

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 02001382

Date Listed: November 19, 2002

Property Name: Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church Historic District

County: Putnam

State: Georgia

none  
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

November 19, 2002  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Criteria Consideration A is hereby added to reflect the fact that the property is owned by a religious institution but derives its primary significance from its architecture and role in the history of education in Putnam County, Georgia.

The Georgia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

1382

OCT 10

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

**historic name** Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church Historic District  
**other names/site number** N/A

## 2. Location

**street & number** East of Eatonton and south of Georgia State Highway 16, on Rockville Road  
**city, town** Eatonton (X) **vicinity of**  
**county** Putnam **code** GA 237  
**state** Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31024

( ) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

### Category of Property:

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

### Number of Resources within Property:

#### Contributing

#### Noncontributing

<b>buildings</b>	2	1
<b>sites</b>	2	0
<b>structures</b>	0	0
<b>objects</b>	0	0
<b>total</b>	4	1

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:** N/A

**Name of previous listing:** N/A

**Name of related multiple property listing:** N/A

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

*Richard Claves*

*10-4-02*

Signature of certifying official

Date

for W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

*Daniel J. Vivian* *11/19/02*

*for*

Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL/ACADEMY  
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH  
FUNERARY/CEMETERY

### Current Functions:

SOCIAL/CIVIC  
FUNERARY/CEMETERY

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/COLONIAL REVIVAL  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/CLASSICAL REVIVAL

### Materials:

**foundation** Stone/Granite; Brick  
**walls** Wood/Weatherboard  
**roof** Metal/Tin; Asphalt  
**other** Stone/Granite, Marble

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church Historic District consists of a school, a church, and a small cemetery in the small rural community of Rockville located east of Eatonton in central Georgia.

The c.1889 Rockville Academy (photograph 2) is a two-story, frame building that sits on a stone foundation and exhibits Colonial Revival characteristics. It has a steeply pitched hipped tin roof. The front (east) façade (photographs 2 and 14) is symmetrical with a double-door entry. There are paired and single nine-over-nine double-hung-sash windows and single sash twelve-pane windows on the front façade. On the front of the building is a one-bay front porch and the front door is original and has sidelights. (photograph 14). The north façade and south façade contain one-bay side porches, paired and single nine-over-nine double-hung-sash windows, six-over-six double-hung-sash windows, and one-over-one double-hung-sash windows (photographs 3 and 4).

The first floor consists of a foyer (photograph 5), stairway (photograph 5), principal's office (photograph 6), two classrooms (photographs 7 and 8), and an originally detached kitchen (photograph 10) and dining room (photograph 9), now connected. There is also a back hall (photograph 11) with a staircase that accesses the second floor auditorium. Interior details include reverse board-and-batten ceilings in the two first-floor classrooms (photographs 7 and 8). The walls are original beaded board and ceilings in other rooms are also beaded board (photographs 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11). The floors are pine (photographs 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11).

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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The second floor consists of a large auditorium in the main block, added in 1911 (photographs 12 and 13), and a dressing room/storage area (photograph 12, at rear) over the kitchen wing. There are pocket doors leading to the stage in the auditorium.

There is a ball field on one side of the school that was developed by the WPA in the 1930s.

St. Paul United Methodist Church sits 100 yards from Rockville Academy, across an open lot, now used for parking (photographs 1 and 22). The church (photograph 15), built c.1897, consists of one large room with the altar at one end and the entrance with two separate front doors at the other (photographs 18 and 19). The front entrance is recessed under the gabled tin-covered roof with a single square pillar providing support in the center (photograph 17). The exterior is frame with the porch being beaded tongue-and-groove siding (photograph 17). There are paired brackets and dentils in the cornice surrounding the building (photograph 20). There are four original windows on each side of the main room/sanctuary (photographs 15 and 16). The building rests on brick piers.

There is a small cemetery near the church (photographs 16 and 21).

On the interior there are original pine floors and beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling (photograph 19). The walls have been sheetrocked (photographs 18 and 19), a steeple was added in 1997 (photograph 15), and a handicapped stair was recently added on the front (photograph 17). Original pews survive (photographs 18 and 19).

A noncontributing mobile home is also located on the property.

Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church sit in a very rural area, on adjacent parcels, facing Rockville Road. They are surrounded by fields and woods.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**  N/A

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

Architecture  
Education

**Period of Significance:**

1889-1952

**Significant Dates:**

1889-Construction date of Rockville Academy  
c.1897-Construction date of St. Paul Methodist Church  
1911-Construction date of Rockville Academy auditorium

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church Historic District contains the two principal community landmark buildings in the small rural settlement of Rockville. The Rockville Academy and St. Paul Church Historic District is significant in the area of architecture because both buildings are excellent examples of rural community landmark buildings and each building retains almost all of its original features. The academy is a two-story frame building with its original school rooms and auditorium intact as well as their original floors, walls, and ceilings. Its overall form and plan, with classrooms and offices on the first floor and an open auditorium space on the second floor, is somewhat typical for two-story rural schools in Georgia from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, two-story rural schools from this period are quite rare. Of nearly 60,000 surveyed buildings, only 428 are schools, and of these, only 17 are two-story wood framed buildings. The one-story church retains its gabled-roofed form, original floors, ceilings, windows, entry porch and column, and original pews. The form, plan, design, and materials of this church represent the traditional architecture of the rural church in Georgia from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Somewhat unusual are the brackets under the eaves at the front of the church that represent the late influence of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Italianate style on an otherwise Classical Revival building. Also unusual is the single in-antis column centered in the recessed front entry; more commonly, recessed entries feature a pair of columns, and even more common is a projecting front porch or portico. St. Paul Methodist Church belongs to a relatively small group of extant rural churches. Only 165 of the 1,270 surveyed churches in Georgia are located in small rural settlements like Rockville.

The Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church Historic District is significant in the area of education because the academy building represents a major milestone in the history of rural education in Georgia, that of district schools and consolidation. Putnam County was one of the forerunners in creating a rural consolidated school. The State of Georgia passed legislation in the 1880s, directing counties to divide themselves into districts and have only one school per district in order to provide better educational opportunities. By 1890, Putnam County had divided itself into fourteen districts, Rockville being one of them. This building was built in late 1889 and opened in January, 1890. In 1911 a second-floor auditorium was added. The school operated as a major regional school, eventually serving ten grades until 1944. The school also offered manual or vocational training. It is believed to be one of the first schools in the state following the consolidation act. The St. Paul Methodist Church congregation relocated in 1897 to this location and built the present church building on land donated by the professor in charge of the academy. The congregation did this in order to serve the same rural region that the school served, the Rockville community, which at that time was a growing rural community. The Rockville community began to decline in the 1920s and 1930s.

**National Register Criteria**

Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of education for the typical activities that took place there and as one of the first rural consolidated schools in Georgia. The district is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture for Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church that are excellent examples of rural community landmark buildings.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church Historic District begins in 1889, the date of construction of Rockville Academy, and ends in 1952, the end of the historic period.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church are the two contributing buildings on the nominated property. The 1930s WPA baseball field located to the side of Rockville Academy and the cemetery located behind the church are the contributing sites.

There is a noncontributing mobile home also located on the property.

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

**\*\*NOTE: The following history was compiled by Adrian Wood, Preservation Planner, and Robert A Ciucevich, Preservation Planner, Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, September, 1997 and October, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The community of Rockville is located in eastern Putnam County. In 1890 the Putnam County Board of Education, directed by Section 24 of Georgia's public school law, divided the county into 14 districts, and consolidated New Hope, Union, and Hargrove Schools, three "neighborhood" schools, into one school, Rockville Academy. Up until this time schools were haphazardly operated, frequently with unqualified teachers and irregular attendance by students.

The school at Rockville was sponsored by the local Farmers Alliance, which formed a Board of Trustees and located a site for the school within the 25-square miles covered by the district. The site was donated by Henry DeJarnette who owned a plantation in the center of the district and had been elected chairman of the trustees. The local committee raised \$600 at its initial meeting with pledges for additional money. The Board of Education provided \$150 for the school. Following these efforts, the school was constructed on DeJarnette's land, and on January 18, 1890, the schoolhouse, with its three rooms and hall, was opened for its first term with 65 students.

At the end of the first year, the school, with nine grades, had grown considerably and continued to do so. Because of this, the school was enlarged in 1911, and then again in 1913. The first enlargement provided for domestic and manual arts instruction with the addition of the rear part of the building. The second enlargement added the second floor that houses a large auditorium. The manual arts class built much of the interior of the building's addition from discarded lumber and interior woodwork



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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from the original part of the structure. At that same time the tenth grade was added to the school curriculum.

According to the official Georgia Historical Marker at the building, the school was consolidated in 1890 and graded in 1892, and supposedly was the first consolidated rural school in the state. Rockville School also supposedly was the first rural school to offer vocational training. The first full-time headmaster, Frank Branch, spent 22 years at Rockville Academy before going on to serve as President of Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia State College for Men in Tifton, and South Georgia College in McRae. During the time he guided Rockville Academy, the school flourished and the additions previously mentioned were constructed during his tenure as headmaster.

In the 1920s and 1930s with the onslaught and devastation of the boll weevil and the decline in cotton production, Rockville the community began to decline. The school population declined as more and more families moved away from the community, and in 1944, the Rockville Academy, with only eight students, closed. The building sat vacant until Rockville Academy association began its successful efforts to restore the building.

A church named Enterprise once stood on what is now the Eatonton Sparta Highway, with the construction being done by William and Kinchon Little in 1871.

In 1879 Enterprise assumed the name of St. Paul and was a member of the Augusta District. By 1880 the list of members had grown to 47 adding the names of William Flanigan, Dr. John T. DeJarnette, H.R. DeJarnette, Anna Owens, Mary L. DeJarnette, Viney Batchelor, Lulu D. Little, Mary Tomlinson, Mary William Haley, Nancy Chapman, Jane Hawkins, and others.

A second church built in the Rockville area near the Oconee River was built in 1882 on land given by Mr. T. Meriwether. For many years it was a flourishing church and was added to the East Putnam Circuit. This church was named New Hope with a large membership roll on which were the names of Haley, Bonner, Gregory, Meriwether, Welch, nelson, Vaughn, Pinkerton, Griffin, and many others. In later years the membership decreased gradually and in 1897 New Hope United with St. Paul.

At the October 2, 1897, Quarterly Conference meeting, composed of H.R. DeJarnette, W.M. Gregory, and J.R. Griffin were instructed to select a location for a new St. Paul Church. The tract of land for the new church was donated by Professor and Mrs. F.G. Branch. Mr. Branch was the principal of Rockville Academy. The site was chosen as it was halfway between New Hope Church and the old St. Paul Church.

When Putnam County was divided into two circuits in 1880, the East Putnam Circuit consisted of Union Chapel, St. Paul, Wesley Chapel, Concord, and Philadelphia.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Wood, Adriane. Historic Property Information Form. September, 1997. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental information.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      Approximately 3 acres

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 17      Easting 293452      Northing 3689396

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the attached map by a heavy black line.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property includes the intact and contiguous portion of land historically associated with Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church. It contains the school, church, and associated ball field and cemetery.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** October 1, 2002  
**e-mail** holly\_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title** Adrian Wood, Preservation Planner and Robert A. Ciucevich, Preservation Planner  
**organization** Middle Georgia Regional Development Center  
**mailing address** 175-C Emery Highway  
**city or town** Macon **state** Georgia **zip code** 31217  
**telephone** (478)751-6160  
**e-mail**

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

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Rosser Lundsford, Director  
**organization (if applicable)** Rockville Restoration  
**mailing address** 456 Rockville Springs Road  
**city or town** Eatonton **state** Georgia **zip code** 31024  
**e-mail (optional)**

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church  
**City or Vicinity:** Eatonton, vicinity  
**County:** Putnam  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** January, 2002

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 22

1. Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church; photographer facing southeast.
2. Rockville Academy, front (north) façade and east façade; photographer facing southwest.
3. Rockville Academy, west façade; photographer facing east.
4. Rockville Academy, rear (south) façade and east façade; photographer facing northwest.
5. Rockville Academy, interior, first floor, foyer; photographer facing southeast.
6. Rockville Academy, interior, first floor, Principal's Office; photographer facing west.
7. Rockville Academy, interior, first floor, classroom (now museum room); photographer facing southwest.
8. Rockville Academy, interior, first floor, classroom; photographer facing southwest.
9. Rockville Academy, interior, first floor, dining room; photographer facing northwest.
10. Rockville Academy, interior, first floor, kitchen; photographer facing west.
11. Rockville Academy, interior, first floor, back hall; photographer facing northwest.
12. Rockville Academy, interior, second floor, auditorium; photographer facing west.
13. Rockville Academy, interior, second floor, auditorium; photographer facing east.
14. Rockville Academy, front façade; photographer facing southeast.
15. St. Paul Methodist Church, front (north) façade and west façade; photographer facing southeast.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

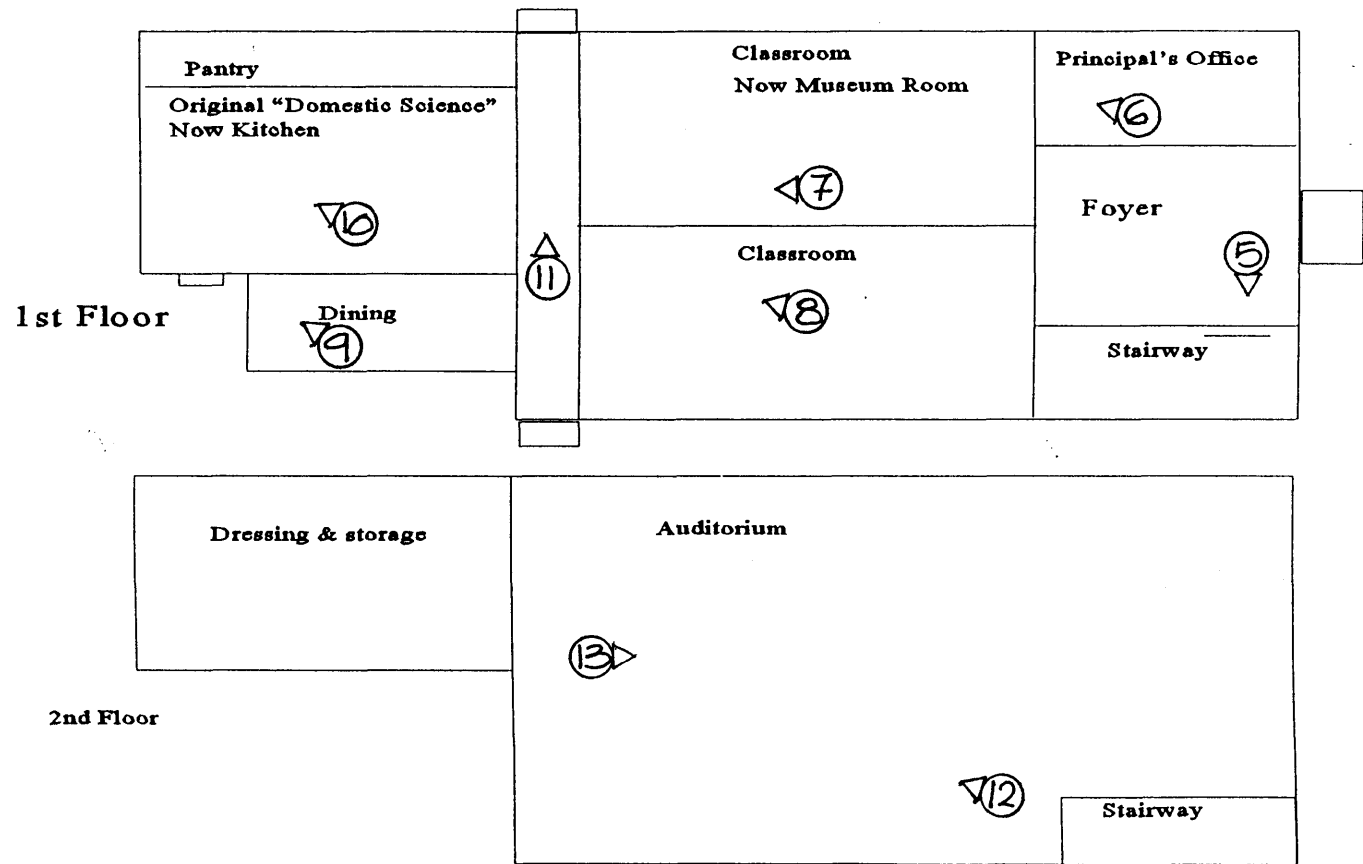
Photographs

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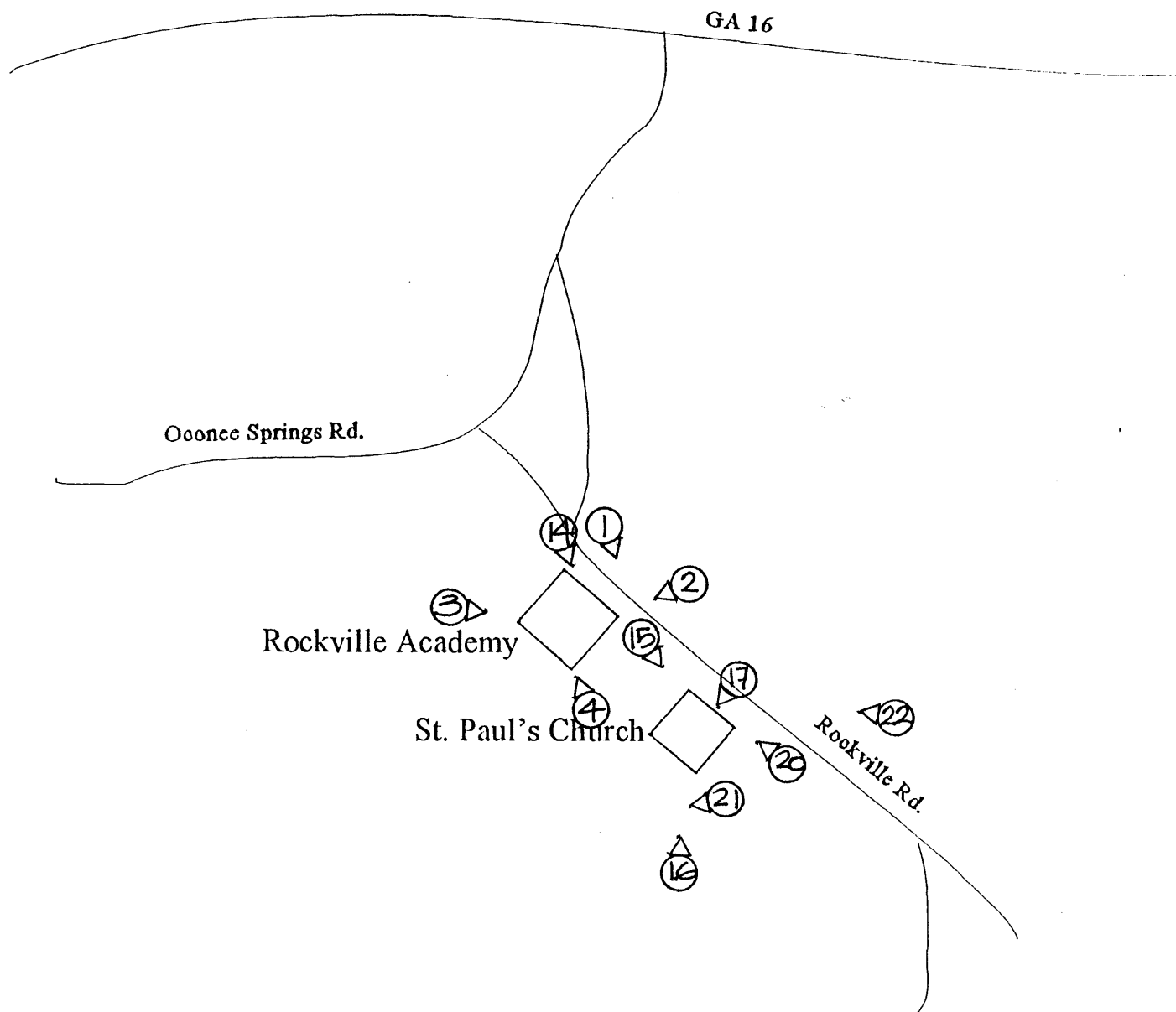
16. St. Paul Methodist Church, rear (south) façade and east façade, cemetery; photographer facing north.
17. St. Paul Methodist Church, front façade, entrance detail; photographer facing southwest.
18. St. Paul Methodist Church, interior; photographer facing southwest.
19. St. Paul Methodist Church, interior; photographer facing northeast.
20. Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church; photographer facing northwest.
21. Cemetery; photographer facing west.
22. Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church; photographer facing west.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Rockville Academy

