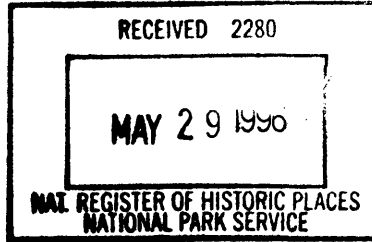


695



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 an 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 MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH

other names/site number Miccosukee United Methodist Church/Concord Methodist Episcopal Church, South

2. Location

street & number County Road 59, South of Moccasin Gap/Cromartie N/A not for publication

city or town Miccosukee N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Leon code 073 zip code 32309

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 5/23/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6-28-96

Entered in the
National Register

Miccosukee Methodist Church
Name of Property

Leon Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

"N/A"

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: church

FUNERARY: graves

RELIGION: church

FUNERARY: graves

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: frame vernacular

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT shingles

other _____

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1876 - 1946

Significant Dates

1876

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 67) 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Miccosukee Methodist Church
Name of Property

Leon Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	7	8	3	7	2	0	3	3	8	8	1	0	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 Lisa Dunbar/Vivian Young/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 1996

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough St. telephone 904-487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state FL 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 Miccosukee United Methodist Church, Tommy Cromartie III, Chairman

street & number P.O. Box 12 telephone 904-893-1109

city or town Miccosukee state FL zip code 32309

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH,
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FLORIDA

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SUMMARY

The Miccosukee Methodist Church is located on the eastern side of State Road 59, just south of the Moccasin Gap-Cromartie Roads intersection. It is a one-story, front gabled, frame vernacular religious building with a steeple, and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building is situated on a wooded lot that includes a late nineteenth century family burial plot.

SETTING

Miccosukee Methodist Church is situated on a broad lawn. Several feet to the east, behind the church, begins a dense growth of trees and brush, and several large oaks are beside the church on the north. An unpaved drive is located under these oaks to the east of a non-historic church office/assembly building. The church is approximately 550 feet south of the crossroads. Miccosukee is a sparsely settled, thickly wooded community, roughly 18 miles north of Tallahassee, and an equal distance to Thomasville, Georgia.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The current Miccosukee Methodist Church building was constructed in 1876, and it is believed to be the oldest remaining structure in the crossroads community. Oriented to the west, the building is rectangular in form, and rests on brick piers interspersed with brick lattice (photo #1). The building is clad in clapboard painted white, with cornerboards, and has asphalt shingle roofing. The main facade features a central entrance vestibule with paired, multi-paneled doors surmounted by a three-light transom and pediment. On either side are 9/9 single hung sash windows also surmounted by pediments. Atop the building, resting on a square pedestal, and square, louvered tower, is a steeple. The tower portion contains a church bell. The north and south elevations are identical, featuring four large 9/9 single hung sash windows with fixed green shutters covering

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MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH,
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FLORIDA

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the top sashes (photos #6, 7). Two hinges remain in each window frame indicative of earlier shutters that existed on the lower half of the windows. The eastern elevation is completely unadorned (photo #3).

One enters the church through a vestibule, which has north and south side doors, each facing an aisle. The interior of the church contains a large, rectangular seating area for the congregation, with three rows of pews and two aisles (photos #4, 5). A platform in the apse features a simple balustrade. Above, painted on the easterly wall, is the quote "The Lord is in His Holy Temple, Let all the Earth keep silence before Him." This was painted at the direction of schoolteacher Miss Sallie Blake around the turn of the century. Four hanging lights illuminate the congregation, while a fifth light is in the vestibule.

The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity, both inside and out. It is a fine example of vernacular architecture, with its wood frame construction, large, shuttered windows, and simple design. Exterior modifications include the brick lattice which was installed in the 1960s, new shutters, and an asphalt shingle roof. Air conditioning vents were added inside, but they are placed inconspicuously.

Also on the property is a small historic family burial plot (photos #6, 7). It contains two markers, for Bettie A. Smith (died December 16, 1874) and Mattie Moor Smith (born April 4, 1874, died December 13, 1882). They were members of the Byrd family, who donated the land to the church. This plot is a contributing feature.

