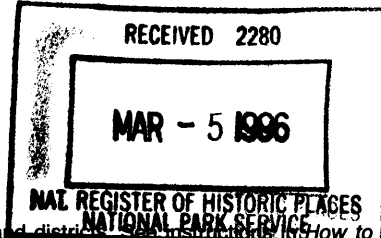


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY

other names/site number Falling Creek United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Rt. 1, Box 247, CR-131, 6 miles NW of Lake City N/A not for publication

city or town Lake City vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Columbia code 023 zip code 32055

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 2/27/96
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:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 4.4.96

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)

- 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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: frame vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, CONCRETE PIERS

walls WOOD

roof METAL: tin

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

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1871 - 1946

Significant Dates

c1885

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:

Falling Creek Methodist Church
Name of Property

Columbia Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	33981710	31341841710
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 Esther R. Moore/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date February 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 Falling Creek United Methodist Church

street & number Route 1, Box 247 telephone 904-752-1359

city or town Lake City state FL zip code 32055

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Falling Creek Methodist Church and cemetery is situated on 2 acres of property, on County Road 131, one and two-tenths mile off U.S. Highway 41. The one room, frame vernacular church was built c.1885. The rectangular building rests on a foundation of stone and concrete piers, and has a front gabled tin roof. A log church previously stood on this same site. An adjacent community cemetery has historically been associated with the church since its previous log building.

SETTING

Falling Creek Methodist Church has a rural setting six miles northwest of Lake City in Columbia County. The church fronts toward the east with the property on the western side of paved County Road 131 (Photo 1). Falling Creek community is so named because of the steep-banked creek that runs along the westerly and southerly boundary of the property. A waterfall is located one-tenth mile south of the church. The church property contains two acres and is surrounded on three sides by heavily wooded land owned by ITT Rayonier Inc. timber company. The church yard, except for the cemetery itself, contains scattered pine, hickory, dogwood and oak trees.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

Falling Creek Methodist Church's main facade faces east, and is easily visible from County Road 131. The church measures 25' X 30' (Photos 2 & 3). The walls are unpainted pine, horizontal siding. The church rests on stone piers ranging in height from 10" to 15". Supplemental cement piers are present. Two, two-panel, pine doors provide the

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**FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
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Section number 7 Page 2

main access to the interior. Doorsteps with three risers are made of concrete block smoothed over with cement.

The south facade contains two, 6/6, double hung, wood sash windows and a door positioned in the westerly half of the facade (Photos 4 & 5). The door is accessed by a new cypress ramp. The north facade contains three windows; two are 6/6 double hung sashes and one is 2/2 sash (Photo 6). The west facade contains two, 2/2, double hung wood sash windows (Photo 7).

Interior

Aisles lead from each of the two front entrances (Photo 8). The interior of the building is unpainted and the walls and ceiling are finished with 2.5" beaded, tongue and groove pine. The 23 slat benches with curving seats are made from the same 2.5" tongue and groove boards. The floor is unpainted 5" pine planking. The ceiling is 11' high. An unfinished, handmade pine table assembled with wooden pegs serves as an altar (Photo 9). The box style pulpit of dark stained exterior paneling was built with four panels in front and a panel on each end. These panels are of a slightly lighter color with combed design stain finish. The pulpit measures 8' across and 34" high and sits on a foot-high wooden platform. A large wooden cross hangs on the west wall. A small smoked area on the ceiling is a reminder of a ornate kerosene lamp which hung in the center. Four electric lights and two fans are on the ceiling, and electric conduits for these are clearly visible on the east and northern wall.

CEMETERY

A cemetery, containing approximately 60 graves, 42 of them marked, is located to the west of the church (Photos 10 & 11). From the period of the log church, this cemetery has been used as burial ground for people in the area, including those not connected with the church. The earliest legible dated marker is 1871 (Photo 12). The most recent memorial is dated 1994 (Photo 13). Two areas are fenced for family burials, and several markers are artistically carved (Photos

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FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL

Section number 7 Page 3

14 & 15). Two graves are raised and covered with bricks, and four are mounded, stone covered graves (Photo 16). Throughout the cemetery there are stone markers which have been worn to the ground, and unmarked depressions in the ground.

