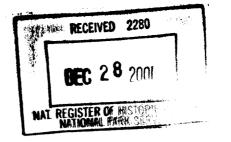
NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



OMB No. 10024-0018

1567

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.

Broad Street Church of Ch	rist	Putnam County, Tennessee				
Name of Property			unty and State			
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		ces within Property y listed resources in count)			
□ private □ public-local □ public Otate	☑ building(s)☐ district	Contributing 1	Noncontributing			
public-State	site			buildings		
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure ☐ object			sites structures		
	□ object			objects		
		1	0	Total		
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not part			uting resources previ	-		
N/A						
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction	ns)	Current Functions (Enter categories from ins	structions)	_		
RELIGION: religious facility		RELIGION: religious	facility			

Materials

roof other

(Enter categories from instructions)

ASPHALT shingles

WOOD, BRICK

foundation STONE walls BRICK

Narrative Description

7. Description

Gothic Revival

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Broad Street Church of Christ Name of Property	Putnam County, Tennessee County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	EDUCATION
■ 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 who's components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1909-1915
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 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheet 	Significant Dates NA Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked) NA Cultural Affiliation NA Architect/Builder Scott, Joseph F. Smoot, William
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form of	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	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository:
Record #	

Name of Property		County and State					
10. Geographical Dat	ia						
Acreage of Property	Less than one acre	Cookeville West 326 NE					
UTM References (place additional UTM refere	nces on a continuation sheet.)						
1 16 633500 Easting 2	4002900 Northing	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet					
	the property on a continuation sheet.)						
	were selected on a continuation sheet.)						
11. Form Prepared B	у						
organization Upper (es/Community Coordinator Cumberland Development Distric 25 South Willow Avenue ville	telephone 931-432-4111 state TN zip code 38506					
Additional Document	ation						
submit the following items w							
Continuation Sheets							
-	(7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicatir	ng the property's location es having large acreage or numerous resources.					
Photographs							
Representative	e black and white photographs	of the property.					
Additional items (Check with the SHPO) or FI	PO for any additional items						
Property Owner	(OUD) 500)						
(Complete this item at the re	quest of SHPO or FPO.)						
name Broad Street C	hurch of Christ, c/o Gertis Carr J	lr.					
street & number 515	East Sixth Street	telephone 931-526-4239					
city or town Cookevil	lle	state TN zip code 38501					
Pananyark Paduation Act	Statement: This information is being so	llected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate					

Putnam County Tennessee

Broad Street Church of Christ

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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page _	1	Broad Street Church of Christ Putnam County, Tennessee

Architectural Description

The Broad Street Church of Christ is located on West Broad Street in Cookeville, Tennessee. Jeremiah (Jere) Whitson donated the property on October 17, 1907. Built in 1908, the current building was not the first house of worship to serve the Church of Christ congregation. The initial meeting room was a shared house of worship with the Methodist congregation until a lot was donated and construction completed in 1874.

The style of the building is Gothic Revival. The contractors were Joseph F. Scott and William Smoot of Cookeville. The construction material is brick and stone, with the wire-cut brick coming from Joseph F. Scott's brickyard in Cookeville. The brick were a natural sepia color before being painted in the first decades of the church's history.

The entrances to the structure are on the north elevation. A two-story bell tower with corbelled brick is attached to the eastern side of this façade. The open arch on the first level serves as an entrance porch and the open arch on the second level provides space for the bell, which was rung daily in the early years. The tower was originally capped with a smaller wood shingled pyramidal spire. Brick dentil work decorates the top of the tower, and other brick decorative work adorns the space between the two arches. The tower on the west side of the façade is one level, acting as a portico to another door. It has a flat roof. Wood and brick dentil work decorates the wall under the eaves of the flat roof. Brick steps extend from the two entrance porticos. Between the two entrances, the façade has three arched double-hung stained glass windows, purported without evidence to be Tiffany glass. A small round stained-glass window pierces the wall above the three arched windows. The roof is front facing gable design.

The west elevation of the building had five arched double-hung stained glass windows with standing buttresses between them. The windows were removed in the 1970s and replaced with single-pane windows of rose-colored glass. Native stone was used for the exterior windowsills. A door in the middle of the west elevation opens into a basement level.

The original wall of the south elevation, behind the pulpit and baptistry, was pierced with two, arched, double-hung stained glass windows. The original south wall is now hidden by a T-wing addition done circa 1940. The plain, undecorated rectangular addition, constructed of brick, has a flat roof. The addition is made up of three levels with the top floor containing four classrooms. The ground floor houses two offices, two restrooms, and a small assembly room. The basement is unused, but is roughly the same dimensions as the two floors above it. Pine tongue and groove wainscoting covers the walls in the addition with plaster above and on the ceilings. Irregularly placed openings on three levels in the south, east, and west elevations have one over one double-hung windows.

The east elevation of the building was constructed with five arched double-hung stained glass windows with standing buttresses between them. The windows were removed in the 1970s and

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section number	7	Page	2	Putnam County, Tennessee

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replaced with single-hung windows of rose-colored glass. Native stone was used for the exterior windowsills. On the south end of the east elevation an arched opening of a porch shields a door into the south wing.

A brick belt course extends around the building below the windows on all four sides of the original building.

The interior has a hardwood floor sloping from the rear to the front of the sanctuary. Wood pews are placed on either side of a central aisle. The front platform has a curved front and a single central pulpit. The ceiling above the pulpit platform is barrel vault construction with plaster surface. A floor-level baptistry with copper lining is behind the pulpit.

Beaded-board wainscoting lines the interior walls beneath the sills of the windows. Plaster covers the walls between wainscoting and ceiling. The sloped ceiling is beaded-board. Massive exposed hammered beams with expansion rods support the ceiling. Pairs of four-light chandeliers are attached to the hammered beams.

Two doors, on opposite sides of the rear of the sanctuary, allow entrance. Adjacent to them on the interior are stairways leading to a basement, which extends completely underneath the entire sanctuary. Two interior doors from the pulpit platform open into small rooms beside/behind the platform.

Some changes to the original structure have been made since its construction. The original exterior brick was painted in the second decade after it was built. The entrance porticos were enclosed with stained glass windows and wood door at the same time. The addition of a Sunday school building on the south side of the sanctuary was completed circa 1940. The original steeple was replaced with a taller octagonal wood spire in the 1960s. All of the original sanctuary stained glass windows were replaced with rose-colored glass in the 1970s. The original wood benches were replaced with new wood pews in the 1970s. The addition of brick platforms and steps in front of the entrance porticos were made in the renovation of the 1970s.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	3	Putnam County, Tennessee

Broad Street Church of Christ

Statement of Significance

Broad Street Church of Christ in Cookeville, Tennessee, built 1908, is being nominated to the National Register Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant contribution in bringing a higher educational institution to Cookeville. Under the aegis of the church, the members promoted the building of an institution of higher education in Putnam County. Beginning with the initial efforts in 1909, until Tennessee Technological University was opened in 1915, the Broad Street Church of Christ played an important role in the educational history of the community. The church building has undergone some modifications since its construction, but it still retains its overall historic character from the early part of the twentieth century.

Broad Street Church of Christ's congregation, organized in 1880, started their ministry by sharing the only meeting room in town with other denominations. Owned by the Methodist Church, the different congregations of Cookeville took turns having church services on Saturdays and Sundays and they combined their Sunday school classes. ¹

After sharing space with the other congregations, the Church of Christ congregation built their first building in 1885 on Washington Avenue in Cookeville. It was small in structure, meeting its purpose at the time, but with the swift growth of the congregation, more room was needed. Jere Whitson and his wife Parizetta Frances met this need some nineteen years later by donating a 120' x 70' lot to the church. The deed stated that the purpose of the lot was to, "build a church house on the said lot to encourage, build up, and maintain a congregation that will in all work and worship use only what is ordered and required in the New Testament." ²

Joe F. Scott and William M. Smoot, builders of the Putnam County Courthouse, completed the new church building, with the brick Scott made in his brickyard, in December 1908.³ The church honored this great effort by hosting a three-month revival.

In the spring of 1909, with their church completed, the Church of Christ congregation laid the groundwork for the planning of a new college. Its purpose, the founders declared, was to aid the Church of Christ. Approximately eighty individuals signed pledges that day. These pledges were to be paid providing the members of the Church of Christ raised \$15,000 from its members at or near Cookeville and its supporters raised an additional \$10,000 from its members and friends. In the fall

¹ Delozier, Mary Jean, <u>Putnam County, Tennessee</u>, 1850-1970 (Nashville: McQuiddy Printing Company, 1979), 81.

² Putnam County Courthouse, Deeds, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

³ Boyd, Ernest. Nuggets of Putnam County History: Historical Articles, Volume 1. Ed. Christine Spivey Jones, 19.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	4	Broad Street Church of Christ Putnam County, Tennessee

ten men signed a charter of incorporation to establish a "Calvin's Book school or college or university" 4at Cookeville, Tennessee. These men all had close ties with the Church of Christ in Cookeville.

