AN HISTORICAL STATEMENT:
The Methodist Church at Princeton, a small cotton mill village 21/2 miles South of Athens was built in 1883 on five acres of land deeded by M. L. Dunaway. This church building burned in 1967, six years after the congregation had built its present church building on property deeded to the church by the heirs of Martha Thompson. A portion of the presently owned property that is adjacent to the Thompson property is referred to as the Nellie Smith property that was purchased from the Smith family. The present church building is an educational facility, also used as a worship place, and future plans and hopes are to construct a Sanctuary and add it to the present structure.

The congregation called Princeton existed before 1883. The history of it is vague, but it is believed that the church began as a mission of the Watkinsville Methodist Church about 1835. Worship services are thought to have been held in a vacant warehouse owned by a textile mill established in the community in 1836, becoming the Princeton Manufacturing Company in 1845. The first house of worship was located on the west side of the Oconee River near an old covered bridge, some 1/4 mile from the present location of the church. This was known as the "Meeting House" until the construction of the white framed building adjacent to the Princeton Manufacturing Company in 1883. It is believed that the church was once called Hamilton Church, as an old Pulpit Bible has the name listed. This Bible was in the possession of the Meade family until its being given to us in 1975.


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