



Grady County Historical Society – Churches

Evergreen Congregational Church and School

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Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
156 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, is pleased to announce that the property identified below was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on the date indicated:

Evergreen Congregational Church and School

Grady County, Georgia

October 31, 2002

We hope that the recognition of the architectural and historical significance of this property, combined with the benefits of National Register listing, will assist in the preservation of the property. Additional information on preservation programs is available from our office.

Thank you for your interest in historic preservation.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Evergreen Congregational Church and School.

2. Location: 497 Meridian Road, east of Georgia Highway 93, Beachton community, Grady County, Georgia. USGS Quadrangle: Beachton, Georgia-Florida.

3a. Description: The Evergreen property consists of a historic church and school. The church, built c.1928, is a concrete building with a stucco finish. It has a metal roof and a four-column front portico. It now has a wooden steeple with metal roof. The sanctuary is the main part of the church and can seat 250 people. There is a rostrum and choir alcove at the far end of the sanctuary. Exits on either side of the rostrum lead to the annex which includes the pastor's study, two restrooms, the choir room, and a conference space. In 1972 all interior walls were paneled. The sanctuary includes three large chandeliers as well as fluorescent lights. The school, built c. 1911, is one-story with a finished attic under a metal roof, white-painted structure. The first floor is poured concrete, while the attic's gabled ends are framed tongue-and-groove weatherboarding. There is a porch on the second floor, over the entrance portico, and four dormer windows. The first floor contains large classrooms, a kitchen, a small study, a ladies' lounge, and a restroom. The school interior retains its historic finishes including some plaster walls on the first floor, beaded board on the second floor, as well as original ceilings, walls, doors, and windows. Doors on the south side lead to a men's room, a workroom, and stairs to the second floor. There are two fireplaces on each floor. On the grounds are a well and outdoor toilets built in 1942. The buildings are surrounded by a lawn with the highway nearby. A rear addition was added to the church during 1989 to 1991. A handicapped entrance was also completed. The interior has mostly nonhistoric materials covering the walls, floors, and ceilings, and the windows have been replaced. All of these changes were done by 1991. Changes to the school included the removal of the outside stairs in 1951 and the removal of all early outbuildings.

3b. Dates of Development: c.1911 (school); c.1928 (church).

3c. Acreage: Two acres.

3d. Boundary Explanation: The nominated parcel is all that remains associated with the church and school.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture, Education, Religion, Ethnic Heritage-Black.

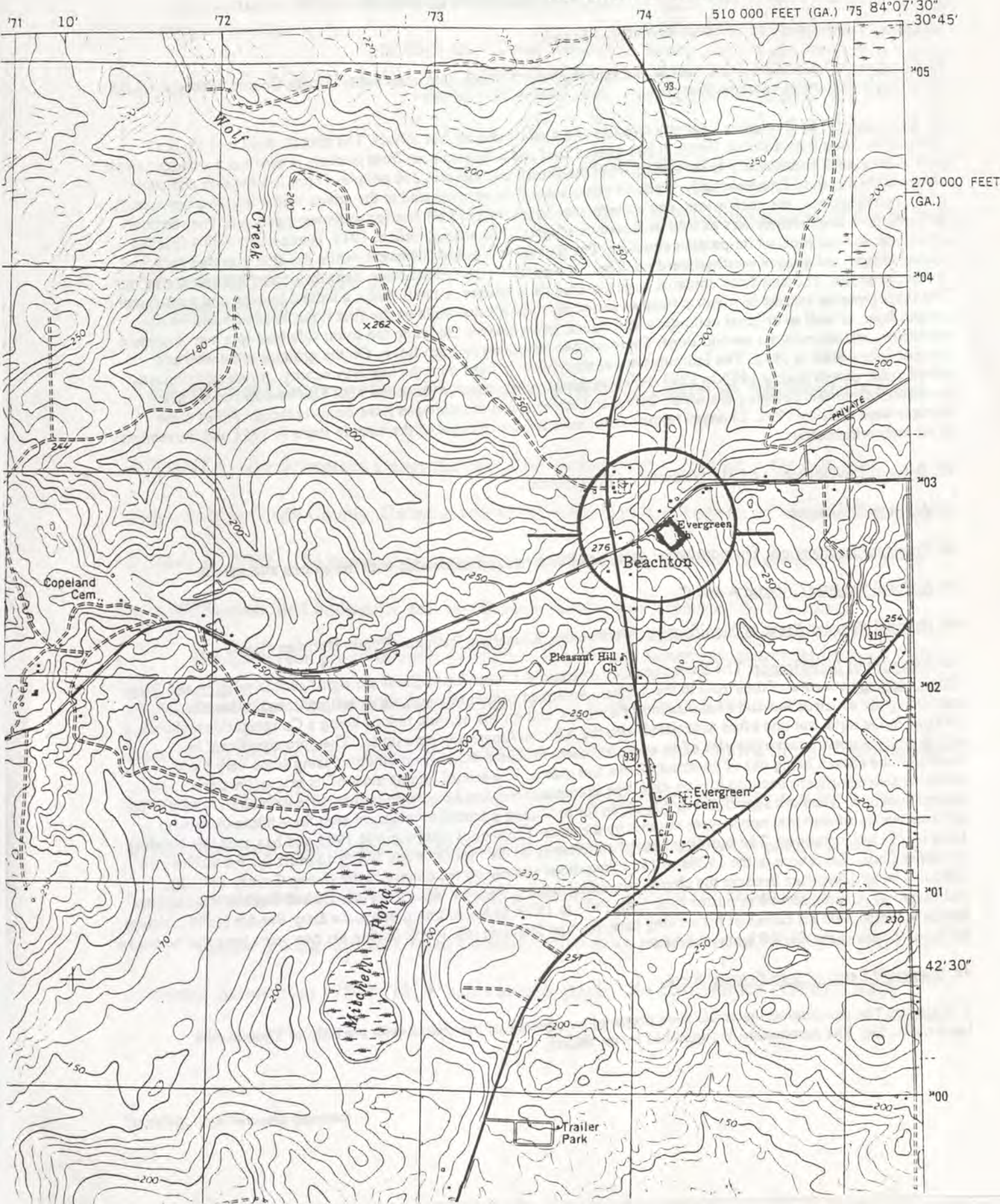
4c. Statement of Significance: The Evergreen Congregational Church and School are significant in religion and Black Ethnic Heritage because of their role in the African-American community as a major religious institution, for supporting the construction and continuation of a school, and for the unusual link of being a Congregational church, a rare one in Georgia, but one often associated with the African-American community. They are significant in architecture as good intact examples of an early 20th century church-school combination using some very basic materials, the church being out of concrete blocks and stucco. The school retains most of its original materials. The school is also significant because it is an excellent example of handcraftsmanship with visible wood molds seen in the poured concrete. They are significant in education for providing a school in this rural area for African-American students whose educational needs were not met by the state. The school was begun in 1903 and has used this building since its 1911 construction. The building housed classrooms on the first floor and living quarters for the teachers on the upper floor. For a time in the 1920s to 1938 the school was run by the county as the Grady County Training School. The building then became the church recreation center. Andrew Young, former United Nations Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta, served as pastor here from 1957 to 1959. In his autobiography, *An Easy Burden* (1996), Young relates the impact on his career of his serving here, his first full-time job. It was during his two years here that he began his involvement in the Civil Rights movement.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: State.

5. Sponsor: The nomination materials were prepared by a trustee of the church with the help of Thomasville Landmarks, Inc. The nomination is supported by the church.

BEACHTON QUADRANGLE
GEORGIA-FLORIDA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4145 I SE
(PINE PARK)



510 000 FEET (GA.) 75 84°07'30"
30°45'

270 000 FEET
(GA.)

03

02

01

42'30"

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Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
156 Trinity Avenue SW, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3600
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 651-8739 <http://www.gashpo.org>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Helen Talley-McRae, (404) 651-5268
helen_talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 14, 2002

Evergreen Congregational Church and School Listed in National Register

ATLANTA - The Evergreen Congregational Church and School, located in the Beachton community in Grady County, Georgia, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 31, 2002. The nomination materials were prepared by a trustee of the church with the help of Thomasville Landmarks, Inc. and the nomination was supported by the church.

The Evergreen property consists of a historic African American church and school. The church, built circa 1928, is a concrete building with a stucco finish. It has a metal roof and a four-column front portico. The school, built circa 1911, is one-story with a finished attic under a metal roof. The building housed classrooms on the first floor and living quarters for the teachers on the upper floor. During the 1920s and 1930s, the school was run by the county as the Grady County Training School. In 1938, the building became the church recreation center.

Andrew Young, former United Nations Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta, served as the Evergreen pastor from 1957 to 1959. In his autobiography, *An Easy Burden* (1996), Young

-more-

- Evergreen Congregational Church and School, page 2-

relates the impact that serving at Evergreen Congregational Church had on his career. It was during his two years here that he began his involvement in the Civil Rights movement.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer, listing in the National Register recognizes a property's significance and ensures that the property will be taken into account in the planning of federally funded or licensed projects. In addition, owners of income producing National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

For more information on the National Register and other preservation programs, contact Ariel Lambert, Survey and Register Specialist, at (404) 651-5911 or visit our Web site at www.gashpo.org.

"The mission of the Historic Preservation Division is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia."

This press release is available in electronic form under What's New at www.gashpo.org.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040

April 18, 2002

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NOMINATION OF PROPERTY TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Purpose of Notification

The Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is pleased to inform you that property in which you have an interest is proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is described in the enclosed "Summary of Proposed National Register Nomination." Nomination of this property to the National Register will be considered by the Georgia National Register Review Board at its next meeting. Your comments on this proposed National Register nomination are invited prior to the Review Board meeting.

Next scheduled Review Board meeting: May 30, 2002

Comments must be made by: May 28, 2002

Comments or questions about this proposed National Register nomination should be directed to:

W. Ray Luce
Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division
Department of Natural Resources
156 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Suite 101
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-656-2840

The National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the Federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. A "Historic Preservation Fact Sheet" explaining the National Register program and a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated for inclusion in the National Register are enclosed for your information.

Listing in the National Register results in the following for historic properties:

Recognition: National Register listing provides recognition of a property's architectural and historical significance. It confirms that a property is worthy of preservation.

Planning Consideration: National Register listing identifies significant properties for a wide range of planning purposes. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties (properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places) and to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment with regard to such undertakings. However, this Federal review and comment process is advisory. Each Federal agency, after taking into account the effects to historic properties, makes its own final decisions about an undertaking. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 800.

Eligibility for Federal Tax Benefits: If a property is listed in the National Register or contributes to the significance of a historic district listed in the National Register, certain Federal tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, the Economic Recovery Tax of 1981, and the Tax Reform Act of 1984, and as of January 1, 1987, provides for a 20 percent investment tax credit with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial, and rental residential building. The former 15 percent and 20 percent investment tax credits (ITCs) for rehabilitation of older non-historic commercial buildings are combined into a single 10 percent ITC for commercial or industrial buildings built before 1936. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for

Notification of proposed Nomination of Property to the National Register of Historic Places

Page 2

charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests (easements) in historically important land areas or structures. Whether these provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner. Because the tax aspects outlined above are complex, individuals should consult legal counsel or the appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. For further information on certification requirements, please refer to 36 CFR 67.

Eligibility for Grant Assistance: Owners of properties listed in the National Register are eligible for Federal and State grant assistance for preservation purposes, when such funds are available. Generally, these grants may be used for survey, planning, acquisition, and development activities.

Coal Mining Considerations: If property listed in the National Register contains coal resources, provisions of the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977 require that historic values be considered in decisions to issue surface coal mining permits. Surface coal mining is undertaken in Georgia only in Dade, Walker, and Chattooga counties; therefore, the Surface Mining and Control Act is applicable only to properties in those three counties. For further information, please refer to 30 CFR 700 et seq.

Technical Assistance: The Office of Historic Preservation offers technical preservation assistance to owners of properties listed in the National Register. This assistance includes identifying significant features of a property, suggesting or reviewing appropriate preservation techniques, identifying funding sources, and providing preservation information.

Entry in the National Register does not place any obligations or legal restrictions on the use or disposition of private property. National Register designation is not the same as historic district zoning or local landmark designation. National Register listing does not encourage public access to property or lead to public acquisition of property.

Property Owner Concurrence

Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places have an opportunity to concur in or object to listing, in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and Federal regulations 36 CFR Part 60. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing may submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of private property, as appropriate, and objects to the listing. For a single privately owned property with one owner, the property will not be listed if the owner objects. In nominations with multiple ownership of a single property, the property will not be listed if a majority of the owners object. In the case of historic district nominations, a district will not be listed if a majority of property owners within the proposed district objects to the listing. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of what part of the property or how many properties that party owns. If the property or district cannot be listed because the owner or a majority of owners objects prior to the submission of a nomination by the State, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of the eligibility of the property for inclusion in the National Register. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property. If you choose to object to the listing of your property, the notarized objection should be submitted to W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, at the address given on page one of this notice, before the Georgia National Register Review Board reviews this nomination (see page one of this notice for the date of the Review Board meeting).

Comments

Local governments, public agencies, historical societies, preservation organizations, civic clubs, and other interested parties as well as property owners are welcome to comment on this proposed National Register nomination. Comments regarding the significance and eligibility of the property or district for the National Register will be considered by the Georgia National Register Review Board as well as the State Historic Preservation Officer. To insure consideration, comments should be made before the Georgia National Register Review Board reviews this nomination (see page one of this notice for the date of the Review Board meeting and for the address to which comments should be sent).

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Evergreen Congregational Church and School.
 2. Location: 497 Meridian Road, east of Georgia Highway 93, Beachton community, Grady County, Georgia. USGS Quadrangle: Beachton, Georgia-Florida.
 - 3a. Description: The Evergreen property consists of a historic church and school. The church, built c.1928, is a concrete building with a stucco finish. It has a metal roof and a four-column front portico. It now has a wooden steeple with metal roof. The sanctuary is the main part of the church and can seat 250 people. There is a rostrum and choir alcove at the far end of the sanctuary. Exits on either side of the rostrum lead to the annex which includes the pastor's study, two restrooms, the choir room, and a conference space. In 1972 all interior walls were paneled. The sanctuary includes three large chandeliers as well as fluorescent lights. The school, built c. 1911, is one-story with a finished attic under a metal roof, white-painted structure. The first floor is poured concrete, while the attic's gabled ends are framed tongue-and-groove weatherboarding. There is a porch on the second floor, over the entrance portico, and four dormer windows. The first floor contains large classrooms, a kitchen, a small study, a ladies' lounge, and a restroom. The school interior retains its historic finishes including some plaster walls on the first floor, beaded board on the second floor, as well as original ceilings, walls, doors, and windows. Doors on the south side lead to a men's room, a workroom, and stairs to the second floor. There are two fireplaces on each floor. On the grounds are a well and outdoor toilets built in 1942. The buildings are surrounded by a lawn with the highway nearby. A rear addition was added to the church during 1989 to 1991. A handicapped entrance was also completed. The interior has mostly nonhistoric materials covering the walls, floors, and ceilings, and the windows have been replaced. All of these changes were done by 1991. Changes to the school included the removal of the outside stairs in 1951 and the removal of all early outbuildings.
 - 3b. Dates of Development: c.1911 (school); c.1928 (church).
 - 3c. Acreage: Two acres.
 - 3d. Boundary Explanation: The nominated parcel is all that remains associated with the church and school.
 - 4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.
 - 4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture, Education, Religion, Ethnic Heritage-Black.
 - 4c. Statement of Significance: The Evergreen Congregational Church and School are significant in religion and Black Ethnic Heritage because of their role in the African-American community as a major religious institution, for supporting the construction and continuation of a school, and for the unusual link of being a Congregational church, a rare one in Georgia, but one often associated with the African-American community. They are significant in architecture as good intact examples of an early 20th century church-school combination using some very basic materials, the church being out of concrete blocks and stucco. The school retains most of its original materials. The school is also significant because it is an excellent example of handcraftsmanship with visible wood molds seen in the poured concrete. They are significant in education for providing a school in this rural area for African-American students whose educational needs were not met by the state. The school was begun in 1903 and has used this building since its 1911 construction. The building housed classrooms on the first floor and living quarters for the teachers on the upper floor. For a time in the 1920s to 1938 the school was run by the county as the Grady County Training School. The building then became the church recreation center. Andrew Young, former United Nations Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta, served as pastor here from 1957 to 1959. In his autobiography, *An Easy Burden* (1996), Young relates the impact on his career of his serving here, his first full-time job. It was during his two years here that he began his involvement in the Civil Rights movement.
 - 4d. Suggested Level of Significance: State.
5. Sponsor: The nomination materials were prepared by a trustee of the church with the help of Thomasville Landmarks, Inc. The nomination is supported by the church.

BEACHTON QUADRANGLE
GEORGIA-FLORIDA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4145 1 SE
(PINE PARK)

71 10' 72 73 74 510 000 FEET (GA.) 75 84°07'30" 30°45'

270 000 FEET
(GA.)





Georgia Department
of Natural Resources

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3600

phone 404/656-2840, fax 404/651-8739

www.gashpo.org

Georgia's State Historic Preservation Office

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: RECOGNIZING AND PRESERVING OUR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The National Register is our country's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) nominates eligible properties in Georgia to the National Register so they can receive preservation benefits and incentives. Currently, more than 51,000 historic buildings, structures, sites, and objects in Georgia are listed in the National Register. The National Register is maintained nationally by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Being listed in the National Register helps preserve historic properties. It provides formal recognition of a property's historical, architectural, or archaeological significance based on national standards used in every state. National Register designation identifies significant historic properties which can be taken into account in a broad range of preservation and development activities. It also insures that these properties will be considered in the planning of state or federally assisted projects.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. These criteria require that a property be old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and that it still look much the way it was in the past. In addition, the property must:

- be associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past; or
- be associated with the lives of people who were important in the past; or
- be significant in the areas of architectural history, landscape history, or engineering; or
- have the potential to yield information through archaeological investigation that would answer questions about our past.

