

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682519

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 21 1978
DATE ENTERED 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

McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church, South (McKendree Methodist Church)

AND/OR COMMON

McKendree United Methodist Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Betsy Pack Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jasper

VICINITY OF

Third

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

115

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

McKendree United Methodist Church (Rev. Paul J. Harting)

STREET & NUMBER

Betsy Pack Drive

CITY, TOWN

Jasper

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Jasper

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

May 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

McKendree United Methodist Church stands on the northwest corner of Betsy Pack Street and Fifth Street in Jasper, the county seat of Marion County. The church was constructed between 1871 and 1875; it is known to have been completed and had a pastor by the latter date.

When erected the single-story brick church was rectangular and measured thirty-seven by forty-seven feet. An addition (sixteen by thirty-seven feet), which probably included the tower, was built in 1888, and this increased the overall length of the church to sixty-three feet. In 1910-11 the north wall was opened and a polygonal wing attached which considerably increased the seating capacity of the building. The stained-glass windows, belfry, furnace, and electric lights were also installed during this renovation; other windows have been added in recent years. The church stands on a brick foundation. Composition shingles cover the gable roof of the main section and the hip roof of the three-sided wing. A single brick flue is attached to the west wall of the 1911 addition.

A square bell tower and a portico dominate the three-bay facade (east elevation), and break its pedimented gable. The tower, the lower half of which is brick and the upper frame with fluted corner boards and horizontal-board sheathing, is topped with a boxed cornice, and this entire element projects slightly. Atop the tower there is a belfry with a slightly bellcast pyramidal roof supported by four, short Roman Doric columns. These columns repeat on a larger scale on the pedimented portico. The entrance has double-leaf, paneled doors, a stained-glass fanlight, and a brick architrave. Square-head, stained-glass windows flank the entrance; these are surmounted by elaborate, corbeled label molds. Windows of this type appear in the four-bay south elevation and in the east and west walls of the 1910-11 wing; the remaining wall of this element has a rectangular window with an arched transom. The only opening in the west elevation is a modern door which opens into the passage which joins the church to the education building. The one-story, flat-roofed, concrete block education building was erected in 1928 and houses a kitchen, dining room, nursery, and two classrooms.

The 1888 plan was rectangular with the entrance in its present position and the pulpit and choir at the west end of the sanctuary. (It may be assumed that the original plan had the same configuration.) The congregation now sits facing the 1910-11 wing, and the altar and pulpit, both of which are original, are located in the three-sided addition. An entrance hall, which is flanked by small Sunday school rooms, was also constructed during the twentieth-century renovation.

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 checked="" 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. 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Methodist circuit riders preached in the Jasper area as early as 1809; the first of these was the Reverend Milton Ladd. Sixty-one years later the Methodists in this small county town purchased land for a permanent church, and following the example of other congregations, named the building erected there for William McKendree, the first American-born Methodist Episcopal bishop. The name of the church has changed several times; when organized it was styled Methodist Episcopal, South; in 1939, when the northern and southern branches reunited after the split caused by the disagreement of the issue of slavery, the name changed to Methodist; it is now known as United Methodist.

The congregation determined in 1887 to tend to the intellectual as well as the spiritual needs of the youth of Jasper and constructed Pryor Institute during the pastorate of The Reverend J. W. Robertson. The school, which was named for its principal benefactors Washington and General Jackson Pryor, opened its doors in 1889; Dr. E. B. Craighead was selected as president of the school. It operated for twenty-one years under the auspices of the Holston Conference; in 1910 the building was sold to the county board of education, and it served for many years as Marion County High School.

Although the precise construction date of the church remains obscure, it is known that the Reverend T. R. Handy ministered to the congregation in this building in 1875. The church was repaired and enlarged in 1888 under the pastorate of the Reverend A. D. Stewart and dedicated in March 1889 by Dr. David Sullins. Another, more extensive renovation was undertaken in 1910-11; these improvements somewhat altered the configuration of the building, but it still in large measure retains its original appearance.

McKendree United Methodist Church is an excellent example of a vernacular house of worship which was very likely constructed by the members of the congregation using available materials. The changes made in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, especially the addition of the Colonial Revival portico, stained-glass windows, and polygonal wing, reflect the attempts made by the congregation to grow with the burgeoning town and to emulate the more sophisticated designs of the churches in the larger cities in southeastern Tennessee. Church records indicate that McKendree is the oldest building still in use in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. Moreover, the church, which has begun its second century, is the oldest in Jasper. The congregation continues to hold services in the building, and it is a source of considerable pride to its members.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by the Historical Committee of McKendree United Methodist Church, Jasper, Tennessee: Mrs. Paul Swafford, Dave Daffron, and Mrs. Septemna Mann. Marion County Deed Books, Marion County Courthouse, Jasper, Tennessee. Mary Thomas Peacock. The Circuit Rider and those Who Followed (1957). "Pryor Institute," Jasper Statesman Democrat, June 7, 1907. Teresa Deakins Wood, "Our Church--Then and Now," mimeographed booklet, 1964.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .258

QUADRANGLE NAME South Pittsburg, TN

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 625290 3882330

B

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular lot which measures approximately 75' by 150' and is bounded as follows: beginning at the northwest corner of Betsy Pack St. and Fifth St; thence approximately 150' west along Betsy Pack St; thence approximately 75' north; thence approximately 150' east to Fifth St; thence approximately 75' south along Fifth St. to the beginning.

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

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE August 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 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. Hays

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 8/11/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 11.21.78

ATTEST: Jann H. Gilmore

DATE 11/20/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION