

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

17

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Salem Church

other names/site number Salem Presbyterian Church (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 147 Washington College Road N/A not for publication

city or town Limestone (Washington College) vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Washington code 179 zip code 37681

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 8/3/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:) _____

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper Nelora Byer Date of Action 9/22/92

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof slate

other STONE

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
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 whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1894-1895

Significant Dates

1894-1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brown, A. Page

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form 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 Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Salem Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Washington Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx 1.25 acres

Telford, TN

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	3	5	8	7	0	0	4	0	0	9	2	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jo Gibson & Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Salem Presbyterian Church & TN Hist. Comm. date May 1992

street & number 312 W. Main; 701 Broadway telephone (615) 753-8006; 742-6722

city or town Jonesborough; Nashville state TN zip code 37659; 37243

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Salem Presbyterian Church

street & number 147 Washington College Road telephone (615) 257-5792

city or town Limestone state TN zip code 37681

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 listings. 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 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TNDESCRIPTION

Salem Presbyterian Church is located on Washington College Road in Washington County (pop. 94,000), Tennessee. It stands on approximately one and one-quarter acres of land facing the Washington College Academy campus. Although the two properties, Salem Presbyterian Church and Washington College no longer sit on the same parcel of land, the church faces inward towards the campus and appears as if it is an integral part of the school.

Constructed in Richardson Romanesque style, the building has a number of distinctive exterior features. All brick for the building exterior was fired on the site and was laid using warm-tone mortar which blends with the reddish brown of the brick. Bricks vary somewhat from a general length of eight and one-half inches and are laid in common bond. A watertable band of stone extends around the building. Immediately below the stone sills of the windows is a second narrower band which extends around the building. The original slate roof is still in place on the church, but is beginning to have problems and will soon need to be replaced. Stone coping caps the walls around the rooflines.

The north elevation, or front, of the church contains a large central gable over an entrance portico and features a rose window eleven feet in diameter, protected by a two and one-fourth inch wide metal band about its circumference. The portico is supported by two round columns of brick construction and half-columns at each end. The columns are constructed of handmade brick with curved faces to suit the three and one-half feet diameter of the columns. Stone capitals surmount the columns; the base of the columns rests on the concrete porch floor. Under the portico, three sets of double doors of oak panel construction, lead from the portico directly into the sanctuary. Distinctive brass egg-shaped knobs operate the door latches. The porch remains today as it was built originally, although more recently an area of ground running its length and forty-two inches wide has been concreted at the foot of the front steps. Very recently railings and concrete ramps have been added for access by the handicapped.

Immediately to the west of the main entrance portico is a square bell tower rising somewhat higher than the central gable. The tower is square pierced only by narrow loop-style windows and topped with a high pyramidal roof with metal finial. The roof appears to be supported by merlons while vents fill in the embrasure portions of the battlement. The north face of the bell tower has three narrow windows reminiscent of loop windows. A single

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

oak-paneled door opens from the portico on the east side to a room in the base of the tower.

To the east of the portico is a smaller shouldered gable portion with a single semi-circular arched window centered in the otherwise solid brick wall. This section of the north facade identifies the current nursery and chapel portion of the church. A single oak-paneled door on the west wall of this section provides access to the building.

The west elevation of the church is dominated by a large stained glass window capped by a shouldered gable projection extending above the side gable roof of the sanctuary. This large semi-circular arched window is flanked on either side by two smaller stained glass windows separated by small buttresses. The buttresses have stone-capped offsets where the depth of the buttress is reduced. The buttresses correspond with the heavy beams which cross the interior of the sanctuary. At north end of the west elevation is the square bell tower with a single loop style window near the top of the tower. At the south end of the wall is a recessed section that houses the former pastor's study, now parlor. A single semi-circular arched window is located on this section. The largest window has four header courses of brick, the other windows have three header courses.

On the east elevation are four semi-circular arched stained glass windows and a smaller segmental arched stained glass window on the south end. The four smaller windows (three semi-circular and one segmental arched) flank the larger semi-circular, two on each side. The middle three windows light the chapel, the north window lights the nursery, and southern most window lights the choir room. A four-course brick header is over the large central window. The other windows have three-course headers. Two buttresses similar to those on the west elevation flank the large window. These buttresses correspond with two beams that cross the interior of the chapel. Also visible on the east elevation is a triangular ventilator that forms a cross-gable to the sanctuary roof.

The south elevation has a semi-circular arched window that lights the sanctuary at the western end. Two smaller segmental arched stained glass windows light the rear addition, one to an area back of the parlor and one to the choir room. A rear entrance door centered between the segmental arched windows has a stained glass panel above it. Central to the south elevation is an add-on chimney, constructed for coal fired boiler was installed in the area underneath for heating, this unit is no in use. An original chimney rising from the edge of the sanctuary roof is now capped.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

A second original chimney now serves the oil fired boiler currently used for heating.

The sanctuary of the church is entered at the back from the portico which runs across the front of the church. Among the details which make this room of architectural interest is the English style Craftsman wood truss structure which is made of two hand-hewn unjointed white pine beams of approximately fifty feet in length bearing the marks of the adz, which are clearly visible, and supported by hand forged metal braces. The logs from which these beams were from a local farm. The cross-beams are enhanced by modified square billet trim cut into the edge.

The walls of the sanctuary are plaster with a four foot wood panel wainscot surrounding the room. At the front of the sanctuary is a single set of oak-paneled horizontal sliding doors that separates the sanctuary from the church parlor. Above this door hangs a large handmade cross which was crafted by T. Henry Jablonski, a much loved president of the school. A single semi-circular arched stained glass window is located to the west of the doors. The pulpit, altar, and choir pews are arranged on the raised platform. The original altar was replaced by a second one in 1953. Shortly thereafter pulpit chairs, flower stands, and a long communion table were donated to the church by a member. In 1945 an electric organ had been acquired replacing the reed organ and in 1959 a grand piano was given by a church member. At the rear, or north wall of the sanctuary, the main feature is the large centered rose window. Three sets of double doors provide access into the room.

The west wall of the sanctuary contains the large semi-circular stained glass window with memorial to Samuel Doak. This window is flanked by the two smaller window, each a memorial to church elders, beginning with the Reverend John Ruskin, who was married to the daughter of Samuel Doak, on the south one and ending with three generations of Matheses from Alexander Mathes, I to Alexander Mathes, III on the north window.

On the east wall of the sanctuary a large nine by twelve foot hidden upward sliding door separates the sanctuary from the chapel it is flanked by two smaller similar ones on either side. These doors are still operable, the larger one being opened only on occasions when large groups are to be accommodated. A remarkable feature of the church is the precision with which the panels in the doors were made. Each panel of every door is precise in measurement, and these measurements are consistent throughout the church.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

The original oak pews in the sanctuary give a seating capacity of six hundred fifty. The ends are decorated with what appears to be an olive branch style scrollwork, regarded as the emblem of peace. The larger pews which are located at the back of the sanctuary are arranged with a short aisle descending from the back about nine feet so as to make seating easier. There are two side aisles descending toward the chancel from the two side doors at the back of the sanctuary.

Sometime between 1945 and 1948 the original lights in the sanctuary, which consisted of a single large hanging lamp in the center and a string of bare bulbs running the length of the aforementioned beams were replaced with six chandeliers of Gothic design. At the same time the hurricane type lamps in the chapel were replaced with three matching chandeliers. The church has always been electrified.

The floor of the sanctuary is oak, as are all of the floors throughout the church. About 1965 new white oak floors were laid over the old flooring in both the sanctuary and the chapel. At that time the carpeting dating from 1953 was taken up in both rooms and put down again. The carpet ran down the aisles of both the sanctuary and the chapel, and at about the same time padding of the pews took place. Ceiling fans were added in the sanctuary in 1975.

Around 1975 wallpaper was put on the walls above the wainscoting in an effort to cover cracks in the plaster. However, because of seeping moisture, improper flashing, and roof valley problems, the paper at the front of the church is peeling. The remainder of the paper has been damaged by smoke from the oil furnace.

The chapel, which is on the east side of the sanctuary was originally called the "Sunday School Room" until circa 1980 when Washington College Academy started conducting its daily chapel services in the room. This room is separated from the nursery at one end and the choir room at other by panelled oak folding doors centered by two conventional doors. It has a wood truss structure similar to that in the sanctuary, though much smaller. The seats of the chapel, which were originally anchored together in the mode of theater seats were replaced around 1965 with new oak pews when the original seats became unsafe.

Three stained glass windows on the east side of the chapel provide natural light to the chapel. Names of prominent leaders in the church are inscribed on these windows including Ebenezer L. Mathes, son of Alexander Mathes, I, who died in 1868 leaving half of his estate, amounting to \$7,000

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

to the church in his will. The memorial inscription on this window reads, "The Lord Loveth a Cheerful Giver". The Mathes Fund is still filling the purpose for which it was intended. On the south end of the chapel a four foot high partition wall was built to accommodate stairs to the basement in 1952.

The choir room is located at the south end of the chapel and still serves its original purpose. Much needed benches were added at the same time that the new seating in the chapel and choir loft of the sanctuary was installed, approximately 1965. The walls of this room were covered with wall paper above the wainscoting at the same time as the sanctuary in 1974, and along with some of the other rooms is in need of repair. As in all of the other rooms, the choir has four foot wainscoting. A stained glass window is on the south side as well as the east side. The room is separated from the chapel on the north side by the folding oak doors described earlier.

The room which has served as a children's room for over forty years, now serves as the nursery and can be entered at the east end of the portico or from the chapel. The exterior entrance was originally used as an entryway to the "Sunday School Room". The nursery is a very small room with oak wainscoting and oak floors. The walls are of plaster over brick, but because of persistent roof leaks in recent years they are in need of repair. Two stained glass windows adorn the east and north sides of the room providing light.

Located at the south end of the sanctuary is the parlor which was originally used as a pastor's study. The room is located behind the chancel, being separated from the sanctuary by the sliding oak doors. This room also has oak wainscoting and floors. Above the wainscoting is plaster covered brick walls. A stained glass window on the west side gives light to the room, supplemented by a hanging hurricane lamp. At the back of the room is a floor to ceiling arrangement of cabinets and drawers for storage. The room can also be entered from the east through a small hallway that serves as access from the rear door of the church. This entrance hall has two utility rooms leading off of it.

The bell tower has the original bell, although it is not sounded as often as it once was. The entrance is at the west end of the portico opposite the nursery. As in the other rooms of the church, there is a wainscoting of about four feet, and a bookcase covering the entire west wall. A door on the opposite wall opens into the sanctuary. Although this small room was originally used as a bell tower only, it now doubles as a library as

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 6Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

well as a Sunday School class room. In 1953 when carpet was put in the sanctuary and chapel it was also laid in this room. Two very small vertical stained glass windows, measuring approximately eighteen by thirty-six inches are on the north and south sides of the room.

In 1952 a basement was excavated under the sanctuary. Before that only a small room which housed the coal furnace (as well as the coal) was located under the choir room. This basement room has an outside door opening into a descending stairwell into which the coal could be unloaded. The current basement is rectangular in shape and has a two foot wide ledge built along the west and part of the south wall. The walls are plaster covered and the floor is covered with vinyl tile. A small room, which is used for a children's Sunday School class room, is off of the north east corner. The basement also has rest rooms and a kitchen at the south end of the room. An outside door opening out into a descending stairwell is at the west end of this room. A door on the east side of the room leads out to inside stairs which go up to the chapel. An entrance from an outside descending stairwell is at the west side, adjacent to the bell tower. In 1990 acoustical tile was installed in the ceiling along with six recessed ceiling lights, making the room more comfortable for holding church meetings, dinners, the annual bazaar, and for use by community groups. At the same time the entire room was given a coat of paint by church members.

Although there have been minor changes over the years, the original structure of the church remains much as it did when built in 1894. Some of the other changes that have occurred to the church include: in 1974 the coal burning furnace was replaced with one using oil and in 1977 storm windows were installed on all of the stained glass windows except the rose window in the front of the church. Ten years later, in 1987, the window was taken apart, repaired and given new bracing by Richard Donoho, a glass craftsman who is a member of the church. This was done with the aid of other church members who helped with scaffolding, etc. In 1989 ramps were built at each end of the portico, and the same year safety railings were installed on the walkway hugging the side of the bell tower as well as along the sides of each newly built ramp. All steps are protected, including the stoop at the back of the church, and the original "coal chute" is enclosed by railing. Grates were placed over the four window wells on the outside of the church. The parking lot was paved in 1980.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salem Presbyterian Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its architectural significance to the Washington College/Limestone vicinity in Washington County, Tennessee and under criterion A in Social History for its association with the philanthropic endeavors of Nettie Fowler McCormick. The Romanesque Revival church is located in Washington County, the oldest county in the state of Tennessee, and the geographical center of the great mountain district extending from Virginia to Alabama.

Salem Church, now known as Salem Presbyterian Church, was founded in 1780 by the Reverend Samuel Doak. Samuel Doak was of Scotch-Irish heritage and a graduate of Princeton, where his values and devotion to duty were shaped by the renowned Dr. John Witherspoon. Reverend Doak rode into East Tennessee in 1780, his saddlebags bulging with books, and reportedly came upon a group of woodsmen felling trees near Little Limestone Creek. Upon learning that he was a preacher, they urged him to preach a sermon to them, this he did from the back of his horse, and from this chance meeting, Salem Church, the first Presbyterian church in the state, came into being. Doak was the first minister to make his home in Tennessee and was the apostle of Presbyterianism in the state, having been licensed to preach by Hanover Presbytery in 1777.

Alexander Mathes, I, a surveyor and civil engineer, was one of the early pioneers who urged Doak to stay in the area, and donated fifty acres of land to him to be used for the establishment of a church and a school. Thus, Salem Church and Martin Academy (now Washington College Academy), once the light of learning in the wilderness, were founded and have clung tenaciously to their purpose. The original church building was constructed of logs at the east corner of what is now Harris Hall on the Academy Campus. In 1825 the first church building was replaced with a brick building erected on the northwest side of Harris Hall and east of Salem Cemetery were both Samuel Doak and Alexander Mathes, I are interred.

The first western Presbytery (Abingdon) was organized in the original log church in October 1785 with Samuel Doak as its moderator, thus becoming the nucleus about which Holston Presbytery was later formed. However, being of independent minded stock, during the Civil War Salem Church stood alone refusing to connect itself with the Southern Assembly.

Although Washington College Academy is at present in hiatus, throughout their more than two hundred year history the school and church have been

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

co-existent and co-joined in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship as was envisioned by Doak and Mathes. All presidents of the school up to 1891 were also pastors of Salem Church. Since then school presidents have filled the pulpits of Salem numerous times, with a few acting as interim pastors. And for many years Salem pastors also taught Bible classes at the school. This practice continued with only a few interruptions until the closing of the school in 1990. In the last decade the church chapel was used by the school for their daily chapel services. Baccalaureate services have always been held in the church sanctuary, as well as many other special events. Throughout the school's existence boarding students have been required to attend church at Salem when they were on campus, and have enriched the church by participating in music and youth activities. In 1989 the church instituted a program called "Students and Parents" in which each Sunday members of the church would adopt a student for a day. The program was popular with both students and church members. The church has always provided financial support to the school.

The construction of the present church building in 1894 - 1895 was undoubtedly undertaken because the 1825 brick church became too small to house the growing congregation. In planning for the project, all concerned must have realized that the terrain where the old church stood was unsuitable for a structure such as was anticipated for the "new" church. A site was chosen at the south side of the school campus, on what was part of the original fifty acres donated by Mathes. Although delineations between church and school were not set out by Mathes, in 1894 a deed was drawn up describing the church property boundaries and recorded in the Washington County Courthouse in Jonesborough. The official name of the church was changed from Salem Church to Salem Presbyterian Church by the approval of a new charter in 1899. The present building, designed by A. Page Brown, was erected as a memorial to Samuel Doak. As written in the church records of the period, the entire cost of building the church was \$10,073.76.

Church records show that James H. Willis, a contractor from Greeneville, Tennessee, served as superintendent to the project. This is supplemented by the hand written notes of Bertie Mathes Miller, who was living at the time the church was constructed, which lists Willis as the contractor. In order to minimize the cost of the construction of the church, both church members and students of the school are reported to have pitched in to help wherever they could. The brick for the church was burnt on the premises a few yards from the church site by the firm of C. A. Coile of Greeneville, Tennessee. The logs for the beams in the sanctuary, were donated by the Millers, who were members of the church. The logs were transported to the building site over rough roads by a three team wagon, a distance of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

approximately seven miles, from the farm of James Miller and his son Jerome.

Mrs. Nettie Fowler (Cyrus) McCormick aided in the construction of Salem Presbyterian Church by donating a substantial contribution of \$3,500 to the congregation and hiring A. Page Brown, an architect who at that time was residing in California, to design the church. Nettie Fowler McCormick began her philanthropic endeavors after the death of her husband Cyrus McCormick in 1884 with the administration of his will. McCormick's will provided for an estate of ten million dollars to be undivided for five years with the stipulation that his ". . . wife and his oldest son [Cyrus McCormick, II] were empowered 'to make reasonable donations therefrom to charity of benevolent purposes. . . .'"

Mrs. McCormick and her son Cyrus, II continued to donate to the charitable interests that were held by Cyrus McCormick, I. These included the Presbyterian church, McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago), and church colleges. By 1889 Mrs. McCormick and her son had given away \$475,000. Between 1890 and 1923, Nettie Fowler McCormick donated eight million dollars to educational institutions, churches, youth activities, orphanages, etc.

Mrs. McCormick's philanthropic projects in Tennessee, in addition to Salem Presbyterian Church, included Tusculum College in Greenfield (\$352,774), Washington College, Tennessee (\$613), Morristown Normal and Industrial College (\$22,128), Harold McCormick School (\$16,125), Maryville College (\$1,800), Flag Pond [Cory School] (\$5,050), and the Thornwell Orphanage (\$53,664). There is no information available at this time to indicate if any other churches in Tennessee received donations from Mrs. McCormick. In Charles O. Burgess' book Nettie Fowler McCormick: Profile of an American Philanthropist, he indicates that Presbyterian churches outside of Chicago received a total of \$32,278.

The donation of \$3,500 to Salem Presbyterian Church from Mrs. Nettie Fowler McCormick, to aid in the construction, is by no means her largest donation in Tennessee. However, the donation is her only known donation to a church in Tennessee and represents an important philanthropic philosophy held by Mrs. McCormick.

Salem Presbyterian Church is significant in architecture to the Washington College/Limestone vicinity, Washington County, Tennessee as an unusual example of an eclectic ecclesiastical building whose primary influence is Romanesque Revival. The church building was designed by A. Page Brown, an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

architect residing in California at the time the building was designed. Brown was born in New York in 1859 and graduated from Cornell University. After graduation he worked for McKim, Meade, and White and at one time resided in Minnesota. In 1886 he designed Fowler Hall, now a part of McCormick Seminary in Chicago for Nettie Fowler McCormick. Between 1884 and 1887 McCormick Hall at Tusculum College (Tusculum College Historic District NR 11/25/80) was constructed from a design by Brown. In 1893 he designed the California State Building for the Chicago Exposition and also designed the Ferry Station Post Office Building (NR 12/01/78) in San Francisco. Brown died in San Francisco in 1896 at the age of 37. Brown's earlier association with the McCormicks with the construction of McCormick Hall at Tusculum College and Fowler Hall in Chicago is probably the reason he was hired by Mrs. McCormick to design Salem Presbyterian Church. Mrs. McCormick was apparently very involved in the design aspects of the buildings she provided the funds for in an effort to control costs. Brown's design of Salem Presbyterian Church reflects his formal training as an architect. The unusual gabled facade with the large rose window and the crenelated bell tower along with the interior details reflects a knowledge of formal architectural elements.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 11Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Alderman, Pat and Lee B. Andrews. The Overmountain Men. Johnson City, TN: Washington College Press, 1980.
- Alexander, J. E. A Historical Sketch of Washington College, Washington College, TN: Washington College Press, 1902.
- Burgess, Charles O. Nettie Fowler McCormick: Profile of an American Philanthropist. Madison, WI: The University of Wisconsin, 1962.
- Carr, Howard E. Washington College. Knoxville, TN S. B. Newmand and Company, 1935.
- Franklin, Robert O. The Twenty-Third Psalm, Washington College, TN: Washington college Academy Printers, 1962.
- Herndon, Joseph L. "Architects in Tennessee Until 1930." Thesis. New York: Columbia University, 1975.
- History of Washington County, Tennessee. Johnson City, TN: Watauga Association of Genealogists, 1988.
- Kissinger, Dorothy Vale. Say a Good Word. Phoenix, AZ: McGrew Printing-Lithographic Co., 1963.
- Ramsey, Dr. J. G. M. Annals of Tennessee to the End of the 18th Century, Charleston, S. C. Walker and Jones, 1853. Reprinted Knoxville, TN: East Tennessee Historical Society. Kingsport Press, Inc. 1967.
- Salem Presbyterian Church Account Book, 1893 to approximately 1900.
- Salem Presbyterian Church Sessions Minutes, April 30, 1875 to march 15, 1938.
- Tennessee Historical Quarterly. Fall 1971, Vol. XXX, No. 3. Nashville, TN: Tennessee Historical Society.
- Van Deventor, I. C. The Mathews (Mathes Family. Kansas City, MO: Alexander Printing Co., 1925.
- Vandenbosche, Reverend August H. Salem Presbyterian Church, Washington College, TN Founded in 1780. Leaflet. nd

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 12

Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

Washington College Advocate. July 1914, Vol. X, No 4. Catalogue Number
1913-1914. Cincinnati, OH: Press of Mumfort and Co.

"Washington College," Bulletin, November 1932, Vol. 9, No. 1 Washington
College, TN: Washington College Press.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 13

Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for Salem Presbyterian Church includes approximately one and one quarter acre bounded on all sides by Washington College Academy and Washington College Road. Beginning at a stake in the east margin of the College Road opposite the gate opening into the woodlot of Rev. J. W. C. Willoughby then with said road south 4 degrees east 11 poles to a stake in the south margin of the road, then south, then south 88 degrees east 17 poles to a stake, then north 4 degrees west 11 poles to a stake, then north 88 degrees west 17 poles to the beginning as show on accompanying Washington County Tax Map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