Certain kinds of properties, such as moved or reconstructed buildings, are generally not eligible for National Register listing; exceptions are made if these properties meet special criteria.

Properties listed in the National Register may qualify for specific preservation benefits and incentives, including:

- state and federal preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation
- federal investment tax credits
- preservation easements to nonprofit organizations
- local property tax abatements
- fire and life safety code compliance alternatives
- reviewing permits for surface mining

National Register listing does not place obligations on private property owners, nor does it place restrictions on the use, treatment, transfer, or disposition of private property. National Register listing does not lead to public acquisition of property nor does it require public access to property.

Our Mission: To promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia.

The National Register Does ...

The National Register Does Not ...

Identify significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts according to the National Register criteria

Provide a marker or plaque for registered properties (property owners may obtain markers or plaques at their own expense.)

Encourage the preservation of historic properties by documenting their significance.

Restrict the rights of private property owners or require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored

Provide information about historic properties for local planning purposes

Automatically invoke local historic district zoning or landmark designation

Facilitate the review of federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects to determine their effects on historic properties

Stop federally assisted government projects

Assist state government agencies in determining whether their projects will affect historic properties

Stop state assisted development projects

Make owners of historic properties eligible to apply for federal grants for historic preservation projects

Guarantee that grant funds will be available for all properties or projects

Provide federal and state tax benefits to owners of taxable historic properties if they rehabilitate their properties according to preservation standards

Require property owners to follow preservation standards when working on their properties, unless they wish to qualify for tax benefits

Insure that listed properties are considered in decisions to issue surface mining permits

Automatically stop the permitting of surface mining activities

Allow consideration of fire and life safety code compliance alternatives when rehabilitating historic buildings

Mandate that special consideration be given to compliance with life safety and fire codes

List properties only if they meet the National Register criteria for evaluation

List individual properties if the owner objects or districts if a majority of property owners object

In Georgia, properties are nominated to the National Register by HPD. HPD invites nomination proposals from property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, civic and business associations, governmental agencies, and other individuals or groups who are interested in using the National Register to preserve historic properties. Individuals, organizations, and agencies requesting National Register nominations carry out research and provide supporting documentation meeting state and federal standards with guidance and assistance from HPD. Proposed nominations are reviewed by HPD and the Georgia National Register Review Board. Approved nominations are submitted by HPD to the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. for final review and listing in the National Register. Properties listed in the National Register are automatically listed in the Georgia Register. Properties entered in the Georgia Register are not included in the National Register unless they are separately nominated through the National Register process.

For more information, contact the National Register Coordinator at 404/651-6782.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

.....

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- D. a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Evergreen Congregational Church and School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 497 Meridian Road
city, town Beachton () vicinity of
county Grady code 131
state Georgia code GA zip code 31792

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	2	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official:

W. Ray Luce
Signature of certifying official

9.10.02
Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official:

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

() entered in the National Register _____

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet _____

Keeper of the National Register Date

The sanctuary, which represents most of the church's interior space, seats 250 people (photos 5-7) it features two rows of pews divided by a center aisle with a raised pulpit at the southeast end and a choir loft. The room accommodates clergy and a choir and is framed by a segmental pediment arch and two arched side passages to the rear annex. The annex includes the pastor's office, two restrooms, a choir room, and a conference area.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Religion: religious facility, church school, church-related residence

Current Functions:

Religion: religious facility, church school

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

No style

Materials:

foundation	Concrete
walls	Concrete
roof	Metal
other	Wood

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Evergreen Congregational Church and School is located in the rural African-American community of Beachton in Grady County in southwest Georgia. Beachton is a small community south of Thomasville, Georgia and just north of the Florida state line. The two-acre Evergreen property is a mostly open grass lawn with a historic church and school set side by side along Meridian Road (photos 1-2). A small stand of pine trees between the buildings and the road and a few pine and oak trees on the southwest side are the only trees on the property. Foundation plantings around both buildings include azaleas, redbud, and nandina (photos 3 and 8).

The Evergreen church is a gable-front church with an entrance porch and cupola (photo 3). Constructed in 1928, the church is built of concrete block and wood lath with a stucco finish. The gable-roofed portico is supported by four posts. Two posts rest on the concrete steps, the outer posts are set directly in the ground. The front gables of the both the portico and the roof are clad in beveled weatherboard. The roof is covered with sheet metal and surmounted by a pyramidal-roofed cupola. Four pilasters are located between the sash windows on each side of the church. Between 1989 and 1991, the congregation built a 30-foot long annex to the rear of the church (photos 4-5). The annex is constructed of concrete block with steel lath and stuccoed to match the original church. Entrances are located on each side of the annex.

The sanctuary, which represents most of the church's interior space, seats 250 people (photos 6-7). It features two rows of pews divided by a center aisle with a raised rostrum at the southeast end. The rostrum accommodates clergy and a choir and is framed by a segmental proscenium arch and two enclosed side passages to the rear annex. The annex includes the pastor's office, two restrooms, a choir room, and a conference area.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The church, especially the interior, has been altered since its construction in 1928. In 1972, the plaster walls in the auditorium were covered with paneling. An acoustical tile ceiling, fluorescent lights, chandeliers, new pews, and hollow-core doors were also added. The original yellow pine floors survive. The two-over-two-light sash windows were replaced by one-over-one-light sashes.

The school, built in 1911, is a one- and one-half-story cruciform-plan building with classrooms on the first floor and quarters for teachers above (photos 8-9). The school was designed by James E. Wright, a member of the Evergreen congregation. The school was constructed with poured-concrete reinforced with steel wire. The wood forms, sometimes even the wood grain, are visible in the horizontal bands across the exterior of the school. The window sills and lintels are also poured concrete. The exterior is distinguished by an enclosed entrance porch topped by a gable-roofed balcony. The steeply pitched side-gable roof features exposed rafter ends, interior end chimneys, and dormers across the front and rear (photos 5 and 11). The roof is covered with metal shingles and the gable ends are clad in weatherboard. The cornerstone is located on the northwest corner and reads: Grady County/Training School/A.M.A 1911 (photo 10).

The interior of the school remains largely unchanged since it was built in 1911. The first floor is devoted to the classroom and kitchen, each with its own front entrance (photos 12-13). The classroom and kitchen are separated by six four-panel wood doors that fold to create a single large space. Blackboards are located on the classroom walls. The classroom is carpeted and the walls in both the classroom and the kitchen have been paneled, probably in 1972 when the congregation paneled the sanctuary. The south side of the building features the women's rest room and lounge and the study. The study features plaster walls and a fireplace (photo 15). The rear ell comprises the men's restroom and the wood stair (photo 14). Like the floor above, the rear ell features original beaded board.

The second floor of the school features four bedrooms that were used to accommodate teachers. A central hall spans the depth of the building with the stairs at the rear and the balcony at the front. Each bedroom is entered from the hall and includes a dormer window and a gable-end window. (photos 16-18). The floors are wood and the walls and ceiling are mostly beaded board.

The Evergreen Congregational Church and School retains a high level of historic integrity. Although the church has been altered, it retains sufficient elements of its historic design to contribute to the significance of the property. The school, a rare surviving resource, retains a higher level of historic integrity. Its original design, materials, and craftsmanship are evident. This is seen in the rough finish on the poured-concrete walls, which indicates the work of congregation members and not skilled laborers.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Ethnic Heritage: Black
Religion
Education
Architecture

Period of Significance:

c.1911-1959

Significant Dates:

1904 – Evergreen Congregational Church, established the previous year, occupies its current site.
1911 – School built.
1928 – Church built.
1957-1959 – Andrew Young pastorate at Evergreen Congregational Church.

Significant Person(s):

Andrew Young

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

James E. Wright (architect)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Evergreen Congregational Church and School is an important landmark in the rural African-American community of Beachton in Grady County in southwest Georgia. The church and school served as the center of the black community in both religious and secular matters. Congregation members gave land for the church and school and provided labor for their construction. The church also served as the first pastorate for Andrew Young, a leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, United Nations Ambassador, and two-term mayor of Atlanta.

The Evergreen Congregational Church and School is significant the area of black ethnic heritage because the church played a central role in the lives of blacks living in the rural African-American community of Beachton. After emancipation, African-American community life was centered on the church. Evergreen was the first church in Beachton to provide schooling to African-American children in the community. Evergreen was also used as a community hall for such activities as voter registration drives, meetings with county commissioners, farm agents, home demonstration agents, 4-H Boys and Girls Clubs, and Boy Scouts.

Evergreen Congregational Church and School is significant in the area of religion because it is one of the few congregational churches built in Georgia during the first half of the 20th century. (Others are First Congregational Church in Atlanta and Bethany Congregational Church in Thomasville.) Congregationalism, a denomination that emphasizes missionary work, is rooted in New England. Following the Civil War, the American Missionary Association, the missionary arm of the United Church of Christ, became very involved in the education of African-American children in the South. The American Missionary Association established Bethany Congregational Church in nearby Thomasville for the express purpose of providing for the religious needs of black children attending the Allen Norman and Industrial School in Thomasville. The Evergreen Congregational Church was established in 1903 also under the auspices of the American Missionary Association.

