
Grady County Historical Society – Churches

Pine Park Church

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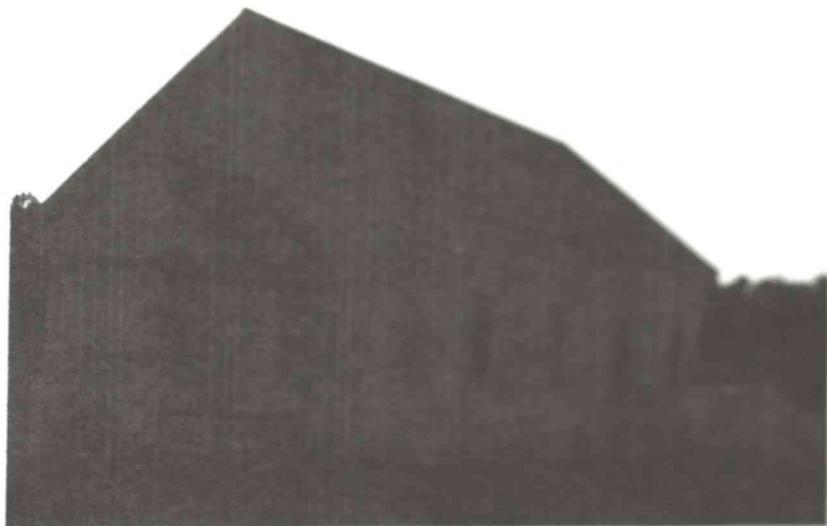
Pine Park Church



(1970)



Pine Park Church Dedication



The
Baptist College
of Florida

Graceville, Florida

May 4, 2007

An Institution of the Florida Baptist Convention

Historical Timeline

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1898 | Constructed |
| 1898 | Ward-White
Universalist Church |
| 1945 | Renovated
Triple "G" 4-H Club
Community Center |
| 1960 | Pine Park Community
Center |
| 1970 | Remained Empty |
| 2004 | Moved to Heritage
Village at The Baptist
College of Florida |
| 2007 | Dedicated |

Program

President Thomas A. Kinchen, Presiding
Friday, May 4, 2007, 10:00 A.M.

Prelude..... "O Worship the King"
Jazz Ensemble

Welcome..... Thomas A. Kinchen
President, The Baptist College of Florida

Dedication Anthem - "Amazing Grace"..... Jazz Ensemble

Trustee Greeting..... Larry Taylor
Vice-Chairman of Trustees, The Baptist College of Florida

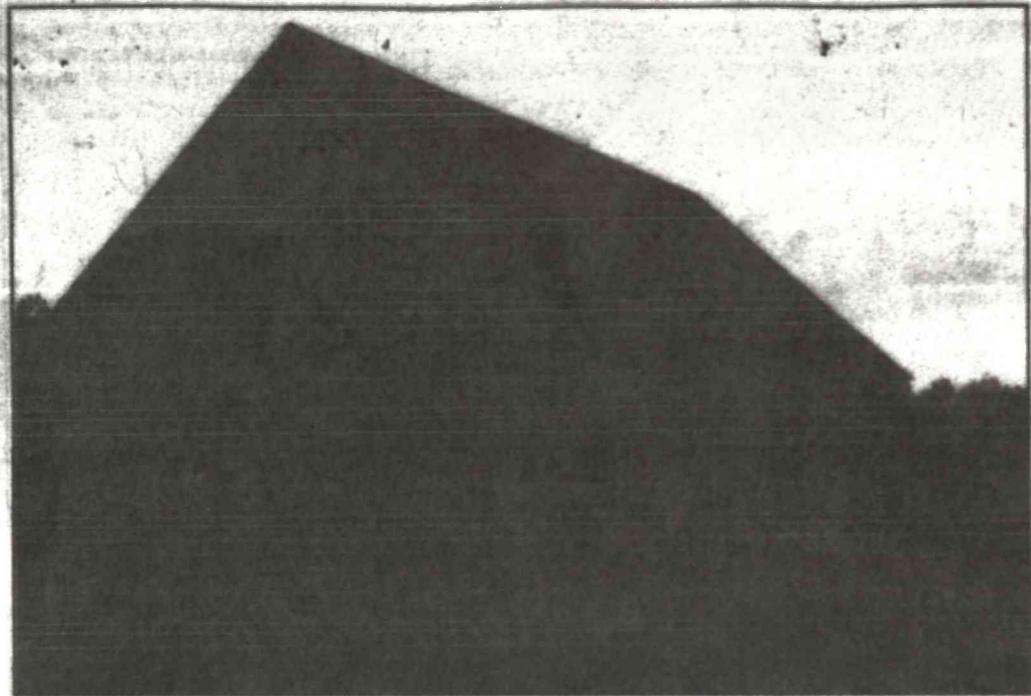
"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"..... Congregation*

History and Heritage..... Opal Lewis and Cliff Ward
Al Ward and Janice Ward

Prayer of Dedication..... Thomas A. Kinchen

Postlude..... "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
Jazz Ensemble

*Congregation Standing



Submitted photo

Built in 1898, the Pine Park building located east of Cairo on U.S. Hwy. 84 has served as a church, a 4-H clubhouse and the home of the Pine Park Community Center.

Pine Park building to be dedicated at new home

Staff report

At 10 a.m., Friday, The Baptist College of Florida in Graceville, Fla., will be dedicating the Pine Park Church building at its new home in historic Heritage Village. The most recent addition to the restored churches and homes in Heritage Village, the Grady County Georgia landmark was relocated through the generosity of the Ward and Lewis families.

Built in 1898, the Pine Park building locat-

ed east of Cairo on U.S. Hwy 84 has served as a church, a 4-H clubhouse, and the home of the Pine Park Community Center. Restored to its rich beauty, the Pine Park Church will be used as a preaching lab for BCF students studying and preparing for areas of ministry.

The dedication service will include a time of recognition and appreciation as well as an old fashioned dinner on the grounds immediately following the ceremony.

For information, call at 800-328-2680 ext. 446.

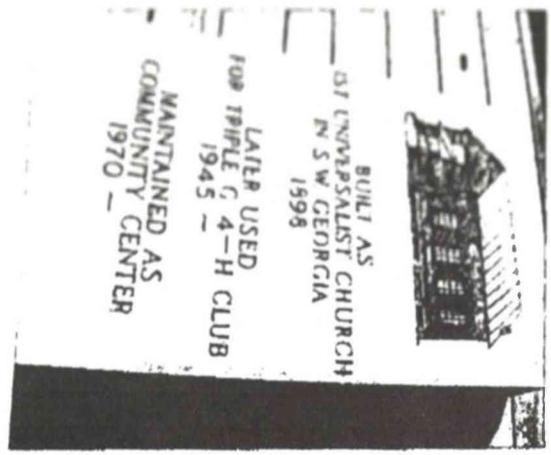
Avatar

From: "aprillegg@alltel.net" <aprillegg@snapfish.com>
To: <ward.arnita@netnet.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2006 4:55 PM
Subject: Marker Picture 1



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*First-time customers only.



