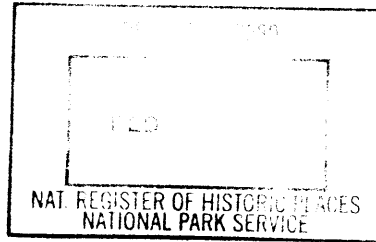


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
other names/site number Asbury United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 2820 Asbury Road NA not for publication
city or town Knoxville vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37914

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 for 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.)

Herbert L. Hays 2/3/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or 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 Ma J. M. [Signature] Signature of the Keeper
3/18/97 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	1	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	1	Total

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

Knoxville & Knox County MPDF

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival Influence

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Marble
walls Weatherboard; Wood shingle
roof Asphalt; wood shingle
other Brick;marble

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 boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1898--1938

Significant Dates

1898

1938

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

McClung Historical Collection; Knox Co. Public Library

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, S.
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2 acres Shooks Gap 147 NE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>245130</u>	<u>3982310</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Ann K. Bennett, Senior Planner, and Cathryn Irwin
organization Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission date October 1996
street & number 400 Main Avenue telephone 423/215-2500
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37902

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 Holston Conference of United Methodist Church
street & number 350 Lakeshore Drive telephone 704/456-9432
city or town Lake Junaluska state NC zip code 28745

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 listing. 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 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

Narrative Description

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South is a small, one-story, frame church. It is located in the Asbury community, which consists mainly of middle-class housing, farms, and some heavy industry. The church property fronts a bend in Asbury Road, and the building sits atop a gently sloping hill. The first congregation organized in 1854 and services continue today. The current sanctuary was constructed in 1898 and a classroom annex was added in 1938. In 1949, a fellowship hall was constructed. It is attached to the historic building only by a covered walkway. It is a noncontributing building.

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South is a Gothic Revival influence building, with a generally rectangular plan and cross gable roof. Two distinct sections of the main building clearly define construction phases of sanctuary and annex. All exterior walls are finished with wood weatherboard. The foundation, porches, and entrance stairs are of marble and the chimney is of brick. The roof of the sanctuary is covered with modern asphalt shingles, while the roof of the classroom addition is covered with wood shingles. All windows in the sanctuary are executed in stained glass with wood frames. Interior spaces are highlighted throughout with woodwork. The general condition of the property is excellent and negligible alteration has occurred since initial construction.

The 1898 sanctuary section features the main facade (southern elevation) and principal entrance. Ashlar finished, square cut marble foundation blocks form a regular course, with spike marks from the quarrying process still visible. The frame walls are covered in weatherboard. A central bay steps forward from the main body of the sanctuary. This bay features a large, tripartite double-hung window with operable transoms, executed in double-hung, stained glass. Bay side walls each contain one double-hung, stained glass window. The gable end contains a Gothic arch and is covered in wood shingles, with a stained glass rondel centered above the tripartite window.

The main facade is also characterized by a square bell tower located in the southwest corner of the building. This tower encompasses the main entrance, which is accessed by marble stairs, probably cut from a nearby quarry. Into these stairs are carved the dates of 1855 and 1898, signifying the construction dates of the original and current buildings. A double doorway is topped with semi-circular arched, stained glass transom. Wooden louvers accent the bell tower's second story. Tower roof eaves feature decorative brackets, while the roof itself is bellcast and terminates in a metal finial. The southeast corner of the main facade features a secondary entrance, again with marble stairs and double door with semi-circular, arched stained glass transoms. This entrance is covered by a modified pyramidal roof with shed extension and topped with a metal cap.

The western elevation of the sanctuary features a gable with a cutaway Gothic arch flush with the building. The gable is covered with wood shingles while the cutaway section flush with the building is covered with wooden fishscale patterned shingles and houses a round, louvered vent. This elevation features a tripartite stained glass window like that of the main facade which is flanked on both sides by single, double-hung stained glass windows. The eastern elevation is an almost exact replica of the western elevation. It has the tripartite window flanked by single windows, shingles, louvered vent and the addition of an arched window at the entrance. A brick interior offset side chimney is found toward the east elevation of the church. The sanctuary's northern elevation joins with the 1938 classroom addition,

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

although remnants of original construction remain. A single, double-hung stained glass window sits in the wall topped with a section of the former roof line. The gable end section remains covered with chisel pattern wood shingles.

The sanctuary area contains the most significant interior spaces. Curved original wooden pews with carved ends are arranged in a semicircular pattern addressing the pulpit. Original light fixtures include an oil-burning chandelier, electrified in 1934 by the church youth organization. The chandelier features metal and glass pendants, with mirrored insets to reflect the light. Other glass fixtures are hanging fixtures with school house globes. The church features include original wooden door frames, window surrounds, and wainscoting, with plaster walls and ceilings. An original wooden balustrade separates the ornately carved wooden pulpit area from the congregation. Four large, opaque windows divide the entrance vestibule from the main sanctuary, and may be opened during services when attendance overflow requires additional seating. This is a modified Akron plan, popular in many churches. Each of the eleven stained glass windows of the sanctuary memorializes a former member, including James Huffaker, the man who donated the parcel of land the church sits on, and the original building committee of 1898.

The vestibule of the church, which contains an entrance to a Sunday School room that can also be opened to the sanctuary for overflow seating, contains original woodwork, and the rope still used to ring the church bell to announce Sunday morning services.

On the original north elevation of the church, inset into the gable end, is the 1938 Sunday School addition. Poured concrete and block foundation, weatherboard wall covering over frame construction, and a gable roof mark this addition. Double hung six over six wood windows and eight light foundation vent windows are also found on the addition. The addition, while it altered the original architecture of the church, in its scale and use of materials blends well with the original architecture of the church and has acquired its own significance. The southeast entrance of the addition has a paneled door served by both stairs and a handicap accessible ramp. This area is covered and offers access to the 1949 fellowship hall annex.

In 1949 the church made a second addition to the church. This one story block addition with gable roof is minimally connected to the historic building by a covered drive through, and sits to the rear and western side of the historic building. Windows in the addition are double hung with six over six panes.

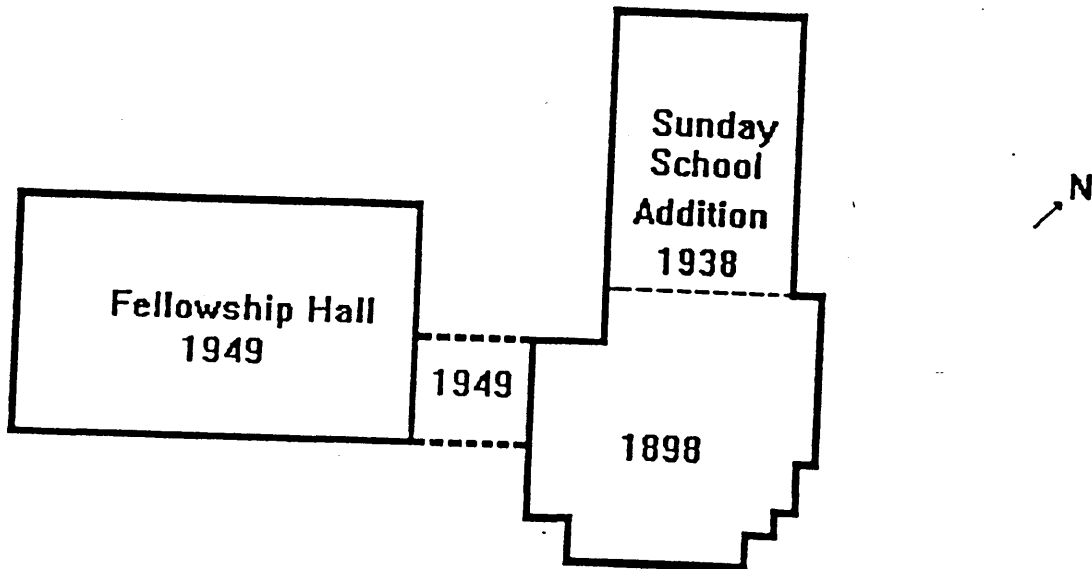
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

Plan of church. Not to scale.



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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C for its distinctive architectural characteristics. It is an excellent example of rural church architecture, basically unaltered since originally constructed in 1898. This building is expressed in the Gothic Revival style, which, when combined with its setting, give an enhanced inspirational feeling to the building. The steep pitch of roof gables, pronounced arches, and strategic placement atop a hill, draw the eye upward and imply a sense of power which minimizes surrounding building construction. In addition, the square bell tower with its prominent bellcast roof gives a sense of strength and stability, as if the church were a permanent fixture on the landscape. When blended together, the attributes make the church appear much larger than it actually is. These features also signify the continued importance of this church to the Asbury community, which has maintained a congregation in eastern Knox County for more than 140 years. The esteem held for the interior features of the church, including the significant, original oil chandelier and the carved pews, pulpit and balustrade, further illustrate the significance of this church in the community.

Asbury is one of the oldest communities in Knox County. Historically, the community began at the fork of the French Broad and Holston Rivers. Settlers arrived as early as 1786 to establish homes on lands granted for Revolutionary War service. In 1800, Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury delivered the first Methodist sermon in Knoxville, and it has long been believed that the community was named for him. By 1854, a congregation was organized at the home of Miles Huffaker. The first Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church building was constructed in 1855 on land deeded by James Huffaker.

A few years after, the Civil War brought division to the nation and to Knoxville. As the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church split into Northern and Southern factions, Asbury became known as Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Interestingly, the Northern Methodist sect in the community continued to share Asbury church with their Southern counterparts for several years after the war. Church histories show that the M.E. Church, South used the facilities for morning services, while the M.E. Church, North occupied the building on Sunday afternoons. This practice continued until the M.E. Church, North constructed their own building sometime in the 1880s.

In 1898, parishioners constructed the current sanctuary. The building is a rural interpretation of the Gothic style, executed in similar fashion by several other Methodist churches in Knox County. One of these is the New Salem United Methodist Church at 2417 Tipton Station Road (NR - 8/11/83). Another, Riverdale United Methodist Church on Kodak Road was also constructed in 1898. The churches were all built by members of their congregations, and it seems obvious that each of the congregations looked at the other churches and were influenced by their design. However, each is an individual interpretation of those details. Unique architectural features of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South, include the distinctive bell tower, the stained glass windows, and the entrance stairs, probably donated by members who owned the nearby marble quarry. A marble "uppin block", or mounting stone, which members could use to mount their horses and wagons, sits in front of the building as a reminder of the building's age and continued congregation. In 1939 the Northern and Southern factions reunited to become the United Methodist Church, and the Asbury M.E. Church, South was selected to use for worship. In 1949, a detached fellowship hall was added to the property to manage growth. The current property retains these buildings, thus displaying Asbury's continued historic use.

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Section number 8 Page 5

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

Due to its longevity, the church has participated in a number of historically significant events associated with the Methodist Church, particularly the pre-Civil War division into Northern and Southern factions, ending only with reunification in 1939. The Asbury United Methodist Church has a long and distinguished history within the community. Its importance to the community lies in its continued use as a house of worship, its rural expression of architectural styles contemporary to its construction, and its association with the diverse history of the Methodist Church in America.

The property meets the registration requirements of the Knoxville and Knox County MPDF.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

Bibliography

Rothrock, Mary U. *The French Broad-Holston Country: A History of Knox County, Tennessee*. Knoxville, Tennessee: The East Tennessee Historical Society, 1946.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

Verbal Boundary Description

Nominated property is a portion of Parcel 14, CLT Map 110 known as 2820 Asbury Road, including the Asbury United Methodist Church and excluding the parsonage located to the southwest. The boundary begins at a point on the northwest side of the right of way of Asbury Road and proceeds northeast along the right of way of Asbury Road approximately 340 feet to a point; thence west along the common boundary of parcels 14 and 1, approximately 58 feet to a point; thence north along the boundary of parcels 14 and 1, approximately 142 feet to a point; thence northwest and following the common boundary of Parcels 14 and 1, approximately 150 feet to a point; thence northwest and following the boundary of parcels 14 and 1, approximately 206 feet to a point; thence southeast along the boundary of parcels 14 and 12.01 for a portion, a total of approximately 440 feet to a point located on the right of way of Asbury Road which is the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the land historically associated with Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South, including the front drive and other landscaping that form the setting for the church, and excluding the parsonage and a storage building which are of more modern construction.

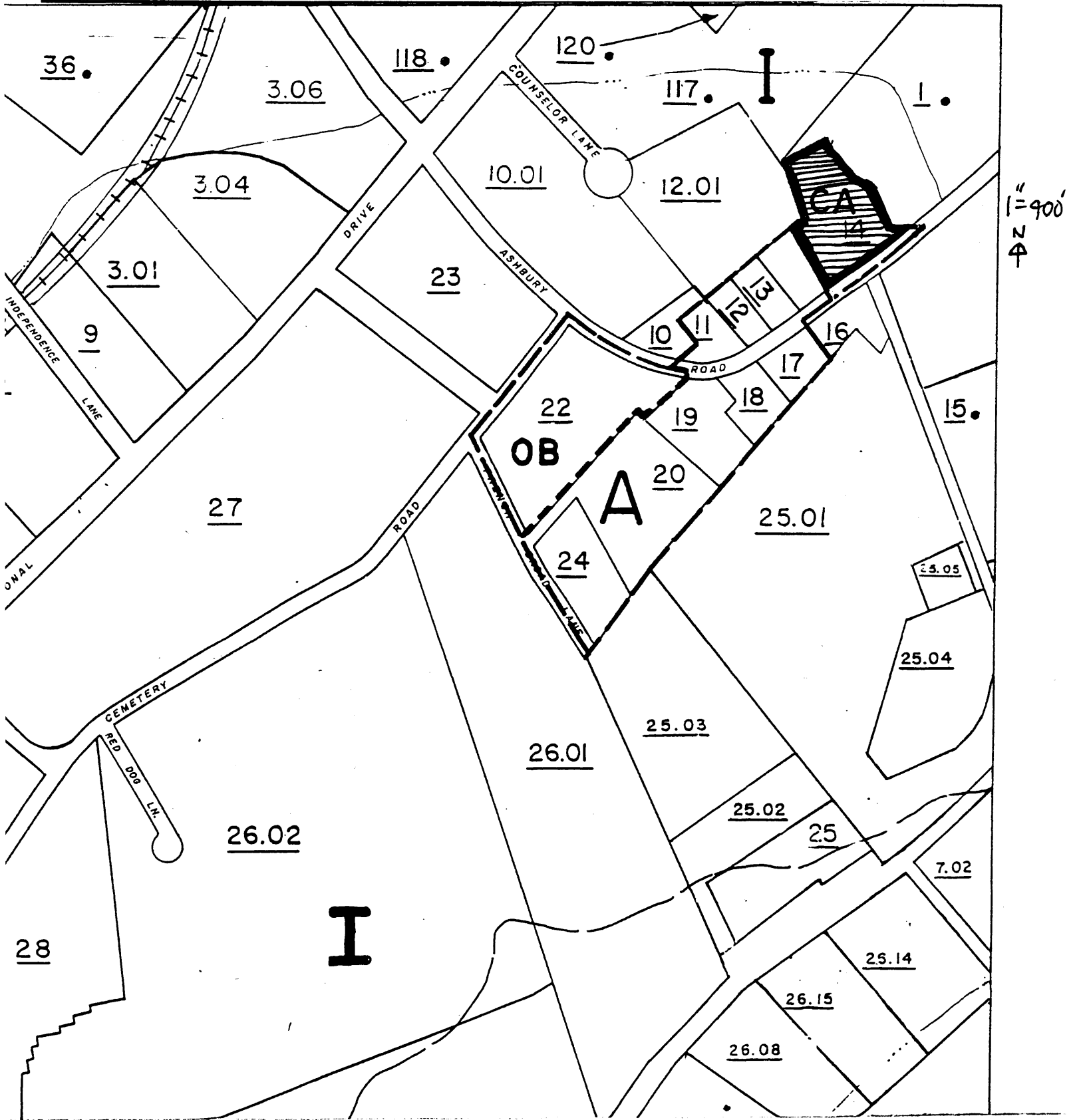
The tax map has a scale of 1" = 400'. This is the only tax map scale available. It is adequate for the purposes of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

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Section number 10 Page 8

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee



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Section number photos Page 9

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

Photographs

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
2820 Asbury Road
Knox County, Tennessee
September, 1995/*October 1996
Photos by: John Gault/*Claudette Stager
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission

South elevation, facing north
#1 of 18

Southeast elevation, facing northwest
#2 of 18

Southwest facade, facing northeast
#3 of 18

Southeast elevation, facing northwest
#4 of 18

Southwest elevation, facing northeast
#5 of 18

Northeast elevation, facing southwest
#6 of 18

Northwest elevation, facing southeast
#7 of 18

Southwest elevation, facing north, entrance steps inscribed with dates
#8 of 18

South elevation of fellowship hall, facing northwest
#10 of 18

Southeast elevation of fellowship hall, facing northwest
#11 of 18

Interior details, chandelier in sanctuary
#12 of 18

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Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Knox County, Tennessee

*Interior details, southwest view of sanctuary, facing northeast
#13 of 18

Interior details, northeast view of sanctuary, facing southwest
#14 of 18

Interior details, southwest view of sanctuary, facing northwest
#15 of 18

North (rear) elevation, facing south
#16 of

Detail of north elevation, 1938 and 1898 portions evident
#17 of 18

Detail of sanctuary window
#18 of 18