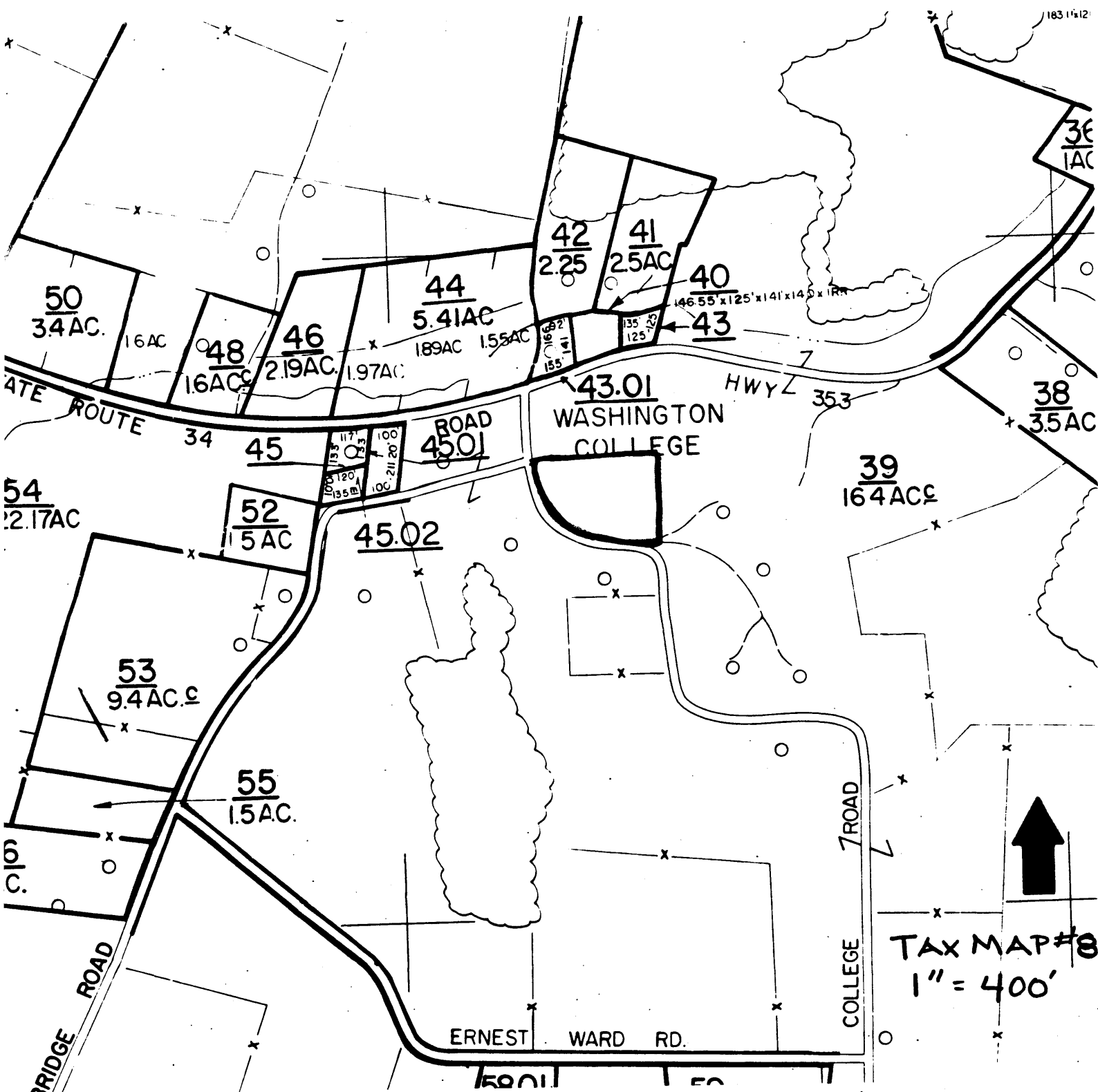
The boundaries for Salem Presbyterian Church contain all land historically associated with the building and are sufficient to protect the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 13A

Salem Presbyterian Church
Washington County, TN



TAX MAP #8
1" = 400'



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 14

Water Street Historic District
Wayne County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Salem Presbyterian Church
147 Washington College Road
Washington College, Washington County, TN

Photos by:

Date:

Neg. Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

Facing south, north facade

#1 of 27

Facing northeast, west elevation

#2 of 27

Facing east, west elevation

#3 of 27

South elevation, looking north

#4 of 27

East elevation, looking west

#5 of 27

Detail of column, north elevation

#6 of 27

Detail, north elevation

#7 of 27

Detail of cornerstone

#8 of 27

Detail of cornerstone

#9 of 27

Detail of tower window

#10 of 27

Detail, door

#11 of 27

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 15

Water Street Historic District
Wayne County, TN

Detail, door knob
#12 of 27

Sanctuary, looking south
#13 of 27

Rear of sanctuary, looking north
#14 of 27

Rear of sanctuary, looking north
#15 of 27

Detail, crossbeam
#16 of 27

Detail, crossbeams
#17 of 27

Detail, crossbeams and rose window
#18 of 27

Detail of stained glass window, west wall
#19 of 27

Detail of stained glass window, west wall
#20 of 27

Detail of light fixture
#21 of 27

Chapel
#22 of 27

Nursery
#23 of 27

Choir room
#24 of 27

Parlor
#25 of 27

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 16

Water Street Historic District
Wayne County, TN

Parlor
#26 of 27

Parlor
#27 of 27