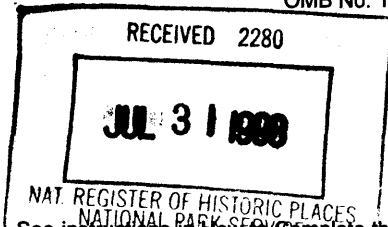


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Road 107 N/A not for publication

city or town Nassauville N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Nassau code 089 zip code N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature], DSHPO 7-17-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8-28-98

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
Name of Property

Nassau Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"N/A"

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: church

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: frame vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation METAL

walls WOOD

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE, BLACK

Period of Significance

1920-1948

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
Name of Property

Nassau Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	5	0	2	4	0	3	3	8	2	8	0	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Jefferson/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 1998

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name William Jefferson

street & number 2653 Lowell Street telephone 904-389-1169

city or town Jacksonville state FL zip code 32254

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL**

SUMMARY

Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church is located on State Road 107, in Nassauville, Nassau County, Florida. The small one-story, 1920 wooden vernacular church has a rectangular footprint, and is built on tree stump piers, covered with sheet metal, has drop siding exterior, and a front gable, metal roof. An extension on the northeast corner has a metal shed roof. A one-story, square bell tower with a hipped roof is attached to the northeast corner of the building.

SETTING

The church is located on the east side of State Road 107 which runs north/south. One-half mile to the south is the community of Nassauville, on the north bank of the Nassau River. Four miles to the north is the east/west thoroughfare of US Highway 1A. Individual contemporary homes are scattered along SR 107, which traverses a rural setting, with flat land and scattered pine and oak trees. A community fire department is directly to the south of the church. A concentration of homes occurs roughly one-half mile to the south near the river. When the church was built it was within a forest of tall pine trees. The paved road was not present, and the church was approached from many directions by foot paths and one long driveway.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church is a small, front gable, one story wooden vernacular building. The main facade faces west onto State Road 107 (Photo #1). The rectangular church is built on tree-stump piers (Photo #2). The piers and spaces between are covered with sheet metal. The building has a drop siding exterior, metal roof, and six, 6/6, double-hung wooden sash windows. The main, west facade is a gable end with two centrally located, paneled wooden doors, with a gable portico supported by a square wooden post on the south corner. A one-story square bell tower supports the north corner of the portico. A metal square hip roof tops the tower. Three broad brick steps access the main doors, and a door into the tower. The tower houses a 1920 iron church bell (Photo #3).

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 **MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL**

The south elevation contains three windows, an exterior brick chimney between the western and central window, and a broad view of the gable roof (Photo #4). A single window in a east elevation extension is visible.

The east elevation contains a small extension for rest rooms on the northeast corner with one window, and one door in its east wall (Photo #5). Four wooden steps access the door.

The north elevation mirrors the south elevation without the chimney (Photo #6). The bell tower is attached to the northwest corner.

Interior

Through the main doors is a single assembly room (Photo #7). Pine wood flooring is laid east to west. The walls are covered with contemporary wood paneling, and the ceiling is pine wooden panels. A central aisle has five pews on either side. Centrally located at the east wall is a pulpit with a communion railing in front of it, and three pews in the southeast corner (Photo #8). A door into the rear extension is in the northeast corner of the wall, and a door into the bell tower is in the northwest corner.

ALTERATIONS

In the 1960s electricity was installed. The rear extension for toilets was added in the 1970s. In the late 1980s most of the wood exterior of the bell tower was replaced with its current wood paneling, and brick steps were built. In 1997, a new metal roof replaced the original one.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 **MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL**

SUMMARY

The Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church is significant on the local level under Criteria A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black. The church was built in 1920, on the site of a ca.1870 community church that was destroyed in the late 1910s. The 1920 church is the oldest church in the community. The church was the social center for the Black community, and has provided a continuity of cultural traditions since its creation to the current times.

CONTEXT

Prior to the Civil War and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Nassauville was a region where a freeman could live undisturbed. Decendents of earlier Indian, Spanish/Indian, and Mulatto-Black settlers lived in the area. In 1864, Moses Hupue ("Hupue" is Seminole for "child"), an African-Seminole; his Yamassee Indian wife, Laura Starratt; and ten children moved from their Seminole town and sought a new home within Union controlled northeast Florida. Laura Starratt's ancestors lived in the Nassauville area. Moses and his children had been raised as African-Seminole outlaws. His father, Isadon, was a runaway slave who had participated in the Dade Massacre in 1836. Seminole towns had remained concealed, for the Seminole feared deportation from the federal United States, and enslavement from the later Confederate society. Moses and a large group of African-Seminoles had fought as allies with the free-slave Union regiments, 54th Massachusetts; 1st North Carolina; and 6th U.S. Colored, at the Battle of Olustee. After the Union's loss of the battle, the African-Seminoles no longer felt safe in their secluded towns and therefore sought a new area of safety.

Moses homesteaded land at the end of the Civil War, built a house, and began farming and harvesting turpentine. U.S. census takers recorded their family name as "Hooper." Some newly freed slaves settled in the area and named themselves Blue, for the color of the Union soldier coats, signifying freedom. Oyster harvesting and fishing on the river had always been an important part of the economy. A oyster processing business was developed in the community. The river served as the best means of travel between the plantations and communities along the river. A small school was operated in an African-Methodist Church that was built in the 1880s. In 1893, the oyster business developed into a large operation, and a company store and post office were built. The community began to resemble a town.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 **MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL**

About 1870, members of the Hooper, Brooks, and Blue families started the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church. Moses donated the land for the church, and probably supplied the lumber from his trees for the construction. The men of the community supported the church, but few attended. Most held religious views drawn from African and Indian cultures, yet they were eager for their children and wives to identify themselves as free American citizens, and the adoption of a public Christian religion was a step in that direction. Moses and two of his sons registered to vote in 1888, a big event in the lives of persons raised within a secretive society. The new church was the place for religious and social gatherings.

SIGNIFICANCE

When the original ca.1870 church was destroyed by a fire or storm in the late 1910s, the community rallied to build another church. Dances and dinners were held to raise money. Moses' sons and grandson, Joseph Hupue, had taken over the farm and turpentine work in the 1890s when Moses began fishing instead. Joseph donated the lumber for the new church. A continuous 30 foot center beam under the floor of the church is a heart-pine tree, shaped and finished by axes (Photo #9). A iron bell was bought at the time the church was built. The new church had an artistically carved pulpit, an organ, and new pews. The church was officiated by a visiting minister out of Jacksonville until 1995. The church was a part of a Baptist circuit program known as the Fifth Sunday Union, where every fifth Sunday the members of all circuit churches would gather at a church in rotation.

The social and religious weekend activities merged in the community where everyone labored at farming and fishing. Mt. Olive was the only church or public building during the historic period. Status within the community was conferred by one's status within the church. Leading women taught Sunday School. Following that, up to 100 children, the younger on a truck, the older walking, adjourned to an outdoor gathering spot known as the "Hammer," where the children were trained in poise, public speaking, and organizing skills. The children would eat there, and return at sundown to the church to rejoin their parents.

Reflecting the cultural heritage within the community, much of the church music was "triumphant," sung without instruments, with hand clapping. Most songs were passed down from generation to generation.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 **MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL**

These songs were supplemented by music from hymn books, accompanied by the organ.

The church hosted big pit-barbecues which drew people from surrounding communities. By the 1930s and 1940s, automobiles were common, and the old driveway was crowded with cars. The gatherings became in effect an extended family social.

By the 1920s, much of the racial prejudice that typified public politics bypassed the rural community of Nassauville. There was a small population of whites in the community, and most had cordial relations with the Blacks. Nevertheless, several local whites were racist and would vandalize and steal from the church. Wooden shutters were attached to the church to discourage this vandalism. The shutters are still present, though no longer installed on the building.

By the 1970s, many in the Black community had begun to move away for better jobs, and many urban whites chose to live in more rural situations, shifting the population from predominantly Black to white. In 1994, a book of local and family history, Hupuewa, was published. The publication occasioned an extended family reunion of one-hundred and seventy-seven people. The church has been in need of repair since the 1980s. With the poor health of Luella Atkins, "mother" of the church, the church declined. The Princess Chapel AME Church used Mt. Olive until their new church was completed in 1995. The building is used occasionally for meetings.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1 MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brooks, Beatrice, interview with Luella Rhodes, June 1998.

Fernandina Beach News Leader, "Hooper descendents hold their second annual reunion," July 24, 1996.

Florida Times-Union, "Family keeps it Nassauville history alive," December 12, 1994.

Jefferson, William J., Hupuewa: A Legacy of the Hooper Family of Nassauville, Florida, Alpharetta, Georgia: Wolfe Associates, 1994.

Jefferson interviewed senior family members to produce the book. They included;

Akins, Luella Hooper, (deceased) "mother" of the church

Floyd, Frank, (deceased) shared Nassauville's social structure

Floyd, Rebecca, shared the church's role within the community

Jefferson, Joseph, shared childhood within the church

Jefferson, Thomas, shared childhood within the church

Hooper, Van, witnessed construction of the church

Patterson, Elsie, (deceased) individual characters and family associations within the community

Jefferson, William J., interview with Teresa Hollingsworth, Folklorist, Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1997.

Johannes, Jan H., Sr., Yesterdays Reflections: Nassau County, Florida. Callahan, Florida: Florida Sun Printing, 1976.

Nassau County Property Appraiser, map.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10&Photo Page 1 **MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL**

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 100'x150' parcel within Gov't Lot #3. See survey map. Deed Book 247, page 343.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property is historically associated with Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, State Road 107,
Nassauville
2. Nassau County, Florida
3. William Jefferson
4. 1998
5. William Jefferson, 2653 Lowell St., Jacksonville
6. Main, west facade, looking northeast
7. Photo #1 of 9

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Tree stump pier, looking southeast
7. Photo #2 of 9

6. Iron bell, looking north
7. Photo #3 of 9

6. South elevation, looking northwest
7. Photo #4 of 9

6. East elevation, looking west
7. Photo #5 of 9

6. North elevation, looking south
7. Photo #6 of 9

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10&Photo Page 2

**MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
NASSAUVILLE, NASSAU CO., FL**

6. Interior wall and main doors, looking west

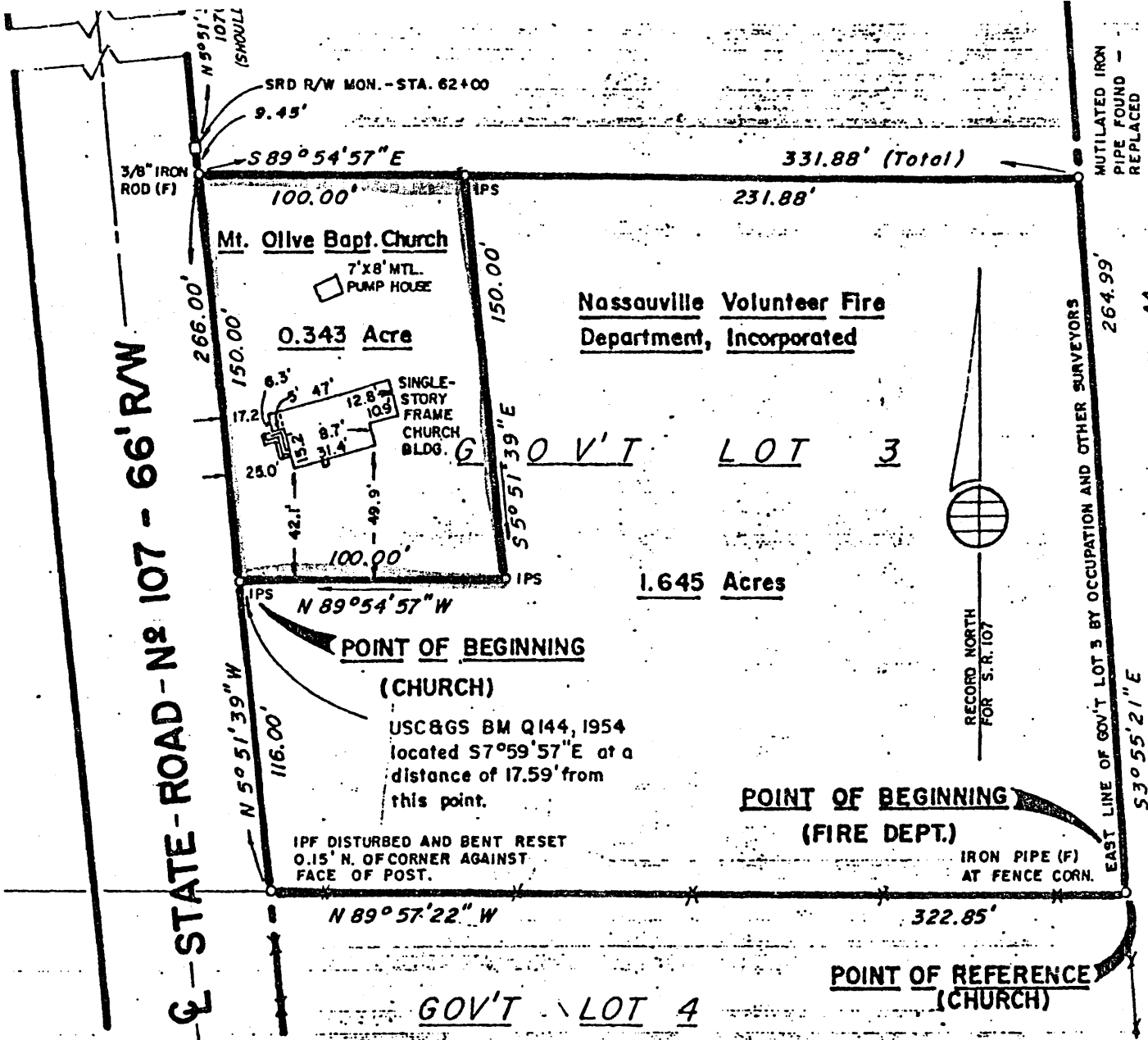
7. Photo #7 of 9

6. Interior wall, looking east

7. Photo #8 of 9

6. Continuous 30 foot floor beam, looking north

7. Photo #9 of 9



MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY
 BAPTIST CHURCH, NASSAUVILLE,
 NASSAU CO., FLORIDA
 SITE MAP

Nathan C. Bowers
 NATHAN C. BOWERS, R. P. L. S.
 FL 2818, GA 1542; NC L-2398; SC 4116

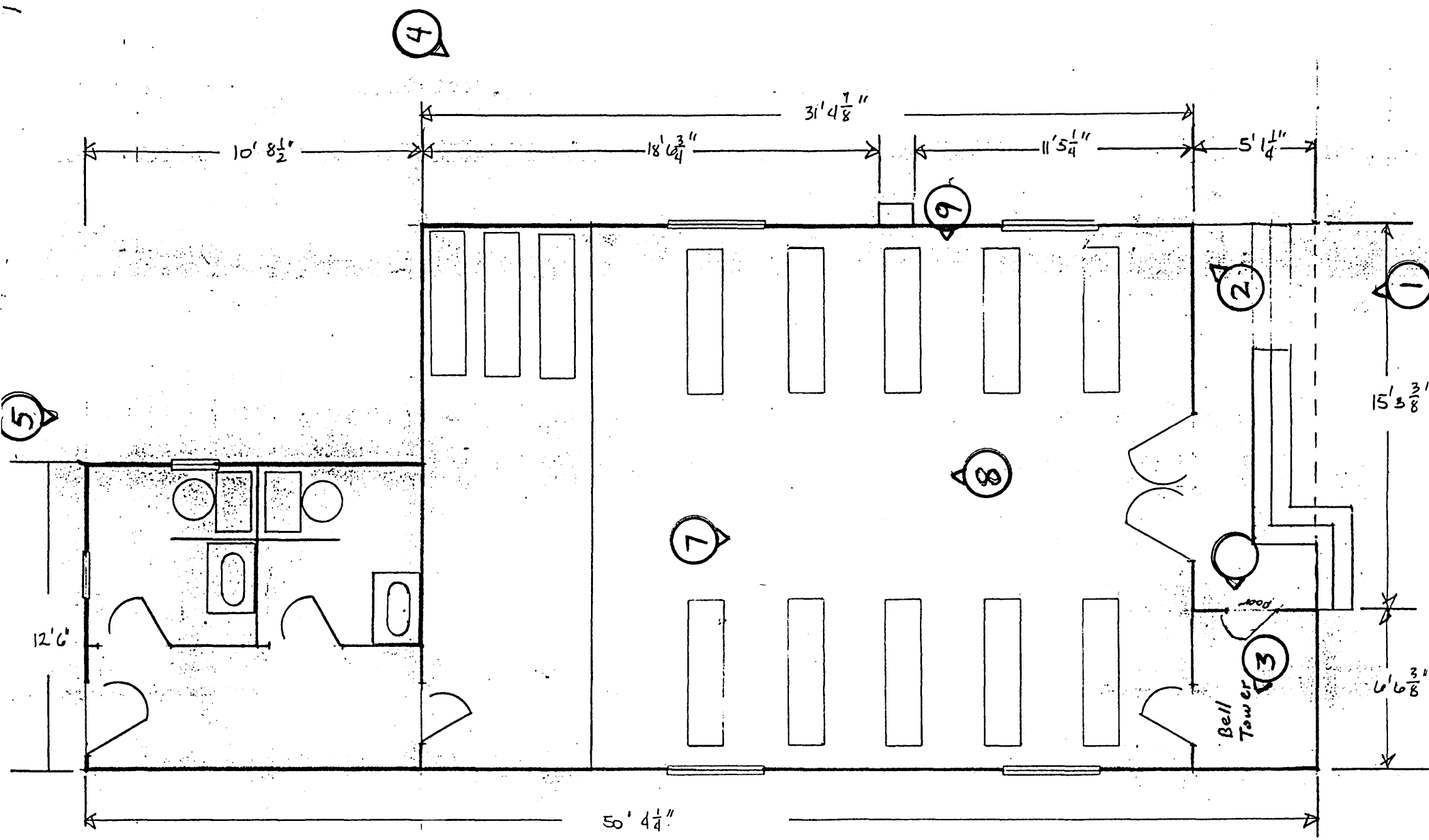


PLAT
 OF PROPERTY _____ SURVEYED FOR
MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 and **NASSAUVILLE VOLUNTEER**
FIRE DEPARTMENT, Incorporated

BEING TWO ADJACENT PARCELS LOCATED IN THE
 SOUTHEAST CORNER OF GOVERNMENT LOT N^o 3,
 SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 28 EAST
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCALE: 1" = 60' JUNE 11, 1977

Prepared by _____
NATHAN C. BOWERS
 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
 1903 Amella Avenue
 Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034
 (904) 261-7193



FLOOR PLAN
 PHOTO DIAGRAM

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NASSAUVILLE, FL
 NASSAU COUNTY

