

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Grace Church

and/or common Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number Corner of Wilson and Greene Streets not for publication

city, town Clarkesville vicinity of congressional district 9th - Ed Jenkins

state Georgia code 013 county Habersham code 137

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church, Inc.; The Reverend John Flanigen, Jr.

street & number

city, town Clarkesville vicinity of state Georgia 30523

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Habersham County Courthouse

city, town Clarkesville vicinity of state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title Habersham County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta vicinity of state Georgia

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7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grace Church is located on the corner of Wilson and Greene streets, one block from the business district of Clarkesville. The nominated property consists of less than one acre.

Grace Church is a Greek Revival frame structure of mortise-and-tenon construction that was built in 1839-42. The front facade is of flushboard, while the remainder of the structure is of weatherboard. A two-story portico with four square columns is located on the front facade of the church. The double front door is flanked by a tall, narrow window on each side. Three large multiple-paned windows (42 over 42) with the original hand-blown glass are located on both sides of the structure. Green shutters serve as protection for the windows. A two-sectioned belfry is located near the front of the church on the gable roof. The bell was cast in 1852 by George Holbrook of East Medway, Massachusetts.

The interior of the church remains as it was when the structure was built in the mid-1800s. A small entrance room has stairways on each end that lead to the rear balcony. The square nave has three sections of box pews constructed of handhewn pine boards. The ceiling is constructed of handhewn planks. A semi-circular altar rail with small entry gates is located at the front of the nave. Behind the altar rail is the wooden pulpit with a narrow, curving stairway. A balcony is located at the rear of the nave. Bench-style pews, as well as the church organ, are located in the balcony.

Electricity was installed in the church in 1949. Restoration of the church occurred in 1975 when the foundation of the church was filled with brick. The organ was electrified at that time.

Also located on the property is a twentieth-century parish hall. Built in 1950 and enlarged in 1978, the parish hall does not contribute to the historical significance of the property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1839-42

Builder/Architect Jarvis Van Buren

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Grace Church is significant to the architectural, religious and musical history of Georgia. The structure is the oldest Episcopal Church in Georgia that remains essentially unaltered. The architect of the church, Jarvis Van Buren, was a leader in the development of the fruit industry in Georgia. The Grace Episcopal Church was the sixth Episcopal Church to be established in Georgia and enabled Georgia to elect its own bishop. The organ was built by Henry Erben, one of the eminent organ builders in the United States during the nineteenth century.

Architecturally, the Grace Church is the oldest Episcopal Church structure in Georgia that remains intact and essentially unaltered. While five Episcopal churches were built in Georgia prior to the church in Clarkesville, Grace Church is the only church that has not been destroyed or gutted by fire or replaced by another structure. The entire church remains essentially as it was constructed in 1839-42. Only necessary changes, such as the installation of electricity and the skirting of the foundation, have occurred over the years. The location of the pulpit is unusual. The pulpit in most Episcopal churches is located on a side of the nave, but in Grace Church, the pulpit is located in the center of the front wall of the nave. Grace Church is a good example of the use of Greek Revival style for church architecture. It also displays the use of building techniques that were common to the period.

The architect of the Grace Church, Jarvis Van Buren (1801-1884) was involved in many occupations. He is best known for his interest in the fruit industry in Georgia, where he developed the system of nomenclature for several native fruits to Georgia. He is also known in the Clarkesville area as the architect of several residences and churches. Van Buren was the architect of the Presbyterian church which was constructed in 1848, ten years after he designed Grace Church. Both churches are similar in design and detail. He also was the architect of the Victorian cottages, Woodlands and Blythewood, a National Register district.

The establishment of Grace Church was significant to the growth of the Episcopal Church in Georgia. Recognized by the Episcopal Church leaders as a promising mission field, Clarkesville was chosen for the site of the sixth Episcopal church in Georgia in 1838. With the establishment of Grace Church, the Episcopal Church leaders felt that the church in Georgia was strong enough to support a bishop of its own. In 1840, on the site of the Grace Church, the

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bonner, James C. A History of Georgia Agriculture 1732-1860. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1964.

