

S. Front  
 (one entry for men, one for women (?))



H ←



c. 1840's UNION CHAPEL CHURCH

S.W. of LABEL GREEN, AL.

DISCOVERED (as a hist. bk. Rev. Ch.)

by H.P. Jones in 1973 (H.S. photos '73)

Mrs. Beardsall gave to UVA to put  
 on UVA campus for student art gallery

10/18



N. REAR

N

C1840 UNION  
 CHAPEL CH.  
 (NWB)



(Note plane - marks on per ends  
(must be orig. parts))

dado = one bd.  $\pm 30''$  w,



N. Rem. Apparently ch. not painted since 1860 (?)



Chewin + pvt - same ft. joints  
Note same ends  
from seat - bds.

2 pegs →



→ | ← ± 1 3/4" |  
bead 4 pegs at  
mortise &  
tenon joint

2 PANEL GREEK REVIVAL  
SIDEWAY DOOR

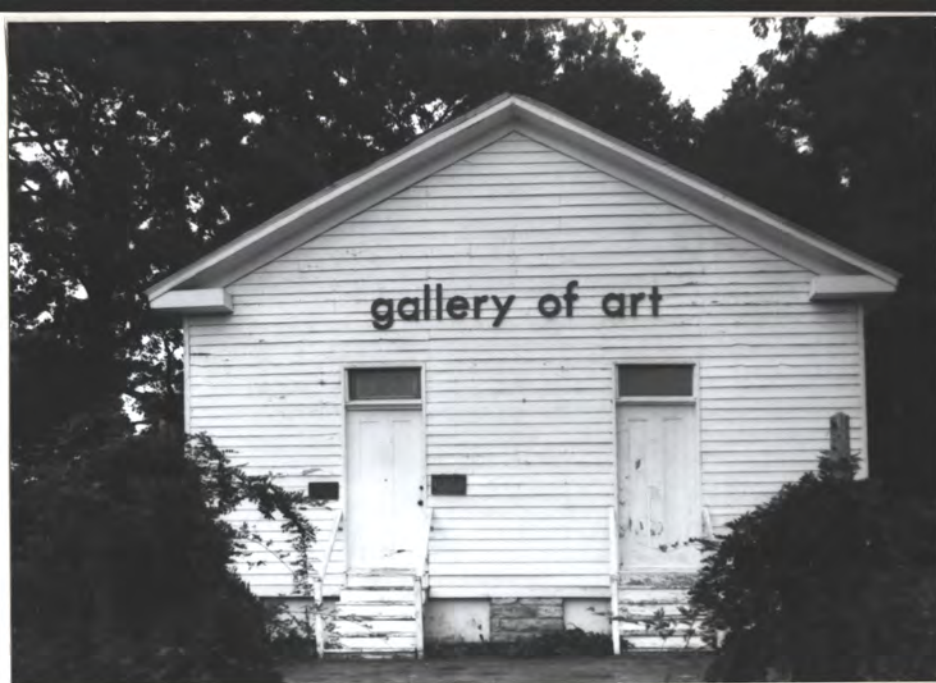
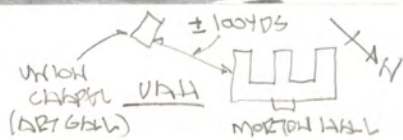
cast iron →  
"miter"  
(one pc.)  
hinge

Note 2 exposed  
tenon - ends →  
4 pegs →





→ N



→ N

c. 1840s UNION CHAPEL CH. originally 1/2 mi. west of  
Brier Fork Creek on Grimwood Rd., Madison Co., AL  
PHOTOS Sept '94 APJ on U. of A. Campus



→ N

A. Jones donated  
restoration design  
in 1974  
+ donated  
handicap ramp  
design for  
N. side in '94  
(not used.  
Both had up  
front instead)

→ N



Windows are backed w/ black ply. to  
control art gallery light, but appear opaque

ENR



→



↑ N

orig. ceil



orig. fl.

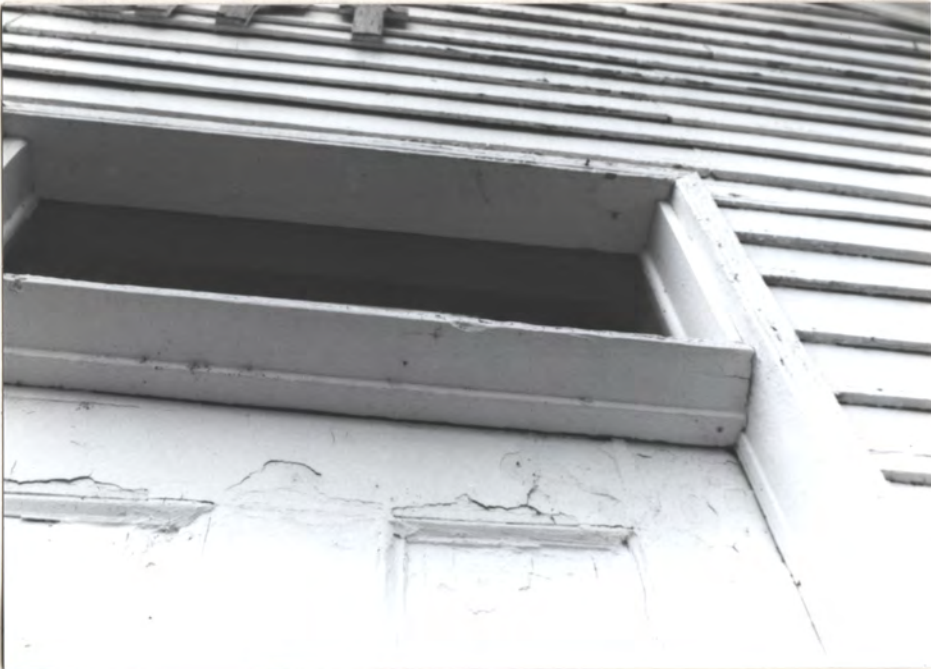
→

windows covered  
inside +  
control lt.  
fin art  
(orig. walls  
+ stairs are  
behind  
gyp. bd.)



→

e. front entry (S.E.)



N  
 ↓  
EAST  
DOOR  
 (N.)  
 ORIGINAL  
 EXCEPT  
 TRUNKING IS  
 GONE  
 See 1973  
 photos

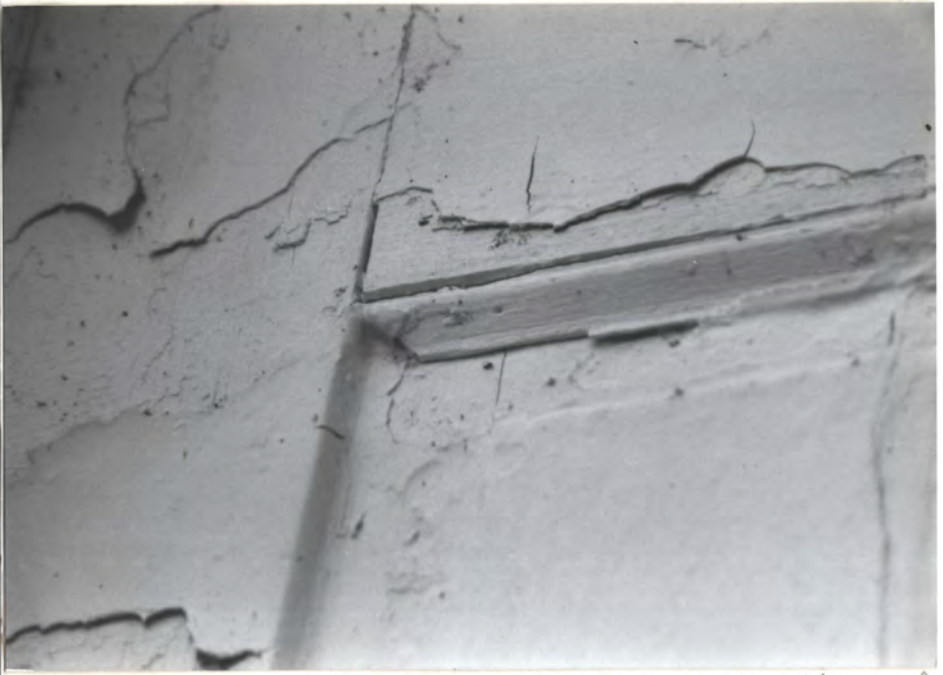


EAST  
 (N.)  
 DOOR

N  
 ↓

N  
 ↓

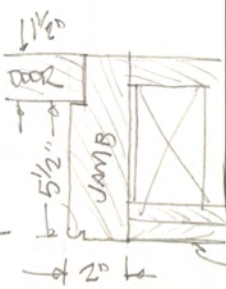
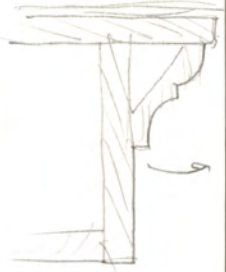
7718



THIS CIRCA 1840 GREEK REVIVAL CHURCH  
WAS DONATED TO UAH BY  
MR. AND MRS. C. FRANKLIN BENDALL.  
IT WAS MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL SITE NEAR  
HAZEL GREEN, ALABAMA  
TO THIS LOCATION IN JANUARY 1974.  
RESTORATION WAS DONE BY  
STUDENTS OF THE  
UAH ART DEPARTMENT.

N

"GOOD MAINTENANCE" by Dave Brown, V&H Bldg. head  
EAST DOOR



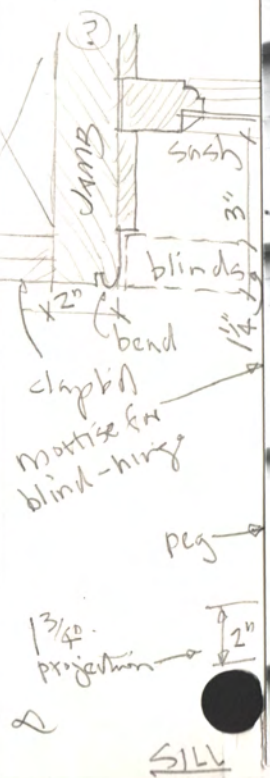
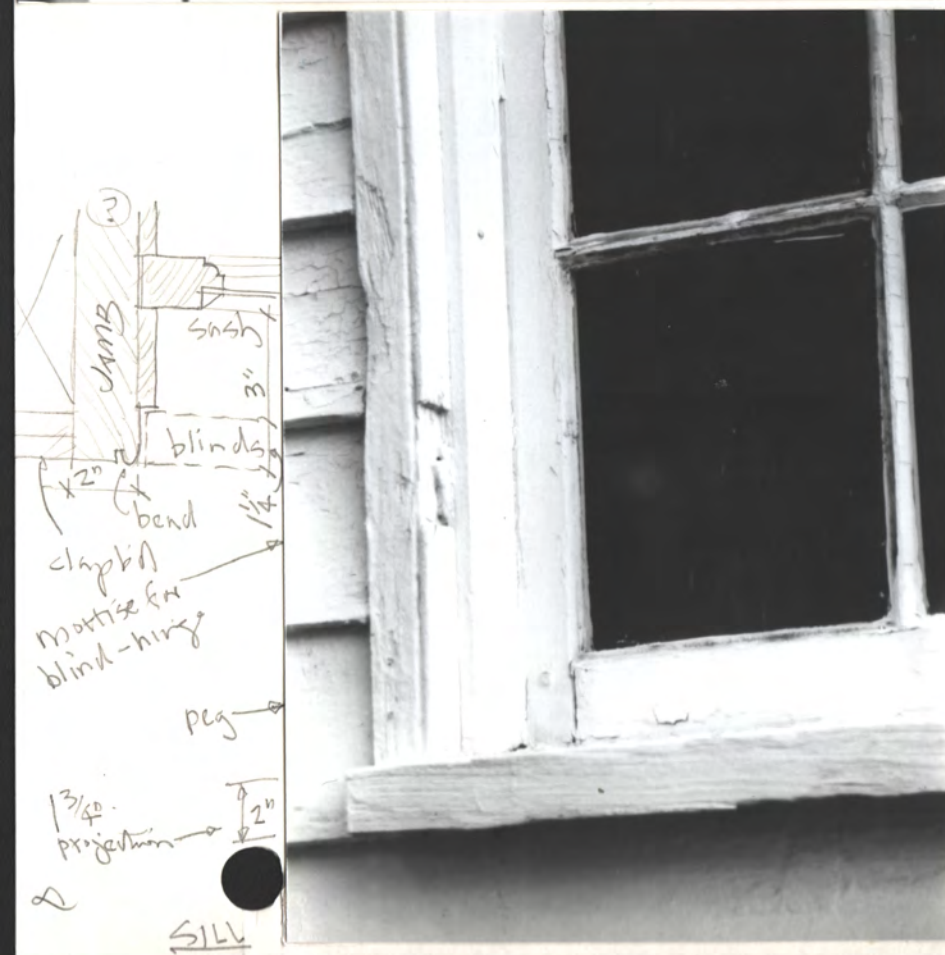
JAMB

clapboard

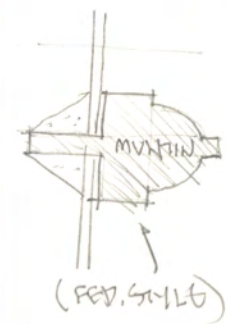
N



CORNICE



SILL



10" x 12" panes  
 (most usual size for pre-1850±)  
 9/9 sash  
 5"-6" o.c.  
 3/4" thick



MORTISE

← mortise for blind hinge at jamb





Union Chapel  
originally in H. M. Mathison Co.  
here moved to VBA campus, 1974

# JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

December 12, 1994

Dr. Jack Ellis  
2004 Brandy Circle  
Huntsville, Alabama 35811

Re: Circa 1840 Union Chapel (UAH Art Gallery)

Dear Jack:

Following is how Union Chapel came to UAH. In 1973 I was driving on an unfamiliar country road (Grimwood Road) to an appointment southwest of Hazel Green when I passed an empty, boarded-up, obviously country-Greek Revival period clapboard church, the oldest in Madison County as far as I know. At my nearby appointment I inquired as to the status and owner and learned it was owned by a Mrs. Bendall. I talked to Mrs. Bendall, who said that her son Charles had plans to demolish it and reuse some of the wood in a new house. Permission was requested to instead try to find a nearby church who might move it and use it for a fellowship hall or similar use. It was last a Methodist church (I seem to recall) so I attended a north Alabama conference of Methodist churches near Courtland to try to find a recipient. I also brought this to the attention of Dr. Frances Roberts (UAH History Professor) and she joined in the effort. No church recipient was found, but Dr. Jeffrey Bayer of the UAH Art Department was interested in moving it to the UAH campus for an art gallery, with the students participating in its rehabilitation. Architecture was a particular interest of Jeff's.

As a result, the Bendall family donated the building to UAH and it was moved (with some nail-biting problems) to the campus. The building-mover got the building on wheels and out into the middle of highway 231-431 where it became apparent that he hadn't obtained a permit from the highway department. The building thus sat by the highway for several weeks until this was ironed-out.

In addition to the donation of the building, several thousand dollars of cash donations were received, the renovation plans were donated by Jones & Herrin, and the students donated labor and other efforts.

The exact date of the building is not known. Based on technical and stylistic clues it could be anywhere from c.1840 to 1860. It would be good to try to pin it down. If it is pre-1859, then it is (so far as I know) the oldest surviving essentially intact religious structure in Madison County. Some are claimed to be older than 1859, but if they are the buildings have been remodeled beyond recognition. There is a lot of confusion about dates of religious structures because in many cases the advertised date is that of the founding of the congregation, which may be in its second or third building on that site.

The numerous handmade wooden pews in Union Chapel were, as I feared, doled out to various inappropriate places. Two were put under the portico of the house "Echols Hill", where windblown rain was trapped on the seats and they rotted. I don't know where the remnants are now. Four, I observed last fall, were in an open shelter at Sharon Johnston Park. I obtained permission from County Commissioner Tillman Hill to give them to be put in the 1836 Cumberland Presbyterian Church building in Mooresville,

*P.S. - Dave Brown, UAH "Bldg's" man  
wanted this bldg "gone". He accepted  
no help & inappropriately "patched up"  
the bldg. in c.1996.  
The bldg. is essentially destroyed  
after all the efforts to save it.*

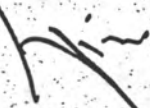
*HJ donated  
\$1,000  
(for 27%)*

*done*

which is now owned by the town of Mooresville and is to be used for civic assemblies, concerts etc. (see attached letter of October 31, 1994).

Since Professor Jeffrey Bayer (deceased) was the prime mover in getting this structure to UAH and getting it rehabilitated, I think UAH should recognize his great efforts, perhaps by naming the gallery after him. In conjunction with this, the building should be properly RESTORED (it has been inappropriately patched in recent years). I would be happy to again donate some restoration guidance if this can be done.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA  
HPJ/tm

copy: HJ

attachments

# Stranded Chapel's Journey To UAH Campus Is Started



Chapel Finally Gets Moving Toward UAH Campus

A 134-year-old building, stranded for three weeks on the side of the road near Hazel Green, started moving to the University of Alabama in Huntsville this morning.

Clyde Williams, UAH purchasing agent, said Don Kennedy, under contract with UAH for the move, had agreed to pay nearly \$1,000 for the cost of moving utility lines in the path of the move.

The building, once an old chapel, will be restored at UAH and used by the Huntsville Art Museum until the Von Braun Civic Center is completed.

The move was begun in December, but was halted when it was discovered that the building would slide under utility lines.

The chapel's height of 26 feet exceeds the state height law limit and transporting the building through the city would require moving traffic lines and traffic light systems at several intersections.

The telephone company and Huntsville Utilities have informed UAH that the total moving cost will be over \$200. A height of 26.5 feet, the state limit, was listed as the chapel's height on the application instead of its true size, said Dick Kramer, Huntsville chief traffic engineer, who voiced the complaint to the highway department.

"If the chapel was 16.5 feet, there would be no problem in getting it to UAH," Kramer said.

Dr. Joseph Iowdie, UAH vice president for administrative affairs, said UAH was unaware of the application misinformation and holds the contractor responsible for paying the \$200 moving costs out of his \$2,500 contract, and getting the building to UAH.

When the chapel arrives on the campus, the school's art department students, directed by art instructor Jeffrey Bayer, will begin work to restore the building as a possible temporary site for the Huntsville Art Museum, until the civic center is completed.

But the chapel must be restored by mid-March, said Bayer, if it is to be the city's temporary art center. "We're working under a tight deadline," he said.

Huntsville traffic department engineers have mapped a route for the chapel which will require taking down traffic light systems at two intersections and five flashing beacons, said Kramer.

The chapel's journey was stopped in December when Kennedy pulled the church through the Memorial Parkway and Bob Wade Lane intersection and was stopped. The contractor's planned route at that time was to take it down Memorial Parkway and up University Drive, which would have meant taking over a dozen traffic systems down, Kramer said.

Erected in the mid 1840's near Hazel Green, the Union Chapel Church is believed to be among the oldest structures of its type in Alabama, according to Huntsville architect and historian Harvie Jones, who has studied the chapel's history.

Earliest church records of the church date back to 1848. Its architecture, a conglomeration of Greek Revival and Gothic styles, is one of its greatest historical assets, Jones said.

## City... UAH... oes

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View of Arch. on Jan 4 with Wilson Dr. re: restoration - Summer 1997

# Renovation gives new life to building

The Union Chapel art gallery located behind Morton Hall is being renovated this summer to preserve the historic building and expand its uses for the University community.

Used as an art gallery in recent years, the building has been closed for repairs. During the summer, the structure is receiving a new roof, repairs to the floor, and handicap access. The building's interior is being transformed so that in addition to its continued function as a gallery, it can be used as a small auditorium or meeting location. Kitchen facilities are being added for use during receptions, and the building's new configuration will allow seating for approximately 100 people.

Plans are to invite students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the University to join in painting and adding the finishing touches to the structure, once the major changes are complete. A date for this "Painting Party" has not been announced, but dust off your paint brush now so you'll be ready to help.



Chapel Art Gallery awaits finishing touches

## Church steeped in history

Donated to the University in 1973 by the Franklin Bendall family of Toney, AL, and moved to campus early in 1974 from its original site near Hazel Green, the old Union Chapel building on our campus dates back to approximately 1830. Its exact construction date is unknown, but architect H. P. Jones, who contributed consultation on the original restoration project, said that architectural clues in the structure could place its construction as early as 1820. The 30- by 50-foot Greek revival style building is thought to be among the oldest of its kind in Alabama.

The building originally housed the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation, and in later years, Baptist and Holiness congregations. In a recent telephone conversation with Mrs. Franklin Bendall, now in her 90s, she related warm childhood memories of time spent at the Union Chapel — of playing there with her friends, attending services there, warming herself at the building's old coal-burning stove. By 1962, the building was no longer in use as a church, but was used for storing hay.

When the Bendall family offered the building to the University, Dr. Jeffrey Bayer, then a UAH art professor, headed the effort to move and restore the structure. He rallied art teachers and students from UAH and Butler

and Johnson High Schools as well as volunteers from the UAH Engineering Society. These volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours of work to the project.

Just getting the building from its original site in Hazel Green to UAH was a major undertaking. Because of an error in judging the building's height, movers were unable to complete the route as planned. The structure was stranded on the side of Highway 231 for weeks until an alternate route could be arranged. The chapel arrived on campus on January 5, 1974, finally having completed its 26-mile journey.

Great care was taken to retain the architectural integrity of the church. Even the stones in the chapel's current foundation are the same stones the building has rested on for all of its more than 160 years. Dr. Bayer called the chapel a "veritable museum of 19th century construction techniques" and stated that bringing the structure to our campus added "another facet to what UAH is all about, the arts as well as the sciences."

In addition to the advantages for UAH, the city of Huntsville benefited since, once renovations were finished, the chapel became the temporary headquarters for Huntsville's art museum until completion of the city art museum at the Von Braun Center.

In more recent years, the chapel gallery has housed exhibits of UAH student and faculty art as well as works by outside artists.

\$2,000 cash

Moved & saved at cost of a team of AHJ's, Dr. Frances Roberts & Dr. Jeff Bayer & UAH Students  
Bldg. discussed (sketch for bond) by H. Jones, c. 1973 in Greenwood Pk

discovered by HCD saved due to his efforts (was to be demolished by owner-Bendall)

...provisions include improved seniority and promotion rights, a grievance and arbitration procedure, paid grievance time, guaranteed return from leave of absence and a 20 per cent increase in the pension plan.

George W. Ferris constructed the original Ferris Wheel, 250 feet in diameter, for the Chicago Midway in 1893.

The third annual... classes will present the program and the sweetheart and beau will be crowned at that time.

### Recycling to Be Topic

The Alabama A&M-Huntsville-Madison County coordinated recycling meeting will be Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Room 107, Carver Complex South, Alabama A&M University.

...attorney Hall E. Timanus, also a member of the national committee and a leader of Wallace supporters in Texas.

Under the new rules, Timanus said, "new politics" people who make up a majority on the national committee, have the power to "unseat an entire elected delegation."

Timanus said the grassroots Conference delegates feel the changes are an effort



## Art Museum for UAH

Faculty and students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville have begun reconditioning the 134-year-old chapel on campus that is to be turned into an

art museum. The Huntsville art museum will use the structure until the Von Braun Civic Center is completed.

(Times Photo)

HV. TIMES  
25 FEB '74

15918

February 13, 1974

Mr. Jack Stall  
Alabama Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 1611  
Montgomery, Alabama 36102

Dear Mr. Stall:

I am sorry that I missed your call Friday afternoon, February 1, 1974. My secretary related that you were interested in some information concerning the Early American Chapel which has been moved to our campus. I am, by the way, enclosing two news articles that relate to the Chapel being moved to our campus and also relate to some of the historical background of the Chapel. I also enclose a picture of the Chapel for your information.

In regards to your request concerning the people who were most instrumental in bringing this Chapel to the campus, I think that I will give you a brief summary of that information. When I arrived on the campus this June, 1973, I was informed by our President, Dr. Benjamin B. Graves, that a local architect, Mr. Harvie Jones, who is also a member of the Alabama Historical Society, was very much interested in seeing this historical monument preserved. He related that he felt the University could find a use for the building. At that time I went before the Administrative Committee of the University, of which I am a member, and told them I did not wish to be redundant, but I would once again like to reopen the subject of the Chapel being moved to the campus. (I believe for some twelve to sixteen months, there had been discussions of a possibility of moving the Chapel to the campus.) The Administrative Committee related to me that should I be able to find a legitimate use for the Chapel on our campus then I should proceed to have the Chapel moved.

At this point, I called Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bendall (Mr. Bendall is totally incapacitated and has to have around-the-clock care. Mrs. Bendall still teaches school in the Hazel Green area.) I asked Mrs. Bendall if they were still interested in giving this Chapel to the University. She related very enthusiastically that they were. This was approximately the month of September, 1973, and I made the visit to the Bendalls to chat with them and to inspect the Chapel. At this juncture I supposed that if we could get someone on campus who was desirous of using this facility, it would be worth our while to do so. It was about the latter part of September or early October, 1973, that Professor Jeff Bayer of the Art Department approached me relating that he had thought for more than a year that the Chapel could be used for an art museum and it was at this point he wished to enter into the scene.

Letter to Mr. Jack Stall  
Page 2  
February 13, 1974

I then took him and Mr. Martin Weber up to see the Chapel. They investigated the Chapel and made the decision that it could be brought to the campus. I then took Professor Bayer and Mr. Weber to the Administrative Committee and presented our story. They agreed that we should proceed to bring the Chapel to the campus. At this point, Dr. Joseph Dowdle, Vice President for Administration, assigned Mr. Clyde Williams, Purchasing Agent for the University, in charge of seeing that the Chapel was brought onto the campus. Professor Jeff Bayer was assigned to oversee the Chapel once it was on campus and converting it into an art museum.

This is now February, 1974, and I think the above adequately describes where we are with the Chapel. Hopefully, by Spring, 1974, it will totally be converted into a museum which will be of use to the University and at the same time will be a historical preservation as an early Protestant Chapel in the North Alabama area.

Again, thank you for your call of Friday, February 1. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
JACK C. PHILLIPS

Jack C. Phillips  
Assistant to the President  
for External Relations

JCP/vpc

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jeff Bayer  
Dr. Joseph Dowdle  
Dr. Benjamin B. Graves  
Mr. Harvie Jones  
Mr. Martin Weber  
Mr. Clyde Williams

Church was donated by H.P. Jones in '71 & its saving we suggested a gift to Presby. Church & then to UAH.  
 UAH finally decided to move it to present its demand. Had you \$1,000 + services for restoration

# Old Country Church Beginning New Life As City Art Museum

By ALAN MOORE  
Times Arts Editor

After at least 140 years of varying fortunes, the old Union Chapel church building begins a new life today.

Where pioneer families once worshipped, visitors today will see a traveling exhibit of contemporary art.

The church building begins the new chapter of its existence on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, 26 miles from the site it occupied for more than a century near Hazel Green. Though its location is different and its function has been drastically altered, the church would not appear unfamiliar to those first worshippers who opened the church so many years ago.

Through the unpaid efforts of many here, the building was repaired and restored to its original appearance. The long program that resulted in the moving and refurbishing of the structure was a

possible, some details of the building make it more likely that it was built in the 1830s.

"In any event," said Jones, "it is decades older than any church in Huntsville. The four oldest are dated in the 1860s and 1870s.

"This may be the oldest building of its type in Alabama. If not, then it is certainly among the relative few."

G. W. Jones and Sons, the local engineering firm, searched the records at the Madison County Courthouse to find legal papers referring to the structure, and the earliest found was a deed dated March 14, 1848, in which Willie (or Wylie) Thompson and his wife Elizabeth conveyed the land to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This deed, though, does not date the church exactly. As Jones said: "It was common in the early 19th century to give land to churches without deeding the land to the church, so it is still probable, based on the considerable archi-

to it. Also, it adds another facet to what UAH is all about, the arts as well as the sciences. In addition, it contributes to the city's cultural life, giving us a professional museum in which to exhibit.

"At UAH, we had no money in the budget for a museum or curator, and the city had the art work coming in and no place to put it. So we get an art museum a year earlier than we expected it."

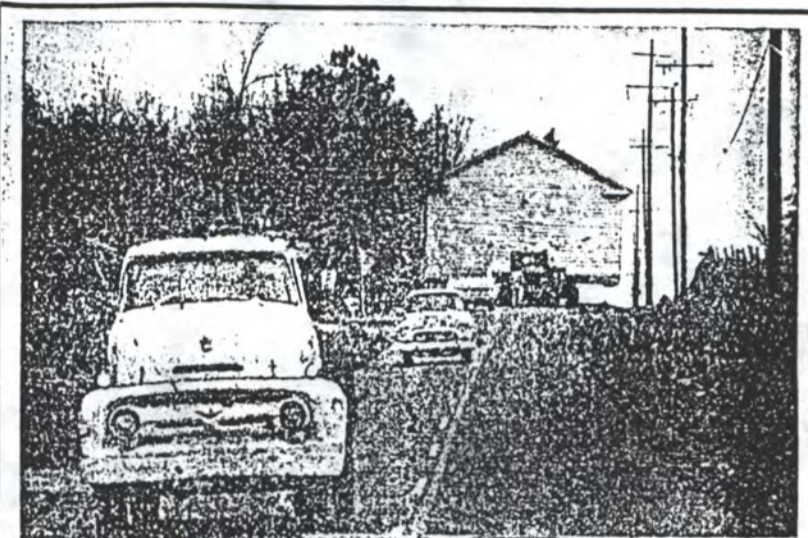
In anticipation of the opening of the city art museum at the Von Braun Civic Center, last year the Huntsville Museum Board engaged Martin Weber as director, and began importing exhibits. Until now, these exhibits have been presented in the lobby of the Huntsville Municipal Building, an attractive, secure location but one with several disadvantages. Exhibits can be seen only during regular office hours, and the museum staff must have its office space in a different building.

Now, with the opening of the museum on the UAH campus, the museum's staff and its exhibit will be under the same roof, and more suitable opening hours can be arranged.

Beginning today, the hours will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturdays.

Before any restoration could be done, the building had to be moved, a task for the professionals.

It was taken off its foundations and began its trip to Huntsville on Dec. 5. Ordinarily, the move would have taken only a few days, at most, but after the building had gone southward along Highway 231 to Mount Sharron, its progress was halted by some legal problem. For weeks it was parked on the side of the road, as if abandoned. Eventually, the UAH called upon James Beard, chairman



After more than a century on a site near Hazel Green, the Union Chapel building is moved by truck to the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (top picture). During the restoration process, a swarm of bees was found beneath the old siding. At right, Steve Meigs, one of many volunteer workers, removes the bees. An unexpected bonus was the three and a half gallons of honey. (Photos by Bern Billmeyer and Linda Bayer)



"It adds another facet to what UAH is all about as

well as the sciences."

In its design, construction methods and materials, its style — chastely rectangular with a simple peaked roof — is Greek revival, Bayer said. Its construction uses mortise and tenon joints with oak pegs



for the major members and machine nails for the weather boards. Supporting the building are three 40-foot joists 12 inches square. Interior walls were covered with plaster mixed with horsehair; much of the plaster had fallen or was in poor condition. An unusual feature, typical of 1830s construction, is the wainscot board 26 inches wide. This wainscot was retained, but the wall above it was covered with plywood and gallery cloth for art display.

Almost all the glass was missing and almost every window frame was broken. The UAH art students who volunteered to restore the building put in about 3,000 hours of labor in the project, working

every weekend since January. Art teachers and students at Johnson High School and Butler High School joined them, making it not only a UAH project but also a community project.

"Normally, art students and engineering students at UAH rarely have contacts," said Bayer. However, the UAH Engineering Society, a student organization, volunteered to lay a 12 by 24-foot patio and a 4 by 60-foot sidewalk in old brick. This brought in another element. That was one of the big benefits — we all got to know each other outside of class."

The center beam in the ceiling was found to be broken, so the volunteers got a jack and raised it; they installed parallel beams to support the ceiling, but preserved the old beam and its wooden pegs.

"Obviously, we had to repair the beaded board ceiling that was probably from the turn of the century," said Bayer. The distinctive cornice, too, had to be repaired.

"Sections of the 1 and 1/4 inch pine floor were rotten, and we replaced them — a real sculptural feat since by now nothing in the building is square. Over the years, a lot of the original poplar siding had been replaced with pine; we took all that off and replaced it with poplar."

More than 100 panes of glass were missing. All window frames were rebuilt to duplicate the originals exactly.

Oddly, all this fuss with the windows was only for appearance; the windows are blocked inside so that sunlight will not interfere with the closely controlled lighting required in an art gallery.

"We took off the old tin roof and replaced it with wooden shingles, all hand laid, and built exterior steps, with banisters."

A special paint with fire-retardant properties had to be used inside and out.

"All this was done by volunteers with little experience. It turned them into specialists," said Bayer.

Wiring, plumbing, heating and air conditioning and installation of burglar alarms had to be done by professionals.

The cost of moving the building and of outside materials was borne by the University. The Huntsville Museum Board paid for interior materials and for the track lighting. The University hopes to recover some of the costs through the State Bicentennial Commission and federal grants.

As I left Portfolio, the boys were planning an expedition uptown to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where they have heard there is "a beautiful crypt which would be a perfect place to put on 'Philemon.' They were also on their way to pick up a citation from the mayor of New York, sort of a birthday greeting to 'The Fantasticks.'"



Prof. Jeffrey Bayer, sculpture instructor at UAH, is seen here with the church building.

community effort similar, no doubt, to the one that first produced the community church house in northern Madison County. In those days, it was usual for all segments of the population to contribute labor, money and material to the construction of a building that served not only as a house of worship but also as a public building, a focus of community life.

Similarly, the restoration of the building came about through the energy and dedication of many. Town and gown, city and country, student and faculty, artist and artisan—all played important parts.

During the new chapter of its existence beginning today, the building will be the temporary headquarters of the Huntsville Museum of Art. Until the museum is able to move into the new Von Braun Civic Center, the former church will provide exhibit space for the traveling art shows brought here by the Museum Board as well as administrative space for the museum staff.

Just how old the building is has not been definitely established. Harvie P. Jones, architect, who contributed consultation on the project, said that the construction date has been estimated as early as the first years of the 1820s, but though this is

ectural evidence, that the building is one to three decades older than 1848."

Prof. Jeffrey Bayer, sculpture instructor at UAH and a member of the Acquisition Committee of the City of Huntsville Museum of Art, is given a major share of the credit for saving the building. When Mr. and Mrs. C. Franklin Bendall, on whose land the church stood, offered the church to UAH if the university could move it and use it, Bayer proposed that the university accept.

"I saw an opportunity to make a marriage between the cultural aspects of UAH and the greater Huntsville community," he said. "I proposed that we move the building and, using student volunteers, restore it and turn the inside into an art museum for the City of Huntsville Museum of Art to use. Even after the Von Braun Center opens, it can be used as their adjunct gallery."

Besides being the University's sculpture instructor, Bayer is an amateur of 19th century architecture.

"What do we gain?" he asked, then explained: "We save a 19th century building which is a veritable museum of 19th century construction techniques, and save it in a viable way, a way that has life

progress resumed. Finally, the building reached the UAH campus on Jan. 17 and was installed on foundations built with the same stones that it had rested upon since it was new.

Considering the age of the building and the fact that it had been in disuse since 1962, the chapel was in fairly good shape. Still, restoring it and converting it for use as an art museum was a major job, one that would have been extremely expensive if Bayer had not been able to call upon his students and others for voluntary labor. He examined it and found it interesting



Tom Jones (book and lyrics), left, and Harvey Schmidt (music) are the creators of "The Fantasticks" and the proud pair sitting in front of the entire cast of their musical which began its 15th year Friday, May 3, 1974, at the Sullivan Street Playhouse, the same theater at which it opened in 1960 in New York.

thousands on horseback."

Tom Jones, the play's author and lyricist, giggles a little and says, "It was originally called 'Joy Comes to Dead Horse' and we planned it as a great big Broadway musical. The scene was two adjoining ranches in the American southwest. We had cowboys, Mexican bandits, a half-breed villain and feuding Spanish and Anglo-American families. Only when we boiled it down to a simple love story, done on a small platform with a cardboard moon, did it work."

Since their "Fantastick" success, Jones and Schmidt have done a new musical about every three years, including "110 in the Shade," "I Do! I do!" and "Celebration." They are currently working on a new musical, "Philemon," based on the exploits of a clown who is crucified in Roman times and achieves sainthood.

The two work in their experimental workshop theater, Portfolio, in an old west side building originally used as a chapel for immigrant weddings. The ecclesiasti-

# Every Day It Runs, 'Fantasticks' Sets New Theater Record

By WILLIAM A. RAIDY  
Times National News Service

NEW YORK — "The Fantasticks," the longest-running musical in the history of the theater, this weekend began its 15th year in the same tiny Greenwich Village theater where it was born, and almost died.

Someone should put a plaque up at the 150-seat Sullivan Street Playhouse, a few blocks south of Greenwich Village's Washington Square, which could read: "Try to remember when 'The Fantasticks' wasn't playing here."

The mini-musical miracle, written by two young Texans, Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, will play at this theater "at least through the year 2000," insists its producer, Lore Noto, who backed the show with his entire bankroll of \$3,300 "way back when."

Producer Noto might very well be right, if the statistics are any indication.

So far on Sullivan Street there have been 5,833 performances, and throughout the United States there have been 3,371 in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Fifty-four foreign countries have seen the show (221 productions in all), and these include such exotic lands as the Sudan and Afghanistan.

The musical, based loosely on Rostand's "Les Romanesques," has been a hit on television, and everyone from Liza Minnelli to Bert Lahr has appeared in various versions.

The show originally did not do that well in Greenwich Village. In fact, there were several occasions when about as many people were in the audience as there were on stage and, remember, "The Fantasticks" is a mini-musical.