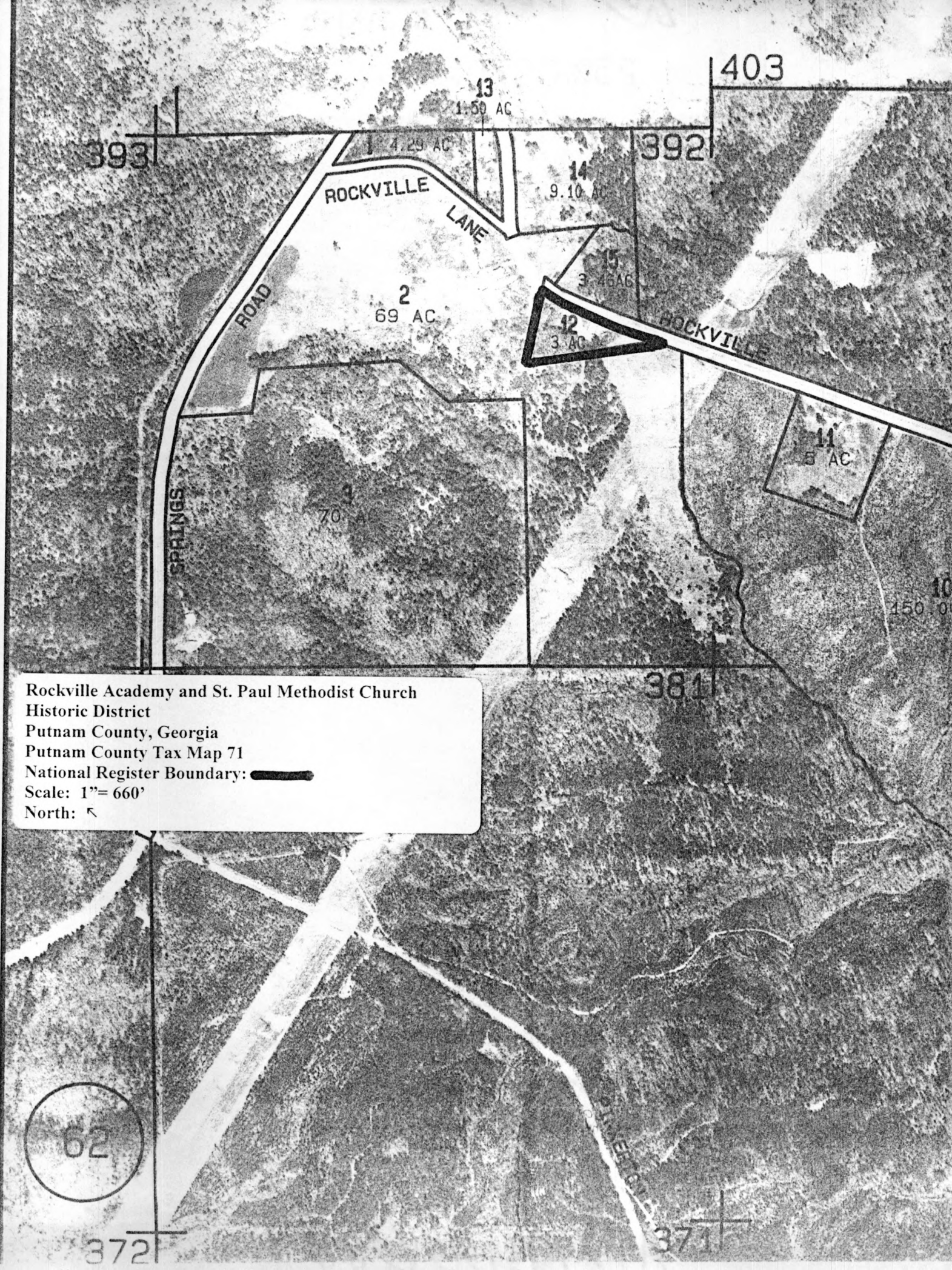


Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church  
 Historic District  
 Putnam County, Georgia  
 Rockville Academy Floor Plans  
 Photograph Direction/Number: ①▶  
 Scale: Not to scale  
 North: ↗



Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church  
 Historic District  
 Putnam County, Georgia  
 Site Plan  
 Photograph Direction/Number: ①▶  
 Scale: Not to scale  
 North: ↑







Rockville Academy and St. Paul Methodist Church  
Historic District

Putnam County, Georgia

Putnam County Tax Map 71

National Register Boundary: 

Scale: 1"= 660'

North: 

62

372

371