Alterations

The original three sets of wooden steps, (two on the east, one on the south,) were replaced in the 1940s with concrete block steps and smoothed over with cement. In the 1940s, the west outside wall was repaired by replacing 3/4 of the wall with novelty pine lumber. The church was wired for electricity in 1970 and two lamps hung from the ceiling, one over the piano and one over the pulpit. They were salvaged from the Blue Goose Restaurant which operated in Lake City during the 1930s and 1940s. An historic, ornate kerosene lamp disappeared unexpectedly in 1963. In 1975, repairs were made to the north, east, and south outside walls when seven of the lower boards were replaced with treated pine lumber. A 6" rough-sawn wooden cross was placed on the rear, west wall behind the pulpit in 1976 by Rev. Will Wright. During the 1980s two electric fans with light combination were installed along the center of the church ceiling.

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FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Falling Creek United Methodist Church is significant under criteria A and C, in the areas of Social History and Architecture, and under Criteria Considerations A and D. The current frame church was constructed c.1885, but was preceded on the same location by a log church, built between 1853 and 1866, and used by a Baptist congregation. A community cemetery has been associated with the church since 1871, and possibly earlier. A public, one-room school existed on the property from 1887 into the mid 1930s. The Church and its site has functioned as a community center for worship, education, social gatherings and burial, for 130 years.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

At the time the church was established, between 1853 and 1866, the population of the entire Columbia County was 4,646, of which 2,062 were slaves. The county's current population is approximately 49,000. During this early period, the area economy was dominated by farming. Today only two or three working farms remain, and a large percentage of the land is cultivated pine forest. After World War II, farming became more mechanized and family farms became fewer. In recent years, land previously used for farming has been divided and sold for home sites as the region's population grows. Forestry remains an important part of the area's economy.

Some of the early settlers active in the early church were also crucial in the development of this farming community, its industry, mercantile businesses, and in establishing a post office. The history of the village of Winfield, one mile west of the church, is interwoven with the community of Falling Creek.

The church property is associated with Thomas D. Dicks, who acquired acreage in 1855, from the State of Florida Internal Improvement Fund for \$.50 an acre. This purchase contains the existing church and cemetery. Mr. Dicks and his wife, Rachel, came in 1853 from Hampton, South Carolina,

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FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL

Section number 8 Page 2

in a covered wagon. Included in a wagon caravan from South Carolina were Rebecca's two sisters and their families, their father Tommy Manker, families of Reverend W.J. Greene, Richard Mole, and others. They settled in the vicinity of Falling Creek. Thomas D. Dicks's son, James Winfield Dicks, founded Winfield Station on the Georgia Southern & Florida Railroad, where he built a mercantile store with post office. James Dicks helped build the existing church benches, and was a Sunday School superintendent, as well as trustee and steward of the church.

At the end of the Civil War, a sawmill was established by L.W. Rivers and a Mr. Reed, on Falling Creek. The mill was run by power from the water fall. By the 1890s, the naval stores industry brought more growth to Winfield. A large turpentine distillery was located there. Two early members of Falling Creek Church, John L. Roberts and Mrs. Harriett McCall Curry, established two other mercantile stores and a cotton gin. Mrs. Curry is interred at the cemetery. There was also a cotton gin and grist mill operated by church member T.J. Summerall.

County Road 131 was originally known as Blount's Ferry Road. It was the main connection between Lake City and Blount's Ferry, a major agricultural town located on the Suwannee River, just south of the Georgia border. In the 1880s, Bount's Ferry was a settlement of 160 people with two stores, sawmill, cotton gin and grist mill. This road was first paved in 1950, at which time the original steel truss bridge with wooden plank floor, which crossed Falling Creek, was replaced by a concrete bridge. At this time, the road designation was changed to County Road 131. The newly paved road was 133' east of the original road which meant church property no longer touched the road. Church trustees acquired two small parcels abutting the paved road from the Estate of Mary J. Rivers and from the Columbia County School Board.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the earliest deed we have from James W. and Thomas F. Dicks is dated February 6, 1886, a log church was established on this site between 1853 and 1866, as a

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FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL

Section number 8 Page 3

Missionary Baptist Church. It was this log church that the Methodist congregation acquired in 1866. They were admitted at that time to the Florida Methodist Conference, then known as the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The present frame church and its furnishings were designed and built by church members c.1885. T.J. Summerall built the pulpit and donated a pump organ. In 1878, Summerall had been paid to build a bridge at Blount's Ferry, indicating his engineering ability and possible contribution to the project. The stone pier foundations and pine lumber used in the construction of the church were local materials. The two main doors on the easterly elevation are reminders of the common custom for men and women to enter, and sit on opposite sides of the church.

A cemetery containing approximately 60 graves, of which 42 are marked, is located behind the church, to the west. The cemetery has been used by the community, including people not connected with the church. The earliest legible, dated tombstone, is that of Elizabeth Mole, 1841-1871, a member of the 1853 wagon train. The most recent marker is dated 1994. Two family areas are fenced, and several markers are artistically carved. Three of these graves are those of Confederate veterans of the Civil War, one of a Seminole Indian War veteran, and one of a World War II veteran. It is not known where Thomas Dicks, original owner of this parcel of land, was buried upon his death in 1867. His father-in-law, Thomas Manker, who settled in the area with Dicks, was buried at his home in 1862, leading to the belief that the church cemetery had not yet been established. Two of Manker's daughters, Sarah Ann Hoover, and Harriet Langford, who moved from South Carolina in 1853 are buried in the cemetery.

A one-room, frame school was established a few yards north of the church, called Falling Creek School, in 1887 (Photo 17). Classes were held in the church prior to the construction of the school. The church building served as a place for the students to present special programs, such as at Christmas or school closing exercises. During the 1890s, A.W. Jackson, who headed the school, also held singing classes at Falling Creek Church. These two places were the center of activity for the community. The school continued

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**FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
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in use until the mid-1930s. The initiator of this nomination, Esther Moore, recalls attending school there in 1933. A popular event for many years was the annual Fourth of July picnic held on Falling Creek Church grounds. People came from across the county and neighboring counties to attend. As rural schools were consolidated and small farming ceased, church attendance became smaller, yet the church has never failed to have regular meetings and worship services.

The waterfall at Falling Creek draws sightseers. The nearby Falling Creek Church, remains unlocked and open to visitors. The church is a designated stop-over and point of interest for bicycle tours organized out of White Springs. The church is occasionally used for weddings, for members and non-members. Since 1977, an annual church homecoming and Moore family reunion draw 80 to 100 participants. Every fourth year the Methodist parish holds its Christmas Eve pageant at the church.

Falling Creek Methodist Church has historically functioned as a community center, serving as a place of worship, education, social gatherings, and burial. With the exception of education, the church continues to this day to serve these functions.

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Continuation Sheet

FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL

Section number 9 Page 1

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Continuation Sheet**

**FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL**

Section number 10 Page 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 1 in Township 3 South, Range 16 East, Columbia County, FL. A 2-acre tract in NE Corner of SE1/4 of NE1/4 of NW1/4 and North approximately 435 feet of SW1/4 of NW1/4 of NE1/4 as lies west of SR-131. Parcel #01-3S-16-01909-001. ORB 650-619 & 678-264 & 681-399.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the church and cemetery.

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FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FL

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 1

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Falling Creek Methodist Church
Route 1, Box 247
County Road 131
2. Lake City, Columbia County, FL
3. Joe R. Osburn
4. March 15, 1995
5. Esther R. Moore
Rt. 1, Box 247
Lake City, Fl 32055
6. East and north elevation and grounds; camera facing southwest
7. Photo 1 of 17

Items 1 through 5 are the same for photographs listed below unless noted otherwise

6. East and north elevation; camera facing southwest
7. Photo 2 of 17

6. East (front) elevation; camera facing west
7. Photo 3 of 17

6. South elevation; camera facing north
7. Photo 4 of 17

6. Detail of window; camera facing north
7. Photo 5 of 17

6. North elevation; camera facing south
7. Photo 6 of 17

6. West and south elevation; facing northeast
7. Photo 7 of 17

6. Interior view of east wall; facing east
7. Photo 8 of 17

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FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH
AND CEMETERY, LAKE CITY,
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Section number Photographs Page 2

