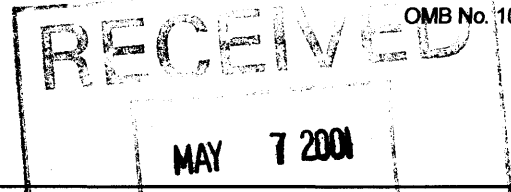


643



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 McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery
other names/site number First McCanaan Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number McCanaan Church Road
city, town Sardis
county Burke **code** GA 033
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30456

(X) 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(N/A) not for publication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:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	1
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	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 Clower
Signature of certifying official

5-3-01
Date

Ex W. Ray Luce, Division Director and
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 H. Beall

6-14-01

() 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: rural vernacular church

Materials:

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: weatherboard
roof METAL
other N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery is located in a rural area of Burke County approximately two miles east of the town of Sardis. The property is comprised of the McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church, a small wood-framed building, and a historic cemetery located behind (north) and to the east of the church. The church and cemetery are situated on level land surrounded by mature oak and pine trees.

The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church was constructed in 1912 and represents the side-steeple type church with Gothic Revival stylistic features (photographs 1 and 2). The wood-framed building was constructed from timber cut from local trees and features weatherboard cladding and a standing-seam metal roof. The gable-front one-story building features a side tower with a conical roof, two entrance doors, and two louvered pointed-arch lanterns. The front gable-end features a Gothic Revival-style lancet window and diamond-shaped vent. The south façade features three lancet windows (photograph 3) and the north façade features four lancet windows (photograph 5). The rear (east) façade features a small projecting bay for the pulpit area (photograph 5).

The interior features the large open space of the sanctuary encompassing two rows of pews separated by a center aisle. There is a choir stand and a pulpit area at the rear of the sanctuary (photograph 8). A hallway next to the pulpit area leads to modern restrooms and a study. The interior retains its original decorative tongue-and-groove board ceiling consisting of five diamonds with cross patterns applied in wood running the length of the ceiling (photographs 8 and 9).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

In 1991, the original brick steps were replaced with the current steps and a flat-roof porch (photograph 3). In 1977, a small wood-framed addition with a front-gable roof was added to the left side of the rear façade to provide interior restrooms and a study (photograph 4), and the interior of the church was sheetrocked. A noncontributing modern manufactured-type auxiliary building is located next to the church (photograph 1 and 4).

A small historic cemetery is located to the rear and south side of the church. The cemetery has an informal arrangement of simple granite markers dating from the early 1930s to the present (photographs 6 and 7). The original cemetery associated with the church is located approximately four-and-a-half miles southeast in Millhaven, Screven County, the location of Millhaven Plantation. Burials of church members took place at Millhaven Plantation from c.1878 until the early 1930s. Burials were discontinued at Millhaven Plantation during the early 1930s and started at the current cemetery next to the existing church. No baptismal structure was ever constructed on the site of the church since all baptisms occurred in Brier Creek, approximately one mile north of the church.

The property features minimal, informal landscaping with a grassed lawn, mature trees, and shrubs.

8. Statement of Significance

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:

1912 - 1951

Significant Dates:

1912– construction of the church

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery is an intact and significant historic African-American church and cemetery complex located in rural Burke County, Georgia.

The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a rural African-American church with a cemetery. According to the statewide historic context Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia (1984), rural African-American churches in Georgia are usually one-room, wood-framed, rectangular-shaped buildings with gable roofs, a tower or towers, and feature little ornamentation or architectural detailing. Also, African-American rural churches allowed for space on their property for cemeteries and other community buildings. The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church is an excellent example of a rural African-American church with its wood-framed rectangular form with a single tower and its simple Gothic Revival detailing in the windows, gable-ends, and tower. The interior retains its open interior sanctuary space with modest ornamentation in the diamond-patterned ceiling. The interior also retains its choir stand and small projecting bay pulpit area. During the early 1900s, a church school (no longer extant) was located behind the property and a cemetery started in the early 1930s is located next to the church. The cemetery retains its informal arrangement of simple granite markers.

The property is significant in the area of ethnic heritage: black for its development as a rural African-American church. According to the statewide historic context Historic Black Resources, in the years following emancipation, the church was often the first and most significant building constructed by African-Americans. In subsequent years, as congregations grew in size and means, early church buildings often were replaced by larger and more elaborate structures. Once established, African-American churches established other social and institutional facilities. In the rural areas of Georgia, often a school for rural African-American children was built next to the church. Rev. Frank Cooper organized the McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church in 1875 and a small church was constructed on the site of the existing church. During the 1890s, the earlier church was torn down and a second church constructed. In 1912, the existing church was constructed to replace the 1890s church. The church membership included many families who worked as sharecroppers at the nearby Millhaven Plantation in Screven County. During the early 1900s, a school servicing grades one through six was built behind the church (no longer extant). In the early 1930s, a cemetery was established at the church. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries when most rural African-Americans were unable to be economically independent due to their participation in the sharecropping system, African-American churches, such as McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church, were significant as African-American institutions that provided religious, educational, and social autonomy in rural Georgia.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historical association as a rural African-American church and cemetery constructed in the early 20th century. The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery is eligible for listing under Criterion C as an excellent example of an early 20th-century rural church and cemetery in Georgia.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria Consideration A as an excellent example of vernacular Gothic Revival-style church architecture commonly built in rural areas in Georgia during the early 20th century and as a good example of a small rural cemetery associated with church. The church and cemetery is also eligible for listing for its historical associations as a rural African-American church and cemetery.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery begins with the construction of the church in 1912 and continues to the end of the historic period in 1951 to encompass the continued use of the church and cemetery by the African-American congregation, many of whom are descendents of the founders of the church.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing building is the church and the contributing site is the cemetery. The one noncontributing building is a modern manufactured auxiliary building.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Note: The following historical narrative was prepared by Evelyn Williams. "McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery," Historic Property Information Form, August 12, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church was organized by Rev. Frank Cooper and the following members: Rev. Paul Cooper, Isaiah Cooper, E. Davis, and Peter Jones. According to Mrs. Christine Edwards, great granddaughter of Rev. Frank Cooper, McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church was one of five churches organized by Rev. Cooper.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Having been involved with ministers in a white church association, Rev. Cooper was informed that he could establish an association with the founding of five churches. Because the establishment of an association was necessary in order to ordain ministers, Rev. Cooper took that initiative further to promote church growth and development in his own and surrounding counties. His founding of these five churches led to the organization of the Frank Cooper Missionary Baptist Association.

The first church building associated with the McCanaan Missionary Baptist congregation was built in 1875 in an area called Cooper Hill, so named for Rev. Cooper who owned property, farmed, and reared his family there. However, in the early 1890s, the church was destroyed by fire. The members then erected another building to use as a prayer house. When the church membership exceeded the capacity of the prayer house in the late 1890s, the members and their pastor, Rev. G.I. Johnson, held a rally to raise money for a new building. The present church was constructed in 1912.

The church was constructed from lumber from trees in the area. The builder for the church is unknown but there is speculation that McCanaan and other older churches in the area were built by someone in the local community.

The first cemetery associated with the church was located on Millhaven Plantation in Screven County. When a flood washed away the bridge over Brier Creek that led to the cemetery, members started burying their deceased at the present church site during the early 1930s.

The church membership included many families from the Millhaven Plantation. They worked on the farm as sharecroppers, where they planted peanuts and corn. When the plantation was sold, many of the members moved away.

There was a school located behind the church. According to Mrs. Leila McKinnon (age 90) who taught there from 1929 to 1934, the school housed grades one through six. Although she does not know when the school was first opened, she does know that she was the last teacher to work there. The church school was demolished in the 1930s.

Historically, baptisms were held in Brier Creek at Ellison Bridge. Now, baptisms occur at other churches.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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 Division, 1984.

Williams, Evelyn. "McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery," Historic Property Information Form, August 12, 1996. 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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres.

UTM References

Zone 17 Easting 434376 Northing 3649572

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the land historically associated with church and cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen B. Kinnard/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** April 18, 2001

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

name/title Evelyn Williams
organization N/A
street and number 4504 Ridge Run Drive
city or town Hephzibah **state** Georgia **zip code** 308154
telephone (706) 798-9788

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: McCanaan Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Sardis vicinity
County: Burke
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 1999

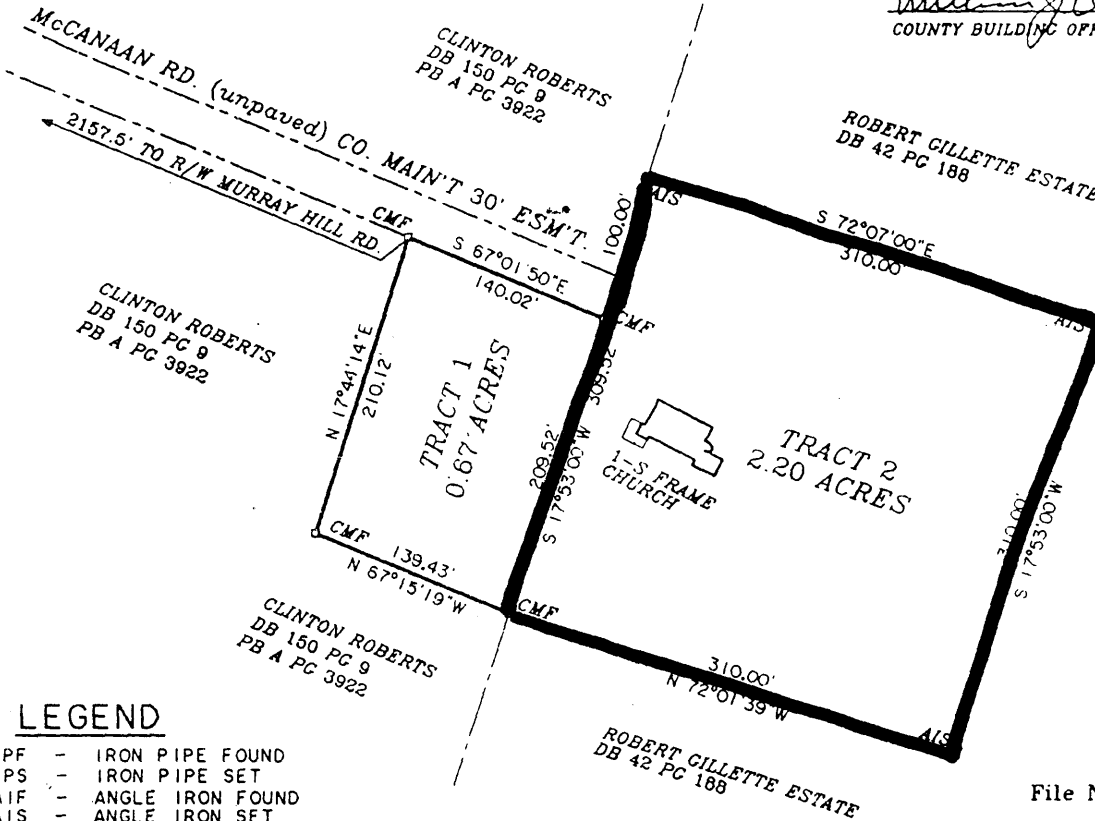
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 9: View of church, front (west) façade; photographer facing east.
- 2 of 9: View of church, south façade; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 9: View of church, south façade; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 9: View of church and noncontributing auxiliary building; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 9: View of church, rear (east) and north façades; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 9: View of cemetery and rear (east) façade of church; photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 9: View of church and cemetery; photographer facing west.
- 8 of 9: Interior, view of sanctuary; photographer facing southeast.
- 9 of 9: Interior, view of sanctuary; photographer facing northwest.



NOTE: THIS PLAT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BURKE COUNTY.

William J. Owens
COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL



LEGEND

- 1. IPF - IRON PIPE FOUND
- 2. IPS - IRON PIPE SET
- 3. AIF - ANGLE IRON FOUND
- 4. AIS - ANGLE IRON SET
- 5. CTF - CRIMPED TOP PIPE FOUND
- 6. CMF - CONC. MONUMENT FOUND
- 7. CMS - CONC. MONUMENT SET
- 8. RBF - REBAR FOUND
- 9. RBS - REBAR SET
- 10. SQIF - SQUARE IRON FOUND
- 11. OTF - OPEN TOP PIPE FOUND
- 12. RRI - RAILROAD IRON
- 13. ---F--- - FENCE
- 14. ---F--- - FLOOD HAZARD



File No. A-7902
 Hour Filed 11:45 A.M.
 Date Filed 4-29-97
Steve Barger
 Deputy Clerk Superior Court
 Burke County, Georgia

NOTES:

- 1. ACCORDING TO FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP H 130022 0275 B DATED SEPT. 15, 1989 THIS PROPERTY DOES NOT LIE WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOOD HAZARD AREA.
- 2. THIS SURVEY WAS PERFORMED WITH A TOPCON GTS 303 TOTAL STATION AND A 100' STEEL TAPE.
- 3. THE FIELD WORK REQUIRED TO PREPARE THIS PLAT WAS PERFORMED RADIALLY USING CONTROL FROM A PREVIOUS SURVEY WITH A CLOSURE PRECISION OF ONE FOOT IN 20,842 FEET AND AN ANGULAR ERROR OF 00°00'04" PER POINT AND WAS ADJUSTED BY LEAST SQUARES.
- 4. THIS PLAT HAS A CLOSURE PRECISION THAT EXCEEDS ONE FOOT IN 100,000 FEET.

