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# 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** First African Baptist Church and Parsonage  
**other names/site number** First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

## 2. Location

**street & number** 615 Knight Street (church) and 407 Satilla Boulevard (parsonage)  
**city, town** Waycross ( ) vicinity of  
**county** Ware **code** GA 299  
**state** Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31501

( ) not for publication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	0
<b>sites</b>	0	0
<b>structures</b>	0	0
<b>objects</b>	0	0
<b>total</b>	2	0

**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.

W. Ray Luce  
Signature of certifying official

2-18-03  
Date

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

Elson H. Beal

4-11-03

determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

other, explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

Beal

Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH  
RELIGION/CHURCH-RELATED RESIDENCE/PARSONAGE

### Current Functions:

RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/GOTHIC REVIVAL  
OTHER/QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	Brick; Concrete
<b>walls</b>	Wood/Weatherboard
<b>roof</b>	Asphalt
<b>other</b>	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

First African Baptist Church (now known as First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church) and Parsonage are located southeast of downtown Waycross in a traditionally African-American neighborhood in Ware County. Constructed c.1905, First African Baptist Church (photographs 1 and 2) is a Gothic Revival-style, wood-framed, cross-gabled building with weatherboard siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and a brick pier foundation. The parsonage (photographs 12 and 13), constructed c.1910, is a Queen Anne cottage with clapboard siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and a brick pier and concrete foundation.

The front (south) façade of the church (photograph 1) features two asymmetrical towers with pyramidal roofs and an entry porch supported by four columns. The double-door front entrance is centered on the façade. It is topped by a gothic arched window and flanked by a two-over-two double-hung-sash window with a gothic arched transom on each side. Each tower features a two-over-two gothic arched window and diamond-shaped vents. There are decorative vents and two three-over-one double-hung-sash windows with pedimented lintels in the gable. The front entrance of the church was changed sometime prior to 1957. The original entrance to the church was by two side doors on the west and east side of the front of the building. The east façade (photographs 2 and 3) features a steep gable with a gable vent, six six-pane gothic arched windows, and one two-over-two double-hung-sash window. There is a one-story room with a shed roof with exposed rafters at the rear of the building. The rear (north) façade (photograph 4) features a bay projection that houses the organ. The bay features three rectangular panels, each topped by a pedimented lintel. The bay is flanked by a six-pane gothic arched window on each side and there is a handicapped

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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accessible entrance at the rear. The west façade (photograph 10) echoes the east façade with multiple six-pane gothic arched windows and gable vents. There is a cornerstone (photograph 6) at the base of the east tower that dates the congregation to 1870 and the first church building to 1899.

The interior is an open plan. A small enclosed vestibule (photograph 8, left background) opens into the main sanctuary. The vestibule is wood-framed and paneled with doors to the right and left into the sanctuary. The sanctuary contains historic pews, an altar, and an organ. The sanctuary (photographs 7 and 8) has decorative beaded board wainscoting to a height of about three feet. It is capped off by chair rail. From this point to the ceiling the walls are plaster over lath. The ceiling is pressed tin with a decorative pattern (photographs 7, 8, and 9). The original wood floor is covered by carpet. There is fluted molding with bull's eye caps at the corners around various openings (photographs 7 and 8). Side "aisles" to the east and west of the main sanctuary can be opened to the sanctuary or closed off as separate rooms. Additional rooms in the church include a small room in the base of each tower and a room to each side of the altar in the rear of the church. The rear rooms have tile floors and are finished with drywall. The areas are used as dressing rooms and provide for men's and women's restrooms. The church bell (photograph 11), currently displayed in the front yard of the church on a brick pedestal, was removed from one of the towers due to deterioration of the interior structure of the tower.

The First African Baptist Church Parsonage is located behind the church at a right angle facing Satilla Boulevard. Constructed c.1910, it is a one-story, Queen Anne-type, wood-framed house with a hipped roof and a projecting front gable. The house has clapboard siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and two-over-two double-hung-sash windows, and it rests on a brick pier and concrete foundation. The front (east) façade (photographs 12 and 13) features a projecting gable and a recessed front porch supported by square posts. There is a small porch at the back of the house (photograph 14).

The interior plan is intact. There is no central hall, a character-defining feature of the Queen Anne type. The front door opens directly into the original living room (photograph 16). The room immediately behind the living room is the formal dining room (photograph 15). To the right of the living room is a bedroom, with another bedroom to the west of it. There is another bedroom to the west of this room and it has a small bathroom at the west end of the room. To the west of the dining room is the kitchen area.

The interior is very plain, with almost no ornamentation. Some rooms have original plaster walls, others have modern paneling. Several original mantels survive as do most of the original doors. There are plain wood boards around the doors and windows to serve as molding. This same treatment is used as a baseboard throughout the house. There is a small picture molding around the perimeter of the dining room and the living room (photographs 15 and 16). The original tongue-and-groove floors are covered with linoleum in the kitchen and carpet and padding throughout the rest of the house. Most of the doors in the house are paneled wood doors. There is a set of French doors that leads from the dining room into one of the bedrooms. The ceilings are not original. A new plaster ceiling finish has been applied over the original.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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The church and parsonage (photograph 17) are in a former residential neighborhood that has slowly been transformed into a commercial district. They are separated from other residential areas by commercial buildings on the west and east sides, and by a street, a railroad, and a major highway on the south. There are two small historic homes behind and to the immediate northeast of the site. The church faces Knight Avenue and the parsonage faces Satilla Boulevard. Neither the church nor the parsonage has had many changes.

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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  
Ethnic Heritage/Black

**Period of Significance:**

1905-1953

**Significant Dates:**

c.1905-Construction date of church  
c.1910-Construction date of parsonage

**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)**

First African Baptist Church (now known as First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church) and Parsonage are significant in the area of architecture as good and intact examples of popular architectural styles of the period. First African Baptist Church is a Gothic Revival-style church that retains its original siding, towers, pointed-arch windows, floors, wainscoting, bulls-eye molding, and pressed metal ceiling. According to Historic Black Resources, a statewide historic context on African-American historic properties, "Many urban churches built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were very much like rural churches-simple, rectangular, frame buildings with few or no stylistic features. They were larger, however, and more likely to have a tower centered or to one side or, more typically, twin towers...In accordance with the rural plan, the entrance of city churches was nearly always centered, opening directly into the sanctuary." The accompanying parsonage is a good example of a Queen Anne cottage that retains much of its original materials and retains its original floor plan. According to Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings, a statewide context, the Queen Anne house type is characterized by a square main mass with projecting gables on the front and side, there is no central hall, the roof is hipped and chimneys are usually in the interior. The Queen Anne cottage appears in both urban and rural areas and was mostly constructed in the 1880s and 1890s.

The buildings are significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black because they reflect the role of the Baptist church in the post-Civil War life of the African-American community of Waycross, and how, after losing the earlier building to a storm, the congregation was able to build this building with its fine construction and design elements, showing the strength of the community and its commitment to the Baptist faith. It is considered the oldest African-American Baptist congregation and the "Mother Church" for others that were organized later in this area. From this church came the first private African-American school for blacks, the Hazzard Hill Baptist School, which, while no longer extant, was reflective of the important role the church played in local education. According to Merritt in Historic Black Resources, "Among the richest sources of the black built environment are the buildings of religious, educational, and social institutions. The church has been the most important of these, not only serving the spiritual needs of its members, but also fostering their social interaction. The church was also important in the development of other community institutions such as schools and mutual aid societies."

**National Register Criteria**

First African Baptist Church and Parsonage are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black as a church and pastor's residence that served the African-American community in Waycross. It is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of an African-American church and accompanying residence in Georgia.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

First African Baptist Church and Parsonage are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria Consideration A as a religious property primarily for the architectural significance of the church building and the parsonage and for their historical association with the African-American community in Waycross in which they have been community landmarks since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance for First African Baptist Church and Parsonage begins in 1905, the approximate construction date of the church building and ends in 1953 the end of the historic period. The period of significance spans the construction of both the church and the parsonage and includes their continuing service in the religious, educational, social, and cultural life of Waycross's African-American community.

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

The two contributing resources on the nominated property are the church building and the associated parsonage. There are no noncontributing resources on the property. The historic church bell, now on display in the churchyard, is not counted as either contributing or noncontributing because of its small size. Plans are to return the bell to its original location in the belfry after structural stabilization.

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

**\*\*NOTE: The following history was compiled by Darren Harper, consultant, September, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Ware County was created by a legislative act on December 15, 1824. It was created from lands that were originally part of Appling County. The county was named in honor of Nicholas Ware of Richmond County, Georgia. Among some of the early settlers of Ware County are Nathan Dean, John Taylor, Silas O'Quinn, Moses Vickers, John Johnson, and many others. These people moved into Ware County from Appling County and Irwin County.

Waycross was created in 1872 but it was not formally incorporated until March 3, 1874. The founders of Waycross include men such as Dr. Daniel Lott, Dr. Benjamin Williams, Mr. William Bailey and Captain Cuyler Hilliard. The name Waycross seems to have come from the fact that this was the location where all the local roads crossed.

During the early years of the history of Waycross and Ware County this town was considered to be one of the most religious towns in the state of Georgia. There seemed to be more churches here than anywhere else and everyone seemed to hold religion very close to their heart in their daily walk



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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of life. Some of the history books say that Waycross was also named Waycross because it was the town where the way of the cross was the most predominant part of life.

First African Baptist Church was originally organized as the Zion African Baptist church in 1870. It was organized by recently freed slaves. They needed a place to worship and they needed assistance in organizing a church body so that they could freely worship and express their faith. They succeeded in enlisting the help of some of the prominent ministers in Waycross.

Reverend William Quarterman, an African-American minister in Waycross, and Reverends H. V. Jeffords and Lewis C. Tebeau, two white ministers from Waycross, helped the former slaves conduct an organizational meeting at a log cabin that served as their early church. At this meeting there were 37 names given as members of the church. The names were received and recorded as the church membership. Later that evening, at a called conference, another 16 people came forward to express their Christian beliefs and were received as candidates for baptism. Among these early members can be found the names of men and women who went on to contribute greatly towards the African-American heritage of Waycross. One of these members, King Scarlett, was recorded in the local history books as being a valued member of the African-American class of Waycross. He is also shown as the last remaining charter member of the church in 1934.

First African Baptist Church was constructed on a site known as Hazzards Hill. This site is named in honor of Reverend Frank S. Hazzard. His name is listed as one of the charter members of the church and during the original organizational meeting he was called to serve as the first pastor of the church. Rev. Hazzard played a great role in the advancement of African-American people in Waycross. He was the founder of the first private school for black students in Waycross and Ware County. The school, Hazzard Hill Baptist School, was established in 1880, only ten years after the founding of the church. The school was established to provide educational opportunities to the African-American children in Waycross when there were no public schools they could attend. Hazzard Hill Cemetery is also named in his honor and a memorial monument has been placed there to recognize his contributions to the African-American history of Waycross.

Reverend S. Buford was the third pastor called to serve at the church. He successfully led the church growth and was also greatly admired by the members and the citizens of Waycross. During the leadership of Reverend Buford, the church congregation outgrew the original log cabin and built a new frame structure. This church was destroyed by a storm only a few years later. Sometime prior to 1905, the existing church was constructed.

The church, now known as First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, is still used for services and stands as a memorial to Reverend Buford and his faith and enduring passion for the growth and vitality of the Zion African Baptist Church.

The parsonage behind the church was constructed as a home for the pastor and his family. In recent years it has been used for Sunday school rooms, meeting space, and storage.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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County records-deeds and plats.

"From These Roots: A Black Heritage Exhibit," Self-Guided Tour of Black Heritage Sites in Waycross, Georgia, Okefenokee Heritage Center, Waycross, Georgia.

"Georgia Historic Resource Survey Form No. 963" Ms. Julie Carithers, Marietta, Georgia, 1988.

Harper, Darren. Historic Property Information Form. September, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental information.

"An Inventory of Historical Sites in the Southeast Georgia Area," Southeast Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission, Waycross, Georgia.

Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, 1994.

"One Hundred Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Celebration Program", page 6-7, Mrs. Connie Bussey, Mrs. Margie Sams, Mrs. Linda Perry-Simpson, First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Waycross, Georgia, October 16, 17, 18, 20, 1996.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and other old maps of Waycross.

Walker, Laura Singleton. History of Ware County. Macon, Georgia: The J. H. Burke Co., Publishers, 1934.

Waycross Newspapers, 1893-1905.

**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 #**

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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**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**      Less than one acre.

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 17      Easting 372017      Northing 3453459

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

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

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property includes the church, the parsonage, and the intact portion of land historically considered to be the "yard" of the church, including some right-of-way along Knight Avenue (including sidewalk and curb) and Satilla Boulevard (including edge of pavement and curb).

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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** February 18, 2003  
**e-mail** holly\_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title** Darren Harper, President  
**organization** The Brunswick Company  
**mailing address** P.O. Box 1593  
**city or town** Brunswick **state** Georgia **zip code** 31521  
**telephone** (912)261-0976  
**e-mail**

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

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Reverend W.G. Griffin  
**organization (if applicable)** First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Waycross, Georgia, Inc.  
**mailing address** 615 Knight Avenue  
**city or town** Waycross **state** Georgia **zip code** 31501  
**e-mail (optional)**

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** First African Baptist Church and Parsonage  
**City or Vicinity:** Waycross  
**County:** Ware  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** April, 2002

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 17

1. First African Baptist Church, front (south) façade; photographer facing northeast.
2. Church, front façade and east façade; photographer facing north.
3. Church, east façade; photographer facing west.
4. Church, east façade and rear (north) façade; photographer facing southwest.
5. Church, detail; photographer facing north.
6. Church, cornerstone; photographer facing northeast.
7. Church, interior; photographer facing northeast.
8. Church, interior; photographer facing southwest.
9. Church, interior; photographer facing north.
10. Church, front façade and west façade; photographer facing northeast.
11. Church bell; photographer facing northeast.
12. Parsonage, front (east) façade and north façade, photographer facing southwest.
13. Parsonage, front façade and south façade; photographer facing northwest.
14. Parsonage, rear (west) façade and south façade; photographer facing northeast.
15. Parsonage, interior; photographer facing southeast.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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16. Parsonage, interior; photographer facing west.

17. First African Baptist Church and Parsonage; photographer facing north.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

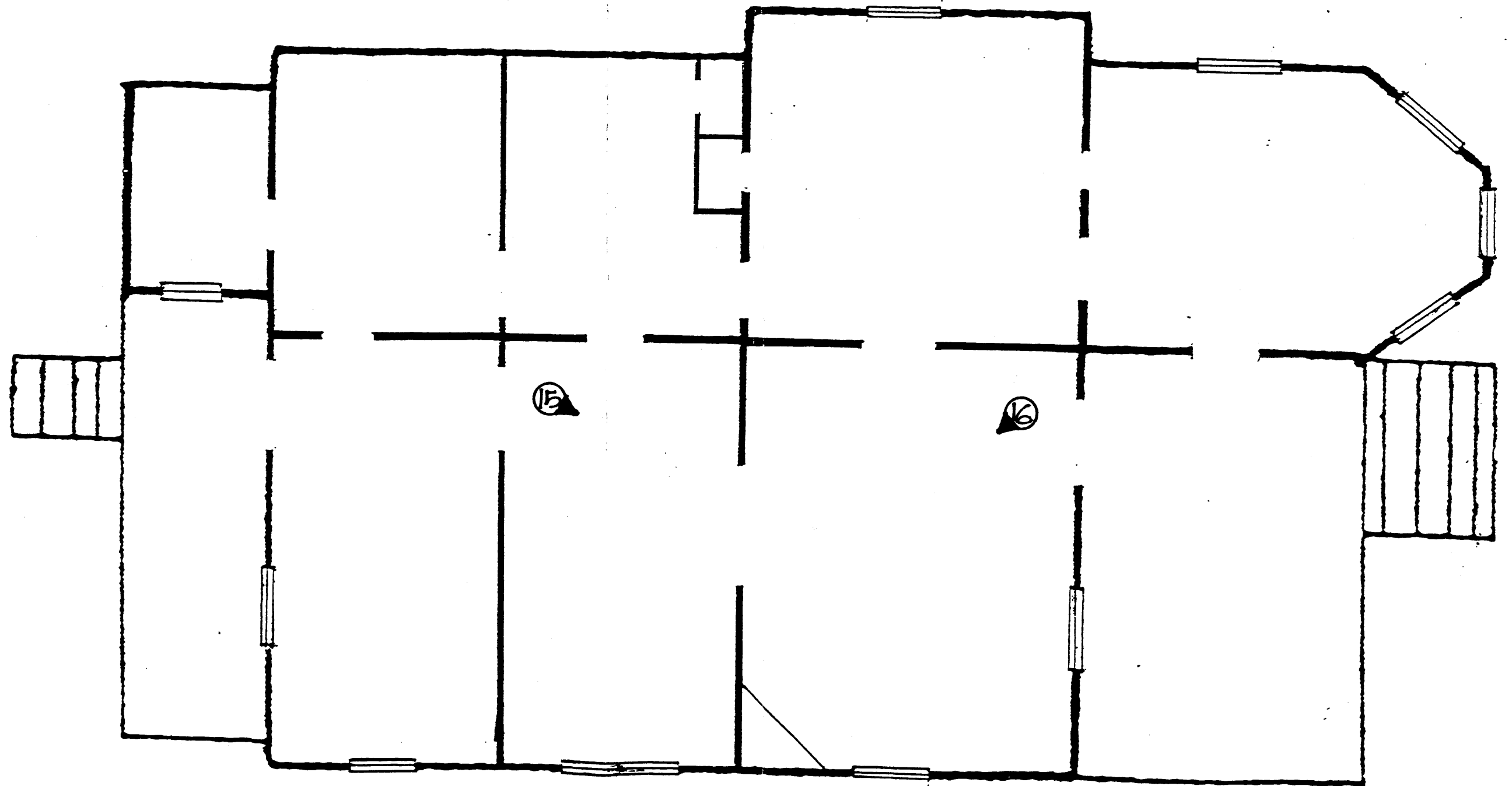


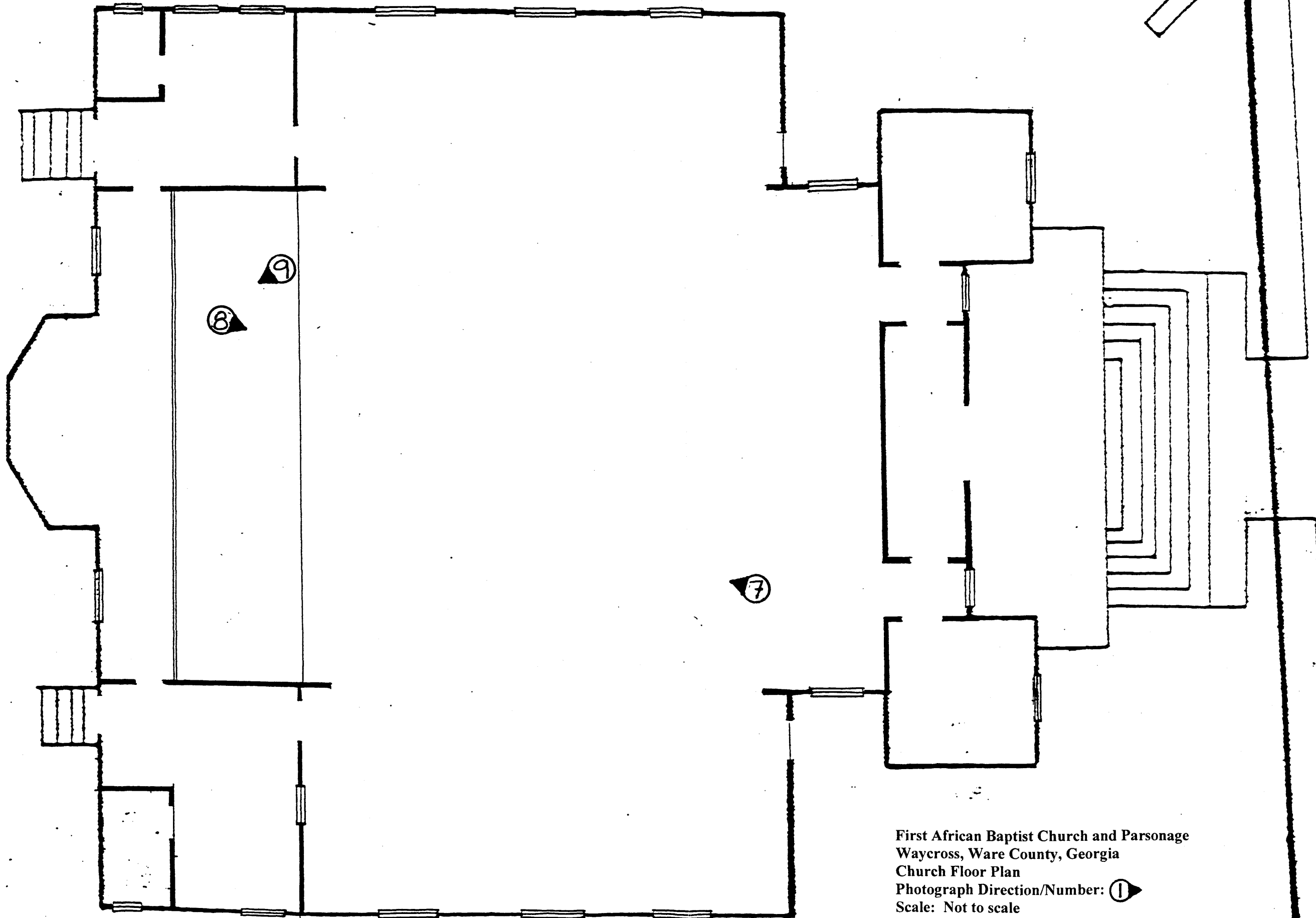
**First African Baptist Church and Parsonage**  
**Waycross, Ware County, Georgia**  
**Ware County Tax Map WA-17**  
**National Register Boundary:**   
**Scale: 1"= 200'**  
**North: ↑**

MAP WA-18

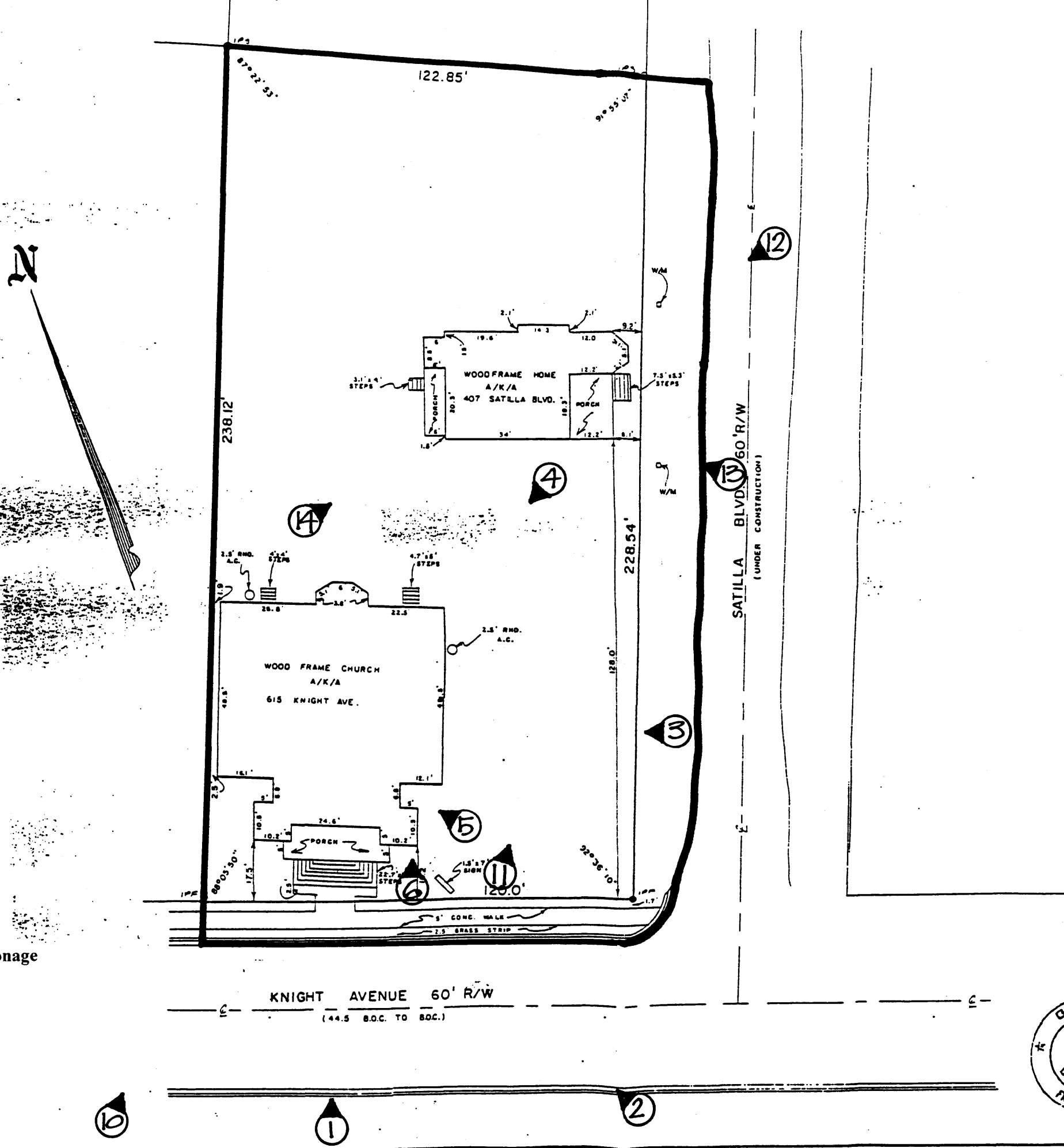


First African Baptist Church and Parsonage  
Waycross, Ware County, Georgia  
Parsonage Floor Plan  
Photograph Direction/Number: ①  
Scale: Not to scale  
North: ↖





First African Baptist Church and Parsonage  
Waycross, Ware County, Georgia  
Church Floor Plan  
Photograph Direction/Number: ①  
Scale: Not to scale  
North: ↙



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN IS EXEMPT FROM BEING APPROVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF O.C.G.A. SECTION 15-6-67.(4).

*Franklin Miles*

FRANKLIN MILES  
GA. REG. LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1847

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS NOT LOCATED WITHIN A FLOOD HAZARD AREA.

*Franklin Miles*

FRANKLIN MILES  
COMMUNITY PANEL NO. 130186-J001



SURVEY FOR		FIRST ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	
SCALE: 1" = 20'	APPROVED BY	<i>Franklin Miles</i>	
DATE: 8/15/91	DRAWN		
SURVEY OF: LOT 10, BLOCK 76, WILLIAMS HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION			
WAYCROSS, WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA			
DRAWN		DRAWN	

First African Baptist Church and Parsonage  
Waycross, Ware County, Georgia  
Site Plan  
National Register Boundary:   
Photograph Direction/Number: ①  
Scale: Not to scale  
North: ↖