

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received FEB 5 - 1982
date entered MAR 5 1982

1. Name

historic Independence Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

SE of Wheatfield

street & number CR 375N and CR 500E not for publication

city, town Wheatfield vic. Medaryville X vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Indiana code 018 county Jasper code 073

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church
c/o Robert Rund

street & number 173 Reba Street

city, town Lafayette vicinity of state Indiana 47906

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jasper County Recorder's Office

street & number Jasper County Courthouse

city, town Rensselaer state Indiana 47978

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Independence Methodist Church is located in Jasper County, three miles southwest of downtown Medaryville in Pulaski County. The entrance of the church faces County Road 375 North. The 30' x 50' simple frame structure, built in 1872, was originally of a Greek Revival mode, but has since been altered to include other stylistic elements, such as the Gothic inspired lancet windows and the Italianate trim on the belfry.

The church is rectangular in its floor plan. The one story building is supported by a recently constructed (1948) concrete block foundation. The superstructure of white painted clapboarding is covered by a gabled roof of asphalt shingles. The most salient feature of the church is the projecting central tower of the north elevation. This bay, containing the main entrance and belfry, projects from the otherwise unadorned facade. A wide cornice fascia serves as a raking trim. Stairs flanked by metal handrails lead to the double doorway which is surmounted by a five-light transom. Above the doorway near the top of the tower is a single oculus. The short tower is topped by a truncated hipped roof. Surmounting the tower is a square belfry which resembles a belvedere because of its open sides. The top edges of the belfry openings are trimmed by Italianate fretwork. The belfry is capped by a steeply pitched, bellcast hipped roof. A small chimney is located at the south end of the roof, opposite the belfry.

The east and west elevations are penetrated at the foundation level by four square windows. Above the foundation are four windows with gently pedimented window heads which appear to have been Greek Revival windows converted to a Gothic style. The straight window sills and pedimented window hoods contrast with the lancet arch of the window sash. A vertical muntin divides the lower light of the doublehung windows.

In 1948 a basement was dug and a kitchen, dining room, restrooms and an automatic heating system were installed. New pews and interior furnishings were installed in 1949. In 1979 the roof was replaced.

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 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 checked="" 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 1872

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Independence Methodist Church is significant, historically, because of its long, intimate association with the local community. Architecturally, the Greek Revival building was a fine example of nineteenth century protestant church design in Indiana. The church was later altered to accommodate Gothic and Italianate elements, as is evident by the door and windows and the belfry.

The Independence Methodist Church predates the organization of Jasper County by two years. The church was formed in the home of John M. Gillam in May or June of 1836, and was originally ministered to by circuit-riding preachers. The congregation increased and built its first permanent meeting place in 1849. The present church building was erected on the same site 23 years later, and served the local community as an active church until 1976.

The close association between the Independence Church and the local community cannot be overstressed; for most of the nineteenth century they were almost one and the same. Of the prominent citizens of Gillam Township listed in the 1883 county history, only six were not members of the church.

NEW YORK STATE
RECORDS AUTHORITY

9. Major Bibliographical References

Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper & Newton, Chicago, F. A. Battey & Co., 1883, 473.
Church records and individual interviews
Detzler, J.D., The History of the Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church
1852-1951 (Nashville, 1953), 162.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.02

Quadrangle name Medaryville Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Bounded by a cemetery on the east and south, County Road 375N on the north and 500E on the west. Original deed description: "E/W-9 poles-- N/S-17 poles, 20'9" " interpreted as 148 1/2' by 301' converting to 44,548 sq. ft., or just over one acre.

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 Zera Howe

organization

date September 28, 1979

street & number Box 146

telephone 219/843-3941

city or town Medaryville

state Indiana 47957

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-21-82

For HCERS use only

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

date 3/5/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration