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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name CITRA METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

other names/site number Citra United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 2010 North East 180<sup>th</sup> Street

N/A  not for publication

city or town Citra

N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Marion code 083 zip code 32113

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally,  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 1/23/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action 3-5-98

Citra Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Name of Property

Marion Co., FL  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

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

**Name of related multiple property listings**

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

"N/A"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: church

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: church

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: frame vernacular meeting house

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD  
roof ASBESTOS  
other GLASS

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1881

**Significant Dates**

1881

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository

Citra Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Name of Property

Marion Co., FL  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.3 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	9	1	9	2	0	3	2	5	3	8	8	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4															

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

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

#### Boundary Justification

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert O. Jones/Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date January 1998

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

##### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

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

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

##### Photographs

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

##### Additional items

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

#### Property Owner

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

name United Methodist Church, Florida Conference

street & number 1140 East McDonald Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Lakeland state FL zip code 33802

**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 amend 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.).

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CITRA METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH  
CITRA, MARION CO., FL

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**SUMMARY**

The Citra Methodist Episcopal Church, South is located at 2010 North East 180<sup>th</sup> Street, Citra, Marion County, Florida. The 1881 church is a one-story, rectangular, frame vernacular building with a front gable roof. An engaged, three stage, belfry tower is centered above the main porch, and dominates the north, main facade. The church is built on brick piers, and has horizontal wooden siding and a roof surfaced with asbestos-cement shingles. All windows are 6/6, double-hung wooden sash with segmental arched tops. Original interior finishes have been covered with non-historic materials. A non-contributing assembly building is directly east of the church and connected by a covered walkway.

**SETTING**

The church is situated on a large corner lot with a lawn, shrubbery, and several mature oak trees (Photo #1). The lot is surrounded by vacant and forested property with few residential buildings. Citra is a small rural community, and a concentration of building occurs about one-half mile to the northeast. U.S. Highway 301 runs north/south through the community and region, and is two blocks to the east.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

The main, northern facade is the gable end with a central main entry and porch, surmounted by a three stage belfry tower (Photo #2). The first stage is an open porch with large chamfered posts that are joined to a two-tiered roof skirt. This roof connects to the second stage which is composed of horizontal siding, and rises above the crest of the roof. The third stage has a louvered opening and is capped with a steep hip roof. The upper stage houses the church bell. Three steps access the front porch and large double doors that form a point at the top. The central doors are flanked by two windows.

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The west elevation contains six, equally spaced windows. The broad side of the roof is visible (Photo #3). An external brick chimney pierces the roof between the first and second windows to the north. The belfry tower is visible on the north.

The south elevation is a gable end with the trim visible from a grouping of three pointed windows that are enclosed, and believed to have never functioned as windows (Photo #4). Two metal ducts connect to an air conditioning unit on the ground.

The east elevation is arranged like the west except that rear double doors are located where the second window from the south would be situated (Photo #5).

**Interior**

The church interior arrangement reflects the building's "meeting house" tradition of one large room (Photos #6&7). Pews are arranged along the east and west sides with a central aisle from the entrance to the altar at the southern end. The floors are carpeted wood. The walls are paneled and the ceiling has acoustic tiles with flush square florescent lighting. These non-historic finishes cover the original plaster walls and ceiling. The original communion rail with turned balusters divides the chancel from the nave (Photo #8). Three original pews are in the choir. The window sashes are glazed with original etched panes in the middle and top openings (Photo #9). The etching is in a geometric pattern producing a lace-like effect. Behind the acoustic ceiling are three sculpted plaster rosettes from which lamps were suspended.

**ALTERATIONS**

The current roofing shingles were added in 1922. A new oak floor was laid in 1956. In 1967 the poor condition of the plaster walls and ceiling prompted the congregation to cover the interior with the current paneling and ceiling tiles. A heating and air conditioning unit was added in 1970. In the 1990s, broken window glass was replaced with textured-clear panes. The workman arranged the remaining etched panes in the middle and

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CITRA, MARION CO., FL

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across the tops of the sashes, placing the new panes on the sides.

### NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The one-story brick assembly hall, constructed in 1952, is connected to the east elevation side doors of the church by an open, covered walkway (Photos #10&11). The hall has a cross-gable roof surfaced with asphalt shingles. The interior includes a great room in the center with a toilet and nursery on the west side, and two offices on the east side.

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CITRA METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH  
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**SUMMARY**

The 1881 Citra Methodist Episcopal Church, South is nominated to the National Register on the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The church is a good example of vernacular church building which adopted the towered "meeting house" form, popular within American Protestant denominations. The form was elaborated by a multi-stage tower and the inclusion of Gothic style details. Original plaster walls and ceiling remain behind non-historic surfaces. A non-contributing fellowship hall and covered walkway are present, but do not diminish the architectural integrity of the church building.

**HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

During the Spanish Colonial Period, a mission was founded south of Orange Lake in the vicinity of Citra. Following the Seminole Wars in the 1840s, early settlers took interest in the region around Orange Lake for its agricultural potential. Experiments were conducted grafting citrus onto existing citrus trees remaining from Spanish cultivation. Substantial orange groves were developed in 1871, and the "Pineapple Orange" was hybridized there. In 1881 the small town was laid out by James A. Harris, and a railroad depot was brought to the town, the first rail connection within the county. Citra, and the east coast's Merritt Island, became the state's largest citrus producers in the 1880s and 1890s. The Great Freeze of 1894-1895 dramatically curtailed the agricultural economy of Citra and decreased attendance at the Methodist Church.

The circuit riding ministers for the Methodist Episcopal Church initiated much of the earliest religious development within early Florida's rural settlements. In the 1870s, the Reverend Oliver Eady rode the Ocala circuit, which included Ocala, Cotton Plant, Orange Springs, Fort McCoy, Spring Hill, Indian Spring, Ocklawaha, and Cabbage Hammock near Citra. In 1880, the Reverend Julius D. Rogers formed the Citra congregation and arranged the building of the church. John and Elizabeth



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Harris contributed the corner lot of property to the church for \$1. In 1885 the church bought adjacent property where the fellowship hall currently stands.

The Methodist Church in America was founded in 1784 at a convention in Baltimore. In 1845 a division within the American Methodist Episcopal Church arose over the denomination's opposition to slavery. The denomination divided itself between northern and southern states, the southern choosing to take no stance. The two divisions reunited in 1939. Coinciding with the antebellum division, the Florida Conference was formed when it had grown large enough it split off from the Georgia Conference in February, 1845.

Methodism is a non-ritual Protestant religious denomination founded in England in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century as a part of the Anglican Church. Their early places of worship were austere, avoiding associations with Roman Catholic construction, and their worship service is centered on the minister's sermon. Early meeting houses were simple rectangular or square buildings with a prominent pulpit placed against a broad wall of the interior with the congregation facing it.

Although American Methodists built simple meeting houses, they were influenced by whatever currently popular style of architecture was adopted by more established denominations, such as the Episcopalians or Congregationalists. The works of the English architect Christopher Wren influenced the 1699 Brattle Street Congregational Church in Boston, which served as one of the most popular models of American church design. The rectangular church had a staged tower with steeple attached to the gable end facade. This rectangular building with minimal elements of Classical design has remained popular to this day. Such considerations influenced the design features incorporated into vernacular Methodist churches built in Florida.

Vernacular architecture reflects the common wood frame or masonry construction techniques of lay or self-taught builders. This type of construction is the product of the builder's experience, available resources, and responses to the local environment. A variety of frame vernacular houses with no particular style spread throughout the country as part of the expansion of the railroads. Sometimes called the National Style,

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this variation of American folk housing was made possible by innovations in sawmill produced building supplies and balloon frame construction techniques. The basic differences depend on the shape of the building.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Citra Methodist Episcopal Church, South is a good example of vernacular construction in the Meeting House form of religious architecture. It is a form that has been popular within the Methodist and other American Protestant denominations since the Colonial Period in America. The church includes the 1699 Brattle Street Church model of engaging a staged tower at the main, gable facade. The main entrance at Citra is open, exposing the elevated porch at the first stage. The first stage is topped by an unusual two-tiered roof skirt. A belfry is in the third stage. The original church bell is still rung every Sunday. The church incorporates small design elements from several historic traditions. The windows with segmental arched tops reflect the Classical influence. The pointed double main doors, longitudinal orientation of the interior, and pointed windows in the south wall (never used) reflect Gothic influences. The church exhibits quality workmanship, is in excellent condition, and has a high degree of architectural integrity.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10 and Photographs  
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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lands Commence at NW corner of N2 of NE4, south 160' east 136'  
north 160' west 136', Deed book L page 930.  
Sec.33 T 12 R 22

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This boundary encompasses and is historically associated with the  
Citra Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. Citra Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
2010 N.E. 180<sup>th</sup> St., Citra
2. Marion County, Florida
3. Rev. Gary Eldred
4. Aug. 1997
5. Citra United Methodist Church
6. Church on corner lot, camera facing southeast
7. Photo #1 of 11

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs.

6. Main, north facade, camera facing south
7. Photo #2 of 11
  
6. West elevation, camera facing east
7. Photo #3 of 11
  
6. South elevation, camera facing north
7. Photo #4 of 11

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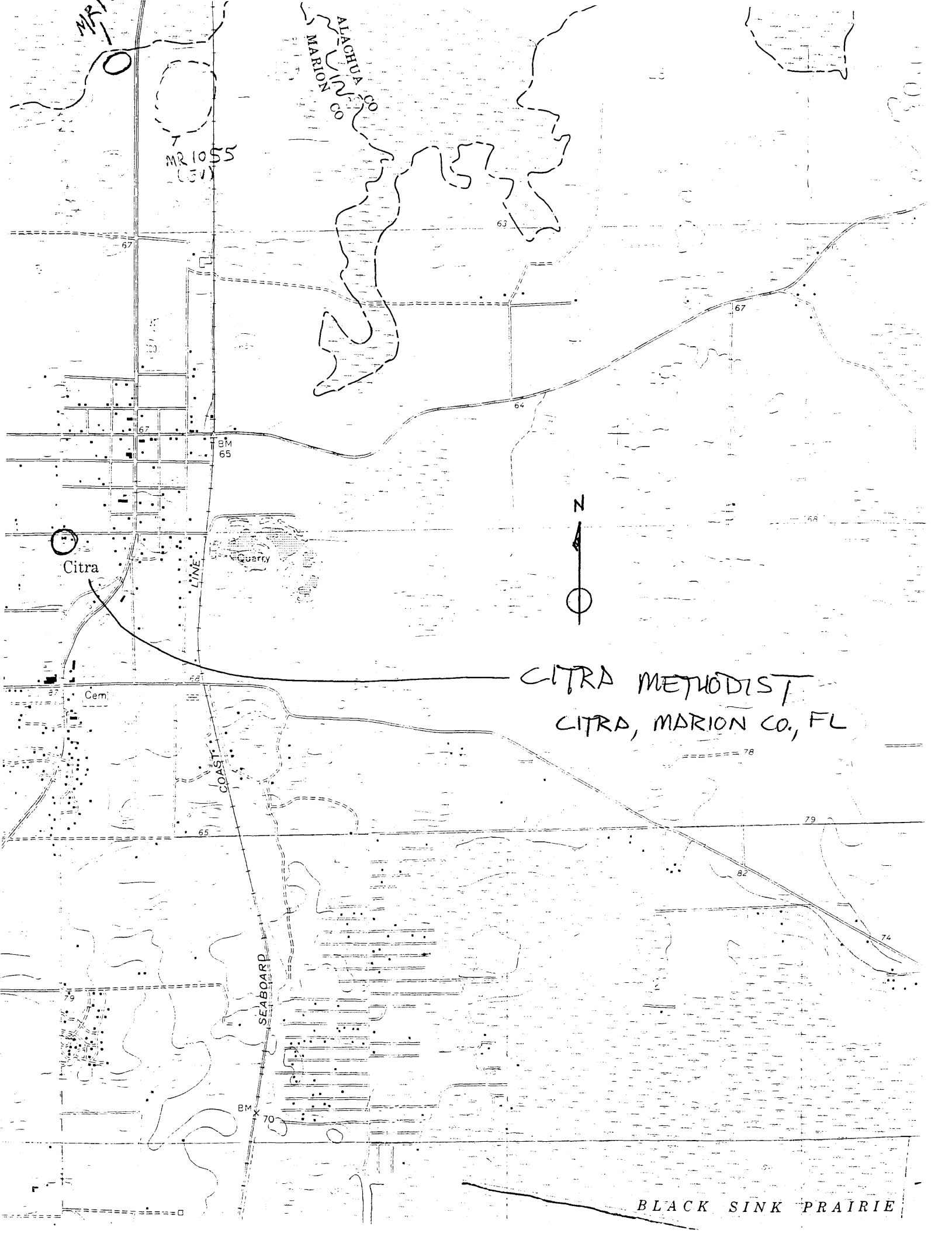
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- 6. East elevation, camera facing southwest
- 7. Photo #5 of 11
  
