

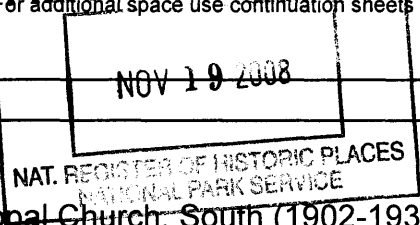
1247

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 Demorest Woman's Club
other names/site number Demorest Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1902-1939);
Demorest Methodist Church (1939-1947)



2. Location

street & number 1035 Central Avenue
city, town Demorest () **vicinity of**
county Habersham **code** GA 137
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30535

() not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

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.

Richard C. Luce
Signature of certifying official

11-5-08
Date

W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
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

Edson H. Ball 12-30-08

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

for
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION: religious facility

SOCIAL: clubhouse

Current Functions:

SOCIAL: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

Materials:

foundation	CONCRETE
walls	WOOD
roof	METAL
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Demorest Woman's Club is located on the main thoroughfare in downtown Demorest, immediately adjacent to and across from Piedmont College's campus. Demorest is approximately four miles southwest of the county seat of Clarkesville. The wood-frame gable-front building is one story in height in the front and two stories in the rear, due to the extreme slope of the land and the raised roadbed. Constructed in 1902 for the Methodist Episcopal Church, the building was significantly altered after acquisition by the Demorest Woman's Club in 1954, and therefore the significance of the property relates to its later use. The rectangular building is approximately 30 feet wide at the front and 70 feet long. It is sheathed in beveled wood siding with a simulated wood belt course between floors. The only projection is a rear two-story bay. The front has a symmetrical façade with a central wood-paneled double door, flanked on each side by a six-over-six double-hung window. The main entry level from the sidewalk is actually the second (upper) level. The lower level is a full-height basement that lies under the rear three-quarters of the building. Each side elevation has four windows above and three below. There is one secondary (non-historic) entry door on the lower level. The roof is steeply pitched and clad in standing-seam metal. There is a pointed-arch slatted ventilator in the attic under the front eaves. Overall the building has little ornamentation.

Changes by the women's club in the 1950s included removal of a steeple and two chimneys, replacement of the original foundation with continuous concrete blocks, the pouring of a concrete floor in the basement, and the replacement of all windows and a staircase. The interior of the main floor has an entrance area with a small modern kitchen, a large open seating area, and a raised

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

stage in the rear. Materials include heart-pine floors and beaded tongue-and-groove boards on the walls, wainscoting, and ceilings. The lower floor is more modern and utilitarian in appearance. The building retains a high level of integrity from its time as a women's club. The clubhouse is sited on a steep slope immediately adjacent to the sidewalk and just a few feet from the road. It has a grassy side and rear lawn with little vegetation. The small-town setting includes college buildings and parking lots and a few houses.

FULL DESCRIPTION

Note: *The following description was written by Chip Wright, historic preservation planner for the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center, and edited by staff of the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.*

General character and appearance

The Demorest Woman's Club is a gable-front building with classical elements (photographs 4 and 6). The front of the building is the narrow end, measuring approximately 30 feet in width (photographs 5 and 14). The length of the building extends approximately 70 feet into the tract to the northeast. The only projection on the building is a rear two-story bay (photograph 15). Originally the building was a church, with the steeple having been removed over 50 years ago as part of the desanctification process. Because of the sloping topography and the raised roadbed, the building appears to have a single story on the front. In actuality visitors enter the building on the second floor, used as the main floor.

Exterior materials

The roof of the clubhouse is currently clad in standing-seam metal (photograph 1). The walls are wooden boards with a beveled edge (also known as drop or novelty siding). There is a simulated belt course (broader wooden band) between the first and second floors (photographs 1 and 16). There are three apparent phases to the exterior cladding. This is evident from three distinct types of clapboard that appear above the belt course, and in the rear of the building. The latest is of yellow pine and of poorer quality. Located primarily on the northwest (rear) wall, this material is subject to high levels of moisture both from rain sheeting from the roof and ground moisture associated with low elevation and a nearby drainage ditch. Historical data indicates that the entire foundation of continuous concrete block was installed in the 1954-1955 renovation (photograph 1). This feature is obscured in portions by siding in the rear of the building (photograph 15). The original foundation material is believed to have been brick piers.

Exterior features

Overall the building has little ornamentation. On the main façade are two simple Doric pilasters or cornerboards, one on each corner (photograph 14). The front doors, windows and vent are symmetrically placed, with the front doors in the center, flanked by six-over-six double-hung wood frame and sash windows. The front entry has wood-paneled double doors that open in the center.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The slatted attic vent is centrally placed in the upper portion of the façade. The northeast and southwest sides are similar in pattern with an even rhythm of six-over-six double-hung windows across the upper floor. There are five of these on the northeast side (photograph 1) and four on the southwest side where there is no window in the front space. This would have been the side with the steeple when the building was a church. There are three one-over-one windows on each side of the lower floor. On the southwest lower floor, a door has been inserted between two windows. The northwest (rear) side is dominated by a two-story bay that is the former apse for the church (photograph 15). Single six-over-six double-hung windows are on each upper side of the bay with the center being a solid wall. The lower floor has one-over-one windows in the same locations. The bay is covered in a hipped standing-seam metal roof.

Interior arrangement

The main floor on the upper level has three areas: entry foyer, seating area and stage. The entrance area is immediately behind the front door with a small, modern kitchen off to the right and a stairwell on the left (photograph 9). This stairwell (photograph 10) wraps around a closet that opens to the seating area. The seating area is a large open space available for various functions (photographs 7 and 11). The stage area is a raised space to the rear (northwest side) of the room that is dominated by the bay (photograph 8). The stage is the most dominant feature of the room. This room had served as the sanctuary for the church and now serves as the main meeting space for the Demorest Woman's Club.

The lower floor is used primarily for storage (photograph 12). The room has been subdivided into smaller rooms along the north wall; one is a restroom and the other is a storage closet. This space served as a multi-function area for the church. Sunday school was held here and this is where the choir practiced. Over time the original wood floor was replaced with a cement slab. The stairs to the stage were replaced with a modern wooden staircase (photograph 13). The main (front) stairs leading up to the sanctuary were replaced with a cement tread in the portion closest to the basement.

Interior details

The interior of the building reflects some of the modifications made by the Demorest Woman's Club in the years following 1954. The floors are constructed of pine as is most of the original wood interior (photograph 9). The ceiling associated with the upper floor is bead board, painted white. The wainscoting is also made of beadboard, but has been stained. Pine chair rail molding runs along the top edge of this feature. Most doors associated with the mid-20th-century rehabilitation are of the horizontal six-panel variety. Three modern chandeliers (standard Lowes/Home Depot variety) are suspended from the ceiling. The stage floor, constructed of pine, is located in what was originally the apse or choir loft (photograph 8). Stair balusters are constructed of pine and are lathe turned.

The kitchen has built-in cabinets and is equipped with modern electrical components. Storage closets tend to be unfinished and sparsely equipped. They have exposed wires, ductwork and modern wall framing. The lower level (first floor) has a more modern atmosphere than that experienced above, since it reflects considerably more post-1954 modifications.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Structural and mechanical systems

The building rests on a continuous concrete block foundation. The original support piers were removed during the post-1954 renovation. Randomly spaced four-inch steel posts support the upper floor joists along large horizontal circular sawn beams. Floor joists and ceiling rafters are randomly spaced 16 to 24 inches apart. The walls exhibit balloon frame construction.

Originally the building was heated with a wood burning stove that was vented with a brick chimney flue. This feature was removed during the initial 1954 renovation and replaced with a gas stove that was located in the main sanctuary. A flue cover can be seen on the south wall where the stovepipe vented outside. Current heating and air ventilation was added in the mid-1980s. The current bathroom facilities were added during the 1954 renovation, and updated in the mid-1980s. The kitchen, located in the east corner of the sanctuary just inside the front entrance, was also added during the 1954-55 rehabilitation. This has also been upgraded in recent years.

Changes to the property

The clubhouse originally served the community as a house of worship. As evangelical alliances changed, so too did the need for this building change. Unoccupied from 1947 to 1954, the old church had fallen into a severe state of deterioration. Windowpanes were missing, windows and doors were sagging, sills and joists rotting, and the roof leaked in a myriad of places. After purchasing it from the church trustees for one dollar, the Demorest Woman's Club immediately began the first phase of renovation in 1954.

The removal of the steeple signaled the beginning of a new era for the building. (The steeple had been on the slope of the roof, near the south corner.) Soon the chimney was also removed and replaced with a stovepipe that exited the building on the southwest wall. Evidence of the flue opening is still visible today. The foundation was strengthened and the original footers were replaced with a continuous foundation of concrete block. This process improved the conditions in the lower level of the building, which led to the space being designed for extra meeting rooms and classrooms. Concrete was poured to serve as the primary flooring material in this area. Four-inch iron pipe was used to support the upper floor joists. A new roof was installed, the walls re-aligned, windows replaced, and new electrical wiring was run. The club removed the old wood/coal burning stove and replaced it with gas heat. Two sets of wood-framed stairs were originally cut to access the lower level. Rebuilt after 1954, they are "L" shaped, each making a 90-degree turn at a landing before proceeding to the ground floor. The front set is located in the south corner of the building. The rear set is on the stage in the north corner. In 1956 Mrs. Ray Black of Dahlonga, Georgia donated \$16.50 to have stair rails installed. A small kitchen and a stage were also added.

The mid-1980s brought additional upgrades to the women's club. The electrical system was upgraded and central heating and air was installed. New ductwork can be seen running through the rooms and walls of the lower level, serving the spaces above. Returns were cut into the walls, and registers cut into the flooring. Exit signs and emergency lights were also part of this upgrade. New appliances and storage areas were added to many of the rooms including the kitchen and bathroom. PVC pipe was used to upgrade the interior drainage systems. A 45-degree iron brace has recently been

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

installed to support the north corner, lower level (photograph 13).

Grounds and surroundings

The clubhouse sits on a rectangular lot that is 75 feet wide and 90 feet deep (originally three city land lots – numbered 45, 46 and 47 in Block 6). The grounds are generally in a natural state; no attempt has been made for any formal or informal plantings. The front (southeast) side of the building abuts a concrete sidewalk, which runs northeast to southwest beyond the building. The building is situated on a steep slope that tends to restrict the planting of flora species. To the north is a parking lot used by the community and Piedmont College. The rear (northwest) of the building is an open grassy area that is mowed and abuts private property. Kudzu is gradually encroaching, and there is a shallow drainage ditch in this area. Due to the low elevation and rainwater from the roof, the ground moisture stays relatively high.

