

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 Spring Place Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Located approximately two and one-half miles west of the city of Chatsworth and east of the intersection of Georgia Highway 52 Alternate and Georgia Highway 225
city, town Spring Place () **vicinity of**
county Murray **code** GA 213
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30705

() not for publication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:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	24	29
sites	8	0
structures	3	0
objects	0	0
total	35	29

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of previous listing: Vann House, listed October 28, 1969

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.

Richard Coates
Signature of certifying official

11-15-04
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

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

() entered in the National Register

Daniel J. Vivian 1/4/05

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
COMMERCE/TRADE/SPECIALTY STORE
GOVERNMENT/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY/JAIL
EDUCATION/SCHOOL
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/MISSION
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/AGRICULTURAL FIELD
LANDSCAPE/NATURAL FEATURE/SPRING

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/AGRICULTURAL FIELD
LANDSCAPE/NATURAL FEATURE/SPRING

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

EARLY REPUBLIC/FEDERAL
MID-19TH CENTURY/GREEK REVIVAL
MID-19TH CENTURY/GOTHIC REVIVAL
LATE VICTORIAN/ITALIANATE
LATE VICTORIAN/QUEEN ANNE
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/PRAIRIE
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN
OTHER/FOLK VICTORIAN
OTHER/CENTRAL HALLWAY
OTHER/GEORGIAN COTTAGE
OTHER/GABLED ELL COTTAGE
OTHER/NEW SOUTH COTTAGE
OTHER/AMERICAN SMALL HOUSE
OTHER/I-HOUSE
OTHER/GEORGIAN HOUSE
OTHER/QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

Materials:

foundation Brick; Stone/Granite
walls Wood/Weatherboard; Brick; Stone
roof Metal/Tin; Asphalt
other N/A

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Section 7--Description

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Summary Description

Spring Place Historic District is a small crossroads community southwest of Chatsworth, the county seat of Murray County, in northwest Georgia. The community is characterized by its rural setting surrounded by agricultural lands that developed around the establishment of a Moravian Mission, located there as early as 1801, and the Old Federal Road, constructed c.1806, which passes through the community. The district encompasses historic residences with outbuildings and associated fields, one remaining commercial building, community landmark buildings such as a church and a school constructed from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, known sites of former community landmark buildings, traces of the Old Federal Road, an archaeological site related to a Moravian Mission, and the previously listed Vann House, home of Cherokee Indian Chief James Vann. The majority of the historic resources are clustered around the former site of the Murray County courthouse.

Spring Place was laid out in the northwest corner of Lot No. 245 in the 1830s utilizing a gridiron pattern. The Moravian Mission was situated in the northwest corner of the adjoining Lot No. 244, and the Chief Vann House was located to the northwest of this site. Originally the governmental seat of Murray County, Spring Place had a courthouse that stood at the center of the former city limits of the town at the intersection of Elm Street and Ellijay Street. A small commercial district grew up around the courthouse with stores, offices, and other public establishments constructed along Elm Street, Georgia Highway 225, Ellijay Street, and along a street south of the courthouse which no longer exists. The commercial center was surrounded by residential development, especially to the south and east, which in turn was surrounded by agricultural fields and woodland. The town subsequently developed in a manner consistent with the county seat type of historic community in Georgia. The county courthouse was located in the center of town and a circle with a half-mile radius was drawn to define the city limits. Around the courthouse square was the requisite gridiron street plan, remnants of which are still visible, particularly along Elm Street and Georgia Highway 225 South. Although never a large town, Spring Place enjoyed modest growth and development until the early 20th century when the county seat was moved to nearby Chatsworth with its railroad connections. Since that time, Spring Place has functioned more as a small county crossroads community.

Description of Historic Buildings

Most historic resources in the Spring Place community are vernacular buildings based on regional building traditions that were influenced by popular styles of the period. The majority of these buildings are houses. Historic residences in the district are one- and two-story wood-framed buildings with wood, brick, or stone exterior wall surfaces that are situated near the edges of roads, with outbuildings (photographs 5 and 17) and associated agricultural fields (photograph 7) extending out from behind the residences.

The district contains an excellent collection of houses constructed from the early 1800s to the early

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1950s, representing a variety of architectural styles and house types. The larger high-style houses built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries are located close to the former location of the county courthouse and the commercial district of Spring Place, with smaller more modest houses built from the early 20th century to the mid-20th century located on what would have been the outskirts of the city limits. The architectural styles and house types represented in the district have been identified as important in Georgia during the historic period in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings, a statewide context.

The architectural styles represented in the district begin with the Federal style. This style is characterized by a symmetrical façade and a rectangular block form. Slender columns and fluted pilasters emphasize the entrance. Curved surfaces and openings are characteristic of the style. Roofs are generally hipped or side-gabled. The oldest known extant building in the district is the Vann House (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 28, 1969). It is an excellent example of a two-story, Federal-style, vernacular brick house (photographs 24 and 27). James Vann, a Chief in the Cherokee Nation, constructed the house c.1803-1805. The house remains in its original location and was restored and opened as a state-run house museum in 1958. The Greek Revival style was the first style to appear statewide in Georgia. It is characterized by a symmetrical façade, prominent columns and pilasters, wide entablature, and elaborate trabeated door surrounds. A good example is the Morris-McDaniel House, located at 150 Elm Street (photographs 3 and 4). The Italianate style is characterized by two-story height, low-pitched roofs with wide overhanging eaves, decorative brackets, and tall, narrow windows. It appeared in Georgia in the late 19th century. The best local example is the former jail located at the corner of Lumpkin Street and Coffee Street (photograph 11). The Queen Anne style, Georgia's most popular 19th century style, features such characteristics as steeply pitched roofs with an irregular configuration, a dominant front-facing gable, and an asymmetrical façade with a partial or full-width porch that is usually one-story in height. The best example in Spring Place is a house at 126 Elm Street (photograph 6). Folk Victorian houses were built in large numbers across Georgia from the 1870s to the 1910s. The houses usually feature simple forms with porches with spindle work detailing, jigsaw trim, cornice brackets, and gable. The previously cited Queen Anne house is a good example of Folk Victorian ornamentation in Spring Place (photograph 6). The most popular style in Georgia in the early 20th century was the Craftsman style. Houses of this style were built across the state in rural, small town, and urban settings from the 1910s through the 1930s. Features of the Craftsman style include the use of a variety of materials, low-pitched roofs that can be gabled or hipped, wide eave overhangs, exposed rafter tails, and porches with short square columns on heavy masonry piers. The house at 329 Highway 225 South (known as the Pritchett-Howard House) (photograph 9) is a bungalow with Craftsman details. The house, built c.1934, is constructed of indigenous stone that is believed to have been collected by Mr. V.C. Pickering who constructed roads and bridges in the area. The stones, a large quantity of which may have come from nearby Fort Mountain, are roughly rounded with a brown or tan hue. The use of this material was observed at several houses as infill in foundations, foundations or partial enclosures for porches, and retaining walls.

House types are also important when describing the housing stock of an historic district such as Spring Place. Many different house types identified in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in

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Their Landscaped Settings, a statewide historic context, spanning the historic period are represented in the Spring Place Historic District. The central hallway was very popular in Georgia throughout the 19th century. It consists of a central hallway between two rooms and distinguishes itself by being one-room deep. A local example is located at 306 Ellijay Street (photograph 12, right). The Georgian cottage, possibly the single most popular and long-lived house type in Georgia, was constructed in almost all periods of Georgia's history, mostly between 1850 and 1890. The plan is square, or nearly so, and consists of a central hallway with two rooms on either side, and chimneys are usually between each pair of rooms. A good example is the house at 86 Elm Street (photograph 8). The gabled ell cottage was popular in Georgia in the late 19th century. In plan it is T- or L-shaped and usually has a gabled roof. It consists of a gable-front at one end of a recessed wing (no local examples appear in the photographs). The Queen Anne cottage derives its name from the architectural style that it is most associated with, but the house type also occurs with elements of other styles or no architectural style. It has a square mass with projecting front and side gables. The rooms are asymmetrical and there is no central hall. These houses were built during the 1880s and 1890s. An excellent example of a Queen Anne cottage is located at 138 Ellijay Street (photograph 18), the Steed-Pritchett House. The New South cottage was a very popular house type between the 1890s and the 1920s. It resembles the Queen Anne cottage with the notable exception of its emphasis on symmetry. It has a central square mass and gabled projections, but with a central hallway plan. The central hallway is flanked by pairs of rooms (no local examples appear in the photographs). The bungalow was very popular in all regions of Georgia from 1900 to 1930. It is most often associated with the Craftsman style as in the previously mentioned house located at 329 Highway 225 South (photograph 9). The house form is long and low with an irregular floor plan of rectangular shape, and integral porches are common. The American Small House became a popular affordable solution to the housing shortage during the Great Depression and after World War II. This house type usually consisted of a living area, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bathroom, arranged in various ways. This type of house appeared in large numbers not only in Georgia, but nationwide during the housing boom of the mid-1940s. A good example in Spring Place is located at 161 Ellijay Street (photograph 16). The I-house appeared sporadically in Georgia in the 19th century. It is one room deep and at least two rooms wide. The various floor plans of I-houses determine the subtype: central hallway, hall-parlor, double-pen and saddlebag. Most surviving examples of this house type are found in small towns in the Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plain regions of the state. Constructed c.1870, the house at 110 Ellijay Street (known as the Edmondson-Ballew House) (photograph 19) is an excellent example of an I-house, a rare house type in Georgia according to Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings. A Georgian house is the two-story version of the Georgian cottage. It was also popular throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century although less numerous than the cottage. An excellent example of this type of house is located at 150 Elm Street, locally known as the Morris-McDaniel House (photographs 3, right, and 4). Constructed c.1840, it is a Georgian-type house with Greek Revival-style elements. The Queen Anne house, like the Georgian House, is the two-story version of the cottage that bears the same name. The house located at 126 Elm Street, locally known as the Starr-Maddox-Robinson House, (photographs 3, background and 6) was constructed c.1888 and is a Queen Anne house with Folk Victorian characteristics. The house was popular during the same time period, 1880s and 1890s, but it was more often found in towns and cities rather than rural settings. As with the one-story version,

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the Queen Anne house is most closely associated with the Queen Anne style.

While late-nineteenth-century Spring Place had a thriving commercial district, containing numerous business establishments, including drug and general stores, a harness maker, a hotel, and several attorneys and physicians' offices, only one historic commercial building remains today. At the corner of Ellijay Street and Georgia Highway 225 is the W. Keat Jones Store (photograph 10). Typical of many vernacular, late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century stores, the W. Keat Jones Store is a one-story brick building constructed in the Commercial style that features a simple, decorative brick band across the front parapet wall with a stepped parapet wall on each side. While minor changes have been made to the front facade, most notably the enclosure of the large display windows, it still features its large, rectangular five-light glass transom above the front entrance and smaller, square five-light transoms above each window. Today it serves as a church for the Truth and Life Ministries. There are three community landmark buildings in the Spring Place Historic District. The c.1875 Spring Place Methodist church (photograph 1), located on Elm Street, is rectangular-shaped building with a central tower with double entry doors featured on the front façade. The building has weatherboard siding, an asphalt shingle roof, gable returns, and twelve-over-twelve double-hung-sash windows. The building currently serves as the offices of the Whitfield-Murray County Historical Society. The c.1890 jail (photograph 11), is a two-story brick building with simple Italianate windows, interior chimneys and a hipped roof. The former jail, which is located near the former site of the county courthouse, now serves as a residence. The c.1924 Spring Place School (photograph 9, background and attachment 1) is located on Georgia Highway 225 South. It is a painted brick, one-story building with a broad hipped roof, exposed rafter tails, and a Mission-style front parapet wall. An addition was constructed at the rear of the school in 1949, adding six classrooms. The building served as an elementary school from 1924 until the late 1960s. Today it is a retirement home.

Throughout the historic district are numerous agricultural and domestic outbuildings (photographs 5, 16, and 17). They are generally small, utilitarian, wood-framed buildings located in the rear yards of houses. One unusually large outbuilding is the wood-framed barn located on behind a noncontributing house on Ellijay Street. (photograph 17).

Description of Historic Archaeological Site

One archaeologically documented historic site exists within the Spring Place Historic District: the site of an early 19th century Moravian mission.

Today the former Moravian mission site is an open, grass-covered field on the edge of the Spring Place Historic District (attachment 2) near the intersection of Georgia Highway 52 Alternate and Ellijay Street. The land is privately owned and a portion is in cultivation. During its active period, the mission featured at least seven standing structures including a church and school, living quarters for the missionaries, and outbuildings. Also located on the site were orchards, a garden, fields for planting, springs, and a small graveyard (attachment 4). Photograph 21 shows the appearance of this site in April, 2002, when the Spring Place Historic District was being documented; photographs 22 and 26 (November, 2003) show the current condition of the site following archaeological

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investigations and interpretation. A contemporary split-rail fence has been built around the border of the mission cemetery, the state historic marker and accompanying plaque have been repositioned, and interpretive signage has been posted.

The Moravians were meticulous record-keepers, and reports, diaries, and letters from the missionaries have been preserved and are housed at the Southern District Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. These records were consulted in researching the location of the mission in the Spring Place community.

In December 1999, two members of the Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division staff, State Archaeologist Dr. David Crass and staff archaeologist Ronnie Rogers, conducted a probe survey of the former mission site to locate the mission cemetery ("God's Acre") in particular and to identify other archaeological features. A map (attachment 4) of the Moravian mission site was used for reference. The map was drawn from memory by Brother Abraham Steiner, a former resident of the mission, and obtained from the Moravian Archives in Salem, North Carolina. Br. Steiner arrived at James Vann's house (previous to the current house) on April 30, 1801. He remained at the Springplace mission until October 1, 1801. The map would appear to depict the mission early in its development due to Steiner's presence during that early period. In addition, a later inventory of the mission during the removal of the Cherokee lists more buildings and features than depicted on Steiner's map. Although not to scale, the map depicted the cemetery, springs, and other features that were found during the survey. What appeared to have been a trace of the old road was located between the former church site and a planted field (the site of the cemetery on the map). Large elm trees line the road at one end of the field. Modern property lines correspond to fence lines shown on the old map.

According to documentation compiled by the park ranger at the nearby Chief Vann House Historic Site, there were 14 burials in the cemetery, including Indians, blacks, and whites:

1. Dawnee, age 12, student, daughter of Oowaite and Suzanna Reece, September 27, 1812
2. "Crutchfield's Negress' infant", buried beside Dawnee
3. Margaret "Peggy" Vann Crutchfield, October 18, 1820
4. Anna Rosina Gambold, buried next to Mrs. Crutchfield, February 19, 1821
5. Charles Hicks, Principal Chief, dressed in white and placed in a walnut coffin, January 20, 1827
6. "Another Child", 1828
- 7-13. "Seven of Vann's Negroes", May, 1828
14. Robert Howell, buried in Gods Acre after the mission was closed, 1834

Burials within Moravian cemeteries were arranged in a formal order. According to the burial records, the cemetery was in use from 1812 to 1834 after the Mission was closed.

God's Acre (all Moravian burial grounds were called "God's Acre"), a traditional Moravian burial

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ground, mirrored the 18th-century Moravian choir system, which in turn reflected Moravian social organization. According to the system, people were buried in separate sections based on their age, gender, and marital status; married women were buried separately from single women and girls, while married men were buried separately from single men and boys. This layout allowed for the deceased to be buried in the next open grave according to the aforementioned criteria of age, gender, and marital status.

Based on the hand-drawn map, the investigation (probing) of the cemetery site along transect lines was shifted from the top of a knoll slightly down slope, to an area that is directly across the road from the former Moravian Church site, as shown on the map. The probe encountered hard packed soil at the base of the modern plow zone in most areas. The probe could be forced to penetrate deeper into the soil, but with great resistance. There were, however, several areas in which no resistance was encountered. These areas, clustered in the middle of the field, were flagged. Seven such areas were marked for further investigation.

In September 2000, Nina Sherman and Liz Garrison with the University of Georgia Geo-Archaeological Department, David Crass and Ronnie Rogers with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division, and Vann House staff conducted ground-penetrating radar testing at the mission site. The objective of the survey was to confirm the existence of graves and to establish their approximate number and positions.

A 45-meter by 45-meter grid was established over the field containing possible features, centered on the area in which the previous probe survey found anomalies (attachment 3). One-meter transects were run from north to south with the grid origin in the northeast corner. North-south transects were intended to maximize chances of hitting an east-west oriented grave.

The survey was performed using a digital ground penetrating radar (GPR) system following a standard procedure for operating the instrument in the field. The analysis of GPR data revealed burial-like anomalies indicating that there are graves below the surveyed area. The indicated burials have roughly east-west orientation but it is impossible to determine the position of the head as opposed to the legs based on the data collected during the survey. The locations of the pits are strongly indicative of graves. The results of the GPR data analysis indicate the presence of at least 11 graves below the surface of the surveyed area. Only an archaeological excavation can determine the exact size and depth of the graves; the assumed graves do vary in size, which is consistent with varying ages of the deceased mentioned above. Several distinctive concentrations of assumed graves may reflect aforementioned Moravian custom of burial sections according to marital status and gender. Some anomalies suggest that the land might have been forested sometime in the past, more probably as an orchard or grove than as a denser forest. More recently, the land has been under cultivation.

Most of the surveyed area is of archaeological interest. In addition to anomalies qualifying as burial pits, there were other anthropogenic anomalies that, due to their geometric shape, might be indicative of building foundations or a collapsed structure and suggest a possibility of some kind of

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architectural features, including the possibility of landscape architecture.

In November 2003, Historic Preservation Division archaeologists returned to the Spring Place Mission site to conduct a Phase I archaeological survey of the mission complex itself. A 10-meter grid was established over the area (Attachment 3) that, based on primary documents, included the mission buildings. Shovel testing at each grid point as well as a comprehensive metal detector survey resulted in the recovery of early-19th century artifacts consistent with light-density sheet refuse. Artifacts included early ironstone/whiteware, lead-glazed redware similar to ware types identified in Salem, North Carolina, cut nails in a variety of penny weights ranging from framing to finishing, various pieces of horse tack and wagon hardware, and cast iron braces that, while currently unidentified, may be pew supports. Artifact densities were low (1 to 2 artifacts per test), consistent with Moravian sites in Salem and other Wachovia tract settlements in North Carolina. The main refuse-disposal areas may be located further west of the current grid, off the main mission yard areas. However, the domestic items recovered, and in particular the building hardware, indicates that the site retains substantial horizontal and vertical stratigraphic integrity.

Description of Historic Sites

The former site of the Lucy Hill Institute (map 1 of 2, parcel 53) (photographs 14 and 15) is also located within the Spring Place Historic District. It serves as a recreation area and is still owned by the Murray County Board of Education. The Lucy Hill Institute opened c.1900 and quickly became one of the best known and most respected educational facilities in the county. George Hill gave a large donation for the construction of the school in memory of his daughter, Lucy, who had been a teacher. She was thrown from a horse and killed at the age of sixteen in 1895. Lucy Hill Institute served all grades until a high school (nonextant) was constructed in 1919. It served as the primary school until 1923 when it became the high school. When the school building was demolished in the 1930s, a gymnasium was constructed on the site using materials from the dismantled school. In the 1960s the gymnasium burned, and a picnic shelter (extant) (photograph 15) was constructed by the Ruritan Club. Near the shelter is a set of concrete steps, constructed in 1954-55, which leads down to the Mission Spring (also referred to as Limestone Spring). This site, once the location of a community landmark building, is still closely identified with the major institution that was located here.

Several natural springs (photographs 14 and 25, spring house) are also located throughout Spring Place and gave the town its name. Although early history notes that as many as 40 springs once flowed in the area, at present they are believed to number between eighteen and twenty, most of which empty into Town Branch, which runs through the northern portion of the district. Located predominantly within the northern portion of the district, these springs are also an integral landscape characteristic of the area. Only two springs have been specifically identified and included in the resource count: Limestone Spring and Lucy Hill Spring (see map 1 of 2). Others have not been precisely located or are too small to count.

The historic district contains one cemetery. Located in the northeast corner, Treadwell Cemetery (attachment 6) is associated with the Treadwell family. Smith Treadwell was an extensive landowner

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in several northwest Georgia counties, including Murray County. Mr. Treadwell settled in Spring Place after the Civil War. He served as a county Justice of the Inferior Court and as a state senator from 1857 to 1888. While living in Spring Place he owned and operated several wheat and corn mills. Upon his death in 1893, he was buried in an existing cemetery on his property. The grave markers in the cemetery reflect prevailing funerary design of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Description of Historic Structures

Traces of the 1805 Federal Road through the northern end of the district have been documented historically and located archaeologically through pedestrian survey. They were mapped (attachment 5) on ortho photographs using a Garmin global positioning system. The Federal Road was the federally initiated system of roadways constructed to facilitate transportation and communication between the Carolinas, Georgia, and Tennessee across Cherokee Nation land early in the 19th century. Late in the 1700s, the United States government became aware of the need to connect the explored and settled Tennessee Valley with the unsettled north Georgia region. The Cherokee Nation held a sizeable portion of northwest Georgia at that time and the government believed that establishing a road across the region would encourage exploration and settlement of the area. The first efforts to come to an agreement with the Cherokee Nation failed in 1801; but in 1804 an informal arrangement was made permitting establishment of a road through eastern Tennessee to the Georgia border. The Treaty of Tellico, signed in 1805, subsequently allowed for the extension of the road north from near present-day Flowery Branch, Georgia (approximately 80 miles southeast of Spring Place in Hall County) to Spring Place, then to Chattanooga, Tennessee (approximately 40 miles northwest of Spring Place). Although begun as a federal project, the Georgia portion of the road was completed by the state at a cost of \$5,000. The traces of the Federal Road in Spring Place are located in the northern portion of the historic district. They run east-west between the Vann House on the west and Town Branch on the east for a distance of approximately 1,000 feet. At Town Branch the Federal Road intersects with the projected extension of a local road leading southeast to the Moravian mission site; an extant portion of this road, approximately 500 feet is extant, just north of State Route 52, has been likewise located and mapped.

Description of Terrain and Landscaping

Located just a few miles west of Fort Mountain, the overall terrain of the Spring Place Historic District is gently rolling. From the center of the district at the old courthouse site, the land drops down to Town Branch then rises uphill toward the northern part of the district along Georgia Highway 52 Alternate and slopes gradually downhill toward the southern part of the district along Georgia Highway 225. Landscaping within the district is informal and includes street trees (photographs 1, 6, and 19), open fields (photographs 5, 7, 20, and 25), curbs and coping around front yards (photograph 18), and yards with informal "New South"-type landscaping (photographs 4 and 6). New South landscaping, as defined in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings, is characterized by an informal and casual quality; variety of features; soft, curvilinear lines; broad grass lawns; flower beds; and low retaining walls, curbs and hedges.

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):

Archaeology/Historic -Aboriginal
Archaeology/Historic-Non-Aboriginal
Architecture
Education
Ethnic Heritage/Moravian
Ethnic Heritage/Native American
Exploration and Settlement
Religion
Transportation

Period of Significance:

c.1801-1954

Significant Dates:

c.1801-Establishment of the Moravian mission at Springplace and date of associated archaeological resources
c.1803-1805-Construction date of the oldest known extant building-Vann House
1805-Construction of the Federal Road
1832-Murray County created
1832-Removal of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia
1833-Moravian mission closed
1913-County seat moved to Chatsworth

Significant Person(s):

Chief James Vann
Joseph Vann

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Cultural Affiliation:

Moravian
Native American

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Spring Place Historic District is a small crossroads community encompassing historic residential, commercial, community landmark, and archaeological resources. The district developed around the holdings of James Vann, a Cherokee chief, and a Moravian mission site, and for nearly a century it served as the county seat of rural Murray County.

The Spring Place Historic District is significant in the areas of archaeology/historic-Aboriginal and archaeology/historic-Non-Aboriginal at the national level of significance for its potential to yield important information about the day-to-day lives of members of the Moravian faith in the community of Spring Place, the layout of the mission they established there c.1801, the Cherokee culture, and the interaction between Moravian missionaries and the Cherokee. The Moravian missionaries were offered physical and financial support from James Vann, a Cherokee chief of mixed Scottish and Cherokee ancestry, who settled in Spring Place. It was Chief Vann's concern for the educational and spiritual well being of area Cherokees that prompted his offer to the missionaries. Archaeological testing of the mission site has revealed certain information about the site. The objective of the survey was to confirm the existence of the graves and to establish their approximate number and positions. The results of the ground penetrating radar data analysis indicate the presence of at least 11 graves below the surface of the surveyed area. The anomalies singled out as indicative of human burials confirm the initial opinion that the surveyed area does contain the graves and that it is indeed most probably the former Moravian cemetery or part of it. Other anthropogenic anomalies found in the area may document former building locations and landscape features. Only an archaeological excavation can determine the exact number and size of graves. There are no extant buildings, structures or landscape features associated with the mission. The site is well documented historically, including a sketch map, but was never previously verified through field study. Initial archaeological investigations appear to confirm the geographic location of the mission as well as the cemetery and possibly buildings and structures. Archaeological investigations of the site have confirmed a definite potential for future archaeology to yield additional site-specific information. The Spring Place mission was the first long-standing Moravian mission in Georgia following the earlier (1735) first contact between Moravians and American Indians in Georgia.

The district is significant in the area of exploration and settlement at the state level of significance for its association with the early settlement of what would later become Murray County. The history of Spring Place as a settlement pre-dates, by several decades, the official period of white occupancy. In the area that became Spring Place the Cherokee Indians were led by the Vann family who had been trading in the area since the late 1700s. The Vann family quickly built substantial land holdings. Chief James Vann helped settle the area by constructing his home just north of what was to become the center of Spring Place, c.1803, and also by inviting the Moravians to establish a mission and school in the community. Another reason for the development of the area was the fact that Spring Place was the original county seat of Murray County (1832) until it was moved to Chatsworth in 1913. As early as the 1790s whites began to use an old Cherokee trading path that later became a portion of the Federal Road. The Cherokee Nation had been reduced dramatically in size as white settlers pushed westward forcing the Cherokee to give up their lands until the final removal of the Cherokee

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in the 1830s ending with the Trail of Tears. The early history and development of Spring Place represents important events and activities in this part of the state as white pioneers first traded with, then settled among, and eventually displaced the Native Americans in the area.