6. Interior view of altar and piano, west and north wall;
camera facing northwest
7. Photo 9 of 17

6. Cemetery, west and south elevation of church; camera
facing northeast
7. Photo 10 of 17

6. Cemetery; camera facing southwest
7. Photo 11 of 17

6. Detail of oldest legible cemetery memorial; camera facing
west
7. Photo 12 of 17

6. Detail of most recent cemetery memorial; camera facing
west
7. Photo 13 of 17

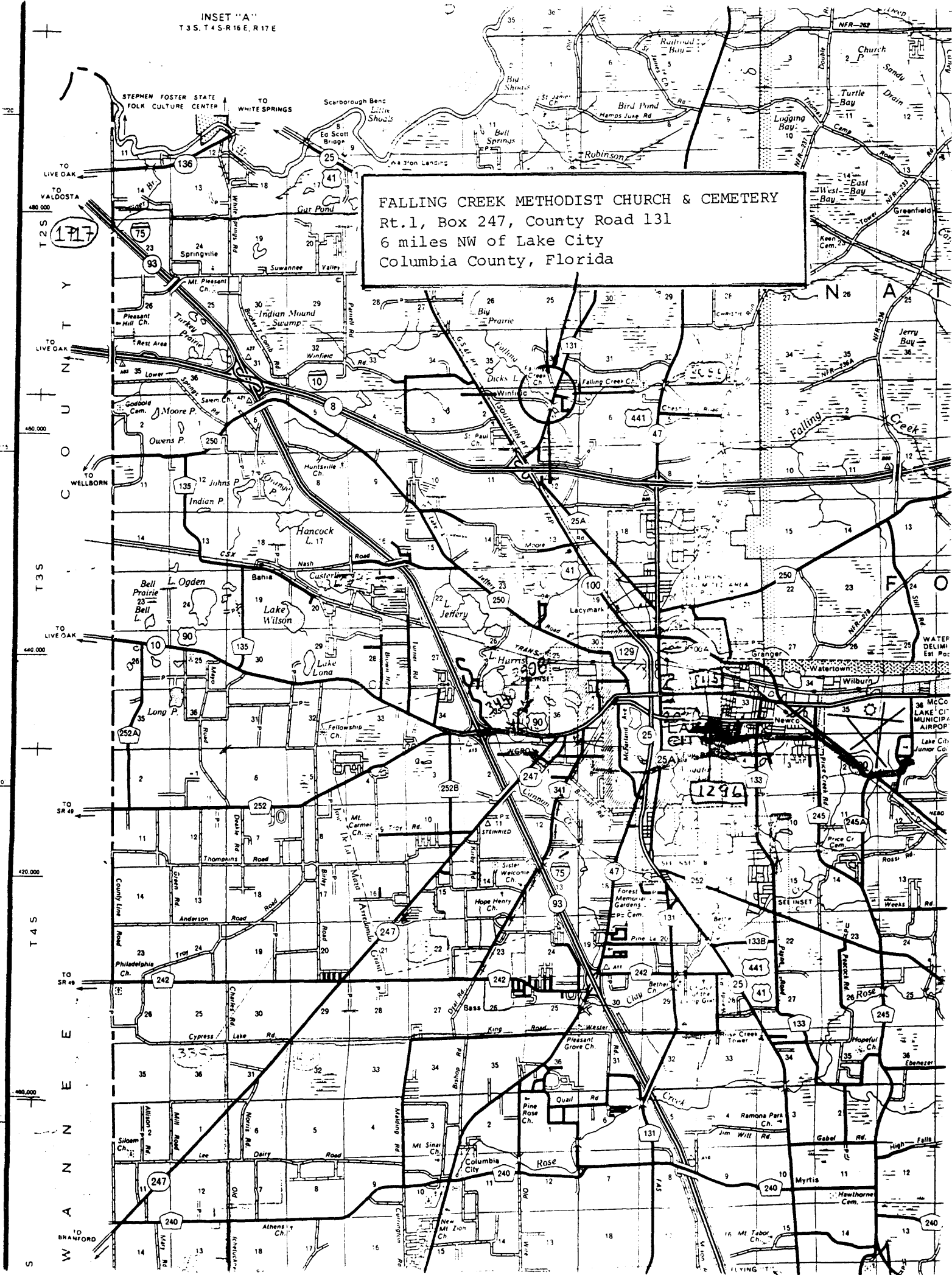
6. Detail of artistically carved memorial; camera facing
northwest
7. Photo 14 of 17

6. Detail of artistically carved memorial; camera facing
west
7. Photo 15 of 17

6. Cemetery detail of raised brick covered graves; facing
west
7. Photo 16 of 17

1. Falling Creek Public School
2. Lake City, Columbia County, FL
3. unknown
4. 1920s
5. Ester R. Moore
6. Children at corner of school; camera facing north
7. Photo 17 of 17

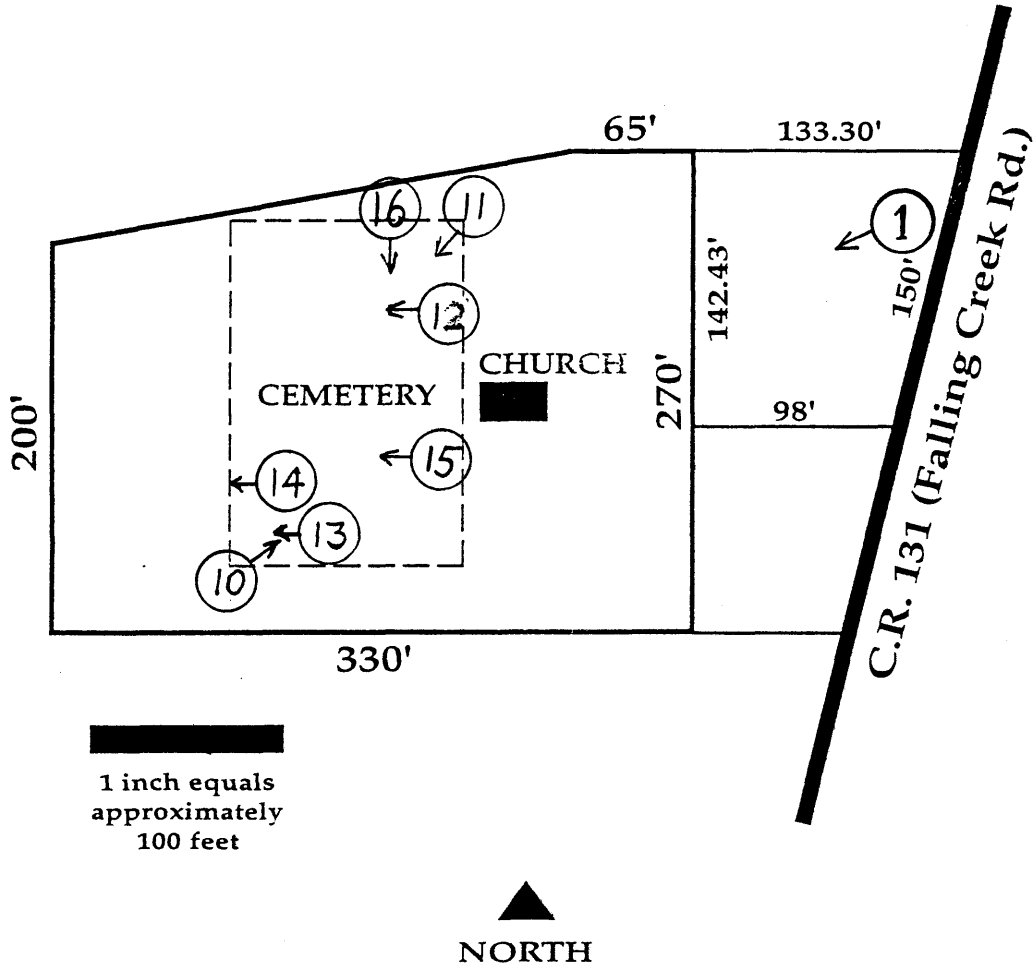
FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH & CEMETERY
Rt. 1, Box 247, County Road 131
6 miles NW of Lake City
Columbia County, Florida



FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH & CEMETERY
 Rt.1, Box 247, County Road 131
 6 miles NW of Lake City
 Columbia County, Florida

BOUNDARY & PHOTOGRAPHIC DIAGRAM

←○ indicates photographs direction



Dimensions for all Church property, including cemetery.

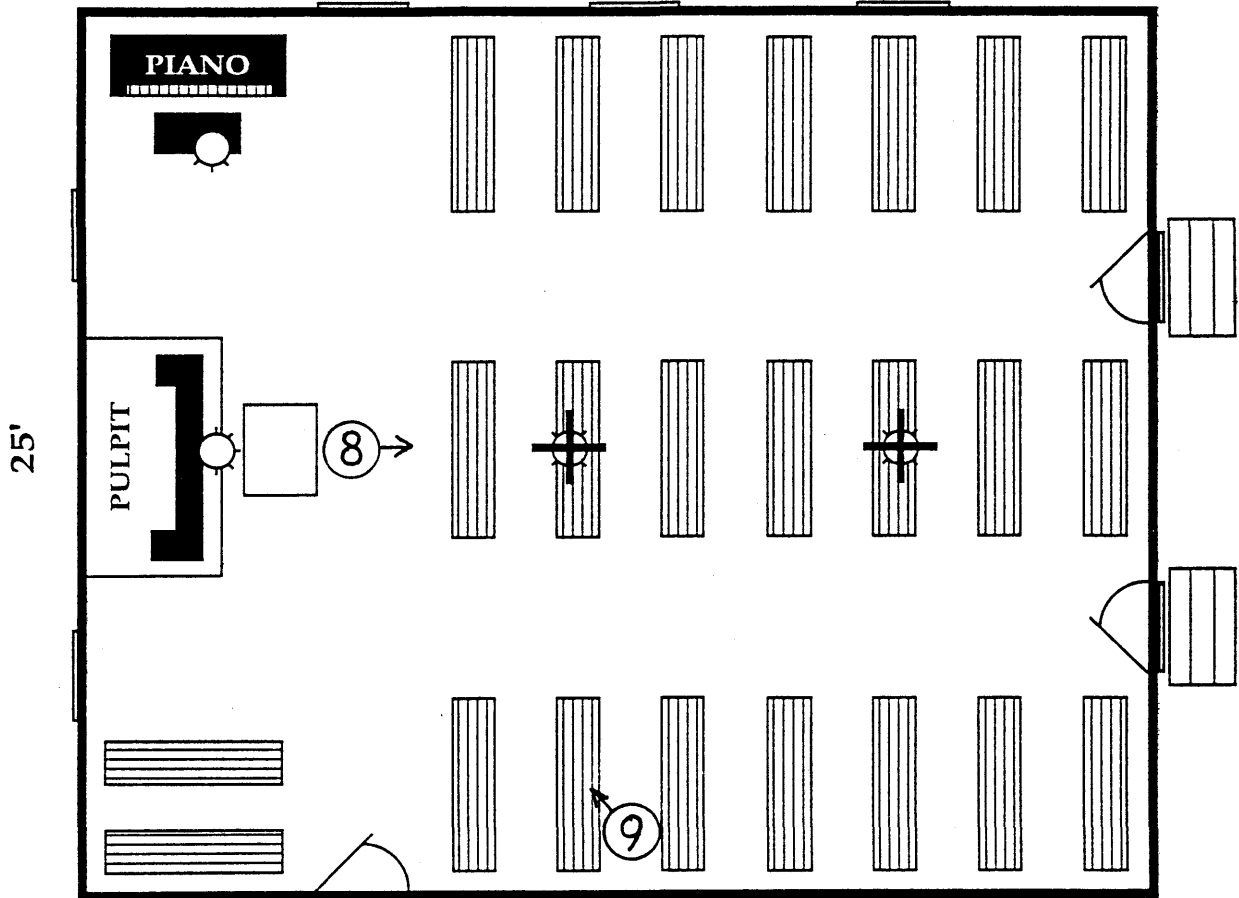
FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH & CEMETERY
Rt.1, Box 247, County Road 131
6 miles NW of Lake City
Columbia County, Florida

BOUNDARY & PHOTOGRAPHIC DIAGRAM

←○ indicates photographs direction

⑥
↓
30'