The property is located along U.S. Highway 441 (Central Avenue), the town's main thoroughfare. The setting is relatively quiet and serves as a good example of a small Appalachian college town. Piedmont College's main campus is to the east with auxiliary buildings located to the south and a parking lot to the north. Residential development occurs to the rear (west) of the property. Modern commercial development and residential areas are gradually encroaching on the vicinity. Central Avenue (U.S. 441) was once a major thoroughfare into the northeast Georgia mountains until a new four-lane highway was constructed outside of downtown. The small Demorest Commercial Historic District, located approximately one-and-one-half blocks southwest of the women's club, was listed in the National Register in 1989. It includes six commercial buildings and one church on Georgia Street and Central Avenue.

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):

OTHER: Women's History

Period of Significance:

1954-1958

Significant Dates:

1954 – acquisition of the building by the Demorest Woman's Club

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

George H. Cason

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Demorest Woman's Club was founded in 1934 by a group of 11 women who first met in members' homes. During that year the club was officially federated, and 51 additional members joined. In 1954 the club purchased the existing building from Demorest Methodist Church trustees for one dollar, and renovations began immediately. The Men's Civic Club had previously refused to accept the building, because they thought it was too dilapidated, but the women persevered and managed to adapt the building to their needs. The Demorest Woman's Club is significant under Criterion A in women's history for its associations with the women's club movement of Georgia. According to "Georgia: A Woman's Place, A Historic Context" (2006), the 1920s saw the beginnings of many clubhouses for women in small towns and cities, whereas previously these groups had not had organizational homes. Women's groups had supported philanthropic causes for many years, but having their own building enabled the clubs to house administrative records, accommodate larger meetings, and serve as a community focal point. As with other women's clubs, the activities of the Demorest Woman's Club were extremely beneficial to the entire community. Members were active in the local school board, raised money for health and sanitation needs, promoted beautification campaigns, and assisted Piedmont College with its building fund. The clubhouse was also available to host community theater groups, Boy Scouts, and other organizations. Despite the women's individual contributions, it is indicative of the times that the early club literature identifies them by their husbands' names and occupations (i.e., the club president who directed the purchase and renovation of the building was Mrs. Marvin Gillespie).

The Demorest Woman's Club is an important part of women's history in Habersham County. Since the founding of Demorest, certain opportunities were always available for women. In a pamphlet published by the Demorest Home Mining and Improvement Company (the town's founders) in 1889 is the following announcement:

Business for Women – There are many business enterprises opening at Demorest which women may properly and profitably superintend. Any lady having money to invest, and wishing to take personal supervision of her business, can find the finest opportunities. Among industrial enterprises, which a woman may easily establish, are knit goods mills, clothing factories, glove factories, toy and bric-a-brac factories and many others, all of which are needed and will pay liberal returns on the amount invested. The attention of ladies dependant on their own resources for support, and who have some means at their disposal, is invited to these promising fields for opening light, easy and profitable business.

Some businesses founded and managed by local women in Demorest included Nora Sosebee's millinery shop and Loice Adams' dressmaking home industry. After Sosebee's Millinery Shop burned, she opened a grocery store that she ran successfully until the 1950s. Isabel Chrisler ran a dry goods and variety store from 1916 to 1965. Luville Swindell operated the Coffee Cup Restaurant from 1929 to the mid-1960s and Olive van Hise was an early dance and exercise instructor from 1915 to 1925.

The persistence and entrepreneurial spirit shown by the above-referenced working women was also exhibited by other women in the founding of the Demorest Woman's Club and their later attempts to secure a clubhouse. Several of the original founders were members of the Methodist church or had husbands who were associated with nearby Piedmont College. Evie Gillespie recounted the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

acquisition of the property in an article that appeared in the *Atlanta Journal* newspaper on August 5, 1956. After the Methodists offered the building to the men's club, the men wailed "What would we do with that worn-out old building if we had it!" The women went to work and set out to prove what they could do. They secured donations of cash, labor and materials in paying for the construction as it progressed. Offers of assistance came in from business owners and private citizens. The former "eyesore" was converted in less than two years. Almost all the kitchen appliances were donated, and the club "fell heir to many useful articles, including antique living room furniture" and a buffet table. Looms were installed in one room to be used for weaving in order to keep alive a traditional local art. They also had a kiln for baking china or ceramics, and the downstairs was subdivided into classrooms for continuing education.

The Demorest Woman's Club has a long history of promoting civic awareness, community values and performing arts. It took some time for women's roles to evolve in this rural area, and some of the club's early projects may seem quaint by today's standards, but they were never unimportant.

National Register Criteria

The Demorest Woman's Club is being nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its associations with the work and accomplishments of the women of Demorest through their membership in the club.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the purchase of the property by the Demorest Woman's Club in 1954, and ends with the end of the historic period in 1958. The Methodist church's period of occupancy (1902-c.1947) is not included, because the building was significantly altered in 1954-1955 to meet the needs of the women's club.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The nominated property includes the women's club building, which is the only contributing resource on the parcel. There are no noncontributing resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Note: Portions of the following narrative were written by Chip Wright, historic preservation planner for the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center, and edited by staff of the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Sections are also based on an earlier version of the "Historic Property Information Form" prepared by Jorene Martin (1995) and Dale Jaeger (1981), and the Demorest Commercial Historic District nomination by Debra Curtis (1989).

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

In the late 1800s much of Habersham County was wooded and sparsely settled. The town of Demorest was established in 1889 by a group of investors from the northern and midwestern United States. This group, incorporated as the "Demorest Home Mining and Improvement Company" (DHMI), purchased 3,500 acres in the southern Appalachian Mountains for the site of this planned community. John A. Reynolds, a surveyor and civil engineer, laid out the town. City limits were set by drawing a circle one mile in diameter from a point on Georgia Street. The nominated property was within that circle. The company's objective was to "make homes for people, to establish permanently a great variety of industries, to furnish employment for labor, and to improve natural advantages for business, which this healthful region affords." The town was named in honor of W. Jennings Demorest of New York, a widely known philanthropist, temperance advocate, and educator who later became a candidate for president of the United States on the national Prohibition ticket. Appropriate to the town name, liquor was banished from the community by a requirement of every deed that "no intoxicating liquors shall ever be made, sold, or given away for beverage on the premises." The DHMI Company went bankrupt in 1893. Although the company's grand scheme for a planned temperance town came to an end, Demorest continued to develop as a small mountain community.

The Methodist Episcopal Church North was organized soon after the founding of the town. The establishment of Presbyterian and Baptist congregations followed in 1891 and a Union Congregational Church was established in 1892. Many of the latter's members were arrivals from New England and the Midwest. By 1897 the Methodist Episcopal Church North ceased to function. In that same year, Dr. C. C. Spence organized the Methodist Episcopal Church South in the city hall. As this congregation grew, J. S. Adams, one of Demorest's early residents and benefactor in the community, donated the land (three city lots) for the church site. Services were held in Bank Hall, later known as Butler Hall on the college campus, before construction of the church began in December 1901. The present building was completed one year later. George H. Cason designed and constructed the church building. Cason was an early resident and master builder, and the church appears to be one of his earliest works. He went on to build the Demorest depot in 1903, plus various houses in town. Apparently some of the former members of the Methodist Episcopal Church North joined the Methodist Episcopal Church South since the bell that had been located in the earlier church was placed in the steeple of the new church. This bell had been a gift to the church from W. Jennings Demorest. In 1947 the Demorest Methodist Church (the church reunited in 1939 after factions ceased to exist) joined with the local Congregational Church to become the Methodist-Congregational Federated Church in order to pool their resources for a stronger program. The building that would later become the clubhouse was left vacant that year.

Nearby Piedmont College also had affiliations with the Methodist and Congregational denominations, as well as later connections to founders of the Demorest Woman's Club. The college was founded as the J. S. Green Collegiate Institute in 1897, and became Piedmont College in 1903. Its founder was Dr. C. C. Spence who also organized the Demorest Methodist Episcopal Church South. Spence was a Methodist minister and educator from Young Harris College in neighboring Towns County. The college was originally sponsored by the Methodist Conference, but in 1901 the Congregational Church took over the school's support. Dr. Spence continued as president until 1904, and remained on the Board of Trustees until his death in 1914. A number of professors at the college taught Sunday school at the Demorest Methodist Episcopal Church South.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

On November 9, 1934 at the invitation of Mrs. Henry C. Newell, wife of the Piedmont College President, 11 women of Demorest were called upon to meet in her home. As a result of this gathering, the Demorest Woman's Club was organized. The Club was officially federated on November 13, 1934 in the home of Mrs. H. B. Forrester. (Many of the women's given names are not included in the early documents.) During that year 51 additional members joined the organization. However, the club apparently never became affiliated with the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. Since its organization the club has sponsored or assisted in various community and county projects including: dental and well baby clinics; tuberculosis clinics; heart and mental health drives; maternity shelter; first-aid classes; hog removal from the city limits; securing city garbage pick up; and the promotion of local beautification campaigns. Other civic accomplishments include purchasing red velvet curtains for the Piedmont College Auditorium, assisting in raising \$1000.00 for the Piedmont College Building Fund, supporting efforts to preserve national forests, and lobbying to prevent highway signs from being posted in Habersham County.

The women's spirit of service and community involvement may have partially stemmed from the participation of several members in local church missionary societies. This was one way that the Methodist Episcopal Church South provided for laywomen to take leadership roles in their church. In 1906 a chapter of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was formed by the Demorest Methodist Episcopal Church South. This group raised money for schools in China, Korea, Japan and Cuba. It also raised funds to purchase a piano, chairs and other equipment for the church. In 1939 the name was changed to the Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS), and Mrs. Marvin (Evie) Gillespie of Demorest was elected the first president of the Gainesville district conference. Virginia Smith of Demorest was elected corresponding secretary. In 1947 Evie Gillespie was made a lifetime member of WSCS. Gillespie was also to play a pivotal role in the Demorest Woman's Club. Another member of both organizations was Mrs. T. D. Williams.

In November of 1954, the Demorest Woman's Club purchased the existing building from the Methodist church trustees for one dollar. This purchase was carried out under a deed restriction that specified that if the club ceased to exist or ceased to use the property, then the land would revert back to the grantors (the church). Unoccupied since 1947, the old building was in a state of severe deterioration. Windowpanes were missing, windows and doors were sagging, sills and joists were rotting, and the roof leaked like a sieve. Under the direction of Evie Gillespie, the building began to gradually take on new life. The foundation was strengthened with concrete block, the steeple and chimneys were removed, and a new roof installed. This initial phase also saw the walls re-aligned, windows replaced, and new electric wiring installed. The women's club also incorporated gas heat and added the two front flanking rooms and a stage. During this time the basement was finished and utilized as a meeting room. With this activity, it wasn't long before the entire community became involved. All of the electrical appliances for the kitchen were donated as well as numerous pieces of antique living room furniture. Weaving looms and a pottery kiln were also given to the club to perpetuate local forms of traditional art.

