

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

FEB 5 1987

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

1. Name

historic Church of the Good Shepherd

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 511-519 Oak Street N/A not for publication

city, town Thomasville N/A vicinity of

state GEORGIA code 013 county Thomas code 275

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	N/A 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 The Diocese of Georgia c/o Bishop Harry Shipps

street & number 611 E. Bay Street

city, town Savannah N/A vicinity of state Georgia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Thomas County Courthouse

city, town Thomasville state GA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Survey:
title Thomas County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state GA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Church of the Good Shepherd consists of a group of religious structures including a church and an attached parish hall that form a "U"-shaped complex and a vicarage. Each of the structures is wood-framed with simple late-Victorian detailing.

The church was constructed in 1894, and the parish hall was added around 1896, with alterations between 1907 - 1912 and again around 1923. The vicarage was built in 1908. All three buildings front on Oak Street which is located in the western residential section of Thomasville. The church has a gable roof and shiplap siding with decorative gable end shingles, and a group of three pointed-arched, stained-glass windows at the altar end. The interior has wainscoting, plaster walls (recently sheetrocked), tongue-and-groove ceiling with exposed ceiling beams, and original furnishings. The plan consists of a narthex, nave sanctuary, chancel rail, altar, and sacristy. The two-story portion of the parish house was added in two phases (the rear portion first) to the one-story connecting wing. It has shiplap siding, an exterior stairway to the second floor, and a belfry centered over its gable roof. Its interior has one large room on the first floor and three on the second, all with tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings and slate blackboards. The one-story vicarage has weatherboard siding, a full-width front porch, a pyramidal roof, built-in cabinets, mantels, tongue-and-groove ceilings and plaster walls. The interior consists of a central hall with living room, dining room and kitchen on the left and two bedrooms and one bath on the right, with den added to the back. There is a screened back porch.

The church complex sits on flat land among large live oaks. It is located in a historic black neighborhood comprised of modest lots 19th -and early 20th-century houses. The boundary of the property consists of the current legal boundary description and the land historically associated with the church complex.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1894–1923

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church of the Good Shepherd is significant as a good example of a late-Victorian vernacular church complex built for a small black Episcopal congregation in southwest Georgia. It is significant in the areas of architecture, religion, education, and black history, and it meets National Register Criteria A and C.

The church complex is important architecturally as a group of intact religious structures representative of late-Victorian vernacular architecture. The church, built in 1894 and its two-story parish addition, built around 1896, have simple but fine detailing. The exterior of the church has gable-end shingle work and pointed arched stained-glass windows, and the interior has its original furnishing, wainscoting, and tongue-and-groove ceiling with exposed beams. The vicarage, constructed in 1908 immediately to the right of the church complex, is representative of simple vernacular residential structures with its front porch and turned posts and pyramidal roof. The church, parish hall, and vicarage provide good examples of modest vernacular structures of their respective types found in south Georgia.

In terms of religion and education, the church is significant for its association with one of Georgia's few black Episcopal congregations. The Church of the Good Shepherd was organized in Thomasville in 1893, under the leadership of Reverend Charles LeRoche, rector of Saint Thomas Church in Thomasville. It is important as a congregation consisting of both blacks and whites, a custom that was not followed in other major denominations in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The parochial school, which functioned from 1894 to 1964, documents the Episcopal Church's function in education. Until 1901 when public education for blacks was provided in Thomasville, this school served an extremely important role as one of less than a half dozen private schools in the city that educated black children.

In the area of black history, the church complex is important as a significant black institution in Thomasville which, in addition to its church and school, provided space for a library, playground, and Boy Scout troop. John W. "Jack" Carter who was instrumental in establishing the school was an important black community leader.

The property meets National Register Criteria A because of its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Thomasville's history as can be interpreted through black history, religion, and education. The property also meets Criteria C because of its distinctive characteristics of vernacular architecture that was common in religious structures in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in small towns in the south. Within this context of the state's resources, the Church of the Good Shepherd is important at the local level.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES: 3 buildings (church, parish hall, vicarage)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Montgomery, Erick D. "Historic Property Information Form - Church of the Good Shepherd." 1985. (On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Thomasville, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	2	1	4	1	9	0	3	4	1	5	4	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 boundary of the nominated property consists of the current legal boundaries of the property.

