

Tract No. 355
Scott's Grove Baptist Church

STATE OF ALABAMA
SHELBY COUNTY

Before me, L. E. Parker, a Notary Public in and for the State of Alabama at Large, personally appeared Will McGinnis, who is known to me and after first being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

My name is Will McGinnis. I am 79 years of age and reside in Shelby County, Alabama. I have been familiar with the land described hereinbelow and have known its possessors for more than 65 years. This land is best described as:

A tract or parcel of land lying and being in the Northeast Corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 20, Township 20 South, Range 2 East, more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the Northeast corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (3/4 of NE 1/4) of said Section 20, thence South along quarter-quarter section line to the Harpersville-Wilsonville Road, thence in a Southwesterly direction along said road 300 feet more or less to a point, thence turn an angle of 90 degrees to the right and run in a Northwesterly direction 125 feet, more or less to a point; thence in a Northeasterly direction to point of beginning, being bounded on the North and West by lands of T. G. Wood and M. Mauldin, on the East by lands of Janie W. Wallace and on the South by the Harpersville-Wilsonville Road. Situated in Shelby County, Alabama.

I believe and it is generally understood throughout this vicinity that the hereinabove described land is the lot or site where the Scott's Grove Baptist Church had been situated for near 100 years prior to its destruction by fire about a year ago.

The history of the Scott's Grove Baptist Church begins with James M. Scott who owned the above described land from prior to the Civil War until about 1872. It is believed that during this period of time the Scott's Grove Baptist Church was constructed and named for the contributor of the land on which it was built. It is believed that the Scott's Grove Baptist Church was built by slave labor donated by local plantation owners and sometime after the Civil War and prior to 1900 this church property was sold or given to the negro people for a place of worship and use as a school building.

I know that regular church services and business meetings have been held in Scott's Grove Baptist Church for more than 65 years or as far back as I can remember. I have been a member of this church for more than 60 years. Prior to and during the time I have been a member of Scott's Grove Baptist Church, the Church property has been used on week days as a place to hold regular school for the negro children of this vicinity.

I know that since I have been a member of Scott's Grove Baptist Church, the Church has operated as a duly organized Baptist Church with a pastor and board of deacons, duly elected to carry on necessary church business. The board of deacons and officers of the church have exercised every act necessary to church business during the past 60 years or more. They have authorized and have paid all expenses of the church, bought material and have maintained the building and grounds in a useable condition. A well was dug many years ago and necessary outbuildings have been constructed on this property for the use of the church membership and congregation. They have exercised every other act necessary to the peaceful use and enjoyment of Scott's Grove Baptist Church and its property as was consistent with the nature of the land and its particular use.

I know of no person or persons claiming any right to the Scott's Grove Baptist Church property or disputing its possession or use by the members of the church during the past 60 years or more under the claim of ownership.

I know that the Scott's Grove Baptist Church property has been recognized as church property and as such has been held exempt from taxation under the laws of the state of Alabama.

Will McGinnis

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Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 30th day of May, 1968.
Notary Public - State at Large