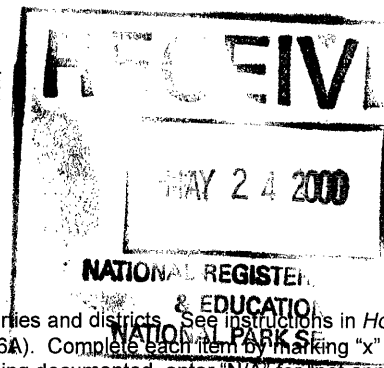


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

*TDS*



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 Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
other names/site number Campbell Chapel AME Church (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 311 Mill Street  not for publication N/A  
city or town Pulaski  vicinity N/A  
state Tennessee code TN county Giles code 055 zip code 38478

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 for 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 P. Beuger JR 5/19/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 6/22/00  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Name of Property

Giles County, TN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	0	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.)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic Rural African-American Churches in TN

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: religious facility

EDUCATION: school

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

foundation STONE

walls STONE, STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

other METAL, GLASS

**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** N/A

(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 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE : AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
 RELIGION  
 EDUCATION  
 ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1925 - 1948

**Significant Dates**

1925

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Smith, George, Builder

**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:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Name of Property

Giles County, TN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

**Pulaski, TN 59 NE**

1 16 496590 3897790  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

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 Caneta S. Hankins and Carroll Van West  
organization Center for Historic Preservation, MTSU date September 1998  
street & number P. O. Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

### 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 Campbell Chapel AME Church - contact: Hardin Franklin, Board of Trustees  
street & number 311 Mill Street telephone 931-363-4489  
city or town Pulaski state TN zip code 38478

**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.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is at 311 Mill Street, Pulaski, Giles County, Tennessee. Built in 1925, the church is essentially a Gothic Revival-influenced building of irregular, though sophisticated and well-executed design, with a stone foundation and asphalt shingle roof.

From the west façade, the building is a graduated three-tiered edifice comprised of a prominent gable front section, a side tower with steeple, and a hip-roofed portion covering original classrooms, restrooms, and pastor's office. The three original sections, built in 1925, used uncoursed, but smoothly finished cut stone. The core of the building, housing the sanctuary, is in the foreground. It is a slightly pitched gable-front with three bays and box cornice returns. Two Gothic windows, over-over-one with pointed one-light pane and arched stone surround, flank a larger central bay. This pair, pairs windows of the same configuration, but with the addition of a small central-inverted triangle light, which evolves the shape to a Romanesque arch with corresponding stone surround and keystone. Flanking the central bay are projecting stone pilasters capped with a single stone and rising to the same height of the window surrounds. Similar pilasters are at each corner of this wing. A stone stringcourse runs the length of the gable base. Situated in the center, under the apex of the gable are decorative heart-shaped stones laid vertically to either side of a rectangular vent.

The south elevation of the sanctuary block also has three bays, all of the same configuration as the central facade bay. Here, two stone projecting pilasters separate each window and appear at the southeast (rear) corner as well. On the south elevation, the stone pilasters run from roof to the ground interrupted by a stringcourse marking the rubble and ashlar stone foundation. Access to the partial basement is at the southeast corner, covered by a wooden panel of unknown date.

The east elevation of the church has two symmetrical Gothic-influenced windows (which are prominent features from the interior of the sanctuary). At the north corner of the elevation is a circa 1970 concrete addition, for a fellowship hall, kitchen and a pastor's study. The addition has an asphalt shingle, gable roof and three symmetrical, double-hung two-over-two windows. Entrance to the basement of the addition is approached through a sunken walkway and door located at its southeast corner.

The main entrance to the church is from the north elevation of the sanctuary section. The adjacent square stone tower with steeple has two one-over-one, double-hung windows at street level; a string course; and rectangular openings, completely closed with wood at an unknown date on each side. Both window openings have a stone lintel.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN

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The conical steeple rests on a wooden base that covers and overhangs the square tower. Facing each direction from the steeple is a wooden dormer with pedimented lintel. Wooden panels enclose the dormers. The steeple is covered with asphalt shingles and capped with a metal finial and sphere. The north elevation of the circa 1970 concrete addition has four asymmetrical bays, composed of, from east to west, a two-over-two double-hung window, a one-over-one double-hung window, a one-over-one double-hung window, and a one-over-one double-hung window. At the basement level of the northeast corner is another two-over-two double-hung window.

A third original section of the church, last in the three tiers seen from the front, abuts the main gable section and the tower. It has a hipped roof and, on its façade, a one-over-one, double-hung rectangular window similar to the one of the tower. The north elevation of this section has two Gothic-influenced windows, like those on the facade of the sanctuary. A projecting stone pilaster marks the rear wall of the original building and the foundation is less evident than on the north and more sloping side of the lot.

The interior of the sanctuary has many original features: the pressed metal ceiling, crown molding, wooden pews, wooden floor covered in carpet, and a semi-circular chancel rail. The original windows are painted glass to emulate stained glass. A central aisle that approaches the chancel rail separates the twenty original pews. Five brass chandeliers, circa 1980, have replaced the original light fixtures.

