

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 28 1986

date entered DEC 29 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Midway Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 4635 Dallas Highway (GA 120) S.W. n/a not for publication

city, town Powder Springs n/a vicinity of

state GA code 013 county Cobb code 067

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. James C. Scott, Clerk of the Session  
Midway Presbyterian Church

street & number 4635 Dallas Highway S.W.

city, town Powder Springs n/a vicinity of state GA 30073

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Cobb County Courthouse

city, town Marietta state GA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
Cobb County, GA

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section,  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state GA 30334

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Midway Presbyterian Church and Cemetery consists of a rural church building built of concrete blocks, now painted white with a historic cemetery to the rear. The church is a small, rectangular, gable-roofed structure. The heavy, Norman-arched front entrance tower is supported by five columns. This short, squat tower has a single steeple topped by its original finial. The interior, designed in the shape of a cross, consists of a large sanctuary with central aisle whose recent 1961 remodeling included the lowering of the ceiling over a tongue-and-groove ceiling and the addition of wainscoting and some modern altar furnishings. There are four stained glass windows on each long wall. The pews are original from 1905 and there are support tie rods and poles for the original slate (now shingled) roof. Attached to the church are a non-historic west wing (1950) with Sunday School rooms and a Fellowship Hall (1969). Behind the church complex is the associated historic cemetery which predates the existing church building, dating back to the 1850s. It contains approximately 850 burials. This cemetery is a historic landscape feature related to this church, as with many other rural churches. It is typically rather flat, with the burial lots laid out in a gridiron fashion. The funerary monuments are very modest. There is little or no formal landscaping. The church is in a rural setting, with the minister's house or manse, built in 1947, being the nearest structure. The church is surrounded by a parking lot and driveways. Around the developed area are trees. Other changes include the painting of the church white - a dramatic contrast to the original dark, natural color; interior changes to the sanctuary, addition of auxiliary buildings, changing of the roof from slate to composition; and the paving of parking areas, including the area in front of and to the sides of the church.

**Section 10 - Geographical Data: Verbal Boundary Description and Justification**

The nominated property includes the historic church, non-historic attached rear annex, narrow landscape buffer between the church and paved driveways/parking areas which nearly surround the building on the north, east, and west sides, and the historic cemetery associated with the church to the rear (south). The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to scale by a heavy black-and-white line on the enclosed aerial photo "property map." This boundary was selected because it includes the historic church and cemetery but excludes the paved driveways and parking areas around the church.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1905                      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Midway Presbyterian Church and Cemetery is significant in architecture because of the use of concrete blocks in the early 20th century for a rural church while most of its contemporaries were frame and the rest brick. This church is the only known example of the use of this building material for a rural church in Georgia. It is significant in religion because the Presbyterian faith was always that of a minority of Georgians, especially in rural areas. It is significant that this rural community of Presbyterians existed and were able to build such a novel, substantial church building. The cemetery predates the church building and has always been associated with this congregation, as are many other rural churches and cemeteries in the South. The cemetery serves as a historic landscape feature of the church property and is typically open and flat, with grave lots laid out in a gridiron plan with modest monuments.

These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C, Criteria A -- association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history -- is supported by the fact that this was an early 20th-century Presbyterian church, one of the important religions in the South, but one which always ran third or lower in Georgia to the predominant Baptist and Methodist faiths. The church building with its associated cemetery documents the presence of this minority Protestant demomination in rural Georgia in a way similar to the previously National Register listed Stone Church in Catoosa County (also an unusual building architecturally). Church buildings like these, with their associated cemeteries, are the most visible reminders in today's rural environment of the heritage and legacy of the Presbyterian faith. This church is also significant for its rural location and for being "Midway" rather than for being within an existing larger community. Criteria C - embodying distinctive characteristics of a type . . . method of construction, etc. -- is substantiated here by the unusual method of construction and materials used in this rural church, that of concrete blocks fabricated on the premises. These concrete blocks, "modern" for 1905 in rural Georgia, gave the church a much more ancient look by resembling the stonework found in the 11th century Norman churches in England. The use of concrete blocks for a rural church has not been documented in any othe surviving rural Georgia church. Their use here represents their growing popularity statewide during the first decade of the 20th century for other types of buildings including houses and stores.

Historical Narrative

The history of Midway Presbyterian Church begins when Cobb County was created in 1832 from the Cherokee Indian Territory which was distributed by the State of Georgia in the Land and Gold Lottery of 1832. White settlers moved into the area shortly thereafter, although the Indians were not officially removed until the Trail of Tears in 1838.

