

1. Sodality Chapel
2. 4307 Old Shell Road  
Spring Hill College Campus  
Mobile, Mobile County  
Alabama
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Mobile, Alabama
4. sw $\frac{1}{2}$  of S13, T4S, R2W
5. A parcel measuring 100' x 100' on the campus of Spring Hill College, located 2400' south of Old Shell Road and College Lane. See red line on city planning map.

Acreage: less than 1

UTM 16 / 391100 / 3395810

6. 1850

7. Description: The chapel is a simple, one-aisled, rectangular building with a small squared projection for an altar. The low foundation has brick piers about 6 courses high. The building is one story in height with a gable roof over the main section and a small lower gable over the sanctuary. The main entrance is one at the north end and a secondary doorway into the sanctuary on the south. The double-leaf front door has a semi-circular transom. On both the east and west sides of the building there are three equally-spaced windows with panes of two contrasting colors of glass in which the background is a pale greenish-blue and the pattern of a cross in amber.

8. Significance:

Education: A very simple chapel constructed for private worship around the middle of the nineteenth century, the building is the oldest surviving frame building on the campus of Spring Hill College. The spartan design of the building both on the exterior and the interior -- except for the semi-circular fan light over the door and the cross patterns created on the windows through the use of two colors of glass--undoubtedly reflect the needs of the Sodality which had it built.

The chapel stands in a landscaped spot near the shrine to St. Francis Xavier. Seen against its background of wood and shrubbery, this unadorned building creates a sense of serenity not achieved in many more elaborate structures.

Ingegrity: The building has remained unchanged since the time of its construction with the possible exception of the addition of the rear sacristy which is lower in overall height than the rest of the building.

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Springhill College is the oldest institution of higher learning in the State of Alabama founded by Bishop Portier in 1830. In 1869 a fire destroyed the entire campus with the exception of Sodality Chapel.

The local sodality responsible for the construction of the building affiliated itself with the Primary Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Rome on May 6, 1849. The chapel was constructed soon after under Father Francis S. Gautrelet, S. J., first Jesuit president of Spring Hill College.