[continued]

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Clarkeville, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	6	8	6	5	0	3	8	3	3	1	6	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H

Zone		Easting						Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are indicated by a heavy black line on the enclosed U.S.G.S. map.

See plat map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date October 29, 1979

street & number 270 Washington St., S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/29/79

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Sally G. DeLoach

date 2/15/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Lucretia A. Drake*

date 2/14/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	FEB 15 1980

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Diocese of Georgia elected the Reverend Stephen Elliott, Jr. (1806-1866) of South Carolina as Georgia's first bishop of the Episcopal Church. The election of Bishop Elliott in 1840 at Grace Church in Clarkesville was the beginning of a new era in the history of the Episcopal Church in Georgia.

The organ located in the balcony is significant to the history of music in Georgia. The organ was built by Henry Erben (1800-1884), the most eminent organ builder in the United States during the nineteenth century. The high-quality craftsmanship found in the organ has enabled it to remain in excellent condition. It is a tracker-action organ, consisting, as it does, of a direct mechanical connection between the keys and the valves underneath the pipes. By 1845, Henry Erben had built five organs for Georgia churches. The one installed at Grace Church was built in that year. It is evident that Erben's expertise in organ construction was known throughout the United States.

Historical Narrative

The Grace Church was organized by the New York missionary, the Reverend Ezra B. Kellogg, in 1838. The church was organized by and for the summer visitors in Clarkesville who traveled to the area to escape the hot, disease-infested summers that were all too common on the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina at the time. The summer residents of Clarkesville, together with the Reverend Kellogg, formed the Episcopal Parish of Clarkesville in December, 1838. After the election of the officers, \$1,335 was raised to secure a location for a church building and to erect the structure. In June of 1839, one acre of land was purchased for \$100 from James Brannon. Lumber and stone were contributed to aid in construction of the church.

Construction of the church was begun in 1839, but was halted, due to a severe drought that left the sawmills unoperable. Construction resumed in late 1840 and the structure was completed in 1842. The church was consecrated by Bishop Elliott in 1842.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

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Grace Church was active until the Civil War challenged the growth of Clarkesville as a summer-resort area. The church was used throughout the war, but for approximately 50 years after the war, church services were occasionally held in the Chapel of the Holy Cross, a small chapel on the property of P.M. Kollock, a member of Grace Church. Church services resumed in Grace Episcopal Church on a regular basis in the 1920s.

The Grace Church continues to serve the members of the church. In 1950, the congregation built a parish hall northeast of the church in order to help serve the members of the church. The parish hall was constructed as a separate entity of the church in order to preserve Grace Church as it was originally constructed.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Cloues, Richard, Ginn, Kacy, and Thomas, Kenneth H., Jr. Personal inspection.

Johnson, Douglas, Picard, Paul R., and Quinn, Bernard. Churches and Church Membership in the United States. Washington, D.C.: Glenmary Research Center, 1974.

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Ogasapian, John. Organ Building in New York City 1700-1900. Braintree, Massachusetts: The Organ Literature Foundation, 1977.

Range, Willard. A Century of Agriculture in Georgia 1850-1950. Athens: University of Georgia, 1954.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

SUPPLEMENT

GRACE CHURCH
Clarkesville, Habersham County, Georgia

The attached map shows the boundaries of the nominated property. Please include this map in the Grace Church nomination.

Prepared By:

Kacy Ginn
National Register Researcher
Historic Preservation Section
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404/656-2840

