-0900

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) Name: <u>The North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church</u> Representative: <u>Alvis Hancock</u> Street & Number: <u>2070 Justice Road</u> Telephone: <u>(205)647-7038</u> City or Town: <u>Warrior</u> State: <u>Alabama</u> Zip Code: <u>35180</u> Page 4

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC-PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery Cullman, Alabama

OMB No. 1024-0018

Section <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>

The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery located 2.7 miles west of the community of Logan, in Cullman County, Alabama, is a locally significant example of a late nineteenth-century rural church with Gothic Revival influences. The church retains a high degree of architectural detailing and represents the influence of the Gothic Revival movement in American religious architecture. Built in 1892-93, this one story, wood frame, front gable roof church is characterized by its Gothic Revival detailing. The interior of the church features a nave embellished with triangular-headed windows. The church retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The Shady Grove Methodist Church is situated on the outskirts of Logan on the ridgeline in Western Cullman County about 10 miles from the town of Cullman. The Gothic Revival styled church forms the core of a 7-acre parcel of property that also includes a five-acre cemetery.

The Shady Grove Methodist Church lot is characterized by a number of man-made and natural elements. Established on a hill, the cemetery rests on five acres of sandy loam soil, which fronts the parcel. A road cuts between the church and the cemetery. Trailing between the church and the cemetery is a rock wall with steps and a handrail. The property sits among a dense stand of trees. The cemetery encloses 381 graves with markers made from sandstone, granite and marble. There are ninety-six unmarked graves, the ages of which range from 1863 to the present. The majority of the graves date from before 1940. Three burials of Confederate soldiers and two burials of Union soldiers rest in the cemetery. The faint remains of two crossing trails are visible. Originally Native Americans in the area formed these paths; Irish and Scottish hunters who frequented this spot in their trapping and trading later used them.

A front gable roof of asphalt shingles with a pendant tops the Shady Grove Methodist Church. A star shaped ventilator is set among hand-cut siding. The gable siding is accentuated with a repetitive pendant motif in the Carpenter Gothic manner.

The facade features a central double leaf wood door. A covered vestibule with a pointed arch and keystone carved from wood accentuates the entryway. Flanking the door on either side are two 4/4 double hung sash windows capped with triangular heads. The facade wall is sheathed in original wood siding cut by an "up and down" saw and planed by hand.

The west side of the church displays three 4/4 double hung sash triangular-headed windows. The windows are all original to the building. Wood clapboard replacement siding sheaths the west and east walls of the church. The replacement siding duplicates the original as closely as possible.

The south end of the church is the apse end. The apse protrudes from the church and is capped by a gable roof of asphalt shingles. Siding here on the end wall is the original hand-cut wood siding.

The east wall of the church is identical to the west side. Three 4/4 double hung sash windows punctuate the clapboard siding. Triangular heads accentuate each window. The church rests on a continuous brick foundation.

A conventional nave characterizes the interior of the church. The nave terminates at the north end with a double leaf wood door. A pointed arch tympanum of woodwork in a herringbone pattern caps this front door. The inclined floor consists of stained wood replacement boards. The flooring had to be replaced due to termite damage; wood as close to the original flooring as possible was selected. Wainscoting, specially ordered from Indiana, wraps around the base of the entire nave. Originally, wallpaper covered the upper portion of the walls but in later years it was removed. The ceiling of the church is now clad with acoustic tiles. Beneath these tiles is an exposed timberwork ceiling. Earliest lighting included reflective lamps along the walls and a large lamp that could be raised and lowered by a chain hung over the lectern. A long altar rail with hand-turned spindles was removed when termite damage repairs were made in recent years. The virgin heart pine pews constructed by congregation craftsmen still reside in Shady Grove.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery Cullman, Alabama

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The contributing cemetery contains 477 marked and unmarked graves. The earliest marked grave belongs to Martha A. McCain, sister to the donator of the property, born June 6, 1855 and died September 8, 1863. Three confederate soldiers are buried in the cemetery; they include John J. McKissack, Company B, 56th Georgia Infantry; Rev. J. C. Vickery, Cobbs Georgia Legion; and J. N. Wages, 13th Tennessee Infantry. There are also two Union cavalrymen: Richard McCain and George W. Kilgo of Company I, of the First Alabama Cavalry.