When Cookeville residents entered the twentieth century, they had an institution that offered programs beyond the elementary level, but none at the college level. Members of the Broad Street Church of Christ donated their time, effort, and money to the creation of Dixie College. Fundraising and lobbying efforts as well as the obtaining of land for the college, all came from the hard work and dedication of the members of the Broad Street Church of Christ. These efforts to establish a college in Cookeville were rewarded when a charter was secured from the state on November 18, 1909 that created the University of Dixie or Dixie College as it came to be known.

The charter from the state did not specify exactly what kind of school was to be established. It empowered the assignees to "establish, maintain, manage, and conduct a school or college or university"⁵ at Cookeville. As for the curriculum, it permitted "all branches of learning to be taught." ⁶ The charter also granted the institution "full power and authority to confer degrees and exercise all powers which are usually exercised by schools, colleges and universities." Thus, it was not clear as to whether the institution would operate as a high school, college, or both.⁷

The religious orientation of the school was recognized in several ways, including organization. The charter stated that the Bible should be taught "in a special or separate department, daily." ⁸ Another provision mandated that the board of directors must be made up only of Members of the Church of Christ. Board members, once appointed should hold office "for life," or as long as they remained "members of the church in good standing." ⁹ The charter called for the election of a president, secretary, and treasurer within a convenient time. This was accomplished at a meeting on December 21, 1909, in which Jeremiah (Jere) Whitson was elected president, A.G. Maxwell, vice-president, W. B. Boyd, secretary, and Robert Farley, treasurer.

Although the charter clearly spelled out that the University of Dixie was to be controlled by members of the Church of Christ, additional Cookeville citizens rallied to pledge their support. Later, financial difficulties caused the University of Dixie to be changed into the four-year high school for the city.

⁴ Neufeldt, Harvey G. and Dickinson, W. Calvin, <u>The Search for Identity - A History of Tennessee Technological University 1915-1985</u> (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1991), 1

⁵ Neufeldt and Dickinson, 3.

⁶ Neufeldt and Dickinson, 3.

⁷ Neufeldt and Dickinson, 3

⁸ Neufeldt and Dickinson, 3.

⁹ Neufeldt and Dickinson, 3

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Putnam County, Tennessee	Section number	8	Page	5	Broad Street Church of Christ Putnam County, Tennessee
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However, the School of Bible of the University of Dixie continued to operate even after the college was closed. It offered courses in church history, evidences of Christianity, homiletics, logic, Greek, vocal music, and elocution.

In the end, neither the college nor the bible school survived. Both died because of lack of finances. The dream, however, of bringing a college to Cookeville was not dead. Where private and church-related efforts failed, political lobbying succeeded. What emerged from the dreams was not a church but rather a state institution. The battles that resulted in the creation of the University of Dixie/ Dixie College led to the establishment of the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute at Cookeville in 1915, now known as Tennessee Technological University.

Jere Whitson, Chairman of the Board of Dixie College and Broad Street Church of Christ elder, had numerous supporters, one of his most useful being the newly elected governor's private secretary. The secretary was Whitson's half-brother and he favored the establishment of a state normal school in Cookeville. With Dixie College closed, Whitson set his sights to locating a state normal school in Cookeville. Whitson joined forces with the State Superintendent of Education, S.H. Thompson to draft the bill for the technical institute.

Tennessee Polytechnic Institute was created on March 27, 1915. Governor Thomas C. Rye signed the bill with Jere Whitson at his side. Whitson even bought the fountain pen for the momentous occasion. Tennessee Polytechnic Institute encompassed all of the original twelve acres donated by Jere Whitson for the University of Dixie and at last was successful.

Cookeville was fortunate to have such dedicated residents as the Broad Street Church of Christ congregation and their devoted elder Jere Whitson to extend the educational opportunities for children in the Upper Cumberland region. Not only did they play a major part in the formation of the University of Dixie, but they also advocated for the establishment of the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, which later became Tennessee Technological University. The meager 100 students that enrolled in 1912 now number well over 8,000 per year at Tennessee Tech. Without their combined persistence, Cookeville would not be what it is today.

Again, due to size, the 600 plus congregation has moved to a new location, but this landmark of Upper Cumberland history still stands on Broad Street in Cookeville. The sign in front of the church

¹⁰ Smith, Austin Wheeler, The Story of Tennessee Tech (Nashville: McQuiddy Printing Company, 1957), 25.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

				Broad Street Church of Christ	
Section number	8	Page	6	Putnam County, Tennessee	

has now changed to Central Emmanuel Baptist Church. Weekly services are held with a large attendance.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

				Broad Street Church of Christ
Section number	9	Page	7	Putnam County, Tennessee

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	9	Page	8	Broad Street Church of Christ Putnam County, Tennessee	

Whitney, Gertrude. Cookeville in Retrospect. Dallas, Texas: [n.p.], 1943.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	10	Page	9	Broad Street Church of Christ Putnam County, Tennessee

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property corresponds to the marked area of Parcel "D" 7, 120x70 Putnam County Tax Map 053G.

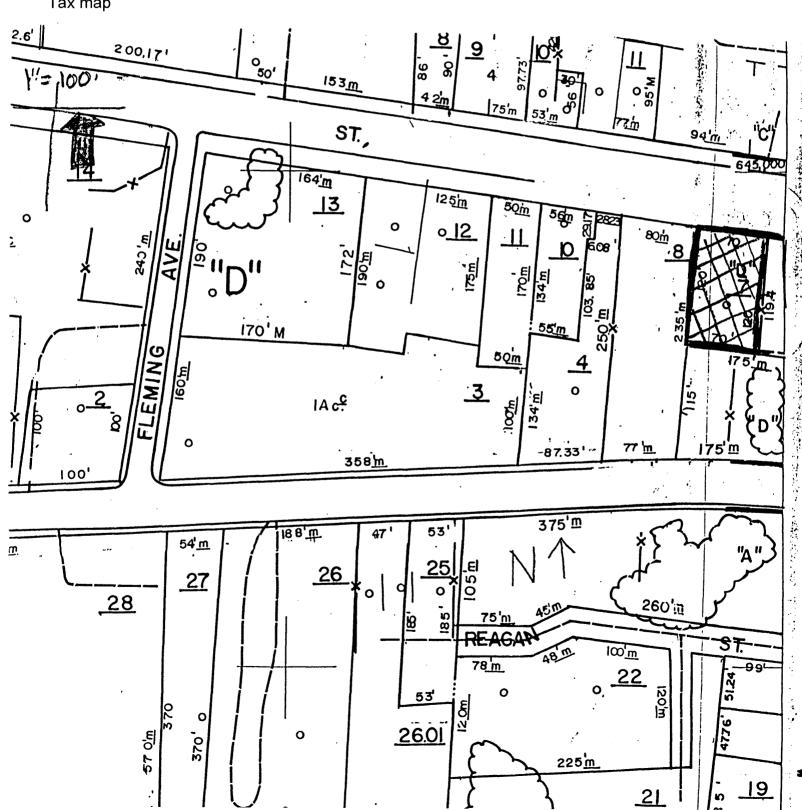
Boundary Justification

The boundary for the nominated parcel is 120' x 70'. This includes all of the land that was historically a part of Broad Street Church of Christ.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10 Production Page 10 Putnam County, Tennessee

Tax map



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	numh	٩r

photos Page 11

Broad Street Church of Christ Putnam County, Tennessee

Photographs

Broad Street Church of Christ

Photos By:

John Lucas

Tennessee Technological University Photographic Services

Box 5105

Cookeville, TN 38505-0001

Date:

August 2001

Negatives:

Tennessee Historical Commission

Nashville, Tennessee

Original wood beaded-board ceiling and arches with original brass lighting fixtures 1 of 8

Original Tiffany stained glass windows at front of church 2 of 8

Sanctuary

3 of 8

Original Tiffany stained glass window

4 of 8

North facade

5 of 8

West elevation

6 of 8

South elevation

7 of 8

East elevation

8 of 8

Historic Photo of Church c. 1908

9 of 9



BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHREET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED A	CTION: ADDITI	ONAL	DOCUMEN'TA'	LIOI	N		
PROPERTY INAME:	Broad Street C	hurc	h of Chris	t			
MULTIPLE NAME:							
STATE & COU	NTY: TENNESSE	E, P	utnam				
DATE RECEIVED DATE OF WEEL DATE	H DAY:	0/02			PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY:	12/25,	/02
REFERENCE NU	UMBER: 010015	67					
REASONS FOR	REVIEW:						
OTHER: N		N	PERIOD:	N	LESS THAN 50 YE PROGRAM UNAPPRO NATIONAL:		N N N
COMMENT WAI	VER: N						
ACCEPT	RETURN		REJECT		DATE		
ABSTRACT/SUN	MMARY COMMENTS	:					
RECOM./CRATE REVIEWER TELEPHONE	BIA COOP	k	DISCIPI DATE	INE	Historian 12/18/02		
DOCUMENTATIO	ON see attached	d co	mments Y/N	see	e attached SLR Y	/N	

NPS FORM 10-900-A (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section number	NA	_ Page	1	Broad Street Church of Christ Putnam County, Tennessee

The Broad Street Church of Christ was listed in the National Register on February 1, 2002. The nomination had an incorrect street address for the property. The correct address is 157 East Broad Street.