

**Frying Pan Meetinghouse**

2615 Centreville Road

Floris

The Frying Pan Meetinghouse was built sometime between 1783 and 1791 to house a local Baptist congregation. The meetinghouse takes its name from nearby Frying Pan Run. The building was erected by members of the congregation without help from an architect or professional builder. The Frying Pan Meetinghouse is particularly significant to black history because it was an early institution that served a mixed congregation. It was customary for 18th- and early 19th-century Baptist congregations to include African Americans as members. From 1791 to 1867 free blacks as well as slaves became members of Frying Pan. They spoke of their religious experiences in congregational meetings, were baptized in Frying Pan Run, and were buried in the cemetery. By 1840 Frying Pan had 29 black members and 33 white members. The meetinghouse is a rare documented property related to the religious life of 18th- and 19th-century members of the rural community, both black and white. [CA 2/5/91, 91000016]