

# 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 Whitesburg Baptist Church  
other names/site number N/A

1220

## 2. Location

street & number 662 Main Street  
city, town Whitesburg ( ) vicinity of  
county Carroll code GA 045  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30185

( ) not for publication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

buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	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 Clowes  
Signature of certifying official

9-5-02  
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

Robert H. Beall 10/22/02

for  
Keeper of the National Register      Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

RELIGION: religious facility

### Current Functions:

RELIGION: religious facility

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Gothic Revival

### 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:

The Whitesburg Baptist Church is located in the small town of Whitesburg in Carroll County, Georgia. The church has a prominent location on Main Street and is surrounded by houses to the sides and rear of the church with commercial buildings and a parking lot across the street (photographs 1-3).

The Whitesburg Baptist Church is a small, one-story, rectangular, wood-frame building with weatherboard siding. The Gothic Revival-style church was constructed in 1875-1876. The form of the church is typical for a small town Baptist church with a front-gable and central tower. The foundation is brick piers with concrete block infill. The roof is composition asphalt over the original wood shingle roof.

The central tower consists of the entrance, belfry, and steeple (photograph 6). An original multi-paned, pointed-arch window is located above the front entrance, which is a large, wood, double door with pointed-arch lights. A pointed-arch stained-glass window is located in the middle portion of the tower. The belfry portion of tower has louvered vents on all four sides and contains the original, hand-pulled bell. The tower is topped by a steeple. The original steeple was destroyed by a tornado and was replaced by a fiberglass steeple in 1987 (see attachment 1, 1910 historic photograph of the church for original steeple configuration).

The front façade of the church has two pointed-arch stained-glass windows (photograph 6). The windows on the side facades are rectangular with stained-glass lights (photographs 4 and 5). The stained-glass windows were added to the church in 1973.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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The interior of the church is comprised of an entrance foyer, pastor's study, Sunday school room, and the sanctuary. There are doors on either side of the foyer. Originally the right door was for men to enter the sanctuary and the left was for women, with a large divider (since removed) in the sanctuary which was high enough so males and females could not see one another during services. The two doors off the foyer now lead to bathrooms, and entrance into the sanctuary is through double-swinging doors.

The sanctuary is comprised of two rows of pews, the choir loft, and the pulpit. Three rows of pews to the side of the pulpit serve as a choir loft. The pulpit is on a raised platform with the baptistery is behind it (photograph 9). The baptistery contains a mural that was painted by Jack Ashmore in 1980, a well-known local painter. The interior finishes are simple with wood walls, ceiling, and floors (photographs 7 and 8). The wood door- and window-surrounds are original. The only ornamentation is a pointed-arch surround behind the pulpit.

Changes to the church include the addition of stained-glass windows in 1973 and the 1987 fiberglass steeple. A rear addition was added to the church in 1969 to house Sunday school classes and a nursery.

The church is located close to the road on a grassed lot with mature trees and minimal landscaping. A driveway is located to the rear of the church. A small, nonhistoric shed is located to the rear of the church.

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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

**Period of Significance:**

1875-1876

**Significant Dates:**

1875-1876

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

Located in the small town of Whitesburg in southeastern Carroll County, the Whitesburg Baptist Church is located on a prominent lot on Main Street.

The Whitesburg Baptist Church is significant in the area of architecture as a good and somewhat unusual example of a small Southern town, Gothic Revival-style Baptist church. The church retains its original front-gable, rectangular form with a central tower, which is a common characteristic of the small town and rural churches in Georgia. The exterior of the church is ornamented with pointed-arch windows and a large pointed-arch, multi-paned window above the original double front doors, which reflect the Gothic Revival style, somewhat unusual for a small town or rural Baptist church in Georgia which tend to be unornamented or simple interpretations of classical styles. The church retains its original floor plan with entrance foyer and sanctuary. The interior of the church retains its original wood walls, floors, and ceiling and wood door- and window-surrounds. The ornamentation is simple with a prominent pointed-arch surround behind the pulpit emphasizing the baptistery.

The Whitesburg Baptist Church represents one of two major faiths in Georgia and reflects the tenets of the Baptist faith, such as separate doors for men and women to enter the sanctuary. The building commands a major presence in the community as a prominent community landmark building. Even in a small town during the post Civil War Reconstruction times, members of the congregation were able to build a significant building reflecting their faith's continuity in the community. The church has remained active ever since.

**National Register Criteria**

The Whitesburg Baptist Church meets National Register Criteria C as a good example of a small town, Gothic Revival-style Baptist church.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

The Whitesburg Baptist Church meets National Register Criteria Consideration A because its significance is derived from its intact, historic form, exterior, and interior and as a good example of the use of the Gothic Revival style in a small town church.

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance is 1875-1876, which is the construction date for the church.

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

The church is the only contributing building on the property. A small nonhistoric shed is the only noncontributing building on the property.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

The New Providence Baptist Church, later the Whitesburg Baptist Church, was probably one of the first churches established in Carroll County, possibly as early as 1849. Many of its earlier practices, such as "churching" members and requiring men and women to enter the sanctuary through separate doors and sit in isolation from one another, were dominant practices among early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Baptists. The beliefs of the church, clearly and eloquently stated in its Articles of Faith, are important statements of the theology of early Baptists.

Little is known about the formation of the church congregation. The first records of the church were destroyed when the church clerk's house burned. The earliest records are dated May 1871. J.R.T. Brown was moderator of the conference. The name of the church is given as the "Baptist Church of Christ at New Providence." Later records of the church list the name as "New Providence Baptist Church." Previous accounts of the history of the church congregation state that New Providence was located approximately two-and-a-half miles west of the town of Whitesburg.

Several indicators point to an earlier year than 1871 for the formation of the church congregation. First, several older members of the church thought that it was organized in the 1840s, probably in 1849. Second, the church was a thriving church by 1874 with a membership of 34 men and 30 women. Third, the church congregation voted in conference on March 13, 1875 to change the name of the church from New Providence Baptist Church to Whitesburg Baptist Church. The church had functioned as New Providence Baptist Church for several years at the location west of Whitesburg. The church building at this location burned.

The present church building was constructed during 1875 to 1876. The first services were held in the building in June 1876. Several changes were made to the building during its history. In a conference held on April 19, 1878, the congregation decided to "have seats built for our church and the members to obligate themselves to pay for the same." An addition for Sunday school rooms was completed in 1965. In that year, the congregation also purchased new pews and the communion table for the sanctuary. The stained-glass windows were added in 1973. The original spire of the steeple was destroyed by a tornado, and the building was without a spire until 1987 when the present spire was added. The new spire was a gift of the Morris family in memory of their father and mother, Hamilton and Dora Morris, long time and prominent residents of Whitesburg.

The mural behind the pulpit in the baptistery was painted by Jack Ashmore, a local artist well-known in the west Georgia area. He was born on February 5, 1912, and died on May 22, 1997. A sign painter by trade, Mr. Ashmore did not keep an inventory of his murals but it is known that he painted murals for the New Hope Methodist Church, West Carrollton Baptist Church, Arnco Baptist Church (Coweta County), and Salem Baptist Church. Paintings by Mr. Ashmore hang in the Union Methodist Church, Pine Knoll Nursing Home, Carrollton Manor Nursing Home, and many other locations in west Georgia.

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8--Statement of Significance**

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The church remains active in the Carroll County Baptist Association, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Wells, Dr. Donald T. "Whitesburg Baptist Church", Historic Property Information Form, April 20, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

**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**      0.5 acres.

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 16      Easting 693795      Northing 3707694

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy, black line.

### **Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary is the legal boundary of the church and is the remaining historic property associated with the church.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Gretchen Brock/National Register Coordinator  
**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** September 5, 2002  
**e-mail** gretchen\_brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title** Donald T. Wells, PhD  
**organization** N/A  
**mailing address** 774 Banning Road  
**city or town** Whitesburg      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30185  
**telephone** (770) 832-3393  
**e-mail** N/A

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

**Property Owner or Sponsor Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Jewel Wells/Secretary and Treasurer  
**organization (if applicable)** Whitesburg Baptist Church  
**mailing address** 602 Main Street  
**city or town** Whitesburg      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30185  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Whitesburg Baptist Church  
**City or Vicinity:** Whitesburg  
**County:** Carroll  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** April 2001

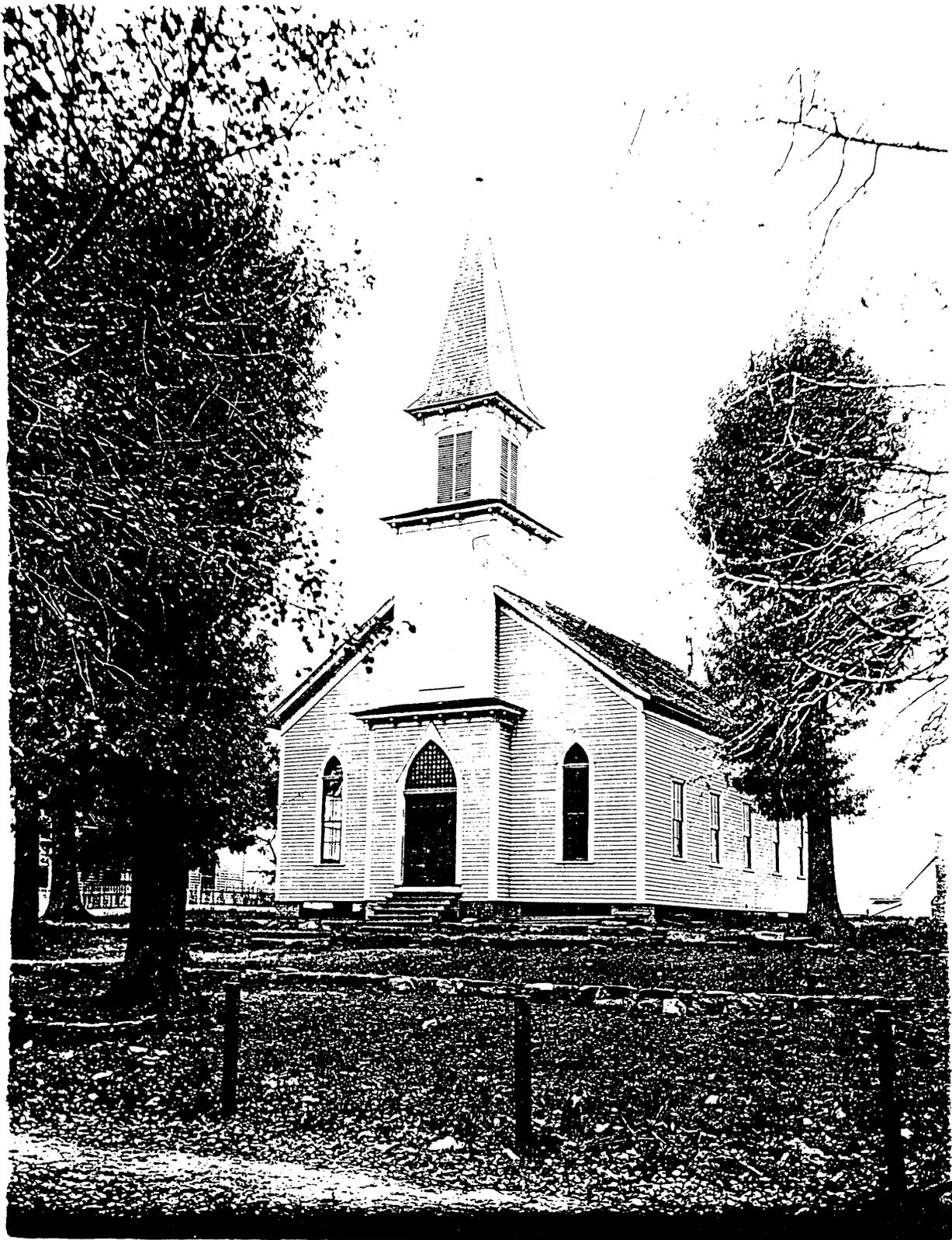
**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 9

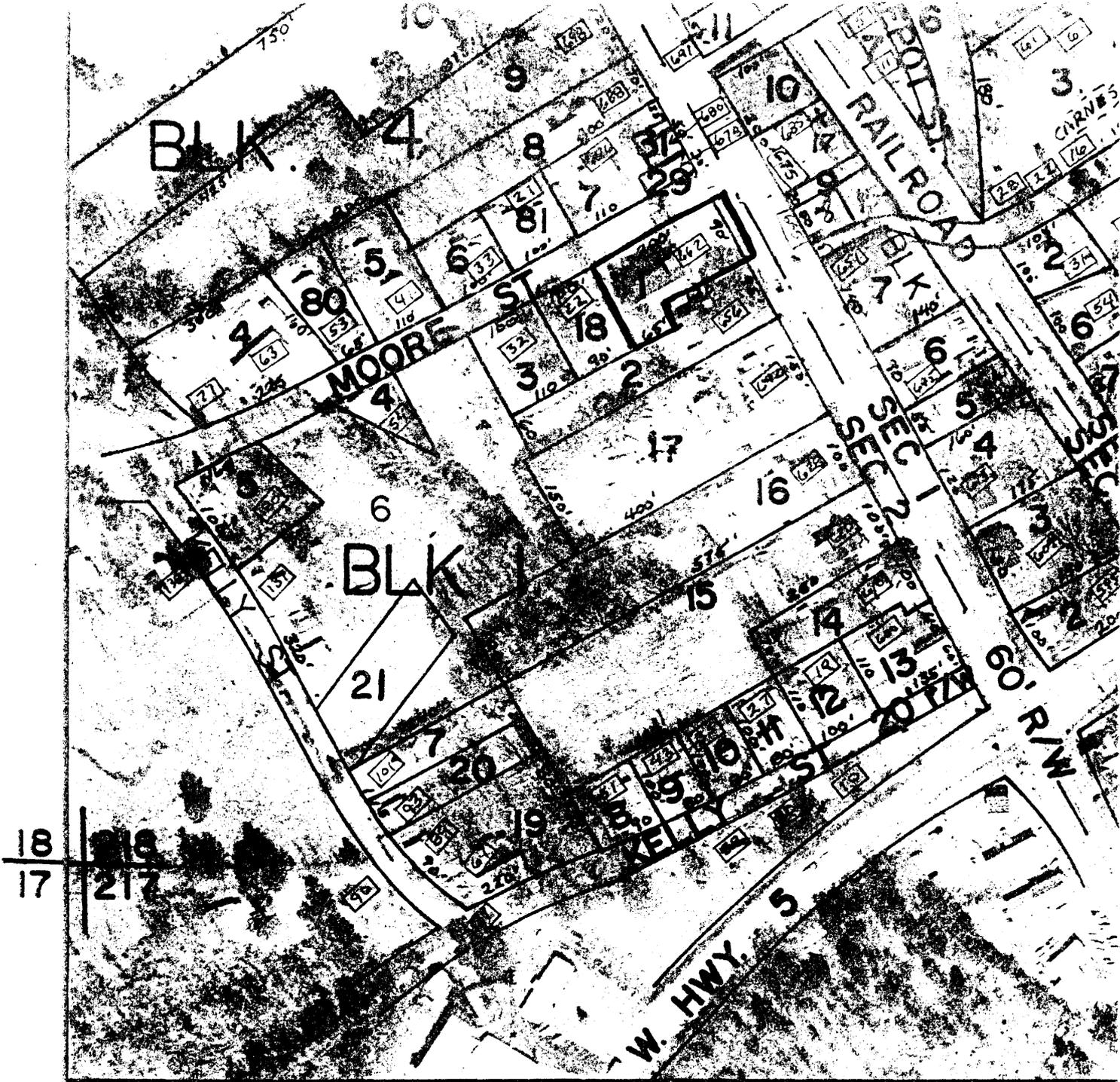
1. Front façade; photographer facing southeast.
2. Front and south facades; photographer facing northeast.
3. Front and north facades; photographer facing southeast.
4. North façade; photographer facing south.
5. Rear and south facades; photographer facing north.
6. Detail, front façade; photographer facing southeast.
7. Interior of sanctuary; photographer facing northeast.
8. Interior of sanctuary; photographer facing southwest.
9. Interior, detail of pulpit; photographer facing east.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH  
CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA  
ATTACHMENT 1 – HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH



*WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, 1910. NOTICE THE BRICK PILLARS AND THE ORIGINAL STEEPLE. ALSO THE WINDOWS ARE NOT STAINED GLASS AS OF THIS TIME. THEY WERE NOT ADDED UNTIL 1973.*



18  
17

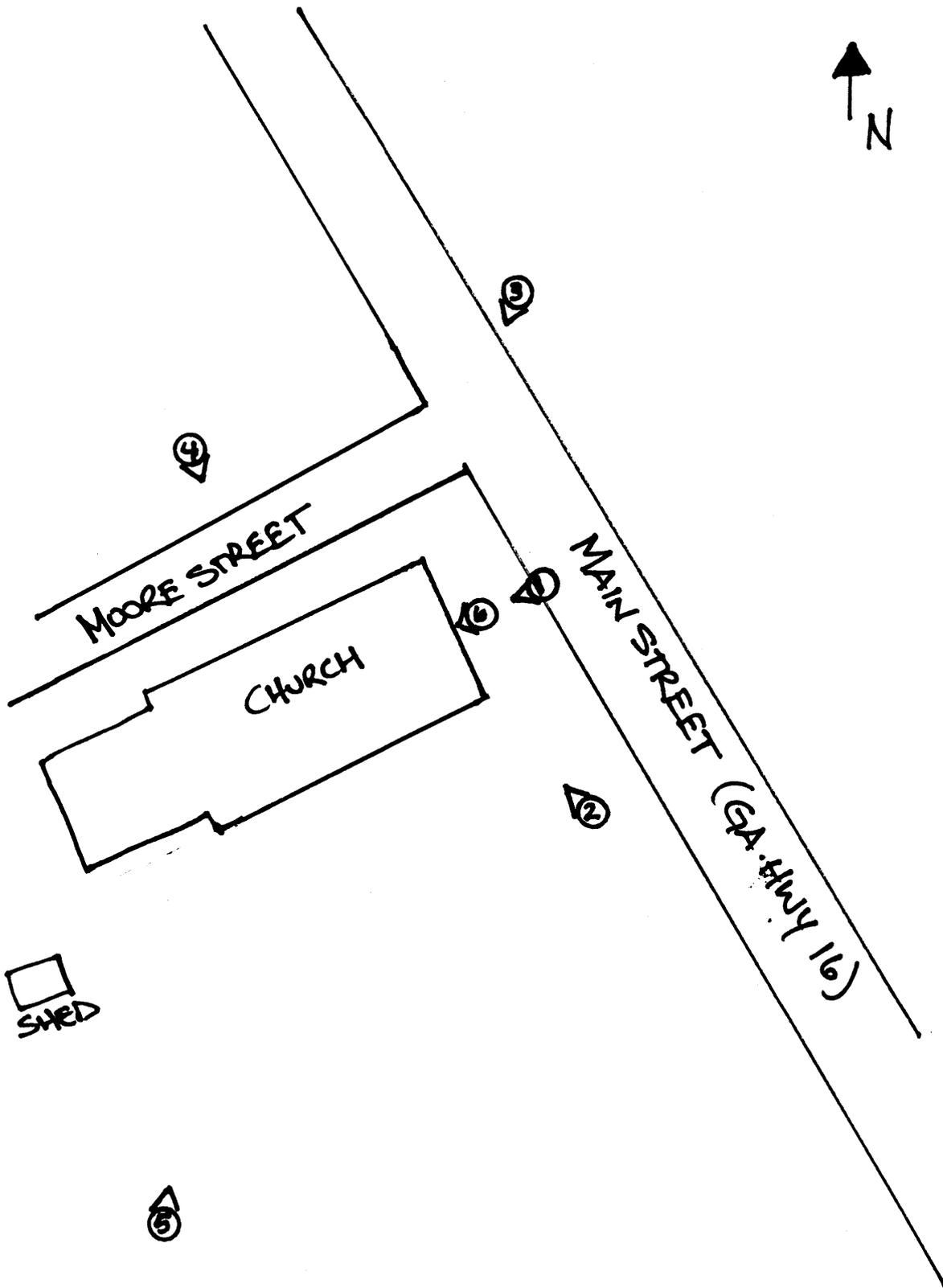
1818  
217

----- STATE LINE  
 ----- COUNTY LINE

LEGEND

- [ 82 ] HOUSE NUMBER
- ( 55 ) SUBDIVISION LOT NUMBER
- 21 TAX PARCEL NUMBER
- ( 22 ) ADJOINING PARCEL NUMBER
- [ 4 ] SCHOOL OR COLLEGE
- [ 17 ] CHURCH AND CEMETERY
- ( 2 ) ADJOINING MAP NUMBER

**WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**TAX MAP**  
 SCALE: 1" = 200'  
 NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:   
 NORTH:   
 SOURCE: CARROLL COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



**WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SKETCH MAP**  
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ⑦  
NORTH: ↑

WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH  
CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA

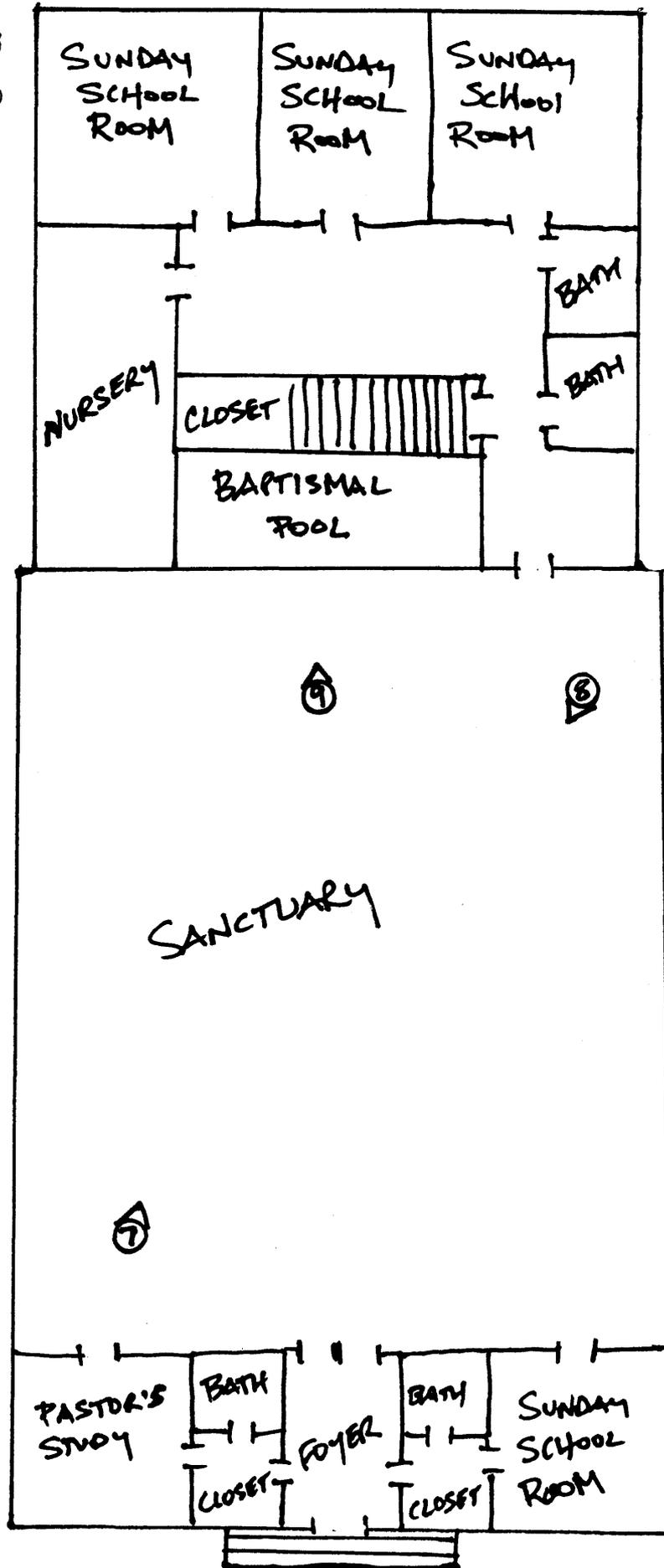
FLOOR PLAN

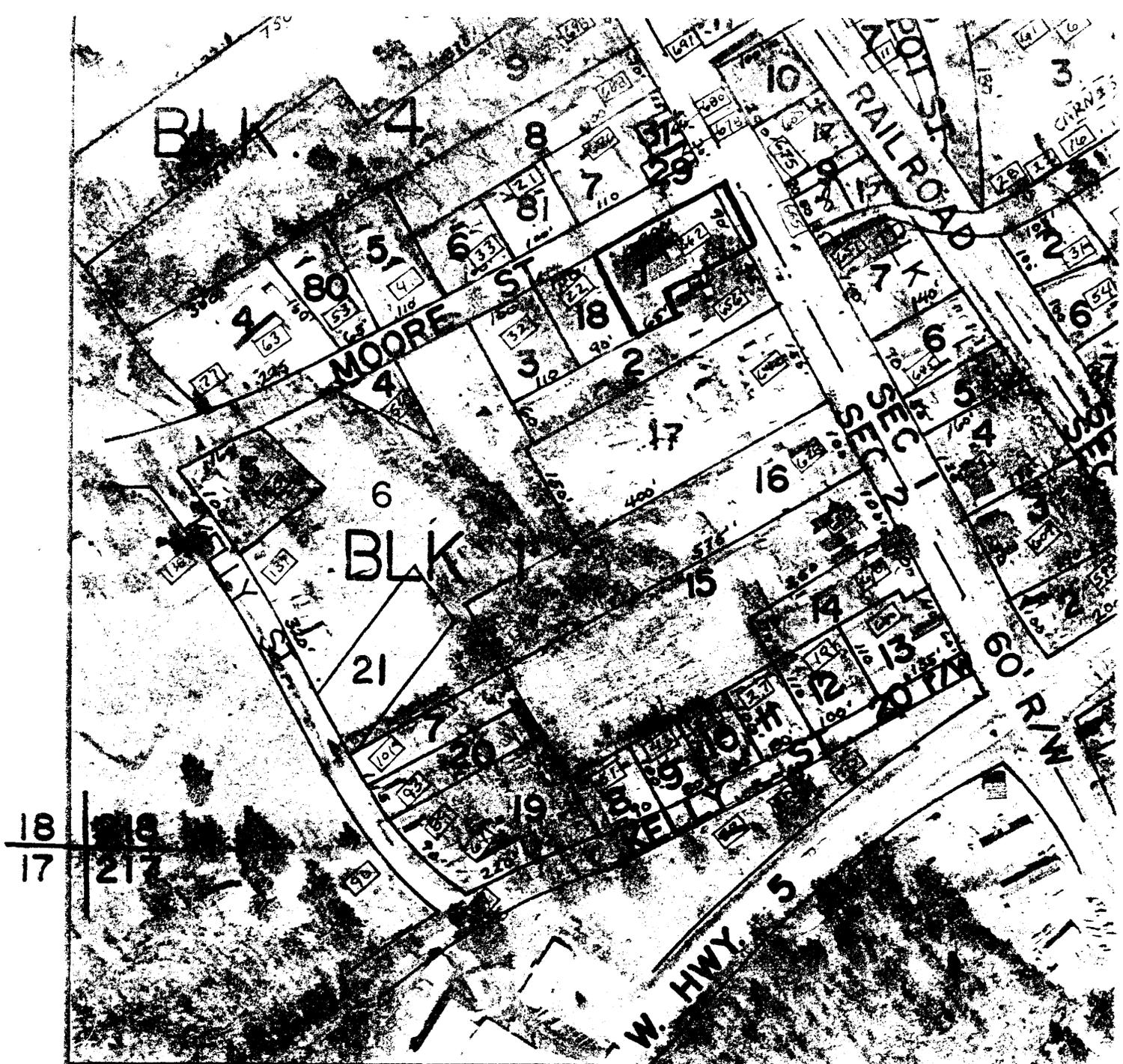
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①

NORTH: →

DRAWN BY: JEWEL WELLS, APRIL 2000





18  
17

<p>----- STATE LINE</p> <p>----- COUNTY LINE</p>		<p>LEGEND</p>	
<p><b>WHITESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH</b>  <b>CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA</b>  <b>TAX MAP</b>          SCALE: 1" = 200'          NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:           NORTH:           SOURCE: CARROLL COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE</p>		<p> HOUSE NUMBER</p> <p> SUBDIVISION LOT NUMBER</p> <p> TAX PARCEL NUMBER</p> <p> ADJOINING PARCEL NUMBER</p> <p> SCHOOL OR COLLEGE</p> <p> CHURCH AND CEMETERY</p> <p> ADJOINING MAP NUMBER</p>	