

PH0691321

DATA SHEET

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RECEIVED FEB 2 1977

DATE ENTERED APR 29 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 ** Memorial Hall, Cumberland University
 AND/OR COMMON
 Memorial Hall, Cumberland College of Tennessee

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lebanon VICINITY OF Fourth NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Wilson CODE 190

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Board of Trustees

STREET & NUMBER Cumberland College of Tennessee

CITY, TOWN Lebanon VICINITY OF Tennessee STATE 37087

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wilson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER East Main Street

CITY, TOWN Lebanon STATE Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE September 1976 __FEDERAL 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

Memorial Hall is the focal point and administrative center of the beautifully landscaped campus of Cumberland College of Tennessee in Lebanon, Wilson County. A complex, symmetrical building, its plan forms a T with a top-heavy crossbar. The main block of the three-story, brick Victorian-Italianate edifice is divided into seven distinct bays, and the vertical bar of the T consists of three structural units. A rusticated, coursed limestone foundation and plain water table contain the full basement and support the eighteen-inch-thick walls. Except for the chapel, the original slate roofing has been replaced with composition shingles. Brick chimneys were located wherever they were needed to vent the numerous fireplaces in the building.

A massive square tower dominates the main (east) facade. The slightly bellcast, pyramidal roof of the tower is ornamented with diminutive octagonal spires at each corner and two sets of paired brackets on each face. Stone belt courses and continuous sills divide the structure into vertical sections, and it contains both rectangular and round-arch windows. The Belgian clock was installed in the late 1960s. The stilted, round arch of the recessed main entrance has an elaborate headlight and cornice and stone imposts and plinths.

Recessed bays on either side of the tower each has a two-story gable dormer with a decorative corbel base support and a rectangular and a round-arch window. A stone continuous sill separates the second and third stories and continues around the perimeter of the building. The bays on either side of the last named section are projecting frontispieces with gabled parapets. The three, third-floor windows with round-arch transomes, which are found in this bay, appear either as pairs or triplets all around the structure. The corbeled cornice is also repeated.

Paired, identical wings, which resemble but are perpendicular to the projecting frontispiece, are located at the north and south ends of the main block. A small horizontal parapet, which encloses the north-south hall, separates each of these wings, and a fire escape is attached at this point.

The west elevation duplicates the main facade, except that a group of three massed units project west from its center. The first of these contains the central staircase. Attached to this is Baird Chapel with its round-arch windows and triangular vent dormers. The small wing at the western end of the chapel houses the stage, two small storage or green rooms, and has a round stained-glass window in its west wall.

In 1962 the main section of the building was completely modernized. Ceilings were lowered and sheathed with acoustical tile, carpets laid, and walls paneled. An unusual feature of this section is the marble mantle in the library which has a heavy cornice and frieze supported by Ionic columns; surmounting this is a parapet-like element within which is placed a clock with an ornate molding.

Originally designed as a chapel, later, because of its poor acoustics, used as a gymnasium, Baird Chapel now serves as the college's auditorium. The compound procenium arch is decorated with floral clusters, egg and dart molding, and a crest. The circular, red and white, stained-glass window with the institution's logo, further

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accents the stage area. Single and paired pilasters, with ornate, painted capitals, decorate the walls of the chapel and accentuate the paneled, double-leaf doors, round-arch windows, and gilt-framed portraits of the college's past presidents. The intricate cornice is highlighted with dentils and egg and dart moldings. Fan valances shade the window heads. An itinerant German artist painted the floral and geometric patterns on the ceiling which is the most distinctive feature of the hall, in the 1890s. Complex cornice molding, consisting of decorative patterns such as modillions and dentils, delineate the flat, rectangular section of the ceiling. The rampant vaults on either side of the central section are also exquisitely painted. A huge, radially symmetrical chandelier completes the decor of the chapel. Modern seating has been installed as well as carpeting to improve the auditorium's acoustics.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1892-96 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Crawford Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cumberland University was organized under the aegis of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, using funds largely provided by the citizens of Lebanon, in 1842. Administration of the school was placed in the hands of a board of trustees comprised of Robert L. Caruthers, attorney and jurist, soldier, and member of Congress; James Chamberlain ("Lean Jimmy") Jones, governor of Tennessee and U.S. Senator; Jordan Stokes, speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives; and ten others. The first two graduates received their diplomas in 1843. Four years later the board of trustees organized the Law Department, and in 1852 Cumberland University began educating ministers in its Theological School.

The college building was destroyed during the Civil War, but soon after the fighting stopped Cumberland again opened its doors. In 1897 the school became coeducational. The Presbyterian Church of the United States of America assumed the sponsorship of the university in 1906. Forty years later the Presbyterians were replaced by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. In 1951 it was converted into a private, nondenominational college under the supervision of a board of trustees. The School of Law relocated to Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1962. Since 1956 the school, now styled Cumberland College of Tennessee, has operated as a two-year liberal arts college; the present enrollment is approximately 400, and the faculty numbers 20.

Cumberland College is second only to Harvard University in the number of its graduates who appear in Who's Who in America. Since 1842 more than 14,000 men and women have graduated from Cumberland, among whom are one secretary of state (Cordell Hull); two justices of the U.S. Supreme Court; nine U.S. Senators; sixty-six U.S. Congressmen; eleven governors; eight generals; forty-two justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court; and dozens of federal and state judges and attorneys, diplomats, corporate executives, leading clergymen, and other high-ranking officials.

Memorial Hall, built during the administration of Chancellor Nathan Green, Jr., is the oldest and most impressive building on the Cumberland College campus. Dr. J.W.D. Hinds, professor of chemistry, drew the plans for the building, and William Crawford Smith was the project architect. The cornerstone was laid and dedicated in 1892, but because of limited funds and the institution's "pay as you go" fiscal policy, construction was repeatedly delayed. The College of Arts began holding classes on the first floor and the Theological School on the second in September 1896. The third floor remained unfinished for a year or more and the electricity and steam heat were not installed for several years.

Nashville architect W. C. Smith, who completed the plans and supervised the construction of Memorial Hall, was born in Petersburg, Virginia, and was trained as a carpenter and

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millwright. In 1869, after serving in a Confederate Virginia regiment and fighting in the Battle of Petersburg, he advertised as an architect in Nashville. Some of Smith's Nashville projects were Main or Kirkland Hall at Vanderbilt University (1875); Byzantine Hall at the Nashville Centennial (1880); and the History Building and Fine Arts Building (the Parthenon) at the Tennessee Centennial (1897). He became a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1881 and was chosen a fellow three years later; throughout his career Smith was active in forming and administering the professional architects' organizations in Tennessee. After becoming embroiled in a scandal over the proposed Tennessee State Penitentiary, he left Nashville and volunteered for active duty in the Spanish-American War. Colonel Smith died in Manila on February 6, 1899.