

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

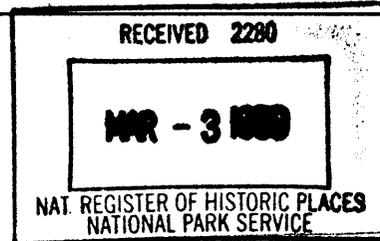
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested 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 Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage  
other names/site number n/a

## 2. Location

street & number 400 Second Avenue, NW  
city, town Moultrie  
county Colquitt code GA 071  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31768-3616



n/a) vicinity of

(n/a) not for publication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	2	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	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.

*Richard Cox*

*2-22-99*

Signature of certifying official

Date

W. Ray Luce  
Interim 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

*Edson F. Beall* *4.1.99*

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility  
RELIGION/church-related residence

### Current Functions:

VACANT

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: High Victorian Eclectic  
OTHER: Bungalow

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	brick
<b>walls</b>	brick
<b>roof</b>	metal
<b>other</b>	concrete; wood

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located several blocks northwest of the central business district of Moultrie in a traditional African-American neighborhood of Moultrie, the Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage consists of an early 20th-century brick church on a corner lot with an adjacent 1941 parsonage.

The Mother Easter Baptist Church is a small brick African-American church. It is a High Victorian Eclectic-style, building with Queen Anne, Romanesque, and Gothic detailing on the exterior. It has a pressed-metal, cross-gable-and-hip roof with brackets and exposed rafter ends at the eaves, three different colors of brick laid in a common bond, two types of cast-concrete stone, a castellated bell tower with arched openings and decorative color scheme, Queen Anne-style stained-glass windows with rounded- and Gothic-arched openings, several beltcourses, and basement. The overall plan-form of the building is that of a Greek cross.

The interior is arranged in a Greek-cross plan with the pulpit and choir stand occupying one arm and the semi-circularly arranged pews occupying the other three arms. It has plaster walls, wood floors, wood window and door surrounds, some with denticulated pediments, wood moldings, wainscoting, and baseboards, wood pews, and wood paneled doors. The pews were built in 1928 by local carpenter W.D. Thomas. The detailing on the interior is classically inspired.

The low, one-story rear brick addition was constructed in 1950. It has a slightly pitched hipped roof and 6/6 double-hung windows.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 7--Description

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Located to the west of the church, the 1941 parsonage is a brick, front-gabled bungalow with a pressed-metal roof, brick chimney, 6/6 double-hung windows, and front-gabled porch. The parsonage has no architectural detailing besides minimal brick work on the chimney.

The landscaping around the church and parsonage is minimal with a lawn and few shrubs and mature trees. The church with its corner tower is situated on a corner lot. The surrounding neighborhood, a traditional African-American neighborhood, has a mixture of older and newer buildings.

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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  
Religion

**Period of Significance:**

1906-1941

**Significant Dates:**

1894-Congregation formed and first church building built  
1903-First church building burned and second rebuilt  
1904-Second church building burned  
1906-Present church building built  
1928-W.D. Thomas builds pews  
1941-Parsonage built  
1987-Church vacated in favor of new larger building

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

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

W.D. Thomas, carpenter of pews

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Due to its size, design, corner location, and detailing, the Mother Ester Baptist Church is a prominent community landmark building with strong historical associations in Moultrie's traditional African-American neighborhood. The Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage are significant in architecture and ethnic heritage: African American.

The Mother Easter Baptist Church is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a High Victorian Eclectic-style church with Queen Anne, Romanesque, and Gothic influences. Some of its outstanding features include its polychromatic brick, castellated tower, and Queen Anne-style and Gothic arched windows. Other significant features include its Greek-cross plan, wooden curved pews arranged in a semi-circle (built by W.D. Thomas in 1928), and the historical materials such as the plaster walls, pedimented door openings, and wood floors. It is very unusual to find this elaborate of a design for an African-American church in a small South Georgia town. The parsonage is significant in architecture as a good example of a front-gabled bungalow with little detailing built during the early 1940s. It also is a significant part of this church-parsonage complex, a common historic property type in Georgia.

