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NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chubb Methodist Episcopal Church
other names/site number Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Chubbtown Road
city, town Cave Spring (X) vicinity of
county Floyd code GA 115
state Georgia code GA zip code 30124

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

3/23/90
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

entered in the National Register

Arlene Byan

5/4/90

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Gothic Revival

Materials:

foundation	rock
walls	wood
roof	metal
other	unknown

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Chubb Methodist Episcopal Church is located in a rural setting within the unincorporated community of Chubbtown, five miles northwest of Cedartown and three and a half miles southeast of Cave Spring.

The church, built in 1870, is rectangular in shape and is constructed of wooden vertical heart pine planks, fifteen feet long, covered in board-and-batten siding. The planks are joined to each other by strips approximately 15 feet long. Parallel sets of three windows each that are approximately 2 1/2 feet wide and 6 feet high are located on both the east and west sides of the church. Two heart pine doors approximately 9 feet in height are located on the north side of the church and form the front entrance. Also located on the north side of the church are 11 modern cement steps with an iron rail on each side. The cement steps were added in 1929, replacing wooden steps. The church is underpinned with field stones joined together by cement. The underpinning was completed around 1942 or 1943. There is a gable roof.

The interior space of the church is approximately 33 feet wide and 50 feet long. An altar and built-in choir stand are located at the south end of the church, with pews along the east and west sides of the church. The interior of the church is constructed of original heart pine planks and the floor has a hard wood finish. The choir area is paneled. The interior heart pine planks are approximately 15 feet long and are arranged horizontally. The heart pine planks on the ceiling are also approximately 15 feet long, but they are joined together by heart pine strips approximately 15 feet long just as the planks on the exterior of the church are joined. Ten heart pine original pews are located along both the east and west sides of the church, facing the altar and choir area, which are both located at the south end of the church. The ceiling is constructed of heart pine

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planks and is approximately 14 feet high and is supported by two heart pine beams, which are approximately 14 feet long and approximately 10 feet apart. The two supporting beams are located in the center of the church. The church originally did not have indoor plumbing and originally was heated by coal and wood burning stoves, none of which remain. The church's interior lighting originally consisted of three brass kerosene lamps, suspended from the ceiling, only one of which remains intact. The lamps were connected to a pulley that allowed them to be lowered.

There is no formal landscaping, just informal plantings. The church is located in a rural setting, surrounded on all sides by oak and pine trees. The only outbuilding on the property is an aluminum building located on the southeast side of the church. Built in 1986, it is used as a Fellowship (Reception) Hall. The simple character and appearance of the church is in complete harmony with the surrounding rural area. The inside restrooms were added in the 1960s to the south end of the church in the form of an addition constructed of concrete blocks. The altar and choir area were also enlarged during the same time.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

Period of Significance:

1870-1940

Significant Dates:

1870

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Chubb Methodist Episcopal Church (now Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church) is significant in architecture because it is a fine example of a small vernacular Gothic Revival-style, country Methodist church built just after the Civil War. Examples of Gothic Revival-style buildings are relatively rare in Georgia, and most are churches; the style was overshadowed by the continuing popularity of the Greek Revival style. The church exemplifies the use of the board-and-batten method of construction often used for churches and retains one original light fixture and all of its original pews. While it resembles other church structures from that era, it is also important because it was built in and by members of a free-black community. The church is significant in black history because it is the only intact historic structure from the once-thriving community of Chubbtown, established solely by the free-black Chubb family who arrived in Floyd County in the early 1860s, purchased land and began settling this area. It is the major historic vestige of one of Georgia's few free-black settlements.

National Register Criteria

The Chubb Chapel meets National Register Criterion A "broad patterns of American history" because it represents the free-black community of Chubbtown settled and the church built by one of Georgia's very few free-black families, certainly one of the very few to ever found their own settlement. Since freedom for the whole race had not yet been achieved, and may not have even been anticipated by the Chubb family at the time they founded this town, they were pioneers on yet another American frontier, free-blacks trying to establish a separate existence from the vast majority white settlement in Georgia's westernmost territory. This church, built after freedom had been officially achieved for the entire race, reflects the black community's long association with religious freedom as one means of expression of cultural identity. The church was always one of the strongest institutions in a black settlement as it was here and as exemplified by the survival of this church structure as the only historic vestige remaining from the community.

The church also meets National Register Criterion C because its style reflecting Gothic-revival influence is in keeping with other churches built in the 1870s in its use of the vernacular Gothic-revival style, adapting the details of the style to rural conditions and mostly identified by the use of board-and-batten siding. The

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double front entrance doors, lack of an entrance vestibule, hanging light fixtures (of which one remains), and lack of interior plumbing (until a recent addition) are all details found in rural churches of the era.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The church meets National Register Criteria Exception A about churches because it is significant in architecture as a good example of a rural adaptation of the Gothic Revival style and in black history because of its being the only remaining historic vestige of the once-thriving community of Chubbtown.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance is 1870-1940, reflecting the continuing use of the building as a church to the end of the historic era, actually to the present day.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The history of the Chubb Chapel, and in fact Chubbtown itself, must be seen in the context of the Chubb family and its struggle first to escape slavery and then as a rare, free-black family to migrate seeking better opportunities, as did most of its free white contemporaries.

The history of the Chubb family in North America dates back at least to 1775. Nicholas Chubb is listed a free colored male, head of a household on the 1820 census of Caswell County, North Carolina. His age is listed as 45 years or older, which means that Nicholas Chubb probably was not born later than 1775, whether he was born free, or in slavery is not known. If born a slave, it is not yet known when or under what circumstances he was freed.

Isaac Chubb, born about 1797 in North Carolina, is presumed to be one of Nicholas Chubb's sons. Isaac appeared as a free black in the 1830 Census of Caswell County, North Carolina and shortly thereafter migrated to north Georgia before 1833 when his first child is recorded as having been born in Georgia. It is important to note that Isaac Chubb, a free black male, migrated with his family to Georgia, a slave state, rather than to a northern free state. Isaac Chubb, who was a blacksmith by profession, apparently was successful enough in his profession to keep his family together. In 1850, Isaac and his family were living in Morgan County, Georgia.

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In 1850, Georgia's population was just over 906,000 people with just over 381,000 being slave, and 521,000 free whites. Only 2,931 were listed as free blacks, and of these 16 were recorded living in Morgan County. Of these 16, 10 were Isaac Chubb and family. The only large congregation of free blacks in the state were in the larger cities of Savannah, Augusta, Macon, and Columbus.

By 1860, Georgia's total population had risen to 1,057,000 or so, with whites making up 591,000 or so, while the slave population had grown to over 462,000. The free black total had grown to 3500 exactly.

While the 1860 Census does not reflect the exact whereabouts of the Chubb family, it would appear that they were already in Floyd County. The free black residents of Morgan County totalled 16 in 1850 (of which 10 were Isaac and family) and only 7 in 1860, for a loss of 9. Floyd County, on the other hand, had only 4 free blacks in 1850 but had gained 9 for a total of 13 in 1860.

Isaac Chubb and his eight sons (William, Henry, John, Thomas, Jacob, Isaac, Jr., Nicholas and George) thus arrived at, or were subsequently born in, Floyd County, Georgia, by the early 1860s. Neither research nor family tradition has indicated any reason for this northwesterly move. The older sons soon began purchasing real estate before the end of the Civil War. Henry Chubb purchased 120 acres in 1864 before the end of the war.

The 1870 census of Floyd County, Georgia, reflects that Isaac was dead and Henry was head of the family. The census lists the various occupations of the brothers as blacksmith, wagon maker, house carpenter, sawmill operator and the rest farmers. Apparently, these varied talents enabled the Chubb brothers to prosper.

Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church was established in a community that most probably was one of a kind, one that was established and owned by blacks before the turn of the century in the United States.

Legend has it that the community in which Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church is located was once inhabited by the Cherokee Indians before they were forced to relocate during the winter of 1838-1839.

In an undated deed recorded on August 8, 1870, "Henry Chubb and brothers, of town of Cave Spring" conveyed for \$200 approximately one acre of land "at Chubbs" to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with "a house now situated on said lot and occupied as a school and a place of religious worship by the colored people." Henry Chubb, one of the Chubb Brothers, was one of the original trustees.

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Although William Chubb was the oldest son of Isaac Chubb, Sr. as shown on the census, Henry Chubb seems to have taken on the role as head of the Chubb family in Floyd County. The wording of the church deed, Henry's inclusion as the sole Chubb family member as one of the trustees and his listing in the 1870 census support the tradition that Henry Chubb had become head of the Chubb family in Floyd County by 1870.

During the Post-Reconstruction period the Chubb brothers continued purchasing real estate. Their real estate holdings became a self-sufficient community known as Chubbtown. Chubbtown provided goods and services to white and black residents of the surrounding areas.

Chubbtown was indeed a self-sufficient community. The community, which was serviced by its own post office, was composed of a general store, blacksmith shop, grist mill, distillery, syrup mill, saw mill, wagon company, cotton gin, casket (coffin) company and several farms, all owned and operated by the Chubb family.

The Chubb family remained and prospered in Floyd County, Georgia, while many southern blacks were seeking prosperity in the north. The family's prosperity declined around the 1940s when a flood destroyed many of the family's businesses.

By the 1870 census, Henry Chubb had acquired considerable property as an individual, separate from the family's holdings. Perhaps this is the reason that he became the head of the family.

In the county's first official county history, A History of Rome and Floyd County, written by George M. Battey, Jr., and published in 1922, the family and its community even attracted the attention of the white community of Floyd County, as seen by the following reference to the family in the encyclopedic section under the heading "Darkeys of Rome, Old-Time" :

"Chubb Family: These darkeys were farmers around Chubbtown, near Cave Spring and the Polk County line, whose industry and thrift enabled them to accumulate considerable property, gins, mills, houses, etc. They were law-abiding, respected by the whites and generally good citizens. Their master set them free before the Civil War."

Although the reference to the Chubbs as "darkeys" certainly will not amuse the current descendants of the Chubb brothers, the reference must be put in its proper historic context. They were the only black family discussed, all the other entries were individuals. The history

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was published in 1922, when far more insulting words were used to describe blacks. What is far more important to note is that Chubbtown, a community established by blacks, had gained such respect and prominence that it could not be ignored by the white author. As in all Georgia county histories of the era, blacks were relegated to only brief mentions, or appendices, even though in many counties they had long constituted a major percentage of the population.

Perhaps the descendants of the Chubb brothers will not find the following reference to Chubbtown, from the same history, as offensive as the preceding one:

"Chubbtown is a settlement of prosperous and respectable negroes four miles southeast of Cave Spring at the Polk County line." (p. 397)

The Chubb brothers and Chubbtown certainly had received some recognition by the 1920s. Unfortunately, by 1940 all of the Chubb brothers had died; however, their dreams and lives lived on through their children. The Chubb brothers (William, Henry, John, Thomas, Jacob, Isaac, Nicholas and George) along with many of their children and other descendants are buried in the Chubb Cemetery, located on land donated by the Chubb and Jones families in Chubbtown.

Although the community that the Chubb brothers established is no longer a self-sufficient town and is no longer exclusively owned by members of the Chubb family, it continues to bear the name Chubbtown, and is recognized as such on the U.S.G.S. topographic map, Cedartown West Quadrangle.

The church that the Chubb brothers helped establish in August 1870 stands today and is still operating as a church and is now known as Chubb Chapel United Methodist Church. It is the only historic building dating from the period of Chubbtown's historic development.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Jones, Kenneth. "Chubb...Church," Historic Property Information Form, Sept. 28, 1988. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, and additional information submitted Feb. 16, 1989, "The Chubbs of Chubbtown." Mr. Jones is the great, great grandson of George Chubb.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) 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, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2.1 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 658400 Northing 3772900

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is parcel 13 on Floyd County, Georgia Tax Assessment Map Sheet Number 706, located on land lot 1061, Land District 3, Section 4. It is marked on an attached copy of the above mentioned map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all the land owned by the church and all that remains associated with it. While the church historically has owned "one acre or more" based on the 1870 deed, the current tax map, cited above, indicates 2.1 acres as the size of the church parcel and it is therefore cited as such herein. It is assumed that the church parcel was reevaluated by the tax assessor's office in modern times and thus determined a larger parcel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** March 14, 1990.