Built As
1st Universalist Church
in SW Georgia
1898

Later Used
for Triple G 4-H Club
1945-

Maintained as
Community Center
1970-

(Sr.)
Back Side

Land and lumber donated by
D P Ward Family. Construction
by Ward-White families.

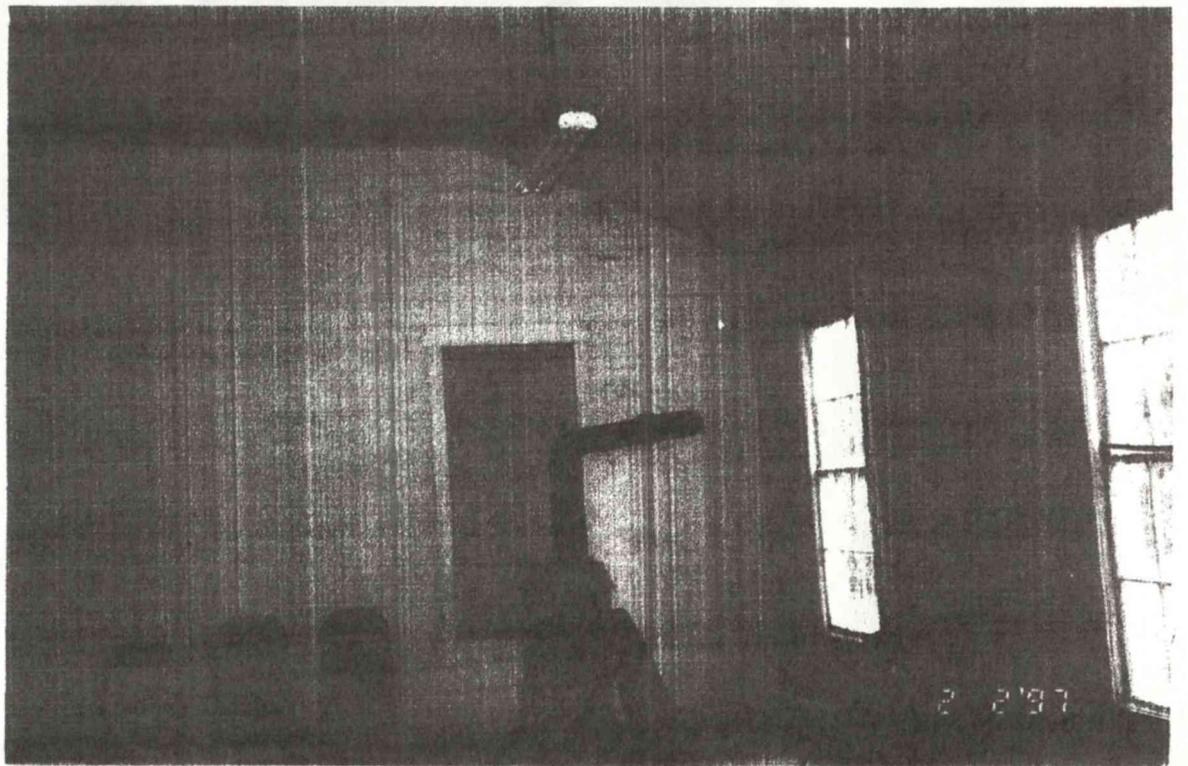
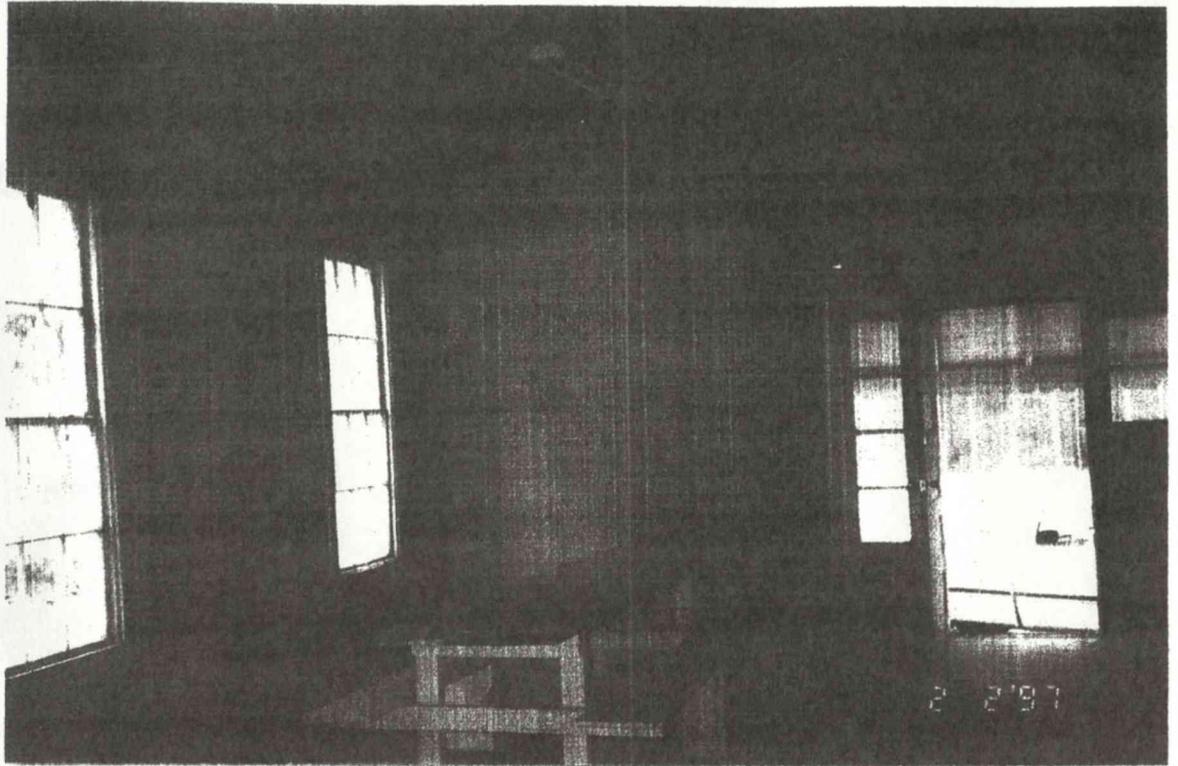
Moved 7/21/04 to Graceville FL
to be restored by Baptist Colleg

To Whom It May Concern

We the undersigned do hereby agree that the building known as the "Triple G Club House" and the plot of ground that is, or has been fenced on three sides, be used for community meetings, etc. When building is no longer used for this purpose, same shall revert to estate of the undersigned or their heirs.

Marnie D. Ward
Charles S. Ward
James B. Ward

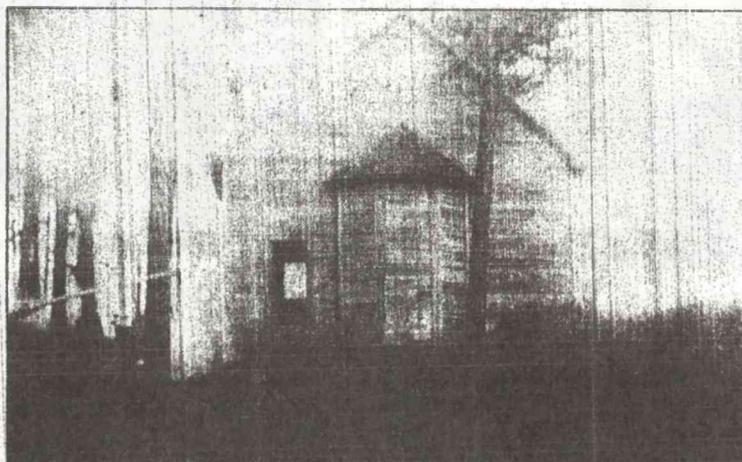
Road trip for local landmark planned



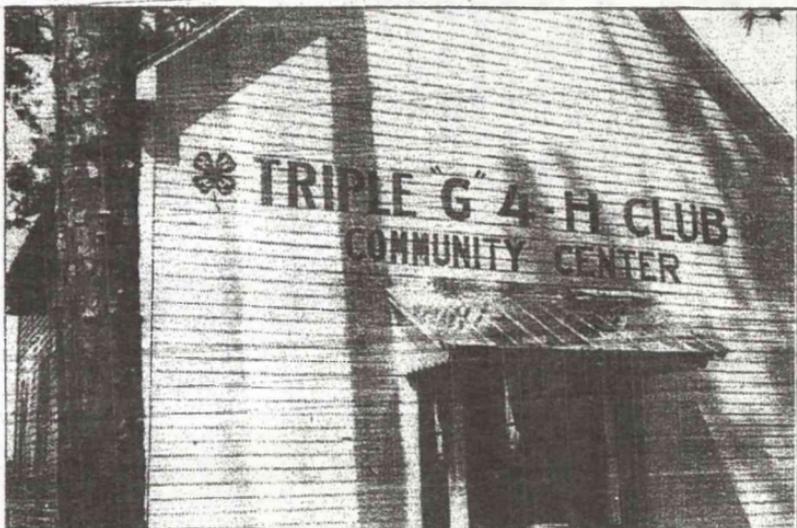
Road trip for local landmark planned

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

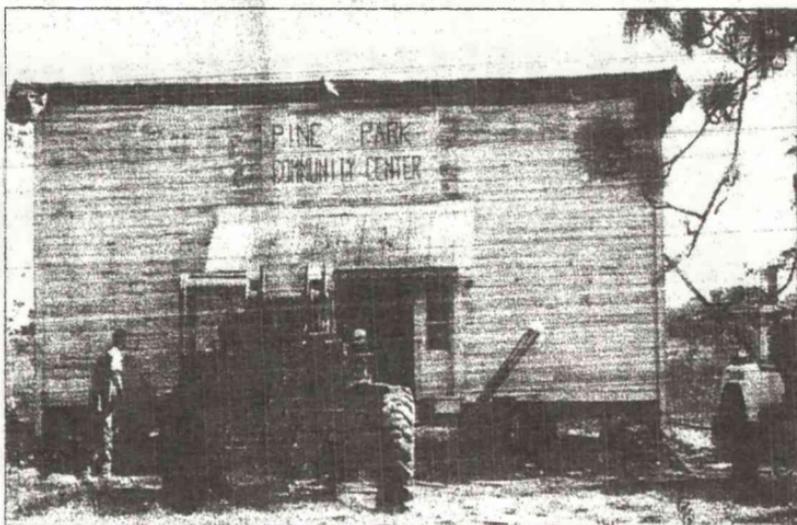
The Cairo Messenger



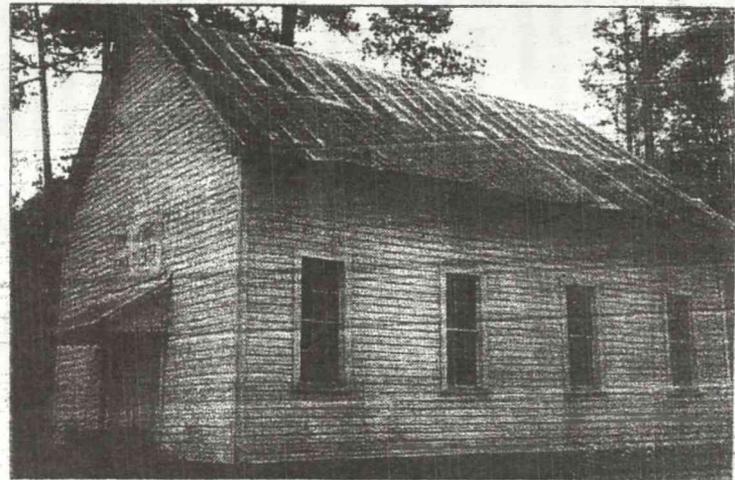
THIS EARLY 20TH CENTURY PHOTO shows what the Pine Park Community Center building, then home to a Universalist Church, looked like in its younger days. This was the “front” of the building when it faced the old dirt Highway 84, which was later moved to its present location on the other side of the building. The small extension in the middle of the building is where the preacher stood to give sermons.



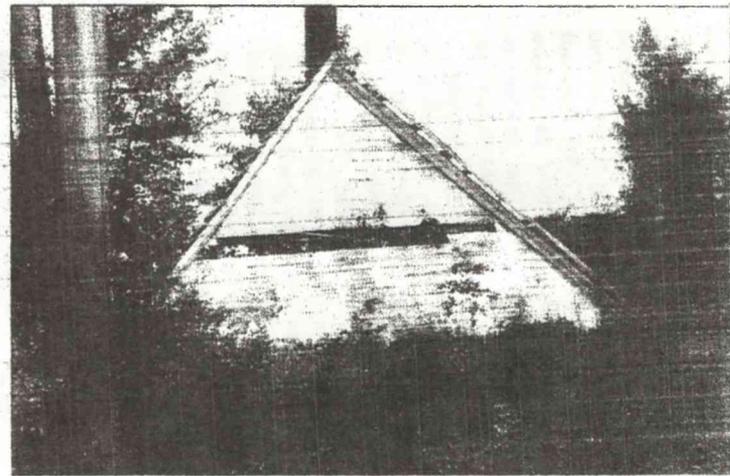
THE CHANGING OF THE FRONTS. This photo of the Pine Park Community Center was taken in the 1940s when the front of the building was changed to where it is now, facing the then newly paved U.S. Highway 84.



WORKERS prepare the old Pine Park Community Center for moving to Graceville, Florida.



AN OLDIE BUT GOODIE, the Pine Park Community Center building stands in the 1997 photo, just before the building fell victim to acts of vandalism and theft.



NOW COMPLETELY TOPLESS, the Pine Park Community Center building has its roof removed in preparation for its long journey to Graceville, Fla.

A long-unused Grady County landmark will soon be given new life and a new home.

The more than 100-year-old Pine Park Community Center, located east of Cairo on U.S. Highway 84, is moving to Florida Baptist College in Graceville, Fla., as soon as movers obtain a Department of Transportation house moving permit, which is expected within the next couple of weeks. The historic building will become part of the Baptist college's collection of restored historic

churches and houses called "Heritage Village."

College officials approached the Ward family, current owners of the building, earlier this year with "much interest" in adding it to their village. The building's old age and contributions to the past led the Wards to believe the building was worth saving. "We believe that despite its years in age, it is still young at heart - especially the heart pine used in its construction," Pine Park historian Opal Lewis remarks.

The Ward family decided to give up the old building, a victim of years of vandalism and neglect, with the hope that it will be remembered and preserved long into the future. "We hated to move it (the Pine Park Community Center) out of Grady County, but we couldn't stand guard over it for 24 hours a day. The Florida Baptist College's interest was high, and we decided to donate the building, provided we could visit it whenever we wanted," Al Ward says. Al Ward and Pat Ward, another Pine Park resident, are grandsons of the man who had the building constructed, Daniel

Patrick Ward.

For about 40 to 50 years after it was erected in 1898, the Pine Park building was home to the Ward-White Universalist Church, a name that stems from the early congregation of the Ward and White families. Universalism was a common denomination in North Carolina, the home state of the Wards and the Whites.

Because there were no other Universalist Churches in southwest Georgia at the time, and therefore no Universalist ministers, preachers from North Carolina traveled to the Church to serve in a way similar to the early "circuit riding," or traveling, preachers. "When the minister came, which was about four times a year, an all day meeting was held with dinner on the grounds. The minister would stay at the home of D.P. Ward and would occupy one of the shed rooms (an outer room separate from the main house) on the front of the Ward home," Lewis says. "The minister would stay several days and would visit with members of the church. I myself recall attending some services in 1934 when I was four or five years old. We moved away and returned in 1941. After that time, I remember attending services there almost every time the minister came."

The Universalist church continued to function for only a few years after the death of D.P. Ward in 1938. Brother Thomas Chapman, the church's original minister from North Carolina, was quite old by then and was able to come less and less to Pine Park.

At that time D.P. Ward's

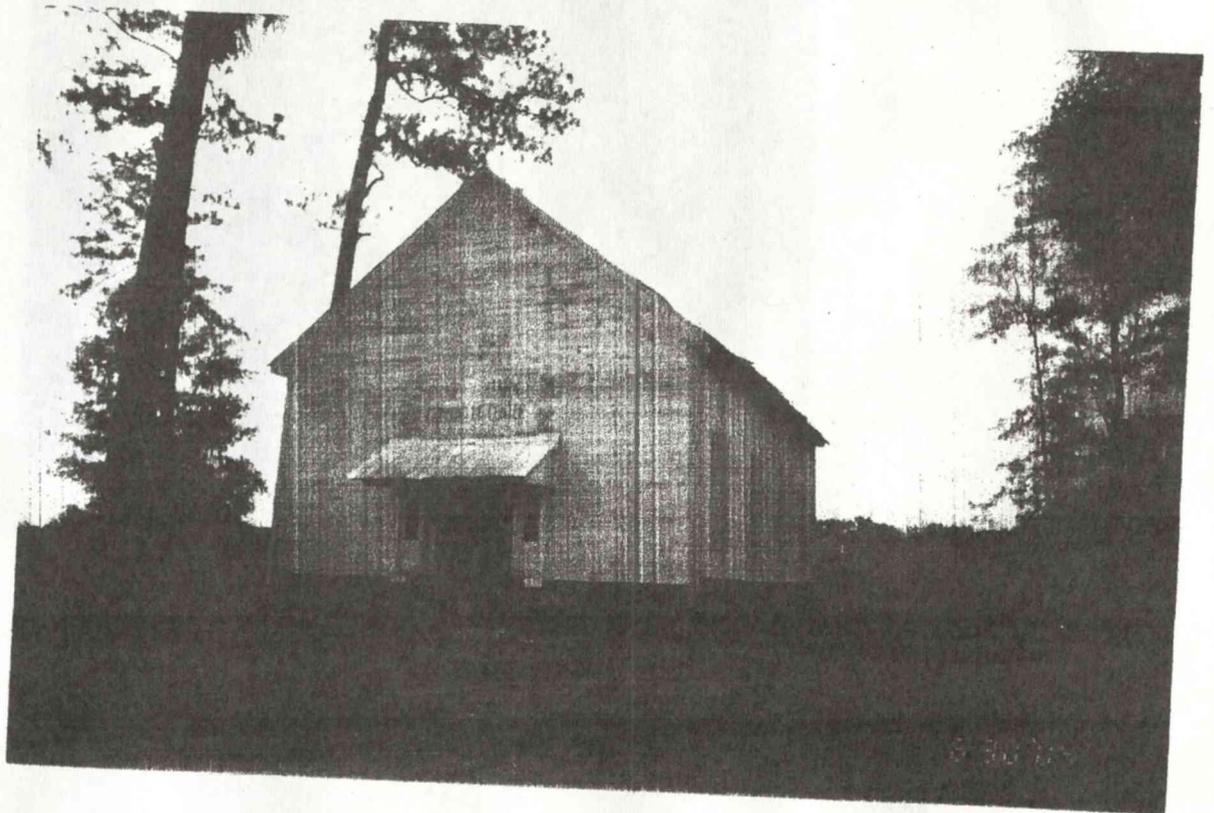
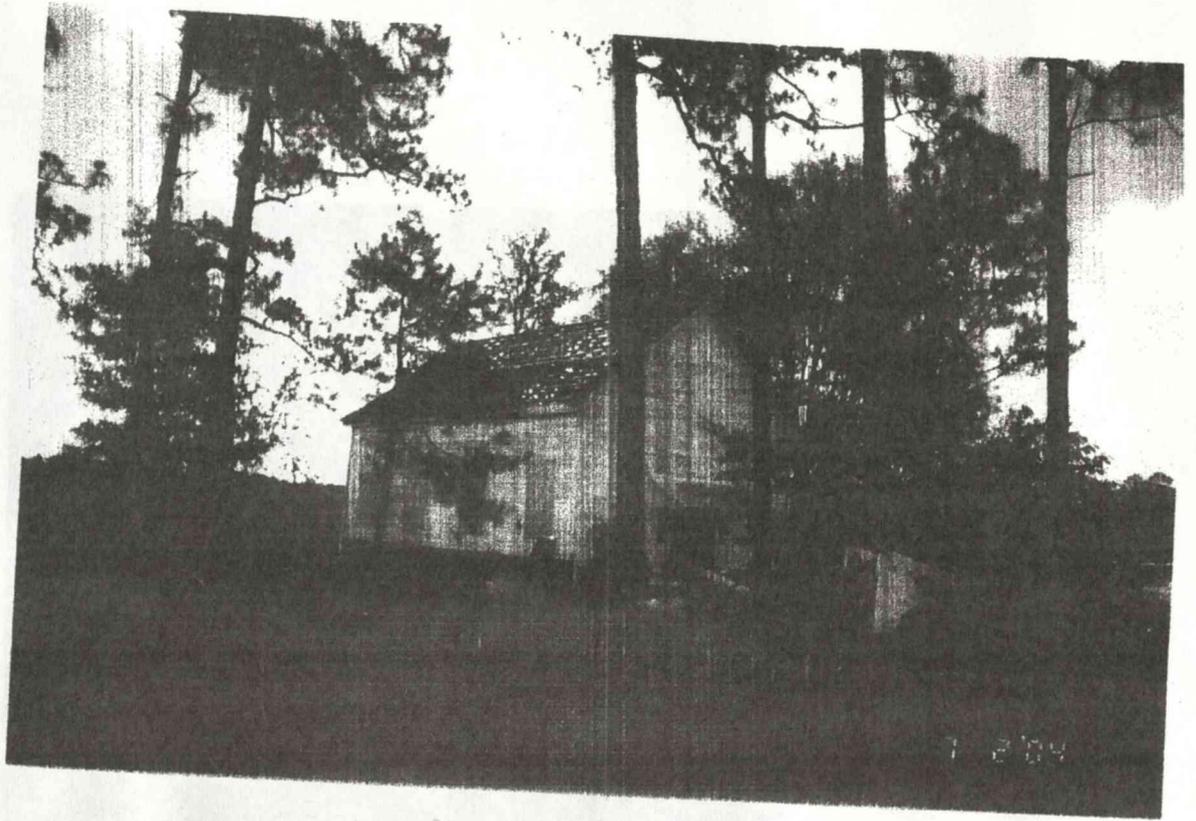
very interested in 4-H club work and allowed the Pine Park 4-H club members to use the church for club meetings. In 1945, the Universalist Church deeded the building and its one acre lot to Mamie Ward, who in turn signed an agreement for the building and lot to be used as a 4-H clubhouse. "Club members and their families worked hard to make the church and yard into a suitable meeting place. The church originally faced the old road before Highway 84 was paved in 1929 and the road bed moved to its present status. So the door into the building was moved so that the clubhouse opened to and faced Highway 84," Lewis says.

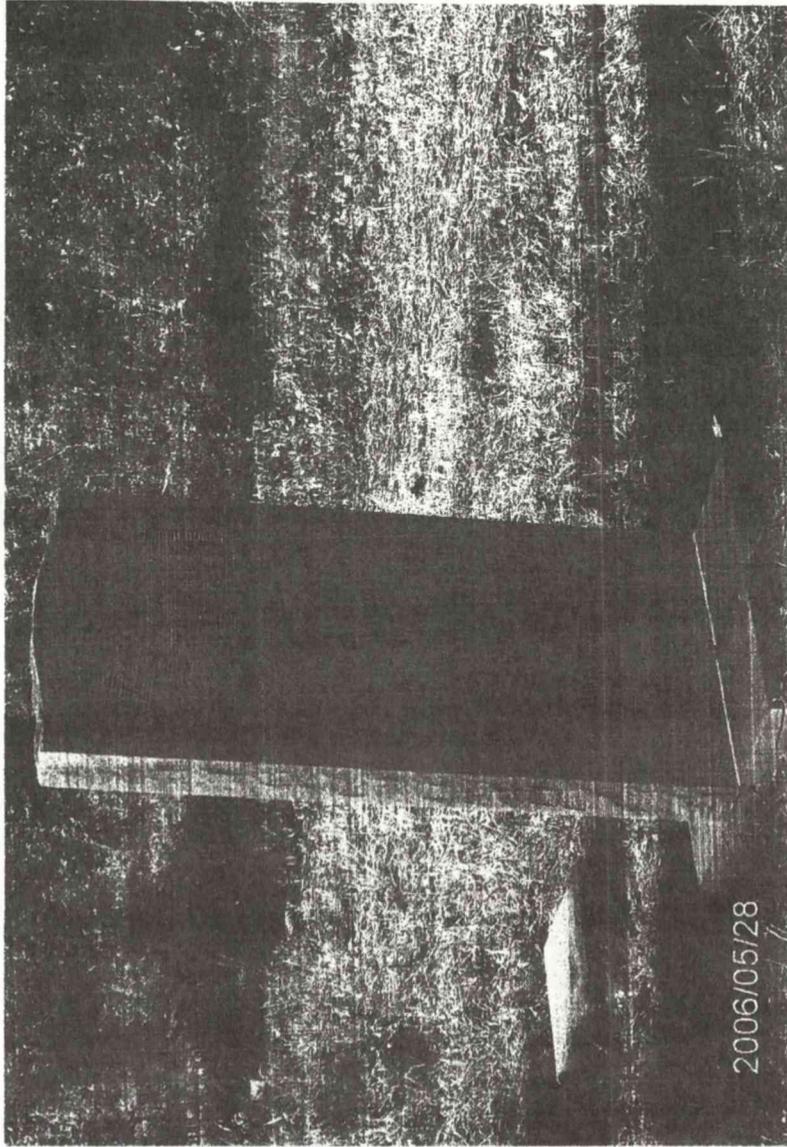
Makeshift lanterns provided light for the first meetings so that cooks could see to fry chicken and prepare food for gatherings. "We soaked bricks in kerosene for several days and then put them on wires hanging from posts and lit the bricks. A number of state 4-H club staff attended the first gathering; among them was the state recreation leader Rip Van Winkle.

