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Indian Springs church building built in 1854

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MICCOSUKEE --- Indian Springs Baptist Church was founded during Florida's Territorial days and the congregation continues to meet in a building that was erected in 1854.

The lovely little country church sits on State Road 59, just a mile or so north of U.S. 90 at a point 15 miles east of Tallahassee. It is near Lake Miccosukee, named for the Miccosukee Indians who frequented the Spring and had a settlement near the church site when it was chartered on July 6, 1829.

The congregation is the fifth oldest Baptist church in Florida, and having been in existence nearly a century and half, it is the oldest surviving Baptist church in Leon County.

A professionally-done history on the church has been written by Dr. James C. Bryant, an assistant professor at Florida State University and an ordained Baptist minister. He got interested in the colorful background of Indian Springs when he spoke there as guest pastor.

Dr. Bryant learned that the first members met in a log cabin, near a spring. Although the log cabin is no longer there, the original cemetery is, and contains the graves of several of the charter members. Among them is the family of Benjamin Byrd, prominent in Territorial Florida politics and the first State Treasurer.

The historian wrote that in 1855, the members moved down the road about two miles and built the present frame church building. The one-room structure, which is still in good condition, was built by slave labor, and still has the original pews.