"It wasn't always a mini-musical in our minds," recalls Harvey Schmidt, the composer. "In fact, when Tom and I first thought the thing out as students at the University of Texas in Austin, it was going to be a great big thing with a cast of



RAIDY

14 minutes since 1820's - more likely 1835-43



# JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

October 31, 1994

Mr. Tillman Hill, Commissioner  
Madison County Commission  
Madison County Courthouse  
100 North Side Square  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: c.1840 pews

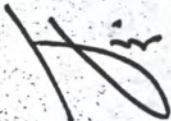
Dear Tillman:

We have found an appropriate place for the four circa 1840 pews stored at Sharon Johnston Park. The historic town of Mooresville has acquired for restoration and public use the c.1836 "brick church". This church has a gallery (balcony) from which the pews are missing. These four pews would perfectly fit this building, which is of the same age as the Union Chapel pews.

I will be back with you in a month on details, since the building has just been acquired. Please inform Mr. Ray Beason and Daniel Moore, as I was unable to reach them by telephone.

We greatly appreciate your help in preseving these historically important pews.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA  
HPJ/tm

copy: Mayor Jerry Davis, Mooresville  
HJ

*From c. 1840  
Union Chapel Church  
now at USH (Art Gallery)*

*Mooresville mayor will  
get pews  
PS. Feb 13 - 1995 Jerry Davis  
reports that 4 pews are  
now in Mooresville brick church!  
At least 2 rotted by being left  
under portico of 1844 Jerry Davis  
hse. for several years.*

*PS. 1978 -  
pews are in the  
Mooresville Courthouse &  
will be put in the  
brick church*

17/11/8

# JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

February 14, 1995

Mr. Jerry Davis  
Box 35  
Mooreville, Alabama 35649

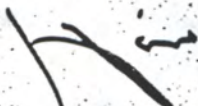
Dear Jerry:

Congratulations and thanks for persisting in getting for Mooreville's brick church the four handmade pews that were originally in the c.1835-55 Union Chapel Church southwest of Hazel Green. At least two more of these rotted while under the portico of UAH's 1814 Leroy Pope house. I'm very glad I happened to see, and immediately recognized, these four pews sitting under an open shed in Sharon Johnston Park.

Please securely attach under the seat of each pew a label printed in indelible ink on acid-free card-stock (attached) that says something like:

Circa 1835-55 handmade pew originally from Union Chapel Church, Grimwood Road, 1/2 mile west of Brier Fork Creek, Madison County, Alabama (Church moved to UAH Campus in c.1975). Placed in Mooreville brick church in February, 1995.

Thanks!



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA  
HPJ/tm

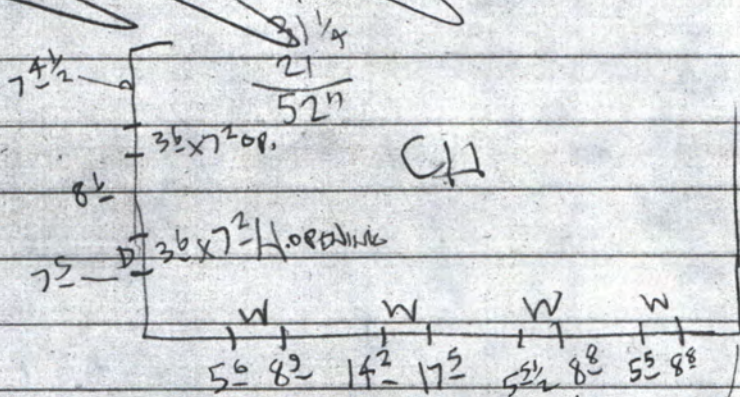
copy: HJ

attachments

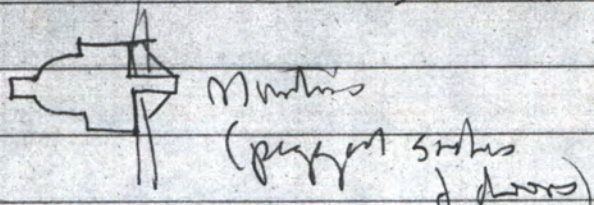
PS - This shed was  
FLATTENED by a  
thunder in c. 1996 &  
the pews would have  
been lost had they  
not been put in  
Mooreville

5 + 8 + 7 3/4 + 7 3/4 + 8 + 7 3/4 + 4

±3'-4" HT, fl.  
above brick walk  
= 40"



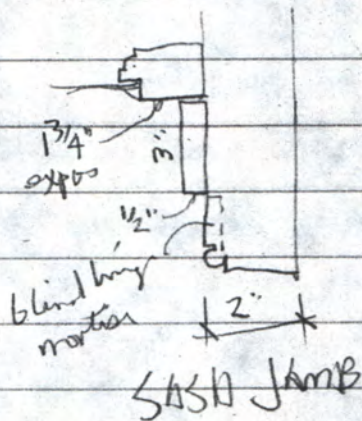
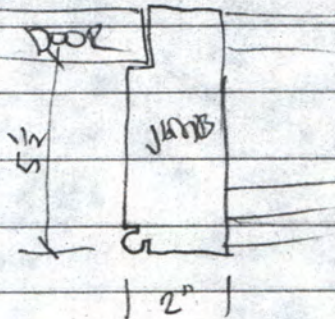
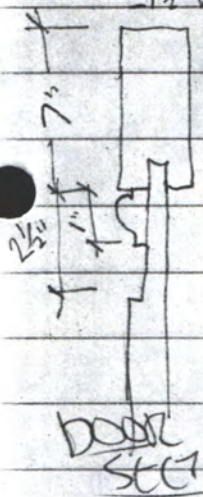
19 Sept '94  
VAH Art Gall  
c. 1840 Church  
HP Jones



Panels 10" x 12", 9/0

±1/2" VERIFY

Chops - 5"-6" O.C. x 3/4" THK  
Stud 2 1/2" ± O.C.  
(clear at sash walls) = 18"-22" ±



Sill = 2" thick  
1 3/4" project (sloped)