

1ST METHODIST CHURCH [GILBERT'S  
FURNITURE STORE] 7B x 5, Item 16  
Lms. Co. Ath. Site #15; 124 N. Marian

TARCOG HISTORICAL SURVEY  
Final Report Form

Make your answers as concise as possible.

Number as appears on your county map 10 # 15

1. Name of site or structure Gilbert's Furniture Store

2. Location of site or structure (including township, range and section number, and which quadrant of section if known) Athens, Ala.

3. Description Built about 1836

4. Historical significance of site or structure if known First used as Methodist Church, then was used as City Theater. Built

**Names:**

Gilbert's Furniture  
Store

TARCOG Historical  
Survey

**Places:**

Athens, AL

**Types:**

form

**Dates:**

1836

1ST METHODIST CHURCH [GILBERT'S  
 FURNITURE STORE] 7 Bx 5, Item 16  
 Lms. Co. Ath. Site #15; 124 N. Marian

TARCOG  
 ARCHITECTURAL--HISTORICAL NOTES  
 FIELD SURVEYOR  
 RECORDING FORM

Mr. Mary Elizabeth Gilbert  
 232-2850 County: Limestone  
 Field Surveyors' Names: A. Thomas, J. Hendricks

Historical Notes Number: #10 site 15  
 (Red Ink)  
 Photograph Record Number: #24  
 (Blue Ink)

- Name: Gilbert's Furniture Store (First Methodist Church) Ritz Theater from 1921-1970
- Location: Athens, Ala - within block of Hobbs & Marian Streets - 124 North Marian St.
- Owner of Property: Buddy Gilbert (Harvey)  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gilbert  
Mary - 232-2850
- Geographical Data: \_\_\_\_\_
- Acreage: Town lot
- Classification: Building used for private ownership occupied by furniture store for commercial purposes
- Integrity: Was First Methodist church - Front continues to be largely authentic with some modifications. It has changed in various uses.

Form HS-1  
 p. 1

**Names:**

Gilbert, Elizabeth,  
 Mrs.

Gilbert's Furniture  
 Store

TARCOG Historical  
 Survey

**Places:**

Athens, Limestone  
 Co., AL

**Types:**

form

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 5, Item 16**

**First Methodist Church - Gilbert's Furniture Store, built circa 1836 - Limestone Co.**

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1ST METHODIST CHURCH [GILBERT'S  
FURNITURE STORE] 7Bx5, Item 16  
Lms. Co. Ath. Site #15; 124 N. Marian

8. Condition: Excellent

9. Present Use: Furniture Store

10. Areas of Significance: Built originally as a Methodist Church circa 1836. Same congregation until new church was built in another location 1928. Became City Shelter in 1971. Developed as furniture store.

11. Architectural Description: Flat + 2 square 1/2 columns in front. Heavy dentil work. CA 1836. Appears to support date. A mixture of Georgian + Greek Revival influences. - Palladian window. Heavy dentils. A strong Greek portico although interior modified. This is considered one of the best early church structures in Toccoa area.

12. Sketches of structure or site when applicable:

Date of Completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Form HS-1  
p. 2

**Names:**

Gilbert's Furniture  
Store

**Places:**

Athens, Limestone  
Co., AL

**Types:**

form

1ST METHODIST CHURCH [GILBERT'S  
FURNITURE STORE] 7 Box 5, Item 16  
Lms. Co. Ath. Site #15; 124 N. Marian

TARCOG  
HISTORICAL NOTES  
HISTORICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR  
VERIFIED DOCUMENTATION FORM

County: Limestone

Coordinator's Name: Miss Hamilton

Historical Notes Number: #10 Site #15  
(Red Ink)

Photograph Record Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Blue Ink)

1. Name: Gilbert's Furniture Store

2. Location: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification: Greek Revival

4. Owner of Property: Elizabeth Gilbert

5. Location of Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Form HS-3  
p. 1

**Names:**

Gilbert, Elizabeth,  
Mrs.

Gilbert's Furniture  
Store

**Places:**

Athens, Limestone  
Co., AL

**Types:**

form



1ST METHODIST CHURCH [GILBERT'S  
FURNITURE STORE] 73x5, Item 16  
Lms. Co. Ath. Site #15; 124 N. Marian

6. Representation in Existing Surveys: Preliminary TARCOG Survey  
1973, Limestone County Courthouse  
and records

7. Description: a mixture of Greek Revival  
influences, Palladian window, heavy  
dentils, two story flush "porch"

8. Historical Significance  
A. Period: Greek Revival  
B. Specific Dates: circa 1836

Form HS-3  
p. 2

**Names:**

Gilbert's Furniture  
Store

TARCOG Historical  
Survey

**Places:**

Athens, Limestone  
Co., AL

**Types:**

form

1ST METHODIST CHURCH [GILBERT'S  
FURNITURE STORE] 7 Box 5, Item 16  
Lms. Co. Ath. Site #15; 124 N. Marian

8. Historical Significance (continued)

C. Areas of Significance:

D. Statement of Significance: Old First Methodist  
Church. Said to be built in 1836.  
Appearance supports the date. Although  
the interior is modified it may be the oldest  
church structure in the TALLAHASSEE AREA  
(H. Jones, arch.)

Form HS-3  
p. 3

**Names:**

Old First Methodist  
Church

**Places:**

Athens, Limestone  
Co., AL

**Types:**

form

**Dates:**

1836

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 5, Item 16  
First Methodist Church - Gilbert's Furniture Store, built circa 1836 - Limestone Co.  
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1ST METHODIST CHURCH [GILBERT'S  
FURNITURE STORE] 7 Box 5, Item 16  
Lms. Co. Ath. Site #15; 124 N. Marian

9. Specific Bibliographical Reference: Historical Times  
Dec. 16, 1971 Deed Records Limestone County  
Courthouse - Walker's History of Limestone County -  
Deed Record - Limestone Co. Court House

10. Verified Geographical Data:

Date of Completion:

Form HS-3  
p. 4

**Names:**

References to Store  
Gilbert's Furniture

**Places:**

Athens, Limestone  
Co., AL

**Types:**

form

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection:    Series 7, Box 5, Item 16**  
**First Methodist Church - Gilbert's Furniture Store, built circa 1836 - Limestone Co.**  
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**First Methodist Church - Gilbert's Furniture Store, built circa 1836 - Limestone Co.**

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# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

**Preferred Citation:** Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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