The Evergreen Congregational Church and School is significant in the area of education because, under the auspices of the American Missionary Association, it provided a school in Beachton for African-American students whose educational needs were not met by the public schools. The Evergreen school was begun in 1903 and has used this building from 1911 to 1938. The building housed classrooms on the first floor and living quarters for teachers on the upper floor. Between 1916 and 1938, the county ran the school as the Grady County Training School. The Evergreen church and school are important because both the church and school survive. It is especially important because the school with its intact interior—classroom, kitchen, folding doors, upstairs teachers quarters—retains a high level of historic integrity.

The Evergreen Congregational Church and School is significant in the area of architecture because it is an excellent example of an early 20th-century church and school complex in rural in Georgia. Churches founded and built by blacks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were usually plain, one-room frame structures of a rectangular shape with gable roofs. They had little or no ornamentation or architectural detailing. Sometimes the church had a rectangular wooden steeple, a

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

central tower mounted on the roof, or a tower at one or both front corners. Often these towers were later additions. Side or rear wings may also have been added after the church was originally constructed. The entrances of rural churches were centered. Interiors were usually finished with paneling or plaster and the ceilings were often unfinished.

The Evergreen church is typical of African-American churches with the simple massing of its gable-roofed rectangular-shaped sanctuary and in its use of inexpensive materials, such as concrete block and stucco. The school was designed by James E. Wright, a member of the Evergreen congregation. It is a rare and especially important resource because its craftsmanship is evident in the rough finish on the poured-concrete walls, which indicates the work of congregation members and not skilled laborers. The interior with its classroom, blackboards, folding doors, kitchen, and upstairs teachers quarters conveys the building's function as a school.

The Evergreen Congregational Church and School is significant at the state level because of its association with Andrew Young, a leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, Ambassador to the United Nations, and two-term mayor of Atlanta. Born on March 12, 1932 in New Orleans, Young earned a bachelor of arts degree from Howard University in 1951. He later earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Hartford Theological Seminary as a minister in the United Church of Christ. Young first served as pastor at Evergreen Congregational Church in Beachton from 1957 to 1959. In his autobiography, *An Easy Burden* (1996), Young noted that the lessons he learned at Evergreen served him during the struggle for civil rights. During his pastorate at Evergreen, Young first became involved in the civil right movement. During the 1960s, he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and served as an administrative assistant and later as Executive Director under Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1972, he was elected to Congress. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed him United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Young served as mayor of Atlanta from 1981 to 1989. He was co-chairman of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and currently serves as President of the National Council of Churches.

National Register Criteria

A – Evergreen Congregational Church is significant in the areas of black ethnic heritage, religion, and education because the church and school were major religious and social institutions in the rural African-American community of Beachton.

B – Evergreen Congregational Church is significant because of its direct association with Andrew Young, a leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, Ambassador to the United Nations, and two-term mayor of Atlanta. While at Evergreen, his first pastorate, Young, began his efforts to achieve equality for African Americans.

C – The Evergreen church and school are significant in the area of architecture because it is an excellent example of rural 20th century religious and educational architecture constructed by the African-American congregation.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

G – The period of significance for the Evergreen Congregational Church and School extends to 1959 to include the pastorate of Andrew Young. The church and school meets Criterion Consideration G because it continues to achieve significance into a period less than fifty years before the nomination. Young first pastored at Evergreen and it was during his two years in Beachton that he became active in the American Civil Rights Movement. The lessons he learned at Evergreen, according to his autobiography, served him during the struggle for civil rights in the American South.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1904 when Evergreen Congregational Church moved to its current site in Beachton and ends in 1959, the last year Andrew Young pastored at Evergreen Congregational Church.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Evergreen Church and School are the only resources associated with the nomination. Both are contributing resources. There are no noncontributing resources associated with this nomination.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

In 1903, a group Beachton residents organized the Evergreen Congregational Church. That same year, Jerry Walden, Jr., led a group of community men in erecting a one-room frame school building on a one-acre site that was donated by Please Hawthorne. This was the first school for black children in the area. In 1904, a frame church was built adjacent to the school. The programs and activities of the church and school were intermingled under the supervision of the pastors. Reverend William H. Holloway served as the first pastor from 1904 until 1910. He was followed by Reverend Henry S. Barnwell, who served until 1916. In 1924, after an eight-year vacancy, Reverend George W. Hannar served as pastor and as principal of the school. Reverend Hannar resigned in 1930 and was replaced that same year by Reverend W. J. Hill. Andrew Young served as pastor from 1957 to 1959. In 1974, Reverend Artis Johnson arrived and remains the current pastor.

From the beginning, the American Missionary Association assumed responsibility for the church and school because of negligence by the public schools in the education of African-American children. In 1910, an adjacent acre of land was acquired and a new school building was constructed the next year. The new school building featured classrooms on the first floor and living quarters on the floor above. In 1916, the school was renamed Grady County Training School when the county assumed partial responsibility for the school.

In 1925, the original frame church was demolished. The new concrete-block church was completed in 1928. In 1942, electric lights were installed and indoor bathrooms were built. Between 1989 and

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

1990, an annex was built on the rear of the church to house the pastor's office, choir room, and restrooms.

In 1938, the educational programs at Evergreen were moved by the county to another location. The Evergreen school was then used as a community hall for such activities as voter registration drives, meetings with county commissioners, farm agents, home demonstration agents, 4-H Boys and Girls Clubs, and Boy Scouts. The school is currently known as Evergreen Recreation Center and serves as the fellowship hall for Evergreen church.

A number of church members played important roles in the history and development of Evergreen Congregational Church. Jerry Walden, Jr., was born in Grady County in 1869. He went to the public school in Thomas County and later attended Morehouse College in Atlanta. In 1903, Walden led a group of community men in erecting a one-room wood school building on a one-acre site that was donated by Please Hawthorne. This was the first school for black children in the area. Walden was the first African-American teacher in Beachton. He taught in Beachton until his death in 1935.

Please Hawthorne was born in 1854 in rural Grady County. He spent much of his life operating a general merchandise store in the Beachton area until his death in 1927. In 1903, he donated a one-acre site on which Jerry Walden, Jr., built the Evergreen school.

Joanna Greenlee was born in 1863 in Bainbridge, Georgia. After public school in Bainbridge, she attended the Allen Normal School in Thomasville, graduating in 1896. Later, she attended Fisk University in Nashville. By 1906, Joanna was working as the school principal at the Evergreen school in Beachton. She traveled frequently throughout the northern United States raising funds for the school. She continued to work at the school until her death in 1916.

Anna Heywood Mason, a former owner of the Susina Plantation in Grady County, was active in the construction of the Evergreen school. Daniel Glenn, a chef at the Susina Plantation, was a community advocate for education.

James E. Wright, the architect of the school building, received a degree in architecture from Tuskegee University. He was born in Brunswick, Georgia in 1887 and settled in Thomasville in 1914. He died in 1972.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bryant, Mishie M. Evergreen Congregational United Church of Christ and Evergreen Church School-Historic Property Information Form. 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 774160 Northing 3402760

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary follows the current legal boundary and contains the Evergreen and School on the two-acre tract historically associated with the church and school.

- property owner
- consultant
- regional development center preservation planner
- other: church trustee

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Jerry Metcalf, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
organization (if applicable) Evergreen Congregational United Church of Christ
mailing address 721 Mercy Seat Road
city or town Thomasville state GA zip code 31792
e-mail (optional) N/A

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 date September 1, 2002
e-mail steven_moffson@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Mishie M. Bryant, Trustee
organization Evergreen Congregational United Church of Christ
mailing address 512 Junius Street
city or town Thomasville state GA zip code 31792
telephone (912) 228-1464
e-mail N/A

- () property owner
() consultant
() regional development center preservation planner
(x) other: church trustee

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Jerry Metcalf, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
organization (if applicable) Evergreen Congregational United Church of Christ.
mailing address 721 Mercy Seat Road
city or town Thomasville state GA zip code 31792
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Evergreen Congregational Church and School
City or Vicinity: Beatchton
County: Grady
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 2002