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Section number 8 Page 1

MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH,
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FLORIDA

SUMMARY

The Miccosukee Methodist Church is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Early Settlement and Architecture. The church is a fine example of late nineteenth century frame vernacular religious architecture in Leon County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Northeast of Tallahassee, on the western shore of Lake Miccosukee, the community of Miccosukee has a history that dates to Native-American settlements in the 1700s, and probably earlier. It is in the heart of what was once Florida's richest agricultural region. Much of its history and development relate to agriculture.

Rural crossroads communities prospered in Leon County during the Territorial and Antebellum period. Many contained post offices, schools, churches, and commercial businesses needed to serve the rural populations of the area. They also often had residences to house the ministers, school teachers, postmasters and others providing the services. Domestic outbuildings associated with these residences might include kitchens, smokehouses, privies, carriage houses and the like. More substantial communities, particularly those on rail lines, might have cotton gins and grist mills to serve the farmers of the region. Crossroads communities evolved over the years, expanding in periods when agriculture and related industry prospered, and declining when the economy suffered. Miccosukee is one of Leon County's finer remaining examples of a rural crossroads community.

The community derives its name from the Native Americans who settled there. The Miccosukee were a tribe of Creek origin who lived in the area. Breaking away from the powerful Muscogee confederacy of Alabama as a result of conflict among the chiefs, they migrated to the area of present-day Tallahassee in the mid-1700s. Sometimes known as the "Seminoles" or "runaways" they included runaway African-American slaves among their population. They

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MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FLORIDASection number 8 Page 2

established a sizable settlement in this area, known by the name Miccosukee. It was the largest of the Seminole towns, having a population of 1,000 and stretching three to four miles along the shores of Lake Miccosukee by the early 1800s.

Miccosukee in Territorial and Antebellum times was a sparsely populated region. Religious and educational institutions began developing, but they were not clustered at the crossroads. In 1828, the Concord Methodist Episcopal Church, precursor to today's Miccosukee United Methodist Church, was established several miles south of the crossroads on State Road 59. Indian Springs Baptist Church, first chartered in 1829 for worshippers of that faith, was initially on Magnolia Road south of today's Miccosukee. In 1854, the Baptists constructed their present church building 3.5 miles south of the crossroads on State Road 59. It served both planters and slaves.

As with the rest of the South, the end of slavery as an economic base sent the region into a quick decline. After the war, the plantations shifted to a sharecropping or tenant farmer system. Other farmers acquired their own land to work, and this period became the heyday of the small yeoman farmer in Leon County. By the 1870s, the economy of Leon County was beginning to rebound. A local newspaper, *The Semi-Tropical*, reported in 1876, that Miccosukie [sic] had two stores, a schoolhouse, a Methodist Episcopal church, a Baptist Church, a Masonic Lodge, and two doctors.

In 1886, the *Florida State Gazetteer* stated that the community had a population of 100, six general stores, three justices of the peace, a teacher, postmaster, and three vegetable and truck farmers. Land sold for \$5 to \$10 an acre, with principal produce including cotton and vegetables.

Beginning in 1887, a connection to the railroad played a large role in Miccosukee's history. The Florida Railway and Navigation Company line served Miccosukee, ultimately linking it to Capitola to the south, Metcalfe and Thomasville, Georgia to the north, and through Metcalfe to Monticello, Florida, to the east. Miccosukee traditionally had closer ties to Thomasville than to Tallahassee, in large

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MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH,
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FLORIDA

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part due to the better roads in Georgia. The line later became part of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad system, with service to Miccosukee halting in the mid-1940s.

J.A. Herring became Miccosukee's first postmaster in 1885. The function of the office encouraged community interaction, and at different times was operated out of a building that served as a "courthouse" and later out of Herring's General Store. Long after the store closed, the post office remained in the store building, which was shared by the Missionary Society of the Miccosukee Methodist Church, and the Garden Club.

By the 1890s, wealthy Northern industrialists began purchasing large tracts of land in North Florida and South Georgia, to use as their winter quail hunting estates. In addition to land acquisition, this trend took a different twist in the Miccosukee area. The Miccosukee Club, in 1907, led by Dr. Percy Bolton of New York, began leasing land in the Miccosukee area, with hunters staying at the Magnolia Lodge, the Miccosukee home of Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Yarbrough. The growth of hunting plantations took thousands of acres of land out of agricultural production in the Miccosukee area. While tenant farmers worked the land of these hunting estates, agricultural output was not a high priority. Many yeoman farms were eliminated, as the hunting plantations expanded.

Optimism in the community's continued growth is reflected in the first platting of land which occurred in 1908, known as Herring's Addition. The platted area was for land immediately to the west of State Road 59 at its intersection with Moccasin Gap-Cromartie Road. The Florida Central Rail Road ran along the western boundary of Herring's Addition with the depot on the south side of Railroad Street. To the west of the railroad was "the branch," or a creek, and then J.W. Collins Subdivision which was platted within a month of the Herring Addition. The Collins Subdivision had much smaller lots, and numerous streets, most of which were never developed. The main east-west road through Miccosukee, today's Moccasin Gap-Cromartie Roads, was called "Railroad Street." By the late 1920s,

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most of this land contained general stores and other commercial establishments.

Accounts from early this century depicted a bustling community. The *Lands of Leon*, an advertising supplement to the Tallahassee newspaper, described Miccosukee glowingly in 1911:

The quiet post village of an age ago is waking up to its potentialities; the coming of the railroad was the first wire to touch its somnolent life to action. It is still quite a village but new houses are going up and it is taking on the proportions of a town. There are a number of pretty homes, with vine clad verandahs and front rose gardens, white bodies and green blinds, that establish the perspectibility of the residents....There is a future for Miccosukee. Watch it grow.

It repeatedly attributed Miccosukee's prosperity to the railroad, noting that the Florida Central Railroad offered a direct line to Thomasville, Georgia 18 miles away, and the Seaboard Air Line to Capitola, Florida, which was 10 miles away. Unfortunately there was no railroad access to Tallahassee, 18 miles away. Eventually, as automobiles became more prevalent, travel to Miccosukee became much easier.

Miccosukee had a cotton gin which was "working full time," and nearly a thousand bales of cotton were shipped from Miccosukee in 1911. The community was clearly the business center for the area, for it now included a grocer, drug company, seven general stores, and a turpentine still.

In 1918, Miccosukee's population was 200, and included a telegraph, Western Union and telephone connections, a grist mill, stock breeder, railroad representative and physician. By 1925, Miccosukee's population expanded to 500.

Most of the historic buildings in the community that are still standing were constructed between 1890 and 1945. Rural electrification occurred in the 1930s, resulting in

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indoor plumbing and electric lights for the homes and businesses. The development of large hunting estates, the boll weevil infestation in 1916, and the Great Depression irrevocably damaged Leon County's agricultural base, on which Miccosukee was dependent.

Today, the general stores are closed and one has been replaced with a modern convenience store. The grist mill, cotton mill and turpentine still are now archaeological sites on the outskirts of town. The rail line ceased operation in the mid 1940s. Most of the residents now commute to jobs in the Tallahassee or Thomasville area.

Despite these changes, Miccosukee retains much of its turn-of-the-century charm. The Methodist Church at the crossroads remains the most prominent landmark and a symbol of the community's rich heritage. White houses with green shutters still predominate, and the red brick Miccosukee School serves as a community center. The post office, now in a contemporary building, still hand stamps the mail. Miccosukee might not have achieved the prominence predicted in the 1911 publication, *Lands of Leon*, but with its fine vernacular architecture and rural character, Miccosukee is an important historic resource in Leon County.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH

The Tallahassee District of the Methodist Church was established in 1825, and by 1828, the Concord Church was established in a now-vanished community called Concord, three miles south of the crossroads on State Road 59. Early services were probably held in private homes, but by 1839, a small log house was constructed as Concord's first church building. In 1851, the church purchased another parcel of land. It is possible, but not confirmed, that a church building was constructed on this second site at this time. In 1866, the trustees of the Concord Methodist Episcopal Church, South prepared a study to sell the first Concord Church site to the Concord African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.). However, this land was not sold to the A.M.E. church until 1880 for the consideration of \$20.00.

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By 1875, members of the Concord Methodist Episcopal Church, South began recording their need for a new building: "In view of the condition that the house is in and also of the further fact that the society at Concord have decided to move the Church to the village of Miccosukee if the proper authority is granted....," members began making preparations for a new church. That same year, Catharine S. Byrd, widow of Dr. F.S. Byrd, donated land for the present Miccosukee church for the consideration of \$15.00, and the congregation raised \$600 for their new building. The church, the community's most prominent landmark, was completed in 1876. Its construction signaled a period of growth at the crossroads. Among its members were families that played instrumental roles in the development of the Miccosukee area, including the Cromarties, Bradleys, Yarbroughs, Herrings, Perkins and Blakes.