②
↙



③
←

⑦
↖

☀ light

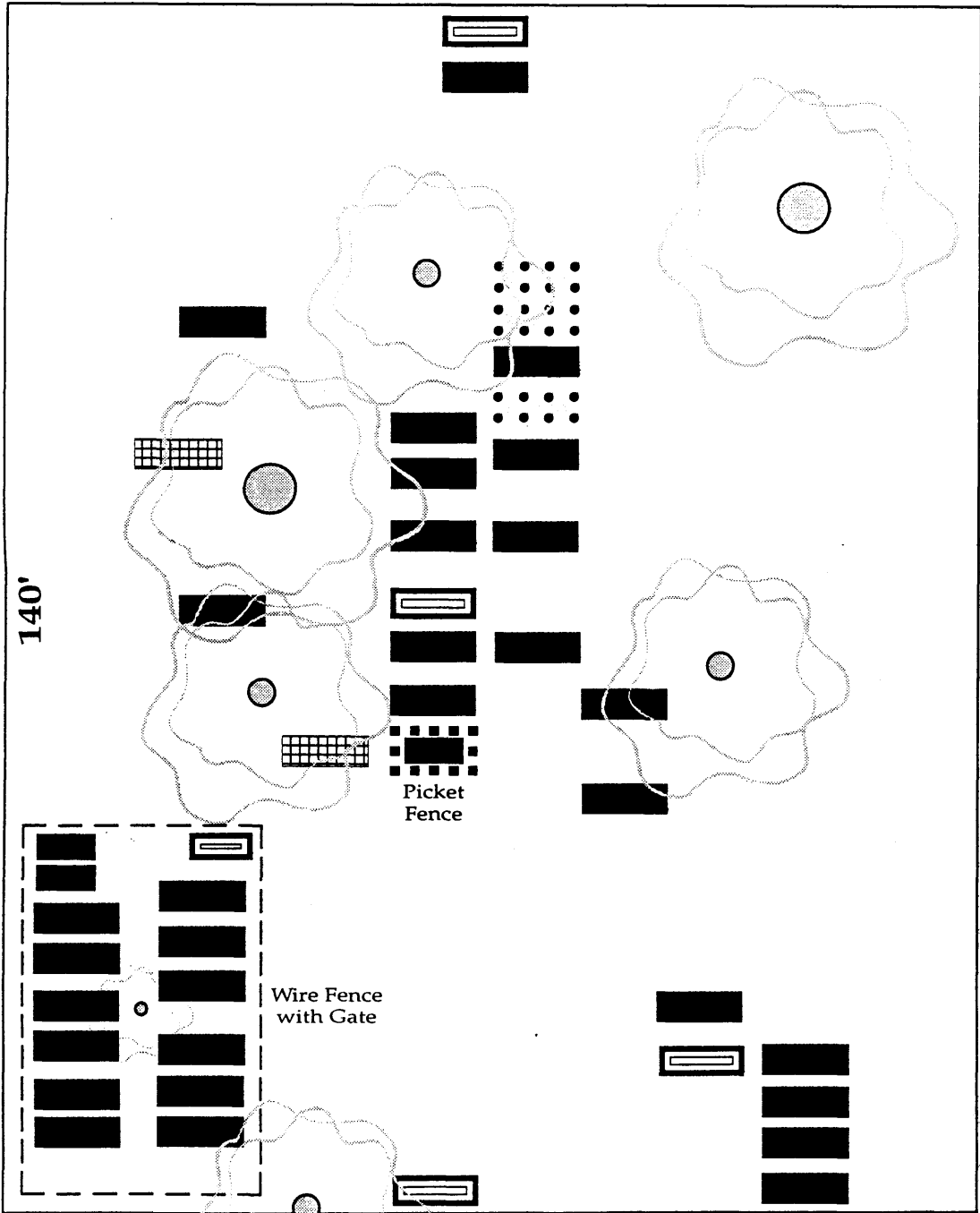
⊕ ceiling fan with light

⑤
↗

1 inch equals approximately 5 feet

▲
④
↑
NORTH

FALLING CREEK METHODIST CHURCH & CEMETERY
 Rt.1, Box 247, County Road 131
 6 miles NW of Lake City
 Columbia County, Florida







Church



NORTH

1 inch equals
 approximately
 20 feet

-  Graves/Tombs with Markers/Headstones
-  Fieldstone Graves/Tombs unnamed
-  Brick Graves/Tombs unnamed
-  Graves/Tombs with other Markers unnamed