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 5 acres

Quadrangle name Lost Mountain, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	7	1	3	7	1	0	3	7	5	8	1	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Section 7.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date October 29, 1986

205 Butler St. S.E., Suite 1462

street & number Floyd Towers East telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta, GA state 30334

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/12/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in  
National Register

date 12-29-86

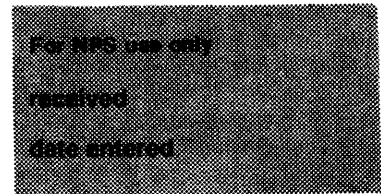
Allores Byers  
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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A petition was made to the Cherokee Presbytery (a regional sub-division of the Presbyterian Church in Georgia and South Carolina) when it met at Pleasant Green on September 8, 1849. It bore 31 names and asked that a church be organized in the Oregon District of Cobb County. The petition was granted, and by April 11, 1850 the committee appointed to organize the church was able to report that such a church had been organized and it was to be named "Midway." There were thirty-three members with four ruling elders and two deacons.

The name "Midway" would appear to indicate that the church was halfway between two major points, and geographically at the time it was named, as today, it is about five or six miles from the county seat cities of Dallas and Marietta, although Dallas was just emerging as a community when Midway was organized.

In 1850, at the time Midway was organized, the census indicated that of Georgia's known religious institutions, 90% were Baptist and Methodists, with Presbyterians being third, occupying with many other faiths, the remaining 10%. In fact, the Presbyterians counted for only 5% of the total, or approximately 97 churches throughout the entire state. This is barely one per county for Georgia's 95 counties in 1850. Thus it was highly unusual for a Presbyterian congregation to be created at all, and especially in such a rural area.

Like most of the south, urban and rural, the church and its membership suffered due to the Civil War, especially in Cobb County, which saw action in the Battle and Campaign for Atlanta. The original pastor, who also served other churches in the Presbytery, served from 1850-1863.

At about the time the church congregation was organized, Alexander McCoy donated five acres to be used by the community as a burial ground. Other land has been donated through the years for the church and its expansion.

It is presumed that a frame church structure was erected shortly after the congregation was organized, since this is the procedure known to have been followed by other churches. The original church which faced east was a frame, weatherboarded structure, unceiled with no window glass but with wooden shutters and no heat. There is said to have also been a schoolhouse on the property. It is believed that, by 1880, a newer church building had been erected. It had two front doors, and was also unceiled and unheated. Some of the present church altar furnishings were donated to the church at that time and are still used within the present church building.

The present church building was begun in August 1904. The concrete blocks were created by W. J. Sheridan of nearby Rockmart, GA. The slate roof (now gone) was cut by Mr. Davis, also of Rockmart. The pews were made by Charlie Byrd of Marietta. The total cost was \$2300. It was constructed just north of the 1880s structure.

Concrete blocks were first introduced in Georgia in the 1890s, and were used mostly for institutional and community structures, and some houses. They were popular in the early 20th century and waned by the 1920s. Buildings built with them are almost invariably

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found in cities and towns. The only other known Georgia church built of concrete blocks is located in the county seat of Fitzgerald.

The congregation remains active and expanding, having always taken its membership from a large surrounding area. Its earliest known membership was that of farmers, the major occupation of this area, and most of Georgia during the antebellum period. Some early members came from Powder Springs, Marietta, and Paulding County, all within about an eight mile radius of Midway. The Lost Mountain Store, the only nearby semblance of a community focal point or commercial area, was one mile west on the same highway and is still in operation today. In more recent times a store did operate across the street from Midway. As the church historian has said, "One might say the church has really stood alone and has stood out as one of the larger country Presbyterian Churches in northwest Georgia."

In the last forty years the church expanded its facilities by adding first the west wing with Sunday School Rooms in 1950, the Fellowship Hall, a separate building behind the church in 1969 and a manse, for the minister, off of the nominated property in 1947. Church property also has been increased through donations of land by members, although only the smaller, more historic land holdings are being nominated. Plans are underway for a new church building to be constructed on the property within the near future.

The cemetery, donated as mentioned by Alexander McCoy, has as its earliest burial date a gravestone marked 1851. Mrs. McCoy's is the second oldest, she having died September 4, 1852. The Midway Memorial Association was made permanent in 1913. Its purpose is to care for the cemetery and honor the departed. They have an annual meeting in May. Incorporated in 1965, the organization established perpetual care in 1984. There are approximately 850 burials at Midway.

Midway Presbyterian Church and Cemetery remains a viable institution and with its expanding congregation continues to serve its original flock, that of the surrounding community, which has changed from rural farmland to a rapidly expanding, developed area, on the outskirts of metropolitan Atlanta.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES: 1 building (church)  
1 structure (cemetery)

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Bibliography

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Scott, Elizabeth Mayes. "Midway Presbyterian Church." Historic Property Information Form, January 30, 1985. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, GA with additional information, letters, etc.

Ibid. "History Midway Presbyterian Church . . . Early Church Roll . . . Cemetery." Northwest Georgia Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. Quarterly XVI (Fall, 1984): 5-30.

Floor Plan

Midway Presbyterian Church and Cemetery  
near Powder Springs, Cobb County, GA  
Scale: not to scale  
Source: Drawn by Church Architect  
Date: 1985  
Key: The historic main church building  
is outlined by a heavy dark line.