The focus of the Demorest Woman's Club continued to be local community service. Committees included household arts, community service, literature and drama, hospitality, and industrial problems of the 9th congressional district. Some activities were political in nature, such as selecting candidates for the local school board or speaking out about health and safety issues. In educational matters the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

club assisted the school board in a bill to maintain a nine-month term for the grammar school. They also requested that the board raise the qualifications for teachers. The building also functioned as a community center by hosting town meetings, men's club meetings, Piedmont College drama performances, art exhibits, beauty contests, and various workshops.

Today, the Demorest Woman's Club continues to uphold its traditions within the local community. A recent letter penned by the mayor of Demorest states "the Woman's Club has made its presence known in many positive ways throughout the last sixty years. This has been accomplished by actively sponsoring community oriented projects, encouraging study, participation in, and the enjoyment of the Arts, and annually participating in charitable endeavors." In November the Club hosts the annual Christmas Tree Wonderland, which harkens the approach of the holiday season. The event features decorations for fall and Christmas as well as traditional and contemporary wreath designs. The clubhouse is readily available throughout the year to host numerous community groups such as the Demorest Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, the Habersham Community Theatre and Piedmont College. The members of the Demorest Woman's Club firmly believe that their clubhouse should remain an integral part of the downtown Demorest streetscape just as it has remained an important part of the community's history.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Chapin, George. *Health Resorts of the South*. Boston, 1892.
- Church, Mary L. *The Hills of Habersham*. Atlanta: Foote & Davies, Inc., 1962.
- Curtis, Debra A. "Demorest Commercial Historic District." National Register nomination on file at Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta. 1989.
- Davis, Margie. "A Brief History of the Demorest Woman's Club, 1934-1976." Demorest, Georgia, 1976.
- Demorest Woman's Club. "Centennial Tour of Demorest Historic Homes and Places. Demorest, Georgia, 1989.
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. "Georgia: A Woman's Place" (statewide context on women's history). 2006.
- Gillespie, Evie. "History of the Demorest Methodist Church." Demorest, Georgia, 1951.
- Griggs, Katherine H. "History of Demorest, Georgia" (unpublished manuscript). Demorest, Georgia, 1932.
- Habersham County Clerk's Office, and Habersham County Planning Office. Tax Records and Maps.
- Martin, Jorene, and Dale Jaeger. Historic Property Information Form: Demorest Methodist Episcopal Church, South. On file at Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta. 1995.
- Minutes from the Demorest Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Demorest Methodist Church).
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Georgia Towns and Cities, 1884-1922." Accessed through the Digital Library of Georgia, University of Georgia Hargrett Library, Athens.
- Sibley, Frank J. *Demorest and Northeast Georgia – The Health Region of the World*. Atlanta: Mutual Printing Company, 1893.
- The North Georgia Weekly Press*. "This Old Church: Demorest Women Want Clubhouse." 6 April 1955, 6.
- The Northeast Georgian*. "Club House to Undergo Restoration." 7 March 1995, 2C.
- Turner, Margaret. "Women Get Last Laugh Over Old Church Deal." *Atlanta Journal*, 5 August 1956.
- Wright, Chip. Historic Property Information Form: Demorest Woman's Club. On file at Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta. 2007.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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): 39691 (NAHRGIS)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

Zone 17 Easting 266593 Northing 3827905

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked with a heavy line, shown on the enclosed tax map. It corresponds to the current legal boundary, including up to the edge of the paved roadway on Central Avenue.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary includes all the land associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Denise P. Messick, Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303-2316
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 2008
e-mail Denise.Messick@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Chip Wright, Historic Preservation Planner
organization Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center
mailing address P. O. Box 1720
city or town Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30503
telephone 770-538-2626
e-mail cwright@gmrhc.org

- () **property owner**
- () **consultant**
- (x) **regional development center preservation planner**
- () **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Mary Garrison
organization (if applicable) Demorest Woman's Club
mailing address P. O. Box 564
city or town Demorest **state** Georgia **zip code** 30535
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Demorest Woman's Club
City or Vicinity: Demorest
County: Habersham
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 2007

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 16


1. Northeast side of building; photographer facing southwest.
2. Front sidewalk and street; photographer facing southwest
3. Front façade of building showing main entrance; photographer facing west.
4. South corner of building; photographer facing north.
5. Front façade of building; photographer facing northwest.
6. East corner of building; photographer facing west.
7. Interior of upper (main) level, showing stage area; photographer facing west.
8. Upper level, close-up of stage; photographer facing northwest.
9. Upper level, front door and entryway; photographer facing south.
10. Front staircase from upper level; photographer facing west.
11. Upper level, main floor area and front entryway; photographer facing southeast.
12. Lower level, main room; photographer facing northwest.
13. Lower level, rear (secondary) staircase; photographer facing east.
14. Front façade of building; photographer facing northwest.
15. North (rear) corner of building; photographer facing south.
16. Detail of front door; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