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 18

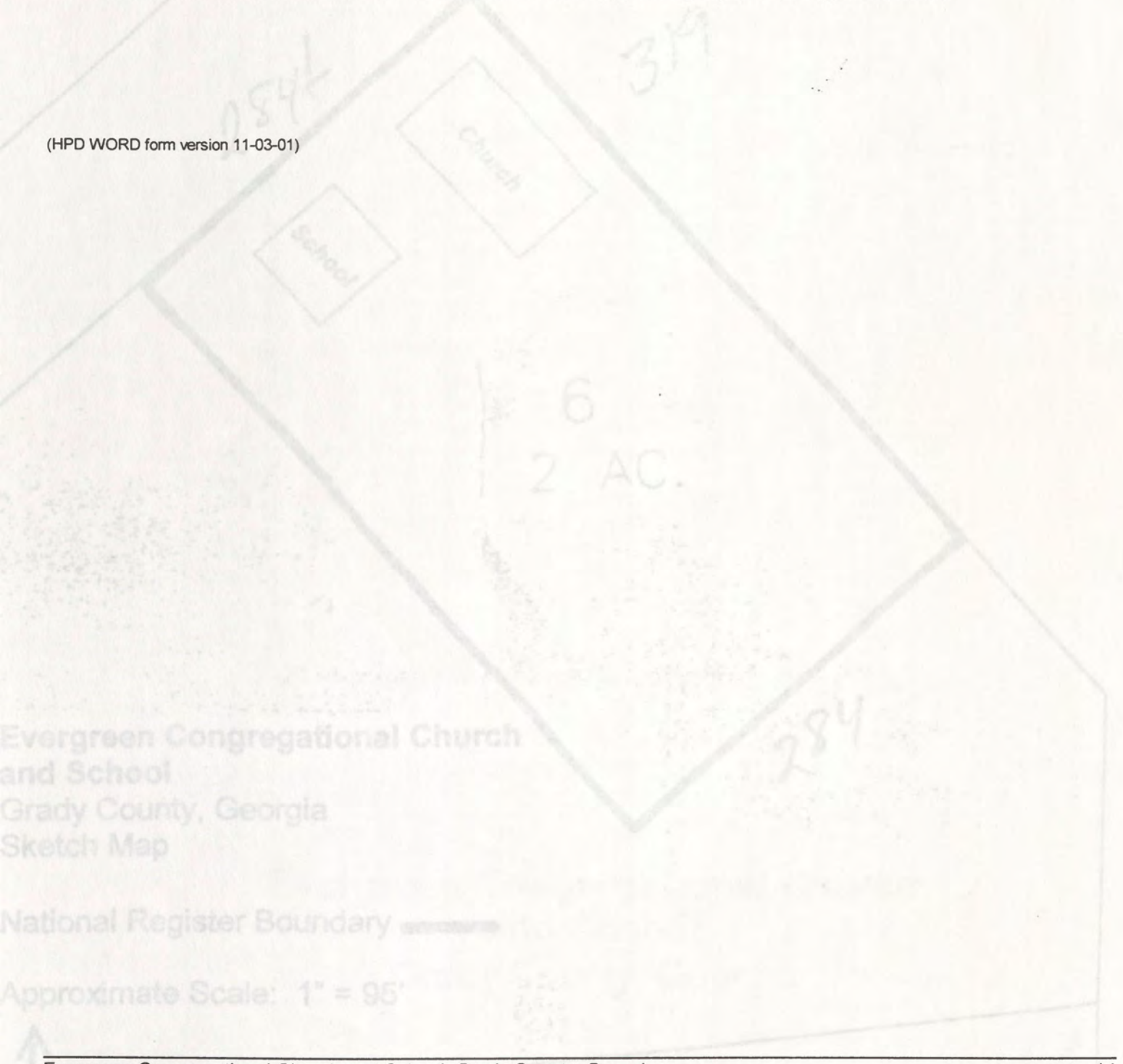
1. School (foreground) and church (background), photographer facing northeast.
2. Church (foreground) and school (background), photographer facing southwest.
3. Church, photographer facing east.
4. School (left) and church (right), photographer facing west.
5. School (left) and church (right), photographer facing north.
6. Church, interior, photographer facing southeast.
7. Church, interior, photographer facing northwest.
8. Church (background) and school (foreground), photographer facing northeast.
9. School, main façade, photographer facing southeast.
10. Cornerstone on northeast corner of school, photographer facing southeast.
11. School, photographer facing west.
12. School, interior, classroom, photographer facing south.
13. School, interior, classroom, photographer facing east.
14. School, interior, rear stair hall, photographer facing northeast.
15. School, interior, study, photographer facing south.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

16. School, interior, second floor, northeast bedroom, photographer facing northeast.
17. School, interior, second floor, northwest bedroom, photographer facing north.
18. School, interior, second floor southeast bedroom, photographer facing southwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady County, Georgia
Sketch Map

National Register Boundary

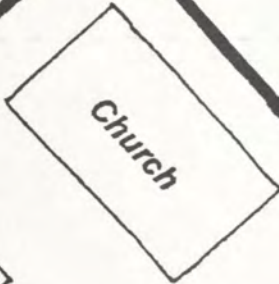
Approximate Scale: 1" = 95'

↑
North

Meridian Road

284'


314'



6
2 AC.

284'

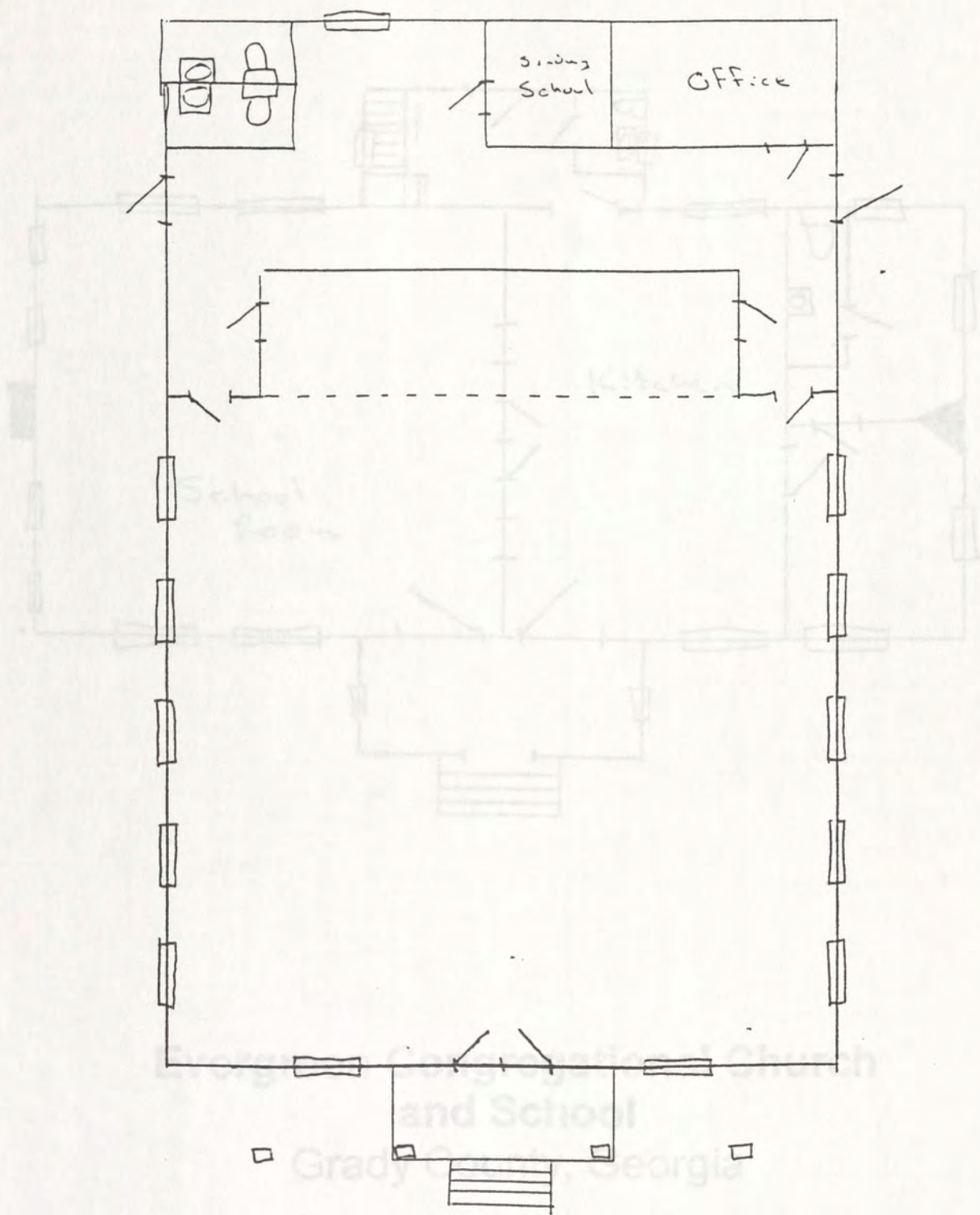
**Evergreen Congregational Church
and School**
Grady County, Georgia
Sketch Map

National Register Boundary 

Approximate Scale: 1" = 95'