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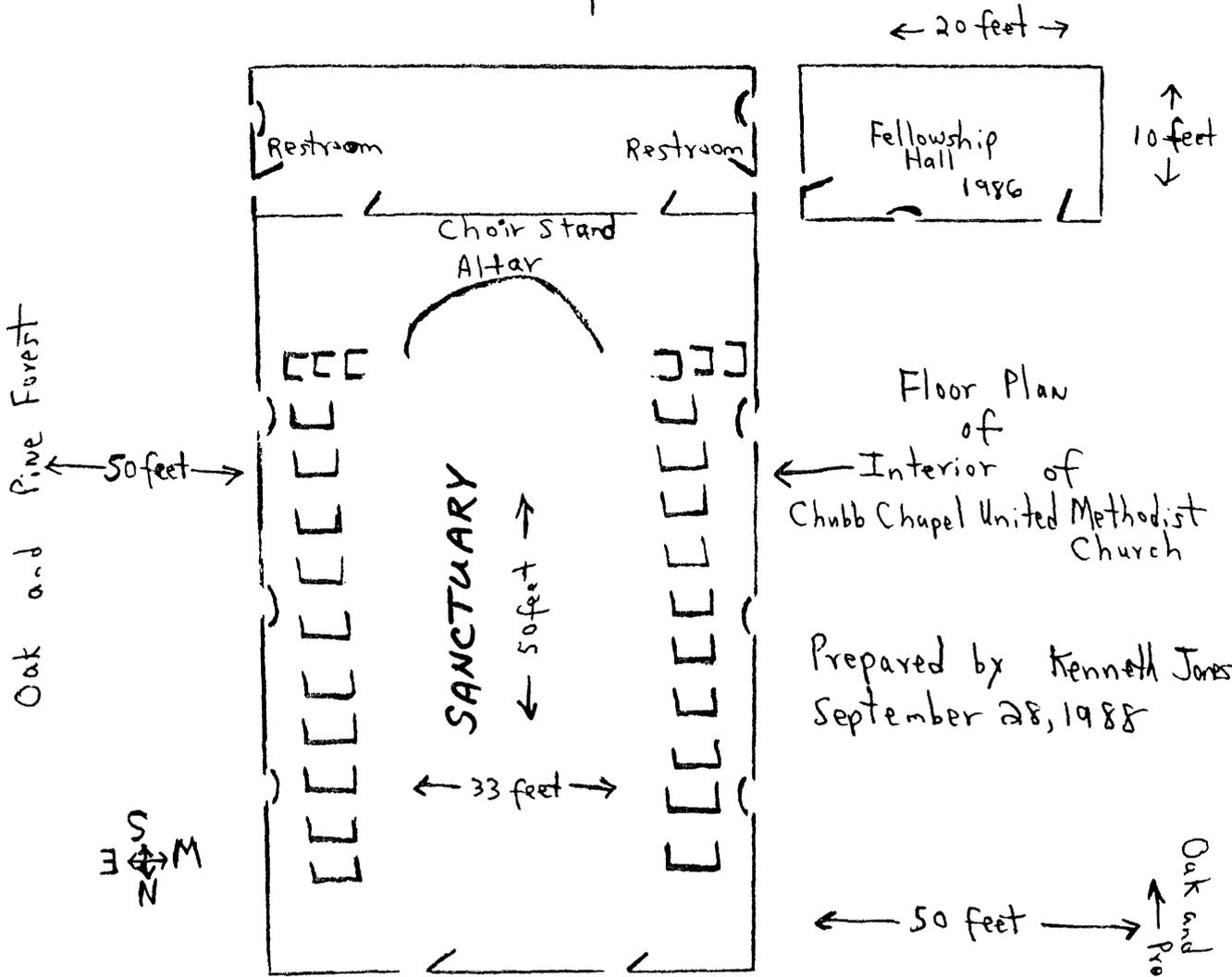
Photographs

Name of Property: Chubb Methodist Episcopal Church
City or Vicinity: Cave Spring Vicinity
County: Floyd
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: October 1989

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 8: Front facade, photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 8: Front and west facades, with adjacent modern fellowship hall, photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 8: Detail of front doors, photographer facing south.
- 4 of 8: Rear of church and fellowship hall, photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 8: Interior of sanctuary, photographer facing east.
- 6 of 8: Interior of sanctuary, photographer facing north.
- 7 of 8: Interior of sanctuary, photographer facing north.
- 8 of 8: Interior of sanctuary with altar, photographer facing southeast.

Property of Elvira Chubb Bray Stone
Oak and Pine Forest

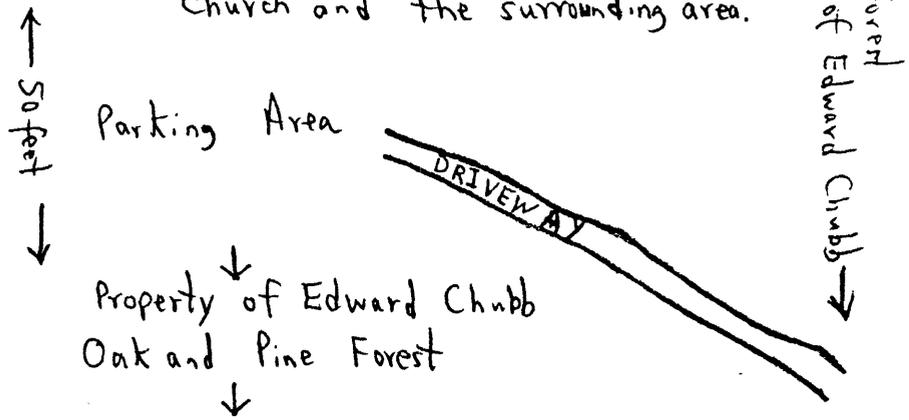


Floor Plan
of
Interior of
Chubb Chapel United Methodist
Church

Prepared by Kenneth Jones
September 28, 1988

This is a map of floor plan
of Chubb Chapel United Methodist
Church and the surrounding area.

- L = pew
-) = window
- / = door



Floor Plan
 CHubb Methodist Episcopal Church
 Cave Spring vicinity, Floyd County,
 Georgia
 Scale: Not to scale
 Source: Drawn by Kenneth Jones
 Date: 1988
 Key: The appropriate room
 identifications are marked directly
 on the plan.

