History of Gates Chapel Methodist Church
R. R. 1 Ellijay, Georgia
Ellijay Circuit

Originally there was a church that was known as Mount Nebo.
(M. E. South), in this community, during the Civil War. Nothing
remains on this site but the cemetery. The name and date
on the oldest tombstone is Nancy Nicoll, born 1797 and died
1865. This cemetery is still in use. Two churches branched
from Mount Nebo, which were Nine Mile Methodist Church and
Gates Chapel Methodist Church, later on this present Ellijay
Circuit.

The original Gates Chapel Church was built in 1872, about one
mile from the site of Mount Nebo, on land donated by Monroe
Parks. It was also used as a school house. This information
was given to us by Ed Gates, a member now at Gates Chapel.
When the building was torn down, he said, that the date, 1872,
was carved in a board over the window.

The church was named after his grandfather, Peter Austin Gates,
who died in 1890. Gates Chapel also has a cemetery and the
name and date on the oldest tombstone is, C. M. Souther, wife
of J. J. Souther. She was born March 28, 1832 and died March
10, 1895.

The first known preacher, before the 1900's was P. P. Carroll, Sr.
Others that served in the original church before 1922 were:
H. R. Todd, George Miner, Tom Chase, Mont Hipps, Frank Hipps,
Frank Hampton, J. H. Hurley, Willard Cochran, R. H. Robb, Verda
Cochran. Others that served this church but we do not know
their first names were, Brookall, Boyd, Whar, XXX Sivell
and in 1919, Bailey.

The present building was completed in 1922 on the same site
of the original church. Several went to the courthouse in Ellijay
to see if the deed had been recorded, as was reported it was,
not many years ago. However, no record has been found thus far
but they are still checking on it. Any information on this will
be reported as soon as possible, or as soon as we find out.
The membership during the early years was around 60, but due
to families moving from the valley, membership began to decline.

Interest in the church was stirred again when Ann Heard, a
North Georgia Rural Worker, started having Sunday School. She
left the charge about 1955.

In 1957 the first Women's Society of Christian Service was organ-
ized. At present we have 10 members. Gates Chapel has two
worship services each month on second and fourth Sundays, and
the present membership is 43.

Some of the pastors of this church since 1951 were, M. H. Smith,
Julius Orr, H. D. Helton, Patterson, C. H. Wheelis, G.R. Young-
blood, and A. R. Linton.
The present trustees are, Ed Gates, Leonard Hill, Willard Hill, Bob Hill, Paul Gates, and Carl Hill. Willard Hill is Church School Supt., Mrs. E. D. Green is President of the WSCS and Rev. O. E. Patrick is pastor.