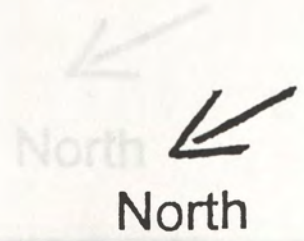


North

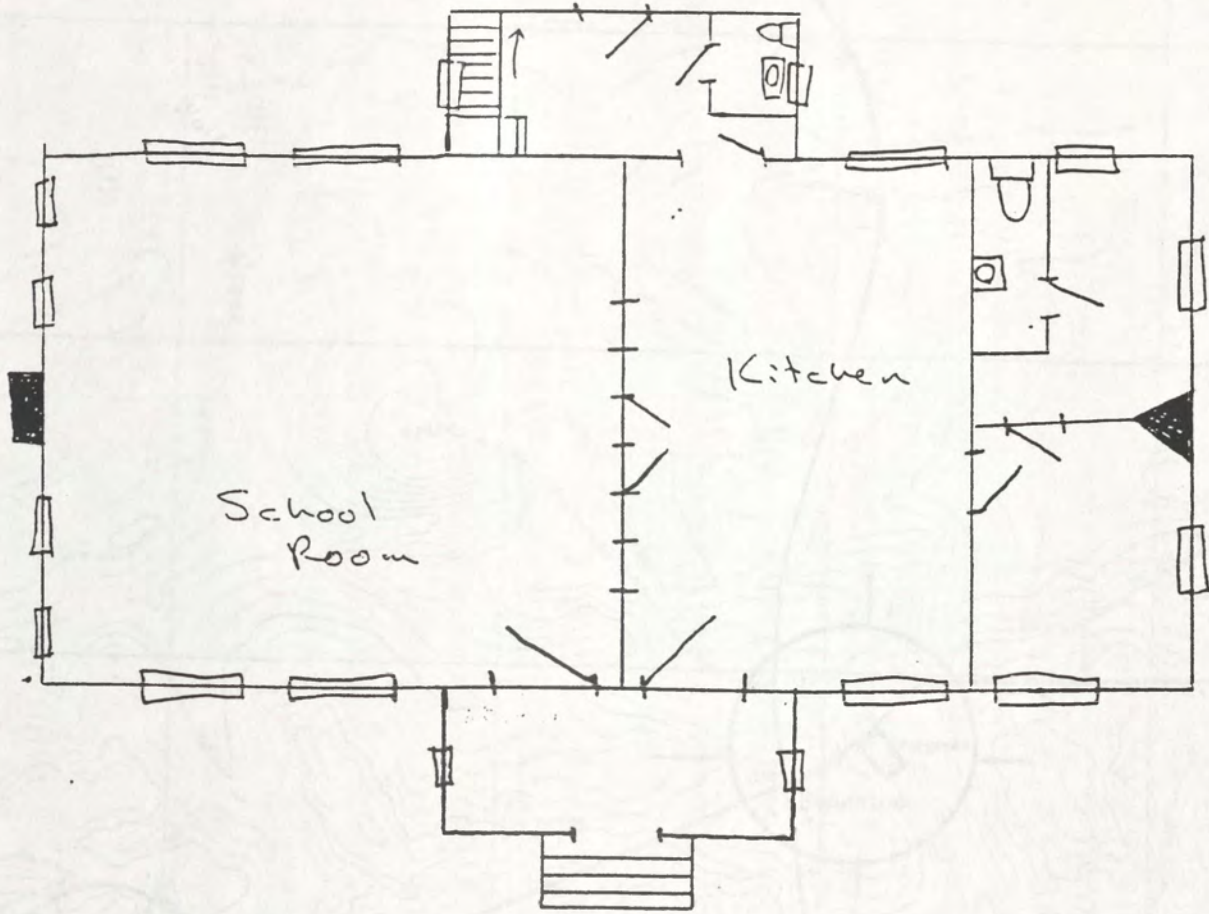


**Evergreen Congregational Church
and School**
Grady County, Georgia

Church Floor Plan



No Scale



**Evergreen Congregational Church
and School**

Grady County, Georgia

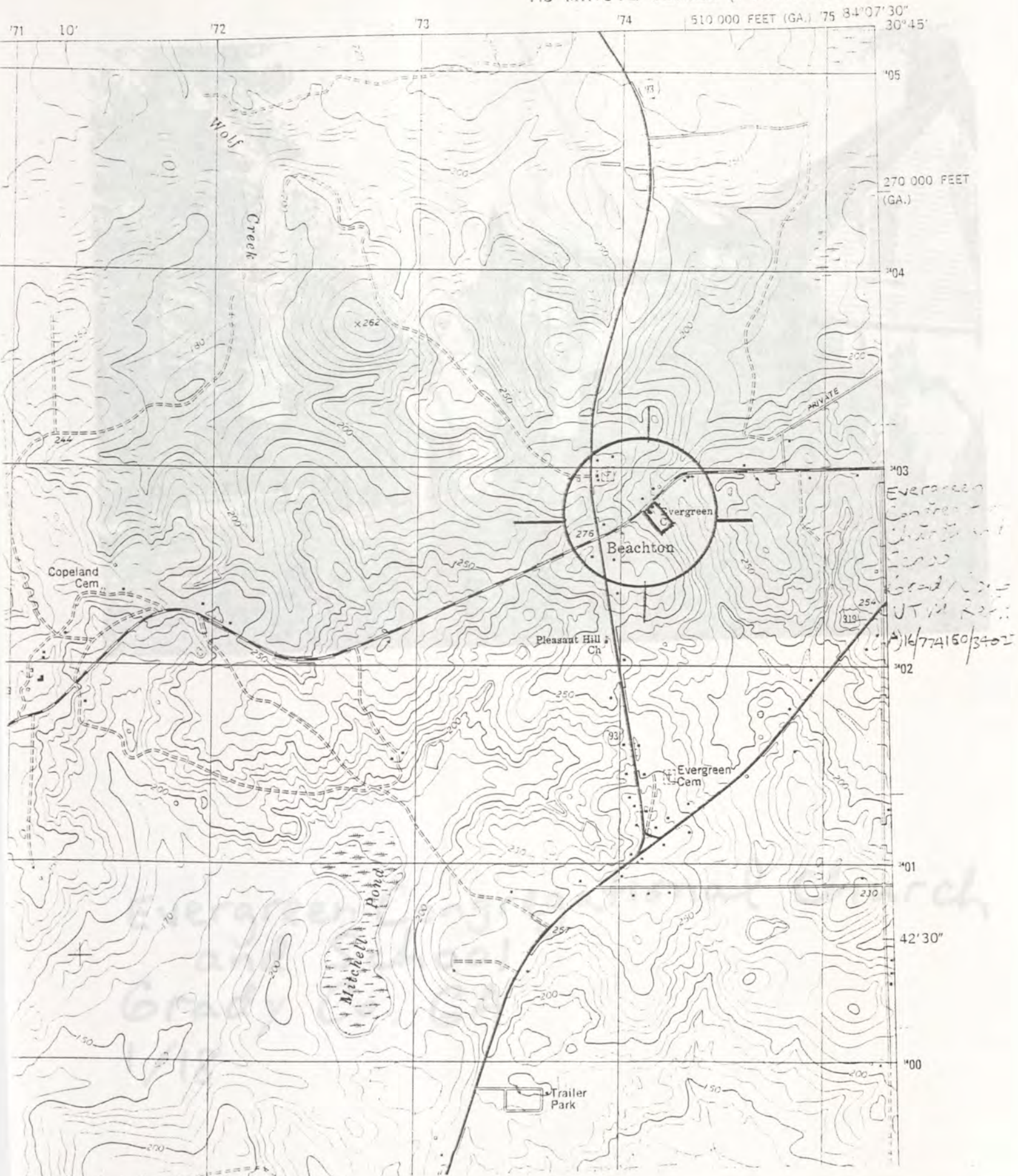
School Floor Plan

No Scale

North

BEACHTON QUADRANGLE
GEORGIA-FLORIDA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

119 SE
PINE PARK



270 000 FEET
(GA.)

Evergreen
Cemeter
Road
UT 10
16/774150/3402

42' 30"

30°00'



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
1/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
2/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
3/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
4/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
5/18



