

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name CITY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
other names/site number BREVARD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD STATION FMSF# 8BR01657

2. Location

street & number 3783 North Indian River Drive N/A not for publication
city or town Cocoa N/A vicinity
state FLORIDA code FL county Brevard code 009 zip code 32922

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 5/10/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 6/20/95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing

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

"N/A"

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

EDUCATION: School

SOCIAL: Civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School and Education Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Frame Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE PIERS

walls WOOD

roof METAL: Tin

other WOOD

GLASS

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- EDUCATION
- SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1885 - 1945

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hatch, A. L. - designer
Sanders, John M. - builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

City Point Community Church
Name of Property

Brevard, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7	5	2	4	1	9	0	3	1	4	3	9	2	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pamela Brabitz/Robert Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May, 1995

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough St. telephone 904-487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

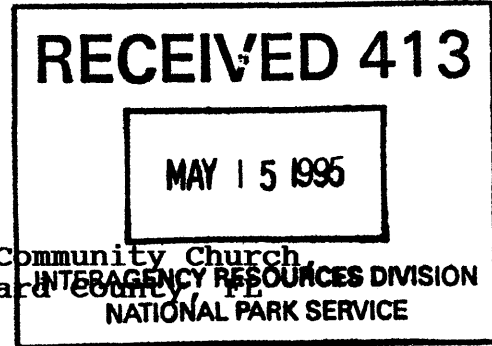
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City Point Community Church
Cocoa, Brevard County, FL
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The City Point Community Church, at 3783 North Indian River Drive, Cocoa, Brevard County, Florida, is a one story, front gabled building, resting on coquina piers. The exterior is covered with weatherboard. The tin roof has a prominent cupola over the front gable. An attached front porch with a hipped roof spans the main elevation and a bay on the rear that originally accommodated a pulpit area. Although now used as the Brevard County Environmental Field Study Station, the building has been little altered since it was built as a church and community building in 1885 (Photo 1).

SETTING

The Community Church is situated north of Cocoa in a clearing on the west bank of the Indian River. Enclosed on three sides by native cedar and oak trees, and bordered on the west by a Florida wetlands habitat, the setting is ideal for studying marine and wetlands ecology. Indian River Drive in front of the building is a low traffic, two lane road used as a scenic route by visitors and bicyclists. In an effort to maintain the river bank and deter erosion, native plants have been established. The planting of a butterfly garden using native flowering plants enhances the landscape and serves as an educational tool. Cedar trees on the south side of the building were planted by school children on Arbor Day, 1905 (Photo 2).

Unlike the pristine setting of the Indian River at the turn of the century, with heavily wooded shore lines, and an occasional passing sailboat, the view now includes high, four lane bridges spanning the river to the north and the south, large stacks of a power plant, and the giant Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Center. Houses line both sides of the river, and motorboats, diesel powered yachts, and jet skis speed by.

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City Point Community Church,
Cocoa, Brevard County, FL

Section number 7 Page 2

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

EXTERIOR FEATURES

The front of the building faces due east. A one-story attached porch extends across the entire front of the building and has a hipped tin roof that extends over wooden eaves. A simple wooden trim at the top, under the eaves, extends around the three open sides (Photo 3). The trim matches the porch rail. Tall, double, wooden doors have plain, long rectangular panels. A two light transom is above the door. Centered above the porch roof is a 1/1 window.

The north and south elevations mirror each other, each having four full-length, single 2/2 windows with wood pediments. About fifty percent of the glass is original blown glass (Photos 4 & 5).

On the west (rear) side of the building a three-sided bay extends through the rectangular form. The central section is a solid wall and the two angled walls each contain a window. On either side of this bay are portions of wall that compose the rectangular building. In the southerly section is a door, and from the northerly section juts a section of wood stove ventilation pipe (Photos 6 & 7).

Rising above the tree tops is a cross-gable roofed cupola that serves as a landmark from either land or water. This dominant feature gives the building its church-like appearance. The original bell tower was open on all sides. It was enclosed circa 1942. At present there is no access to the cupola.

The foundation piers are made of coquina stone, quarried in the vicinity. The size of the stones varies (Photos 8 & 9).