The north wall of the sanctuary is banked by a row of double-hung windows, four clear lights over one frosted light that separates the sanctuary into a multi-use space and the main sanctuary. The multi-use section is original to the design of the church. Once used as classroom space in 1925-1927, when the church served as the local school, the multi-use space that now holds additional pews for overflow seating from the sanctuary, or, tables for classroom space and meals as needed.

An original wood door with transom leads to a small hallway that provides access to restrooms and entry to the choir and chancel area. Extended circa 1970 is a hallway that provides access to the circa 1970 addition, that contains a fellowship hall, kitchen, and the pastor's study.

Campbell Chapel AME Church meets the registration requirements outlined in the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1850-1970 MPN for individual churches. It has a high degree of integrity, through its intact urban setting, feeling, association, and location. Its design of Gothic Revival influence is exceptional for its time of construction. It largely retains its original materials and workmanship, both in its exterior and interior. As noted in the MPN Cover Sheet, the church's circa 1970 concrete rear addition is of the type and date of construction often found

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Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN

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at rural and small-town African-American churches. Placed at the rear of the sanctuary, the addition does not overwhelm the original construction, design, and style of the building to the degree that the church has lost its integrity of feeling, materials, and workmanship.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN

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## 8. Statement of Significance

The Campbell Chapel AME Church, at 311 Mill Street in Pulaski, Giles County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the Ethnic Heritage of African Americans in Giles County, especially in Religion and Education. It is further eligible for listing, and, under Criterion C, for its local significance as an exceptional example of stone masonry craftsmanship from the early twentieth century.

As noted in the Cover Sheet of the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1850-1970 MPN, Campbell Chapel AME Church is a significant example of two patterns in religion and education associated with rural African-American churches. It is a late Reconstruction era congregation, the first AME church in Giles County. It also served a significant educational role as a local school. The nominated property served as the local segregated school from its construction in 1925, until the opening of the Pulaski Rosenwald School in 1927-1928. In addition, the Gothic Revival influence of Campbell Chapel AME Church is a significant example of one of the two dominant architectural styles of rural African-American churches of the Jim Crow Era of 1890 to 1945. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee MPN.

The congregation of Campbell Chapel AME church is one of the earliest African-American congregations in Giles County, dating to the late Reconstruction era, 1873. At that time, AME missionary Jordan W. Early worked in eleven Middle Tennessee counties to establish AME churches among the new freed people. This church, the first AME congregation in Giles County, was named in honor of Bishop J. P. Campbell of the AME conference. The first trustees were Cliff Brown, Abe McKissack, Willie Daly, Jackson Taylor, Frank Coleman, Burrell Morrell, and Andrew Givens. Initially the congregation met in southeast Pulaski, in a neighborhood known as "The Methodist Bottom." At an unknown time, but believed to be circa 1900, the church moved to the "Bellevue" neighborhood at Mill and Church Street. This church building burned in 1925 an event that led to the construction of the present stone church in 1925.

By this time, Campbell Chapel AME Church had a well-established reputation for community leadership among African Americans in Pulaski. In the early 1900s J. T. Bridgeforth, a Black educator, convinced city and county officials to support, however meagerly, a public school for African Americans. The school met in the basement of Campbell Chapel until the construction of a brick Rosenwald school, appropriately named Bridgeforth School, in 1927-1928. When the new school opened, Campbell Chapel ended its role as a public educational facility.

The Gothic Revival style and the impressive stone masonry of Campbell Chapel AME Church set it apart from many African-American churches in rural and small-town Tennessee. This trend is



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN

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noted in the MPN Cover Sheet. African-American churches in small towns, especially county seats, typically have obvious stylistic elements and are usually constructed of masonry or brick. The church's stepped stone tower became an instant landmark in the African-American built environment of Pulaski. The church represented a powerful statement of permanency in a town noted as the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan, then making a comeback throughout the southern states. The Pulaski Citizen commented on the new building in 1925: "Campbell Chapel AME Church here is a credit to the congregation that erected it and to the Negro race and the town."<sup>1</sup>

The masonry work is attributed to George Smith; a well-respected African-American carpenter and mason. He also worked on several commercial and residential buildings in Pulaski and Giles County in the early twentieth century. Architect Calvin McKissack may have well also influenced the final design of the building. A member of the church as a young man, Calvin McKissack by 1925 he had joined his brother Moses McKissack III in Nashville. They established the firm of McKissack and McKissack, the first U. S. firm founded and staffed by African-American architects. The McKissack firm would receive the commission to design the Rosenwald-funded Bridgeforth School in 1927.

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<sup>1</sup> Newspaper account is cited in Nelle R. Cohen, Pulaski History, 1809-1950 (Pulaski: private, 1951), n.p. The article is titled "The Negro Churches."

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Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN

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## 9. Bibliography

Cohen, Nelle R. Pulaski History, 1809-1950. Pulaski: private, 1951.

Pulaski Citizen, August 15, 1979.

Savage, Mrs. Margarete. Interview with Caneta S. Hankins. At Campbell Chapel AME Church.  
July 21, 1998.

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Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN

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## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Boundary Description

Campbell Chapel AME Church is at 311 Mill Street, Pulaski, Giles County, TN, as shown as Parcel J-20 on the attached Giles County Tax Map

### Boundary Justification

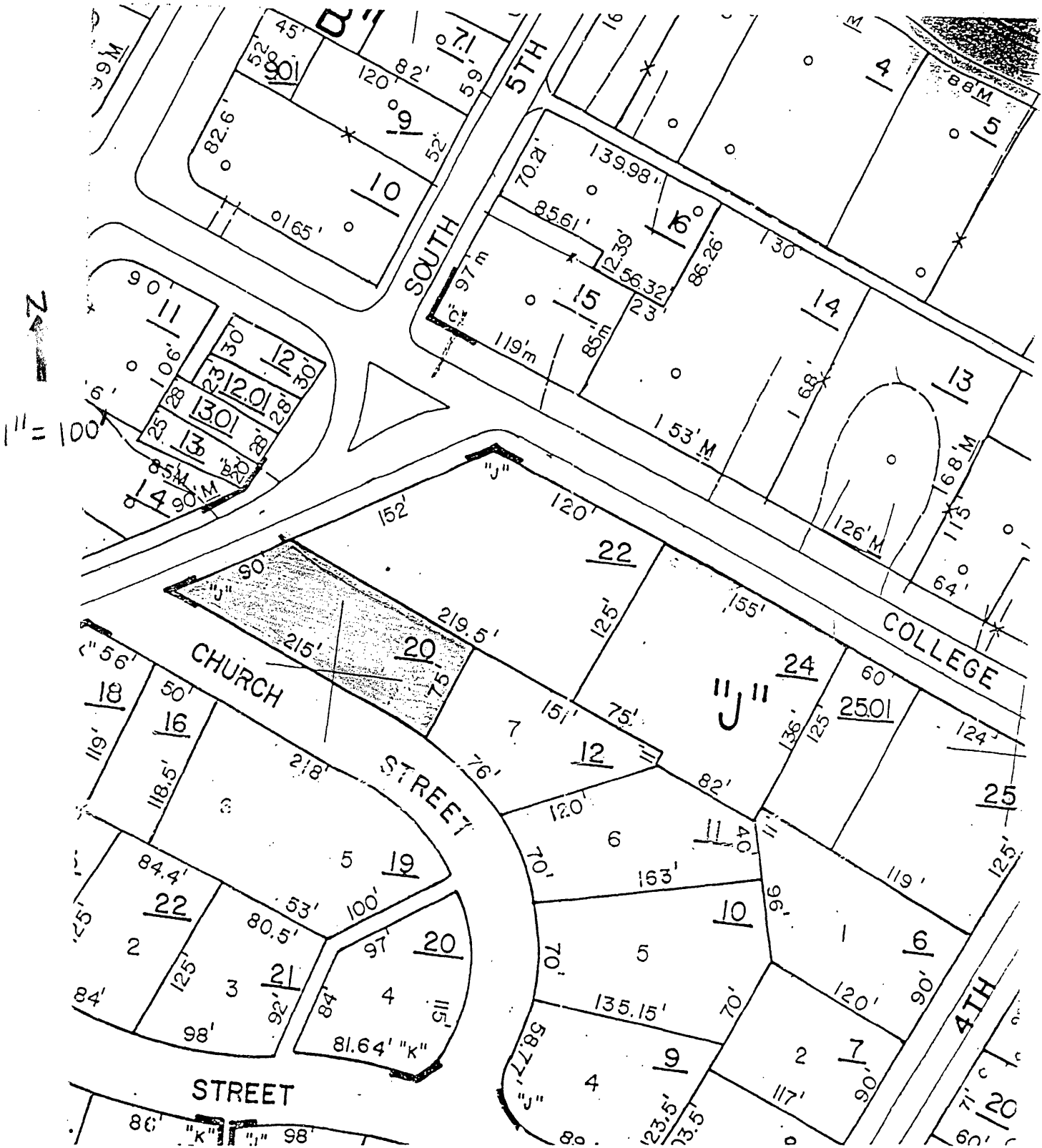
The nominated boundaries contain all of the historic property associated with Campbell Chapel AME Church.

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Campbell Chapel AME Church  
Giles County, TN



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Giles County, TN

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Campbell Chapel AME Church  
311 Mill Street  
Pulaski, Giles Co., TN

Photos by:    Caneta S. Hankins  
                  MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date:            June 1998

Negatives:    Tennessee Historical Commission  
                  2941 Lebanon Road  
                  Nashville, TN 37243

West facade, facing east  
1 of 10

Detail, steeple, west facade, facing east  
2 of 10

West facade and south elevation, facing northeast  
3 of 10

South elevation, facing north  
4 of 10

Fellowship Hall, south elevation, facing north  
5 of 10

Fellowship Hall, north elevation, facing southeast  
6 of 10

Altar and pulpit, facing east  
7 of 10

Sanctuary and pulpit, facing east  
8 of 10

Pews and sanctuary, facing west  
9 of 10

Fellowship hall, facing west  
10 of 10