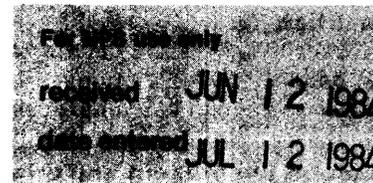


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Charleston Cumberland Presbyterian Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Railroad Street N/A not for publication

city, town Charleston N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Bradley code 011

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Congregation of the Charleston Cumberland Presbyterian Church

street & number South Lee Highway

city, town Charleston N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37310

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Bradley County Courthouse

city, town Cleveland state Tennessee 37311

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Bradley Co. Historic Site Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town 701 Broadway, Nashville state Tennessee 37203

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

Constructed in 1860, the Charleston Cumberland Presbyterian Church is a one-story Greek Revival frame building located in rural southeast Tennessee in the small town of Charleston (pop. 792). The exterior features of the gable-roofed, clapboard church include a large, pedimented portico with square Doric pillars and tall, rectangular windows with later stained glass borders. The austere interior contains simple early pews made of poplar and later wooden paneling on the walls. The small cemetery, or churchyard, in which the church sits is enclosed by a c. 1910 cobblestone wall and contains many nineteenth-century graves and monuments. The church and cemetery retain their historical and architectural integrity to a high degree.

Facing west, the church is situated on a slight rise facing Railroad Street and the Southern Railroad tracks in a residential section of the rural town of Charleston in Bradley County. A concrete walk leads through the center of the cemetery from Railroad Street to the front entrance of the church. Among the many mature trees in the cemetery are monuments in various nineteenth-century and later styles, including tombstones, headstones, and stelae. Most of the interments are from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The church building is located at the rear (east) side of the rectangular-shaped cemetery which is surrounded by a low cobblestone wall built around 1910.

The west (front) elevation of the church is distinguished by an undercut, tetrastyle portico with square Doric pillars and a rectangular, louvered vent in the pediment. Immediately below the capital of each pillar is a symbol for one of the four Apostles, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The simple entrance with a double-leaf door is flanked by two large wooden tablets, one bearing the name of the church and the other a religious inscription.

The north and south (side) elevations each have four bays containing tall, double-hung windows with transoms. The two single-light sash and transom of each window have borders of stained glass. The wide entablature of the portico continues around the north and south facades. The east (rear) elevation has a one-bay, gable-roofed porch over the rear entrance at the northeast corner of the facade. Also on the rear elevation are three recent wooden crosses.

The simple interior consists of a rectangular sanctuary with a low dais at the east end and two later Sunday school rooms in the northwest and southwest corners. The rows of plain, early pews of poplar are divided by two east/west aisles. The later floor and wainscoting are of pine. The walls are covered in 1950's tongue-and-groove, painted paneling. The ceiling has acoustical tile, which has been painted.

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 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 1860 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Charleston Cumberland Presbyterian Church of 1860 is nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance to Bradley County and southeast Tennessee as an important regional example of a rural Greek Revival church. The frame design skillfully employs a pedimented, tetrastyle Doric portico, rectangular windows with transoms, and an austere interior with early pews. The architectural character and significance of the church are enhanced by its setting in a walled churchyard with a variety of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century monuments.

Born of the Great Revival of 1800 in Kentucky and Tennessee, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church had its official beginning in a log house in Dickson County, Tennessee in 1810. The circuit-riding Cumberland Presbyterian ministers moved steadily with the frontier, planting churches as they went. By the time of the Civil War, there were seventy-eight congregations represented in the Church's General Assembly.

It was in 1860 just before the outbreak of the Civil War that the Charleston church was built and the congregation officially organized. The first pastor of the church was the Rev. Hiram Douglas, who was a leader in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Moderator of the General Assembly in 1865, the denomination's highest honor. Federal troops used the building during the Civil War while stationed for a time at Charleston. Fifty years after the War, the U.S. Government paid the congregation damages of \$424.00. By 1890 the church had a peak membership of one hundred and twenty members.

The church building is located near the old commercial district of Charleston. The town began as a trading post in 1819 located in the Ocoee District prior to the organization of Bradley County in 1836, becoming the first white settlement in the county and one of the oldest in southeast Tennessee.

The Charleston Cumberland Presbyterian Church is an outstanding local example of the Greek Revival style seen in rural areas at the time of the Civil War. The building retains its integrity as a simple interpretation of that style with a Doric portico, wide entablature, symmetrically placed rectangular windows, and central double-leaf, paneled wooden doors.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .56 acres

Quadrangle name Charleston, Tn

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 116 | 704260 | 3906740
 Zone Easting Northing

B | |
 Zone Easting Northing

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is bounded on the north by an adjoining property line, on the east by Bates Street, on the south by Scott Street and on the west by Railroad Street. This nomination includes the church building, the cemetery, and the stone wall enclosing the site.

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 Roy Lillard and Stephen O. Addison
Lloyd Ostby, Coordinator of Field Services
 organization Bradley County Historical Society
Tennessee Historical Commission date May 1984
2800 Wesdell Lane, N.W. telephone 615-479-4652
 street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615-742-6723
Cleveland Tennessee 37311
 city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

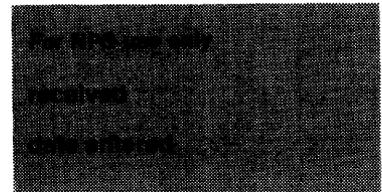
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hryca
 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
John A. Brown date 7/2/84
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: date
 Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Charleston Cumberland
 Presbyterian Church Item number 9 Page 2

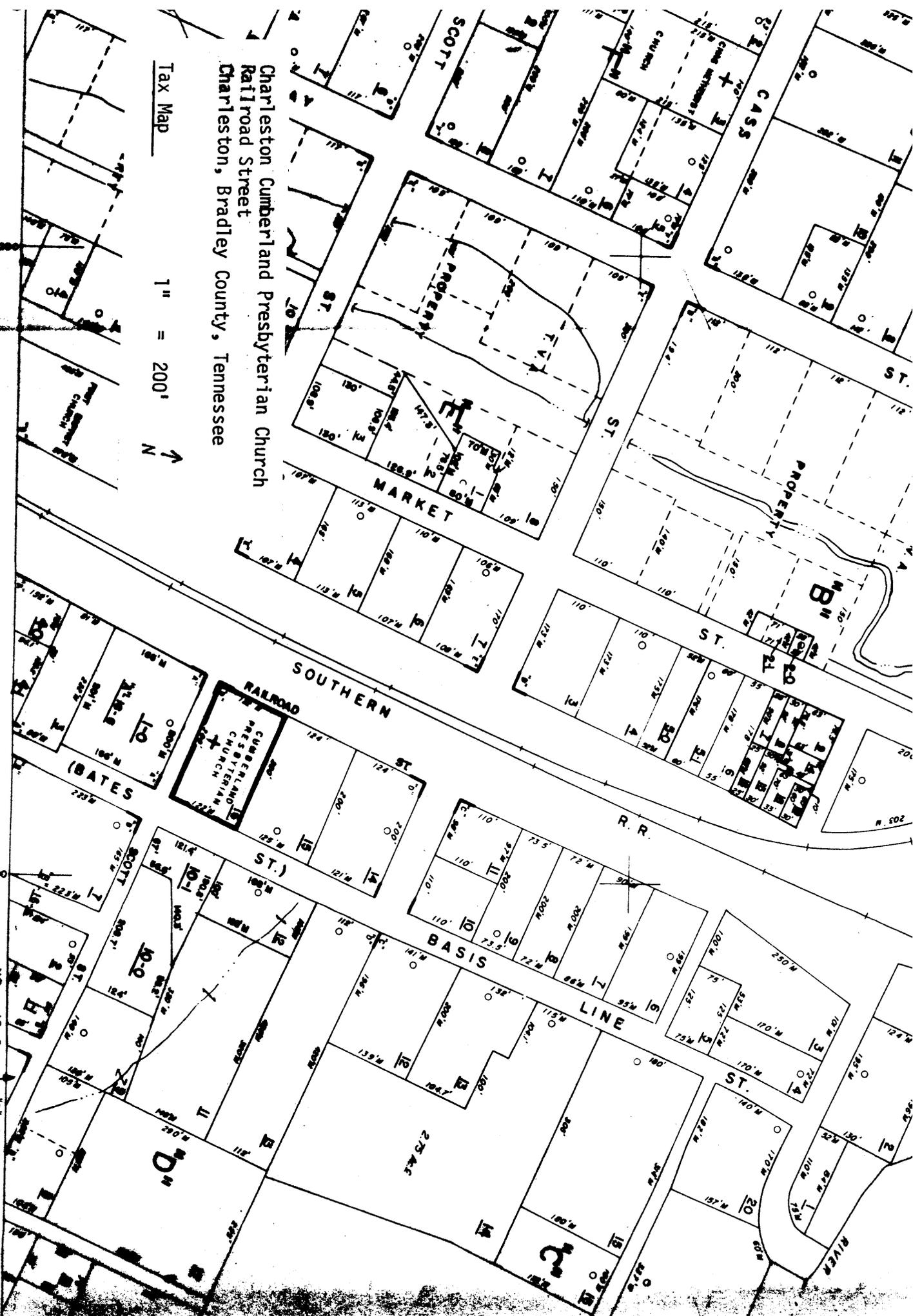
Major Bibliographical References

Barrus, Ben M., Milton L. Baugh and Thomas H. Campbell. A People Called Cumberland Presbyterians. Memphis: Frontier Press, 1972.

Douglas, Hiram Arnett. The Story Is Told: Reverend Hiram Douglas, a Biographical Sketch. Minneapolis: Hiram Arnett Douglas, 1940.

Lillard, Roy G. Bradley County. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1980.

_____. "History of Early Charleston". The Charleston - Calhoun Register, July 29, 1982.



Charleston Cumberland Presbyterian Church
 Railroad Street
 Charleston, Bradley County, Tennessee

Tax Map
 1" = 200'
 N

Tax ID - Map 16-B - Group D - Parcel 16

PREPARED BY
 TOSIN ROUATNEY INC.

PARCEL NUMBER
 PARCEL HOOD

PARCEL & CONTROLLING MAP NO.

CREEK

E 2,372,000
 NO. 16-6
 10°-16-6'