Evergreen Congregational Church

Evergreen and School

Grady Co., GA

6/18

7/18



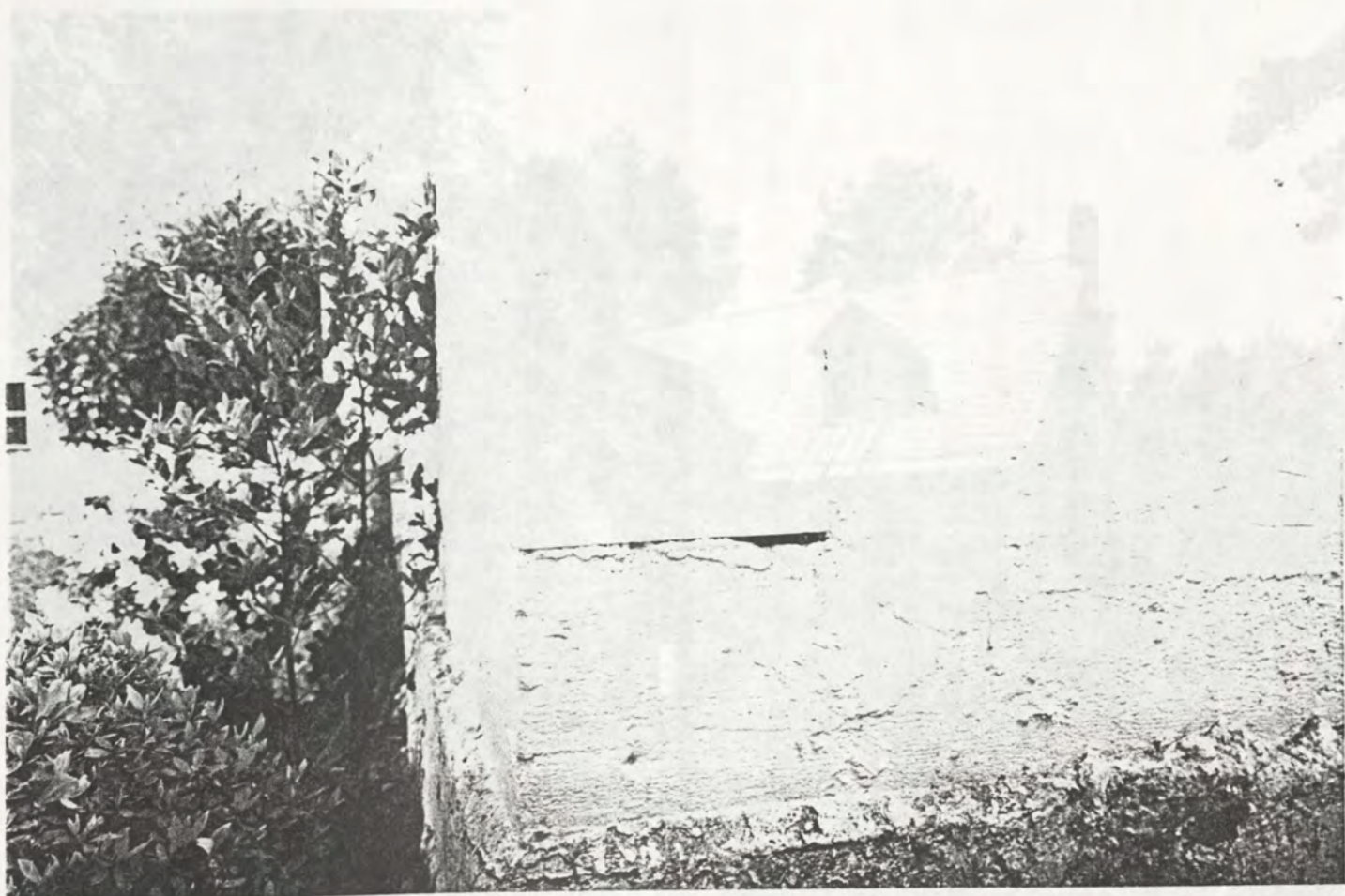
Evergreen Congregational Church
Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
7/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co, GA
8/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
9/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co, GA
10/18



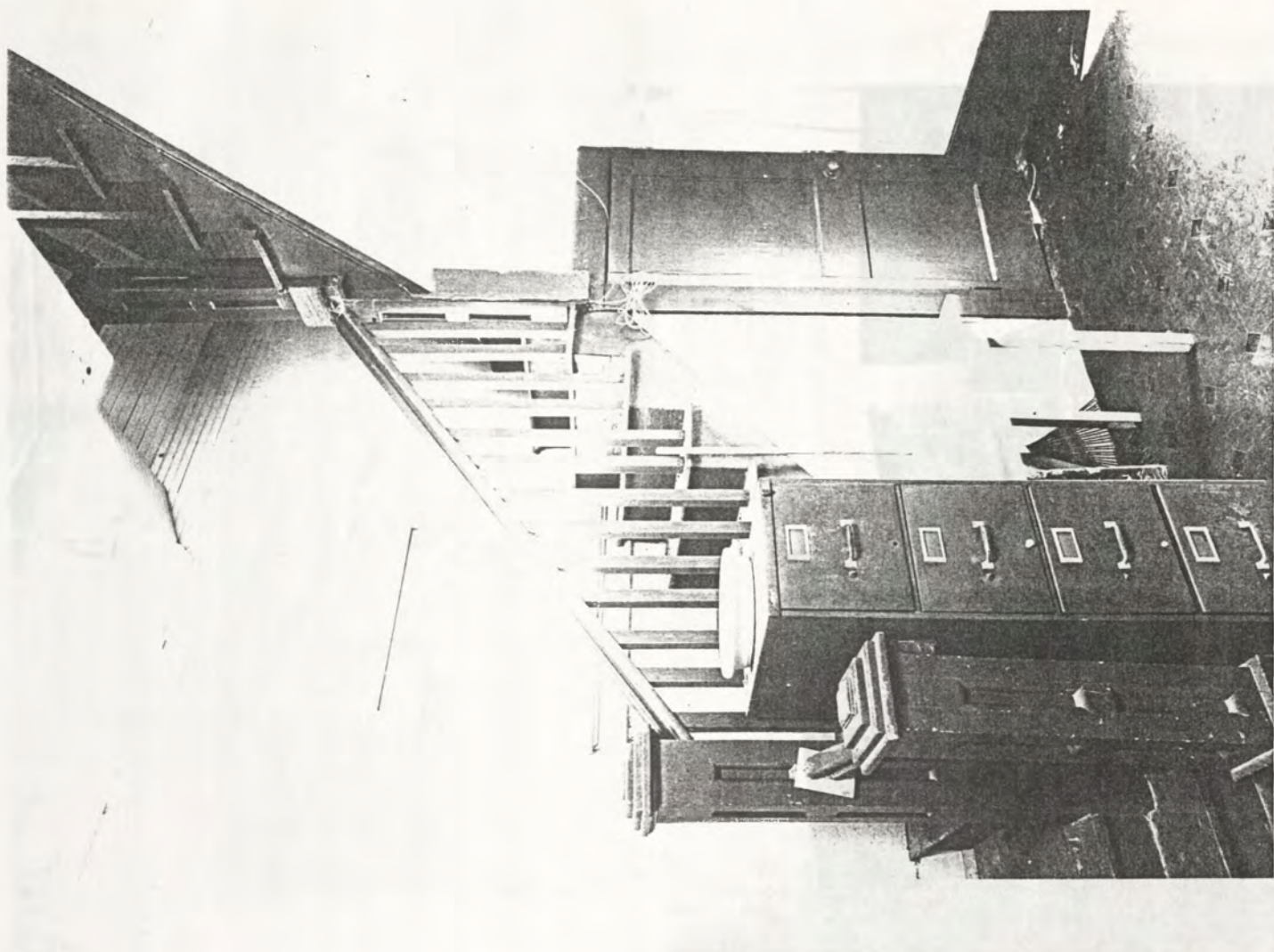
Evergreen Congregational Church
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Grady Co., GA
11/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
12/18



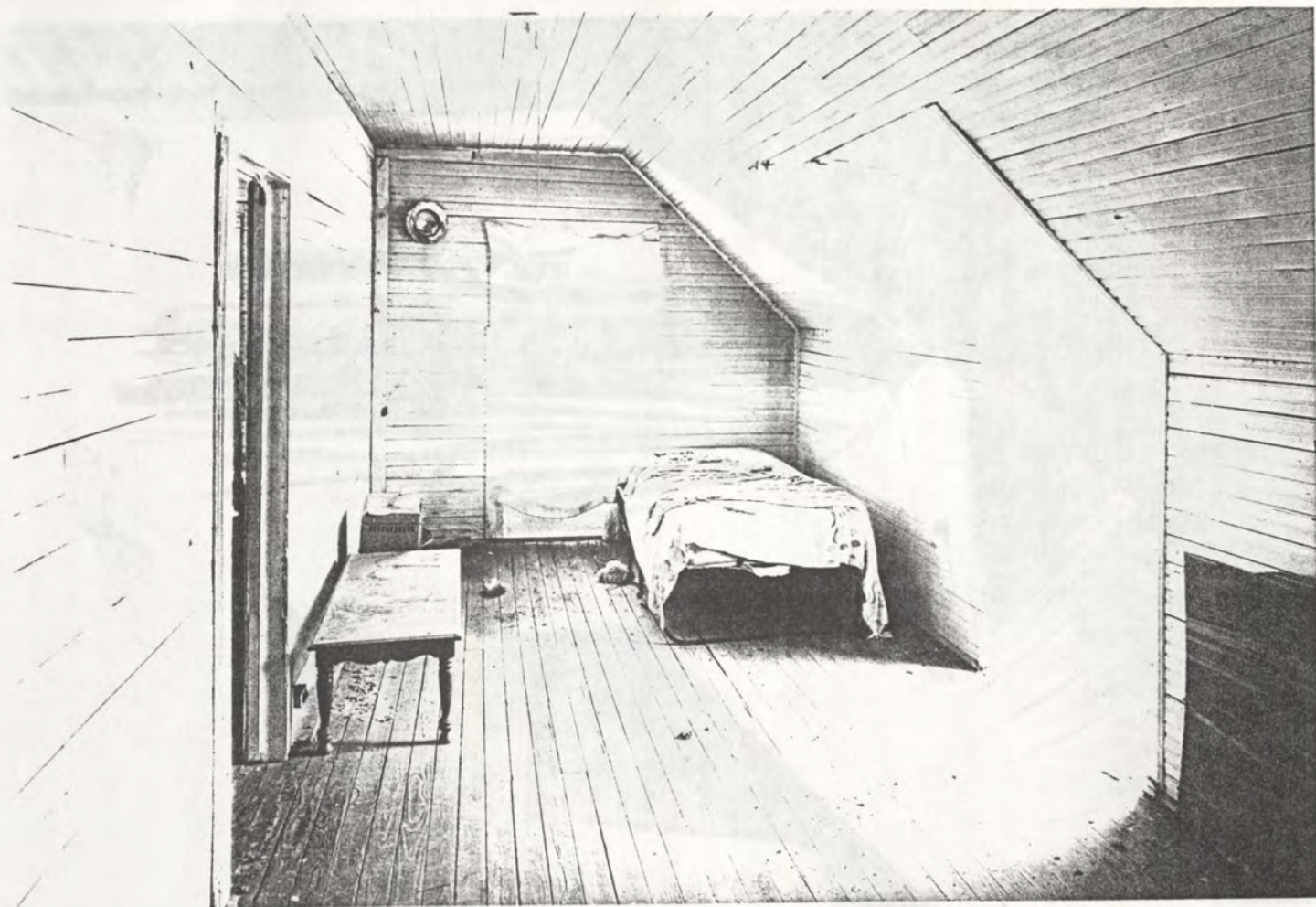
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and School
Grady Co., GA
13/18



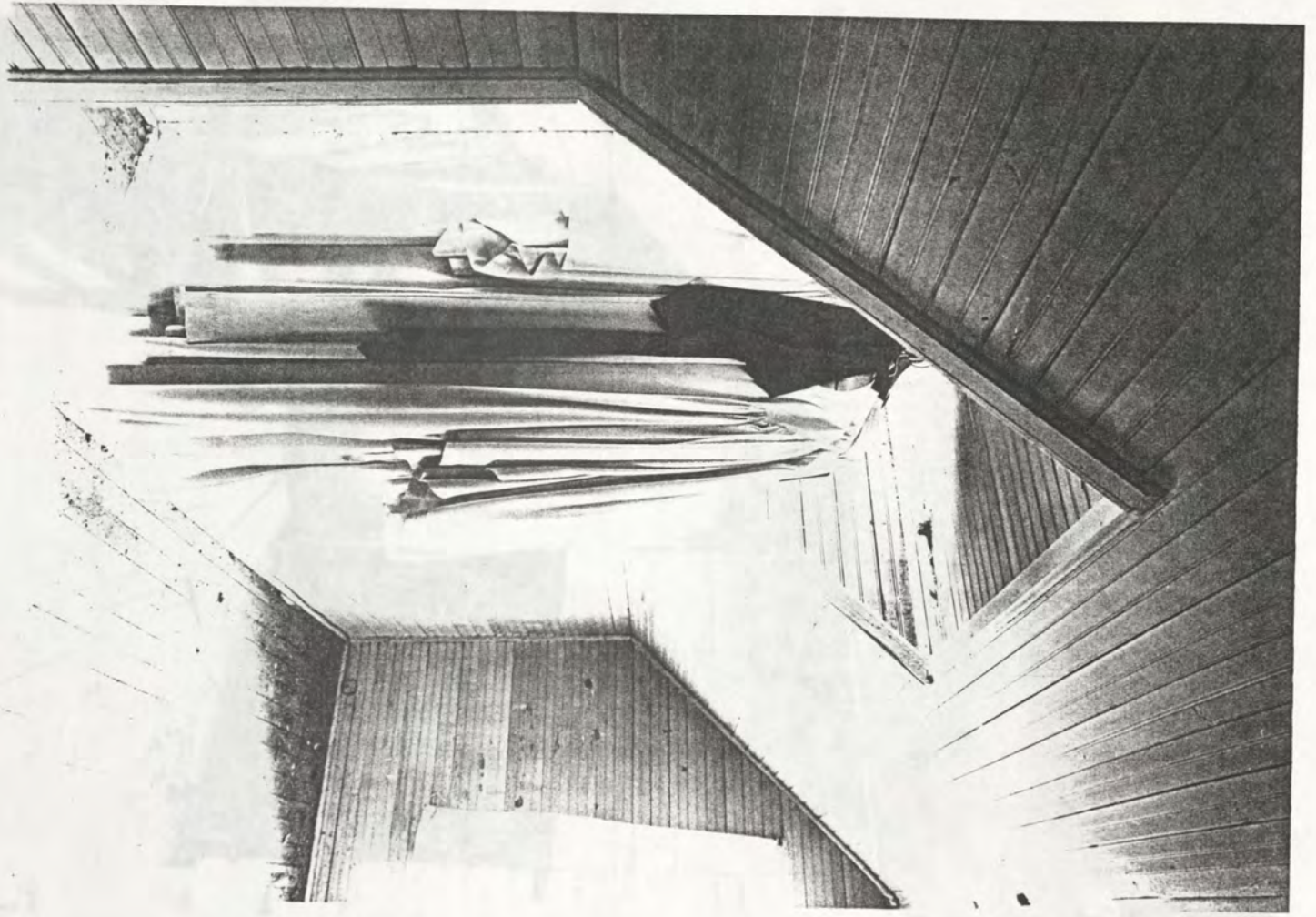
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and School
Grady Co., GA
14/18



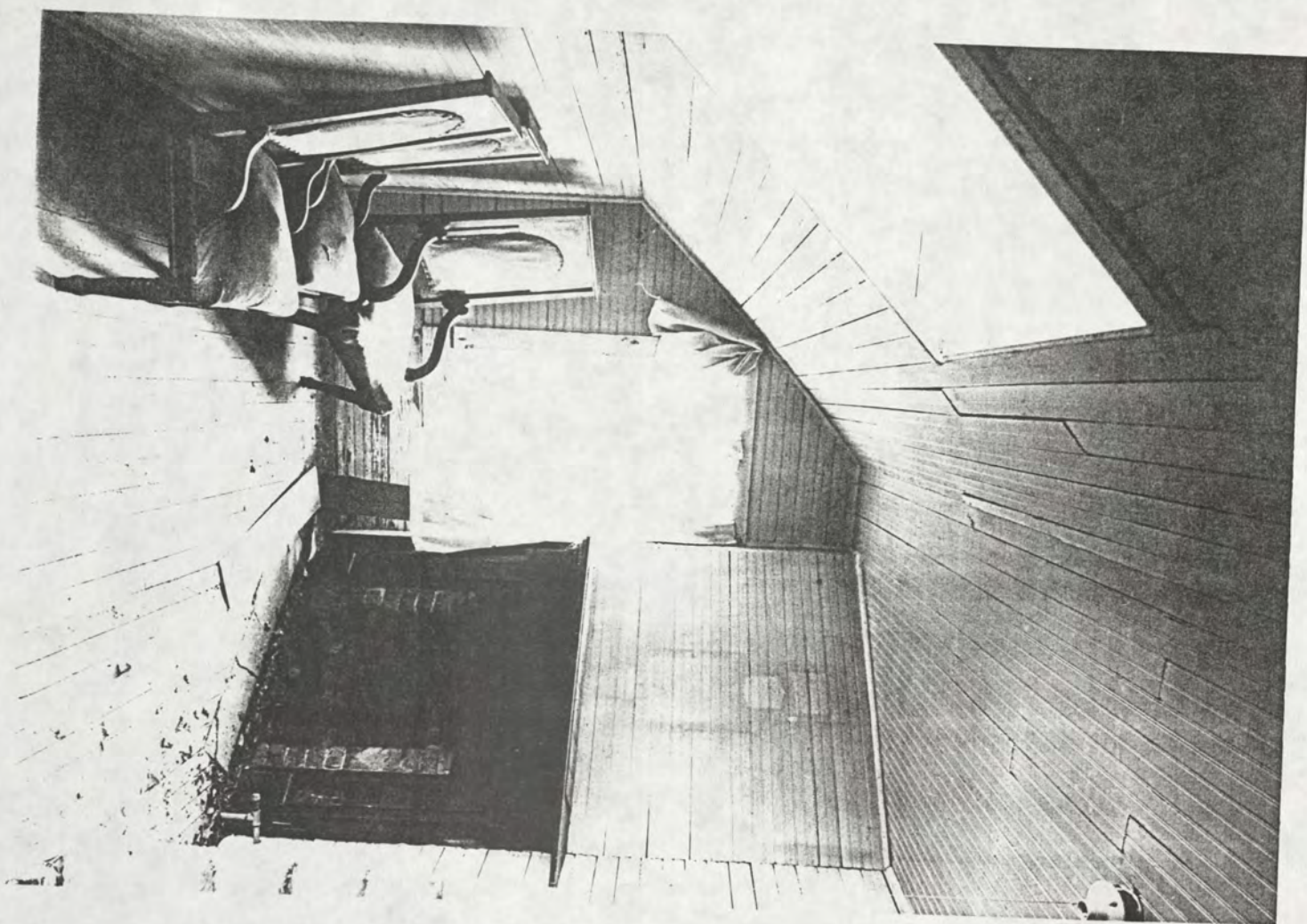
Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
15/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co, GA
16/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
17/18



Evergreen Congregational Church
and School
Grady Co., GA
18/18