

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 21 1979  
DATE ENTERED OCT 1 1979

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

Palmyra Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Palmyra Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Palmyra

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY  
Warren

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

PUBLIC

\_\_OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Palmyra Township Trustees, c/o Delmar Coon

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Carlisle

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50047

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Indianola

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

CIRALG Architectural Survey

DATE

1979- (in process)

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL Regional

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

SHPO, Iowa City, Iowa

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Palmyra M.E. Church was built between 1867 and 1870. It is situated in a rural area with some 20 houses nearby which are the remains of the town of Palmyra.

The church is of wood frame construction on a limestone foundation. The front-gable structure consists of one room, and is 38' wide and 58' long, with a 12' square narthex in the base of the 35' belltower centered on the main facade.

The nave is divided into five bays by tall round-arched 9/9 wooden d.h.s. windows in plain surrounds. The three-bay symmetrical front features similar windows, flanking the belltower, and illuminating the narthex. The entrance portal has a pair of wooden doors beneath a fanlight. Above the entrance is an oculus window, set about halfway between the doorway and one of three round-arched louvred openings in the bellchamber. The tower is capped by a pointed roof, flared at the eaves. A narrow band of vertical tongue-in-groove boards forms a "frieze" beneath the eaves.

The roof is covered with composition shingle (originally wood). There are two brick chimneys, one on each side, toward the front of the nave. The narrow cornice is bracketted on the front elevation, and there are narrow corner boards ending in simple "cornices" on the front corners of the church.

The interior was originally one room, with center aisle, oak flooring, and wainscoting below papered plaster walls. In 1949, partitions were erected along the west side to form four cubicles, and the ceiling was lowered.

The present character of the belltower dates from 1914. In its original form, this feature was capped by a shallow, hipped roof and the bellchamber was set off from the base of the tower by a small, flared pentroof. Originally, too, there was a tall, round-arched window above the entry, with the oculus above, near the pentroof.

The church has not been used for some years, and the land is now held by the township trustees. Local sentiment is divided between wishing to preserve the church in some way, and having it removed.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martin, Rev. W.C. History of Warren County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1908.  
 History of Warren County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1879.  
 Schooler, Landon, "History of Palmyra", unpublished ms., 1972.  
 National Register Application Questionnaire, SHPO, Iowa City IA  
 Letter, Eric Lloyd Miller to M.H. Bowers, 29 November 1978, on file SHPO, Iowa City IA

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2-3/4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 463670 4586860

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Commencing 40 feet east of the NE corner of Block 5 in the town of Palmyra, Iowa, running thence East 28½ rods bearing same degrees north as Cherry Street; thence due S 20½ rods, thence West 18½ rods bearing same degrees south as Main see cont. see

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of Historic Preservation DATE July 1979

STREET & NUMBER 26 East Market Street TELEPHONE 319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN Iowa City STATE Iowa 52240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE 8/10/79

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Skell DATE 10-1-79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William A. Bralham DATE 9.27.79  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Palmyra Methodist Episcopal Church, Palmyra, Warren Co., Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

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Street more or less to East Street, thence North  $17\frac{1}{2}$  rods bearing same degrees west as east street to the place of beginning. Containing 2-75/100 acres more or less in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 31, T77N, R22W.