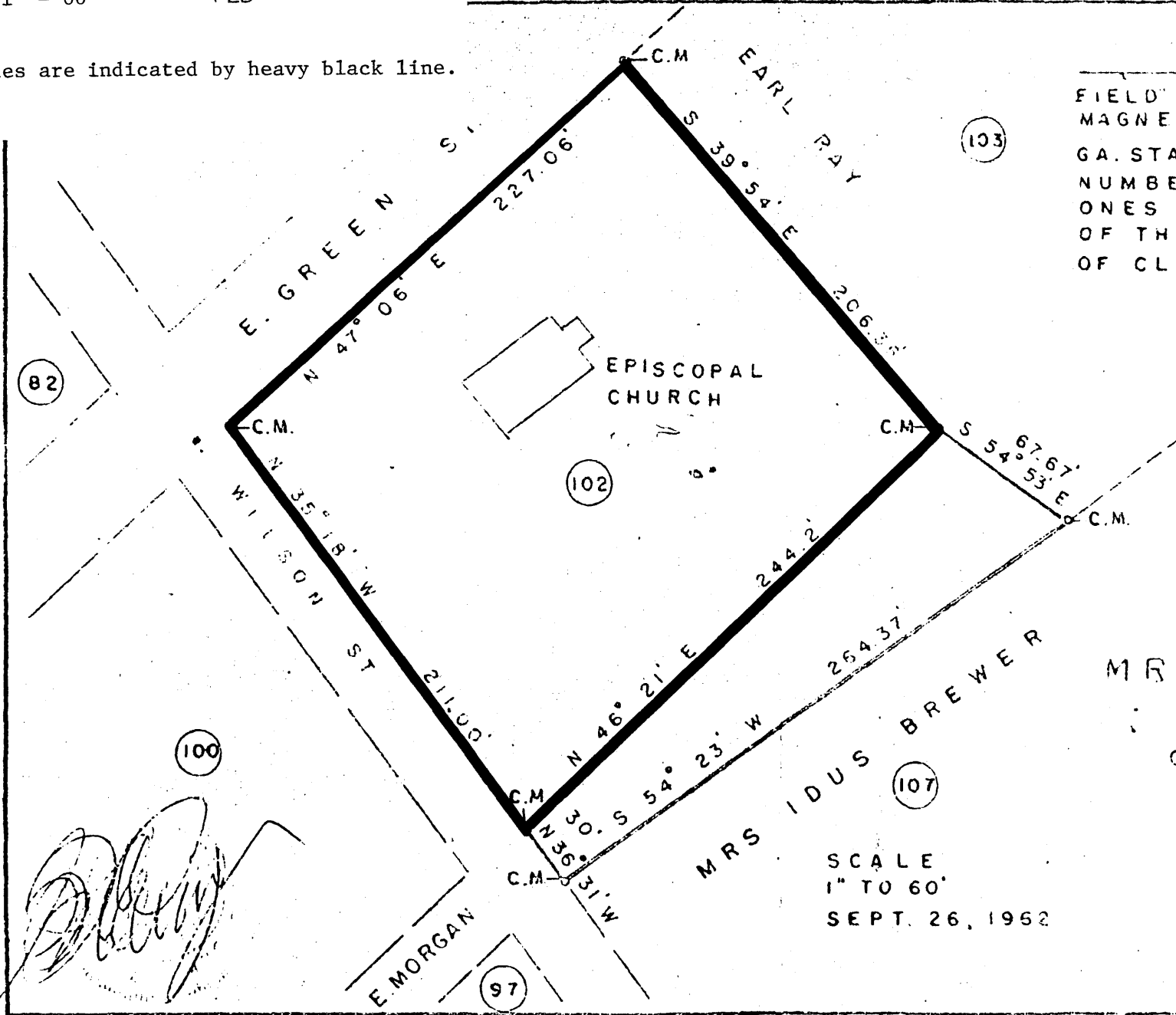
Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D.
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

2/8/80
Date

GRACE CHURCH
 Clarkesville, Habersham County, Georgia
 Property Map
 Field Book No. 75
 September 26, 1962
 Scale: 1" = 60'
 North: ↑

FEB 15 1980

Boundaries are indicated by heavy black line.



NOTE
 FIELD BOOK NO. 75, PAGE
 MAGNETIC MERIDIAN.
 GA. STANDARD CLASS 1"
 NUMBERS IN CIRCLES
 ONES GIVEN ON ATLAS
 OF THE OFFICIAL MAP
 OF CLARKESVILLE, GA.

PROPERTY OF
 Brewster
 MRS IDUS A B
 CLARKESVILLE

SCALE
 1" TO 60'
 SEPT. 26, 1962

JNO. F. C.
 SURVEYOR
 CORNELIA

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