

# HISTORIC RESOURCES OF GREENSBORO, GREENE COUNTY, GEORGIA

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #2

### I. IDENTIFICATION

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NAME OF PROPERTY: **Church of the Redeemer**  
LOCATION: Corner of Main and North Streets  
CITY: Greensboro  
COUNTY: Greene (code 133)  
STATE: Georgia (code 013)  
ZIP CODE: 30642  
OWNER: Church of the Redeemer  
OWNER ADDRESS: Main Street, Greensboro, Georgia 30642  
CLASSIFICATION: Building  
CURRENT USE: Religious (church)  
ACREAGE: less than one  
U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Greensboro, Ga.  
U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E297460 N3717340  
V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: G9-7 (current/historic site)

### II. DESCRIPTION

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#### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

One-story, wood-frame, Gothic Revival-style church building with board-and-batten siding; central rectangular tower with steeple, large circular vent, rectangular vents, and bracketed eaves; tower forms entrance at ground level with arched openings supported by square columns with granite stoop; windows set in pairs, with diamond-shaped mullion pattern in clear glass, topped with label molding; steeply pitched gable roof covered in asphalt shingles; intact interior; interior arrangement includes central nave with transepts on each side; wooden floors, walls, and ceilings, with board-and-batten exterior detailing repeated on interior walls and exposed roof/ceiling beams of hand-hewn timbers; pulpit area contains pointed-arched window with colored glass, three original chandeliers (originally used oil); transept space on north side of structure is original, transept space to south added in 1960s. The church is situated on a corner lot with a few trees and shrubs, one block north of the central business district; graves of former pastor and wife are located within the property; property surrounded by nonhistoric commercial and residential development except for historic house across North Main Street. Good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS: 98-99

### III. HISTORY

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ORIGINAL OWNER: Church of the Redeemer  
ORIGINAL USE: Religious (church)  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: J. O. Barnwell  
HISTORIC ACREAGE: same as current

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1868

DATE(S) OF MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1960s

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (from origins to present):

On September 21, 1863, an Episcopal parish was organized at Greensboro in the home of Phillip Clayton by the Rt. Reverend Stephen Elliott, the first Bishop of Georgia. The church lot was sold by Holcomb G. Harper to Phillip Clayton, John C. Carmichael, and Phillip Poullain, Wardens and Vestry of the Church of the Redeemer, on February 9, 1867. J. O. Barnwell (also referred to as "Barrett") of Rome, Georgia, was the architect and builder of the structure. He resided at Dr. Thomas Poullain's residence while building the structure. The structure was dedicated on June 14, 1868, by the Rt. Reverend J. W. Beckwith, the second Bishop of Georgia. The first pastor was W. W. Lord, who was followed by J. H. Elliot, believed to have been a nephew of Bishop Elliott. The third minister was a local resident, Joshua H. Knowles, who resided in the King House across the street from the church building and also served as editor of the local newspaper. Since Reverence Knowles, the pastor position has been filled by various clergymen as well as many lay readers. The 1881-1882 Gazetteer notes that the Church of the Redeemer was one of seven churches in the community. The other churches listed were two Baptist (one colored), two Methodist (one colored), Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic. Membership at the Church of the Redeemer has always been relatively small. Present enrollment includes approximately 50 members.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

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NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: A, C

AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Religion

SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1868

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architecture. In terms of architecture, the Church of the Redeemer is important for its Gothic Revival styling and its intact condition. Gothic Revival was a popular architectural style nationally in the mid-1800s and was used extensively in church architecture. However, in Georgia the style appears infrequently in small towns. Plain styled churches or Greek Revival buildings dominated small-town church architecture in the middle of the 19th century. The Church of the Redeemer is an unusually pure example of this style in a small Georgia town; typical features included board-and-batten siding, steep roof, window treatments, interior detailing, and wood-frame construction. The fact that the building is so intact adds to its architectural significance; many historic churches in both

towns and cities in Georgia have had substantial additions or alterations as congregations grew and prospered. The structure also is important for being designed by a professional architect, J. O. Barnwell of Rome, Georgia. Architects were rarely used in communities the size of Greensboro, but the importance of a religious edifice apparently necessitated such assistance. The design of the church most likely was inspired by a published design of Andrew Jackson Downing, Alexander Jackson Davis, or their contemporaries who were promoting the use of Gothic styling and especially board-and-batten construction in the middle of the 19th century.

Religion. The Church of the Redeemer is significant in religion because it is the first and only church associated with Greensboro's small Episcopal congregation. The establishment of the Episcopal church in Greensboro reflects the growth and religious diversity of the community, a diversity often not found in small Georgia towns which were dominated by the Baptist and Methodist faiths. Indeed, Episcopalians always have been in the extreme minority in Georgia, especially in Georgia's small towns; the presence of this historic church documents this aspect of Greensboro's and the state's religious history.

**CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:**

1 contributing building

**VII. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

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**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:** Historic Structures Field Survey: Greene County, Georgia (state-level survey)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** SEE Bibliography, Section 9, National Register Nomination Form

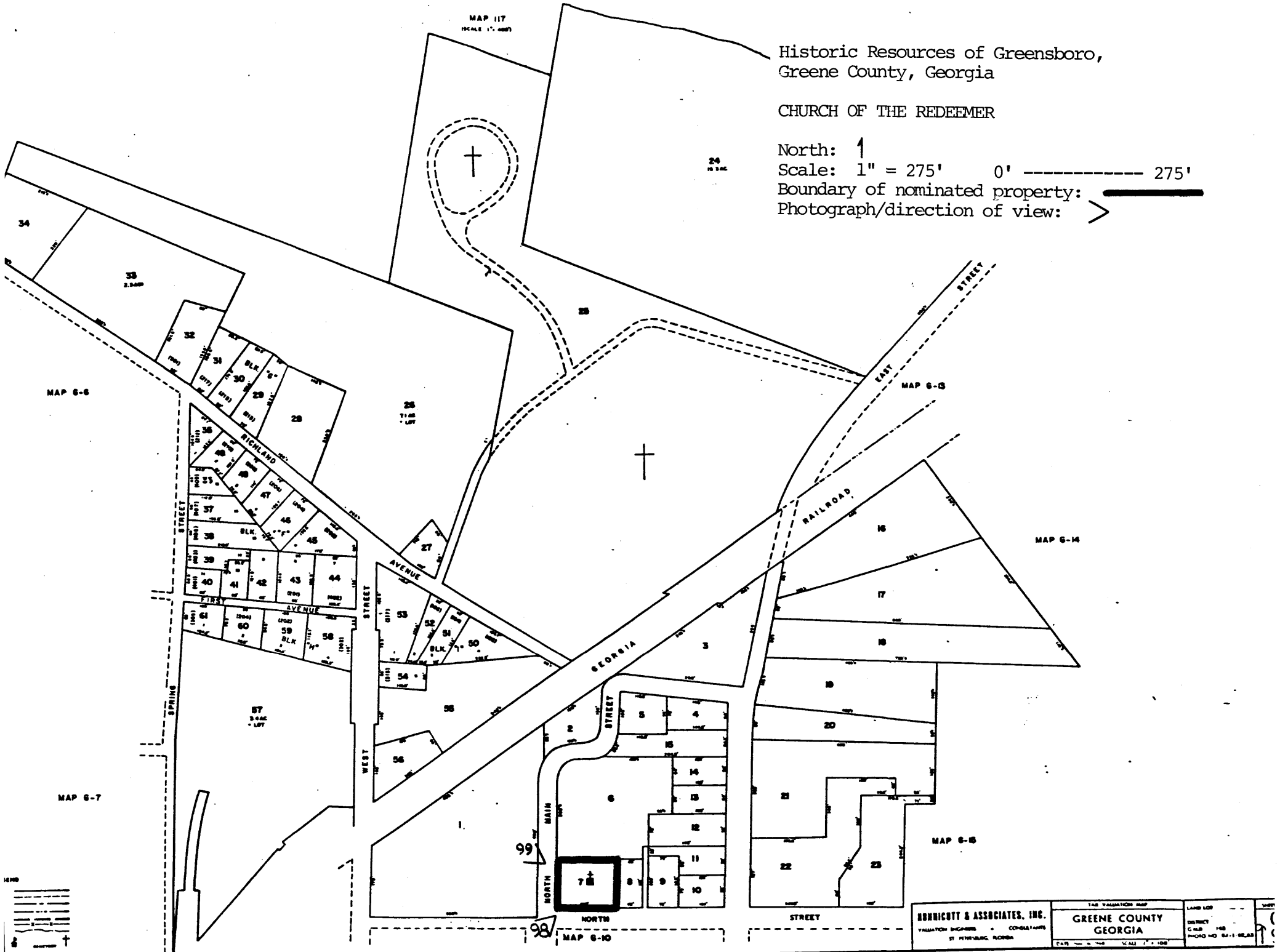
**FORM PREPARED BY:** SEE Form Prepared By, Section 11, National Register Nomination Form

MAP 117  
SCALE 1" = 400'

# Historic Resources of Greensboro, Greene County, Georgia

## CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

North: ↑  
Scale: 1" = 275' 0' ----- 275'  
Boundary of nominated property: **—————**  
Photograph/direction of view: ➤



<b>DUBNICOTT &amp; ASSOCIATES, INC.</b> VALUATION ENGINEERS • CONSULTANTS ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA	THE VALUATION MAP <b>GREENE COUNTY          GEORGIA</b>	LAND LOTS DISTRICT C. & B. PHOTO NO. 82-1-8648	DATE SCALE 1" = 100'
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