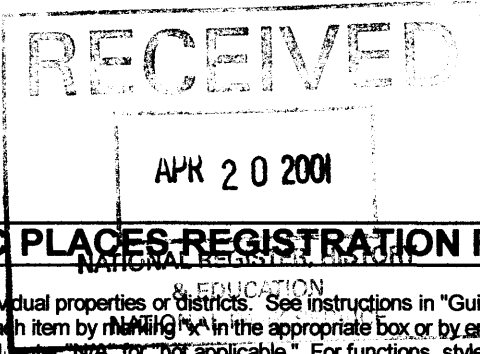


534



**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 Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number Intersection of Georgia SR 91 and Georgia SR 253  
city, town Newton  
county Baker code GA 007  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31737

(X) vicinity of

(N/A) not for publication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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

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.

Rileand Clove  
Signature of certifying official

4-16-01  
Date

*for* 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 H. Beall 5-25-01

determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
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** CONCRETE  
**walls** WOOD: weatherboard  
**roof** ASPHALT  
**other** N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery is located in a rural area of southwestern Baker County. The property is located at the intersection of Georgia State Route 91 and Georgia State Route 253 approximately fifteen miles southwest of Newton and twelve miles northeast of Colquitt.

The property is located on a small corner lot with the church situated near the front of the lot and the cemetery located behind the church (photograph 1). The church is a one-story, front-gable, wood-framed building constructed in 1896 (photograph 2). A rear-ell addition was added in 1960 and a smaller rear addition was added in 1977. The original 1896 section of the church features a steep gable-front roof with overhanging eaves, wide cornice trim, weatherboard siding, two-over-two double-hung windows, and two separate front doors with transoms (photographs 3 and 4). The building has a concrete block foundation which replaced the original tree stump piers. Detailed exterior features include brackets or modillions below the eaves, wide cornice trim and corner boards, and a diamond-shaped gable vent. The church retains its original wood shutters.

The interior of the church features an open sanctuary with a pulpit and two aisles separating three rows of original pine pews (photographs 8, 9, and 11). The interior ceiling, walls, and wainscoting are finished in beaded pine boards, and the floor features six-inch heart-pine boards. Decorative diagonal members are located on the gable-end walls (photographs 8 and 10). The interior also features the original paneled doors and wood window and door surrounds with corner blocks. The pulpit is located on a raised wood dais. The church retains its 1940 hanging light fixtures acquired when electricity was added to the church.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 7--Description

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The 1960 rear-ell addition features exposed rafter tails, weatherboard siding, two-over-two windows, and concrete-block foundation (photographs 4 and 5). The room located directly behind the pulpit is the first of four rooms located within the 1960 addition. Used for as a reception area, this room features beaded-board ceiling, walls, and wainscoting, as well as pine floors. The remaining three rooms, originally used for Sunday school and now used as storage, feature gypsum board on the ceilings and walls, and the floors are constructed of pine boards. The small 1977 rear addition features exposed rafter tails, concrete-block construction with masonite cladding, and concrete-block foundation (photograph 6). The interior of the 1977 addition features unfinished concrete block and concrete flooring and houses restrooms.

The cemetery is situated in an open space just to the rear of the church (photographs 12 and 13). Dates of the burials range from 1876 to the 1990s. A few of the graves pre-date the 1896 construction of the church; these burials were most likely moved from the old cemetery to the "new" cemetery when the present church building was built. The grave markers are the simple marble and granite headstones found in rural churchyards. The informal landscaping of the cemetery features grass and sand ground cover, granite and marble curbing identifying family plots, and a row of trees and shrubs marking the cemetery boundary. These features are typically found in rural cemeteries.

Two small wood outhouses with shed roofs, built c.1955 to replace earlier versions, are located near the cemetery and have not been in use since 1977 (photograph 14).

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

1896 - 1951

**Significant Dates:**

1896 – construction of the church

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

N/A

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Located in a sparsely populated rural area of southwestern Baker County, the Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery is significant as a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural vernacular church and cemetery, typical of those found throughout rural Georgia.

The Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a rural church with cemetery. The Notchaway Baptist Church is a good representative example of the type of simple church built for rural white congregations through the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Georgia. The intact, historic, exterior character-defining features include the discernable gable-front form and wood-frame construction. Unlike most rural churches, the Notchaway Baptist Church features unusually designed brackets or modillions below the eaves. The intact, historic, interior features include the large open sanctuary space; the use of beaded board, a common wall cladding detail in rural churches, for the ceilings, walls, and wainscoting; wide heart-pine floor boards; and wooden pews.