In 1910, participants at the First Quarterly Conference officially changed the name of the church from Concord Methodist Church, South to the Miccosukee Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1939, it was renamed again, to Miccosukee Methodist Church, reflecting the union of two branches of the Methodist church, the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1968, the name was changed again, to the Miccosukee United Methodist Church as a result of the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church. Today, approximately seventy-eight people are members of the church, and the Sunday school continues to play an important role.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH

The Miccosukee Methodist Church is an outstanding frame vernacular church, similar to many constructed during the same period. It derives further significance in that it retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building's simplicity is reflective of the Methodist faith. With its steeple, richly vegetated setting, refined proportions and workmanship, the church is an important visual landmark in the Miccosukee crossroads community.

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MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH,
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FLORIDA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located in the community of Miccosukee, Florida, on the east side of State Road 59, to the south of the intersection with Cromartie Road. The nomination is for the southerly 198 feet of parcel 160820114000 as identified on the attached property appraiser map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The portion of the parcel nominated is historically associated with the Miccosukee Methodist Church and retains its historic integrity.

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Continuation Sheet**

MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH,
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FLORIDA

Section number Photographs Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Miccosukee Methodist Church
Main Street (State Road 59)
2. Miccosukee, Leon County, Florida
3. Vivian Young
4. July 1995 (Burial Plot August 1995)
5. Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board

Information above same for all photographs below.

6. Camera facing southeast.
7. 1 of 7

6. Camera facing northeast.
7. 2 of 7

6. Camera facing northwest.
7. 3 of 7

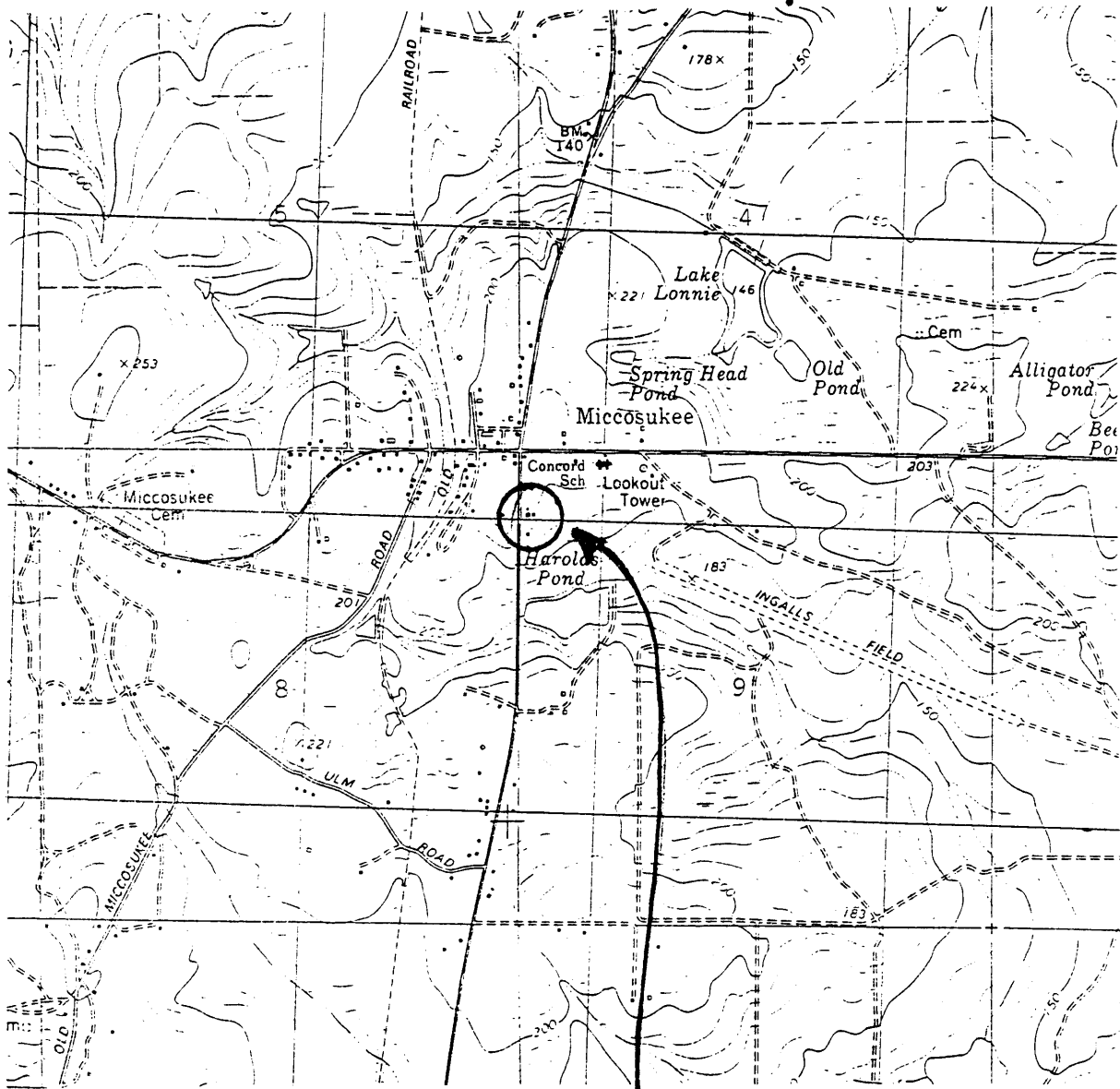
6. Interior, camera facing east.
7. 4 of 7

