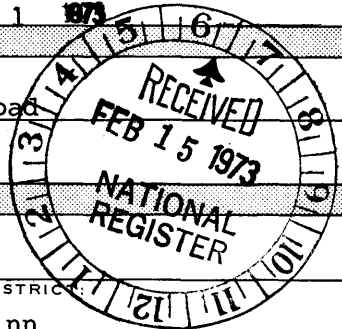


PH 000 2976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia  
 COUNTY: Liberty  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: MAR 1 1973



1. NAME

COMMON: *Historic* a) Midway Church and Cemetery  
 Midway District b) Midway Museum c) Old Sunbury Road  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Junction US Highway # 17 and Ga. Highway # 38  
 CITY OR TOWN: Midway CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st - Bo Ginn  
 STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Liberty CODE: 179

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: a) Selectmen of the Midway Society b) Georgia Historical Comm  
 c) State Highway Department  
 STREET AND NUMBER: b) 116 Mitchell St., SW  
 c) 2 Capitol Square, SW  
 CITY OR TOWN: a) Hinesville STATE: Georgia CODE: 13  
 b, c) Atlanta

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Liberty County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Hinesville STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia  
 COUNTY: Liberty  
 ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 1 1973  
 DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE (Church moved: see below)

The property owned by the Midway Society and that which adjoins it owned by the State of Georgia, partially constitutes the area known locally and historically as the Midway District. These property lines encompass acreage bounding on all sides of the intersection of U.S. Hwy. # 17 and Georgia # 38 and include the Midway Church, its cemetery, and a state owned interpretative museum, adjacent to which is a small portion of the Sunbury Road.

The first permanent church at Midway was built in 1756 "on the hill at the cross paths on the north side of the north branch of Newport Swamp." Burned by the British in 1778, it was 44 X 36 feet, with 18 feet in the attic story. The pitched roof was hipped at one end with a small steeple at the other. The present Midway Church was built on the site of this church. Completed in 1792 Midway Church's simplicity is typical of Protestant meeting houses of the 18th century; the plain white clapboard building with its green shuttered windows, pediment adorned by two circular windows and simple belfry resemble a New England meeting house. 40 X 60 feet with 20 feet in the attic story, Midway Church, like the earlier church, has a pitched roof, hipped at one end and a steeple in the other. Originally doors were placed on the north, south and west ends. In 1849 interior alterations required closing off two of these doors, leaving only one entrance on the south end. In later years a side door on the east was added. In 1956 the Church was moved 40 feet to the east when U.S. # 17 was widened.

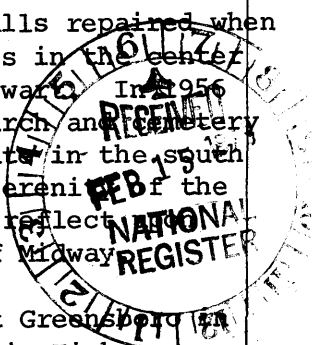
The interior of the church is typical also of early Protestant churches in Georgia. Slave galleries against the side and rear walls dictate the double tier of windows common to early churches. A high pulpit with a sounding board overhead was moved in 1849 from the east to the north end and the slave gallery extended to the three opposite sides. One flight of stairs leads to the gallery from an outside door. Pews with doors face the pulpit.

Originally laid out in 1756 the Midway Cemetery was enlarged in 1800 by the addition of two acres. 1.4 acres were enclosed with a brick wall six feet high and 18 inches thick; pilasters were placed every 24 feet. Plaster covered the wall to preserve the old brick. An iron gate on the east facing the Church was presented by the Liberty Independent Troop. Work was not completed until 1813 at a cost of \$2765. Through the years broken stones have been mended, wooden markers enclosed in glass and the brick walls repaired when needed. A monument, erected in 1915 by the U.S Congress, rises in the center of the cemetery honoring Generals James Screven and Daniel Stewart. In 1956 the widening and grading of U.S. 17 which runs between the Church and cemetery necessitated the addition of steps at the gate entrance. A gate in the south wall was also added to accomodate maintenance vehicles. The serenity of the cemetery with its graceful shade trees encourages visitors to reflect on the accomplishments and lives of the early Georgia settlers of Midway.

The Old Sunbury Road was laid out in the 1790's to connect Gresham Park in eastern Georgia with Sunbury and passed through Midway. Georgia Highway

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

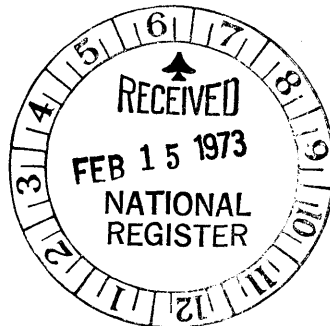
STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Liberty	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 1 1973

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Midway District)

# 38 from Midway to Dorchester, two miles east, follows the original old road. Live oaks line the road as it runs toward Sunbury and Fort Morris which was built to protect the port city. The Old Sunbury Road continues its historic function of connecting Midway with the coast. It is only a portion of this road, directly adjacent to the Midway Society property, that is being nominated.

Behind the Church is the Midway Museum, a state owned property that was designed and constructed under the direction of the late architect, Thomas G. Little. This structure is a five bay, frame, one and a half story raised cottage with a shed porch, a full daylight basement, and five gabled dormer windows on the front facade. There are three exterior end chimneys and the main floor windows are nine-over-nine.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

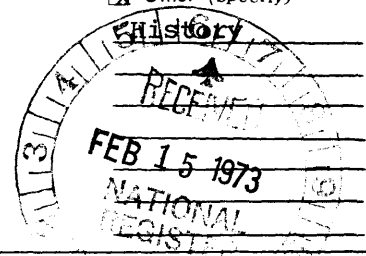
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c.1756, 1792, 1970's, 1959

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Midway Church, dating from 1792, and Midway Cemetery, dating from about 1756; a segment of the Old Sunbury Road, dating from the 1790's; and an interpretative, state-owned museum, designed after carefully researched Colonial Georgia prototypes, comprise the area to be nominated as Midway District. For more than 100 years Midway, near the Georgia coast, was an influential center of political, economic and religious life. Today regular services are no longer conducted at the Church and the community which produced some of the state's outstanding personalities has practically ceased to exist. The Museum, erected in 1959, helps to bring to life the area's rich cultural and historical significance.

In 1754 the Midway Society, stressing the interrelation of Christianity and daily living, was organized by a colony from Dorchester, South Carolina. In 1696 a group of Puritans from Massachusetts and Connecticut moved to South Carolina settling on the Ashley River near Charleston. In 1752 largely because of their need for larger tracts of land, they secured grants in the area generally designated as the Midway District, both sides of the Midway and Newport Rivers. Reflecting the Congregational or Independent form of government, the Church was divided into two separate branches - the Church and the Society. The Articles of Incorporation of the Society provided that those settlers who took up land grants should be members of the Society though not necessarily of the Church. The first permanent meeting house was erected in 1756 on land donated by John Stevens. The date when the land on the west side of U.S. Highway # 17 was chosen for the burying ground has not been determined. It was probably laid out at about the same time the permanent church was built since it was customary for the graveyard to be near the meeting house. In 1799 the Selectmen of the Society were authorized to negotiate for a piece of ground "in addition to our burying ground." One of the early graves is that of General James Screven, who was killed during the Revolution in a skirmish about a mile from the Church, November 22, 1778. Earlier markers bear the dates 1767 and 1770.

The Midway settlers were substantial people whose wealth was based on the cultivation of rice, indigo and other crops. They colonized St. Johns Parish (created 1758), forming permanent settlements whose congregations were served by associate pastors from the main meeting house at Midway. Of these Sunbury was the most important and at one time rivaled Savannah in trade. A segment of Georgia Highway #38 from Midway Church to Dorchester Station two miles east is part of the Old Sunbury Road. One of the longest

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Jones, C.C., History of Georgia.  
 McCall, History of Georgia.  
 Martin, Eliza S. and Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Rosier; submitted first draft of NR nomination form; on file at the Georgia Historical Commission.  
 Nichols, Frederick Doveton, The Early Architecture of Georgia.  
 Stacy, James. History and Records of Midway Church.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

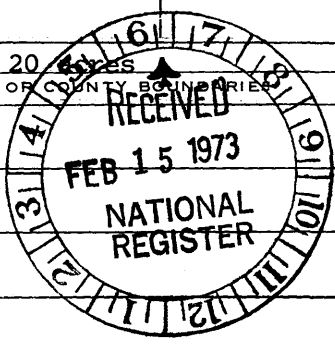
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	31° 48' 30"	81° 25' 59"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	31° 48' 30"	81° 25' 44"				
SE	31° 48' 14"	81° 25' 44"				
SW	31° 48' 14"	81° 25' 59"				

NO UTM  
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 20 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director of Georgia Historic Sites Survey  
 Carole Summers, Elizabeth Z. Macgregor

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission

DATE: Dec. 5, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell Street, SW

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

STATE: Georgia

CODE: 13

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Mary Gregory Jewett

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: Feb. 7, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert W. Utley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/1/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2.27.73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Liberty	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Midway District)

cottage with end, exterior chimneys, a shed porch and dormer windows. The major difference between this sketch and the Midway Museum is that the picture shows a smaller house with two less bays and its pitched roof disconnected from the shed porch roof, allowing the gabled dormer windows to drop partially below the roof edge. All other exterior features are very similar, even to the design of the porch posts.

Also, on taking a walking tour of Savannah in search of obvious colonial period remnants, Mr. Little and Mr. Walter Hartridge found a house, similar to the Basil Hall sketch, which aided in the museum design. Since its completion in 1959, the Midway Museum has served as the pattern for private residences.

The Museum has been included within the nominated historic district not only because its closeness to the Church helps to form a complex with historic references, but also because there are no extant 18th century residential structures in this area. The Church and Cemetery were originally the symbolic center for the Midway district or community, vestiges of which have almost entirely disappeared. Because of the unusual historical significance of this almost dead community, the Historical Commission erected the Midway Museum as a visitor center with interpretative exhibits of the Church and the way of life of its congregation.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Liberty	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRANCE NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 1 1973

(Number all entries) 8. Significance (Midway District)  
vehicular thoroughfares of post-Revolutionary Georgia, it connected Greensboro in eastern Georgia and Sunbury on the coast. Only the portion of the Sunbury Road that is adjacent to the Midway Church has been included in this district. This portion is not only significant for its important Midway history, but also for the visual impact that this oak-lined road provides the church setting. The segment of Sunbury Road at the intersection of S. 17 at the church and cemetery is itself a component of the Midway District both visually and historically. It needs protection, recognition and conscious preservation.

The residents of Midway were active in parish politics and were staunch advocates of independence from England. Delegates attended all meetings in Savannah and when the colony did not send a delegate to the First Continental Congress in 1775, St. Johns Parish sent Lyman Hall as their representative. Hall and Button Gwinnett, also from the Parish, were two of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. During the Revolution Midway Church and most of the houses around the district were burned by the British under Lt. Col. Mark Prevost. Midway Church was rebuilt in 1792 as were many of the other houses in the area. A period of prosperity followed but was again disrupted by the Civil War from which Midway failed to recover. The religious organization became inactive although the Society continues to the present as a memorial to the unique contribution which Midway has made to the state and national history. Among the prominent men produced by Midway are: John Elliot, president of the Provincial Congress which met in Savannah in 1775; Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett; Dr. Nathan Brownson, governor 1781, first physician to practice medicine south of the Ogeechee River; Gen. James Screven; Gen. Louis LeConte and his sons John and Joseph; Dr. Charles C. Jones, noted Georgia minister; Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr., author of Georgia History and other books.

Because of the Midway area's outstanding significance, an interpretative museum, adjacent to the Midway Church, was long planned to house exhibits, documents, and furnishings donated by descendents of the congregation. In the mid 1950's organized Midway descendents produced a prospectus for such a project. A building of neo-classical design was first proposed, but when the Georgia Historical Commission became active in the effort, Thomas G. Little, an architect specializing in restoration and historical architecture, was retained to research and study 18th century low country buildings, very few of which survive. The Commission accepted and erected Mr. Little's design for a residence-like structure of an 18th century local type. Based on examples from the Sunbury and Riceboro areas, the museum building is not intended as a reconstruction but as a representation appropriate to its setting.

Included in Mr. Little's research was Captain Basil Hall's view of a raised cottage at Riceborough which Hall, an Englishman traveling through Georgia in 1828 described in this way:

"a frame-house, being made of timbers squared and fastened together and afterwards covered with planks at the sides and ends, while the roof is either boarded or protected by shingles, a sort of wooden slate, two feet in length, and six inches wide. Almost all the houses in that part of the country have verandahs, or what they call piazzas."

Enclosed is a xerox of the Hall sketch. It is of a three bay, frame, raised

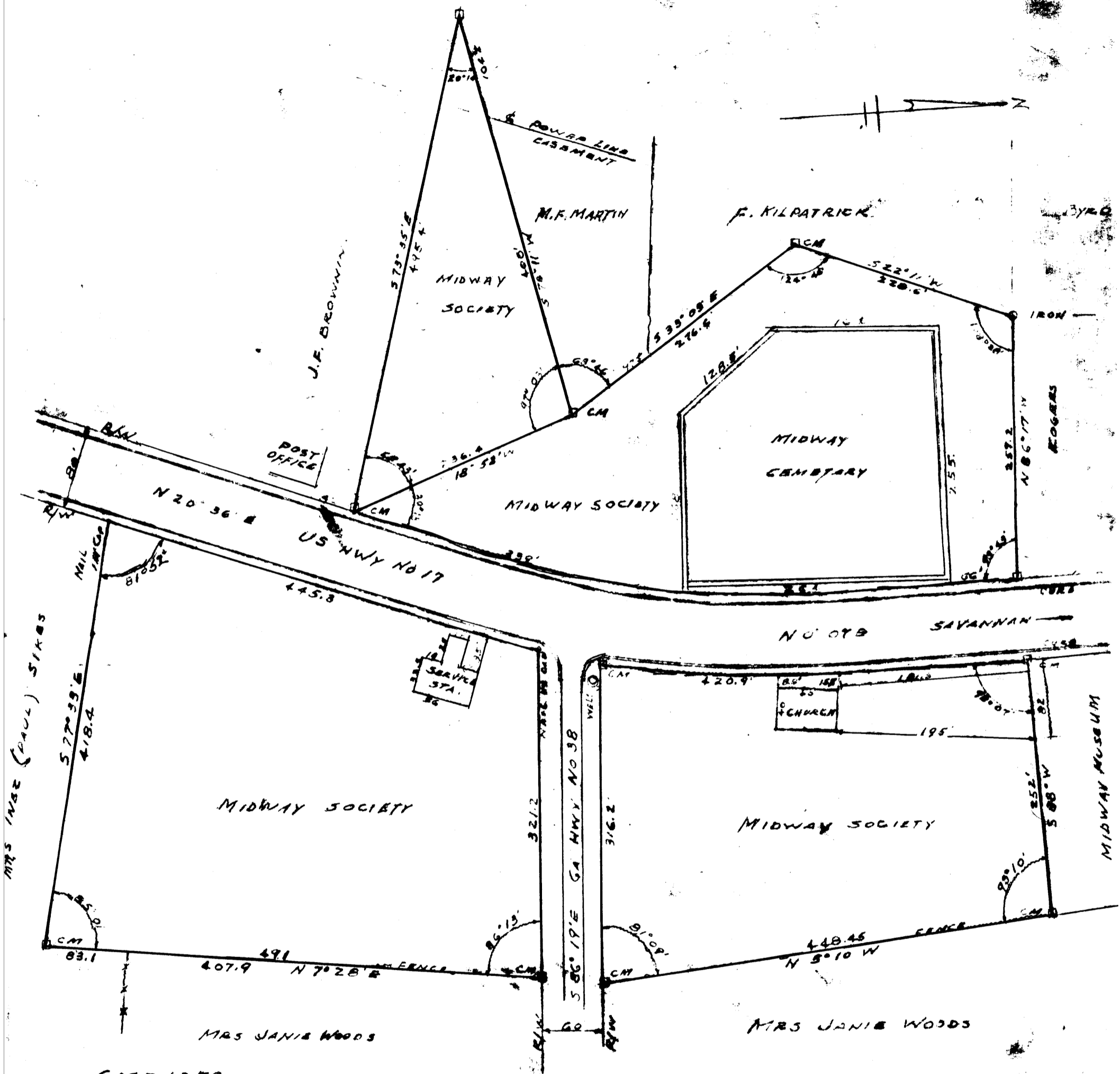
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VILLAGE OF RICEBOROUGH IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA







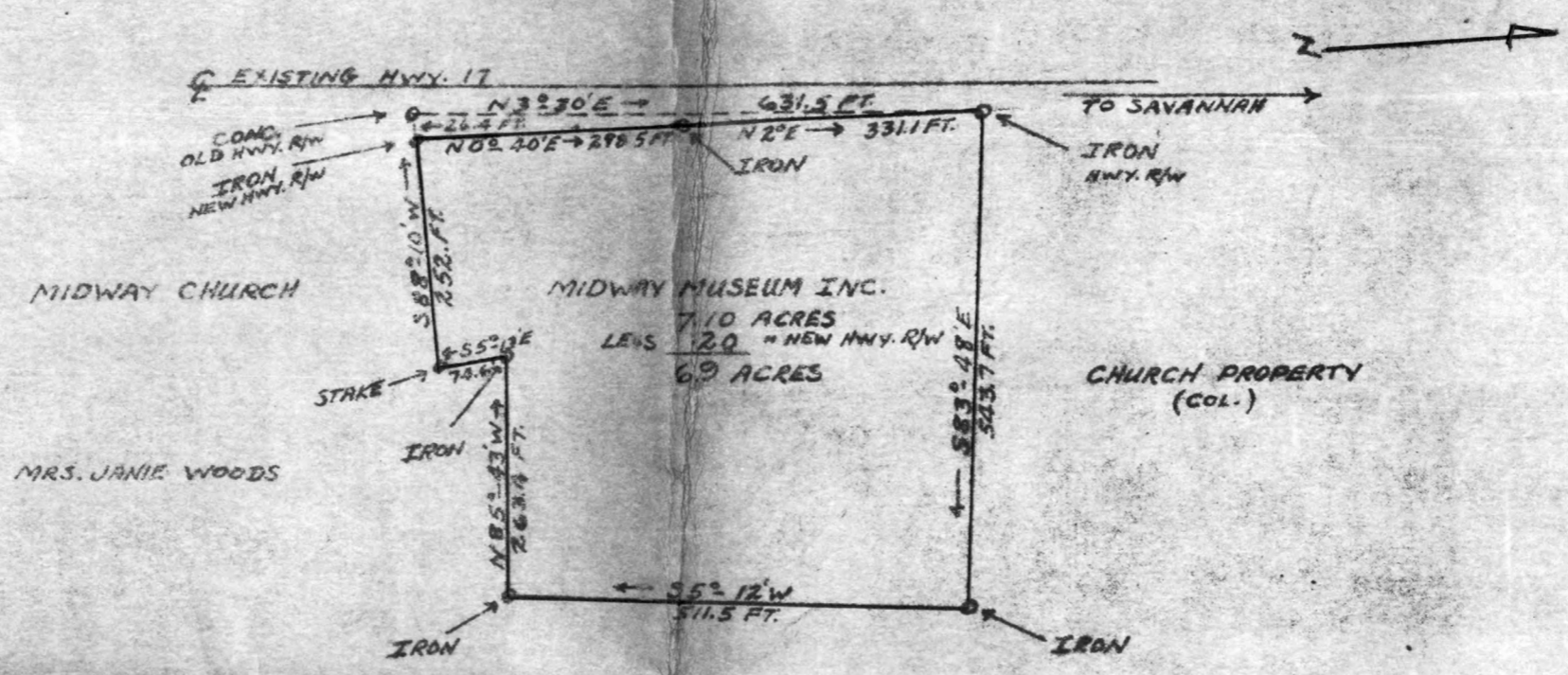
GMD-1359  
 LIBERTY COUNTY  
 MIDWAY, GEORGIA

PLAT SHOWING SURVEY OF PARCELS OF  
 LAND BELONGING TO MIDWAY SOCIETY INC.

SCALE 1"=100'



July 25, 1961



SCALE: 1" = 200. FT.

STATE OF GEORGIA - LIBERTY COUNTY - 1359 G. M. DISTRICT.

THE ABOVE PLAN OF 6.9 ACRES MORE OR LESS REPRESENTS  
 A RESURVEY OF THE LANDS OF MIDWAY MUSEUM INC.  
 THIS TRACT OF LAND IS SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF MIDWAY,  
 LIBERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA.

SURVEYED THIS THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 1966.

*Joe M. Daniels*  
*John F. Zorn*

GEORGIA REGISTERED SURVEYOR  
 JOHN F. ZORN  
 LIC. NO. 325

RECEIVED  
 FEB 15 1973  
 NATIONAL REGISTER