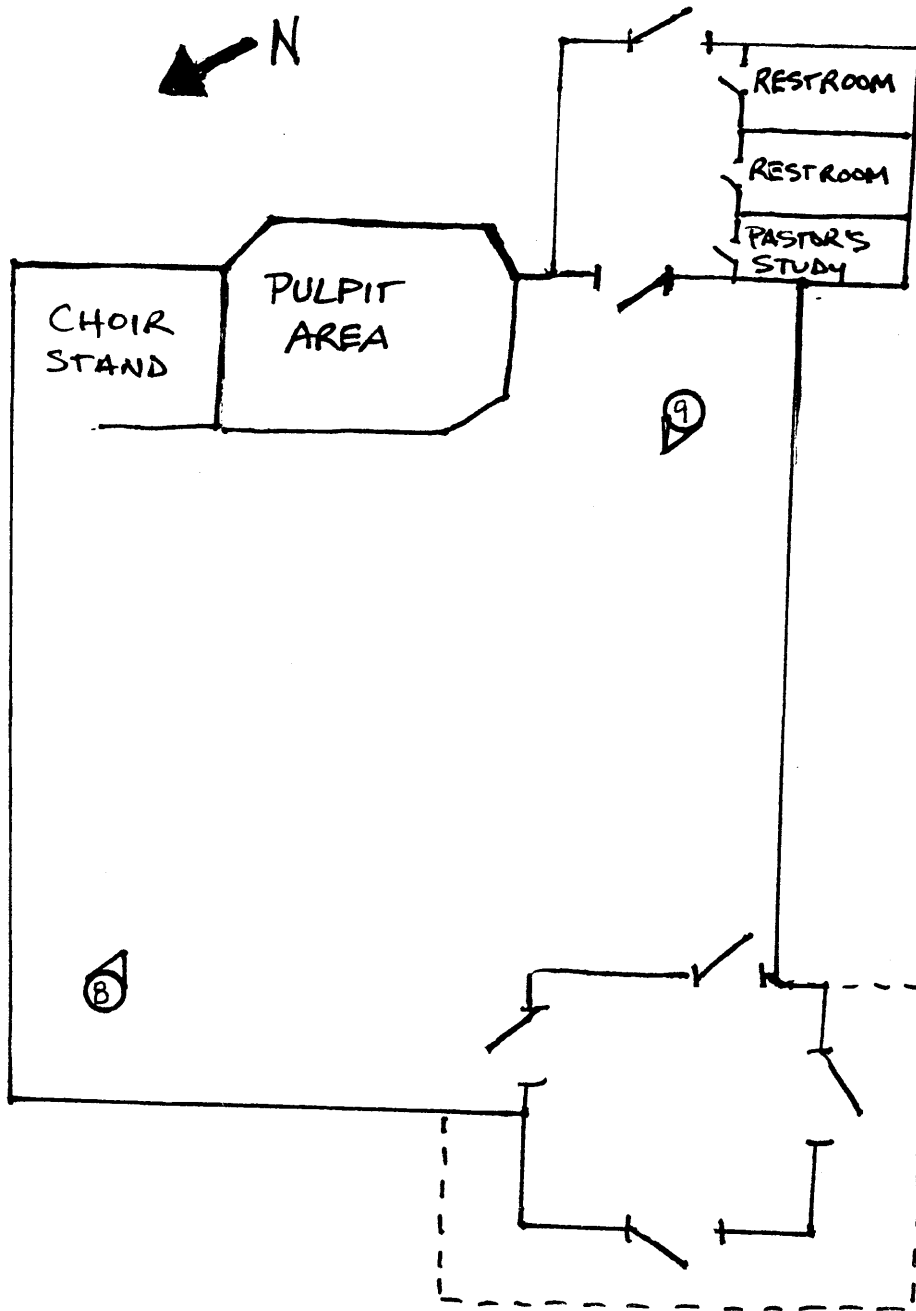
SURVEY FOR
FIRST McCANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE 64th. G.M.D.
BURKE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SCALE: 1" = 100' APRIL 25, 1997

Prepared by
STEVE BARGERON & ASSOCIATES
 WAYNESBORO, GEORGIA (708)554-2582

971
 SF 9719M
 MAP 130 PAR 1

MCCANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AND
 CEMETERY
 BURKE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 PLAT MAP
 NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:
 NORTH ↑
 SCALE: 1" = 100'



MCCANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY

BURKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

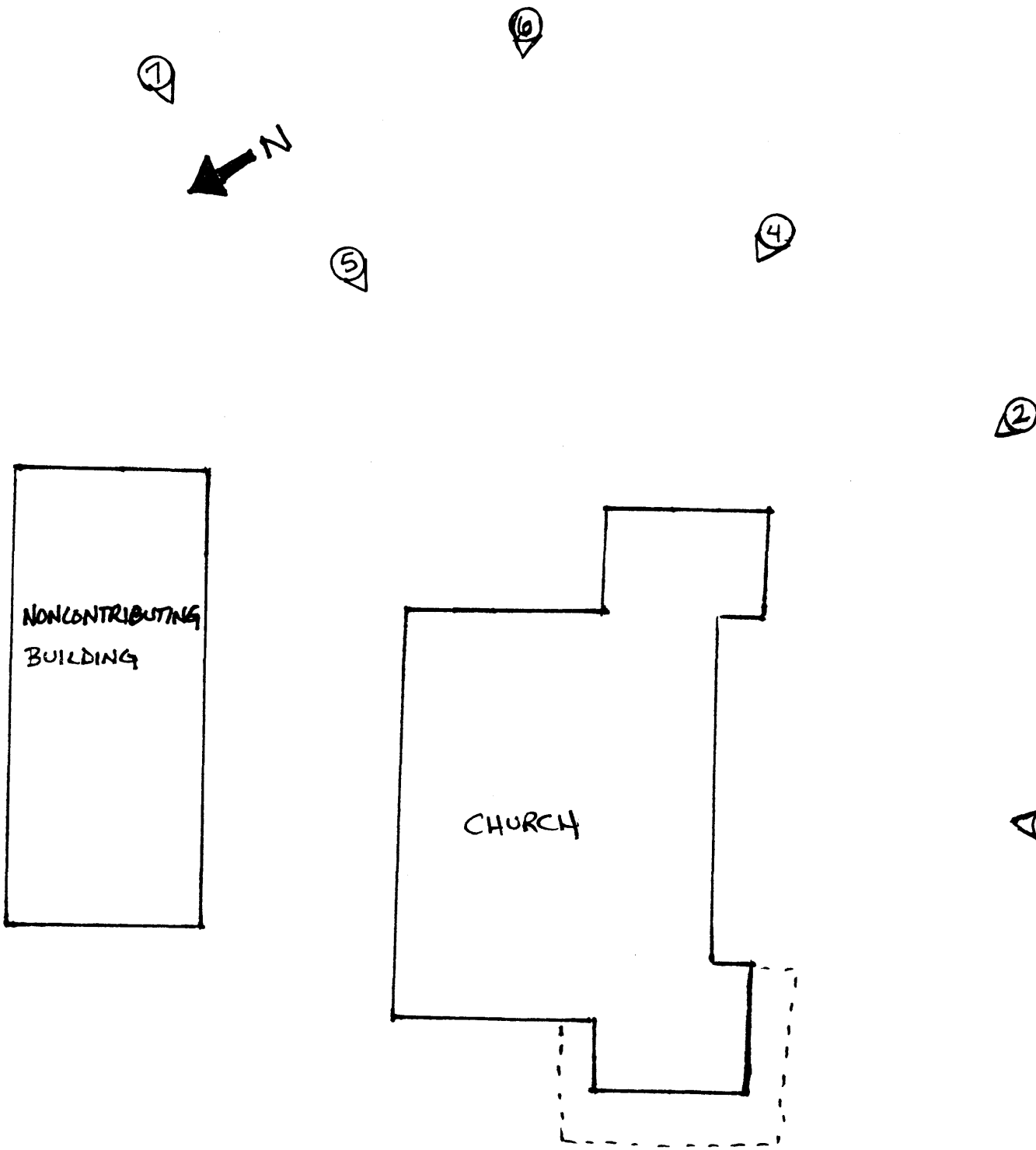
FLOOR PLAN


PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW:

NORTH:

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE: CONSULTANT



MCCANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AND
 CEMETERY
 BURKE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SITE PLAN
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①
 NORTH: 
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: CONSULTANT

⑥