The Wiregrass Church Documentation Project

The Wiregrass Archives
Troy University Dothan Campus

Society of Florida Archivists, 2013
Presented by Marty Olliff
Wiregrass Archives Coverage
Four Phases

• Phase 1
  – Reconnaissance Survey of Buildings
• Phase 2
  – Demographics of Congregations
• Phase 3
  – Records Surveys of Churches
• Phase 4
  – Locate / Create Histories
Characteristics of Project

SCALABLE

"CHUNKABLE"

TRANSFERABLE
Finding Churches

www.hometownlocator.com
Phase 1

• “Windshield” Survey
  – Collect architectural and location data
  – Photos around all buildings
  – Footprint drawing where possible

• Three Alabama Counties
  – Dale
  – Henry
  – Houston
Three County Survey

n = 331
MS Access Data Form
## Phase 1 Product:

### Antioch Assembly of God

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>200 Antioch Ch Rd</th>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>brick</th>
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<tr>
<td>City</td>
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<td>brick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zip Code</td>
<td></td>
<td>Roof</td>
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<td>Phys Desc</td>
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### Photographs (Click to view larger image)

![Images of Antioch Assembly of God](image_links)

### Footprint

[Image of Antioch Assembly of God's footprint]
Phase 1 Product: Antioch AG Reference Image and “Footprint”
Phase 2: Congregational Demographics

• Responses: 77
• Questions:
  • Number
  • Ethnicities
  • Age Brackets
  • Occupations
  • Meeting Frequency
  • Leadership Type
  • Membership in association
  • Congregation history notes
### Phase 3: Records Survey

- 97.4% in Phase 2 agreed to Phase 3
- Guidelines available online
  - UMC
  - Episcopalians
  - SBC
  - Presbyterians
  - Evangelical Lutherans

### Phase 4: History

- Very few have written history
- Many have history committee
- Project has written one church history
Collaborative Archives?

• Each Agency Keeps Own Records / Mss
• “Central” Archivist Provides Services
  – Appraisal / Selection Advice
  – Preservation Advice & Vending
  – Description Beyond Finding Aid
  – Access Support
  – Mngt and Grant Coordination
• Serves Social Justice