The district is significant in the area of architecture at the state and local levels of significance for its historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings constructed from c.1803 to the mid-1940s. The residential buildings are an excellent collection of the styles and types of houses typical of small, rural Georgia towns. Styles represented include Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, and Craftsman. The house types represented include the central hallway, Georgian cottage, gabled ell cottage, Queen Anne cottage, New South cottage, bungalow, I-house, Georgian house, and Queen Anne house. The variety of styles and types represented in the district is illustrated by examples such as the Greek-Revival style Georgia house, c.1840, known as the Morris-McDaniel house (photographs 3 and 4) and a c.1934 stone-veneered Craftsman bungalow (photograph 9). All of the above have been identified as important Georgia styles and types in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings. The district contains one remaining commercial building that exhibits the Commercial style of architecture. The district is also significant for its community landmark buildings. Spring Place Methodist Church, constructed c.1875, is an excellent and intact example of a vernacular rural church in Georgia. The c.1890 Spring Place Jail, constructed in the Italianate style, now serves as a residence. The c.1924 Spring Place School features a symmetrical façade, exposed rafter tails, and a Mission-style parapet wall. The Chief Vann House, previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is significant at the state level as a very early (c.1803) building in this part of the state and as an excellent example of vernacular Federal-style architecture. It is one of the three oldest extant buildings in a four-county area of northwest Georgia; all three were built in the first five years of the 19th century.

The Spring Place Historic District is significant in the area of education for its important and early role in providing educational facilities for area children, both white and Cherokee. The Moravian Mission established a school for the Cherokee in Spring Place prior to the creation of Murray County from Cherokee lands; the Moravian mission site is significant at the national level of significance. Immediately following the removal of the Cherokee in 1833 the first schools for the children of white settlers in the county were founded here. While the Spring Place Academy and Lucy Hill Institute buildings no longer stand, the site of the Lucy Hill Institute is preserved in the district, and the 1924 Spring Place School still remains on Georgia Highway 225. The Lucy Hill Institute, founded c.1900, served the area until it was dismantled in 1930. Both historic school resources are significant at the local level of significance.

The district is significant in the area of ethnic heritage/Native American at the national level of significance for its association with James and Joseph Vann during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. James Vann, a Cherokee chief and well-known businessman, built his house, "the showplace of the Cherokee Nation," just north of Spring Place and the Moravian mission. He was instrumental in the arrival and success of the missionaries at Spring Place. His son, Joseph, inherited much of James Vann's holdings, including the house and property at Spring Place. Joseph became a well-known businessman in his own right and went on to become a Cherokee statesman.

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The Vann House, which is located in the district, was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance on October 28, 1969.

The Spring Place Historic District is significant in the areas of ethnic heritage/Moravian and religion at the national level of significance for its thirty-year association with the Moravian Church, which built a successful mission in Spring Place that served the community until the land upon which it was constructed was seized by the federal government. The education of Native Americans during the early-19th century was an unusual undertaking. The community standing and influence of Chief James Vann, both in the Spring Place area and with the Cherokee, made the presence and success of the Moravian Mission possible. The first Moravian contact with American Indians was in Georgia in 1735. In later years other missions were established in other states and the mission work in other locations continued until 1900. The first long-standing mission in Georgia was established in Spring Place. The Moravian mission was not noteworthy for its numerical success, but for its widespread influence within Native American culture. Missionaries were often consulted by chiefs, some of who became Christians. Almost all of the Cherokee chiefs in Georgia, and many of the statesmen, were educated or influenced by the Moravians. Unique among Georgia's former Indian tribes, the Cherokee attempted to adapt to Euro-American culture, and social experiments like the Spring Place Moravian mission were an important means of achieving this. Ultimately the effort was abandoned due to continuing prejudicial attitudes and desire to settle additional lands on the part of the state and federal government.

The district is also significant in the area of transportation at the state level of significance for the remaining traces of the Old Federal Road located to the north and northwest of the Moravian mission site. The road was an attempt by the federal government to encourage exploration of the Cherokee lands in north Georgia and to establish white settlements in the area. The Old Federal Road has been well documented historically but few extant traces have been found. The surviving stretch in the Spring Place Historic District is especially important because of its relationship to the Chief Vann House and the Moravian mission.

National Register Criteria

Spring Place Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of education, ethnic heritage/Moravian, exploration and settlement, and religion for its association with the Moravian Church and mission located in Spring Place from c.1801 to 1833; and in the area of transportation for the existence of portions of the Old Federal Road located between the mission site and the Vann House. The district is eligible for listing under Criterion B in the area of ethnic heritage/Native American for its association with James and Joseph Vann, leaders of a powerful and well-known family in the Cherokee nation. The district is eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture for the good and intact collection of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings representing architectural styles and types popular in Georgia during the historic period spanning an unusually broad period of time from the first decades of the 19th century well into the 20th century. Spring Place Historic District is also eligible for listing under Criterion D in the area of archaeology/historic-non-Aboriginal for the Moravian mission site's

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potential to yield information about the layout of the mission and the day-to-day lives of the missionaries and for having yielded information about the Moravian cemetery and the Old Federal Road.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Spring Place Historic District begins c.1801 with the establishment of the Moravian Mission at Springplace. The city of Spring Place developed around the mission and the vast holdings of Cherokee Chief James Vann. The choice of this location by Chief Vann for his home, as well as for the mission, directly led to Native American settlement, and later white settlement, of the area that became known as Spring Place. The period of significance ends in 1954, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The overall degree of historic integrity of the resources in the Spring Place Historic District is very good. The historic lot layout, placement of houses, and residential landscaping remain intact. Most of the buildings in the district are houses that retain historic integrity with few alterations. Some minor alterations to a small number of houses include artificial siding (for example photographs 8; 12, left; and 16), partially enclosed porches (for example photograph 13, right), and sensitive or historic additions (for example photographs 4 and 11). However, these changes do not compromise the historic integrity of the buildings. Contributing resources in the Spring Place Historic District are those constructed during the historic period that are significant in the areas of archaeology/historic-non-Aboriginal, architecture, education, ethnic heritage/Moravian, ethnic heritage/Native American, religion, and transportation. These resources include residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings, that have retained their historic integrity and contribute to the historic context of the district as a whole. The contributing sites within the district include the former site of the Moravian Mission including a cemetery and lane trace, established there as early as 1801; the former site of the Lucy Hill Institute, which served the educational needs of the white community in Spring Place for thirty years; two natural springs that are important landscape features in the district (although more springs exist in the area, only two were specifically identified for this documentation; Treadwell Cemetery; and three large agricultural fields associated with houses in the district. Contributing structures in the district include a springhouse located near the site of the Vann House (photograph 25, left background), and two traces of the Federal Road found on two parcels of open land between the Moravian mission site and the Vann House (map 1 of 2, parcels 30 and 47).

The majority of noncontributing resources in the Spring Place Historic District were constructed after the period of significance. There are very few dramatically altered houses. Noncontributing resources in the district include those constructed after 1954 (for example, photographs 5, left

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foreground; 6, background; 13, center background; 15, background; 17, right; and 27, right background) and those that have lost historic integrity due to alterations. Significant alterations within the Spring Place Historic District include substantial additions to historic resources and loss of integrity of materials through the removal and replacement of historic exterior materials (photograph 24, center).

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by Connie Malone, consultant, August, 1997; updated by Tim Howard, Whitfield-Murray County Historical Society, July, 2000 and Kevin McAuliff, preservation planner, North Georgia Regional Development Center, August, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. Information included in this history was also taken from file copies of documentation regarding the Moravian mission on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The history of Spring Place as a settlement in what became Murray County pre-dates by several decades its official period of white occupancy. The Cherokee Nation, which had occupied parts of Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama, had been reduced dramatically in size as white settlers pushed westward from the east, forcing the Native Americans to relinquish their lands. In the area that would become Spring Place, the Cherokee were led by the Vann family, a family of mixed Scottish and Cherokee ancestry that had been trading in the area since the late 1700s. Having grown wealthy through farming and trade, the Vann family quickly built substantial land holdings, and James Vann, one of the Vann family's three children, built a plantation home known as Diamond Hill and settled in what would become Spring Place.

While known for his quick temper and drinking problem, James Vann, a Cherokee chief, was an effective businessman and quickly increased his wealth, establishing a mill, trading post, and slave cabins on Mill Creek. The husband of three wives, Vann fathered five children: James, John, Sally, Delilah, and the youngest, Joseph, who was born in 1798. Concerned for the well being of the Cherokee people, as well as for their education, Vann, who met a group of Moravian missionaries from Salem, North Carolina while on a business trip to eastern coastal cities, was encouraged by their desire to come to Georgia to work among the Cherokees. Vann offered them both physical and financial support, and soon persuaded the other Cherokee chiefs to allow for the establishment of a mission on his property.

