
Grady County Historical Society – Churches

St. Claire Presbyterian Church

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The legal (agreements)
 in this envelope in this
 writer's (J. B. Roddey Sr.)
 opinion has no value to
 him or heirs of W. Roddey
 who owned the Crossfoot
 Place Property which property
 included the land on which
 the Sinclair (since changed)
 referred to "St. Clair Primitive
 Baptist Church" Church per
 the surveyor's draft,
 but agreements herein
 will explain that the
 land the Church is on
 [it being occupied for generations
 by a church but deed to show
 they owned + it was part of
 1st W. Roddey's estate then
 W. Roddey's estate so on
 but not now since the church
 building + all gone now into land
 Co. ~~that~~ the land church was on
 was not Paul Roddey's, who owns the
 Crossfoot - all about it

J. B. Roddey Sr.
 1st W. Roddey's
 W. Roddey's
 estate so on
 but not now



GBR Sec Copy

WARRANTY DEED

STATE OF GEORGIA, GRADY COUNTY:

THIS INDENTURE, made and entered into the 9th day of October, 1980, between PAUL B. RODDENBERY of the one part, and SINCLAIR PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH of the other part.

WITNESSETH:

That the party of the first part, intending this to be a deed of Gift, hath granted, given and conveyed unto the said SINCLAIR PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH all the tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the county of Grady as follows:

A certain 0.86 acre tract of land on which is located the church building of Sinclair Primitive Baptist Church, located in Lot of Land No. 2 in the 16th Land District of Grady County, Georgia, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the north margin of Georgia State Highway Route No. 38 (U.S. Highway 84) where said north margin intersects the west lot line of Lot of Land No. 2 in the 16th District of Grady County, Georgia, thence north 01 degree 15 minutes east along said west lot line a distance of 174.90 feet to a point identified by an iron pin in place; thence south 88 degrees 45 minutes east a distance of 211.81 feet to a point identified by an iron pin in place; thence south 01 degree 15 minutes west a distance of 177.87 feet to a point on the north right of way of said State Highway Route No. 38; thence north 87 degrees 57 minutes west along the north right of way of said State Highway a distance of 211.83 feet to the point of beginning.

The above described property is described according to a plat of survey by Leroy Ouzts, dated 3/8/77 recorded in Plat Book 14, Page 189, Public Land Records of Grady County, Georgia, reference to which is hereby made for the purpose of making same a part of this description and all other necessary purposes.

Regardless of the fee simple conveyance and warranty of this deed herein contained, the property hereby conveyed is conveyed only so long as Sinclair Primitive Baptist Church is a Church whose tenets, dogma, beliefs and doctrine are based on the faith that there is but one living and true God, everlasting, and belief in the Holy Bible, Old and New Testament, as the same reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. If at any time in the future the membership of this church deviates from the above statements of faith and believes and worships contrary to the above then in such event this church will have ceased to function as a church for which this deed was given to provide a meeting place and the title to the above property shall revert to Paul B. Roddenbery, his heirs and assigns.

WHICH TRACT OR PARCEL of land the said Paul B. Roddenbery will well and truly warrant and defend from the claim of all persons whatsoever, unto the said Sinclair Primitive Baptist Church forever in fee simple.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said Paul B. Roddenbery hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Paul B. Roddenbery (SEAL)

Edwin A. Carls

Mary L. Daugherty
Notary Public, Grady County, Ga.

My Commission expires 9-11-82

14-189
this is a copy of the original paper

LAW OFFICES OF
CARLISLE
&
CHABON
BOX 485
CAIRO, GA.

MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

SINCLAIR PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, GRADY COUNTY
GEORGIA, IN A DULY CALLED BUSINESS MEETING ON March 28, 1980
1979, APPROVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION, TO-WIT:

A RESOLUTION

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF GRADY

KNOW ALL ME BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, Sinclair Primitive Baptist Church, hereinafter called "Church", has never had a deed to the property on which the church building is located, and

WHEREAS, PAUL E. PODDENBERY now tenders to the church a deed to the property under certain terms and conditions and the church desires to perfect its organizational structure by electing trustees so that it can accept such conveyance, and

WHEREAS, It is also necessary and desirable that the doctrine of this church be stated in writing;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE CHURCH as follows:

1. The Church hereby certifies that the following named persons have been duly elected as the Board of Trustees of said Church, that they shall continue to hold such office until their successors are duly elected by a majority vote of the church membership, to-wit:

Deo. Bennie Stephens
~~Deo. John L. Stephens~~
Bro. James Hayward

2. That the three members of the Board of Trustees of the Church are hereby authorized and directed to accept the deed conveying the property on which this church building is

located that is tendered by PAUL B. RODDENBERY and that this Church in accepting said deed agrees to the terms, conditions and reversionary clause contained in said deed.

3. The church hereby states that it is not affiliated with any other church, organization, regional or national denomination and that it is a completely democratic organization composed of ~~thirty to forty~~ ^{Fifteen (15)} ~~members meeting on the 1st and 4th~~ ^(Paul R. Roddenbery) Sundays in each month. ^{Two (2)} ~~(Paul R. Roddenbery)~~

4. This Church has always and will always be a Church whose tenets, dogma, beliefs and doctrine are based on the faith that there is but one living and true God, everlasting, and we believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testament, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. If at any time in the future the membership of this church deviates from the above statements of faith and believes and worships contrary to the above then in such event this church will have ceased to function as a church for which said deed was given to provide a meeting place and the title shall revert as stated in said deed.

Passed by the Church on the 28th day of March ~~1979.~~ 1980

SINCLAIR PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

BY Rev. S. S. Simmon Jr.
Pastor

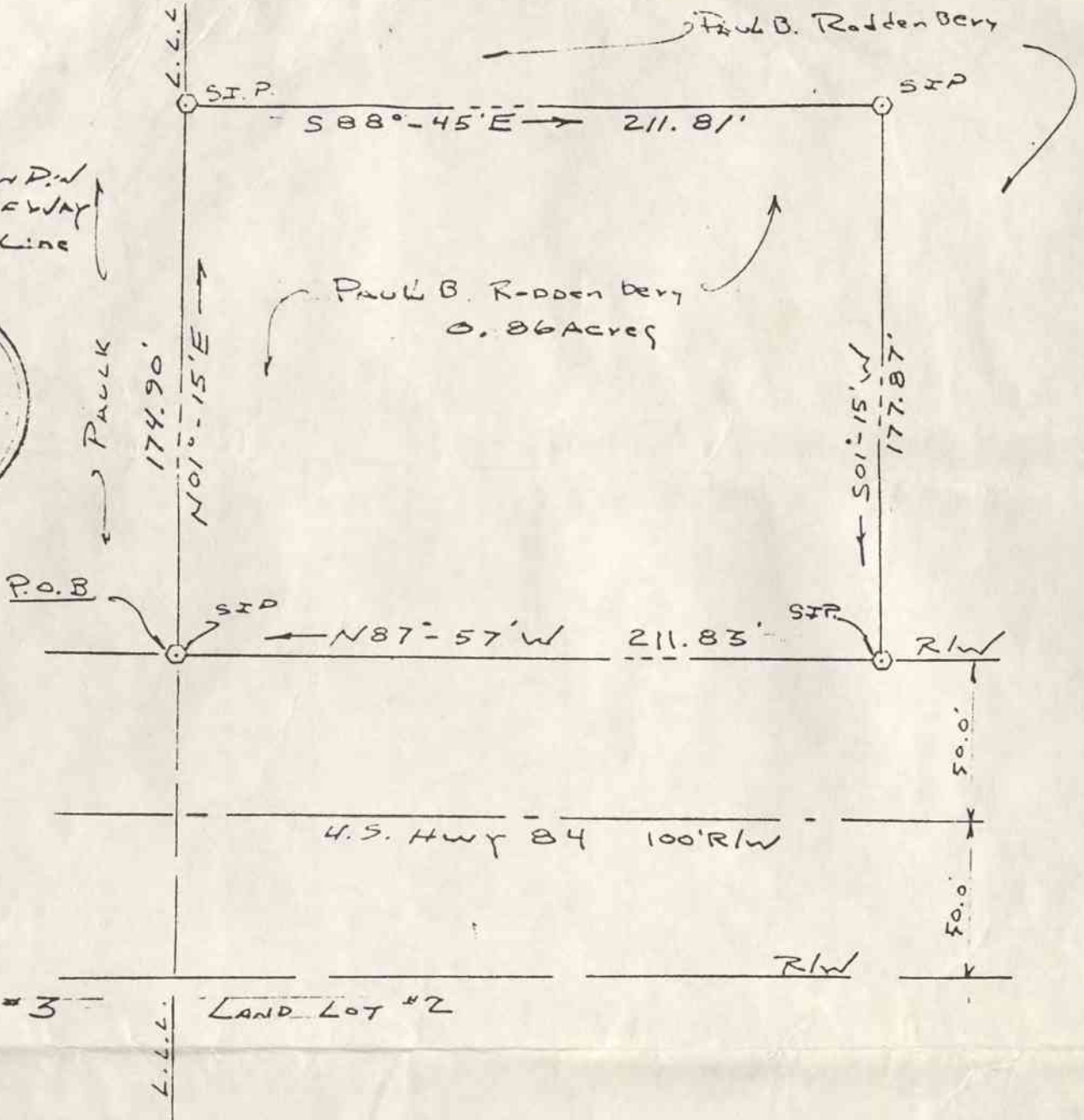
BY Sis Georgia Mae Reed
Clerk

I, Sis Georgia Mae Reed Clerk, acting as Secretary of Sinclair Primitive Baptist Church hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution of said Church passed at the business meeting held at said Church March 28, 1980, 1979.

Georgia Mae Reed
Clerk acting as Secretary

Legend

SIP - Set Iron Pin
 RLW Right of Way
 L.L. Land Lot Line



LAND LOT #3

LAND LOT #2

Magnetic North

PLAT OF PROPERTY OF
 PAUL B. RODDENBERY
 LAND LOT #2
 BRADY Co.
 SCALE: 1" = 50.0'

16TH LAND DISTRICT
 Georgia
 3/8/77

Paul B. Roddenbery
 1654

I certify that this plat is correct and
 a true and accurate representation of the conditions
 on the property.
 Paul B. Roddenbery
 1654

revised 4-20-77
 10/8
 Book 14, Page 199

February 19, 1985

MEMO TO MAGGIE:

I do not write memos or letters because I like to, and I guess I do, because I have an able secretary who can decipher my dictating. But the main reason is that when I think of something I need to put it on paper, and to write in longhand, you or others would have a time deciphering.

This is what I found out about the little church on the old Cross Roads. I personally know that the building at that place in late 1890's and particularly in 1901 and 02, when I was living on the farm where it was located, and it was known as the courthouse. A justice of peace would hold court there. The elections would be held there. I hope to find out the name of the voting precinct that was the Cross Roads. Should I go ahead with the book. But up to now the Bob Roddenberys didn't remember the name of the voting precinct as we now think about Reno, Calvary, etc. There was no name there, and I don't think it was Cairo, for the Cairo postoffices were west of Tired Creek and likely there was another voting place west of the Tired Creek.