The property is significant in terms of religion and African-American history as the home of the first Baptist congregation to serve the African-American community in Moultrie. The church was also the center of religious and social life for the surrounding African-American neighborhood. In An Era of Progress and Promise 1863-1910: The Religious, Moral, and Educational Development of the American Negro Since His Emancipation, the author explains that the most important and significant contribution to the African-American community was the construction of churches by those living within the communities. He continues to explain that one main reason why African-American churches were the main focus and were able to provide for those living within African-American communities was because "There was far more toleration for the Negro church than for any other Negro organization. In this way the church came to have a very large place in the life of the Negro people. It became and has remained the key to the higher progress of the masses."

The congregation was formed in 1894 by Reverend J.O. Kelly, Alex Deberry, C.W. Hall, Sim Baker, and Will Peterson who held meetings at an elderly woman's home to organize a Baptist Church. The first church building was built in April of 1894 and named Mother Easter in honor of the woman whose house was used for the initial meetings. The first building burned in 1903 and the second in 1904 when it was less than one year old. The current building was constructed in 1906 for a congregation of 200 members. The church was used until 1987 when a new church building was built one mile west of this building. This is the oldest church building in Moultrie.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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According to the African-American Historic Places and Culture resource guide, the lack of accessibility to white institutions by the "Jim Crow" practices "led to the establishment of strong black social and cultural institutions, like lodges, fraternal organizations, and schools, and to the founding of black-owned and operated businesses, which along with churches, formed the nucleus of Georgia's growing black neighborhoods and communities." The Mother Easter Baptist Church is one a good example of many historic black churches around Georgia located within a traditionally African-American neighborhood which has served as a spiritual, social, and cultural nucleus to the surrounding community.

#### National Register Criteria

The Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage are significant under National Register Criterion C. The church as an intact and unusual example of a High Victorian Eclectic-style church and the parsonage as a good and intact example of a 1940s front-gabled bungalow with minimal detailing. The church is also significant under National Register Criterion A for its significance in the African-American and religious history in Moultrie.

#### Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The Mother Easter Baptist Church meets Criteria Consideration A as it derives its primary significance from its historical importance and its architectural characteristics.

#### Period of significance (justification)

The Mother Easter Baptist Church was constructed in 1906 and the parsonage in 1941.

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

Both the Mother Easter Baptist Church and its parsonage are historic, maintain their integrity, have architectural and historical significance, and were built within the period of significance. There are no noncontributing resources on the property. The nonhistoric addition on the rear of the church is small in scale, relatively low in height, and distinct from the historic church, so it does not significantly detract from the historic church building.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

**NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Paul Forgey, "Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage," Historic Property Information Form, May 23, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

In early 1894, the Reverend J. O. Kelly, Alex Deberry, C W. Hall, Sim Baker and Will Peterson held meetings at an elderly woman's home with the purpose of forming a Baptist church. The first church building was built in April of 1894 and named Mother Easter in honor of the woman who had allowed the initial meetings in her home.

The Reverend G.H. Hunter replaced J.O. Kelly as preacher in 1898 and served until his death in 1924. The first building, which was located several blocks from the present church building, burned in 1903. A second church building was built in 1904. This building was located a block away from the existing church building. On January 25, 1905, less than one year from when it was built, the second church building and pastor's house were destroyed by fire. After this services were held in a local school building which subsequently burned.

By this time there were 200 members of the church and 90 Sunday school children. On March 17, 1906, Sim Baker, C W. Hall and D.L. Loving were authorized to borrow three-thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a new church building. It was also decided that the members would raise an additional one-thousand dollars. On Sunday, March 19, 1906, a young Deacon named Hose gave the first ten dollars towards building the present building. On Wednesday, March 22, 1906, the present piece of property was bought from Isaac M. D. Turner and soon after work was begun. On Easter Sunday, 1906, the one-thousand dollar rally ended. The church building was completed by August of that year and the Reverend Hunter's sermon was entitled "The Lord Will Provide."

To raise money for the church building, members had fish fries, socials, and box suppers. The salaries of that time were: cook jobs from \$1.00 to \$1.25 a week; turpentine chipping and cotton picking from \$2.00 to 3.00 a week. Teachers and hospital workers were at the high end at \$5.00 to \$7.00 a week. Church dues at this time were twenty-five cents a month. Meetings were twice a month on the first and third Sundays. Three services were given each Sunday at 11:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

In December 1912, John Elliot and D.L. Loving were given permission to purchase an organ for the church. The organ came from Mathis and Youman's Company in Valdosta, Georgia.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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Reverend Hunter, who had been the pastor since 1898, passed away on April 15, 1924. In November of 1927, Sim Baker, who had been chairman of the church since 1903, was stricken while on his knees leading a devotional service, and died the next day. After two other chairmen, who served less than a year each, Milton Hose became chair and served for 26 years.

The existing pews were built by W.D. Thomas for \$1,650 in 1928 and have classical detailing.

On May 18, 1934, Reverend Thomas bought land to the west of the church for a parsonage. He died in 1937 before it was completed in 1941.

The church has undergone repairs and renovations twice. The first was in the late 1940s which consisted of just maintenance. The second was in the 1960s when the choir stand was changed to its present configuration and the pews were painted.

Services were held at this building until 1987, when a new building was built one mile to the west. The new church carries on the name of Mother Easter Baptist Church while the 1906 building is referred to as "Old Mother Easter."

There were two cornerstones on the 1906 building which have been removed and are in storage at the 1987 church building. They contain the following information:

Stone 1:       Mother Easter Baptist Church Organized April 1894 By: Rev. J. O. Kelly and Rev. G. H. Hunter

Stone 2:       Stone laid by NEHEMIAH Lodge No. 138 Trustees S. Baker D.L. Loving J.B. Elliot

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Forgey, Paul. Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage," Historic Property Information Form, May 23, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Eaddy, Mary Ann, Donna Fuller, et al. African-American Historic Places and Culture: A Preservation Resource Guide for Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1993.

Hartshorn, W. N., ed. An Era of Progress and Promise 1863-1910: The Religious, Moral, and Educational Development of the American Negro Since His Emancipation. Boston: The Priscilla Publishing Co., 1910.

"History of Mother Easter Baptist Church" by Zimmie Hose Alderman, published by the church, 1962.

The Moultrie Observer, 1893-1907.

**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**                      Less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

A)    Zone 17        Easting 233740        Northing 3452930

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries represents the current and historic legal boundaries associated with the church and parsonage. Adjacent vacant land, currently owned by the church, is not included within the boundaries.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** February 19, 1999

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

**name/title** Paul Forgey, Preservation Planner  
**organization** Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center  
**street and number** P.O. Box 346  
**city or town** Camilla **state** GA **zip code** 31730  
**telephone** 912-336-5616

( ) consultant  
(X) regional development center preservation planner  
( ) other:

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

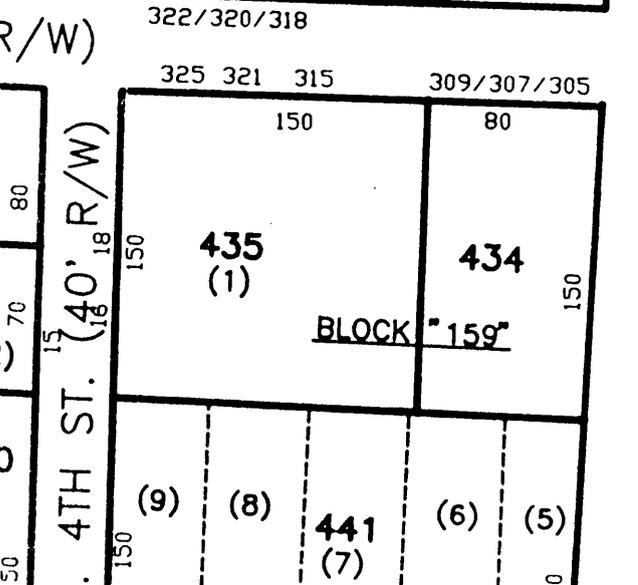
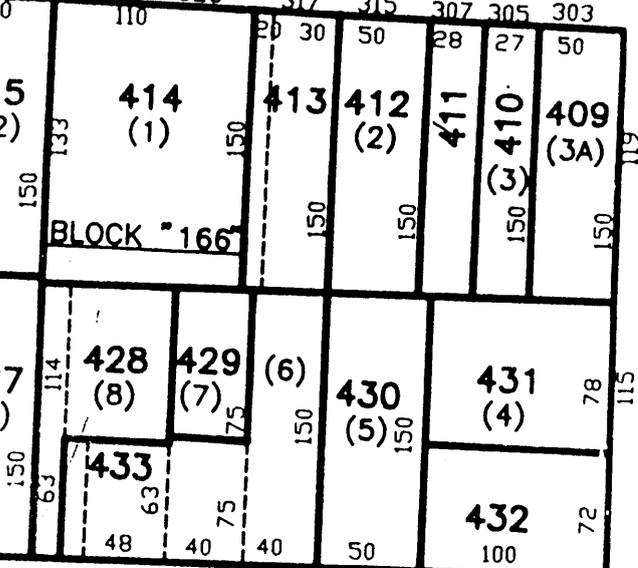
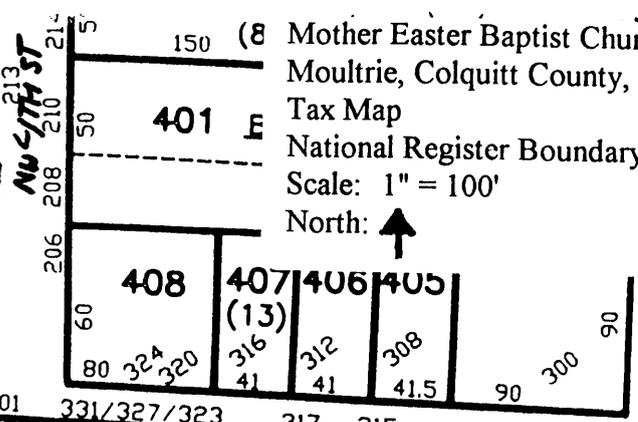
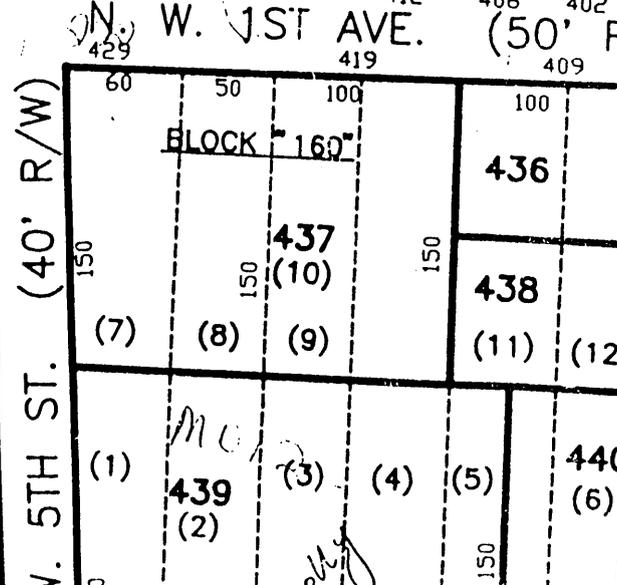
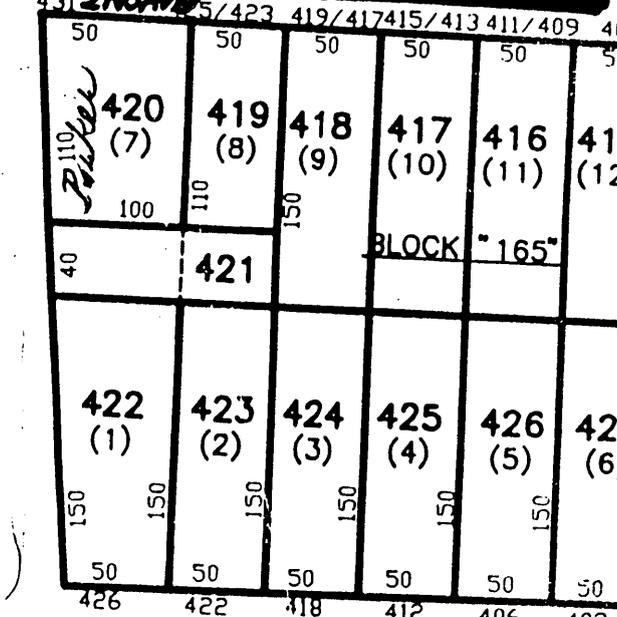
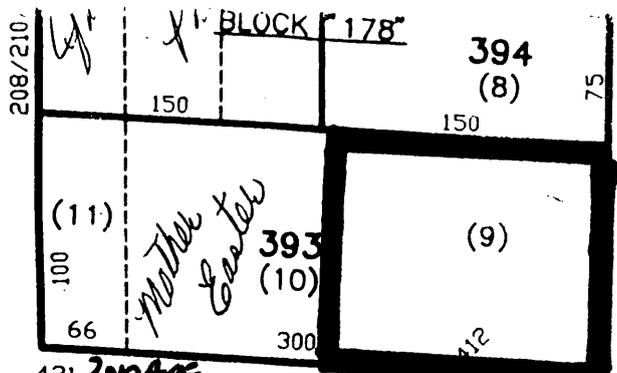
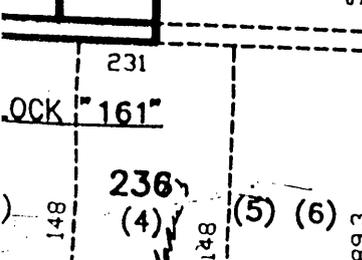
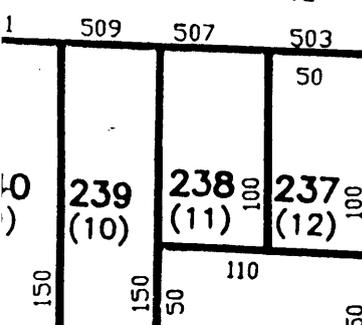
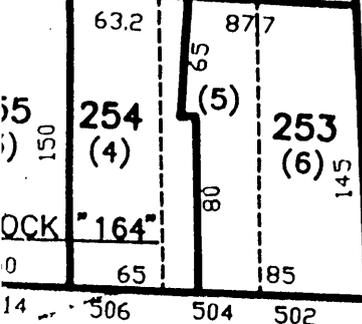
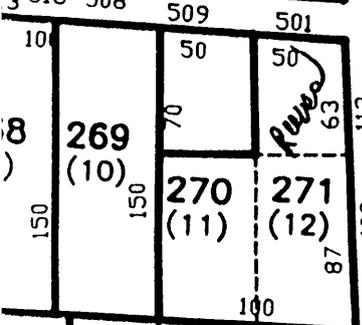
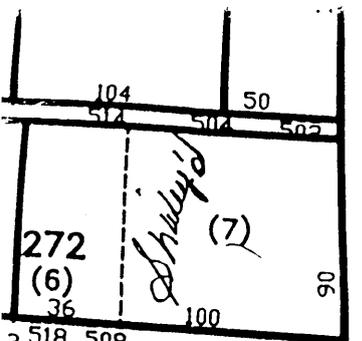
Photographs

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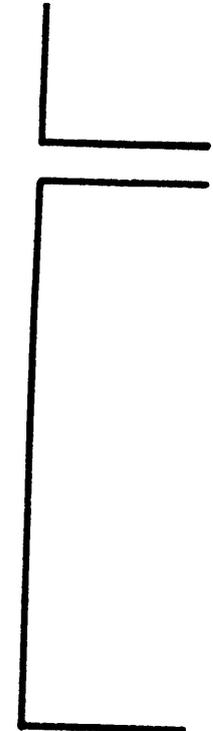
**Name of Property:** Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage  
**City or Vicinity:** Moultrie  
**County:** Colquitt  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 1997

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 8: Mother Easter Baptist Church, southeast corner; Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 8: Mother Easter Baptist Church, northeast corner and rear addition; Photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 8: Mother Easter Baptist Church, southeast entrance into tower; Photographer facing west.
- 4 of 8: Interior of Mother Easter Baptist Church; Photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 8: Interior of Mother Easter Baptist Church; Photographer facing southeast.
- 6 of 8: Interior detail of Mother Easter Baptist Church; Photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 8: Parsonage adjacent the Mother Easter Baptist Church; Photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 8: Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage; Photographer facing northeast.



(8) Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage  
Moultrie, Colquitt County, Georgia  
Tax Map  
National Register Boundary: —  
Scale: 1" = 100'  
North: ↑



- ① DENNY GOR
- ② ASBURN S/
- ③ LINCOLN
- ④ COLLEGE PA
- ⑤ STREETER S,
- ⑥ ASHBURN S/
- ⑦ COLLEGE HIL
- ⑧ MCKENZIE S/



NW 5TH STREET

NW 4TH STREET

NW 2ND AVE



Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage  
Moultrie, Colquitt County, Georgia

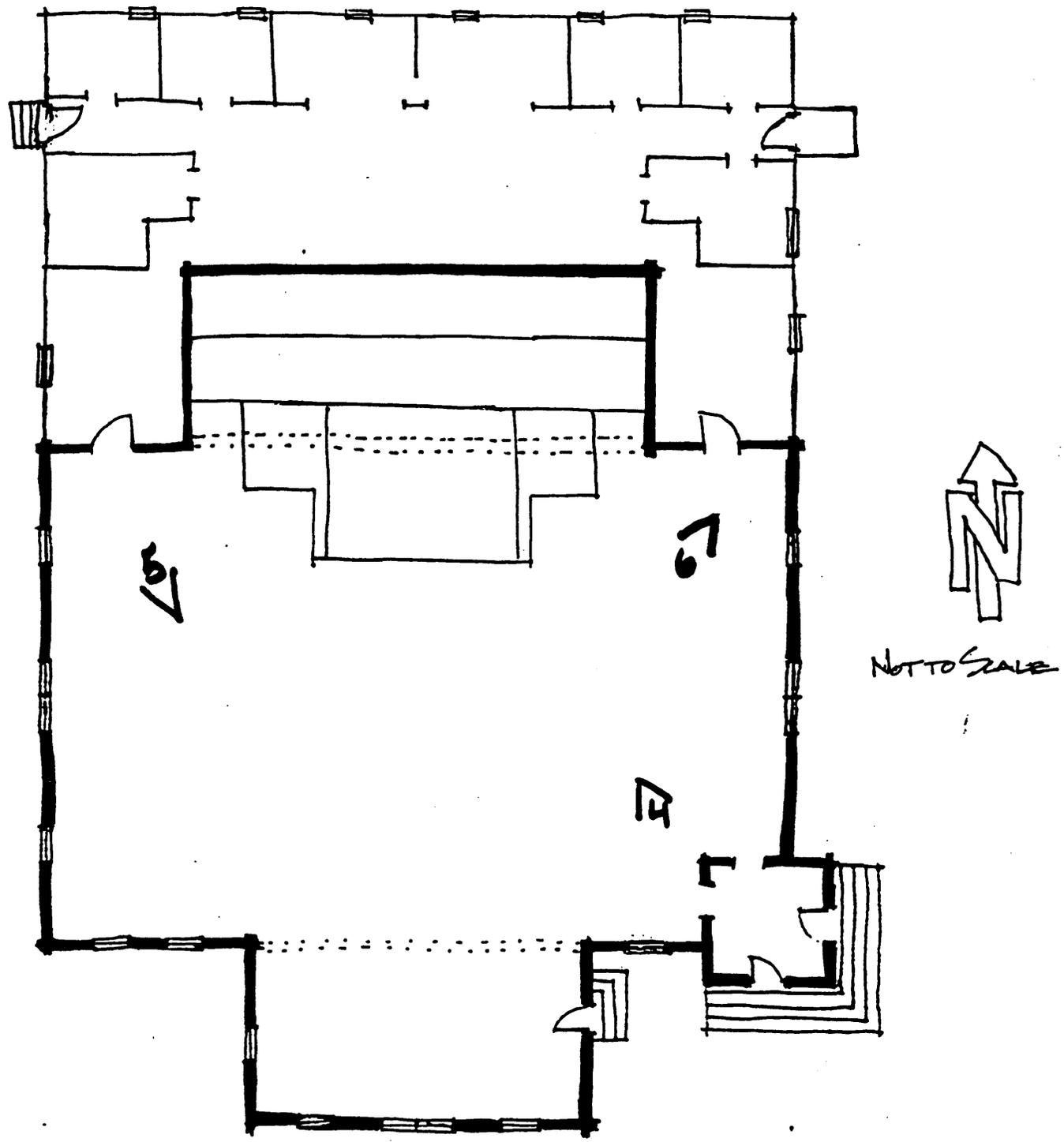
Tax Map

National Register Boundary: —

Scale: 1" = 100'

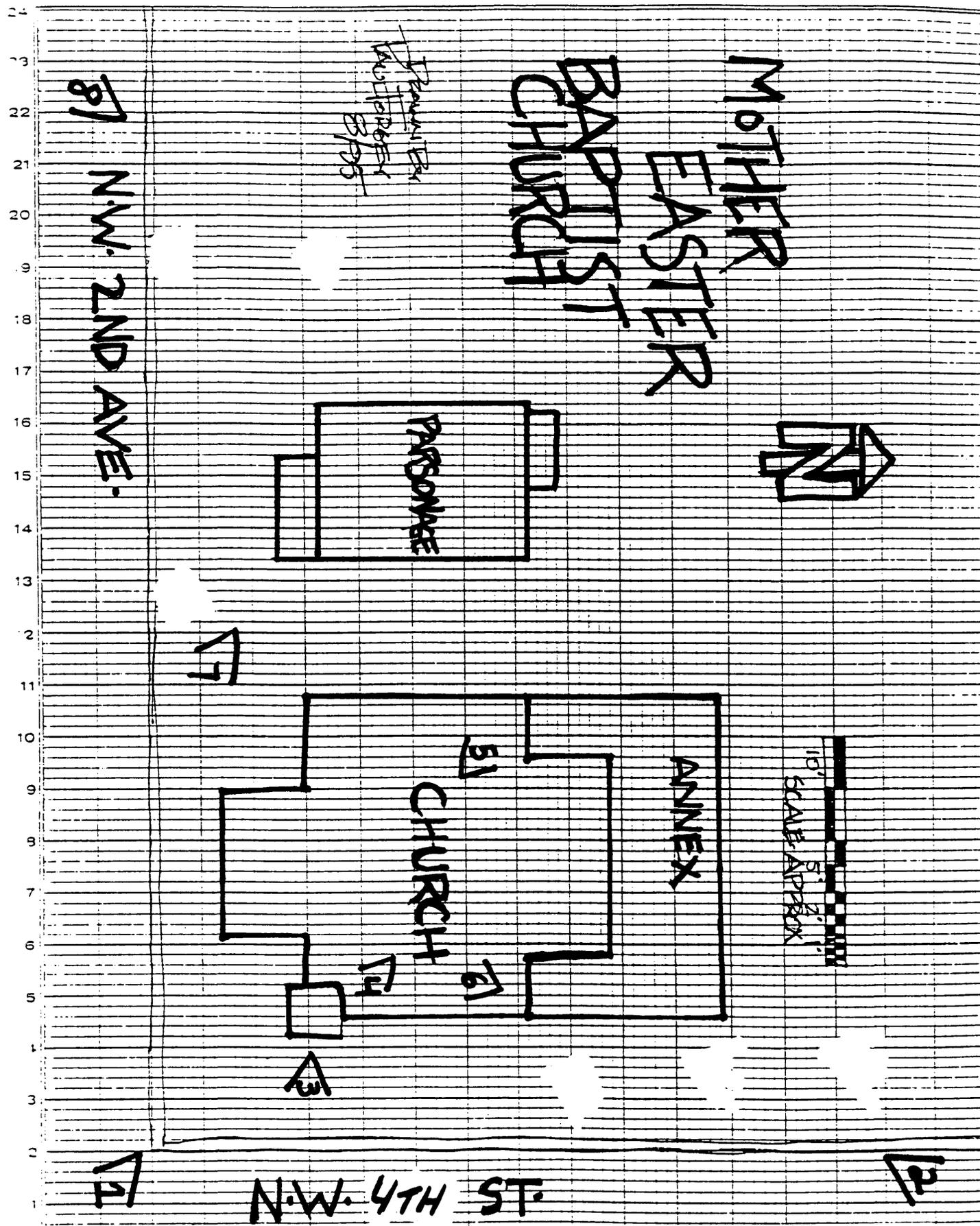
North: ↑

Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage  
Moultrie, Colquitt County, Georgia  
Site Plan  
Photographs/Direction of view: 1 >



○ MOTHER EASTER BAPTIST CHURCH

DRAWN BY PAUL FORBES  
8/95



Mother Easter Baptist Church and Parsonage  
 Moultrie, Colquitt County, Georgia  
 Site Plan  
 Photographs/Direction of view: 1 >