

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 6 1987
date entered AUG -6 1987

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

1. Name

historic Walthourville Presbyterian Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number Allenhurst Antioch Road (U.S. 82) N/A not for publication

city, town Walthourville N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Long code 183

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Walthourville Presbyterian Church c/o Mr. Richard Cohan

street & number P.O. Box 64

city, town Hinesville N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31313

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Long County Courthouse

city, town Ludowici state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description:

The Walthourville Presbyterian Church is a frame structure, designed in a vernacular Gothic Revival manner, located in a rural setting. The church features a centrally placed belfry which dominates the entrance elevation. With the exception of the square headed main entrance, all window and door openings are lancet arched. The interior of the church retains all its original church furniture, including kerosene lighting fixtures which have been wired for electric lights.

The Walthourville Presbyterian Church is located approximately two miles southeast of the town of Walthourville, on the coastal plain of southeast Georgia. The church is rectangular in form, and its main elevation faces the northeast. The entrance front of the church is dominated by the three-stage belfry and steeple, which is attached to the front wall and does not penetrate into the mass of the church sanctuary. The front gabled roof of the church is only slightly lower in height than the peak of the steeple. The belfry forms an entrance portico, the steps and platform of which are of concrete, the only modern material addition to the entire church fabric. Paneled double doors provide access to the interior of the church. To either side of the entrance are narrow lancet-arched windows, fitted with full length louvered shutters. The faces of each of the three stages of the belfry also contain lancet-arched openings fitted with louvered shutters, but these serve only as ventilators for the tower and are not fitted with any glazing. The uppermost stage of the tower features lancet-arched openings on the sides as well as the front. The belfry is capped by a steeply pitched four-sided steeple.

The side elevations of the church are identical, each being fitted with four lancet-arched window openings. These windows are fitted with paired double-hung sash. The openings are fitted with full-length louvered shutters, the lower 2/3rds of which are hinged open allowing light into the church interior. The upper sections of the shutters appear to be fixed in the closed position. The rear elevation of the church contains a small projection from the mass of the structure which provides a secondary entrance to the interior just behind the altar podium.

Upon entering the church from the double doors of the main elevation, one is placed beneath the balcony at the rear of the church sanctuary. The balcony is supported by two square columns set just behind the last row of seating. Access to the balcony is provided by a staircase set to the left of the entry. The seating is divided into three sections by two aisles. The central section is the largest in terms of capacity. Each of the three seating sections contains eight original heart pine church pews. The church altar is set slightly above the main floor level, and is placed beneath a broad, round arch which dominates the rear wall of the interior. On each side of the altar are two additional church pews, set parallel to the side walls. The clear glazing of the church windows permits a maximum of daylight into the interior. Natural light is supplemented by a pair of original kerosene fixtures hung from the center of the ceiling, as well as a series of relatively inobtrusive modern ceiling lights. The aisles of the church, as well as the perimeter around the altar are carpeted, with the remaining flooring areas left uncovered. The entire interior is whitewashed, as is the exterior of the church.

The church sits on a small, level plot of ground surrounded by a white picket fence. Adjacent to the nominated property is a modern fellowship hall.

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

Specific dates 1884 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significance:

The Walthourville Presbyterian Church fulfills Criteria C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a remarkably unaltered example of a late 19th-century vernacular Gothic Revival style church.

The Walthourville Presbyterian Church is the fourth church building to have served the needs of the Presbyterian faith in largely rural Long County. The first structure, erected in 1820, served as a meeting place for both Baptists and Presbyterians. In 1845 a Presbyterian church was erected, which was destroyed by fire in 1877. The following year a new church was completed, with that structure being destroyed in a storm in 1881. The present church was dedicated in July of 1884.

The church is exceptionally well preserved both on its exterior and interior, retaining all of the original design features and furnishings. With the exception of some recent interior lighting fixtures, there has been almost no modernization of the structure, and the church exists without the air conditioning which has become a fact of life along the coastal regions of Georgia. The remarkable physical integrity of the church can be partially explained by the fact that the congregation erected a concrete block Fellowship Hall just to the northwest of the church. This structure, which is not included in this nomination, clearly dates from after the Second World War.

The Long County Historic Resource Survey, conducted in 1974, identified only two rural church buildings in the county, neither of which display the same level of historic integrity evident on the Walthourville Presbyterian Church.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

1 contributing building

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anonymous. "A Short History of Walthourville Church" No publisher, no date.

Evans, Virginia Fraser, editor. Liberty County: A Pictorial History
Statesville, North Carolina. Grady Publishing, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name East of Ludowici, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is contained within a rectangle measuring approximately 115 feet by 170 feet. The short side of the boundary is the length of the fence which surrounds the church property on its long side. The long side of the boundary is the distance from the roadside drainage ditch to the most distant fence line. The selection of this boundary was based upon the placement, just to the northwest of the church, of the noncontributing fellowship hall. There are no other historic structures or objects on the church land.

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian
Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date June 19, 1987

street & number 205 Butler St., S.E., Suite 1462 telephone (404)656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

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 6/23/87

For NPS use only

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

National Register

date 8/7/87

John A. Brown
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

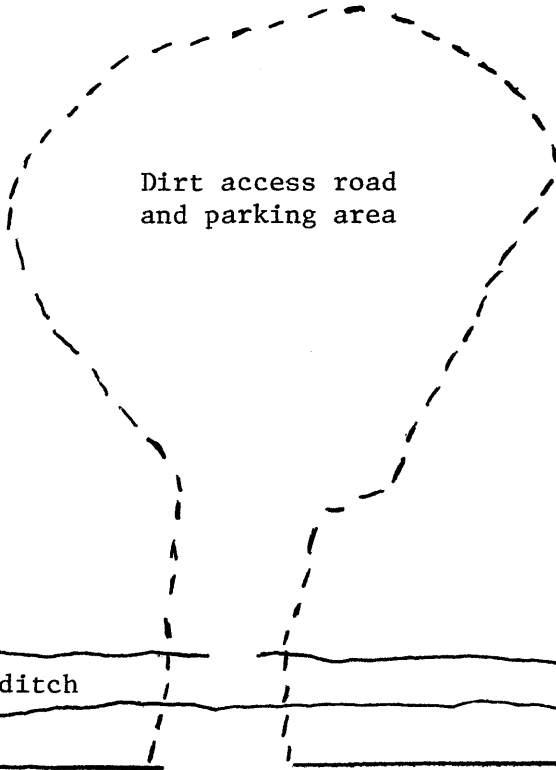
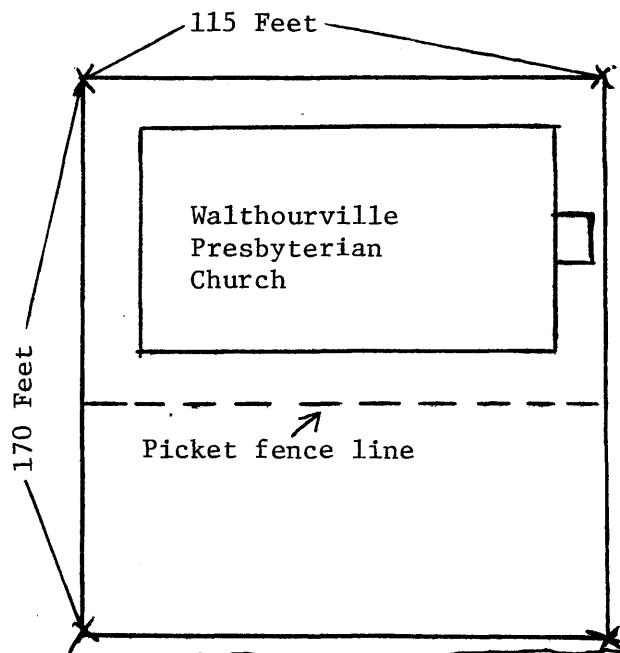
Chief of Registration

Site Sketch Plan
Walthourville Presbyterian Church
Long County, Georgia

Nominated property located within
rectangle marked at corners with Xs.

This plan not drawn to any scale

Fellowship Hall
(Not included in
nomination)



Drainage ditch

Highway