The Notchaway Baptist Church Cemetery is significant in the area of landscape architecture as a good example of a rural church cemetery. Unlike city or town cemeteries, which tend to have formal plans with planned lots and sections, rural cemeteries are less formal and often grouped by families rather than formally planned sections. Notchaway Baptist Church is a good example of a rural cemetery associated with a church. The cemetery is generally arranged by family plot with some having granite or marble curbing around the plot. The character-defining features of the cemetery include simple granite and marble head- and footstones and an absence of formal landscape features.

#### **National Register Criteria**

The Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a good example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century rural church and cemetery in Georgia.

#### **Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

The Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria Consideration A as a religious property deriving its primary significance for its architectural and landscape design. The property is an excellent example of rural vernacular design common in rural areas of Georgia during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery begins with the construction of the church in 1896 and ends with the end of the historic period, 1951. Because burials in the cemetery continue through history to the present, 1951 was chosen as the end of the period of significance as all the markers within the cemetery placed during the historic period contribute to the significance of the property making up a rural cemetery landscape. The period of significance represents the period in which the cemetery developed into its full historic form.

#### **Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The contributing building is the church and the contributing site is the cemetery. The two noncontributing buildings are outhouses that were constructed c.1955.

#### **Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

**Note: The following historical narrative was prepared by Paul Forgey, Preservation Planner for the Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center, Camilla, Georgia. "Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery," Historic Property Information Form, June 5, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery is located in what was originally Early County, which was established in 1818. Baker County was formed by an act of the Georgia Legislature on December 12, 1925 out of the eastern portion of Early County. This was the second division of Early County as Decatur County was formed out of a southern portion of Early County in 1823.

Notchaway Baptist Church was formed prior to 1839 in a log building located on the bank of the Ichawaynotchaway Creek in what is now southern Baker County. Since Early County had only recently been formed, the area was sparsely populated. The majority of the residents were farmers since the closest population centers were many miles away. The 1839 minutes of the Bethel Baptist Association list the Notchaway Church among churches asking for membership. Because early records of the church have been lost, the exact year it was formed is unknown. In 1863, the church switched to the Bowdon Baptist Association.

Members of the church listed in the 1863 include Louis Mathis, A.G. McMurria, A.G. Moore, J.H. Bodiford and Ben Jones. A list of male members from the 1891 minutes of the church include: A.G. McMurria, Osker McMurria, A.G. Moore, C.B. Mathis, G.W. Mathis, L.J. Mathis, J.B. Mathis, Eddie Mathis, J.T. Mathis, Perse Mathis, Thomas Bowles, and Jessie Jonican. Most of these were descendents of the first pioneer families to move to southwest Georgia. Many of these same families still attend this church or are still in the same area.

Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery, Baker County, Georgia

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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The Bowdon Baptist history lists R.C. Poole as the first pastor. However, minutes of the Notchaway Church from 1888 show G.F. Taylor as pastor and the 1891 minutes show R.C. Poole as pastor. Early deacons are unknown, however, in 1889, J.T. Mathis and C.B. Mathis were added as deacons.

According to church minutes of the November meeting of 1895, "A.G. McMurria, B.F. Jones, and J.T. Mathis were appointed as a building committee to arrange about building a new church at old Providence. It was voted upon and carried that a church should be built at Old Providence." The minutes of the December meeting of 1895 state, "It was agreed upon that we would pull down and move our church to old Providence on Friday and Saturday next." The location of the new building was 3.1 miles southwest of the location of the log church. Although not recorded, the reason for the move was probably because there were more roads in the vicinity of the new location which would indicate a higher level of population. Also, the original log church was located on the opposite side of the Ichawaynotchaway Creek, which would make it difficult to get to, depending on the weather.

There is dissent among the older current members of the church as to whether the building was moved and used until a new one was built or the congregation relocated to the new building. The church minutes seem to indicate that the building was actually moved—"pull down and move"—and used until a new one was built. Later minutes indicate this as well, February, March, April, May, and June of 1896 minutes begin with "we the Baptists met at Providence"... "Opened the doors of the church for reception of members." It is conceivable that the current building could have been built in the month of January since the minutes are missing. However, the minutes of the June meeting of 1896 seem to clearly indicate that the old log building had been moved, "Reports of committee Bro. A. Simmons and (illegible) reported that the new church was about complete except painting. It was ordered that a collection be taken up by subscription and raise the money and have it painted." The minutes of the July 4, 1896 meeting begin with "We the Baptists met at Notchaway Church..." Although no formal dedication is mentioned, it would appear that the new church was occupied in July of 1896.

