

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received APR 23 1986

date entered MAY 22 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South

and/or common Culleoka United Methodist Church

**2. Location**

street & number Quality Street N/A  not for publication

city, town Culleoka N/A  vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 119

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Trustees of the Culleoka Methodist Church

street & number P.O. Box 99

city, town Culleoka N/A  vicinity of state Tennessee 38451

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maury County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Columbia state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maury County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983-1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1868
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South on Quality Street in the southeastern Maury County, Tennessee market town of Culleoka is a good illustration of mid-nineteenth century vernacular Greek Revival architecture. The structure dates to 1838, when it was erected at Wilkes Camp Ground northwest of Culleoka. In 1868 it was moved to the present site. The church is of braced frame construction and is covered with weatherboard siding. The building rests on a mixed stone and brick foundation and is topped by a front gabled tin roof. A full basement at the rear of the building now serves as a Sunday school. In the late nineteenth century a preparatory school was conducted here.

The building faces south towards Quality Street. The rather plain facade is topped by a heavy pediment with simple raking and horizontal cornices and a flush boarded tympanum. Two four-panel doors with pedimented lintels and colored glass transoms are located on the facade.

The east and west elevations are plain but for four double hung sash stained glass windows and a box cornice. The north or rear elevation is a plain weatherboarded wall.

Below the rear of the building is a one story basement, once used as a schoolhouse, and still used as the church school. Walls are of mixed brick and stone construction. Six-panel doors and 4/4 double hung sash windows provide light and access to this section. The basement now has a poured floor but otherwise retains its basic original appearance.

The interior plan is an open hall with three sets of pews facing a raised chancel area and corner choir. The old floors are of pine laid in a diagonal fashion, but the original wooden ceiling has been covered with accoustical tiles. The chancel area and the choir are separated from the front by a railing comprised of carved balusters while a chair rail encircles the entire interior.

The Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South is situated on a small hillside lot and minimally landscaped with a large oak tree and a few small maple trees. The church has undergone some minor alterations but still retains much of its nineteenth century character.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1868-1876 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South in Culleoka, Maury County, Tennessee is being nominated under National Register criterion A for its local historical significance in the area of education. The congregation, established in the early part of the nineteenth century, built the church in 1838 and moved it to its present location in 1868. That same year the Culleoka Institute was established in the basement of the church. Two years later William R. Webb became principal of the school which would develop into Webb School, one of the best preparatory schools in the region. Classes were held in the Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South until 1876 when a new school was built.

The earliest record of Methodism in the southeastern part of Maury County is the organization of the Pleasant Garden Methodist Episcopal Class by circuit riders in 1818. The Reverend Nathaniel Moore, a native of Granville County, North Carolina and a Revolutionary War soldier, was instrumental in the founding of the group. Land for a church north of present-day Culleoka (est. 1857) was deeded by William Covey to the church on January 20, 1824, and a hewn log structure was erected. This building stood for some seventy years before it was destroyed by fire. An early circuit rider, John McKelvey (1808-ca. 1900), began his ministry at the age of nineteen near this place. Other circuit riders from Pleasant Garden established Shane's Chapel near Campbell's Station, in Maury County, south of Culleoka soon afterwards.

In 1838 Pleasant Garden and Shane's Chapel were consolidated at Wilke's Camp Ground, now Wilkes Cemetery, northwest of Culleoka. Under terms of the deed, the church trustees were required to erect a building fifty feet long by twenty-six feet wide, divided into two apartments for use as a female academy and a church. Specifications also dictated that it was to be built so that it might be used as a large auditorium.

The church remained at Wilke's Camp Ground until 1868 when the building was dismantled and moved to Culleoka, a rail stop on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The building was reerected and remains in use as a Methodist Church to this day. The church retains its records from this period. Bills and ledgers show that the cost for the entire 1868 church, including new furnishings, totaled \$2,798.32.

At this time (1868), the Culleoka Institute was established in the basement of the building. A.G. Dinwiddle, pastor of the church, served as the first principal. In 1870 he was succeeded by William R. Webb of North Carolina.

William R. "Sawney" Webb, a former Confederate officer, left post-war North Carolina and crossed the Appalachians looking for a community in need of a school teacher. Webb had served in Lee's army and was severely wounded at the Battle of Malvern Hill. During his period of invalidism he renewed his studies of Latin, Greek, and mathematics at the University of North Carolina, which at the time had only sixty-three students, most of them, like himself, temporarily unfit for war. Towards the end of the war he returned to service with Stuart's cavalry and was captured three days before Lee's surrender. In 1870, after finding North Carolina's Reconstruction regime unfavorable to a young school-

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Campbell's Station, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### 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 Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central TN Development District date October 1985

street & number P.O. Box 1346 telephone 615/381-2040

city or town Columbia state Tennessee

# 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.

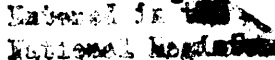
Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 4/17/86

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for  
Shelley Byers  
Keeper of the National Register



date 5/22/86

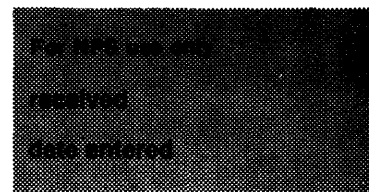
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Culleoka Methodist Episcopal  
Continuation sheet Church South

Item number 8

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teacher, he left to seek his fortune in Tennessee. He began teaching in the basement of the church in Culleoka that year and was soon joined by his brother, John, who assisted in teaching the more than one hundred students enrolled.

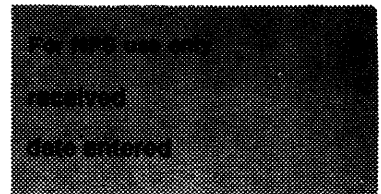
Webb determined that the school should be an institution of the strictly classical type, with the sole intent of preparing boys for admission to college, and thus offered only those subjects he considered would achieve this end. The Webbs imparted to the sons of the region's bankrupt gentry the finest classical education that the times afforded. Classes were given in Latin, Greek, mathematics, English, and history. It was the first such school of its nature west of the mountains and the first of a number of small preparatory schools which influenced the South for the next half century.

The school proved quite successful and a new school building was constructed in Culleoka in 1876. It was recognized as one of the finest in the region, and everything appeared amiable until 1886 when Webb discovered that Culleoka saloons were selling liquor to his students. Webb asked and then demanded that the practice stop. When his efforts proved unsuccessful, he moved the school to the Bedford County town of Bell Buckle, an important rail stop on the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad. The Culleoka school building burned in 1896. Webb School is still located in Bell Buckle.

The Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South is the oldest Methodist congregation in the southwestern part of Maury County. It has remained in continuous use and has been an important part of the community for 117 years. The church is significant for its associations with the development of education in the late nineteenth century, including the establishment of Webb School, the first boy's preparatory school of its nature in the region. The present church structure retains the same basic appearance it had in the 1870s when school classes were held in it. Minor interior changes have been made, but overall the building still possesses much of its historic and architectural integrity.

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Continuation sheet Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South Item number 9 Page 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

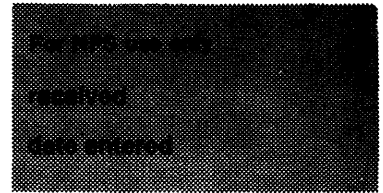
Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South. Subscription List. 1868.

Denton, Betty Merrill. "Culleoka Once Home of Webb School." The Daily Herald, (Columbia), 29 August 1970, sup-1.

Gibson, Betty. "History of the Culleoka Methodist Church." Author's copy, written for The Nashville Tennessean, typed MSS, 1968.

Gibson, Betty. Church Secretary. Interview, October 1985.

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National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Culleoka Methodist Episcopal  
Church South Item number 10

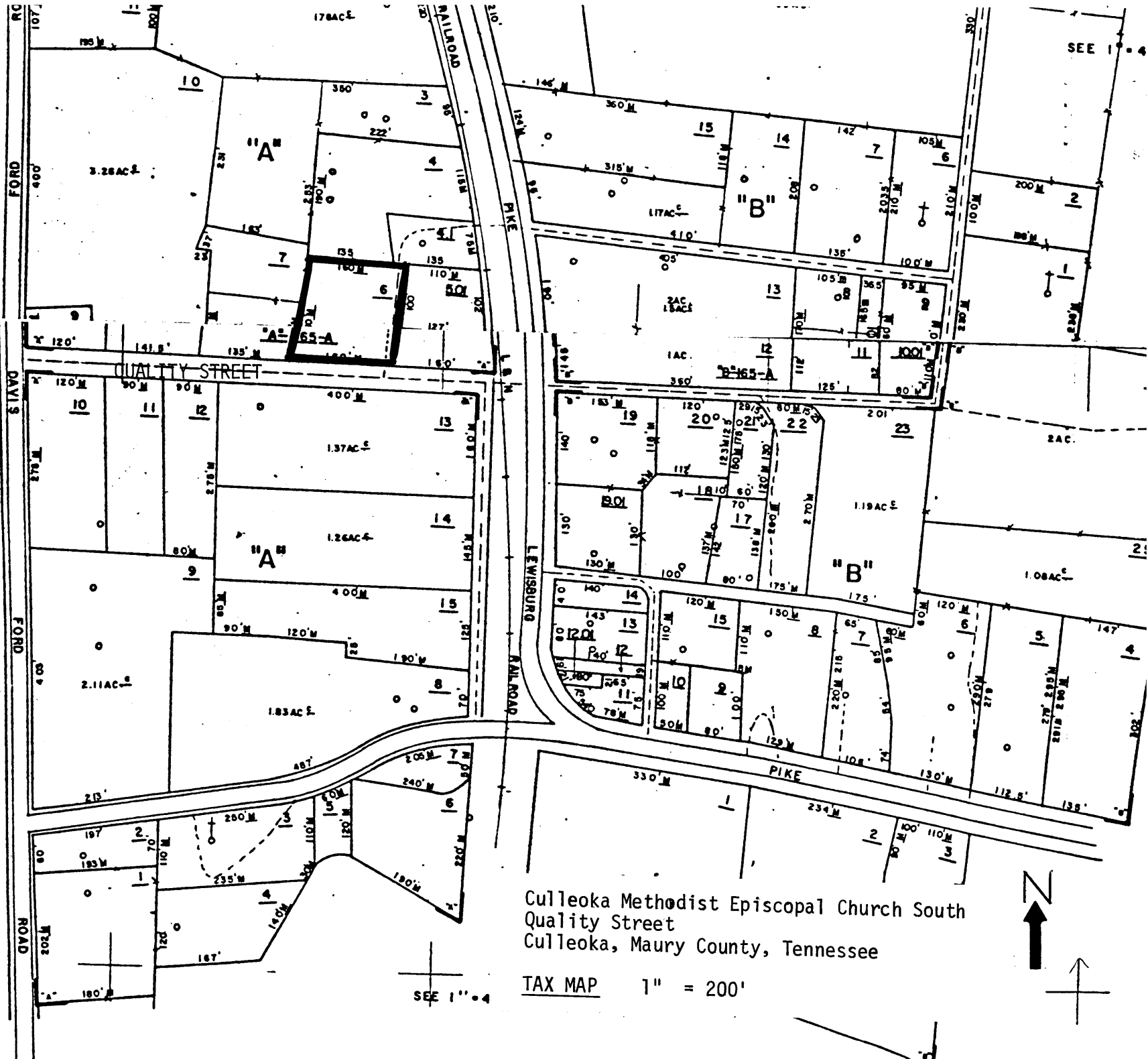
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is rectangular in shape and less than one acre in size. It is bounded on the south by Quality Street and on the east, north, and west, by adjoining property lines. (See tax map) This includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South.

SEE 1"=400'

SEE 1"=400'



Culleoka Methodist Episcopal Church South  
 Quality Street  
 Culleoka, Maury County, Tennessee

TAX MAP 1" = 200'

SEE 1"=400'

SEE 1"=400'