

1255
OMB No. 1024-0018

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 GREENVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Greenville Rocky Mount Road, off GA 41/US27 Alternate
city, town Greenville (X) vicinity of
county Meriwether **code** GA 199
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30222

() not for publication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	1	0
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0
Name of previous listing: n/a
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.

W. Ray Luce

12/19/01

Signature of certifying official

Date

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and
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

Elson A. Beal *2.5.02*

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Beal

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: rural vernacular church

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Greenville Presbyterian Church and Cemetery includes a small (approx. 29' x 45'), one-story, rectangular wood-frame church building (photograph 3) with wood lap siding, continuous brick foundation over older piers, double-hung windows, single entrance door on the south side and two doors on the north (rear) side of the church. (Photograph 5.) The church sits on the north end of the site with the cemetery to the south and west. (Photographs 1 and 2.) A gravel drive approaches the church from the south, then wraps around the west and north sides of the building, providing parking there. There is a side-gable, asphalt-shingle roof with remnants of tin and cedar roofs underneath. The windows are 9/9 double-hung sash. There are foundation plantings around the doors and on the west side of the building. On the interior, there is a single room with a raised pulpit at the north end. (Photograph 6.) In the south half of the room, two rows of seven benches face the pulpit. (Photograph 7.) There are also hand-hewn benches on both sides of the pulpit, originally for the choir. The interior walls, floors, and ceilings are wood and are intact. The interior includes four support posts within the room, and they have ledges on which oil lamps are placed. There is very simple interior ornamentation. There are no outbuildings. The church has a grassed yard on its west side with a wooden table under large oak trees. From there, the property slopes slightly to the south and west, so that portions of the cemetery sit below the church. The cemetery has an iron entrance gate (photograph 4), and a low rock wall, recently restored, surrounds much of the cemetery. The cemetery has burials dating back to the early days of the church and reflects a variety of different tombstones and materials. (Photographs 8 through 15 for the white section and photographs 16 and 17 for the African-American section.) The site is surrounded by forest company property on both sides of Greenville Rocky Mount Road. Changes to the church include the 1940s addition of a tin roof, now covered over, the repair and bolstering of the floor joists, the bricking in of the foundation,

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Section 7--Description

and the covering of the exterior lap siding with asbestos siding, removed in May 1998. The building was recently reroofed; the rock wall adjoining the cemetery was also recently restored.

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):

ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

Period of Significance:

1836-1952

Significant Dates:

1836, 1943

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

unknown

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Greenville Church is significant in architecture as a good example of a simple, one- room, wooden, country church which retains its original wooden walls, windows, floors, ceiling, hand-hewn benches, and chamfered posts, and reflects the simple style of country churches prevalent in the rural south. The church interior includes the ledges for oil lamps, a feature often lost in modernization of other churches. Like many rural churches it is accompanied by a church cemetery which is contemporary with the church building.

The church is also significant in religion because it is a Presbyterian Church in a rural setting. This faith was rare in Georgia, a state in which in 1850 the U.S. Census reported 90 % of all persons reported were either Baptist or Methodists and of the remaining, Presbyterians were a very small part, and the majority of these were in the cities and county-seat towns. This congregation was organized in 1829, only two years after the area was opened for settlement following the removal of the Native Americans and the distribution of their former land in the 1827 land lottery. This church was built c.1836 and has remained a very rare, rural example of a Presbyterian Church in Georgia. The Presbyterians of Greenville chose to sell the lot designated for them in the town plan and build their church in a rural setting. The church was associated with the Stacy Presbyterian Church which eventually was built in Greenville. Services often alternated between the two churches. By 1963, the Greenville Presbyterian Church closed. In 1972, the church reopened and the Presbyterians used it in the summer and the town church in the winter. Currently, Sunday services are conducted weekly, year-round, with a congregation numbering about 20, since the in-town church closed and the building was sold in 1998. For the last several years, the church has used student preachers.

National Register Criteria

The Greenville Presbyterian Church meets National Register Criterion A because as a small, rural church it fits in to the broad patterns of American history, that of the growth of religion on the frontier, and this church was established in 1836, less than a decade after the county was opened for settlement. It is also important that it was a Presbyterian church, one of only a few antebellum Presbyterian congregations in Georgia, a state predominately Baptist and Methodist. The adjacent cemetery also fits in to the early frontier settlement nature of the church, as many rural churches also established cemeteries. The building meets Criterion C because it retains a large amount of its original materials, including its one room shape, wooden walls, windows, ceiling, benches, and posts. It is a very plain composition in keeping with churches of that era but still retains after over 160 years the look and feel of a church without any signage or other designation.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

This property meets Criteria Consideration A because it is a religious property that derives its major significance from its architectural style and distinctiveness as well as its historical significance as a rare rural Presbyterian church founded on the Georgia frontier.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance runs from the building of the church (1836) until the end of the historic era (1952) because the building has continued to be used as a church.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

There are two contributing resources. The church is a contributing building. The cemetery is a contributing structure.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Meriwether County grew rapidly after the 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs and subsequent 1827 Land Lottery. The county was created from Troup County in 1827. Within a few years, the 1830 Census recorded a Meriwether county population of over 4,000. The population continued to grow rapidly until 1850. Much of the early settlement appears to have been in and around Greenville, the county seat.

"Plain churches" were among the first buildings constructed in "every neighborhood" of the county, according to early accounts. When Greenville was laid out in 1828, lots were deeded for a Methodist, a Baptist, and a Presbyterian church. The Presbyterians sold their lot (lot 71) and subsequently built the Greenville Presbyterian Church just north of town on the Greenville Rocky Mount Road.

The Greenville Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. Edward Lanier and Rev. Jesse Stratton on Friday, March 27, 1829. Eight charter members were enrolled, with two of them elected as Ruling Elders. Before one of these elders was installed, he was baptized first, and the following Monday, his infant son was baptized too. These father and son baptisms were the first rites administered by this church.

From the church's earliest days, a prominent Meriwether County family, the Gastons, were instrumental in the growth and development of the Greenville Presbyterian Church. Originally from South Carolina, the Gastons became well known as farmers and planters in Meriwether County. Alexander R. and Mary Gaston were described as "pillars" of the Greenville Presbyterian Church. When Alexander died in 1842,

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

it was noted on his tombstone that he was ruling elder of the church "20 years previous to his death." Many of Alexander and Mary's descendants are buried in the Greenville Presbyterian Church cemetery.

In March 1835, the church conducted a special two-day meeting, the object of which was "the opening of the door of the church for the reception of new members." The church obtained the property for its church building on Greenville Rocky Mount Road from George Gallman on May 17, 1836.

The first recorded report of the church to Presbytery was in 1837, when that body held its spring session in Decatur, Georgia. The Presbytery was then known as Flint River Presbytery and included most of western Georgia within its territory. It bore that name until 1867, when the territory of the Presbytery was divided into Atlanta and Macon Presbyteries, and this church, Greenville, fell to Atlanta Presbytery.

The report of the church at that time (1837) showed that there were "39 communicant members, infants baptized during the past year - 6. Adult baptisms - 5, and there was contributed to the support of the gospel - \$106."

Church records show that from 1882 to 1886, the church languished and number of members dropped to 12. In 1886 a motion was made within the Atlanta Presbytery to drop the Greenville church from its roll and direct the members to unite with the nearest Presbyterian Church. However, an alternate motion was accepted to send Dr. James Stacy to Greenville to hold a meeting and report back to the Presbytery. During Dr. Stacy's meeting, 12 new members were received into the Greenville Presbyterian Church, resolving the problem. Dr Stacy was a major figure among Georgia Presbyterians.

During the first few decades of the twentieth century, membership typically ranged from 20 to 30. A report for the 1937-38 year showed membership to be 31, with church property valued at \$1,500.

Records for the 1942-43 year showed a membership of 47, church property valued at \$1,500, and repairs to the church building costing \$600.

In 1943, the Atlanta Presbytery merged the Greenville Presbyterian Church with its city counterpart, the Stacy Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenville, which had been constructed in 1886, destroyed by tornado in 1893, and rebuilt that same year (1893). The Greenville Presbyterian Church was cited as the mother church and the Stacy church her "child." All members of the Stacy Presbyterian Church were enrolled in the records of the Greenville Presbyterian Church. The services were alternated between the two buildings, with first and third Sundays at the country church and second and fourth Sundays in town. The relationship between the two churches was maintained for the next five decades.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

In February, 1952 the combined congregation decided to hold services once a month at the "country church." There would be no help from the Presbytery and all expenses would be paid by the members of the church.

In 1954, the Greenville Presbyterian Church traded two acres on the east side of Greenville Rocky Mount Road for two acres on the west side, where the church and cemetery are located.