Archaeological Component

Although no archaeological survey has been conducted in association with the Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery, there exists the potential for subsurface remains on the property.

Significance

Criterion C: Architecture

Built circa 1892-93, the Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places based on Criterion C in the area of architecture as an intact example of a rural church with late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival detailing. The exterior and interior spaces and ornamentation retain a remarkably high degree of integrity. The building is one of the few remaining examples of a wood frame, rural church from the time period left in Cullman County, Alabama.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Gothic Revival architecture harkened to Romanticism of a past age. According to Robert Gamble "it was as a vehicle of the Anglo-Catholic trend - the 'ecclesiological movement' - within the Protestant Episcopal church that the Gothic Revival finally achieved maturity in Alabama during the last decade before the Civil War." Several churches built in Alabama followed the plans of Richard Upjohn for economical wood frame "distinctly Episcopal houses of worship" such as St. Andrew's at Prairieville (NHL 1973) and St. Luke's, Jacksonville. These churches followed Upjohn's *Rural Architecture* (1852), a pattern book that was widely known at the time (Gamble 81). Gamble further indicates that four decades later, Grace Church at Mount Meigs still harkened to Upjohn's ideals for a country chapel in 1892 Alabama. Shady Grove Methodist Church also built in 1892 follows the Gothic Revival pattern late in the nineteenth century.

Alexander Jackson Davis was the originator of the Gothic Revival style in his book *Rural Residences* (1837) according to McAlester and McAlester. This book was the first American house plan book published and it displayed numerous Gothic Revival plans. Davis was a precursor to Andrew Jackson Downing. Downing was a friend of Davis who took the Gothic Revival idea and spread it further through *Victorian Cottage Residences* (1842) and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850). Downing toured and promoted his books thereby popularizing these Gothic designs. Both Davis and Downing agreed that the Gothic Revival style was best suited for rural settings since it lent itself to natural landscapes.

The rural church at Shady Grove fits the criterion established by each of the aforementioned writers. The building was originally a Methodist Episcopal Church established in the early 1870s. Secondly, the church was planned to be economical in its construction. Wood was chosen over brick and local craftsmen were used for its construction. The architect was the local clergyman and carpenter, David Conrad Beltz. Since Beltz was a carpenter, it is probable that he was familiar with Upjohn and Downing's books.

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 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery

 CONTINUATION SHEET
 Cullman, Alabama

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Upjohn encouraged the use of board and batten to promote the Gothic idea of verticality. Although Shady Grove does not include board and batten, vertical siding is present on the front gable for insinuated verticality. At the center of the gable, craftsmen installed a star shaped ventilator. This star shape is reminiscent of the Gothic ideal of reaching for the heavens and is both ornamental and picturesque.

In the literature of Downing and Davis, the countryside was considered picturesque and a neoclassical or a simple vernacular building was thought to clash with this environment. The ornamentation of the Gothic style with repeated patterns was thought to reflect the repetitive patterns of nature. The repeated pendant motifs on the gable at Shady Grove stress this Gothic ideal as presented by Downing and Davis.

Other Gothic Revival details are present at Shady Grove. As noted by Gamble, the summary characteristics of Gothic Revival include prominent, often steeply pitched gables and pointed or triangular-headed windows. Both of these aspects are present on the Shady Grove building.

Inside, Shady Grove harkens to the rural church plans of Andrew Jackson Downing from his *Victorian Cottage Residences* (1842). Downing describes the framework that supports the roof as being exposed to view. These exposed rafters echo vaulting in Gothic churches. Beneath the acoustic tile ceiling of Shady Grove is a similar exposed rafter ceiling. The steeply pitched roof allows for a high ceiling, Gothic in character. The windows are tall and slender as are Gothic lancet windows. Downing suggests modest woodwork, as is found in Shady Grove with its imported wainscoting and herringbone tympanum. The tympanum adds to its Gothic demeanor.