According to Mr. Luther Moore, who is 92, the church was built by three men, John Carpenter, Dr. Seni Cross, and one whose name he does not remember, all members of the church. Seni Cross is buried in the cemetery. The wood for the building was cut in the vicinity of the church and milled in Bainbridge, which is about 20 miles to the south. It is said to be knot-free heart pine. The new building was used for the annual protracted meeting in August 1896.

The first person to be buried in the cemetery was the young daughter of J.H. Bodiford. She had previously been buried on his property and when the church was built he moved her body to the new location. Her grave is marked as the first person to be buried at Notchaway cemetery.

Original deeds were lost and substitute deeds were issued by Eliza McCollum in August 1916 to the deacons of the church and their successors in office. In March 1968, one-fourth of an acre of additional land for part of the existing cemetery was acquired from Josuli Farms, Inc.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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The Notchaway Church building has always been a landmark along the sparsely developed highway between Newton and Colquitt. It has been used for meeting and singing events as well as church-related activities. There is no baptismal pool on the property. Baptisms are done in the Flint River or Ichawaynotchaway Creek located nearby.

Membership in the church has declined from its peak of 117 in 1930 to 31 members presently.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Baker County Historical Society. The History of Baker County, Georgia. Roswell, GA: W.H. Wolfe Associates, 1991.

Forgey, Paul. "Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery," Historic Property Information Form, June 5, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Interview with Luther Moore, March 1996 by Paul Forgey, Camilla, Georgia.

Records of the Notchaway Church, 1888-1903.

**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): BX-11**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property**      Approximately 2.5 acres.

**UTM References**

Zone 16

Easting 736564

Northing 3453249

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The National Register boundary is the current legal boundary indicated on the attached plat map with a heavy black line.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the land historically associated with church and cemetery.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Gretchen B. Kinnard/National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** April 4, 2001

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

**name/title** Paul Forgey/Preservation Planner  
**organization** Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center  
**street and number** P.O. Box 346  
**city or town** Camilla **state** Georgia **zip code** 31730  
**telephone** (912) 336-5616

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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**Name of Property:** Notchaway Baptist Church and Cemetery  
**City or Vicinity:** Newton vicinity  
**County:** Baker  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** January 1999

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 14: View of church and cemetery; photographer facing north.
- 2 of 14: View of front (south) façade of church; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 14: Detail of front entrances of church; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 14: View of front and east façades of church; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 14: View of east façade of church; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 14: View of west façade of church; photographer facing southeast.
- 7 of 14: View of front and west façades of church; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 14: Interior, view of sanctuary; photographer facing south.
- 9 of 14: Interior, view of sanctuary; photographer facing northeast.
- 10 of 14: Interior, view of pulpit; photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 14: Interior, detail of pews; photographer facing west.
- 12 of 14: View of cemetery and church; photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 14: View of cemetery; photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 14: View of outhouses (noncontributing); photographer facing northeast.

193  
158  
192  
159

158  
159

37/10

37/11

SR 253

SR 91

JOSULI

PART OF 23-1

2.5 AC±

192

191

4  
55.98 AC

5  
6.00 AC

6  
6 AC

159

10  
127.10 AC

160

24

NOTCHAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY  
BAKER COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 

SCALE: 1" = 600'

NORTH: 

**NOTCHAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY  
BAKER COUNTY, GEORGIA**

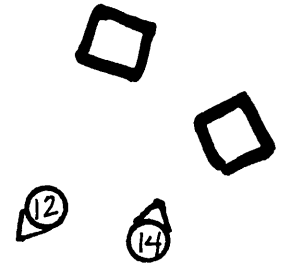
**SITE MAP**

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①

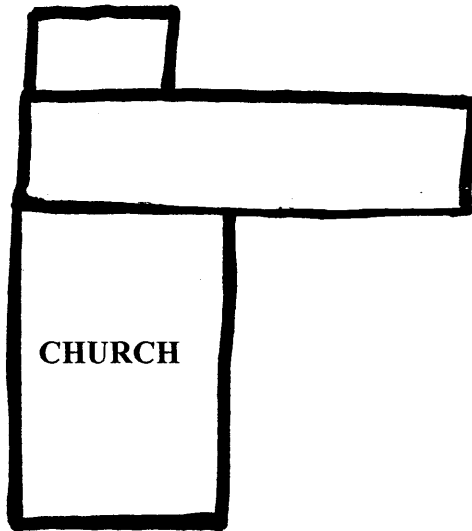
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