INTERIOR FEATURES

The simple interior reflects the form-following function design of this public meeting hall. The walls are tongue-

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in-groove, hardwood, painted white. A polygonal apse is at the west end of the building (Photos 10 & 11). This geometric construction is complimented by a three sided vaulted ceiling, also made of tongue-in-groove panels. Under the cupola, large bracing beams form an angle between the ceiling and vertical framing on either side of the front door (Photo 12).

Although currently covered with a layer of white paint, there is evidence of an original stencil design painted on the center section of the ceiling. The pattern appears to be a series of vines and bows which decorate the entire length of the center panel. This is the only evidence of decoration in the building.

On either side of the front door are small storage rooms. The one to the north includes a hot water heater and is the larger of the two. It is deep enough to include the first side window, and its ceiling is the height of that window. The storage room on the south side is smaller and contains a toilet and sink (Photo 13).

ALTERATIONS

During World War II the cupola was enclosed with windows on all sides and a stairway was constructed on the north side of the building to create an observation post for civil defense aircraft "spotters." The stair was removed after the war due to vandalism and safety reasons.

In 1988, the building was adapted for use as an Environmental Field Station. To permit public access, a city water line was installed and a septic tank was buried on the south side of the property. Ceiling fans and adequate lighting fixtures were installed, and the electrical wiring was brought up to code (Photo 14). The original wiring was left intact. Two rooms were added in the front interior, one to hold the hot water heater and provide storage and the other for a toilet, sink and storage. These rooms are simple installations of dry wall with lowered ceilings.

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City Point Community Church,
Cocoa, Brevard County, FL

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The City Point Community Church was built in 1885 by John M. Sanders according to designs by A. L. Hatch. It is significant under criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Social History and criterion C in the area of Architecture. The church, which retains its original appearance, was intended to serve as a place of worship for any Christian congregation, as a place to educate children, and as a meeting and recreational hall. The building still functions as an educational facility and is used for various public events.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The first white settlement came to the area in 1835 when soldiers built a fort and cleared trails for defense during the Second Seminole Indian War. Even after unfriendly Indians left the area, the rugged and tropical terrain and lack of roads or river transportation discouraged settlement along the banks of the Indian River. Few settled here before the Homestead Act of 1866 encouraged some families to move to the area. The county is still sparsely populated by current standards.

By the late 1880s, regular steamer service was available on the Indian River. The Upper St. John's River and Lake Poinsett route gave access to the Indian River from Florida's interior. Prominent pioneer H. S. Williams, later a State senator, spoke optimistically of the development and commerce he witnessed: "As the year 1890 fairly opens up to us, we can point to a railroad tapping over river, a fleet of steamers traversing its broad bosom, hotels ornamenting its lovely banks, a daily mail service and telegraphic communication." Henry Flagler's first train came to Titusville on February 6, 1893 and reached Cocoa and Rockledge later that month. Merritt Island had developed an economy based on cattle, pineapples, sugar cane, and citrus.

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City Point Community Church,
Cocoa, Brevard County, FL

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The Community Church served as a community center for various settlements in this rural area. The church is located roughly one half mile south of the community of Sharpes, a mile north of the community of City Point, and about three miles north of the city of Cocoa. A dock named Pinkerton's dock, just north of the church, was a ferry landing for the mile and a half cruise to Merritt Island. Sharpes was the most important community in the area at the end of the Civil War when settlers began to arrive. The community of Scrub City adopted its postal designation of Cocoa in the 1880s and began to grow as a transportation center.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Residents of City Point met the first Sunday in March, 1885 to make arrangements for a "Hall for Public, Religious and Educational purposes." Trustees were elected and a building committee appointed. John M. Sanders' bid for construction was accepted. The building was completed November 1, 1885. On November 15, 1885, the first church service was held: the members of the First United Methodist Church of Coco claim this as the start of their church. It became customary that as one denomination finished their service on Sunday morning, the people moved outdoors to picnic on the lawn, while another denomination's service commenced. Many groups first met in the City Point Church who later built their own churches. The Church of Christ, Church of God, Primitive Baptist, Calvin Baptist, Indian River Baptist, Baptist Enterprise Church, and First Apostolic Temple all utilized the building.