In the last half of the nineteenth century, the Picturesque Movement defined American architectural styles. In Alabama, drawing from popular styles of the day, houses incorporated romantic Gothic, Italianate, and other eclectic Victorian ornamentation. Churches such as Shady Grove also used these concepts. The ornamented gable can be seen as Gothic naturalism, and also as a hallmark of Victorian decoration. On the interior, the wainscoting used with wallpaper was a Victorian preference. In fact, later parishioners removed the wallpaper and painted the walls. When the building was constructed, an elaborate altar rail with hand turned spindles was installed. Unfortunately, termite damage caused it to be replaced with a simpler altar rail.

Shady Grove Methodist Church was once among a number of similarly detailed churches in the county. Two such church buildings were St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the First United Methodist Church. Both were wood frame buildings constructed in a similar style. Neither building has survived to the present. Shady Grove Methodist Church is one of the few remaining of its style in Cullman County.

Historical Summary

Prior to 1877, Cullman County did not exist. The area that became Cullman County was originally part of Blount, Morgan, Marshall, and Walker Counties (Johnson 1982). Early Irish and Scottish hunters, trappers and traders crisscrossed the west side of Cullman County. Settlers began to trickle into this area in the early nineteenth century. Farmers traveled from Georgia with their families to put down roots in Alabama. These pioneers met with varying degrees of failure and success.

One such segment of settlers who met with success was German immigrants. A notable example is Johann Gottfried Cullman. When Cullman ventured into the area in 1872 with the express purpose of founding a colony, he found an environment very similar to his Bavarian homeland. Impressed with the land's bountiful resources and agreeable climate, Cullman purchased the rights to 349,000 acres from the South and North (Louisville and Nashville) Railroad and traveled to Cincinnati to recruit colonists (Jones NPS Form 10-900-a 1024-0018 (8-86)

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The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery Cullman, Alabama

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1975). By 1874, Cullman had encouraged 123 families, many of whom were German immigrants living in the northeast, to settle in his colony (Kollmorgen 1941). Later in the decade, Cullman persuaded a large contingent from Germany to join his colonists. His settlement was incorporated as Cullman in 1875 (Fosque 1989). Cullman was additionally honored when a county bearing his name was carved out of Blount, Morgan, Marshall, and Walker counties. Cullman County was established by the legislature in 1877 (Owen 1949).

Along with this group of German immigrants, Georgia farmers and the remaining Scottish and Irish trappers intermingled and resided in the vicinity of what is today Logan. This group of mixed ethnic backgrounds came together on a sporadic basis for worship. They met among a grove of trees atop a ridge outside of Logan. Some of these settlers had heard John and Charles Wesley preach under the oak trees in St. Simon, Georgia. They commemorated these sermons in the grove of trees in Cullman County. In the early 1870s, the group decided to organize a Methodist Church following the teachings of John Wesley.

Members Jane and Richard McCain deeded seven acres of land to the congregation on December 28, 1881. The couple had been granted 159 acres through the Homestead Act and the seven acres came from their parcel. Under the leadership of trustees Dr. W. H. Marin, J. C. Vickery, and J. J. McKissack, the group made plans for a building to hold their growing numbers. The congregation's growth correlated to a countywide population boom in the late nineteenth century. In 1880 Cullman County's population was 6,355 and it jumped to 17,849 by 1900 (Jones 1975). During this decade of growth a prominent member of the Shady Grove church, David Conrad Beltz, designed the present day building.

Beltz was among the German immigrants from Cincinnati, Ohio and one of Shady Grove's earliest preachers. In addition to being a preacher, he was also a gunsmith and carpenter. Beltz designed the building for the Shady Grove Methodist congregation in 1888. Congregation members volunteered to help him with construction. Beltz chose the Gothic Revival style for the rural church.

