

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED SEP 3 1976
DATE ENTERED AUG 22 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **
St.
Saint James Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Cumberland Furnace VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth
STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Dickson CODE 43

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
_DISTRICT _PUBLIC _OCCUPIED _AGRICULTURE _MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S) X PRIVATE _UNOCCUPIED _COMMERCIAL _PARK
_STRUCTURE _BOTH _WORK IN PROGRESS _EDUCATIONAL _PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE _ENTERTAINMENT X RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT _IN PROCESS X YES: RESTRICTED _GOVERNMENT _SCIENTIFIC
_BEING CONSIDERED _YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION
_NO _MILITARY _OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Episcopal Diocese
STREET & NUMBER 100 Oaks Tower
CITY, TOWN Nashville VICINITY OF STATE Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dickson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Charlotte STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Architectural-Historical Survey
DATE December 1975 _FEDERAL X STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Tennessee Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Saint James Episcopal Church is located in the Cumberland Furnace community. It is beside the creek which flows between two steep ridges which form a valley at right angles to where the original Cumberland furnaces and forges were located in the 1870s. The church was built by carpenters from Nashville who were commissioned to build the Drouillard House, which is located on the top of the wooded ridge above the church and school building. A small churchyard cemetery is located on the side of the ridge facing the entrance to the church. The church and school buildings are fundamentally the same as when they were first built. The churchyard was formerly enclosed by a low picket fence and garden at the entrance.

Saint James Church is a rectangular shape frame and clapboard structure, supported by stone masonry piers. The clapboard and trim have been painted white. The high pitched gable roof is clad with pressed tin shingle pattern roofing. The main entrance located in the gable end features a small, gable roofed porch with square columns and a low balustrade and rail. The fat, turned wood balusters are the same design as the altar rail and this design was also used for the porch balustrade at the Drouillard House. The entrance is further enhanced by double doors of solid wood panels designed with lancet shape heads and solid panels. The overall design features bilateral symmetry, three bay length by three bay width. The tall lancet shape sash windows are fitted with clear glass lights 22/16 dilineation. The glass lights were imported from France by the Drouillard family. The central window in the gable end, behind the altar, has been changed. Stained glass lights were installed to replace the clear glass lights in recent years.

The interior design features the rectangular shape plan. A two-stage dias platform separates the altar from the main body of the church. There are priest chambers located in each corner at the rear end wall. The hand-fashioned poplar wood pews are original. Some of the clear window lights were formerly painted with Christian symbols. The carved alabaster baptismal font was a gift of Mrs. Drouillard. A large, four-light brass oil lamp chandelier hangs from the ceiling at the crossing and single, brass lamps are mounted to the side walls. Members of the clergy have worked to restore the original altar furniture, bishops chair, altar rail, oil lamps, and flooring.

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The Cumberland Furnace schoolhouse building is located several yards south of the St. James Episcopal Church and the two buildings share the same lot and orientation. Facing east the main entrance is in the gable end of the two-story frame and clapboard building which is supported on brick and stone piers. The plain design follows a balanced plan featuring a centered entrance composed of double doors with triple light transom flanked by 6/6 light, double hung, sash type windows in the end wall. The interior space is divided into a suite of two rooms on the first floor, and the staircase, composed of one straight flight of steps built across the back wall, faces the side rear door which opens out to the yard between the schoolhouse and the church. The wood floors, beaded wood panel finish walls, wood wainscot, and pressed tin clad gable roof are all original to the date of construction.

The church cemetery is located on the hillside east of the church and schoolhouse. The oldest graves date back to the 1860s.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Florence Kirkman Drouillard

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Saint James Episcopal Church was built by the James P. Drouillards in 1879. A gift to the Cumberland Furnace community, the church was formally dedicated August 13, 1882 by Bishop Charles Todd Quintard. The tiny parish church is the only Episcopal church in Dickson County. It has been preserved and maintained in its original form.

Cumberland Furnace is the site of one of the earliest iron smelting centers in Tennessee. This early industry was developed and promoted by settlers who had learned their trade in Pennsylvania. The furnaces were operated by slave labor before the Civil War and the settlement was actually a company town where the owners of the furnaces built a large commissary and individual log cabins to house the workers. The Drouillards built the church and school building and established other social services for the workers and their families following the Civil War period. The first resident minister served a dual roll as the school master. Church records lost in 1929 have recently been recovered and these records form an important source of information about the formation of the church. Headstones located in the church graveyard list the various names of these early settlers and their families.

James Robertson, founder of Nashville, and Montgomery Bell had furnaces in operation in this area prior to 1810. After Robertson's death, Bell took over the operations until 1820 when he sold the iron works to W. A. Van Leer. There was a boom period during the 1830s, but the furnaces were forced to shut down during the Civil War occupation of the region.

Cumberland Furnace witnessed a new era following the Civil War. The belle of Nashville society, Florence Kirkman, married Captain James Pierre Drouillard, a West Point graduate stationed with the Union army that occupied Nashville during the Civil War. Florence Kirkman became an heiress in 1863 when she inherited her great grandfather's estate. Anthony Wayne Van Leer left some 20,000 acres in Dickson County, including the Cumberland Furnace to his heir. The Drouillards moved to Cumberland Furnace and established a lifestyle that can be compared to feudal self-sufficiency. They built a magnificent home on the ridge above the town. Workers were offered free company benefits for their service. Drouillard operated a large commissary to supply them clothing and food stuffs. The community grew and developed around the early slave cabins which were constructed of log and arranged in rows bordering the creek and its tributaries. The furnaces and forge were run with renewed efficiency and production reached 360 tons of iron per summer month and an excess of 3,000 tons per year by 1873. The iron industry closed down for the last time and the furnaces were dismantled in the 1940s.

St. James Episcopal Church is located six miles from the county seat of Charlotte. The population of Dickson County has increased in recent years due to the close

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Louise. "Old Fashioned Christmas in a Country Church" The Tennessean, December 21, 1975.
 Gilchrist, Anne. Some Representative Women of Tennessee. Nashville: McQuiddy Printing Company, 1902.
 Goodspeed. "Dickson County."

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 *less than acre*

UTM REFERENCES

Wilmington 47/77

A

1	6	4	6	7	8	6	0	4	0	1	2	9	5	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

March, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

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

Herbert L. Hansen

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

8/24/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W.D. [Signature]

DATE

8/22/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

8.12.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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proximity of Nashville. In 1974 an Episcopal minister from Nashville assumed leadership of the congregation which had fallen off to only a few communicants. He visited all of the Episcopalians in the county and the church congregation suddenly rose to over one hundred members. Weekly services on Sunday morning have resumed for the first time since the Drouillards resided in Cumberland Furnace. Communicants have demonstrated a renewed interest in the church. They have elected to restore and maintain this church for its historical heritage rather than build a new church in a more centralized location. Early traditions have been revived and the church members have restored many of the original furnishings and architectural details. The heritage of the Cumberland Furnace community and old fashioned atmosphere of the church is best displayed during the annual Christmas Eve candlelight service. The church is decorated with fresh greens and hung with handmade ornaments lit by the original brass oil lamps.

The pristine elegance of St. James Episcopal Church is attributed to the individual character and picturesque simplicity of its design. It is one of the oldest churches in the county still in use. A simulation of the Gothic style is achieved by the lancet shape sashes and doorway. The unspoiled elegance of the design is enhanced by the plain sashes and clear glass lights which are original and believed to be older than the building. The church architecture gains importance due to the fact that it lacks the superficial carpenter Gothic detail commonly associated with buildings of this type. The structure is original and it is in the process of being restored to its original appearance which matches the original furnishings and brass oil lamps in the interior.

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The Cumberland Furnace Schoolhouse was built for the community ca. 1879 by the James P. Drouillards, and the first minister for the church, Rev. Charles J. Hendley was also the first schoolmaster. The schoolhouse building which remains in its original form is now used as the "Iron G. 503; 233" lodge building.