UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

1979

SEE IN	ISTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW T</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES (ORMS	
1 NAME HISTORIC Palmy	ra Methodist Episcopa	1 Church			
AND/OR COMMON	ra methodist ipiscopa	1 Old Cli		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Palmy	ra Church		·, ·, ·, · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
2 LOCATION					
STREET & NUMBER					
			NOT FOR PUBLIC		
city, town Palmyra	•	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSION Fifth	AL DISTRICT	
STATE Iowa		CODE	COUNTY Warren	CODE	
3 CLASSIFICA	A TION				
o CLASSIFICA	THON		•		
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT	_XPUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICUL	TUREMUSEUM	
XBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	X_UNOCCUPIED	COMMER	CIALPARK	
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIO	ONALPRIVATE RESIDENCE	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTA	NMENTRELIGIOUS	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNN	MENTSCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	XYES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRI	ALTRANSPORTATION	
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:	
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY				
NAME Do Image	a Township Trustees,	a/a Dalmar Caan			
STREET & NUMBER	Township Trustees,	clo nerman coon			
Route 2	2				
CITY, TOWN			STA	TE	
Carlis	sle X	VICINITY OF	Iowa	a 50047	
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,E	TC. Harris Carretin C				
STREET & NUMBER	Warren County C	ourthouse			
CITY, TOWN			STAT	F	
Indianola			Iowa		
	TATION IN EXIST	INC CLIDVEVC			
	IAHUN IN EAIST	ING SOK VE 13			
TITLE					
	chitectural Survey				
DATE		FFDFRAI	STATECOUNTY _	IOCAL XRegional	
1979- DEPOSITORY FOR	(in process)		COUNTY _	LUCAL	
	SHPO, Iowa City, Iowa				
CITY, TOWN			STAT	E	
				_	

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED
_XALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

__UNEXPOSED

__RUINS

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 narrhex 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.

atemperature contribution in the particle of the contribution of t

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW __PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION __1400-1499 _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION __LAW __SCIENCE __1500-1599 __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE __1600-1699 **XARCHITECTURE** __EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __1700-1799 __ART __ENGINEERING __MUSIC __THEATER X1800-1899 __COMMERCE XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION __1900-__COMMUNICATIONS __INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Wilson Myrick **SPECIFIC DATES** b. 1867-70 Eli Myrick

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Palmyra Church is the center focus of this agricultural community. Its bell has tolled the holidays, patriot's death, and signaled the life and death of this entire community. The architecture is clean cut, aesthetically proportioned, and straightforward (plain and dignified) and stands as a symbol of strength for the people in Palmyra township.

"The church, standing near the Palmyra country school, has been an educative force since it first organized October 29, 1853; one of the oldest churches in this area. In 1869 a great religious revival swept the township. Needing more room, the present 1870 building was erected to seat 500 persons, making it one of the largest congregations in Warren County at that time.

The social and humanitarian values of this church are cited as extremely important to this community by older citizens, especially. The church served as a meeting ground for community ideas."

"The Palmyra Church congregation dates to 1853, and the present structure to 1867-70; these dates represent the earliest Methodist congregation in Warren County and the oldest religious structure in Warren County...Further the church served as the social and cultural center of this area of Warren County, providing an important focal point for not only religious activities, but educational and political activities as well. In sum, this church structure, not the religious congregation per se, served as a major center for a rural area of Warren County until at least 1918...

"The Palmyra Church demonstrates through the detailing of the round headed windows, the oculus in the steeple, the beautiful entrance, and the polished proportions of the structure that this church is more than carpenter vernacular. Indeed, the presence of such classifying detailing on the windows and oculus points to an architect or master builder well-versed in not only the architectural manuals of the contemporary vernacular Gothic styles, but also older Eastern United States or English traditions."²

Statement by Eric Lloyd Miller, in National Register Application Questionnaire, on file at SHPO, Iowa City, Iowa, p. 8

Letter, Eric Lloyd Miller to M.H. Bowers, 29 November 1978, on file SHPO, Iowa City I.

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. Towa City IA

Letter, Eric Lloyd Mi	liler to M.H. Bowers	s, 29 Novem	ber 1978, on file	SHPO, Iowa City IA
10 GEOGRAPHICAL D	ATA	-		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER	_{ry} <u>2-3/4 acres</u>			
QUADRANGLE NAME Hartf	ord, Iowa	-	QUADRANGLE SCALE	1:24,000
OTM REFERENCES A 1 5 4 6 3 6 7 0 ZONE EASTING C 1	4 5 8 6 8 6 10 NORTHING	B ZONE	EASTING NORT	HING
E		F	ليا ليباليا	
GL LILL		нЦ		
town of Palmyra, Iowa Street; thence due S	running thence Ea	ast 28½ rod est 18½ rod	s bearing same deg	rees north as Cherry rees south as Main
STATE	CODE.	COUNTY	A	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
ORGANIZATION	s, Historian Historic Preservat	ion	DATE July 1979 TELEPHONE	
	rket Street	e and the	319/353-69	949 r
city or town Iowa City	VIII A		STATE Iowa 5224(
12 STATE HISTORIC		7.		ON
	ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TI			
NATIONAL	STATE		LOCAL X	
As the designated State Historic Pro- hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth by	inclusion in the National Re			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFF	ICER SIGNATURE	~ N.	hodens	
TITLE Director, Div	vision of Historic	Preservatio	DATE &	110/79
FOR NPS USE ONLY				
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PHUPERTY IS INCLUDED IN	I THE NATIONA	L REGISTER /	n / na
surrecol.	D/U/		DATE	U-1-11
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL	REGISTER Enaumam		DATE 🥍	27-78
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION				

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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DATE EN	TEREN		007	1979

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

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 NW4 of Section 31, T77N, R22W.