In 1963, services were discontinued at the Greenville Presbyterian Church. The church then fell vacant until 1972, when the congregation decided to hold a 6-day summer revival at the site. The congregation set to work cleaning up the church and cemetery for the event. The reopening of the church drew over 100 people. The congregation subsequently decided to use the country church during the summer months and the city church during the winter. That schedule was following for a number of years.

Interest in, and devotion to, this historic church has grown since then. Today, Sunday services are conducted weekly, year-round, at the Greenville Presbyterian Church. Bible study classes are held every Wednesday evening. Special events include Christmas programs and picnics. The congregation numbers about 20. They re-roofed the building a few years ago. Their last regular preacher served from 1982-1992. For the last three years, the church has used student preachers.

In April, 1998, the Greenville Presbyterian Church sold the Stacy Presbyterian Church building to the Greenville United Methodist Church. The small congregation of the Greenville Presbyterian Church is now turning its attention to necessary repairs to the building, the cemetery, and to getting the property listed on the National Register.

The cemetery has been located on the church grounds since the earliest days. There is a white and black burial area within the cemetery. Many prominent local citizens are buried at the Greenville Presbyterian Church cemetery. This list includes some of the community's founders, and three State legislators (Joseph, Alexander and John Gaston), as well as a giant (John A. Gaston), whose tombstone records his weight and height (recorded as 430 pounds and 7 ft"). A largely unmarked, overgrown portion of the woods just past the south wall of the cemetery, in the southwest portion of the property, contains the remains of slaves and other African Americans, two of which markers have the dates 1890 and 1898. Some of these gravesites have collapsed. There are remnants of marker stones scattered throughout the woods. The cemetery survey reported 141 stone markers in the African-American section.

9. Major Bibliographic References

This is the bibliography prepared for the original submission:

Church Histories and Records:

Argroves, Mrs. Harry (Dorothy B.) and Mrs. Eleanor Kelley Lasseter. *History of the Greenville Presbyterian Church, 1929-1976, America's Bicentennial Year, Prepared from: Minutes of the Church, Personal Knowledge, News Items.* 1976.

Banning, W. (Clerk of Session). *Greenville Presbyterian Church Record, Transcribed from Old Record, Roll of Members and Minutes of Sessions from March 27, 1829, the Time of the Organization of the Church to September 1867.* 1867.

Dozier, Rev. W. E. *History of the Greenville Presbyterian Church, Greenville, Georgia.* 1929.

Turner, Priscilla. *Meriwether County, Georgia Cemeteries.* Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1993.

County Histories:

Davidson, William H. *Brooks of Honey and Butter: Plantations and People of Meriwether County, Georgia, Volume II.* Alexander City, AL: Outlook Publishing Company, 1971.

Pinkston, Regina P. *Historical Account of Meriwether County 1827 - 1974.* Greenville, GA: Gresham Printing Company, 1974.

County Plans:

Joint Comprehensive Plan: Meriwether County, Town of Gay, City of Greenville, Town of Lone Oak, Town of Luthersville, City of Manchester, City of Warm Springs, City of Woodbury. Prepared by the Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center, Franklin, Georgia, 1994.

County Records at County Courthouse:

Deed, dated 17 May 1836, conveying property for the church and cemetery from George Gallman to Trustees of Presbyterian Congregation, as recorded at Meriwether County Courthouse, Greenville, Georgia, Deed Book E, Page 32.

Warranty Deed, dated 25 March 1954, by and between Greenville Presbyterian Church and R. D. Murphy, Jr, exchanging 2-acre parcel owned by the church on east side of Greenville Rocky Mount Road for 2-acre parcel owned by Mr. Murphy on west side, as recorded at Meriwether County Courthouse, Greenville, Georgia, Page 371.

Warranty Deed, dated 20 April 1998, conveying Stacy Presbyterian Church from the Greenville Presbyterian Church to the Greenville United Methodist Church, as recorded at Meriwether County Courthouse, Greenville, Georgia, Deed Book 393, Pages 321-323.

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Section 9--Major Bibliographic References

Interviews:

Charles Kelley, Elder, May, 1998, Greenville, Georgia, interviewed by Lynne Miller.

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 3.4 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 714240 Northing 3660700

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed 1998 plat map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all the current owners own at this location. It includes the church, its accompanying cemetery, and their immediate setting.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Ave. SW, Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** December 17, 2001

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

name/title Lynne S. Miller
organization Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center
street and number P.O.Box 1600
city or town Franklin **state** GA **zip code** 30217
telephone 706-854-6026

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Greenville Presbyterian Church and Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Greenville vicinity
County: Meriwether
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 2000

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 17: Church, front facade, as seen from cemetery; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 17: Church, front facade, as seen from near the road; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 17: Church, front facade, and east facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 17: Church, front facade and west facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 17: Rear or north facade of church with handicapped access ramp; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 17: Church, interior, looking toward the pulpit; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 17: Church, interior, looking toward the front entrance; photographer facing south.
- 8 of 17: Cemetery with rock wall with road behind photographer and church out of picture to far right; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 17: Cemetery, just to the right of previous picture, with church out of the picture to the far right; photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 17: Cemetery, closer look at grave markers in the far right of photograph no. 9, with rock wall in background; photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 17: Cemetery gate near front entrance of the church and showing grave markers to right of gate that are in the previous photograph no. 10; photographer facing south/southwest.

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Photographs

12 of 17: Cemetery showing plot with iron fence in center of the cemetery; photographer facing north.

13 of 17: Cemetery, showing plot on far southwest side of cemetery also shown in photograph no. 1; photographer facing west.

14 of 17: Cemetery, northwest corner showing rock wall and looking toward southwest corner gravestones; photographer facing southwest.

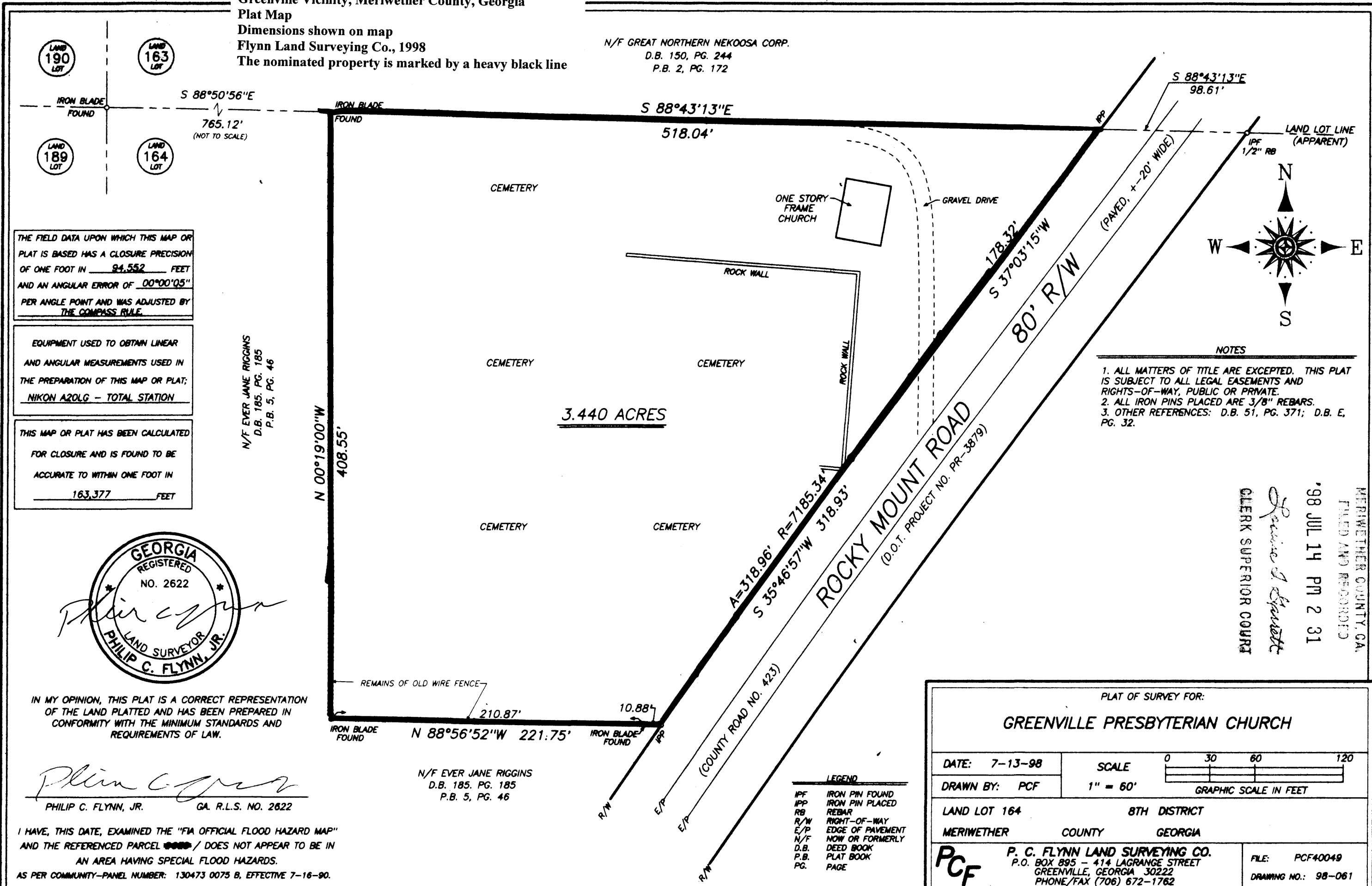
15 of 17: Cemetery showing closeup of Woodmen of the World markers that look like trees, one in foreground, one in left background, lot with iron fence (photo 12) in right rear, all in the center area; photographer facing northeast.

16 of 17: Cemetery, the wooded area where African-Americans are buried in the southwest section of the cemetery; photographer facing north.

17 of 17: Cemetery, the wooded area where unmarked African-American graves are buried in the southwest corner of the property; photographer facing north.

Greenville Presbyterian Church & Cemetery
 Greenville Vicinity, Meriwether County, Georgia
 Plat Map
 Dimensions shown on map
 Flynn Land Surveying Co., 1998
 The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line

N/F GREAT NORTHERN NEKOOSA CORP.
 D.B. 150, PG. 244
 P.B. 2, PG. 172



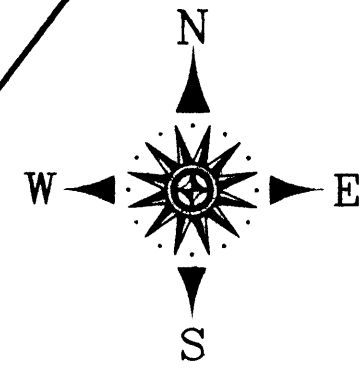
THE FIELD DATA UPON WHICH THIS MAP OR PLAT IS BASED HAS A CLOSURE PRECISION OF ONE FOOT IN 24,552 FEET AND AN ANGULAR ERROR OF 00°00'05\"/>

EQUIPMENT USED TO OBTAIN LINEAR AND ANGULAR MEASUREMENTS USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP OR PLAT; NIKON A20LG - TOTAL STATION

THIS MAP OR PLAT HAS BEEN CALCULATED FOR CLOSURE AND IS FOUND TO BE ACCURATE TO WITHIN ONE FOOT IN 163,377 FEET

N/F EVER JANE RIGGINS
 D.B. 185, PG. 185
 P.B. 5, PG. 46

N/F EVER JANE RIGGINS
 D.B. 185, PG. 185
 P.B. 5, PG. 46



- NOTES
1. ALL MATTERS OF TITLE ARE EXCEPTED. THIS PLAT IS SUBJECT TO ALL LEGAL EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE.
 2. ALL IRON PINS PLACED ARE 3/8\"/>

MERIWETHER COUNTY, GA.
 FILED AND RECORDED
 '98 JUL 14 PM 2 31
 CLERK SUPERIOR COURT
Jessie J. Spawth



IN MY OPINION, THIS PLAT IS A CORRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE LAND PLATTED AND HAS BEEN PREPARED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF LAW.

Philip C. Flynn, Jr.
 PHILIP C. FLYNN, JR. GA. R.L.S. NO. 2622

I HAVE, THIS DATE, EXAMINED THE "FIA OFFICIAL FLOOD HAZARD MAP" AND THE REFERENCED PARCEL DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN AN AREA HAVING SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS.
 AS PER COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER: 130473 0075 B, EFFECTIVE 7-16-90.

- LEGEND
- IPF IRON PIN FOUND
 - IPP IRON PIN PLACED
 - RB REBAR
 - R/W RIGHT-OF-WAY
 - E/P EDGE OF PAVEMENT
 - N/F NOW OR FORMERLY
 - D.B. DEED BOOK
 - P.B. PLAT BOOK
 - PG. PAGE

PLAT OF SURVEY FOR:
GREENVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

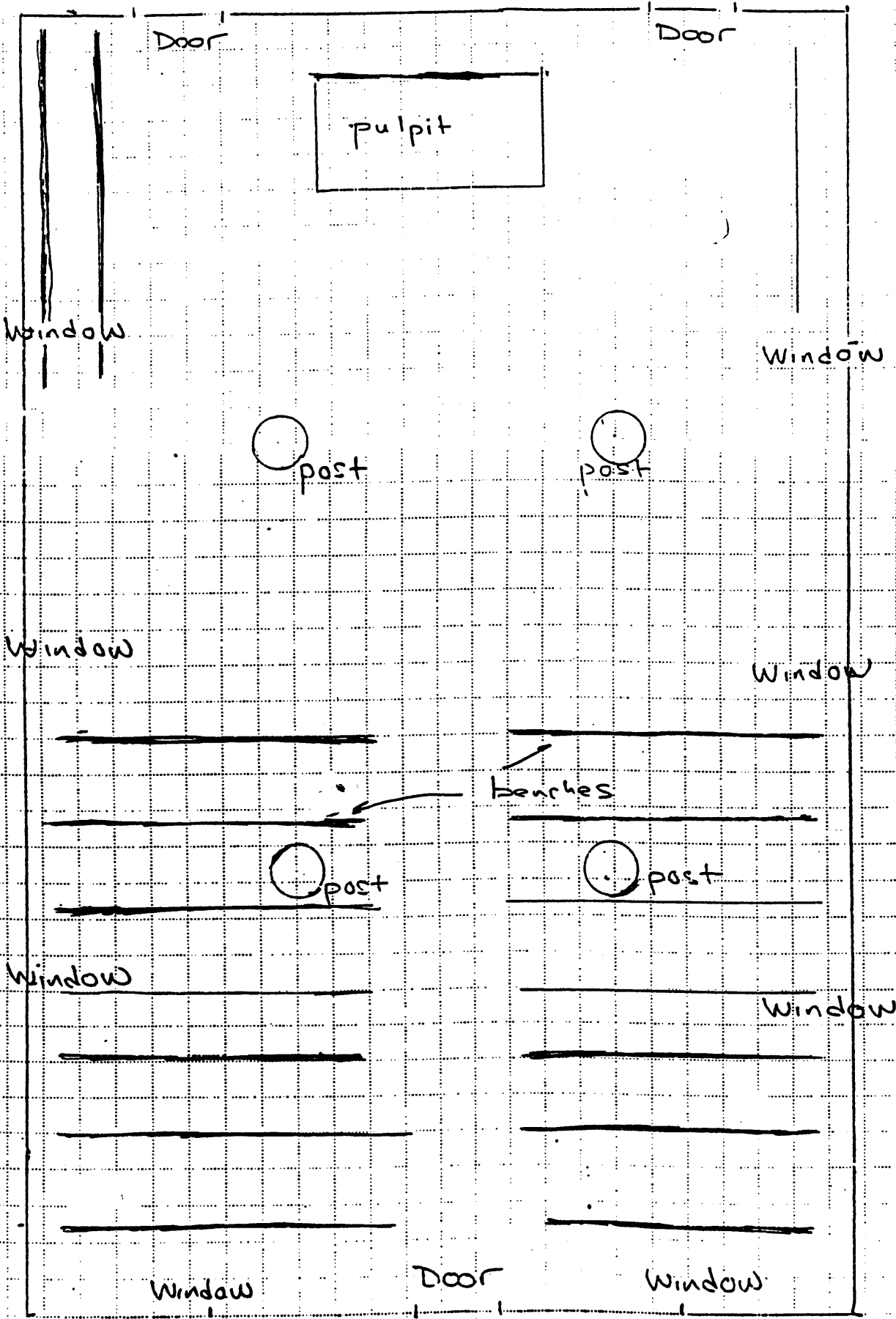
DATE: 7-13-98 SCALE: 1" = 60'

DRAWN BY: PCF

LAND LOT 164 8TH DISTRICT
 MERIWETHER COUNTY GEORGIA

PCF P. C. FLYNN LAND SURVEYING CO.
 P.O. BOX 895 - 414 LAGRANGE STREET
 GREENVILLE, GEORGIA 30222
 PHONE/FAX (706) 672-1762

FILE: PCF40049
 DRAWING NO.: 98-061



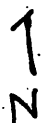
Greenville Presbyterian Church & Cemetery
 Greenville Vicinity, Meriwether County, Georgia

Floor Plan

1" = 50'

Drawn by NTS, c. 1998

The various elements of the church are shown on the plan



1" = 50'

NTS