6. Interior, camera facing west.
7. 5 of 7

6. Burial plot, camera facing northwest.
7. 6 of 7

6. Burial plot, camera facing northwest.
7. 7 of 7

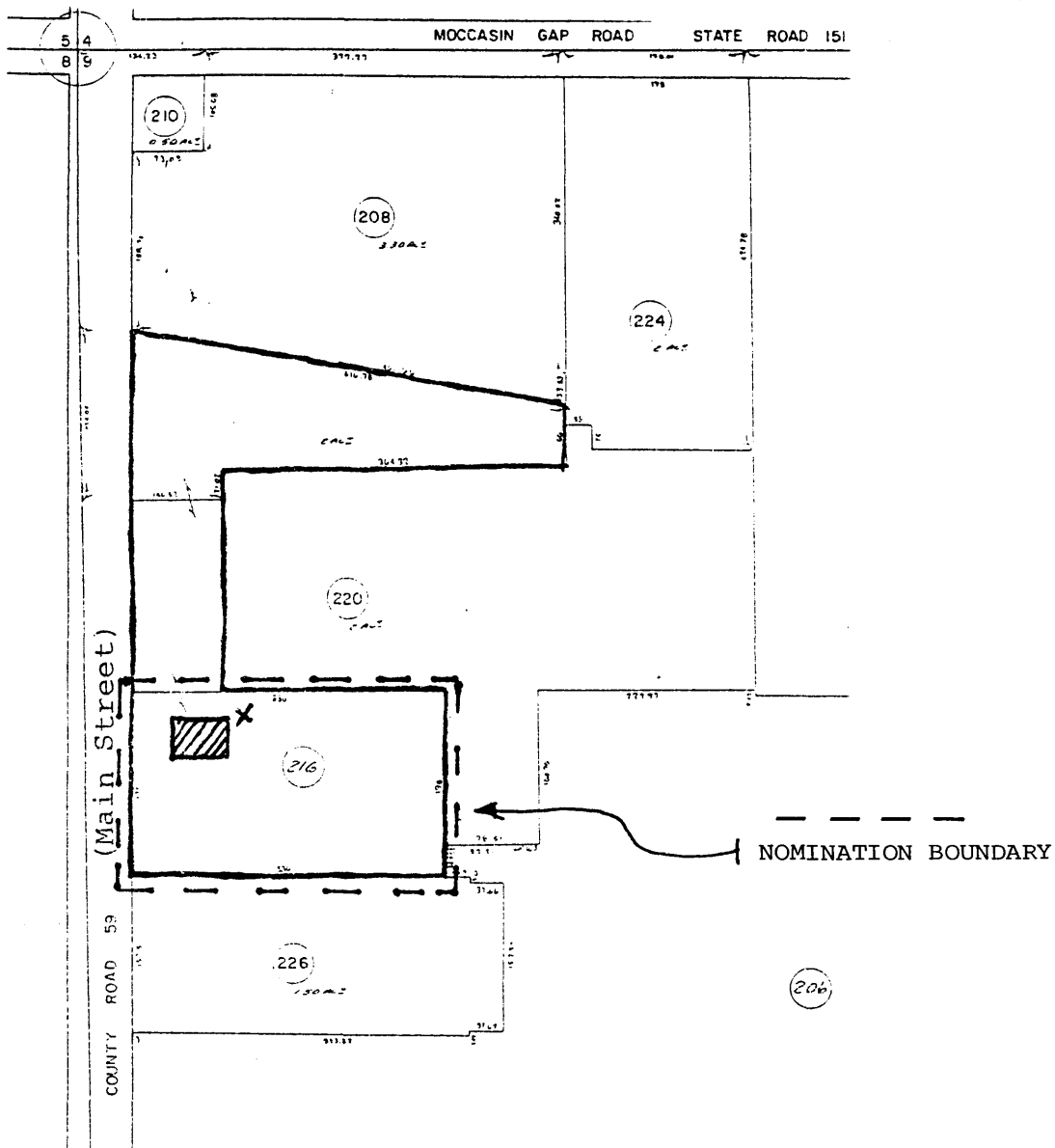
MAP 1
MICCOSUKEE, FLORIDA



MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH,
MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FL.

Map shows boundary of nomination, all property owned by church, and contributing church building, and graves "X"

MICCOSUKEE METHODIST CHURCH
MAIN STREET (S.R. 59)
MICCOSUKEE, FLORIDA



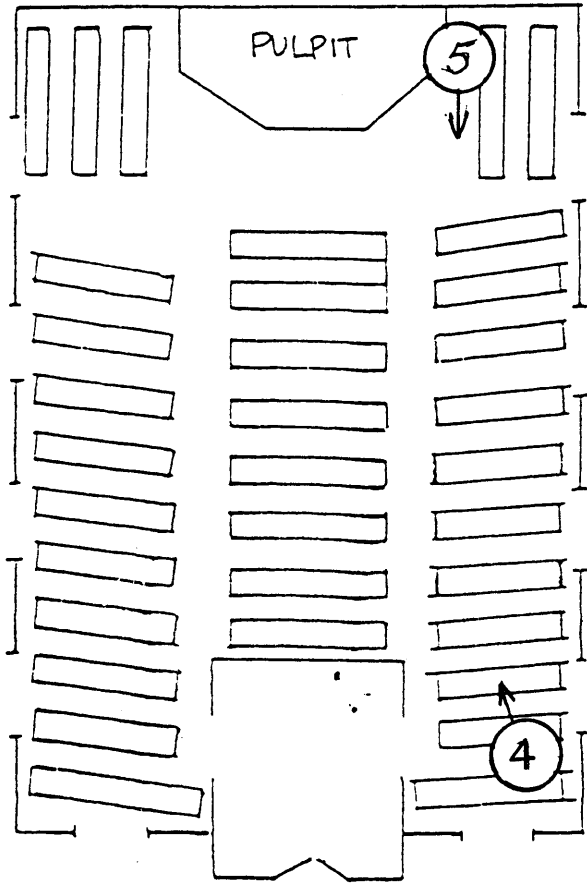
Miccosukee Methodist Church

(Not to Scale)

GRAVES 6,7

3 ↓

↖ N
NOT TO SCALE



MICCOSUKEE METHODIST
CHURCH

1 ↗

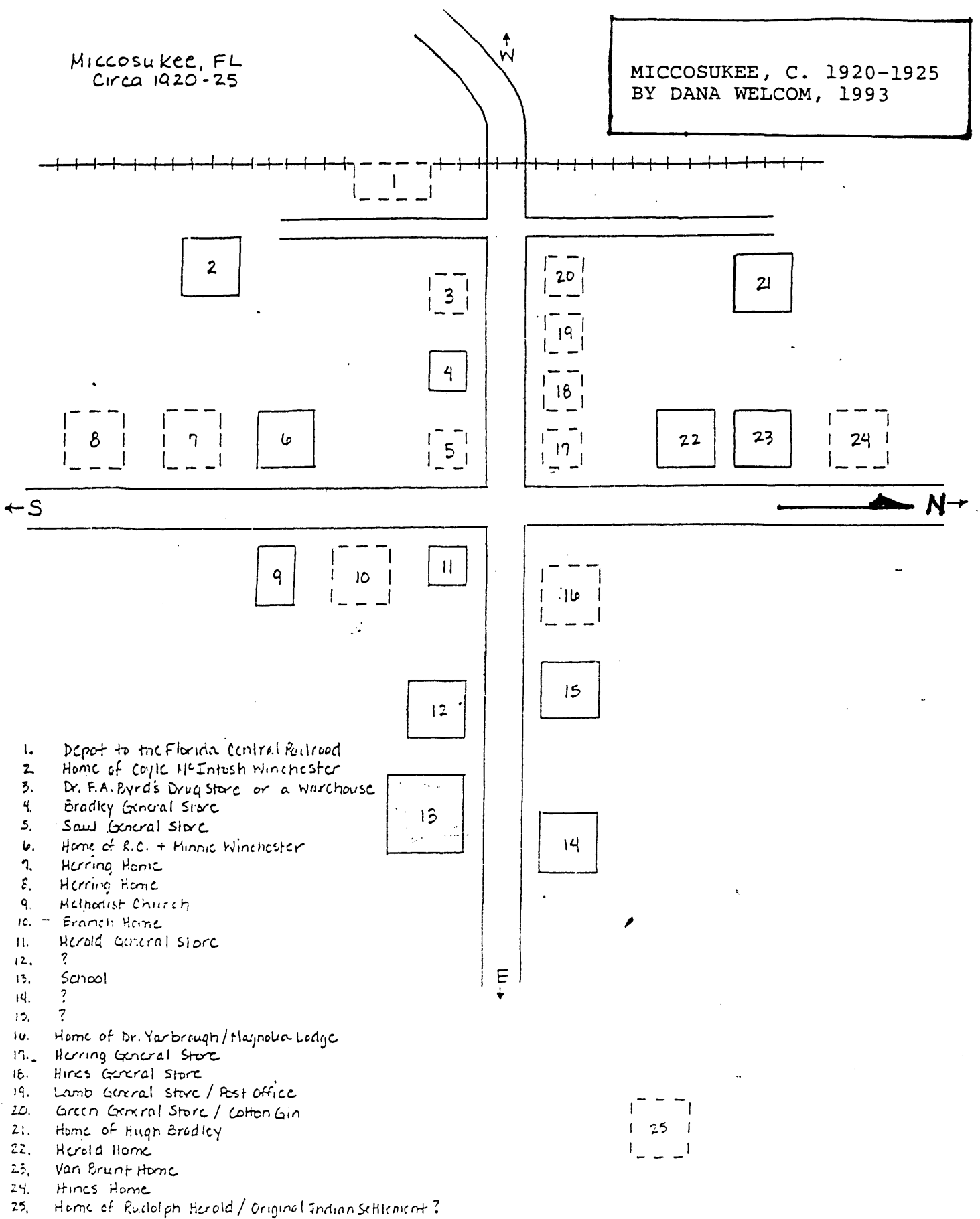
2 ↗

* FEWS NOT FIXED

MICCOSUKEE, LEON CO., FL.
PHOTOGRAPHIC DIAGRAM

Miccosukee, FL
Circa 1920-25

MICCOSUKEE, C. 1920-1925
BY DANA WELCOM, 1993



1. Depot to the Florida Central Railroad
2. Home of Cople McIntosh Winchester
3. Dr. F.A. Byrd's Drug Store or a Warehouse
4. Bradley General Store
5. Saw General Store
6. Home of R.C. + Minnie Winchester
7. Herring Home
8. Herring Home
9. Methodist Church
10. Branch Home
11. Herold General Store
12. ?
13. School
14. ?
15. ?
16. Home of Dr. Yarbrough / Maynoka Lodge
17. Herring General Store
18. Hines General Store
19. Lamb General Store / Post office
20. Green General Store / Cotton Gin
21. Home of Hugh Bradley
22. Herold Home
23. Van Brunt Home
24. Hines Home
25. Home of Rudolph Herold / Original Indian Settlement?

Legend :

- +—+—+— Rail Road
- Existing Buildings
- - - Destroyed Buildings