

**History of St. Augustine Chapel**  
**By**  
**Charles Henry Blackledge III, PH.D.**

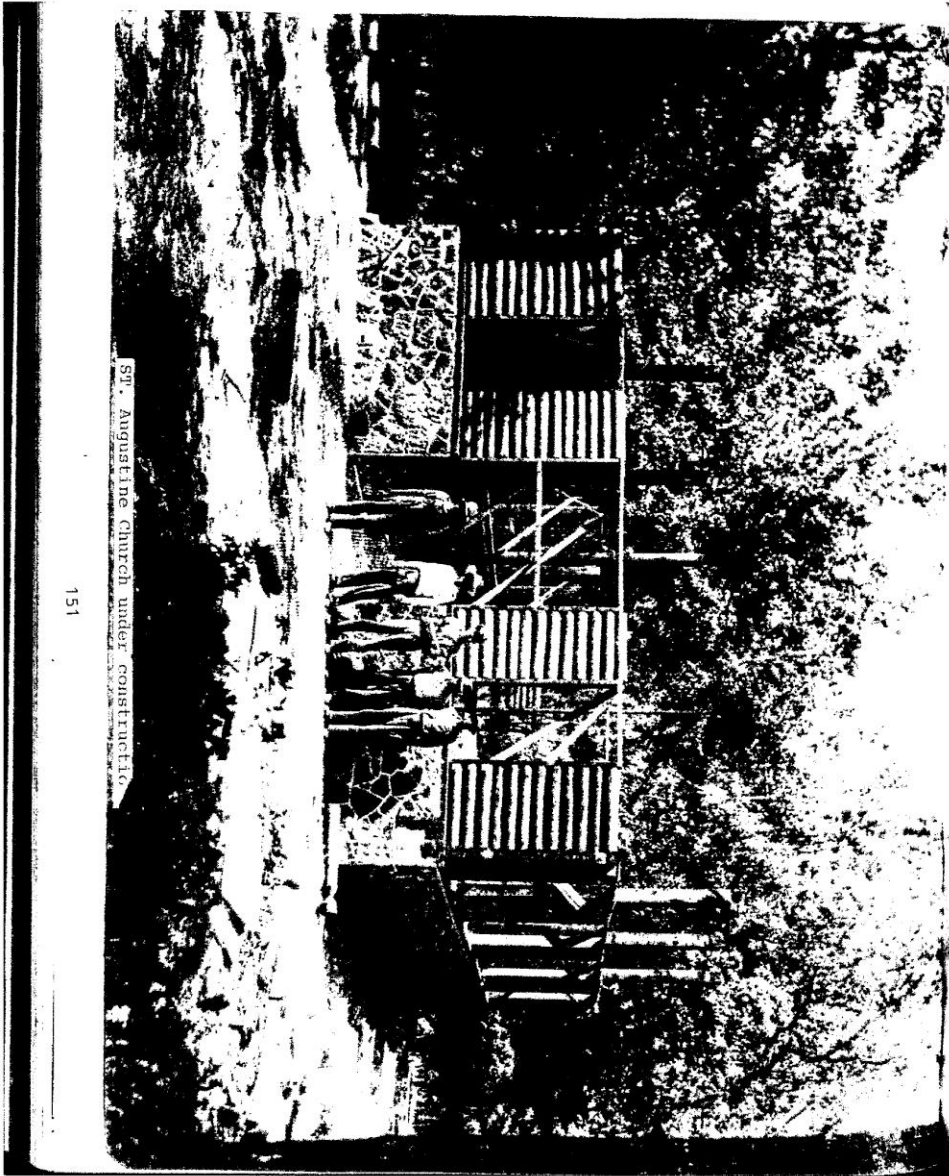
In 1910, the St. Joseph's Chapel was built on the Campus of Spring Hill College, a Jesuit institution founded 1830. According to Edward Croshon, African-Americans in Spring Hill, Crichton, Sandtown and surrounding communities worshipped at this Chapel until 1937 (*Churches of Mobile*, Compiled by Ed Croshon, 2005). Father Andrew Bernard Fox S.J., who served in many capacities at Spring Hill College was assigned full-time to the Quasi- Parish of St. Ignatius. A parish under the patronage of St. Ignatius was established in 1947 and began to grow. (*A History of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama* by Charles E. Nolan.

In 1937, Father Fox had constructed a log cabin on the corner of Spring Hill Avenue and McGregor Avenue. The building faced the South toward Museum Drive. African American Catholics in Spring Hill, Crichton, Sandtown and surrounding communities were directed to worship in this log cabin. In 1967, the Log Cabin was listed as one of 189 churches in the *Solemn Observance of the Fortieth Episcopal Anniversary and the Fifty-Seventh Sacerdotal Anniversary of the Most Rev. Thomas Joseph Toolen, D.D., L. L. D., Litt. D. Archbishop-Bishop of the Diocese of Mobile-Birmingham Wednesday, October, 25<sup>th</sup> 1967.*

A photograph of the construction of St. Augustine is found on page 2 and a photograph of the Cabin as it existed in 1960 is found on page 3 of this document. According to the research of Mr. Croshon, "African-American Catholics were directed to attend services at St. Ignatius" in 1963. The log cabin was subsequently given to the residents of Sandown, a community made up of freedman and former slaves. Mt. Hebron African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church acquired doors, stained windows and other useful material.

**About the Writer/Acknowledgements**

Dr. Blackledge and his family have been residents of the Sandtown Community since 1977. He holds the Bachelor of Science Degree from Alabama State College (now University), the Master of Arts Degree from the University of Alabama in History and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Alabama in the Administration of Higher Education). He has served in many capacities in higher education including Academic Dean at Bishop State Community and Dean of Instruction at Wallace Community College in Selma, Alabama. The writer acknowledges the assistance of staff members of the Local History and Genealogy Library of the Mobile Public Library: Mrs. Valerie Ellis and Mrs. Elizabeth Theris-Boone.



ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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