

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 12 1984

date entered JUL 12 1984

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

1. Name

historic Barton Chapel

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number <sup>U.S.</sup> Highway 27 N/A not for publication

city, town Robbins N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Scott code 151

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 The Board of Trustees  
Barton Chapel Congregational United Church of Christ

street & number P.O. Box 234

city, town Robbins N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37852

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Huntsville state Tennessee 37756

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Constructed in 1926, the Barton Chapel is a vernacular building with Gothic detailing located in rural northeast Tennessee in the small town of Robbins (pop. 550). The exterior features of the church include a steep flat clay tile gable roof, a small frame entrance porch with fine detailing, a large pointed-arch leaded glass window set above the main entry, and an open, brick belfry with stone detailing. The interior has simple exposed trusses, a compound, pointed chancel arch, carved wooden pews, and a heavy, batten, double-leaf door. The L-shaped church building houses the sanctuary and parsonage. The church is relatively unaltered and retains its architectural integrity.

Facing west, the Barton Chapel is situated on a sloping lot on State Route 27, the main road through the small northeast Tennessee town of Robbins in Scott County. The informally landscaped grounds cover less than one acre and there is a gravel parking area to the south of the church building.

The structure is L-shaped in plan with the chapel in the main building and the parsonage in the ell. The brick is laid in a running bond and the steep gable roof is covered with flat clay tiles with a tile cresting.

The west (front) facade of the chapel section of the building is distinguished by a large, pointed, leaded glass window with decorative muntins and set in a stone arch with a stone sill. The main entry is covered by a small porch with brick cheeks and a gable roof supported by two square, chamfered posts and pilasters. Within the gable end of the porch is decorative bracing and a carved bargeboard with a pendent drop at the peak. The porch roof is covered with flat clay tiles and cresting. The steps are of poured concrete. The open belfry is of brick with an arched opening and stone sill. The slope of the gable and belfry have stone coping. The north and south elevations are four bays wide with windows on the upper and basement levels. The metal casement windows have stone lintels and sills. The entry to the basement level on the south elevation has a Gibbs surround. The ell attaches to the east and south elevations and is three bays long and two bays wide. The two-story structure has two interior chimneys, , and similar roofing materials and window and door treatment to the main structure. A shed roof addition is attached to the south and east elevations of the ell.

## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1926 **Builder/Architect** Barber and McMurray

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in Robbins, Tennessee (pop. 550), the Barton Chapel is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its local architectural significance to Robbins and Scott County. Constructed in 1926, this brick vernacular church building with Gothic detailing was designed by the prominent Knoxville architectural firm of Barber and McMurray, known for their ecclesiastical and residential architecture. This chapel is a fine example of their work scaled down for a rural setting.

The Barton Chapel was named for William E. Barton (1861-1930), first pastor of the First Pilgrim Congregational Church of Robbins, Tennessee. Barton, a native of Sublette, Illinois came to Robbins in 1885 after graduating from Berea College in Kentucky. The existing church building at that time was a simple white frame building with a belfry and steeple which was located across the railroad tracks, north of the present chapel site. Barton and his wife Esther Treat Bushnell stayed in Robbins for almost two years during which time their son Bruce was born. Barton left Robbins for Oberlin, Ohio to complete his theological education at the seminary there. He served various congregations in Ohio until 1899 when he became pastor of the First Congregational Church in Oak Park, Illinois and served there until he retired in 1926. During his ministry there he became nationally known for his modernist views of church doctrine and for his religious and secular writings. He returned to Robbins in 1926 to lay the cornerstone for the new church building. The Oak Park congregation donated their former pews and pulpit furnishings to the new church in honor of Dr. Barton. He came to Nashville in 1928 where he lectured at Vanderbilt University and founded the Collegeside Congregational Church where he served as pastor until his death in 1930.

The original small frame church building was torn down after the completion of the Barton Chapel in 1926. Designed by the prominent Knoxville architectural firm of Barber and McMurray, this simple vernacular brick church building displays elements of the Gothic style. This firm became nationally known for their ecclesiastical and residential work and donated their services to the Congregational Church in Robbins. The distinctive features of this building include the large, pointed arch, leaded glass window with tracery, set prominently over the main entry, the woodwork of the small, frame, gable-roofed entry porch, the brick belfry with stone detailing and the simple exposed beam trusswork on the interior. The Barton Chapel is one of the most prominent buildings in the small town of Robbins and it retains its architectural and historical integrity.

The First Pilgrim Congregational Church, now known as the Barton Chapel Congregational United Church of Christ, has been served by many pastors since 1885 and remains an active congregation.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

A History of the Congregational Christian Church. Robbins, Tennessee; 1961.  
 Sanderson, Esther Sharp. Scott County, Gem of the Cumberlands. Huntsville, Tennessee:  
 E. S. Sanderson, 1974.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Robbins, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6
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7	1	6	4	0	0
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4	0	2	5	4	7	0
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The property is bounded on the south by School Road, on the west by State Highway 27 and on the north and east by adjoining property lines. This is all the property historically associated with the Barton Chapel.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Krawitz, Architectural Historian

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date April 30, 1984

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/742-6722

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37204

## 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.

Deputy  
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 6/4/84

### For NPS use only

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

J. Melores Byers  
 Keeper of the National Register

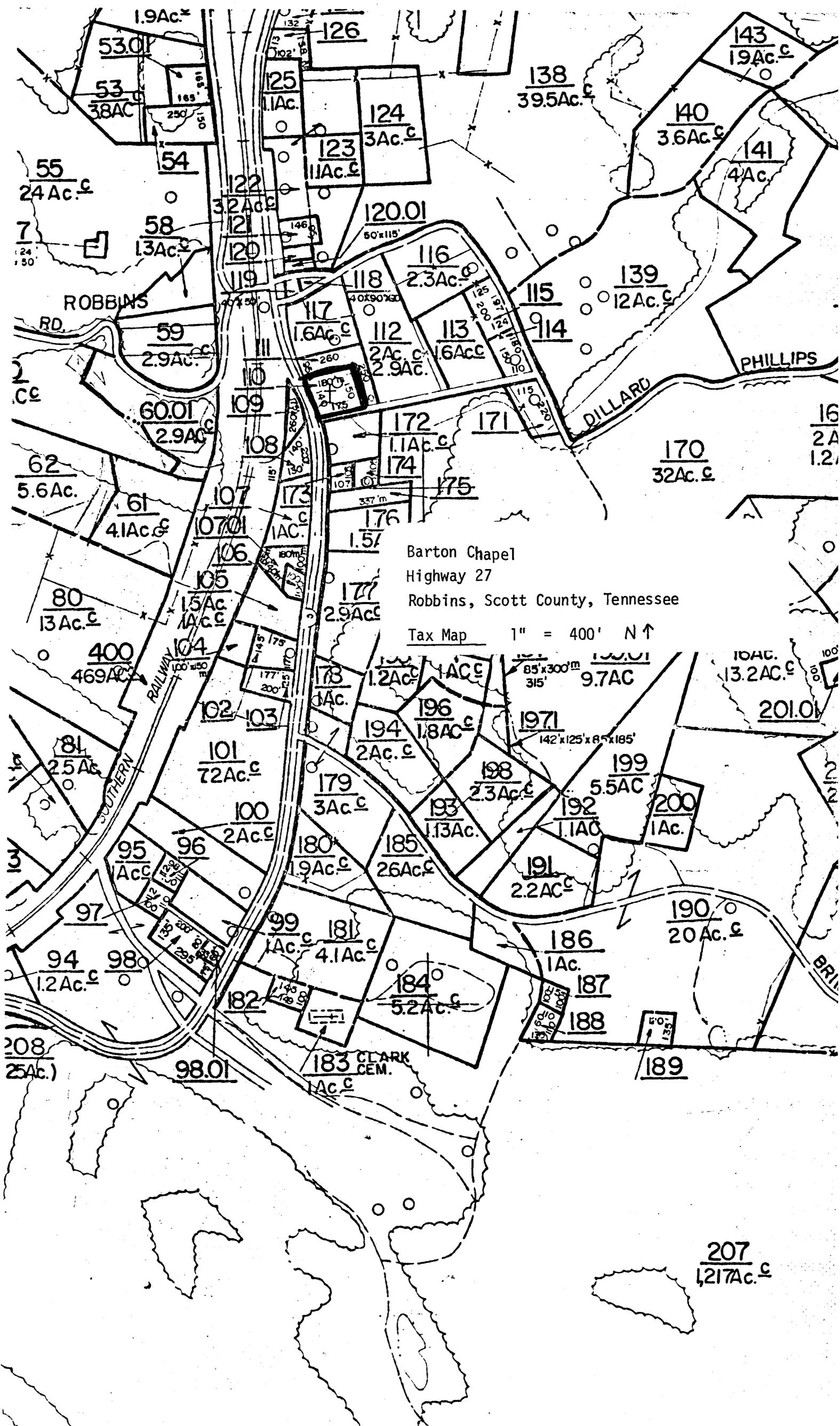
Entered in the  
 National Register

date 7/12/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Barton Chapel  
Highway 27  
Robbins, Scott County, Tennessee  
Tax Map 1" = 400' N ↑

- 1.9Ac.\*
- 53.01
- 53 38Ac
- 55 24Ac. c
- 7 24 50
- 54
- 126
- 125 1.1Ac.
- 124 3Ac. c
- 123 1.1Ac. c
- 138 39.5Ac. c
- 143 19Ac. c
- 140 3.6Ac. c
- 141 4Ac.
- 122 3.2Ac. c
- 120.01
- 120
- 119
- 118 2.3Ac. c
- 116
- 139 12Ac. c
- 115
- 114
- 113 1.6Ac. c
- 112 2Ac. c
- 117 1.6Ac. c
- 110
- 109
- 108
- 172 1.1Ac. c
- 171
- 170 32Ac. c
- 16 2A 1.2
- 62 5.6Ac.
- 61 4.1Ac. c
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- 175
- 176
- 157
- 177 2.9Ac. c
- 80 13Ac. c
- 105 1.5Ac. c
- 106
- 178
- 179
- 178 1.2Ac. c
- 196 1.8Ac. c
- 197 9.7Ac
- 104
- 102
- 103
- 194 2Ac. c
- 197 1.4Ac. c
- 197 1.42x125x85x185'
- 199 5.5Ac
- 198 2.3Ac. c
- 192 1.1Ac
- 200 1Ac.
- 10Ac. 13.2Ac. c
- 201.01
- 81 2.5Ac
- 101 72Ac. c
- 179 3Ac. c
- 193 1.13Ac.
- 199 5.5Ac
- 200 1Ac.
- 100 2Ac. c
- 180 1.9Ac. c
- 185 26Ac. c
- 191 2.2Ac. c
- 190 20Ac. c
- 199 5.5Ac
- 200 1Ac.
- 95 1Ac. c
- 96 2Ac. c
- 180 1.9Ac. c
- 185 26Ac. c
- 191 2.2Ac. c
- 190 20Ac. c
- 199 5.5Ac
- 200 1Ac.
- 97
- 99 1Ac. c
- 181 4.1Ac. c
- 186 1Ac.
- 187
- 188
- 189
- 94 1.2Ac. c
- 98
- 182
- 184 5.2Ac. c
- 186 1Ac.
- 187
- 188
- 189
- 208 25Ac.)
- 98.01
- 183 CLARK CEM. 1Ac. c
- 189
- 207 1217Ac. c