Almost from the beginning, the church was used as a school for children in the Sharpes/City Point area. As an original "little red schoolhouse", reported to have been located north of the church, fell into disrepair and the number of students outgrew it, children began to attend school in the church. In April of 1886, in an effort to dispose of the old school, the trustees chose to sell it to the "highest bidder within a week." Charles E. Williams, who was born in 1901, recalled attending school in the church up to the

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eighth grade. School Board references are made to a City Point School No. 3 from 1898 to 1920, and it is assumed that the church was this designated school.

Pinkerton dock was located just yards north of the church-school property. Recent interviews with Mrs. Williams, wife of the last trustee, indicate that there was a regular ferry service from Merritt Island that brought children to the City Point School. The practice of having a multiple-use community church is consistent with other local churches, including the 1869 Community Church in nearby LaGrange, which also served as a school and community club.

During World War II, the cupola of the City Point Community Church was used as an "observation tower" by ground observers. With the young men away at war, older citizens and young women manned the station. A stairway was built on the north side of the building to access the cupola. According to local residents, citizens took turns as spotters, watching the night skies for enemy aircraft, armed with binoculars, a recorder, and a telephone. Any suspicious aircraft was reported using the code, "get rice." According to Mrs. Williams and Russell Dixon, whose father coordinated this civil defense effort, these activities were moved to Pinkerton Dock. Begun in 1942, the precise dates of these activities is unknown.

The City Point community used the church as voting Precinct #3 until 1956. When voting began in the church is not yet determined but it was within the historic period. Until the middle of the 1950s the church served as a community center for City Point and Sharpes.

On October 31, 1979, Charles Williams, the sole surviving elected Trustee, deeded the property and church building to Brevard County, for "school, church and community purposes," and stipulated that it "shall not be used for any commercial or private purpose." The church needed repair and painting and funds were not available for its care.

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Cocoa, Brevard County, FL

In 1984, the Brevard Museum's Natural History Department leased the site for research and education. In 1987, the Brevard County Office for Natural Resources Management became interested in the church because of the proximity to the river and wetlands and its use as an educational tool. Later in 1987 and spring of 1988, the building was renovated and renamed the Environmental Field Station. Brevard Community College Science Department and Office of Community Placement with the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Division open the Field Station on a regular basis for natural science education. The current utilization is in keeping with the deed stipulations and continues to honor the tradition of the City Point Community Church as a focal point for the community.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Community Church is a significant example of vernacular architecture, designed by an early settler who was not an architect, and built by another early settler. The rectangular frame structure was built from local "Merritt Island cedar," and hand cut coquina. It is a simple structure that makes unusual use of a cupola.

Merritt Island cedar is really a hard pine, logged across the Indian River from the church. Lumber construction in the area was made possible when a mill was started in the early 1870s at Sand Point, at the northern end of the present city of Titusville, and fourteen miles north of the church. The logs were rafted up river and boards back down river to the site. Bartering lumber for millwork was common.

Coquina, used for the foundation piers, is the east coast of Florida's most distinctive building material. Coquina was used in the construction of the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, in 1672. Deposits around Cocoa were reported around the 1880s, and it was a popular material in early buildings. The city of Rockledge, Cocoa's immediate neighbor to the south, is named after the rock's outcropping.

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The building is well proportioned and simply detailed. The cupola is creatively used. Cupolas are usually situated in the center of a roof and serve as a ventilator. At the City Point Church, the cupola was placed over the front gable where it served as a bell tower and defined the building as a church. The cross-gable roof of the cupola gives it added visual distinction.

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CITY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH,
COCOA, BREVARD CO., FL

Section number 9 Page 1

BOOKS:

Childers, F. M., Rev. E. K. Ewing, G. Ratliff. Centennial History of: First United Methodist Church, n.p., 1985.

Johnson, S., A Guide to Florida's Historic Architecture. University of Florida Press: Gainesville, Florida, 1989.

Kjerulff, Georgiana G., Tales of Old Brevard. Kellersberger Fund of the South, Brevard Historical Society, Inc., 1990.

PERIODICAL:

Goethe, N., "Museum Leases Old Church Site," Florida Today, (newspaper) July 30, 1984.

PUBLIC RECORDS:

Shuping, P. D., J. A. Nyman, G. C. Blackburn, Charles E. Williams, Trustees for City Point Community Building and Brevard County, Public Records of Brevard County, Florida, Deed Book 333, p.280, January 17, 1950.

Williams, C. E. and Brevard County, Public Records of Brevard County, Florida, Quit-Claim Deed, October 31, 1979.

BREVARD COUNTY. Facilities Management Requisitions.

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Section number 10 Page 1 CITY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH,
BREVARD COUNTY, FL

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

243605 Lot 1, Parcel #505 & 506
Acreage 0.40

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is defined by the dark broken line as shown on the enclosed site plan.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the City Point Community Church.

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City Point Community Church,
Cocoa, Brevard Co., FL

Photographs
Section number _____ Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS AND FIGURES

1. City Point Community Church
3783 North Indian River Drive, Cocoa
2. Brevard County, Florida
3. Justin Strynchuk
4. December 7, 1993
5. Brevard County Natural Resources Management Division
6. Southeast elevation, camera facing northwest
7. photo 1 of 14

The information of items 1-5 is the same for the remaining photographs:

6. Eastern elevation, camera facing west
7. photo 2 of 14

6. Detail of front porch, camera facing southwest
7. photo 3 of 14

6. North elevation, camera facing south
7. photo 4 of 14

6. South elevation, camera facing northeast
7. photo 5 of 14

6. Southwest elevation, camera facing northeast
7. photo 6 of 14

6. Northwest elevation, showing stove pipe, camera facing southeast
7. photo 7 of 14

6. Detail of coquina foundation, camera facing north
7. photo 8 of 14

6. Detail of coquina foundation, camera facing west
7. photo 9 of 14

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City Point Community Church,
Cocoa, Brevard Co., FL

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 2

-
6. West wall of interior, showing apse, camera facing west
 7. photo 10 of 14

 6. Southwest view of interior, camera facing southwest
 7. photo 11 of 14

 6. Northeast view of interior, showing cupola bracing beams, camera facing northeast
 7. photo 12 of 14

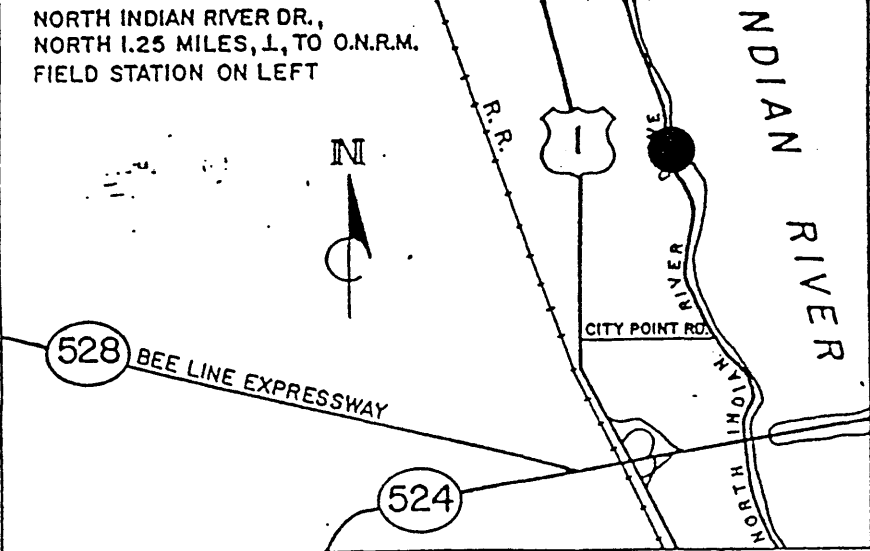
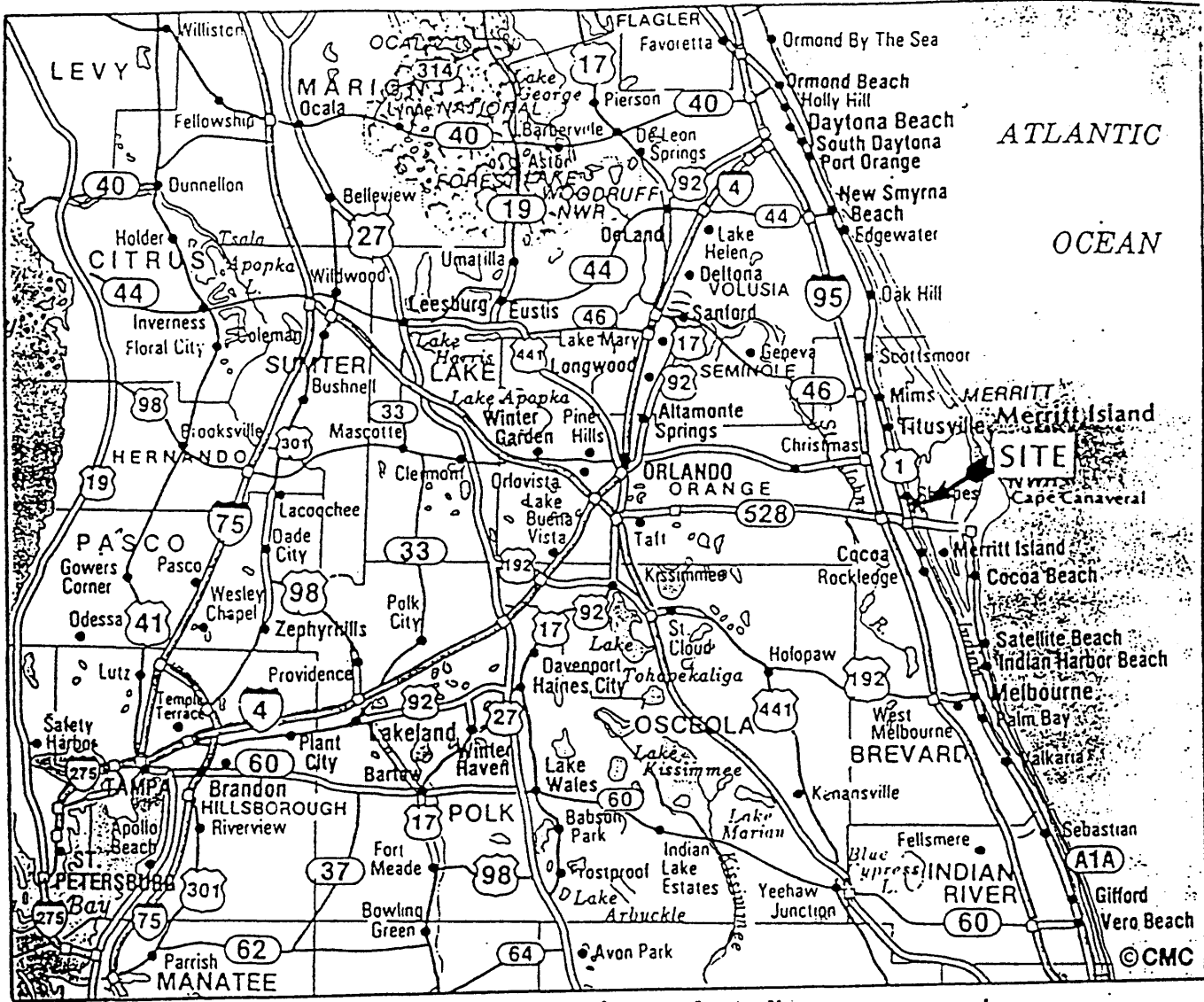
 6. Detail of utility room, camera facing southeast
 7. photo 13 of 14

 6. Detail of electrical connection, camera facing northwest
 7. photo 14 of 14

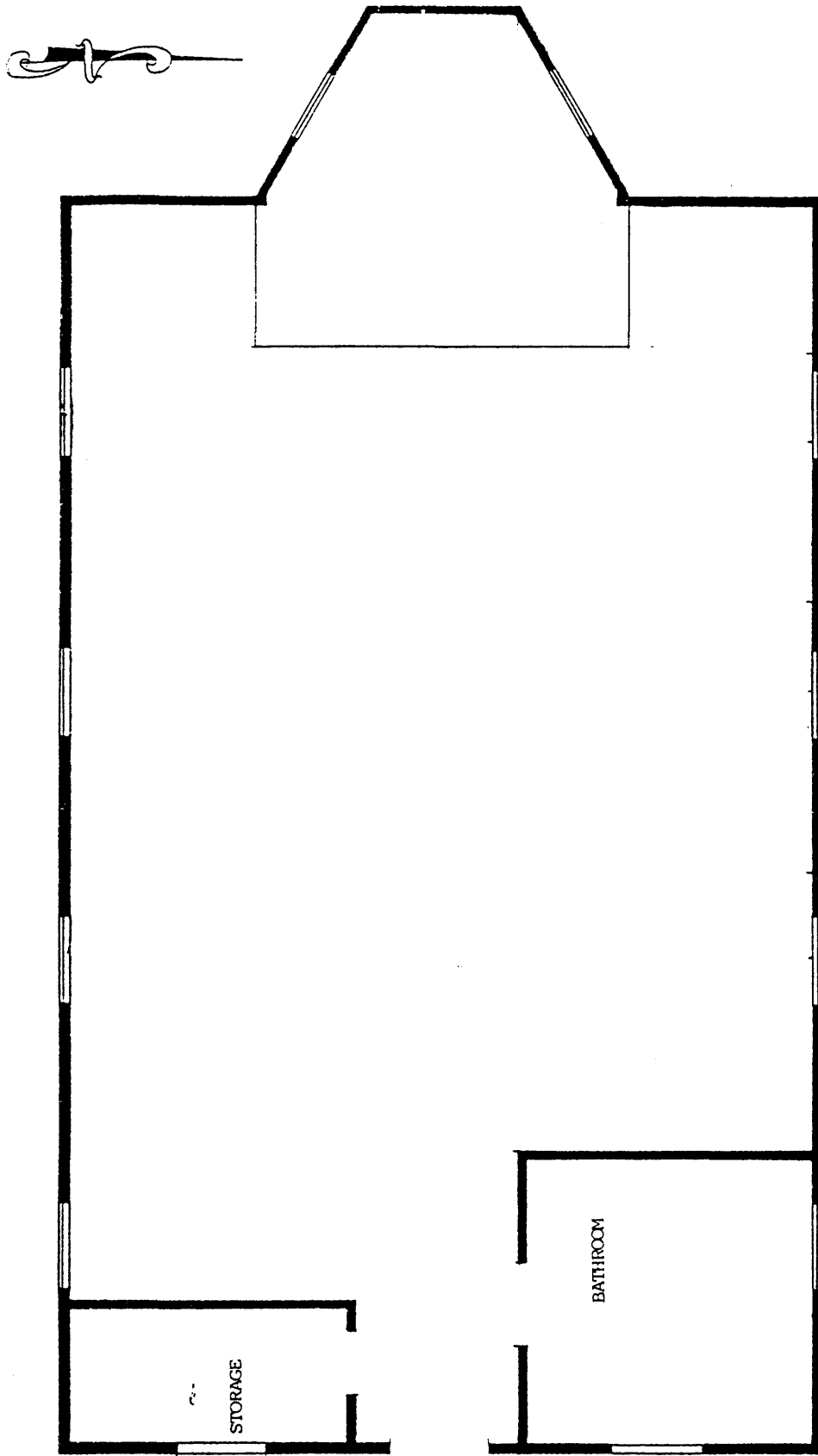
 1. City Point Community Church
3783 North Indian River Drive, Cocoa
 2. Brevard County, Florida
 3. Lois Stark
 4. April 9, 1987
 5. Polaroid photo
 6. Southeast elevation, camera facing northwest
 7. figure 1 of 2

The information of items 1-6 is the same for the remaining figure:

7. figure 2 of 2

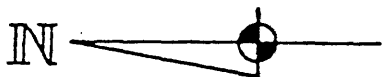


Site and Location Map



O.N.R.M. FIELD STATION
.25" = 1 FT.

CITY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH, COCOA, BREVARD COUNTY, FL

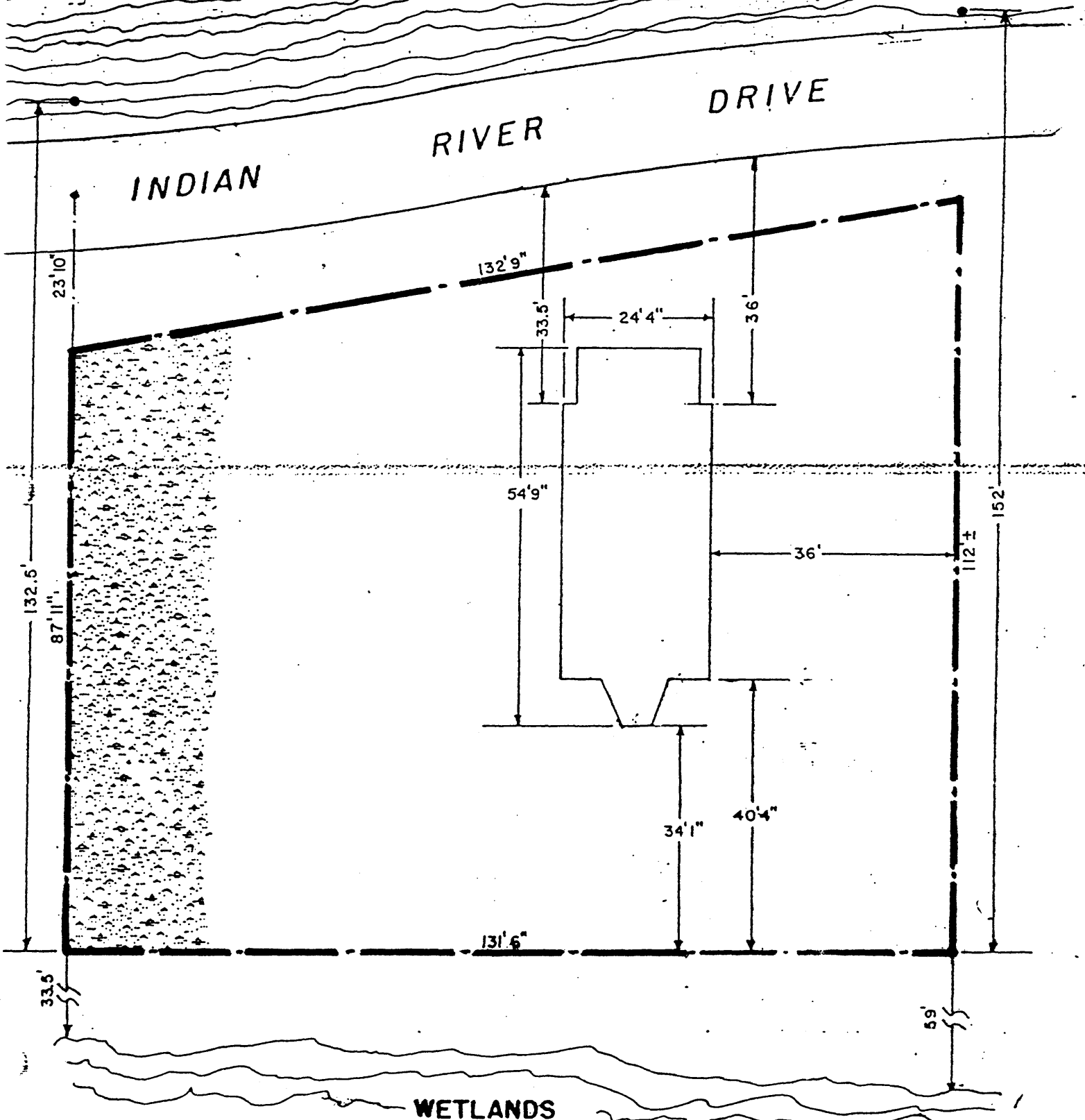


INDIAN RIVER

INDIAN

RIVER

DRIVE

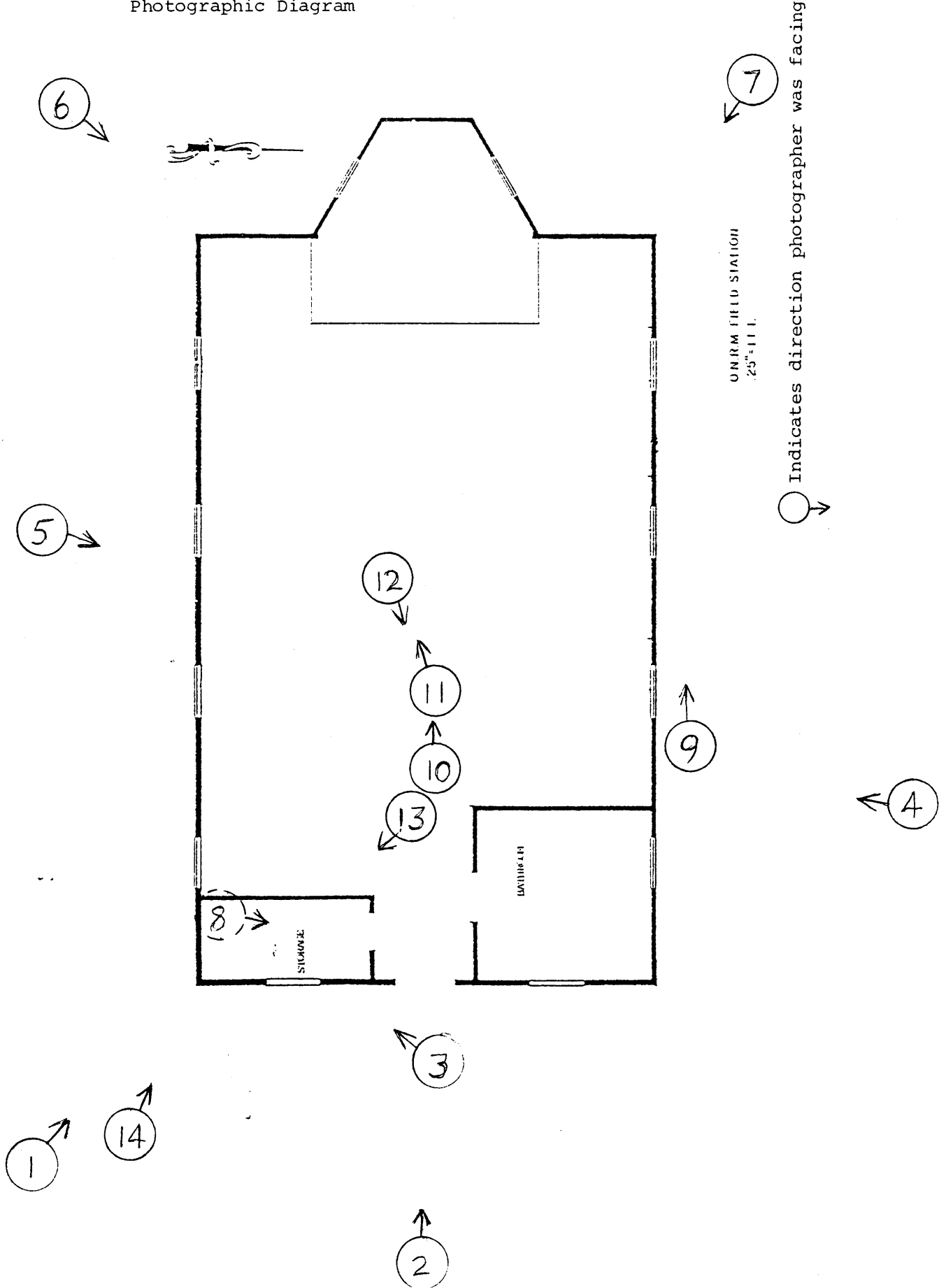


WETLANDS

Site Plan Showing Boundaries and Resources

City Point Community Church, Cocoa, Brevard County, FL

Photographic Diagram



FIGURES 1 & 2



Baptist Church
River Road 4/9/87



Baptist Church
River Road

4/9/87