

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0681482

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DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1978
NOV 21 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

Zion Church

AND/OR COMMON

Christ Episcopal Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College and Washington Streets,

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

___ VICINITY OF

Seventh

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Haywood

CODE

75

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

___ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

STREET & NUMBER

692 Poplar

CITY, TOWN

Memphis

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Haywood County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

140 North Washington

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

June 1973

___ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Christ Episcopal Church stands on a slight rise at the southeast corner of College and Washington streets in Brownsville, two blocks north of the Haywood County Courthouse. The Reverend James W. Rogers designed the Gothic Revival church; construction began in 1854 and continued sporadically until ca. 1869.

The small rectangular brick church stands on a brick foundation which has been stuccoed to simulate stone. The low gable roof is now covered with composition shingles. A large, square crenelated tower dominates the west elevation, and corners of this element are decorated with setback buttresses. Louvered lancet openings pierce all four walls of the tower, and the west elevation has a Gothic Revival entrance with double-leaf paneled doors and a stained glass transom; a stone Latin cross surmounts the entrance.

The north and south walls are nearly identical; each has five bays delineated by stepped buttresses and lancet windows. One buttress in each wall contains a brick chimney. Each corner is terminated with a tall pinnacle, and a simple, scalloped cornice completes the ornamentation for each wall. The east wall is completely unadorned except for a small chimney stack. In 1874 the congregation attached a vestry room to this elevation; this structure was razed in 1969 and replaced with a single story, brick parish house. All of the walls of the church were laid in seven-course American common bond, and stretcher bond was used for the parish house walls.

The interior is an open rectangular space with rows of pews separated by a center aisle. The benches and woodwork, including the trefoil chair rail, are all original. A Mason and Hamlin cabinet organ and black walnut altar and lectern, designed by the Reverend Robert A. Cobbs, were installed between 1867 and 1869 and remain in the building; gas lights were added three or four years later in 1873. In 1892 the gallery in the west end of the church was removed, and a lowered, embossed metal ceiling and the stained glass transom over the entrance were installed.

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 checked="" 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 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

James W. Rogers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Reverend Thomas Wright and the Reverend John Chilton organized Zion Church in Brownsville on August 25, 1832. Chilton became the first rector of the Brownsville church; he was also the first Episcopal priest to be ordained in Tennessee. The fledgling congregation held services in the Haywood County Courthouse until the present church was erected in 1854. A native Brownsvillian the Reverend James W. Rogers led a construction fund drive which yielded \$3,200; Rogers has been credited with designing the Gothic Revival church. Although construction began in 1854 the building remained unfinished until 1857 or 1858. The church survived the Civil War largely unscathed. In 1868 or 1869 the tower was completed and the altar and lectern installed. Zion Church was consecrated on March 15, 1874. The name was changed to Christ Church in 1898.

The Gothic Revival style of architecture was especially popular among Episcopalians in antebellum Tennessee, and a number of small brick churches were built in this style around the state. Christ Episcopal Church, the oldest church in Brownsville and one of the oldest Episcopal churches in West Tennessee, has survived the century and a quarter since it was built with a minimum of alterations in its appearance. The congregation has carefully maintained the building and intends to continue to use the building for services.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert Mann. History of Christ Church Episcopal, Brownsville, Tennessee. Memphis: Memphis Printing Service, 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

Latitude - 35° 35' 44"
Longitude - 89° 15' 42"

QUADRANGLE NAME Brownsville, TN QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular lot which measures approximately 75 feet by 150 feet and is bounded as follows: beginning at the southeast corner of Washington and College streets; thence approximately 150' along College Street; thence approximately 75' south; thence approximately 150' west; thence approximately 75'

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

north to the beginning.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u>	<u>July 1978</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>170 Second Avenue North</u>	<u>(615) 741-2371</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Nashville</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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. Haynes

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 8/1/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER Charles [Signature] DATE 11.21.78

ATTEST: JANN H. Gilmore DATE 11/20/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION