

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received MAY 18 1982
date entered JUN 17 1982

1. Name

historic Flemington Presbyterian Church

and/or common Same

2. Location OFF Old Sunbury Rd

street & number 3/4 miles NW of Junction of Old Sunbury Rd and Old Hinesville Rd. N/A not for publication

city, town Flemington N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ 1st- Bo Ginn

state Georgia code 013 county Liberty code 179

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. O.C. Martin, Jr., Chairman, Board of Trustees

street & number Flemington Presbyterian Church Rt. 1, Box 23

city, town Hinesville N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31313

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Liberty County Courthouse

city, town Hinesville state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey
title Liberty County, GA

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta, state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Flemington Presbyterian Church is a good example of Greek Revival architecture with Gothic Revival influences, as adapted for a religious structure. The rectangular church is constructed primarily of yellow pine. Its symmetrical design is highlighted by the large pedimented windows, prominent steeple and front portico. The church rests on its original brick pier foundation. The interior of the church includes two aisles and a gallery with small choir lofts on either side of the pulpit. The nominated property also includes a historic Sunday School building and a cemetery.

The steeple, which reaches an approximate height of 30 feet above the roof line, is a prominent feature. Its height and mass is well proportioned to the size of the building and is accented by delicate Victorian mill work. The bell was originally used at the nearby Midway Church and was presented to the Flemington Society by the Midway Society shortly after this church was completed.

The original roof material for the steeple and main structure was cedar shingles. This material was replaced in the last half century with dark gray asphalt shingles.

The windows reflect Gothic Revival influence and add a vertical dimension to the structure, providing some delicate relief from the bulk of the Greek Revival Style. The windows are original to the structure. They are grouped in twos on the elevations, and are almost lancet in design. This double window grouping is visually welded by a non functional elliptical arch "cap". The windows on all elevations are evenly spaced and add to the symmetrical dimensions of the structure. Only a few window panes have been replaced. Louvered shutters are original, as is the associated hardware.

A portico, supported by four doric columns, accents the front facade of the structure. Entrance steps also extend across the entire front. The double doors provide the main entrance. A single door is located on the far right of the front facade as an entrance to the second floor gallery. This door while original to the structure does break the symmetrical pattern of the Greek Revival design.

The portico is capped with a large pediment. The second floor gallery is visually obvious from the exterior due to the floor height separation between the corners and the pediment. It is an original functional design feature.

The interior of the church consists of a meeting hall with pulpit and choir lofts and a second floor gallery.

The meeting hall, which occupies most of the first floor, has two aisles with pews on either side, creating three sections of pews all facing the central pulpit with small choir lofts on either side of the pulpit. Behind the pulpit are an office and a choir room reached through doors on either side of the pulpit between it and the choir lofts.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

The walls are plastered and the floors are pine covered with carpet runners. The pulpit and choir lofts are original and are of yellow pine. Three original 1887 mahogany chairs rest behind the pulpit.

The second floor gallery, which is visually evident from the exterior, was originally used by slaves and later freed men. Although it is not presently used, it remains in its original state. The gallery has a "bowed" appearance as it extends from the north-west wall to the southeast wall. This design, like that of the foredeck of a ship, was implemented to increase the structural strength of the building. The gallery is also supported by chamfered columns that are original. The pews in the gallery are original and are sloped from the back to the front to facilitate viewing of the service. There is access to the belfry from the gallery. An excellent view of structural roof supports is available there.

Lighting is provided by a central chandelier, that is original, and wall bracket lamps that are original. All fixtures were later adapted for electrical wiring. The chandelier is bronze and the bowls of the lamps are brass. The wall brackets are made of cast iron and are evenly spaced between windows. The globes are crystal with detailed etchings.

The church is located on a gentle rise known as "Gravel Hill" near the intersection of two major local roads within the small town of Flemington. There is a minimum of landscaping consisting mainly of tall trees, a white wooden fence enclosing the churchyard and cemetery.

There is an education or Sunday School building adjacent to the church. It was built in the late 1890s and its main portion is a one story rectangular building with an inset front entrance with two columns. A smaller, almost square portion of the building is connected to the main portion by a small hallway. A cemetery is behind the church and included within the nominated property.

Changes to the property have been minor and have had little effect on the church's outward appearance or function. The front portico has had its front steps and flooring replaced with brick in the 1950s. At the rear of the meeting hall or sanctuary of the church the office or pastor's study and choir room were added under the supervision of an architect so that they would have minimal effect on the historic structure. All materials match the original building.

The ceiling of the meeting hall or sanctuary has been covered with ceiling panels in the 1960s although it was not lowered.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Community Development
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1851, 1960's **Builder/Architect** T. Q. Cassells, builder-architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Flemington Presbyterian Church, built in 1853, is historically significant in the areas of architecture, community development and religion. These areas of significance support property eligibility under the National Register criteria A and C.

The Flemington Presbyterian Church is significant in terms of architecture for its representation of the Greek Revival Style in religious architecture. Features of the Greek Revival style found there include a rectangular building with a columned portico on the front with no other external ornamentation in a version of the Classic Temple form characteristic of the style. It differs from the pure Greek Revival in that it also includes some significant Gothic Revival features, especially the pointed or arched windows, which are never found on Greek Temples as well as the high pitched roof and steeple. It also has regionalized features such as the slave gallery at the rear of the sanctuary.

The non-functional design features appear to be the creation of the architect, T. Q. Cassells, a general contractor and ship builder. He is believed to have designed the double windows capped by Gothic Revival arches that break the plain white clapboard facade and the detailed millwork of the steeple. The steeple itself was designed by Irwin Rahn, a local carpenter.

In community development the church is significant because it was the central focal point of the community of Flemington. The town, originally called Gravel Hill, originated from Mr. William Fleming's desire to establish a summer home away from Midway yet still be near his friends. As others joined him, they remained members of the church at Midway. By the 1850's the settlement had become more permanent and was renamed Flemington for its founder. It was during this time that the present meeting house was completed in 1853. The church reflects the need of a community to construct a facility to meet their spiritual, social, and intellectual needs, as this building served as a church, a public hall, and a school.

In religious history, this church is significant in showing the transition of a church congregation from one faith to another. Originally organized after 1815 as a Congregationalist Church, it became Presbyterian in 1866 after the congregation suffered through the Civil War and decided to no longer be associated with the Midway Society ten miles away. The changing of faiths of a congregation is quite unusual, especially in the Deep South and after being in existence for nearly half a century. Congregationalists were a rare faith in Georgia, where as Presbyterians were a more well-known faith even if only the third most populous and then less than 10% of the religious population in Georgia.

(continued)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Draft National Register Information Form, By O. C. Martin, Jr, September, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approximately 20 acres

Quadrangle name Hinesville, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	---	--

D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	---	--

E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-------------------	---	---

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the enclosed sketch map and is all the present owners own at this location.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
-------	------------	------	------------	--------	------------	------	------------

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
-------	------------	------	------------	--------	------------	------	------------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources

date March 18, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/21/82

For NPS use only

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

Alonzo Lyon
for Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 6/17/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Flemington Church and Flemington Society is informally known as one of the "three daughters" of the Midway Society, Midway, Georgia.

Because malaria was prevalent in the low swamp lands in the Midway Section, the plantation owners began establishing summer homes in what they termed the pine-lands. These little summer villages were called "Retreats". In 1815 Mr. William Fleming wishing to establish a summer home and at the same time enjoy the society of his friends, surveyed a tract of vacant land and laid out lots. After selecting one for himself, he gave the remainder to some of his friends, thereby establishing a retreat known as Gravel Hill. These several families continued to be members of the Midway Society and to attend services at the Midway Presbyterian Church.

Gradually the summer homes became more permanent. Because of the distance to Midway, occasional services were held in a small house used for magistrate court until a log house was built and used for both school and church purposes. Later when a frame building was constructed for a church, the log house continued to be used for school.

The exact date of the organization of the church and Society of Gravel Hill is not known. The earliest record found to date is the Record Book of the Church and Society of Gravel Hill, a small bound volume containing minutes of the annual meetings and other data. The first entry is "subscription for building the Church on Gravel Hill" 1832. Four acres of land were given by Simon Fraser.

A frame building was constructed and used for twenty years. The organization was patterned after the Midway Church and Society. Members attended services at Midway monthly or as often as possible.

In 1850 it was voted to change the name of the Retreat from "Gravel Hill" to Flemington in honor of Mr. William Fleming, who had settled in the Retreat and given lots to his friends.

On June 10, 1851, the Select Men called a meeting of the Society to consider the propriety of building an entire new House of Worship. It was decided to erect the new building and locate it on the same spot occupied by the old building. The Select Men W. G. Martin, W.E.W. Quarterman and T.Q. Cassels constituted the building committee. This committee reported the completion of the building at the annual meeting in August, 1853.

Because of the destruction and uncertainty created by the Civil War, it became almost impossible to travel ten miles to services at the Midway Church. After residents at the Retreat that became Walthourville withdrew to form a separate organization, the Flemington people found it necessary to do the same. Therefore, at their request they were dismissed from the Midway Society and adopted the Presbyterian form of Government. On application to the Presbytery of Georgia, they were duly elected into the Presbyterian Church at a called meeting of Presbytery in Flemington April 6, 1866.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

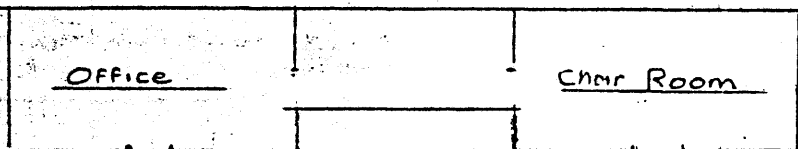
Page 3

The first sign of a community, the fact that people intend to stay in a place, is often the building of structures that attend to spiritual, social and intellectual needs - churches, school, and meeting places. Early America, and well into the 19th and 20th centuries, drew people to whom the relationship to God and their fellow man was central to social habits, the education, to every aspect of life. The literal center of a community was the meeting house, at times serving as church, school, and public hall.

Flemington Presbyterian Church is a visual reminder of the needs of society and of how communities have developed throughout our history. While many sought seclusion and freedom that the hinterlands offered, they also realized the requirements of society. A community, town, or city is formed only because it can offer something that we cannot attain as individuals. Whether it be social relationships, education, protection or religion, people congregate out of self evident need. The Flemington Church and its history is evidence of early American urge to move, a "frontier theses" of determinism, but it is more representative of the many communities that developed out of a greater need to congregate.

New Addition

New Addition



Choir Loft

Pulpit

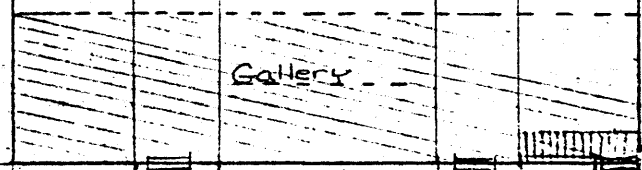
Choir Loft

North West Elevation

Aisle

Aisle

Southeast elevation

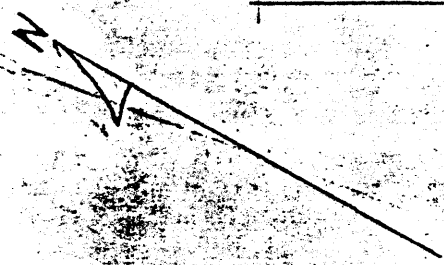


Gallery

Steps to Gallery

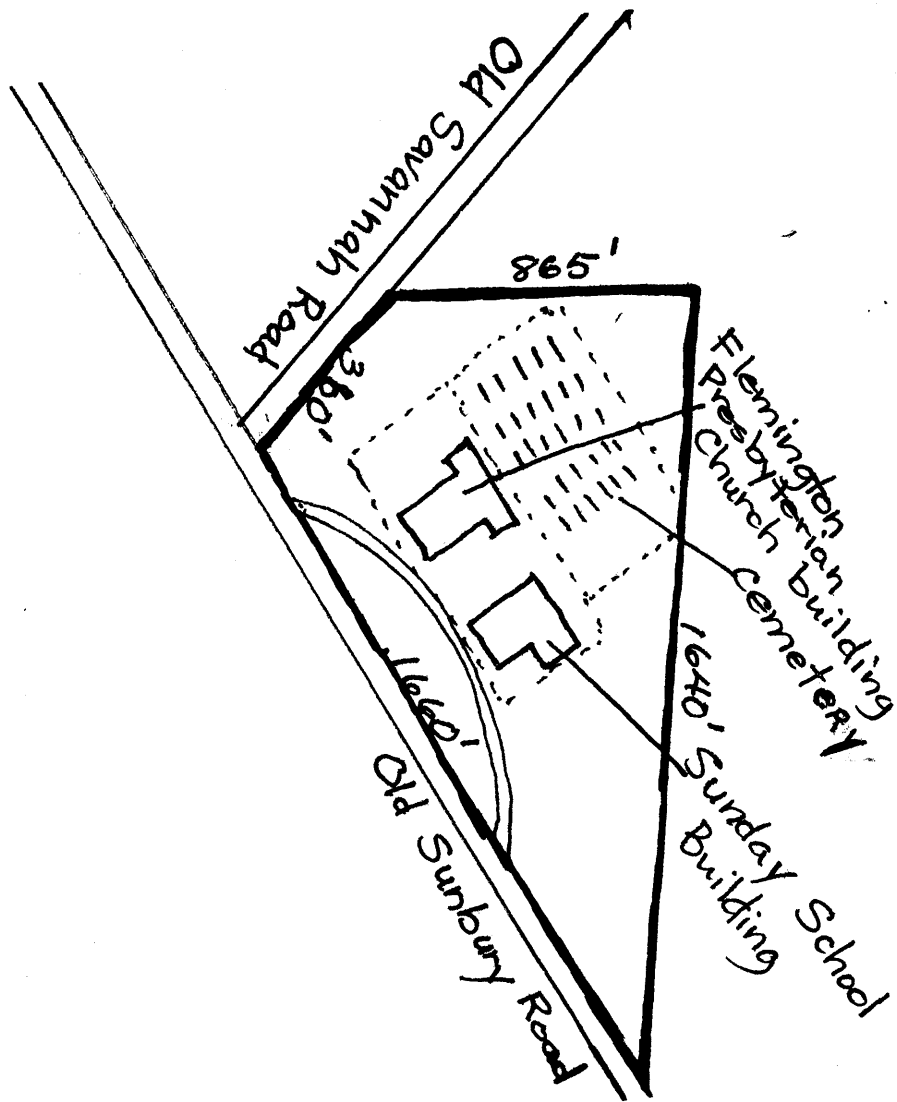
Entrance

Portico



SKETCH MAP/
FLOOR PLAN

Flemington Presbyterian Church
 Flemington, Liberty County, Georgia
 Scale: unknown
 Source: Drawn by Mac Burdette
 Date: September, 1980
 Key: Plan shows interior of sanctuary only.



SKETCH MAP

Flemington Presbyterian Church
 Flemington, Liberty County, Georgia

Scale: Not to Scale.

Source: Based on the plat to the property

Date: Drawn September, 1980

Key: as marked on the map

The nominated property is shown by a heavy black line.

