

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 18 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 5 1978

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

New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

n w of Greeneville on 70 70

State Highway 70, Rogersville Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greeneville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Greene

CODE

59

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Congregation of New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Rev. James D. McGuire,

STREET & NUMBER

Pastor

201 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Greeneville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Greene County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greeneville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church is located approximately four miles northwest of Greeneville and about 400 feet west of the Rogersville Road (State Route 70). Built in 1841 in the popular Greek Revival style, the church largely retains its antebellum appearance and remains in excellent condition.

This deceptively large, rectangular building rests on stone footings, and the gable roof is covered with sheet metal roofing of recent design. The south elevation (facade) is divided into three bays, separated by pilasters, as are the east and west walls; the north elevation has no openings. Pediments are found in the north and south elevations, and a massive, bracketed cornice girdles the entire edifice. Large windows, which are covered with double-leaf, louvered shutters and decorated with board and batten trim above (and below on the facade), together with the pilasters, enhance the verticality of the church. The use of clapboard, between the pilasters on the east and west elevations, provides horizontal lines to balance the strong vertical lines. The latticework interspersed between the foundation piers gives the building a finished appearance.

Except for some superficial modern improvements, the interior has been little changed. The original benches, woodwork, marble pulpit and slave gallery remain in place. The walls, ceiling, and floor have been refinished.

Address: 111 1/2 West ...
 City: ...
 State: ...
 Zip: ...

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1842

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On April 15, 1839, thirty-eight citizens of Greene County, led by Thomas Davis, Phillip Eblezier, and William E. Davis petitioned the Knoxville Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the organization of the New Bethel congregation. John Harmon, on April 15, 1841, donated a four-acre tract to the fledgling congregation, and James Carter bequeathed funds to build a church on the land; Carter had died young, before he could realize his ambition to join the ministry.

The New Bethel Church members have successfully resisted the temptation to build one or more wings or to add an oversized portico to the facade of their church; these additions are frequently found on churches in the state. Although electric lights have replaced the original oil lamps and the interior has been somewhat modernized, the building looks much as it did in the 1840s. Sunday services are held regularly, and the building is carefully maintained.

The vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style for rural churches in ante-bellum Tennessee tended to call for structural simplicity and heavy ornamentation. The massing of the larger urban churches with their imposing, columned porticos was simulated in the country church by employing pilasters and pedimented gables. Wood often had to serve for the stone and brick elements found in the larger buildings. The result was that country churches, like New Bethel, were attractive rather than stately in appearance. Vernacular Greek Revival churches were frequently found in Middle and East Tennessee before the Civil War. Only a few of these remain scattered around the state. The New Bethel Church is one of the best examples of this style in Tennessee.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

R. H. Doughty. One Hundred Year Portrait: 1775-1875. Kingsport: Kingsport Press, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Mosheim QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	330640	4	007050	
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located approximately 400 feet west of State Highway 70; it fronts approximately 200 feet on the north side of a secondary road and runs back between parallel lines approximately 200 feet.

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 Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission DATE April 1978

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue North TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Herbert L. Hayden

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 4/10/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 10/6/78

ATTEST: William Lebourch DATE Sept 28, 1978

KEEP PROOF OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION