NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

OCT 3 0 1995

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OMB No. 10024-0018

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in Henry Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each field by marking or in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter 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.

. Name of Property		
nistoric name LA GRANGE CHURCH	I AND CEMETERY	
other names/site number	FMSF#	8BR454
. Location		
treet & number 1575 Old Dixie	Highway	N/A
ty or town <u>Titusville</u>		N/A □ vicinity
tateFLORIDA code	e <u>FL</u> county <u>Brevard</u>	code zip code32796
. State/Federal Agency Certification		
Signature of certifying official/Title Florida State Historic Pre State of Federal agency and bureau		ion of Historical Resources iia. (See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
. National Park Service Certification		A A
hereby certify that the property is: Mentered in the National Register.	Signature of the Keep	Date of Action
☐ See continuation sheet.	(CC2010)1.	12:11
determined eligible for the National Register	(<u>((()))</u>	12.7.1
determined eligible for the		
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined not eligible for the		

La Grange Church & Cemetery		Breva	Brevard, FL		
Name of Property		County and	State		
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Re (Do not include pr	of Resources within Property clude previously listed resources in the count.)		
x□ private	■ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing		
☐ public-local	☐ district	1	0	buildings	
☐ public-State☐ public-Federal	☑ site □ structure	1	0	sites	
□ public-i ederal	□ object	0	0	sites structures	
		0	0	objects	
		2	0	Total	
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of co in the Nationa	ntributing resources pr ll Register	eviously listed	
"N/A"		0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
FUNERARY: cemetery		FUNERARY:	cemetery		
RELIGION: religiou	s facility	VACANT /NOT	IN USE		

7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)		
OTHER: frame verna	cular	foundationBRI	•		
		walls			
		roofTIN			
		otherGLA	SS		

Brevard, FL

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

La	Grange	Church	&	Cemetery
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Name of Property

Brevard, FL

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Cour	111/	and	~1	ate.	

8 S	tatement of Significance	
	licable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark	"x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	(Enter categories from instructions)
for Na	ational Register listing.)	ARCHITECTURE
∡ A	Property is associated with events that have made	SOCIAL HISTORY
	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
	our history.	1.1
	Property is associated with the lives of persons	· ·
	significant in our past.	
- Company of the comp		
ß 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	Period of Significance
	individual distinction.	1869 - 1945
	Durant, has violated as is that to violat	
U	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Crite	ria Considerations	Cignificant Dates
	"x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1869
D	and the	
Prop	erty is:	1872
_₩ A	owned by a religious institution or used for	1894
religious purposes.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	ware and forms the original leasting	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
	removed from its original location.	N/A
□ c	a birthplace or grave.	
		Cultural Affiliation
l¾ D	a cemetery.	N/A
□ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□ F	a commemorative property.	
_ •	a commemorative property.	
\square G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder Architect/unknown
	within the past 50 years.	Builders/J.N.&J.C.C. Feaster, B.J. Mims,
		Tom Johnson, W.S. Norwood, R. Singleton,
Narra	ative Statement of Significance in the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	W.P. Day
	ajor Bibliographical References	
	ography	
(Cite t	he books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	e or more continuation sheets.)
Prev	ious documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36	
	CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
	previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National	☐ Federal agency☐ Local government
	Register	☐ University
	designated a National Historic Landmark	☐ Other
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
	#	
Ц	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

La Grange Church & Cemetery	Brevard, FL
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 8.67 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 7 5 1 6 8 5 0 3 1 6 7 9 2 0 Zone Easting Northing 2 1	3
Verbai 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	storic Sites Specialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	dateSeptember 1995
street & number R.A. Gray Bldg. 500 S. Bronough St	•
city or townTallahassee	stateFL zip code32301-8020
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 hav	ring 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.)	
nameLa Grange Church and Cemetery Associat	tion
	telephone
city or town	stateFL zip code32754

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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laces		OCT 3 0 1995	A THE CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT
La Grange Titusville	Church	GENCY RESOURCES D TIONAL CARCESTY and Co., FL	NIVISION

SUMMARY

La Grange Church and Cemetery, 1575 Old Dixie Highway, Titusville, is a Gothic Revival style, frame, one room church, built in 1894. It is the third building to serve as a church and meeting house on this site. The adjacent community cemetery has historically been associated with the church since the first church was constructed on the site. The rectangular building has a brick pier foundation and a tin roof.

SETTING

The church is located on the east side of the north/south Old Dixie Highway (Photo 1). This section of the highway runs parallel and west of U.S. Highway 1. A large coquina stone, inset with a bronze historic marker, is positioned between the road and the church front (Photo 2). A cedar tree is located at the north corner of the building and cedar trees line the road. The surrounding flat-to-gently rolling sandy soil has scattered oaks and pine trees. Although there are residential areas around the property, the community and the surrounding vicinity is thinly populated and essentially rural. La Grange, and Mims, the nearest town, one mile to the north, are unincorporated. The city of Titusville is about two miles to the south. Indian River is roughly one half mile to the east of Highway The land around the communities has large concentrations of citrus groves.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The church is a front-gabled, tin roofed, frame building that faces the road. The building is 35 feet long and 19 feet wide. The exterior walls are covered with horizontal siding with unornamented corner boards. The main (west) facade is dominated by a four-stage bell tower, extending from the center of the facade (Photo 1). The lowest stage of the tower's polygonal extension is surfaced with

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La Grange Church and Cemetery, Titusville, Brevard Co., FL

horizontal siding like the rest of the church. The stage above this is tapered and surfaced with scalloped wood shingles. Above this is a square belfry with two louvered, vented openings on each side. The tower terminates in a pyramidal metal steeple. Primary access to the building is through two doors that flank the tower. The lowest stage of the tower contains a triangular arched window. This window, and all others in the church, is filled with wood sash containing colored glass.

Five wooden steps lead up to each of the two paneled front doors. Pointed door and window hood molds protrude enough to serve as drip molds.

The east facade contains a single, centrally located window (Photo 3). A vent for a wood stove extends through the wall near the northern corner.

The south and north facades each contain three triangular arched windows (Photo 4 & 5). In addition, in the east end of the south facade, a four paneled door is set into a frame with a pointed hood. The door is reached by four wood steps.

Interior

Pine wood flooring runs length-wise with the building. The walls are finished with horizontal beaded wall boards, and vertical wainscoting (Photo 6). The entrance doors flank a raised stage or altar area 83 inches deep, and 9 feet wide, located within the bell tower. A window is centrally located on the back wall of the stage area. A wood lectern is positioned on this riser. A segmental arch visually divides the extension and the main wall. This arch is accented with boards directly above it, set vertically and terminated with a horizontal decorative cornice molding. A three sided vaulted ceiling is covered with beaded boards that run length-wise with the building (Photo 7). A door pierces the south wall in the rear corner.

Three lights are suspended from the ceiling, shaded by globes of paper covered wire (Photo 8). Two small lighting sconces are centrally attached to the side walls, one on each side. The interior trim around windows is plain boards, but is distinctive in that the two boards trimming

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the arch extend past the spring line and have rounded ends (Photo 9). The colored glass windows are one of the most distinctive elements of ornamentation, and with etched symbols, memorial names and dates, offer much primary information about this small community church that did not keep its own records (Photos 9-14). Due to the scarcity of primary written records, pertinent inscriptions are listed here:

"Erected by, Jacob N. Feaster, J.C.C. Feaster, B.J. Mims, Tom Johnson, W. Sherwood, R. Singleton, W.P. Day"

"Dedicated by, Rev. W.N. Chandion, Rebuilt 1894 by the community, The First Church on Indian River, A.B. Cohen Pastor 1894"

"This Window Donated by The Sunday School -1894, Organized March of -1870-"

There are 17 movable pews, saved from the earlier 1872 church. They are assembled with pegs, and the backs are hinged on the sides so they can be swung back and forth, to allow people to face each other.

THE CEMETERY

The cemetery occupies 7.67 acres of the 8.17 acre property; .50 acres occupied by the church (Photo 15). cemetery lies north and east of the church, and is on the easterly side of Old Dixie Highway. A dirt road runs beside the church building and all interments are beyond this road. The road then follows the periphery of the cemetery. chain link fence along the northern boundaries, separates the cemetery and a residential neighborhood. Trees and bushes are scattered over the area, and several benches are situated under the trees. Several fenced areas designate family plots, but most are not fenced. There are several above ground burial structures, and several tall memorials, the most unusual being an octagonal family marker with a different name on each side. The stones are of different material, decorative treatments and symbolism. Many of the

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older, softer stones have weathered poorly, obliterating inscriptions and decoration (Photo 16).

ALTERATIONS

The church is currently being repainted and repaired. The first church/community center was built of logs in 1869. In 1872 a frame building took its place. The current church is the result of extensive remodeling of the 1872 building, accomplished in late 1893, early 1894. The church has not been altered since that time.

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La Grange Church and Cemetery, Titusville, Brevard Co., FL

SUMMARY

The La Grange Church and Cemetery is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Social History and under Criterion C for its vernacular architecture and windows. The property has served the community and its east coast region as a place of worship, education, meetings, and burials since the church's beginnings in 1869. The church provided a meeting place for many church groups that later built their own churches in the area. The church's Gothic Revival character resulted from extensive remodeling in 1893-1894. It is a distinctive, vernacular building, constructed of locally grown and milled lumber. The cemetery contains the graves of many of the early settlers of the region, including leading citizens for whom two communities, Titusville and Mims, were named.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The first white settlers came to this area in 1835 to build Fort Ann and clear trails for defense during the Second Seminole Indian War. In 1843, one of these soldiers, Captain Douglas Dummit, acquired acreage on Merritt Island, where the N.A.S.A. Space Center is located today, and developed citrus groves. Mills Burnham developed citrus groves on Cape Canaveral shortly there after. The earliest settlements on the mainland were Sand Point and La Grange. Sand Point was a spit of land that jutted into the Indian River and was a natural place for a dock. In 1959, Sand Point became the first post office south of St. Augustine and was the area's only trading post. During the Civil War the Confederates ran a salt works there, and blockade running smugglers operated out of the area. The east coast of Florida, south of New Smyrna, did not begin to develop until after the Civil War. The Homestead Act of 1866 encouraged the first settlement of any consequence.

Settlement of La Grange began in 1860, with families coming primarily to plant citrus and fruit groves. A grouping of houses became the town. In the 1880s, residents of La Grange founded the agricultural community of Mims, a

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La Grange Church and Cemetery, Titusville, Brevard Co., FL

mile to the north. Mims' residents took advantage of the new Atlantic Coast, St. Johns, and Indian River Railway, which connected them with Enterprise and the interior of the state, to build a depot and packing plant. Larger economic development came to Sand Point, which had been the area's business center. The town changed its name to Titusville in 1873, after the successful citrus grower Col. Henry T. Titus who had arrived in 1867. In 1879, Titusville, with the largest population, became the county seat. The exportation of agricultural products to northern markets in the 1880s, insured the permanence of the Indian River coast settlements.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

A log church and public meeting place was built at this location in La Grange in 1869. It was the first church along the Indian River, south of New Smyrna Beach and was probably the first between New Smyrna and Key West. April 1869, an Episcopal missionary, directed to contact Henry Titus and visit the region, came upon the small settlement of La Grange and was given a meal. He returned the next day to preach to 30 people. Early church services included Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists. Baptists had the closest organizational ties to the community because of Tom Johnson, an early La Grange settler who relocated from Poughkeepsie, New York, with his wife. Johnson, a Baptist layman, conducted services until the Rev. Mr. W.N. Chandoin, an ordained Baptist minister and member of the Florida Baptist Convention, came to lead this church and several others in the area.

Depending on the availability of ministers, services were held anywhere from one to four Sundays a month, and worship was frequently interdenominational. Various ministers and congregations would gather and take turns conducting services. Sunday was an important day for religious and social gatherings. People from the region would travel on Saturday and sleep over within the community. After a common lunch, the early afternoon was occupied with games and another service before people dispersed in the late afternoon. The La Grange Church was influential in

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establishing Baptist churches in Mims, Titusville and Merritt Island, the Episcopal church in Titusville, and the Methodist churches in Mims and Titusville.

The Rev. Mr. Chandoin became the president of the Florida Baptist Convention, and served on the State Board of Missions and Executive Committee. Chandoin Hall at Stetson University is named for him, reflecting his and the church's enduring support for the school. He was present to rededicate the La Grange Church in 1894.

Many of the early settlers could not read. Tom Johnson, at his cooper shop in the evening, taught six people the alphabet, reading and writing. After the log church was built, Miss Narcissa Feaster taught a public school there. Johnson then organized what was called the Union Sunday School, an interdenominatinal group, in March 1870. He taught the Sunday School for 47 years.

In 1872, a lumber mill was started about 1 mile south of La Grange. Tired of their log building, a new church and school was constructed using boards. A second story was included for Miss Feaster's school with access from stairs at the back of the first floor, where church was conducted. Mr. Adhemar Brady succeeded Feaster as teacher. This school became the first public school in the county, and Brady became County Superintendent of Public Instruction. By 1882 he had organized 21 schools. This frame building was also used for civic gatherings, including Grange and Knights of Labor meetings. Mr. Chandoin dedicated the new church building.

The need for a school on the second floor was eliminated when a separate school was built nearby, and the building was remodeled dramatically in 1893-1994. The second floor and the stairs were removed. What was vertical board and batten became horizontal drop siding walls. Materials from the second floor were incorporated into the new walls. The bell tower was added as well as new windows.

As new towns and churches developed, fewer denominations used the church and some residents of La Grange moved. The building remained in use as a Baptist church until 1953, when The New Fellowship Baptist Church built a new church across the street.

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Community burials have always been associated with the The area was not populated until the 1860s and the first log church was built in 1869, the same year as the death of one of the early settlers, who is buried there. The earliest legible, dated, grave stone dates to 1875 (Photo 17). Some stones are undated and some are illegible. Many of the early settlers are buried in the La Grange Cemetery, including the Mims families, for whom the community of Mims is named, and Colonel Titus and family, for whom Titusville is named. Chandion and Johnson, the first minister and Sunday school teacher, are also buried there. Despite development of neighboring communities, the early settlers considered the La Grange Church their community center and were brought back for burial. practice of segregated burials has been discarded, but historically, blacks were buried in parcel 19 at the north end of the cemetery. The cemetery continues to accept new interments.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The La Grange Church is a significant example of vernacular architecture, designed and built by early settlers. The Gothic Revival style, one room, building is made from locally cut and milled pine. The narrow rectangular form, narrow bell tower with belfry, pointed windows with colored glass, and pointed hoods over windows and doors, give the building its Gothic Revival style. Lumber from the 1872 building's configuration was incorporated into the current building. The pews from the older building are retained and are unusual for their adjustable back rests. It is rare when wood sash windows contain artistically treated colored glass. All of these windows have been etched with symbols, names and dates. In addition to their beauty, they provide documentation about the remodelling of the church.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- "LaGrange Church has Long, Varied History," Orlando Evening Star, 13 May 1958.
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 as des in DB I pg 124, W-210 PB 3 pgs 22, 23, 32 & N 369.3 ft of W 200 ft of SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 PAR 21, 22 & 40. S 2 AC of NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 E of County Road.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the La Grange Church and Cemetery.

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INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- La Grange Church and Cemetery 1575 Old Dixie Highway
- 2. Titusville, Brevard Co., FL
- 3. Bill Hardin
- 4. 1995
- 5. Bill Hardin
- 6. Main (west) facade, looking east
- 7. Photo #1 of 17

Items 1 through 5 above are the same for all photographs listed below

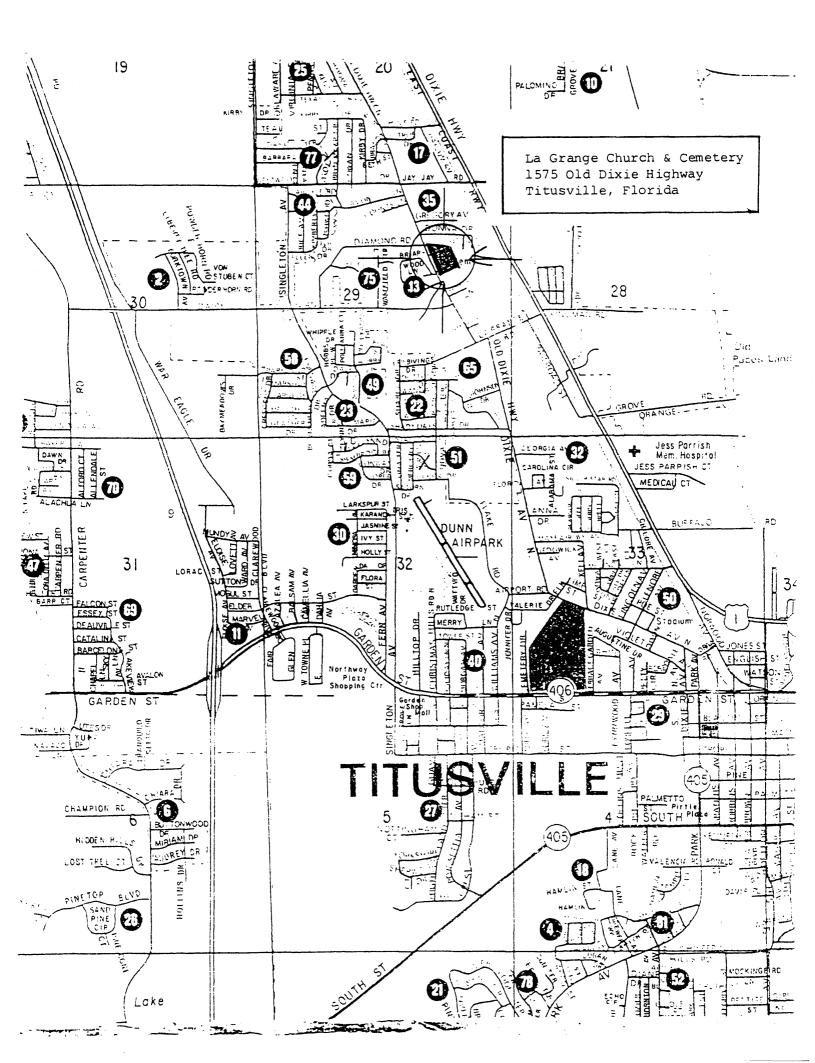
- 6. View of Historic Marker, looking east
- 7. Photo #2 of 17
- 6. View of rear (west) facade, looking west
- 7. Photo #3 of 17
- 6. View of south facade, looking north
- 7. Photo #4 of 17
- View of north facade, looking south
- 7. Photo #5 of 17
- 6. Interior view of altar/stage area, looking west
- 7. Photo #6 of 17
- 6. Interior view showing vaulted ceiling, looking east
- 7. Photo #7 of 17
- 6. Interior view showing light fixtures, looking north
- 7. Photo #8 of 17
- 6. Interior view of window, looking north
- 7. Photo #9 of 17

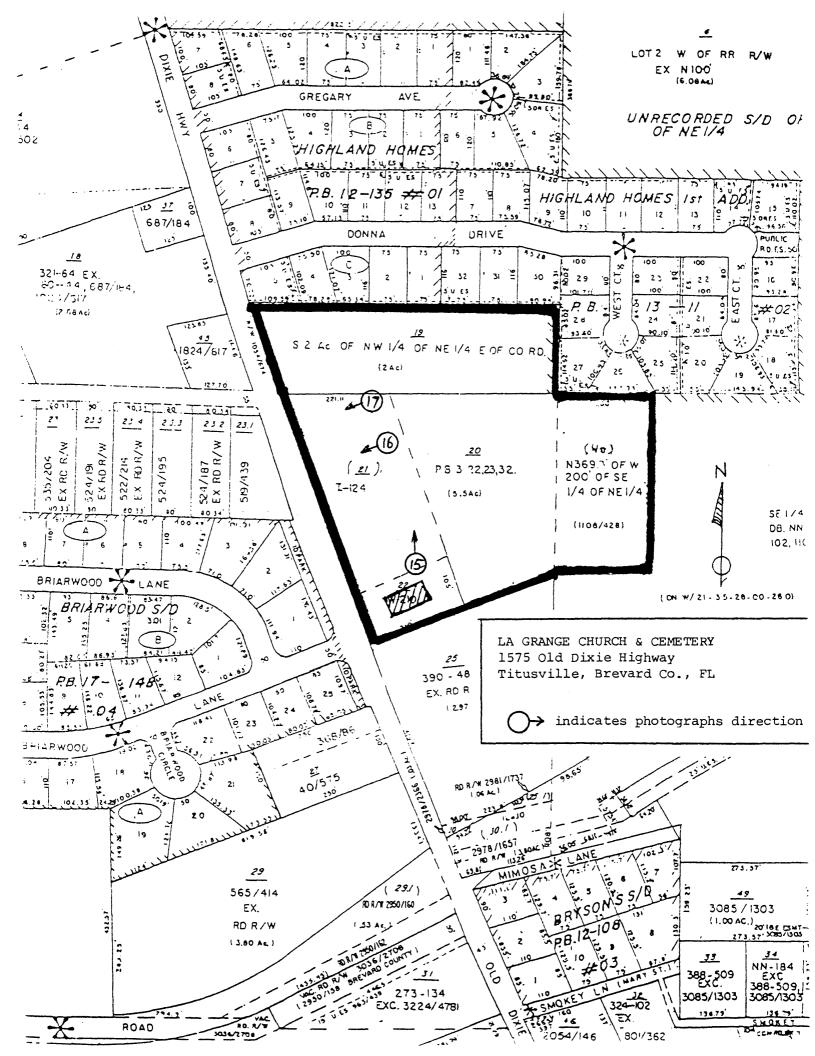
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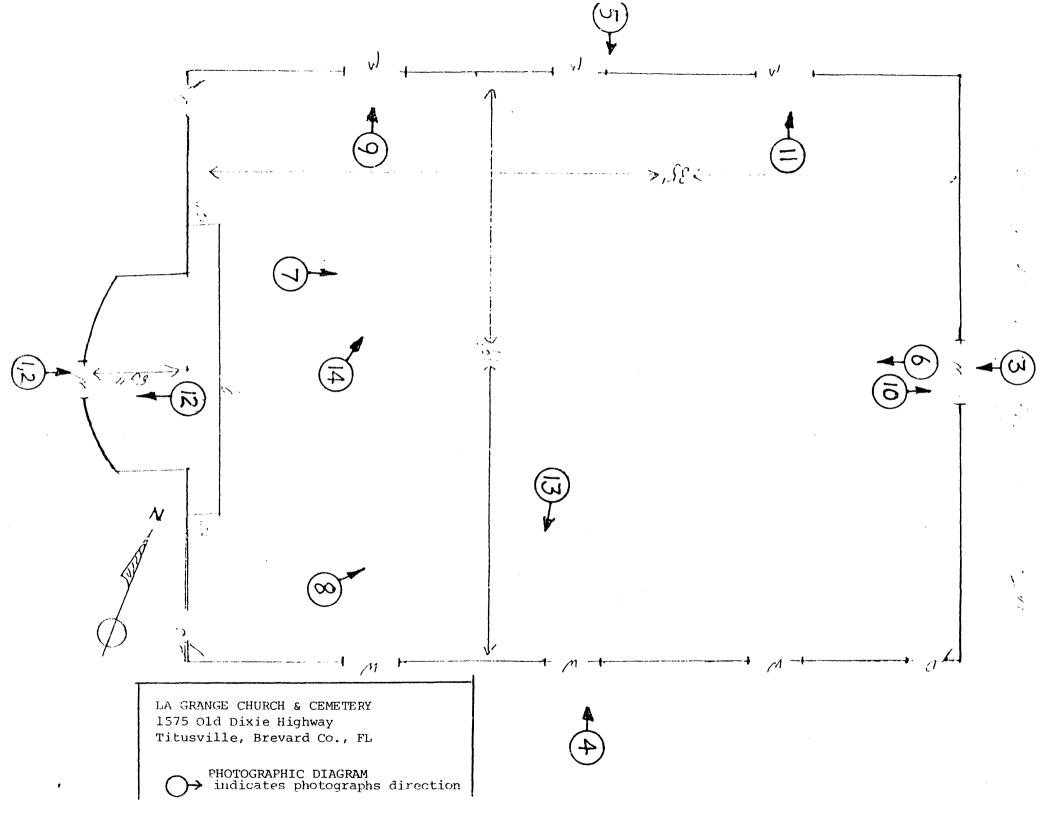
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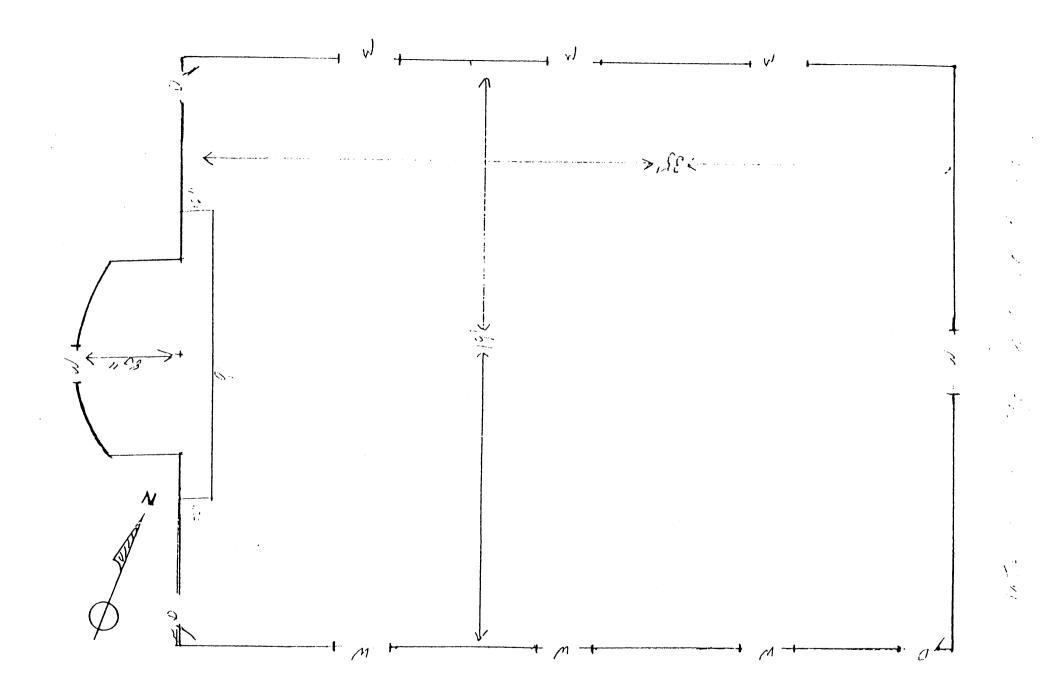
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- 6. Interior view of window, looking east
- 7. Photo #10 of 17
- 6. Interior view of window, looking north
- 7. Photo #11 of 17
- 6. Interior view of window, looking west
- 7. Photo #12 of 17
- 6. Interior view of windows in south wall, looking south
- 7. Photo #13 of 17
- 6. Interior view of windows in north wall, looking north
- 7. Photo #14 of 17
- 6. View of cemetery from church, looking north
- 7. Photo #15 of 17
- 6. View of weathered memorial stone, looking west
- 7. Photo #16 of 17
- View of oldest, dated, legible memorial stone, looking west
- 7. Photo #17 of 17









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