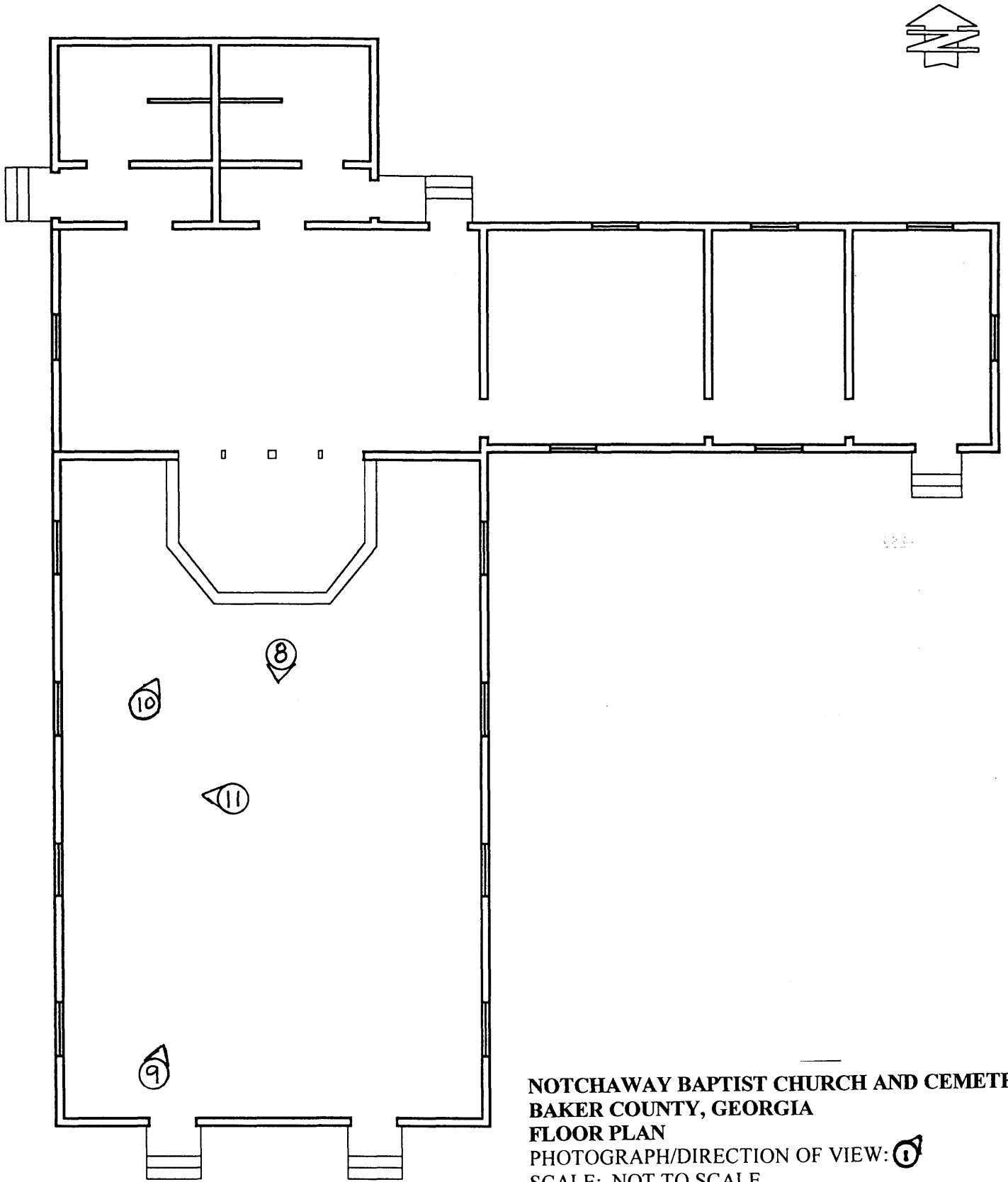
NORTH: ↑

**OUTHOUSES  
(NONCONTRIBUTING)**



**CEMETERY**





**NOTCHAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY  
BAKER COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**FLOOR PLAN**

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH: ↑