Possibly this choice of style was due to his German roots. The Gothic Revival style harkened to a Northern European rural type of architecture (Upton and Vlach, 1986). The church's design included a steep pitched roof that allowed room for high ceilings with exposed beams. Beltz selected tall narrow windows with triangular-heads. Construction began in 1892 and timbers used on the interior and exterior were cut by an "up and down" saw and then hand planed. Square nails were used in the church. For the interior of the building, wainscoting was especially ordered from Indiana. An elaborate spindlework altar rail was created along with pews of virgin heart pine.

When the edifice was completed in 1893, worship began in the Shady Grove Methodist Church. After the Civil War, it was one of the earliest congregations organized in Cullman County. Services continued there until 1920 when the county population changed. The population increased and the Shady Grove Methodist Church was replaced by a larger building within the town of Logan.

The cemetery includes the remains of early Cullman county settlers and is still in use today for their descendants. Graves of the settlers have birth date as early as the seventeenth century. Civil War veterans are interred in this setting as well.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery Cullman, Alabama

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References Sited

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Cullman County Plat Map. Map kept on file in the Archives vault of the Cullman County Courthouse. 1916.

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Fosque, Virginia. Places Names In Alabama. The University of Alabama Press. University. 1989.

- Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog Historic American Buildings Survey: A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. The University of Alabama Press. 1987.
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Jones, Margaret Jean. Cullman County Across the Years. Modernistic Printers. Cullman. 1975.

- Kollmorgen, Walter M. The German Settlement in Cullman County, Alabama: An Agricultural Island in the Cotton Belt. Washington. 1941.
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Matthews, I. V. McAffee. Shady Grove. Desk Top Printing. Cullman, Alabama. 1970.

- Miller, Charlotte. "Shady Grove, A Place of Love and Peace and Beauty", The Cullman Tribune. September 26, 1974
- Owen, Marie Bankhead. The Story of Alabama: A History of the State. Lewis Historical Publishing Company. New York. 1949.
- State of Alabama. Property Deed, State of Alabama, Cullman County, Cullman, AL
 35055: Hand written by George Lister, Justice of the Peace. December 28, 2881. Filed in deed of conveyance Vol. 6, Page 335, November 30, 1887, A. B. Hayes, Judge of Probate. 1887.
- Stiles, Doris Kilgo. "Shady Grove Methodist Church History", Cullman County Commission. Cullman County Churches and Cemeteries. Vol. II. 1979.

United States Census. The Tenth Census of the United States. Washington. 1880.

- United States Census. The Eleventh Census of the United States. Washington. 1890.
- United States Census. The Fourteenth Census of the United States. Washington, 1920.

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 The Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery

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United States Census. The Fifteenth Census of the United States. Washington. 1930.

Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach. Common Places Readings in American Vernacular Architecture. The University of Georgia Press. Athens. 1986.

Verbal Boundary Description

The 8.4 acre tract whereon are located the Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery is delineated on the accompanying figure page at a scale of 1 in = 200 ft.

Boundary Justification

The seven-acre tract has been historically associated with the Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery since 1881. This seven-acre tract, which includes the church and cemetery, is the tract that Jane and Richard McCain deeded to the Shady Grove Methodist congregation in 1881 for the purpose of establishing a permanent church site.

Photograph Log

The following information is the same for each photograph:

Name of Photographer: Gene A. Ford Date of Photograph: November 26, 1998. Location of Original Negatives: Alabama Historical Commission 468 South Perry Street Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Photograph 1. North and West side of the Shady Grove Methodist Church facing Southeast.

Photograph 2. View of North side (facade) facing South.

Photograph 3. View of West side of church facing East.

Photograph 4. View of South side (apse) of church facing North.

Photograph 5. View of East side of church facing West.

Photograph 6. View of interior looking out front doors.

Photograph 7. View of interior apse end facing South.



