

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CANEHILL
WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Survey Number CH-8

Owner United Presbyterian Church
of Canehill

✓ Property Name United Presbyterian Church
of Canehill (C.M.A.A.)

Address c/o Conrad Russell

Original Name Mount Bethel Presbyterian
Church of Canehill

Box 32, Canehill, AR 72717

✓ Location Main Street (Highway 45)

Construction Date 1891

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Sited on a Main Street lot, the modest scale and proportions of the Presbyterian Church are well suited to Canehill's landscape. The one-story church is built on a modified cross plan comprised of belltower, vestibule and sanctuary; steeply pitched gable roofs shelter the vestibule and the sanctuary. A one-story addition (1960's) projects from the rear (west) of the vestibule. Ashlar blocks of native stone compose the church elevations. The principal (east) elevation of the church features the belltower and the sanctuary. The sanctuary wall projects beyond the belltower and features a pointed-arch window filled with leaded glass framed by tracery in a tripartite arrangement of lancet arches. A pressed tin bargeboard decorated with trefoils and a central quatrefoil embellishes the facade gable. Access to the church is provided through a pointed-arch opening containing double-leaf paneled doors surmounted by a leaded-glass transom. A multiple-pane round window situated directly above the peak of the entrance arch pierces the belltower. The first phase of the tower is capped by a bell-cast hip roof which is surmounted by the tower's octagonal belfry. A series of louvered vents set in pointed-arch openings appear in the belfry. The belltower terminates in a pointed spire capped with a small finial. The south vestibule reiterates the design of the sanctuary wall with its prominent leaded-glass and tracery-filled, pointed-arch window and decorative bargeboard; the north elevation is pierced by four small leaded-glass-filled lancet windows; and the rear (west) elevation features a small three-sided apse with two windows of the same design as those that appear in the north elevation and a bargeboard identical in design to the treatment of the other gable ends of the building.

The interior of the Presbyterian Church is also of architectural note. The simple sanctuary, consisting of a central aisle flanked by long pews, is well lighted by its leaded-glass windows. Inside, the roof appears as a truncated gable and the ceiling is faced with a series of panels constructed of narrow boards in alternating patterns. The richness of the wood ceiling is reflected in the beaded wainscot that articulates the sanctuary wall.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the only ecclesiastical structure still functioning as a house of worship, the Presbyterian Church is an important component of Canehill's rural landscape. Moreover, this congregation's derivation from and affiliation with the Cumberland Presbyterians that founded the Canehill community is of compelling significance in the history of the area's settlement and development. An example of the Gothic Revival vernacular that was deemed appropriate for rural church design throughout the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the 1891 church is also of architectural significance.

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United Presbyterian Church of Canehill

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CON'T)

Members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church were prominent among the first settlers in the Canehill area and were largely responsible for the initial establishment of the Canehill Township. The first Cumberland Presbyterian congregation organized in 1828. The congregation's history is marked by the construction of a number of structures, including their first log buildings and later frame churches, and a number of philosophical divisions that led to the creation of several branches of the original congregation. The third such branch to form, the Mount Bethel Presbyterian Church, was founded in 1891. The Cumberland Presbyterian congregations reunited in 1905, meeting in this church building. As the only extant house of worship in Canehill reflecting this rich history, the significance of the church is great.

Architecturally, the building is noteworthy for its depiction of the scale, proportions and details often associated with the nineteenth-century rural Gothic Revival house of worship. Of particular interest are its native stone exterior, fine Gothic tracery and leaded-glass windows.

Verbal Boundary Description Block 1 lot 2, Kirby Addition

Acreage less than one acre

Quadrangle Name Lincoln, Ark.

Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone 15 Easting 374 015 Northing 3974 670

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Canehill Multiple Resource Area
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Earle House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

11/17/82 Delores Byers

Attest

12. Carroll, A. R., Building

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

11/17/82 Delores Byers

Attest

13. Pyeatte Mill Site

Substantive Review

Keeper

11/17/82 Bruce Haney

Attest

11/16/82 Patrick Andrews

14. Pyeatte, Henry, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

11/17/82 Delores Byers

Attest

15. United Presbyterian Church
of Canehill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

11/17/82 Delores Byers

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

United Presbyterian Church of Canehill (Canehill
MRA)
Washington County
ARKANSAS

Working No. 10/5/82-2739Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83Date Due: 11/4/82 - 11/9/82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/17/82☐ RETURN☐ REJECTEntered in the
National Register

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: _____

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



CH-8
Canehill Mount Bethel Presbyterian Church
Historic Resources of Canehill
Canehill, AR
Bob Dunn, photographer
Negative at Ark. Historic Preservation
Program
View from the East
No. 10 of 20



CH-8
Canehill Bethel Presbyterian Church,
interior
Historic Resources of Canehill
Canehill, AR
Bob Dunn, photographer
Negative at Ark. Historic Preservation
Program
View from the East
No. 11 of 20

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000023