Now the purpose of this memo is to say that I had asked the Chairman of the Board of Deacons of St. Clair Primitive Baptist Church, which is the church being moved, and the church that Steve Walker is taking picture of, to know when it was built. After I went out and closely inspected it, I am somewhat doubtful that it was the courthouse that was there in 1900. I think the style of the plank it was made from was hardly available. I know the east end of it was added, and then they put another little addition of cement blocks for a little kitchen, I think. But I told Steve only to take a picture from the west, for the church faced west. I may not be able to substantiate that it is 85 years old or longer, of course, for if it was built in the 1890's it might should have been a little log *church*

Anyway, Steve was very glad to take the picture and will look at it and I will have the Deacon to check if they have any records to show when it was built. I know this is a tiny matter, but as it fits into two things, namely, finding old buildings and second something for the history if, and I still say "if" I decide to sponsor it. And am working towards that end now, but haven't had the time or taken the time one, to go thru the one to two thousand pages in my den, but I am about 3/4 thru, and each section I get into I find something I had forgotten about, or didn't remember at all. Still I well realize to write a history book of a town that is now only 115 years in a county that is only 80 years old, won't have many documents though of course I have the three Thomas County books and one Bainbridge and those books gave our history and it may be possible for a good editor to come up with something that would never be recorded if I don't use these old papers.

As an instance, I have some longhand writing of my father, and they are rather brittle and should be put in print. But I'm taking good care of them. You know my father was the first officially appointed by the grand jury, historian of Grady County, and Louis Powell told me he spent at least a half dozen Thursday afternoons when the stores were closed, in the den with Papa recording many things that Louis Powell said were very interesting to him. And nobody knew about some of them, but in some way those were sent to Moultrie, Ga., and I don't find but very little of it in the old papers and it could have been the one who sorted thru Bob Sr. and Bob Jr.'s papers that finally came into my possession, didn't think those longhand scribblings for Louis said were all in Papa's handwriting, may have been thrown away. For when

2/19/85

I went to get the copying machine and all those papers and there were at least 3,000 of them counting the family book and the history papers. On the floor of that office, there were thousands of sheets, maybe ankle deep at one place, and I fear Thad Roddenbery or whoever it was, maybe the secretary, didn't keep some that were very valuable and among it the many pages Louie Powell said he worked with my father to carry out his duties to record what he knew about the history of the a-area.

As for instance, one memo says the very first house where Cairo was located was built by a man named Stewart. Tells about a visit with his father in 1866 or '67 and he dropped a bag of coffee and it spilled all over the ground, when he traded at the one store, a little grocery and grog shop. So we have that beginning in writing. And that may never have gone to Moultrie, but anyone who reads Walter B. Roddenbery's handwriting would remember it always, and a sample of it in the essays in the Library. So it is certainly authentic.

I decided to visit a little with you when I tell about the church, but I'm afraid I can't find substantiating evidence to show that this church was the voting place in Decatur County in the 1890's. I'm going to be careful not to put anything that's fiction in the book, and believe me we've got to turn down or not put in it, two or three Indian stories that are out of this world, that happened where Grady County is, and I expect you already know about William Hawthorne shooting a Negro out of a tree, and another story, and I think Camilla gave consideration to it in their history, that a daughter of William Hawthorne fell in love with an Indian Brave and they ran off and built a log house down in Florida. They knew they would have to come back into the world, or civilization as it might have been called comparatively then, and they committed suicide. Bob Roddenbery said that was nothing but fiction and he wasn't going to report it, and there is no evidence so I won't either. But I thought you might like to know of what has been written haphazardly in books or papers.

But the story of the bag of coffee falling out of the buggy on the iron stirrup to get into the buggy, and of course the little boy cried.

JBR




ST. CLAIRE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, now located on Fourth Av. SW in Cairo, has recently been moved from its original location on US 84 about two miles west of Cairo. The small congregation held services in the building last Sunday for the first time since it's relocation. (Staff Photo).

St. Claire P.B. Church Moved To New Location

First Used As Decatur County Polling Place

Most of St. Claire Primitive Baptist Church's members live in Cairo, they and their families having moved into town when farm work played out in the vicinity of the church building.

And now the church itself has joined them, having been moved to a spot on the Calvary Road (Fourth Ave. S. W.) just inside the Cairo city limits.

The St. Claire congregation held its first service in the relocated and renovated building last Sunday with the church's young pastor, Rev. Jimmy Simmons, delivering the sermon.

Moving the church from its former location about two miles west of Cairo at the intersection of U. S. 84 and the Hawthorne Trail has been a six months project, according to Benny Stephens, Chairman of St. Claire's Deacons. It was hauled to its new home by truck about three months ago, the time since then being spent in getting it on a firm foundation and repairing damage caused by the move plus making other improvements.

The small frame church has also been enhanced with a new steeple, an addition that gives it a grace and charm it lacked at its old location.

"There's still some work we need to do but we now have it in shape for us to hold services," Coot Davis, a

member for 61 years said this week.

St. Claire Primitive Baptist Church has approximately 25 members and meets twice each month, on the first and third Sundays.

Along with Benny Stephens, John L. Stephens and Josh Green serve it as Deacons.

Nobody remembers exactly when St. Claire P. B. Church was established, however, its historically accurate to say the congregation began using a portion of the recently relocated building shortly after 1906.

A part of the church building sat for at least a hundred years where the Hawthorne Trail crossed the old Bainbridge Thomasville Road, serving as a Decatur County precinct "courthouse" used as a polling place and home for Justice of the peace court.

Mr. Julien Roddenbery remembers that the Roddenbery Farms Fields on either side of what is now US 84 at the intersection were called the north and south courthouse fields.

It ceased being a precinct courthouse in 1906 when the area became part of Grady County and was placed in the Cairo Precinct.

Shortly after that the old structure became St. Claire Primitive Baptist Church and Mrs. Davis remembers that when she joined in 1924, the congregation was still meeting in the small unpainted one room building.

She also recalls that many

of the members lived in the Booker Hill section of Cairo and walked to St. Claire to attend services.

At that time the building faced what would later become US 84.

Sometime later possibly due to a highway widening project, it was turned to face the Hawthorne Trail and enlarged with the addition of the present pulpit area.

A later addition was the concrete kitchen building, a structure that will be torn down and rebuilt on the new church site in Cairo, according to Deacon Stephens.

Moving the old building from its original location has created a void at the intersection of the Old Bainbridge-Thomasville Road (US 84) and the Hawthorne Trail, likely one of the busiest of road intersections in the early history of the area.

But in its new location with its new steeple, St. Claire P. B. Church can best serve its small but dedicated congregation for years to come.

St. Claire's members didn't move to town and leave their rural church. They've now brought it with them.