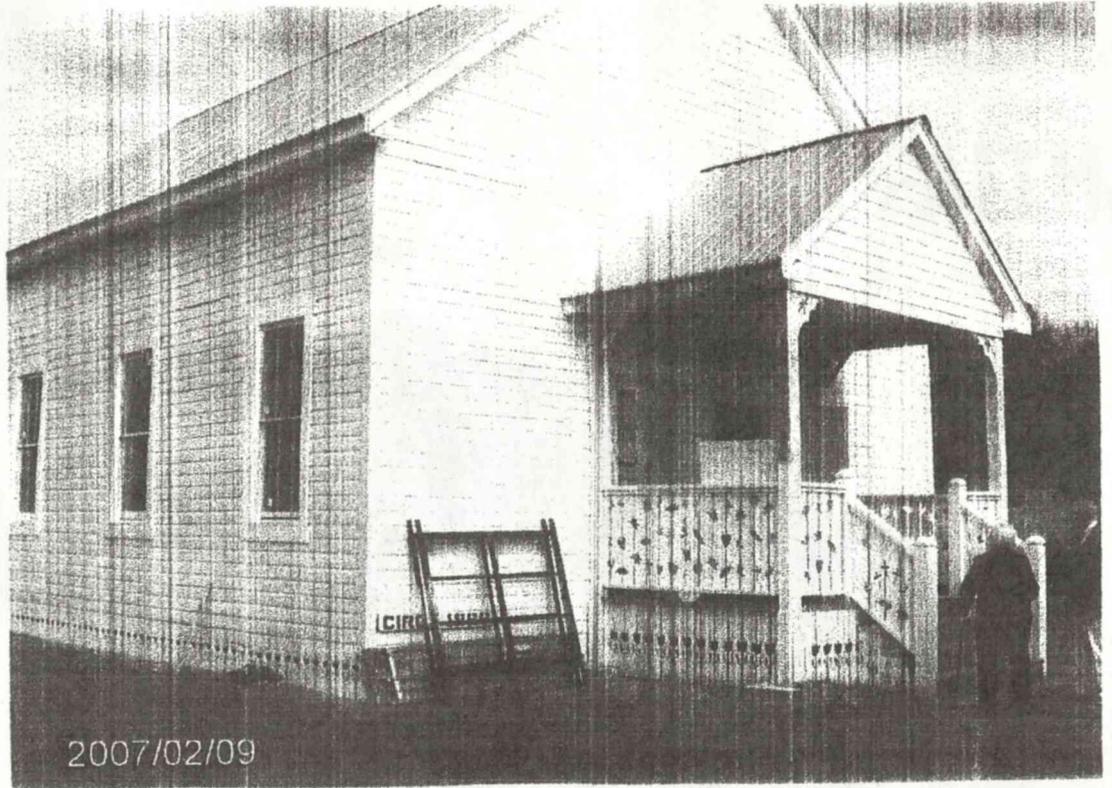
Billy Stringer remarked that never would he would he have believed that we would see burning bricks and Rip Van Winkle in Pine Park, Ga.!" Lewis says.

The ladies of the local Home Demonstration Club also used the building at this time and were responsible for adding a kitchen, tables and chairs.

Numerous other events were held in the building over the years including fish fries, family reunions, picnics and square dance classes. But along came air conditioning, and recreational facilities in area churches brought less and less use of the club house. "No air conditioning, no water, and no restrooms made the club house a less desirable place for public use. 4-H club work had changed its structure a great deal and community club meetings were no longer used as a part of the 4-H program. Due to all these reasons, the club house closed its doors, and the electricity was disconnected," Lewis says. Until recently, the building has been "sitting silently" since the 1970s.







Dedication of Grady landmark set for Friday

Former church community center has new Fla. home

A dedication service will be held Friday at the Baptist College of Florida in Graceville, Fla., for a historic landmark building that has been relocated to its new home in the Grady County, Ga., area.

The Pine Park Community Center building, which was built in 1896 as a U.S. factory building, was moved in 2004 to the Grady County area. The building is a landmark in the area and is being restored to its original use as a church and community center.

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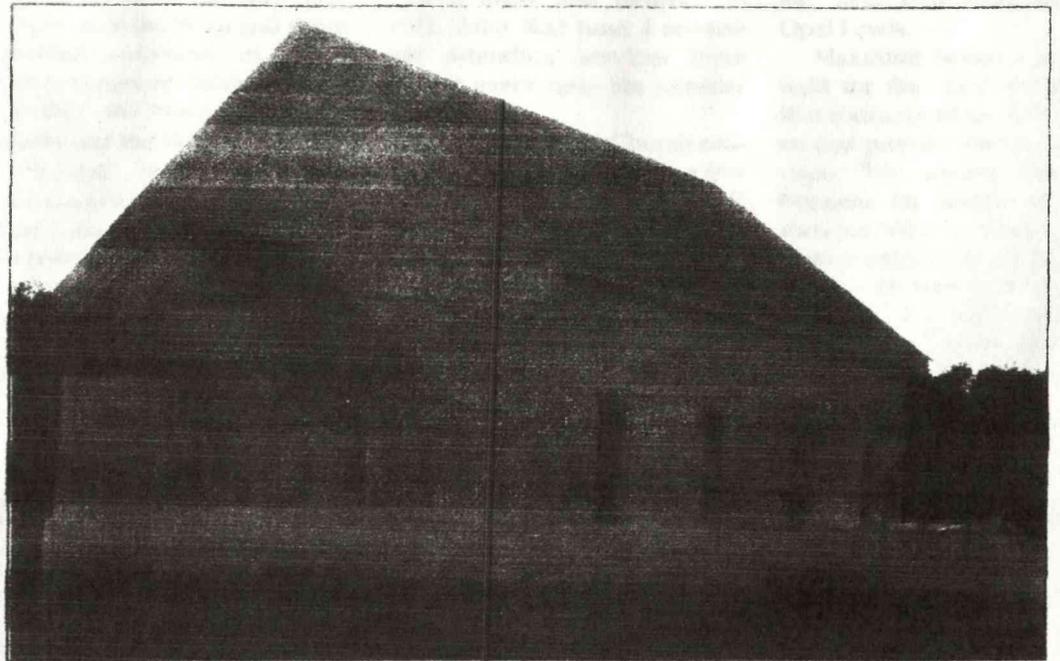
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2C Thomasville Times-Enterprise

www.timese

FAITH &

Sunday, April 29, 2007



Submitted photo

Built in 1896, the Pine Park building located east of Cairo on U.S. Hwy. 84 has served as a church, a 4-H clubhouse and the home of the Pine Park Community Center.

Pine Park building to be dedicated at new home

Staff report

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The dedication service will include a time of recognition and appreciation as well as an old-fashioned dinner on the grounds immediately following the ceremony.

For information, call at 800-328-2660 ext. 446.

Dedication of Grady landmark set for Friday

Former church, community center has new Fla. home

A dedication service will be held Friday in Graceville, Florida, for a century-plus-old Grady County landmark which was moved nearly three years ago to the Florida Baptist College.

The Pine Park Community Center, which once sat east of Cairo on U.S. Highway 84, was moved in 2004 to the Baptist college as part of the school's collection of restored historic churches and houses called "Heritage Village."

College officials in early 2004 approached the Ward family, who were the owners of the former community center building about adding it to their collection.

Al Ward told *The Messenger* in July 2004, "We hated to tear it out of Grady County, but we

couldn't stand guard over it for 24 hours a day. The Florida Baptist College's interest was high, and we decided to donate the building, provided we could visit it whenever we wanted."

Al Ward is the grandson of Doraet Patrick Ward, the man who had the building constructed.

According to *The Messenger*, news reports in 1897, 40 years after it was erected in 1856, the Pine Park building was home to the Ward-White Universalist Church, a name that stems from the early congregation of the Ward and White families. Universalism was a common denomination in North Carolina, the home state of the Wards and the Whites.

Because there were no other Universalist churches in southwest Georgia at the time, therefore no Universalist ministers, preachers from North Carolina traveled by the Church to serve in a way similar to the early "itinerating" or travel-

ing preachers. "When the minister came, which was about four times a year, an all day meeting was held with dinner on the grounds. The minister would stay at the home of D.P. Ward and would occupy one of the shed rooms (an outer room separate from the main house) on the front of the Ward home," Lewis says. "The minister would stay several days and would visit with members of the church. I myself recall attending some services in 1934 when I was four or five years old. We moved away and returned in 1941. After that time, I remember attending services there almost every time the minister came."

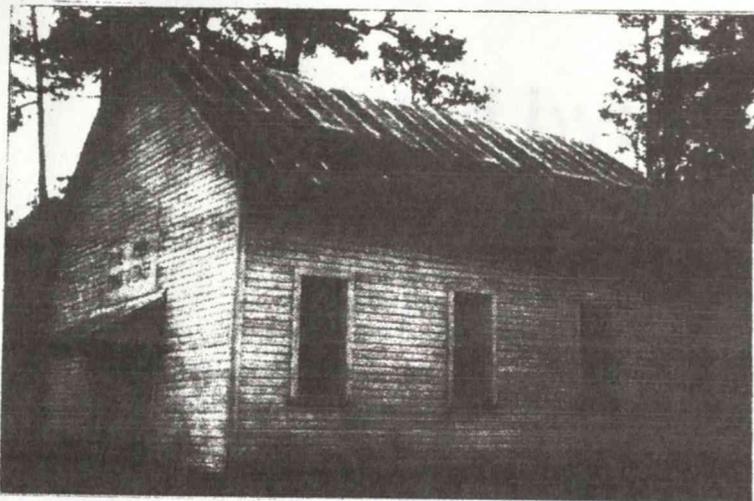
The Universalist Church continued to function for only a few years after the death of D.P. Ward in 1938. Brother Thomas Chapman, the church's original minister from North Carolina, was quite old by then and was able to come less and less to Pine Park.

At that time, D.P. Ward's widow, Mamie Sasser Ward, was very interested in 4-H Club work and allowed the Pine Park 4-H Club members to use the church for club meetings. In

1945, the Universalist Church decided the building and its acre lot to Mamie Ward, who then signed an agreement for building and lot to be used 4-H clubhouse. "Club men and their families worked to make the church and into a suitable meeting place. The church originally faced old road before Highway 84 paved in 1929 and the road moved to its present status. The door into the building moved so that the club opened to and faced Highway 84," said Pine Park historian Opal Lewis.

Makeshift lanterns provided light for the first meeting that cooks could see to fry and prepare food for gatherings. "We soaked bricks in kerosene for several days then put them on wires hanging from posts and lit the bricks. A number of state 4-H club members attended the first gathering among them was the state 4-H leader Rip Van Wagon. Billy Stringer remarked never would he have believed that we would see bricks and Rip Van Wagon at Pine Park, Ga.!" Lewis says.

The ladies of the local



THE PINE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER building stands in the 1997 photo, just before the building fell victim to acts of vandalism and theft.

Demonstration Club also used the building at this time and were responsible for adding a kitchen, tables and chairs.

Numerous other events were held in the building over the years including fish fries, family reunions, picnics and square dance classes. But along came air conditioning and recreational facilities in area churches which brought less and less use of the club house. "No air conditioning, no water, and no restrooms made the club house a less desirable place for public use. 4-H club work had changed its structure a great deal and community

club meetings were no longer used as a part of the 4-H program. Due to all these reasons the club house closed its doors and the electricity was disconnected," Lewis says. "Recently, the building has been sitting silently since the 1970s."

The dedication ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. on the campus of Florida Baptist College, Graceville, Fla. For more information about the event call Ward at 229-226-6381.

(Editor's Note: Former Messenger staff writer Brian De contributed to this report.)

DEDICATION SERVICE

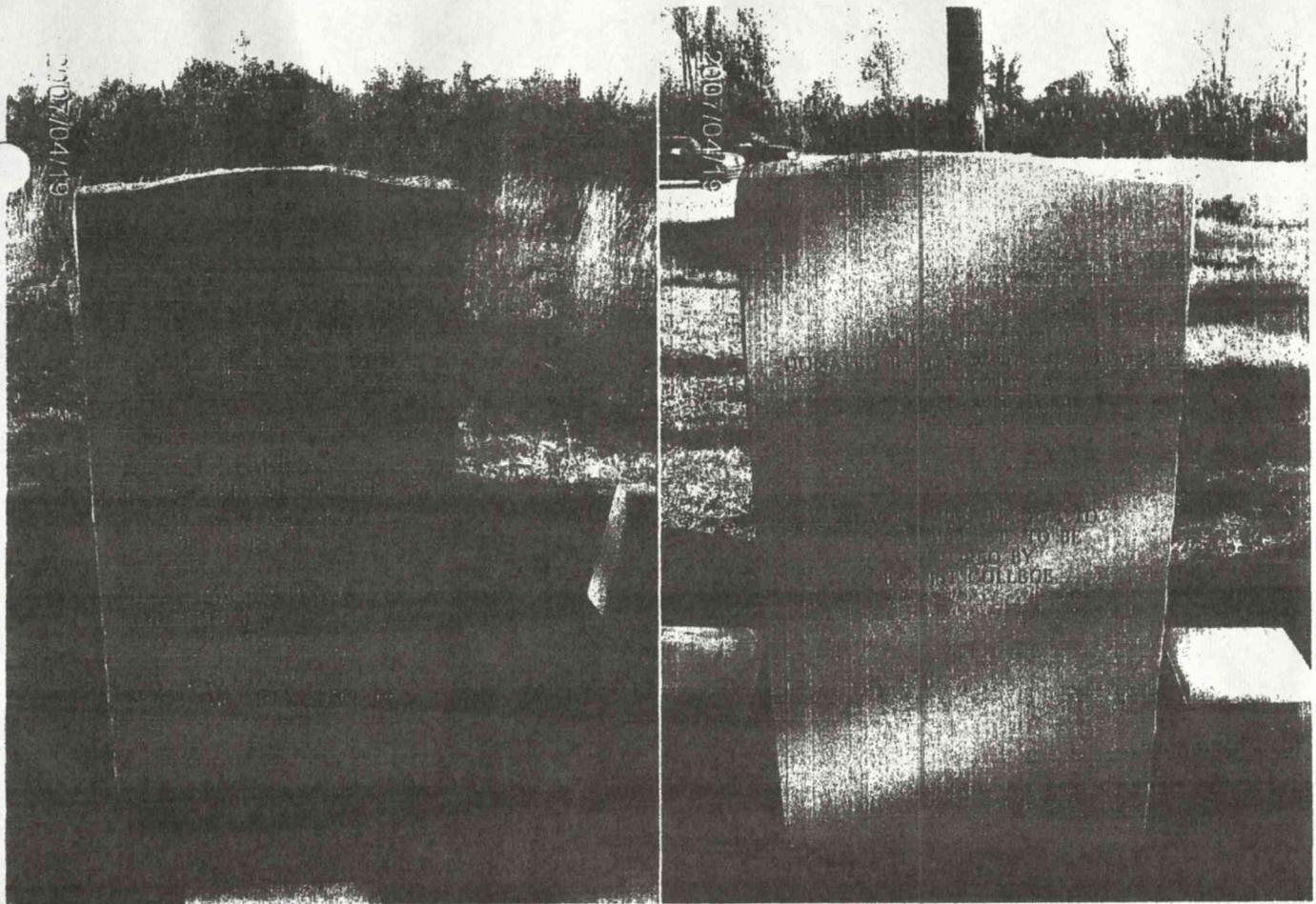
May 4, 2007

WARD-WHITE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Donated by: Janice Ward

Renovated by: Baptist College of
FL

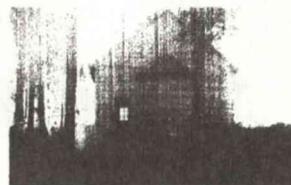




Monument located at building site
US Hwy 84E Cairo GA

On January 3, 1897 Daniel
Patterson Ward purchased the
property that this building stands on
from his uncle (by marriage) Casper
Walker. A schoolhouse named
Walker School stood on the
property just a short distance from
this church building. Mrs. Robert
Lee (Louise Moore) remembers
attending Walker school and states
that she knows that the church was
built and standing in 1910 - it may

have been earlier. The exact date for the construction of the church is not available. The church was constructed when two families from North Carolina, the Wards and the Whites, desired to form a congregation of believers in the Universalist denomination. There were no other Universalist churches in southwest Georgia at this time. D.P. Ward donated the land and the members



of the families who wished to worship as Universalists built a church. Ministers from North Carolina served the church in a way similar to circuit riding days. When the minister came, which was about four times a year, an all day meeting was held with dinner on the grounds. Preaching in the morning and afternoon. Recorded in the Grady County courthouse is data showing that in 1918 the one acre

property and church building was deeded to the Universalist Church Convention by D.P. Ward. It is believed the central headquarters of the Universalist Church was in North Carolina. The minister would stay at the home of D.P. Ward when he came and would occupy one of the shed rooms on the front of the Ward home (formerly the Casper Walker house built by B.A. Alderman). The minister would

stay several days and visit with the members of the church. The Barnetts Creek Baptist Church and Pierce Chapel Methodist Church were not full time churches at that time and neither was the Pine Park Baptist Church which was established in 1904. Many of the families in Pine Park community who were not members of the Ward-White group would attend the services. Opal Faulkner Lewis can

recall her grandmother Myra Ward Faulkner (who was Baptist) talking about attending the services. Opal Lewis recalls attending some services in 1934-35. Her family moved away and returned in 1941. After that time Opal remembers attending services here almost every time the minister came. Brother Thomas Chapman was the minister who came during this period. D.P. Ward died in 1938 and Brother

Chapman who was quite old was not able to come very often.

However the church continued to function for a few years after 1938.

In 1945 the widow of D.P. Ward, Mamie Sasser Ward, a person very interested in Home Demonstration and 4-H Club work decided to allow the 4-H Club members of the Pine Park area to hold club meetings in the church. This was made

official in 1945 when the Universalist Church deeded the one acre of land upon which the building stood to Mamie Ward. She in turn signed an agreement for the building and property to be used as a 4-H Clubhouse. Club members and their families worked hard to make the church and yard into a suitable meeting place. The church originally faced the old road (the old road bed is still visible in the rear of the yard) before Highway



official in 1945 when the Universalist Church deeded the one acre of land upon which the building stood to Mamie Ward. She in turn signed an agreement for the building and property to be used as a 4-H Clubhouse. Club members and their families worked hard to make the church and yard into a suitable meeting place. The church originally faced the old road (the old road bed is still visible in the rear of the yard) before Highway



84 was paved in 1929 and the road bed moved to its present status. The door into the building was moved so that the clubhouse opened to and faced Highway 84. The lanterns used for lights were exchanged for electricity in the inside of the building at a later date because Opal Lewis recalls that at the first major meeting held in the clubhouse in 1946-47 that there was no electric lights outside or inside. Lanterns were used inside where available and bricks soaked in

kerosene for several days and then put on wires hanging from posts and lighted giving enough light for the cooks to fry chicken and prepare food for the gathering. A number of the state 4-H Club staff attended this meeting among them was the state recreation leader Rip Van Winkle - and Billy Stringer remarked that never would he have believed that we would see burning bricks and Rip Van Winkle in Pine Park Georgia! The 4-Hers spent many happy

hours in the clubhouse. Meetings were held and projects planned. Many folk games were played.

The year of 1948 brought to the Triple G (Grady County Go Getters)

Club the

coveted

Atlanta

Journal

Award of

\$300.00. The club received much

publicity and recognition locally



and statewide. Triple G Club was on the map! In 19__ the Triple G Club received \$500 Atlanta Journal Award. During this period of time the ladies of the Home Demonstration Club used the clubhouse for their meetings and they did many things to improve the clubhouse such as adding a kitchen and tables and chairs. The HDC fed the Cairo Kiwanis annually for a period of time. Other activities

including fish fries, family reunions, picnics etc. were held. Once a square dancing group held classes here.

Along came air conditioning and the recreational facilities in the churches brought less use of the clubhouse. No air conditioning, no water and no restroom made the clubhouse a less desirable place for public use. 4-H club work had

changed its structure a great deal and community club meetings were no longer used as a part of the 4-H program. Therefore, due to all of these reasons, the clubhouse closed its doors and the electricity was disconnected. The building has been sitting silently for a number of years.

It is thought that the building is worth saving because of its

contribution of the past - Senior citizen status - but we believe that despite its years in age that it is still young at heart - especially the heart pine lumber used in its construction.

The Pine Park Community Center is now ready to begin its new life in Graceville Florida. After complete restoration, it is now part of the Baptist College of Florida's Heritage Village. The Ward family

was approached by persons interested in preservation about restoring the building. The Heritage Village accepts historical structures, by donation, then restores the structures as true to original styles as possible. Photos showing the original building, inside and out, are shown here. Later photos document the moving of the building to Graceville, Florida.

A granite monument marks the site on US Highway 84 near Pine Park where the original building stood.

The monument depicts the building and honors its founders - the Wards and the Whites.