- 6. Interior, camera facing south
- 7. Photo #6 of 11
  
- 6. Interior, camera facing north
- 7. Photo #7 of 11
  
- 6. Detail of railing, camera facing west
- 7. Photo #8 of 11
  
- 6. Window, camera facing west
- 7. Photo #9 of 11
  
- 6. Non-contributing assembly building, camera facing south
- 7. Photo #10 of 11
  
- 6. Assembly building, camera facing northwest
- 7. Photo #11 of 11



MR 1055

MR 1055  
(31)

ALACHUA  
MARION CO



CITRA METHODIST  
CITRA, MARION CO., FL

BLACK SINK PRAIRIE

Citra

Cem.

Quarry

COAST

SEABOARD

BM  
65

BM X  
70

67

67

65

63

64

67

66

78

79

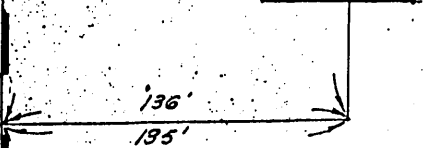
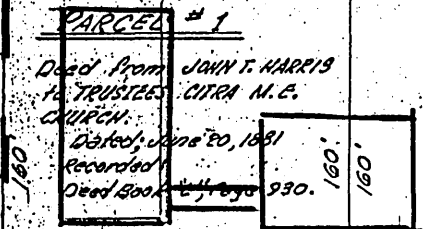
82

74

79

NW CORNER  
NE 1/4, SEC. 33  
T-12-S, R-22-E  
1/4 Cqe. N. Bdy.  
SEC. 33

P.O.B.  
Parcel # 1



PARCEL # 2

Deed from DAVID BARCUS to TRUSTEES  
CITRA M.E. CHURCH.  
Dated: June 1, 1885  
Recorded: Deed Book 36, Page 382

367.95' (5 chs, 5 1/2 links)

528' (8 chains)

271.92' (4 chs, 12 links)

136.95' (2 chs, 7 1/2 links)

P.O.B.  
(Parcel # 2)

NE CORNER  
SEC. 33

SCALE - 1" = 50'

CITRA METHODIST CHURCH  
1881  
CITRA, MARION CO., FL