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 Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources

date

street & number 205 Butler St. S.E., Suite 1462

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/12/86

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

for Melvin Byers
Keeper of the National Register

National Register

date 2/5/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

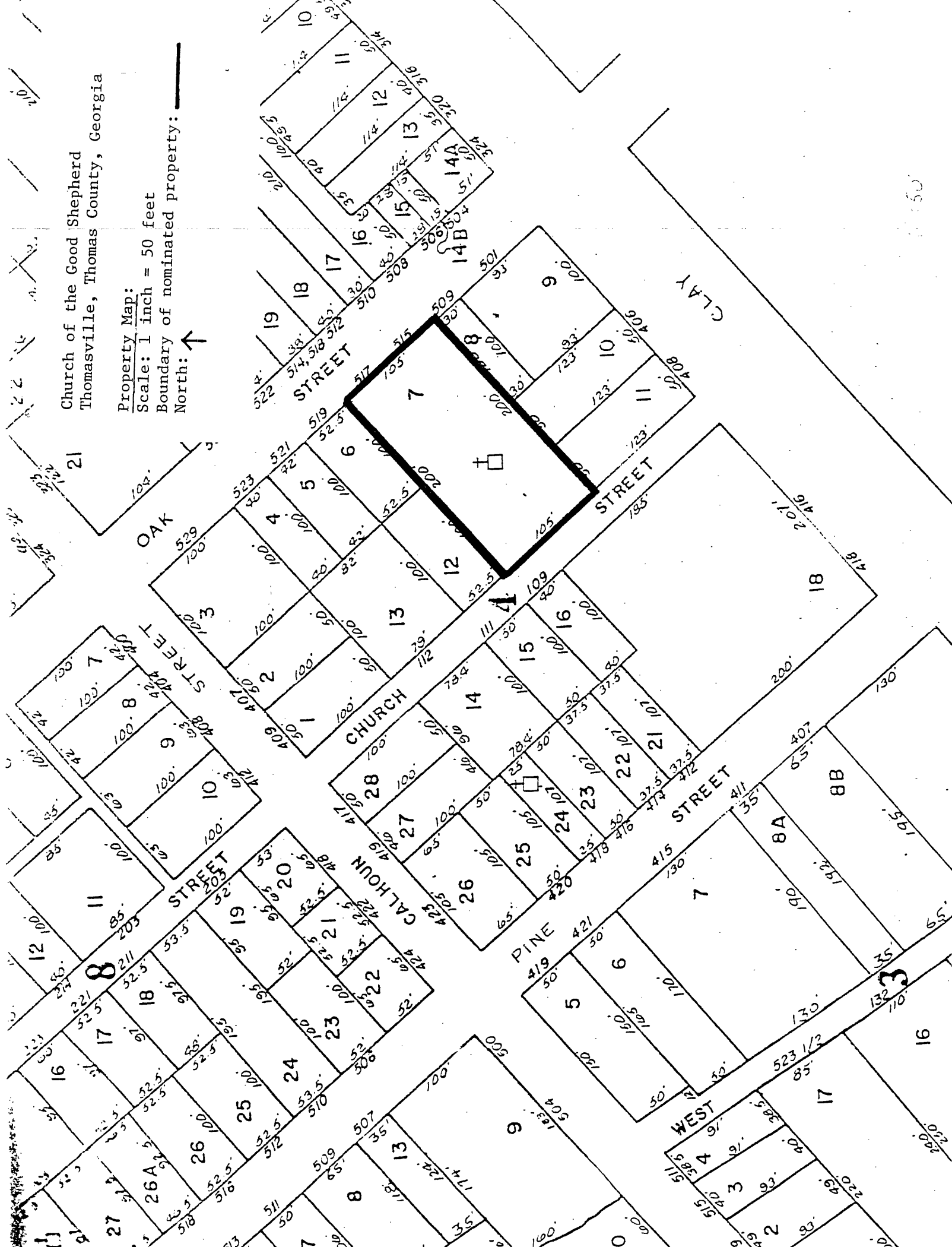
Church of the Good Shepherd
Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia

Property Map:

Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet

Boundary of nominated property: **—**

North: **↑**



Church of the Good Shepherd
Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia

Property/Sketch Map:

Not to scale

Number and direction of photograph: ①

North:

