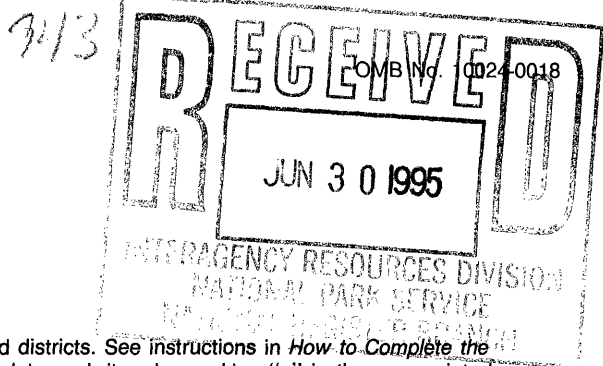


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number 125-1050-017

2. Location

street & number 202 West 12th Street  not for publication

city or town Coffeyville  vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Montgomery code 125 zip code 67337

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ramon Power SHPO May 30, 1995  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the Date of Action  
National Register 7-28-95

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total
		1

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion; religious facility; church

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion; religious facility; church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian; Romanesque; Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Stone: limestone

roof Asphalt shingles

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Ethnic Heritage; Black

**Period of Significance**

1907-1942

**Significant Dates**

1907

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Simon, John A.; Architect

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical society

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 4	2 6 7 1 8 9	4 1 0 1 4 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michele Risdal; National Register Program Assistant  
Martha Hagedorn-Krass; Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date May 19, 1995

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone (913) 296-5264

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Rt. Rev. Vinton R. Anderson, Office of the Fifth Episcopal District

street & number 4144 Lindell Blvd., Suite 222 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63108

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (c.1907) is located at 202 West 12th Street in Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas (pop. 12,917). The one-story, brick Romanesque and Gothic Revival church sits on a rusticated limestone foundation and is surmounted by a high pitched, asphalt shingled, gable roof. A gable facade and an adjoining entrance tower are the prominent features of the building. The building has a southern facade orientation with a secondary elevation to the east. The overall measurements are approximately sixty-two feet north to south and forty-two feet east to west. An asbestos sheathed parsonage sits a few feet north of the church, it is not included in the nomination.

The Bethel A. M. E. Church is a restrained eclectic interpretation that combines both the Romanesque and Gothic Revival styles. In ecclesiastical interpretations, such as the Bethel A. M. E. Church, gable roofs are common, as are arches for all openings and towers. Romanesque influences are found in round window and door arches and brick massing. The presence of the Gothic Revival Style is found in the crenelation motif on the tower roof line and buttressed corners. The castellated roof form and gable roofs ending in high parapeted walls rather than over hanging eaves is more closely based on English Medieval models.

The overall rectangular form of the church is surmounted by a high pitched, asphalt shingled, gable roof. The tower on the southeast corner has a flat roof with a crenelated parapet. A finished limestone stringcourse below the second story arched windows encircles the tower. The tower gives the facade of the church an asymmetrical appearance. A two-story, flat roof, brick and concrete addition projects from the north elevation. The church is constructed of brick. Projecting round brick arches surmount all windows and doors on the church, but not the addition. Limestone thresholds underscore each window. The raised foundation extends several feet above the ground and is constructed of rusticated limestone blocks. Small, rectangular, metal grate vents pierce the foundation. A limestone block watertable divides foundation and brick wall. The corners and east and west elevations are defined with brick buttresses capped with a finished limestone block.

The main entrance into the church is through the tower on the northwest corner of the building. Ten steps with limestone abutments lead up to the door. Inside the limestone abutments is a metal railing. A limestone cornerstone is located on the northwest corner next to the east limestone abutment. It reads "BETHEL AME CHURCH ERECTED 1907." A double door surmounted by a semi-circular, stained glass transom pierces the south facade of the tower. The stained glass says "BETHEL AME CHURCH." A circular stained glass window surmounts the door. The top story of the tower is defined with two narrow double hung sash windows surmounted by a semi-circular transom. The doors and windows are surmounted by projecting round brick arches. The tower is surmounted by a brick parapet. Corbelled brick dentiling is located below the parapet. Each corner parapet sits on a brick corbelled support that rises from the window mullion on the double hung sash window. The corners stand taller than inside parapets.

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A small stained glass arched window surmounted by a circular stained glass window pierce the east elevation of the tower. The top story of the tower is defined with two narrow double hung sash windows surmounted by a semi-circular transom. This double grouping of windows appears on every second-story tower elevation.

West of the tower is the gable facade. A large arched stained glass window pierces the first story. A smaller arched window is located in the gable. The top portion of the gable window is composed of stained glass. The windows are surmounted by projecting round brick arches.

Five stained glass arched windows pierce the east elevation of the church. This secondary elevation faces Maple Street. The windows are surmounted by projecting round brick arches. A brick buttress capped with a limestone block is located between the first and second window and the fourth and fifth.

The west elevation is composed of (going south to north) two stained glass arched windows, a bay pierced by two windows and two stained glass arched windows. The bay corresponds to the chancel in the interior of the church. The windows are surmounted by projecting brick round arches. The brick is covered with concrete parging to cover cracks.

The addition is composed of brick and concrete blocks. Only the east elevation, which faces Maple Street, is constructed of brick. A door and three nine light windows, one on the first floor and the other two on the second, pierce the east elevation. A date stone is located on the south corner of the addition. It reads "Bethel AME CHURCH ANNEX 1957...." Five windows pierce the west elevation of the addition. The north elevation, located a few feet from the parsonage, is pierced by four windows.

Fenestration is composed primarily of arched stained glass windows. Every elevation on the top story of the tower is fenestrated with two double hung sash windows surmounted by a semi-circular transom. Two double hung sash windows pierce the bay on the west elevation. The flat roof addition is fenestrated with nine light windows.

The interior of the church retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building is entered from the south through a square tower on the southeast corner. A double door on the south wall leads to a rectangular shaped sanctuary. The chancel is located within a bay window on the center of the west wall. A semi-circular platform projects from the bay. The railing is defined with turned post. North of the chancel is the choir platform defined with a turned post railing. A door on the north wall leads to the two-story addition that contains a dining hall, kitchen and rest rooms. The trim surrounding the doors and windows is defined with a flat profile. Pews placed semi-circularly around the chancel define the sanctuary floor space. The pews and stained glass windows are original.

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The building remained intact as originally constructed until 1942 when the lightening system was remodeled and minor redecorating took place. In 1957, a two-story annex was added to the north elevation. The addition contained a dining hall, kitchen and rest rooms. Between 1964 and 1967, additional interior remodeling occurred during the installation of central air-conditioning and heating. At this time, an acoustical ceiling board and grid system was placed in the sanctuary. In 1975 the annex and sanctuary were redecorated. An asbestos sheathed parsonage sits a few feet north of the church, it is not included in the nomination.

The Bethel A. M. E. Church reflects all the design characteristics found in the ecclesiastical interpretation of a restrained Gothic-Romanesque Revival Church. The church maintains a high degree of exterior and interior architectural integrity.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (c. 1907) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its historical association with the growth and development of Coffeyville and under criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of a restrained Gothic-Romanesque Revival building. The congregation constructed their first church, a frame structure, in 1882. In the mid-1900s the congregation had grown enough to require a larger building, hence the present Bethel A. M. E. Church. The church is located in Coffeyville's original black neighborhood, following the second world war many black families left the neighborhood and the church's membership slipped into a gradual decline that continues today.

The Bethel A. M. E. Church is an eclectic interpretation that combines restrained elements of both the Romanesque and Gothic Revival styles. "Eclecticism in architecture is that method of design which selects elements from a variety of stylistic sources and combines them in a new and original way. At its worst, eclecticism can be no more than the copying and combining of certain elements from the past. At its best, it can be an imaginative synthesis of ideas which accrues to a new style expressive of a new set of conditions." (Pierson, p.126)

The Romanesque Revival style is characterized by massive articulated wall structures, round arches and powerful vaults, this style was used primarily for churches. Romanesque architecture is based on Roman and Byzantine elements in Western Europe in the early 11th century and lasted until the middle of the 12th century. The Romanesque Revival became popular in America during the second half of the 19th century, and is most frequently applied in church design.

The shift toward Gothic in church design "was in large measure the result of the revival in interest in liturgy promulgated by the Cambridge Society in England, and The Ecclesiologist which it published, as well as by branch societies in the United States." (Roth, p.110-111) The Gothic Revival style is characterized by a steeply pitched roof, wall surface extending into gable without break and windows that extend into the gables.

In ecclesiastical interpretations, such as the Bethel A. M. E. Church, gable roofs are common, as are arches for all openings and towers. Romanesque influences are found in round window and door arches and brick massing. The presence of the Gothic Revival Style is found in the crenelation motif on the tower roof line and buttressed corners. The castellated roof form and gable roofs ending in high parapeted walls rather than over hanging eaves is closely based on English Medieval models.

Coffeyville began as a trading and commercial city. It was incorporated in March 1872. During the last thirty years of the 19th century, it steadily grew and flourished as a trading center of a rich and prosperous farming region. It came to be know as one of the most important grain and flour milling points to the Central West.

The Bethel A. M. E. Church was organized in 1879 under the leadership of Rev. G. W. Hedgeman. Rev. Hedgeman along with Amy and Jordon Crouch, Eliza and Frank Carter, and Dennis Hampton



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formed the founding organization for the A. M. E. Church. After the organization Amy Crouch was given a soliciting paper and the first donation she received was the lot upon which the church and parsonage are located. The lot was a gift from Attorney and Mrs. Luther Perkins.

The frame work of the first church building was erected on the site with the foundation completed by February 11, 1882. The structure was twenty by twenty-six feet. By April 22, 1882 the framing had been complete but not yet enclosed. During the week of December 10, 1882 a storm blew down and damaged the building, but the congregation began immediately to rebuild. In 1890, during the pastorate of Rev. L. W. McCormack the church building was made fourteen feet longer by sawing it apart and splicing it in the middle. Continuous work on the building lasted for sixteen years until 1906. At this time, increased prosperity and membership influenced the congregation and pastor to favor the building of a new church.

About 1900 the progressive businessmen of Coffeyville recognized the possibilities of the proximity of deposits of clay, sand and shale together with natural gas as a fuel. Within the next few years their efforts brought to Coffeyville eight glass factories and five brick and tile plants. The result was rapid expansion into an industrial city. In 1901 as a trading city, Coffeyville had a population of 5,000. By 1910, as an industrial city as well as a trading city, its population had increased to 12,700.

During this same period of rapid growth, the Bethel A. M. E. Church also grew. It was during this time that the congregation built the facility that stands today. The development of brick and tile as an industry in the area was a significant factor in the congregation's decision to build a brick structure in lieu of replacing the frame building with another or simply expand. The church became the center of social gatherings as well as religious activities for the congregation and their friends.

The Coffeyville Journal reported that the Bethel A. M. E. Church was planning a new building in the 18 January 1907 edition.

"Work will begin soon on the new \$6,000 edifice of the A. M. E. church people are to erect at the corner of Twelfth and Maple. The building is to be built of brick, the basement will be constructed with pavers and for the remainder pressed brick will be used. The trimmings will be stone. The church tower will be square and will be 46 feet in height. The ceiling is to be arched and will be composed of steel. While it will not be so very large, being 40 x 60 feet, it will be a very beautiful little church said John A. Simon, who has the plans almost completed. The basement will be ten feet deep and will be the Sunday school room."

Of the many financial rallies that were launched during the building program, the most successful was the Easter rally of 1907. At that time more than a thousand dollars was raised. The greater portion which was previously pledged by the members and paid in full on the day of the rally.

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"Easter Sunday was a big day at the A. M. E. church. The services were held in the (Foster) Williams hall on Walnut street and the house was crowded at all the services. The membership of the church was increased and a big collection was taken up to be applied on the construction of the new church which the denomination is building at the corner of twelfth and Maple streets. The collection taken amounted to \$1164.63 and will go along way toward building the church that is planned at the present time. The church will be large enough to accommodate the increasing audience for a number of years, and will be built substantial and along the very best lines." (The Coffeyville Daily Journal, 1 April 1907)

The corner stone of new Bethel A. M. E. Church was laid the first Sunday in May 1907. The following December the Rt. Rev. Bishop Abraham Grant officiated at the formal opening and dedication of the new church.

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was the site of all black cultural and social as well as religious activities from the time of its organization until Afro-Americans were permitted to use city owned and operated facilities. During World War II, the members of Bethel A. M. E. Church and other social groups used the church to fold bandages and prepare care packages to overseas soldiers.

The church also provided a meeting place for local groups such as the "Who-So-Ever Club" and the "colored church scout troop". The "Who-So-Ever Club" consisted of the youths in the community. It was organized to mold and give motivation and determination to youths from all churches of the community. On November 19, 1942, the Coffeyville Daily Journal reported that the "Who-So-Ever Club held a baby contest at the Bethel AME church." On Thursday February 14, 1935 the Coffeyville Daily Journal reported the Colored churches troop (scouts) met to debate the question of whether the people of Coffeyville needed federal relief work.

The building remained intact as originally constructed until 1942 when the lightning system was remodeled and minor redecorating took place. In 1957, a two-story annex was added to the north elevation. The addition contained a dining hall, kitchen and rest rooms. Between 1964 and 1967, additional interior remodeling occurred during the installation of central air-conditioning and heating. At this time, an acoustical ceiling board and grid system was placed in the sanctuary. In 1975 the annex and sanctuary were redecorated. An asbestos sheathed parsonage sits a few feet north of the church, it is not included in the nomination.

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church reflects all interior and exterior design characteristics that are commonly found in the ecclesiastical interpretations of the Romanesque and Gothic Revival. The church maintains a high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity.

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Continuation Sheet**

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**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Brown, Vergie. "Bethel A. M. E. Church." (National Register nomination draft, 1993).

The Coffeyville Journal, 18 May 1882; 22 April 1882; 16 December 1882; 18 January 1907; 1 April 1907; 14 February 1935; 19 November 1942.

Jacobs, Dennis W. "Bethel A. M. E. Church." (National Register nomination draft, November 29, 1983).

Pierson, William. American Buildings and Their Architects: Volume 2. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

Roth, Leland M. A Concise History of American Architecture. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1979.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is located in Block 85 on Lot 16 in Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the south by Twelfth Street, to the north by an alley, to the east by Maple Street, and to the west by an adjacent property line.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The property historically associated with the church also includes the parsonage which is not included in the nomination.