

CAROLINA CHURCH



The old Carolina Methodist Church building still stands in a remote area of Nevada County which was once part of Ouachita County. One source says the church was built in 1871, the same year Nevada County was created. Some think the church dates back to around 1858. All the original records were lost in a court house fire at Camden. Much of the information about the early days comes from the family Bible of John and Nancy Shell who were charter members. The name Carolina comes from North Carolina, the home state of John Shell. The land for the church was jointly deeded by John Shell and Eugene Hatley.

The church is located on what was once the Old Washington road connecting Camden and Washington. The pews inside the church were made from knot-free virgin pine timber, but these were removed several years ago. A divider separated the pews with women sitting on one side and men on the other. There is nothing inside the building today. Even the pulpit has been removed. The church building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A school was also once located at Carolina.

For many years a reunion or homecoming was held at the church building once each year with a "dinner on the ground". A rocking chair was given to the oldest lady present compliments of Stewart Furniture Store in Prescott.

There is no cemetery at the church site. The cemetery for that community is located about three miles to the east and is known as White Church Cemetery.

The community near Carolina Church was once called Caney and is shown on the 1865 map of Ouachita County. Marsh's store was the center of the community and was also the post office. Families who settled in this area include the Maddens, Hatleys, Shells, Mendenhalls, Gladdens, Blakes, and Youngs.

The church building was restored in the 1970s. Recently a new metal roof has been installed and plans are to give the building a new coat of paint which is badly needed. It is well worth a visit to Carolina to see the church building although the road can get slick in wet weather. As I said, it is in a very remote area with no homes nearby. The location is on County Rd. 10 about one half mile east of Rd. 47. Turn east on a dim road at the intersection where Rd. 10 leaves Rd. 47.

Written by Jerry McKelvy

Some information for this article comes from:

The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood by Betty Meeks and published in the *Nevada County Picayune* July 8, 1976

An article from the Prescott Depot Museum by Peggy Lloyd published in the *Nevada County Picayune* March 17, 2004



Carolina Church in 2013



Inside view of Carolina Church



Foundation Stone at Carolina Church



Window with wooden shutters
You can see where the pews were attached to the wall