The Moravian Church traces its origins back to the followers of the early Protestant martyr, John Hus (d.1415). It was the first Protestant sect "to declare the evangelization of the heathen the duty of the Church." Moravian migration to the American colonies was undertaken with the clear intention of establishing missions to the Indians. In the southern colonies, there was some preliminary work among the Indians that had to be abandoned in 1740, when the Moravians were compelled to leave eastern Georgia for Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The first group of Moravians to come to America arrived in 1735 at the invitation of General James Oglethorpe, Colonial Governor of Georgia. The

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idea behind the invitation was for the Moravians to set up a mission for the Creek settlements along the coast. Two parties were sent to Georgia in 1735, one in January and one in October. Several obstacles hampered the missionaries' work: 1. the Creek settlements were too far inland to be accessible; 2. there was a language barrier (the Moravians spoke mostly German); 3. the Moravians were not accustomed to the climate of coastal Georgia; and 4. the missionaries' stand against violence was not looked upon favorably by other Protestant European settlers during volatile times with the Spanish in Florida. The Creeks whom the missionaries did encounter were somewhat receptive to their message, but the inability of the Moravians to establish a school became a problem. By 1740, the few remaining Moravians in Georgia relocated to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which is where the Moravian Church was established in America. The Moravians were also well established in the North Carolina Piedmont beginning in 1753. This was the largest and most successful of the Moravian settlements in the Southeast and led to the founding of the town of Salem in 1766. The Revolutionary War and its turbulent aftermath fostered Cherokee hostility towards American settlers, precluding significant mission work before the end of the century. However, after the initial contact with the Indians in Georgia, mission work was begun in other colonies or states: New York, 1740; Pennsylvania, 1740; Connecticut, 1743; Ohio, 1772; Canada, 1792; Georgia, 1799; Indiana, 1801; Kansas, 1837; and Oklahoma, 1838.

Finally, in 1799, encouraged by James Vann of Spring Place, the Cherokees indicated that they were willing for the Moravians to come to the Cherokee Nation to set up schools for teaching English and other skills needed in dealing more successfully with the white culture. The missionaries, on the other hand, gave highest priority to imparting salvation, without which education was deemed to be of little value.

At Spring Place the missionaries were initially established in two small cabins, and soon after were given land a short distance south of the proposed site of Vann's new home, located in what would eventually become Lot 224. Vann hired a German man named Vogt to design his house, a handsome, brick Federal style home (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 28, 1969 that was to become one of the finest in the Cherokee Nation. While the Moravians were attempting to build their own dwellings and a school, Vann also had them instruct his slaves and other Cherokee Indians in carpentry, masonry, and other skills necessary for the construction of his new house. The work was begun in 1803, and Vann took occupancy in March of 1805.

While it was the Moravian missionaries who gave the name Spring Place (initially one word) to the area in recognition of the many streams that flowed through the area, the town that grew up around James Vann's increasingly vast holdings became known as "Vann's Town." By this time, Vann owned over 4,000 acres of land and operated taverns, stores, a grist mill, a sawmill, a blacksmith shop, ferries, and other types of businesses throughout the Cherokee Nation. Many of these ventures (as well as Vann's new home) were located near the Old Federal Road, which was built in 1805 under his sponsorship. The Old Federal Road, so named because it was sponsored by the federal government of the United States, served as the first white man's road across northwest Georgia and the Cherokee Nation during the early days of the state. Following the completion of the road, it quickly fulfilled its role in facilitating communication and travel between the lower Southeast

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and Tennessee. It became a noted stage route, with a stage running through Spring Place as early as 1825. It also became an important postal route, with the first post office located at Rossville in 1819 and the second at Spring Place later that year.

Sadly for James Vann and his immediate family, he was able to enjoy his largess for only a short time, for in February 1809 he was killed, apparently to avenge the death of his brother-in-law, John Falling, whom Vann had killed in a duel in 1807 or 1808. The Council of Chiefs divided Vann's property between his widow and his children, with eleven-year-old Joseph inheriting the bulk of the estate. Joseph, who had been educated at the Moravian school, displayed his own business acumen as he grew into adulthood. Upon reaching legal age he received full title to the plantation and made additional improvements to the property. It was under his ownership that President James Monroe, the first United States President to visit what became Murray County, was entertained at the Vann House during his 1819 tour of the Southeast and the Cherokee Nation.

Unfortunately, Joseph, like his father before him, would not be allowed to enjoy his holdings for very long. Gold was discovered in the North Georgia mountains, and the white citizens of Georgia soon began calling for the removal of the Cherokee from this area. Under President Andrew Jackson's support, the state of Georgia began passing a series of laws that extended its authority over the Cherokees. By this time, Vann's holdings in Georgia included 800 acres of cultivated land, 42 cabins, eight corn cribs, six barns, a sawmill, a grist mill, five smokehouses, a blacksmith shop, a foundry, a trading post, a peach kiln, 1,133 peach trees, 147 apple trees, a whiskey still, 110 slaves, and other property besides the house. All of this property was seized when, upon return from a business trip, Vann found that he had violated a new Georgia law by hiring a white overseer and thus had forfeited his right of occupancy. In the decades that followed its passage out of the Vann family, ownership and occupancy of the house changed over 30 times, the plantation buildings disappeared, and by 1950 the house was severely deteriorated. Through the efforts of numerous individuals and groups, the Vann House was purchased and restored, and ultimately came under the ownership and operation of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 1973.

The Moravian missionaries served the Spring Place community for nearly three decades. Mission founder Abraham Steiner with Gottlieb Byhan and Byhan's wife Dorthea Schneider were the first Moravians to be in charge of the mission. They began diaries that were continued by their successors, providing a detailed and fascinating chronicle of these earliest days of Spring Place. In 1803, and again in 1804, the Cherokees noted with impatience that the Moravians had not yet established a boarding school at Spring Place, and should leave. A new, December 1804 deadline was set and barely met. One of two couples at the mission now asked to be released from their assignment. The survival of the mission seemed to depend on the careful selection of their replacements. John and Anna Rosina Gambold proved to be a good choice. Of the two Gambolds, more is known of Anna Rosina, owing largely to her 17 years as an exceptionally talented and popular teacher at the Bethlehem Female Seminary. Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1762, her personal interest in fulfilling the core Moravian commitment to serving the American Indian coincided with the expressed desire of John Gambold, hatter and leader of the Single Brothers at Salem, North Carolina, to serve the recently established Moravian Mission to the Cherokee. After some delay,

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John Gambold was at last approved in early 1805 for his Cherokee mission provided that he remarry (he was widowed in 1804 when his wife Catherine died of a severe fever). He promptly set out for Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and for the accomplished schoolteacher, Anna Rosina Kleist. They were married in May, and set out for Salem soon thereafter. Anna Rosina died in early 1821, as she and her husband were packing to move to a new mission outpost in Oochgelogy, Georgia. John Gambold died at Oochgelogy in 1827 (A mission at Oochgelogy is referenced in material on the mission at Spring Place, but an exact location and scope of the mission at Oochgelogy can not be determined). The Moravians attempted to establish another mission at a trading post on the Flint River in west central Georgia beginning in 1807, but due to illness and the War of 1812, those efforts were abandoned by 1813.

The Moravians were extremely dedicated to their work, laboring long and hard at the school, the curriculum of which included reading, writing, grammar, sacred history, mathematics, geography, weaving, botany, and music. They also housed and fed many guests to the mission and to Spring Place, performed baptisms for travelers, served as a haven for the poor, and raised both crops and livestock in large quantities. They served in this capacity, having grown to approximately 130 members, until December 1832 when Governor Wilson Lumpkin and the Georgia General Assembly formally created Murray County and, with this, initiated the survey of the land and the subsequent land lottery that would forever end the Cherokee Nation. It also ended the Moravian Mission at Spring Place. On Christmas Eve, 1832, several men rode to the mission to claim the land as the "fortunate drawer" in the 1832 land lottery, offering to rent their own premises back to the Moravians. The Moravians appealed and Joseph Vann attempted to take legal action to recover the land, but to no avail, and the mission was closed.

The new Murray County was named for Mr. Thomas W. Murray, a distinguished statesman and former speaker of the Georgia House from Lincoln County, who died in 1832 while running for Congress. The county was surveyed and 160-acre lots were drawn in the 1832 Land Lottery. In September of 1834, Abner E. Holliday and Matthew Jones jointly deeded 40 acres and a spring in Spring Place for the "county site." For a time, residents considered calling the newly created county seat Poinsett, possibly for Joel Roberts Poinsett, a South Carolinian who had served as the U.S. minister to Mexico, but the name was unpopular and on December 20, 1834, the act passed the Georgia legislature officially establishing the county seat as Spring Place.

Throughout the remainder of the 1830s and into the 1840s, the populations of Spring Place and Murray County grew steadily as, following the complete removal of the Cherokee along the "Trail of Tears" in 1837-39, white settlers began to enter the county in larger numbers and the original drawers of many of the land lots began to sell their land. In 1837, the Gazetteer of the State of Georgia listed Spring Place as "a missionary station and P.O., among the Cherokees, 3 miles E. of the Connessauga River, near the Federal Road from Georgia to Tennessee...now the capital of Murray County. It contains the usual public buildings, and some 30 to 40 families." The economy of the area was agricultural and remained largely undisturbed as the only railroad ran through Dalton, the county seat of neighboring Whitfield County (formed from Murray in 1851). Spring Place continued to increase its population into the 1850s, when the census listed five merchants, eleven

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attorneys, seven blacksmiths, six doctors, four brick masons, four tanners, one cooper, three tailors, two shoemakers, two wagon makers, and several others representing a broad variety of professions. In 1860, a small number of families owned a large percentage of the slaves in the area, including the Morris, Seay, Black, Treadwell, and Edmondson families in the Spring Place area. James Morris, whose home stands as one of Spring Place's local landmarks, came to the area in the 1840s and accumulated significant wealth as a merchant and planter and through his dealings in real estate.

As the Civil War drew closer, Georgia held its 1861 convention in Milledgeville to decide on the question of secession. As Murray County slaveholders were in the minority, the citizens sent "Union" delegates; however, as most of the delegates to the convention eventually voted for secession, this was the course Georgia took, and true to their state, the men of Murray County organized themselves to protect the Confederacy. Ten companies were formed and at least 1000 men enlisted to fight in Murray County. During the course of the war, the county was relatively undisturbed with the exception of several small raids that occurred there. However, the length of the war, with its hardships and tragic losses, left many Spring Place families with the difficult post-bellum task of rebuilding their lives.

By the mid-1870s, Spring Place was moving successfully through the period of reconstruction. The Georgia State Directory from 1876-77 listed the population as 300 and included the following professionals: William Anderson, physician; A. Bishop, brick maker; J.P. Cole, general store; S.G. Carter, carriages and wagons; W.W. Giddens, attorney; A. Hale, general store; J. O'Connor, hotel proprietor; H. Heartsill, Justice of the Peace; D.C. Kenner, general store; E.H.L. Keister, physician; William Luffman, attorney; W.V. Moss, attorney; H.L. Bunn, Masonic High School professor; J.W. Patrick, blacksmith; M.L. Smith, carpenter; J.D. Temples, grocer; F. Vonberg & Co., boots and shoes; W.J. Worsham, postmaster and drugs; and J.B. Williamson, blacksmith. The directory also noted the presence of three churches serving the Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian faiths.

Opportunities for worship for members of each of these three religions were available in Spring Place since the days of the Moravian Mission. Presbyterian missionaries had visited Spring Place in 1817, and in October of 1835 James Morris sold four acres of land to James A.W. Johnson, S.M. Nelson, William C. Lough, and Mr. Nedler, the trustees of the church, for "worship and an academy." While an earlier structure was no doubt constructed to serve the early needs of the congregation, around 1850 Robert Woods built a new church structure of brick utilizing slave labor. The church, which stood on the northwest side of Ellijay Street not far from where the Lucy Hill Institute would be built, held regular services for many years, but by the turn of the century membership began to decline. Services were ultimately discontinued in the 1910s, and in 1932 the old building was demolished.

Like the Presbyterian Church, the Spring Place Methodist Church also saw its roots in the early days as a mission to the Cherokee Indians. Their mission was originally located near the Moravian site but moved to the present site on Elm Street after land was purchased from James Morris for \$5 by Trustees John O'Donnell, David Jay, W.W. Stone, R.S. Morris, and E.H.L. Keister. Over the next twenty-five years the congregation grew, and in 1870 Trustees Keister, William H. Steed, U.H. Duncan, and William J. Worsham purchased additional property from Morris' estate. In 1875, the

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present church structure was constructed on the foundation of the earlier brick church that burned. Membership in the church grew until around the time that the county seat was moved to Chatsworth and a new church built there. Fortunately, enough members remained to carry on the church, and in the mid-1970s the congregation saw the need to construct a new church with more parking space. A new sanctuary was built outside of Spring Place, and the Whitfield-Murray County Historical Society acquired the historic church and restored it. The old building now serves as a museum and a public meeting facility for local groups and organizations.

While the exact date of the founding of the Spring Place Baptist Church is not known, it is believed to have been established sometime prior to 1846, when Spring Place left the Coosa Baptist Association to join the new Middle Cherokee Association. The first church was a log building, and two of the early pastors were A.E. Vandivere in 1848 and W.A. Ellis from 1849-1850. Around 1850 a second church was built, directly across Georgia Highway 225 from where the present building (constructed in 1956) stands (outside the district boundaries). This church served the needs of the congregation until 1892-93, when members constructed a beautiful white frame building containing pews made by Bill Henry and Frank Vonberg. This building was used by the congregation until 1955 when it was dismantled and the salvageable materials used in constructing the sanctuary that stands today. Not only were religion and religious education a high priority historically for the citizens of Spring Place, but as noted, beginning with James Vann and the establishment of the Moravian Mission, general education was also held as a matter of great importance. After the Moravian Mission closed, the Murray County Academy was incorporated in 1833, opening in 1835 with Trustees William N. Bishop, Nelson Dickerson, William Oats, James C. Barnett, and John J. Humphreys., with James Morris and Charles Bond added later. The school operated for a period of about ten years, apparently suffering financial difficulties, and in 1849-50 a system of "common schools" was established and the Georgia legislature passed an act incorporating the Spring Place Academy. This school was more successful, and by 1875 the community's educational needs were sufficient enough to warrant two schools, the Academy and a second educational facility generally referred to as the "town" school. Eventually, by the turn of the century, Spring Place residents felt the need to merge the two schools into a single Spring Place School, and fundraising began to help accomplish this. In 1899, two acres were obtained from Julia E. Jones for a school site, and it was not long after this that George Hill gave a large donation to the school in memory of his daughter Lucy, a teacher at Sumach Seminary who was thrown from her horse and killed while riding to get medicine for her sick parents. The school building (no longer extant, although the site with landscape features is included in the historic district), erected just off Ellijay Street near a spring, was renamed the Lucy Hill Institute.

The Lucy Hill Institute opened its doors in 1900 or 1901, and it quickly became one of the best-known and respected facilities in the county. Under the direction of members of the Board of Education the school flourished. In 1903, additional land was obtained from the back portion of the former Presbyterian Church lot, and in 1919 a separate high school was added to the Spring Place school system. The high school classes then met in the old courthouse, abandoned when the county seat was moved to Chatsworth in 1913, and primary students continued to meet in the Lucy Hill Institute building. In 1923, when the school system came under a new county control, Lucy Hill was designated the official county high school, and a year later a new brick elementary school with a

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handsome, mission-shaped parapet wall over the front entrance was constructed. In 1930, the Lucy Hill Institute was dismantled and a large, wooden gymnasium constructed on the site utilizing much salvaged lumber and other materials. The gymnasium served the local high school until it burned in the 1960s. The Spring Place Ruritan Club, a civic organization chartered on December 20, 1950, then constructed a picnic shelter on the grounds.

Classes in Spring Place continued to be held in the old courthouse building as well as in the 1924 building, which was added onto in 1949 to accommodate six new classrooms. Additional land was then acquired in 1956 from the Pritchetts who lived nearby, and a lunchroom, new offices, a library, and more classrooms were added. The school continued to function as an elementary school until the late 1960s, when a new elementary school was built in the southern part of the community off of Leonard Bridge Road (outside the district boundaries). The Church of God of the Union Assembly eventually bought the old property and converted it into a retirement home for its members.

As noted previously, during the period following the Civil War and into the beginning of the 20th century, Spring Place prospered as a community with an active and thriving commercial district centered on the county courthouse. The last courthouse was built in 1886, one year after the incorporation of Spring Place by the Georgia General Assembly. The city limits were extended in a half-mile radius from the front steps of the courthouse to form a circle. The courthouse building, which replaced an early brick structure which burned two years prior, was a distinguished two-story brick building with round-arched windows and a mansard roof supported by Italianate brackets. The building supported the functions of the county government until 1913 when the county seat was moved to Chatsworth, a larger city that had the advantage of railroad transportation (a railroad had been considered for Spring Place as early as 1875, but for one reason or another was never built). After this, the Spring Place city government, which consisted of a mayor and four councilmen, became less and less active, and the town as a whole slipped into a quieter, more peaceful existence. As noted, use of the old courthouse building was taken over by the public school system until its demolition.

When the county seat was moved, this had a profound effect on Spring Place businesses as people not only moved to the newer and quickly growing city of Chatsworth but began doing more of their business there as well. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century and into the beginning of the twentieth, stores and buildings housing everything from general stores, to newspaper offices for the *Spring Place Jimplecute*, to the Temple Hotel, to offices for doctors and lawyers were built around the courthouse square. The 1909-10 *Business and Professional Directory of Georgia* listed the following as doing business in Spring Place: Allen Mining Smelting Co, mining and refining; Arrowood & Rouse, grocery; Ben Bates, lawyer; Cohutta Banking Company; James A. Dickson, blacksmith; L.C. Furr, physician; J.M. Gregory, physician; Groves & Taylor, general merchandise; C.L. Hensy, lawyer; J.B. Hughes, physician; S.H. Kelley, grocery; Hull Kerr, general merchandise; C.N. King, Lawyer; the Murray news Publishing Company; Pendley Brick Co., manufacturers, Pendley Lumber Mfg. Co., saw mill; W.H. Prater & Co., cotton gin; J.L. Robinson, general merchandise; W.W. Sample, lawyer; J.H. Steed, physician; L.W. Thompson, general merchandise; and Miss Deliva Wood, millinery. A number of structures also housed the Spring Place Post Office, which had expanded to accommodate Rural

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Free Delivery that came to the area in 1904. Over the years following the move of the county seat to Chatsworth, as a result of this coupled with the hard times felt by everyone during the Great Depression, businesses began to close, and those buildings that had not burned began a slow deterioration.

Spring Place today, while having been physically altered by the events of earlier decades, still reflects the contributions of the people who worked together to shape its collective history. There are family members still present from some of the town's early history, and others are life long residents who have created histories of their own. While some of the buildings that once housed the educational, religious, commercial, and personal interests are gone, the spirit that inspired them has remained.