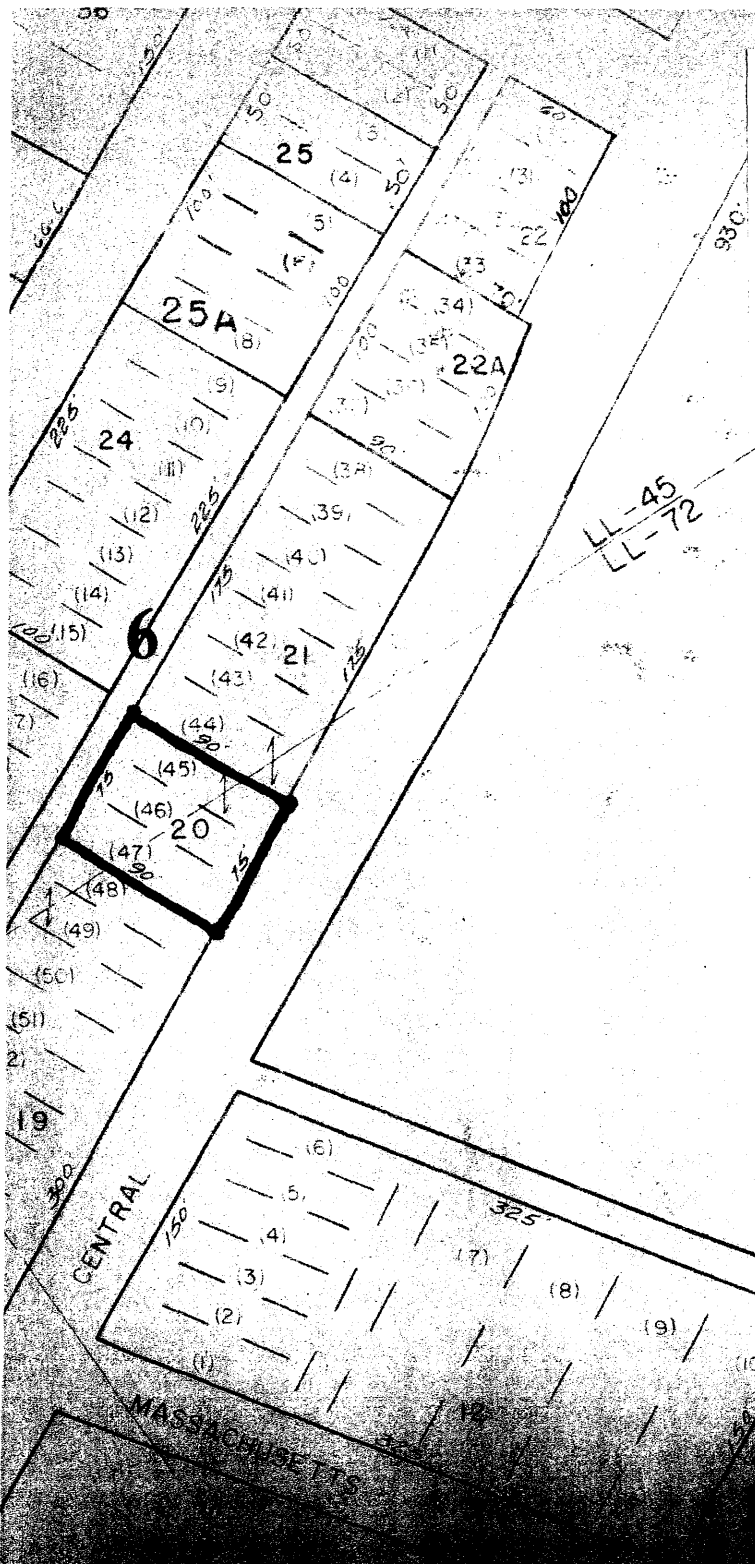
DEMOREST WOMAN'S CLUB
HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/TAX MAP


NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 

SCALE: 1" = 100'

NORTH: 

SOURCE: HABERSHAM COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE




9
9

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION MAP
OF
HABERSHAM COUNTY

DATE 10 - 15 - 68 | SCALE 1" = 100'

PHOTO NO. 193 - 31

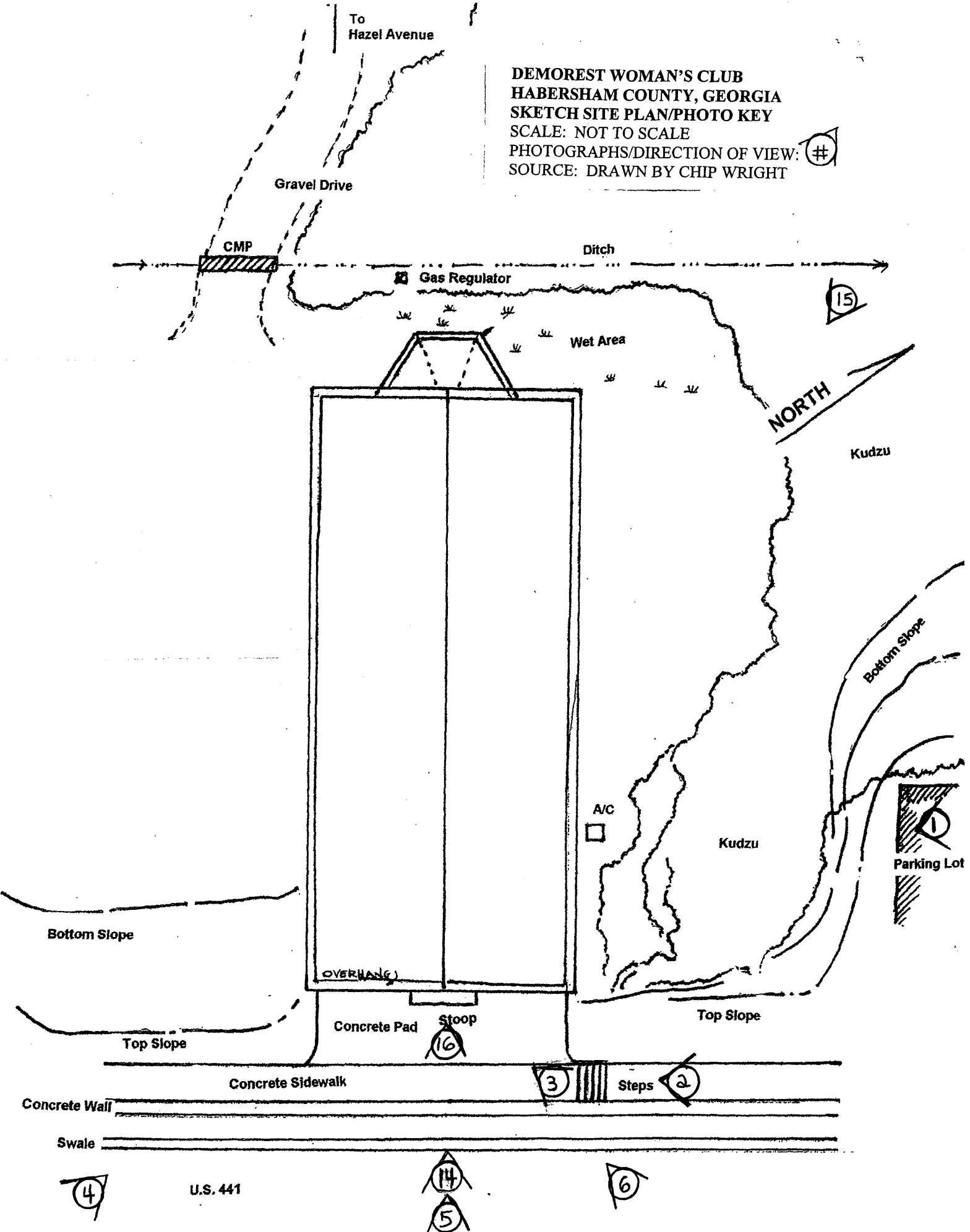
MAP NO. DE - 9

DEMOREST WOMAN'S CLUB
HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
SKETCH SITE PLAN/PHOTO KEY

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

PHOTOGRAPHS/DIRECTION OF VIEW: #

SOURCE: DRAWN BY CHIP WRIGHT



#

15

NORTH

Kudzu

Bottom Slope

1
Parking Lot

Bottom Slope

OVERHANG

A/C

Kudzu

Top Slope

Top Slope

Concrete Pad

Stoop

Concrete Sidewalk

3

Steps

2

Concrete Wall

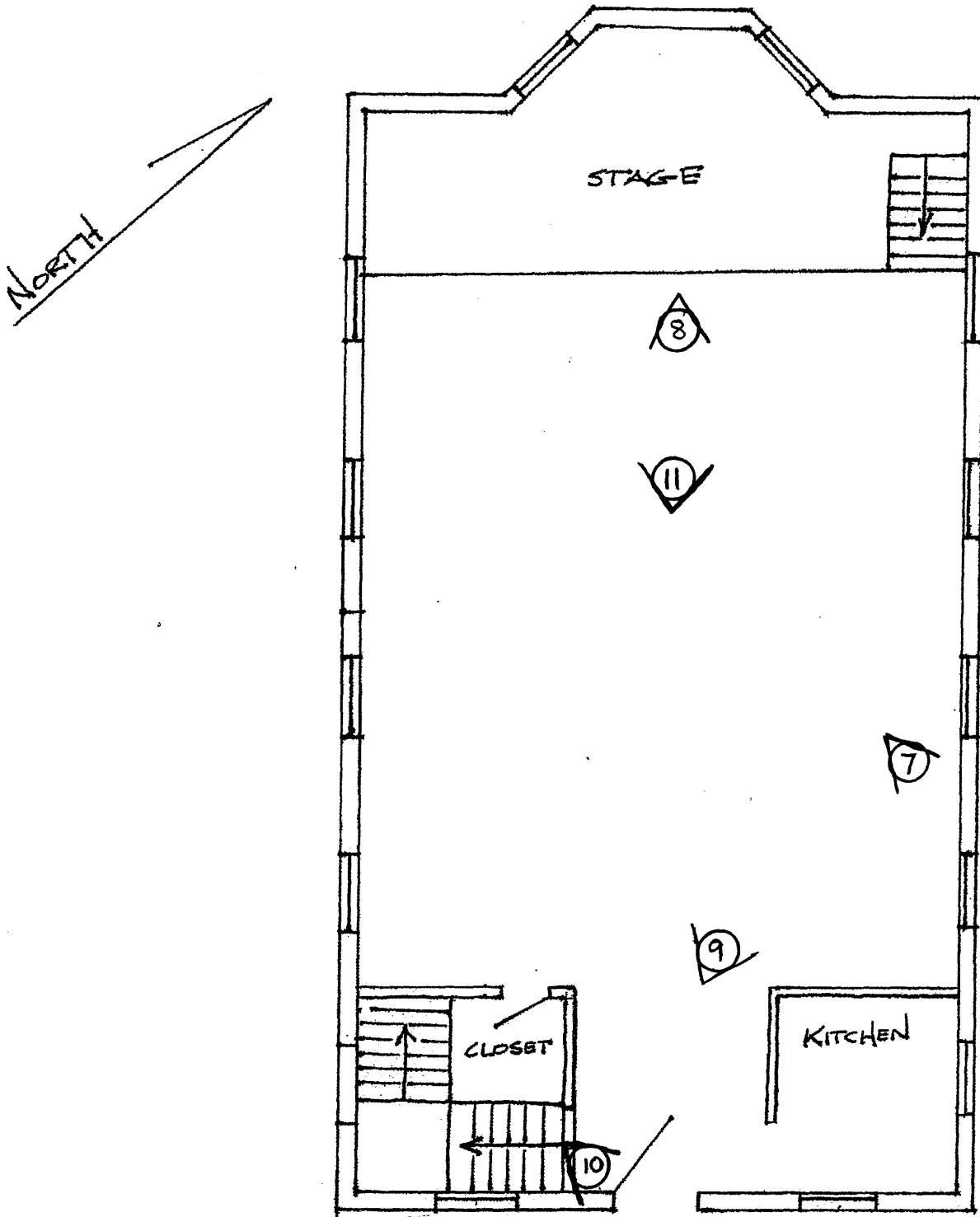
Swale


U.S. 441

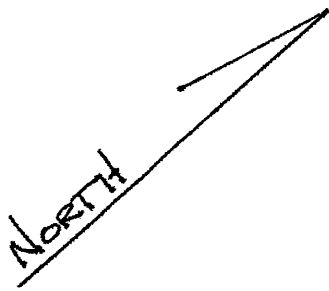
14
5

6

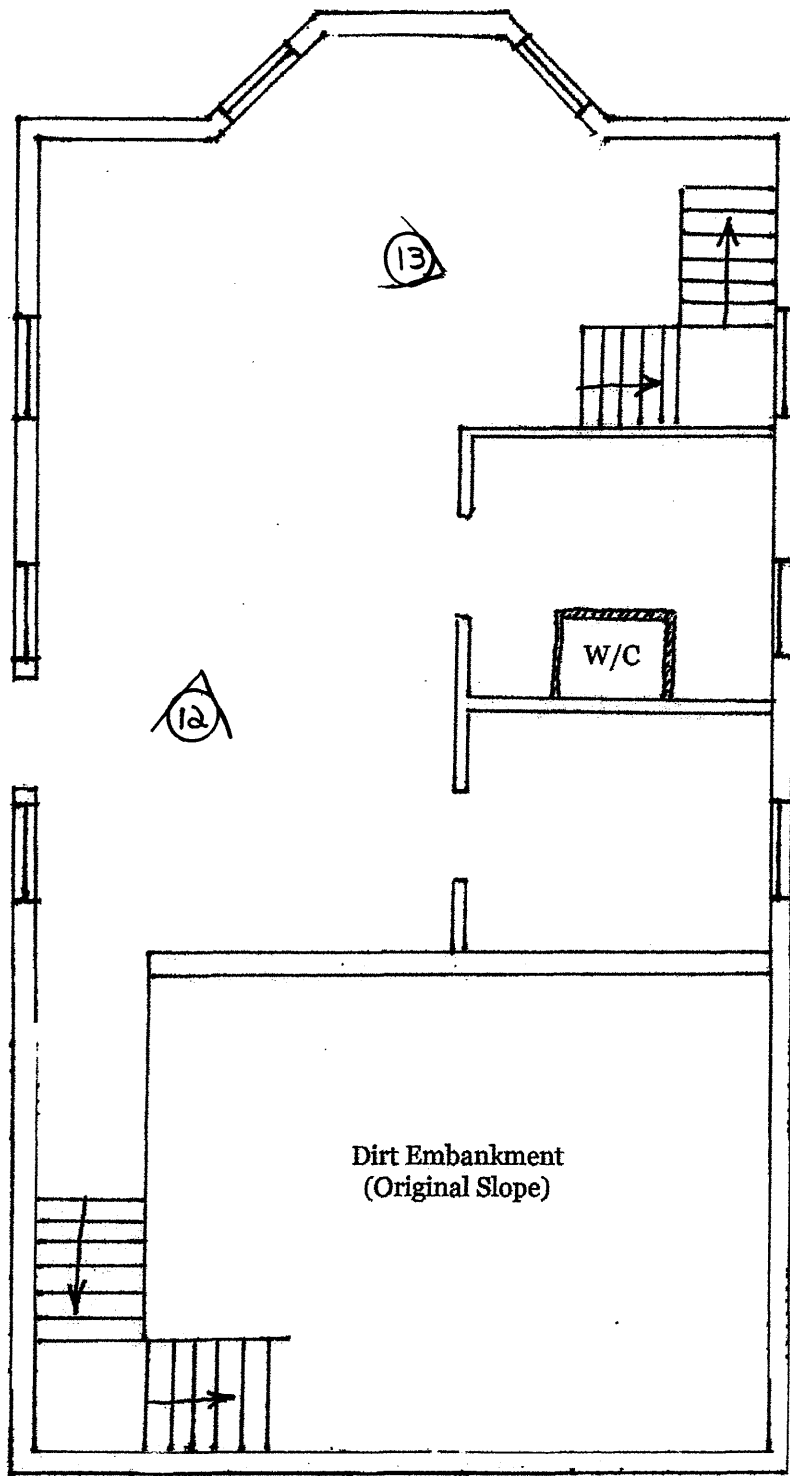
4



DEMOREST WOMAN'S CLUB
HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN/PHOTO KEY
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 PHOTOGRAPHS/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 
 SOURCE: DRAWN BY CHIP WRIGHT



Windows Are Covered



No Windows

DEMOREST WOMAN'S CLUB
HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN/PHOTO KEY
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
PHOTOGRAPHS/DIRECTION OF VIEW: (#)
SOURCE: DRAWN BY CHIP WRIGHT



Map Prepared By:
Georgia Mountains Regional
Development Center
January 2007