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National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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

Acreage of Property 126 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 16	Easting 700147	Northing 3848975
B)	Zone 16	Easting 700173	Northing 3847800
C)	Zone 16	Easting 699326	Northing 3847793
D)	Zone 16	Easting 699278	Northing 3848950

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Spring Place Historic District is indicated on the attached maps by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed historic district includes the remaining contiguous resources and acreage historically associated with the Spring Place community.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian and Dr. David Crass, State Archaeologist
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** November 5, 2004
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us and david_crass@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Connie Malone
organization
mailing address P.O. Box 491
city or town Lexington **state** Georgia **zip code** 30648
telephone (706)734-3287
e-mail

- () **property owner**
(X) **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

name/title Kevin McAuliff, Preservation Planner
organization North Georgia Regional Development Center
mailing address 503 West Waugh Street
city or town Dalton **state** Georgia **zip code** 30720
telephone (706)272-2300
e-mail

- () **property owner**
() **consultant**
(X) **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Tim Howard
organization (if applicable) Whitfield-Murray County Historical Society
mailing address 329 Highway 229 South
city or town Spring Place **state** Georgia **zip code** 30705
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Spring Place Historic District
City or Vicinity: Spring Place
County: Murray
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 2002 (photographs 1-21) and November, 2003 (photographs 22-27)

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 27

1. Spring Place Methodist Church, Elm Street; photographer facing northwest.
2. Kemp Street; photographer facing northwest.
3. Morris-McDaniel House, Elm Street; photographer facing north.
4. Morris-McDaniel House, Elm Street; photographer facing northwest.
5. Rear of Morris-McDaniel House; photographer facing northwest.
6. Starr-Maddox-Robinson House, Elm Street; photographer facing north.
7. Rear of Starr-Maddox-Robinson property; photographer facing northeast.
8. 86 Elm Street, foreground, and Nolie Smith House, background; photographer facing north.
9. Pritchett-Howard House, foreground, and Spring Place School, background; photographer facing northwest.
10. W.K. Jones Store, corner of Ellijay Street and Georgia Highway 225; photographer facing northwest.
11. Spring Place Jail; photographer facing north.
12. Ellijay Street; photographer facing northeast.
13. Ellijay Street; photographer facing southwest.
14. Former site of Lucy Hill Institute, Lucy Hill Spring; photographer facing northwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

15. Former site of Lucy Hill Institute; photographer facing northwest.
16. 161 Ellijay Street; photographer facing northwest.
17. Outbuilding; photographer facing north.
18. Steed-Pritchett House; photographer facing east.
19. Edmondson-Ballew House; photographer facing southeast.
20. Anderson-Ballew House; photographer facing southwest.
21. Former site of Spring Place Mission; photographer facing southwest.
22. Former site of Spring Place Mission, God's Acre; photographer facing southwest.
23. Former site of Spring Place Mission, God's Acre; photographer facing northwest.
24. Vann House, front façade; photographer facing south.
25. Former site of mission lane and Federal Road; photographer facing southeast.
26. Former site of mission lane and Federal Road; photographer facing southeast.
27. Vann House, rear façade; photographer facing north.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

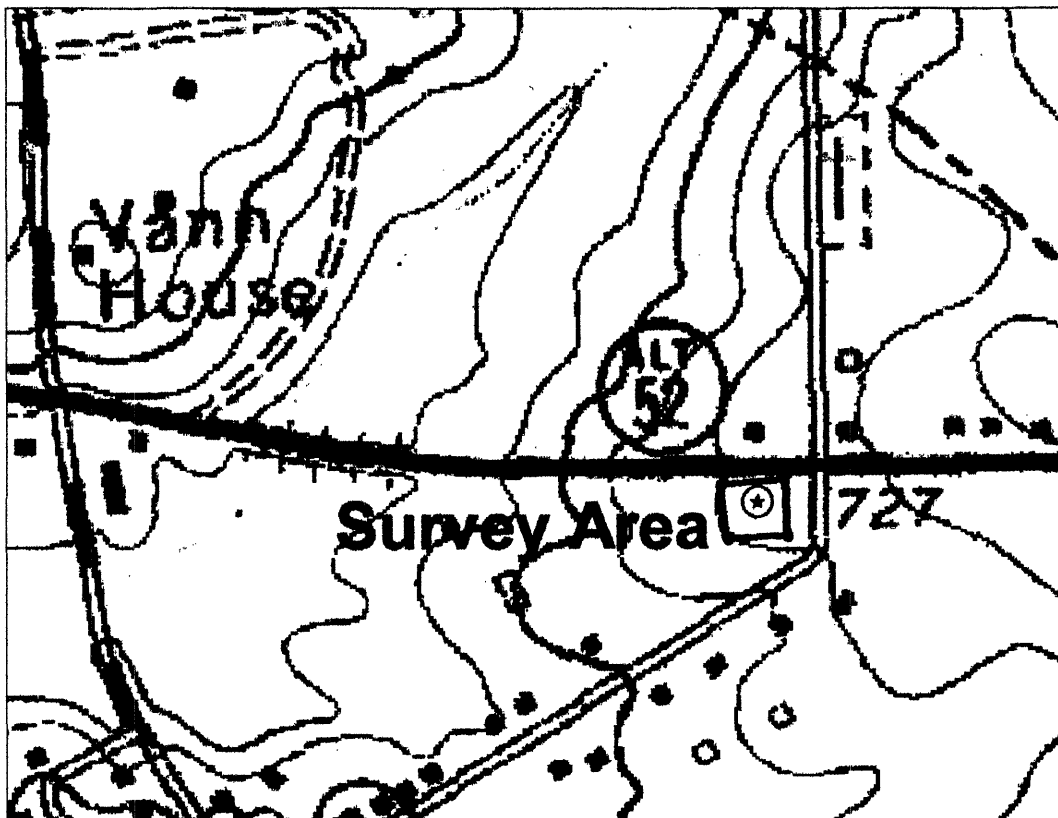
Attachment 1: Spring Place School



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Attachment 2: U.S.G.S. Topographical Map, detail, Spring Place mission site, Survey area



Survey Area: 

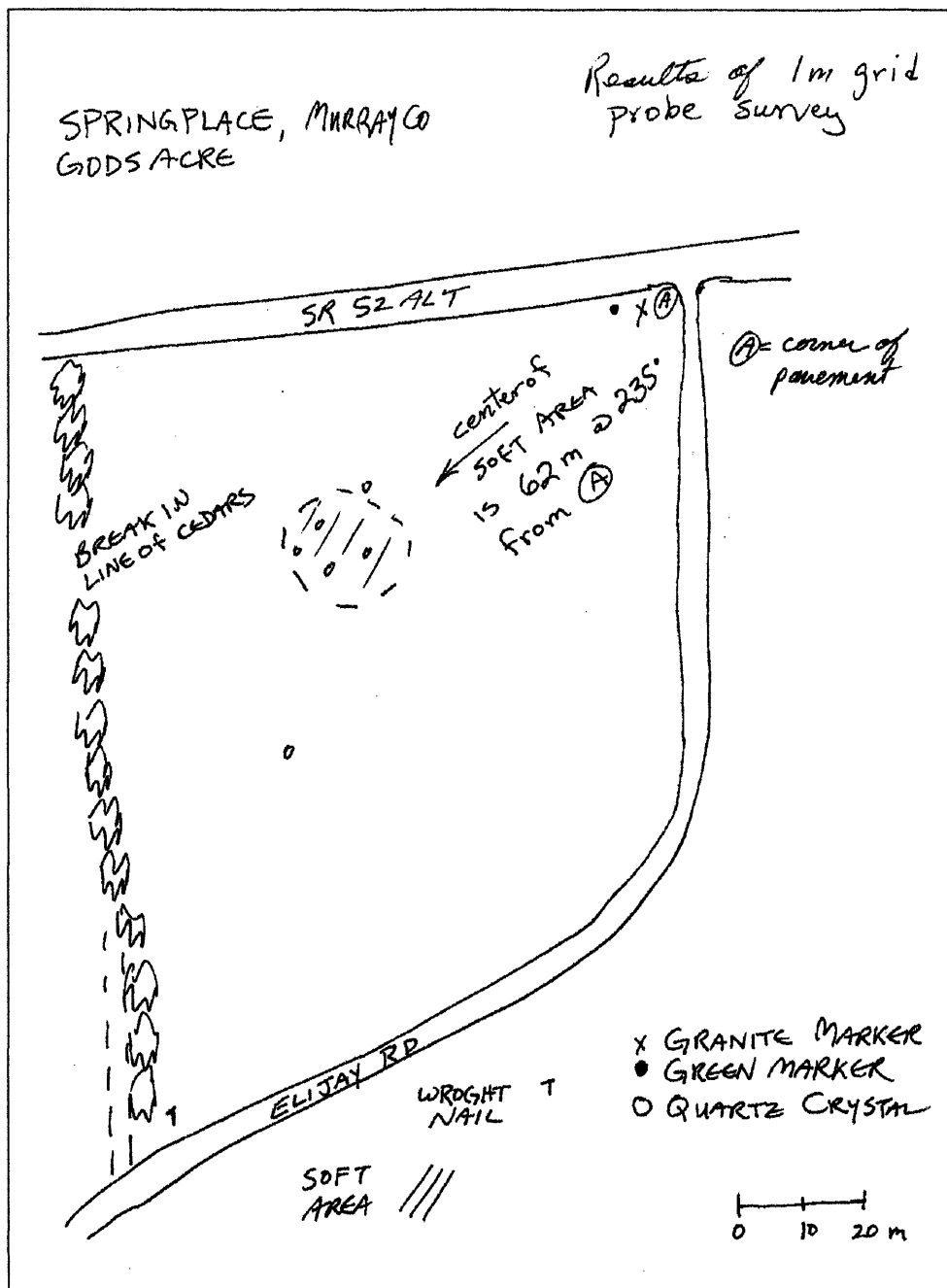
Scale: 1"= approximately 150 meters

North: ↑

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Attachment 3: Hand drawn map of mission site, 1999 survey area

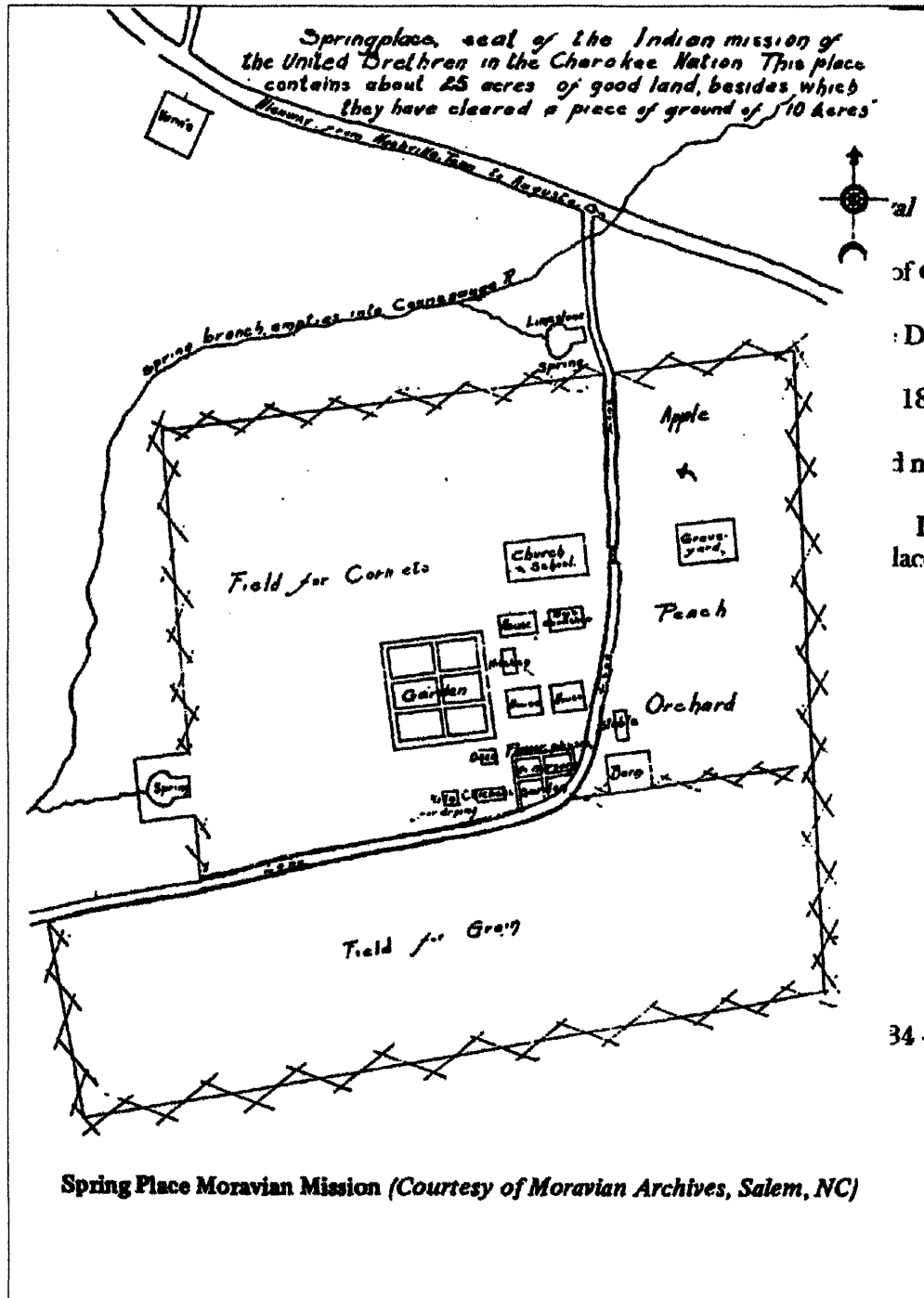


Scale: On map
North: ↑

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Attachment 4: Springplace Moravian mission

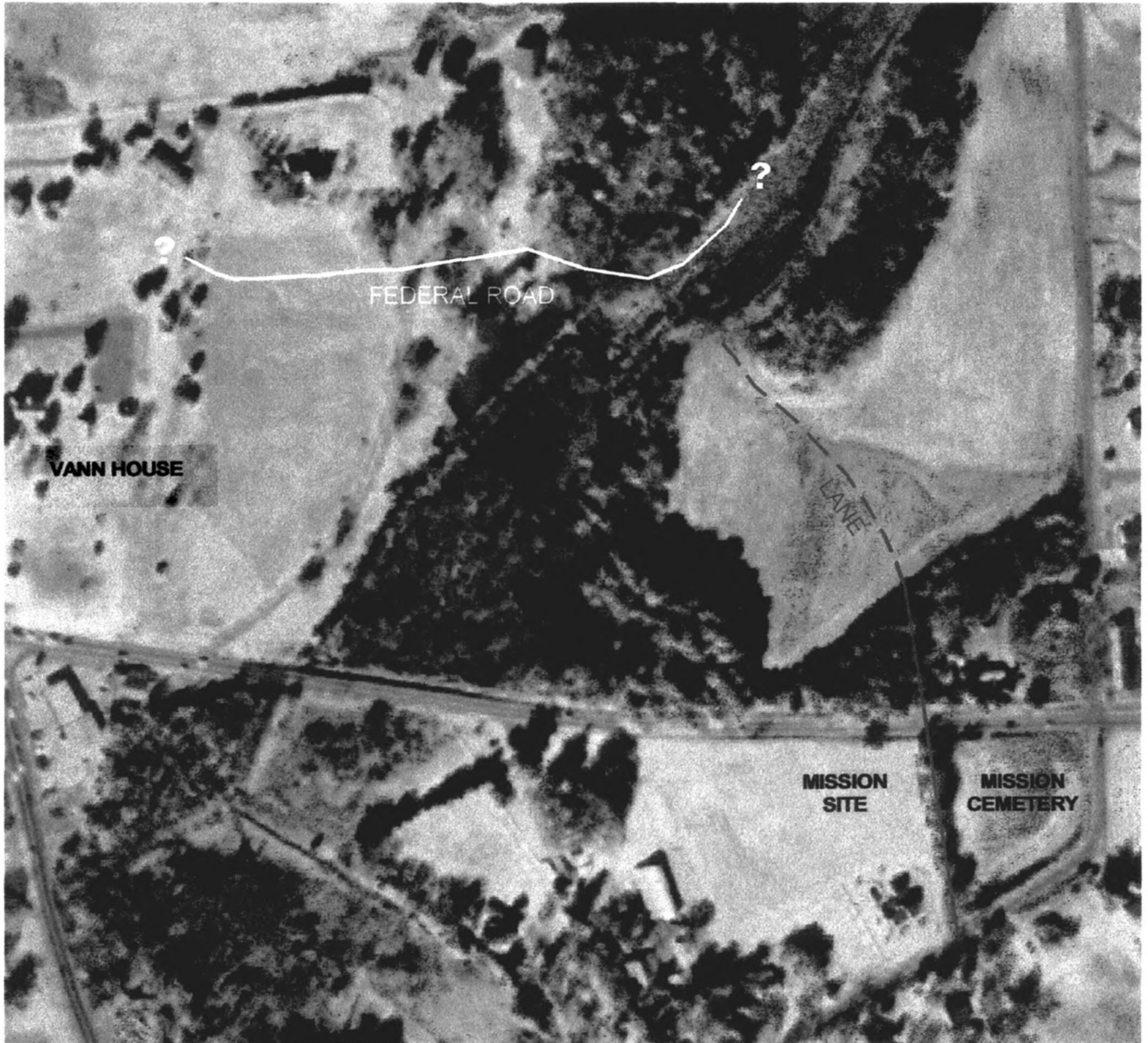


Scale: Not to scale
North: ↑

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Attachment 5: Ortho photograph (1999) of mission site and Vann House property



- : Mission Lane
- : Possible path of mission lane through field
- : Old Federal Road Trace

Scale: Not to scale
North: ↑

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Attachment 6: Treadwell Cemetery

