United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 6 1986
date entered 4-15-86

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

| Type all entries- | –complete applicable se | ctions | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1. Nam | е | | | |
| historic - | Tygarts Valley Chur | ch | | |
| and/or common | Tygarts Valley Pre | shyterian Church | | |
| | | esbyterian Charch | | |
| 2. Loca | luon | | | |
| street & number | Route 219 | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | not for publication |
| city, town Hu | ttonsville | vicinity of | | |
| state WV | code | 054 county | Randolph | code 083 |
| 3. Class | sification | | | |
| Category district x building(s) structure site object N/ | Ownership public private both Public Acquisition A in process being considered | Status occupied unoccupied work in progress AccessibleX yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: |
| 4. Own | er of Proper | | દેશ જિલ્લાન્સમાર્થી સ્થા કેફ્કેલ્સ | S track |
| name Presi | bytery of Greenbrie | r | Side was table as | |
| street & number | 1270 Greenbrier St | ireet | :€3 | 2 44 2 4 7 |
| city, town | Charleston | vicinity of | state | WV 25311 |
| 5. Loca | tion of Lega | l Descriptio | n | |
| courthouse, regis | try of deeds, etc. Rand | olph County Courth | nouse | |
| street & number | P.O. Box 368 | | , | |
| city, town | Elkins, WV | | state | 26241 |
| 6. Repr | esentation i | n Existing S | urveys | |
| title N / | A | has this prop | erty been determined elig | jible? yes no |
| date | | | federal state | county local |
| depository for sur | rvey records | | | |
| city, town | | | state | |

| Condition excellent | deteriorated | Check one | Check one X original site | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--|
| X good fair | ruins unexposed | altered | moved date | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

Situated on a bluff overlooking the pastoral Tygarts Valley is one of West Virginia's most outstanding examples of wooden Victorian-Gothic architecture. The Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church is a gem of 19th century ecclesiastic architecture combining simplistic design and elaborate features.

Resting on a solid sandstone foundation the whitewashed church is 61 by 31 feet with a 105 foot spire. The vertical massing and steeply pitched gable roof give the structure a Gothic appearance. The circular open timber gable trim that adorns the upper portion of the gable on the front or southeast elevation is another noticeable Gothic feature. Below the trim is a large stained glass Gothic window with tracery. The window is approximately fifteen feet high and ten feet wide. The glass is rolled cathedral glass imported from Europe and features the seal of the church of Scotland, a candle, and the seal of the Waldensian Church, a burning bush. (see Statement of Significance) Three smaller stained glass arched windows are found on the first level of the church also on the front elevation.

The tower and spire present the most striking feature of the church. The tower base has two stained glass lancet windows, one on the southeast elevation, the other on the rear or northwest elevation. The entrance to the church is on the southwest elevation of the tower base. Higher on the tower base are three wheel windows, one at each visible elevation. There is both horizontal and vertical siding on the tower base that adds a pleasing effect. Engaged buttresses go up each corner of the tower and form triangular pennicals. An octagonal belfry with louvered openings supports the magnificent shingled spire. A weathervane finial caps the top of the spire.

The sides of the church each have four stained glass lancet windows and engaged buttresses. The rear shows are aspe that extends slightly away from the regular massing.

The land encompassing the church is well landscaped and slopes gently to the road and offers a pleasing visual landmark.

8. Significance

| Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900– | agriculture _X_ architecture | community plan conservation economics education engineering | ning landscape architectu law literature military music lement philosophy politics/government | science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Specific dates | Built 1883 | Builder/Architect | Issac Purcell | |
| Statement of S | ignificance (in one parag | Lemuel Chenoweth | | |

The importance of the Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church lies in its being one of the best examples of Victorian-Gothic architecture in West Virginia, and as being constructed under the direction of a master builder.

The Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1883 offers one of the best, if not the best examples of Victorian-Gothic architecture in the state of West Virginia. The use of vertical massing and a steeply gabled roof give the structure its initial Gothic appearance. The open timber gable trim, with its circular and semi-circular design is a pleasing feature. The large Gothic tracery window on the front elevation is a striking part of the church. The most notible feature is the 105 foot steeple. The use of lancet windows and wheel windows and the use of multiple textured verticle and horizontal siding give the tower an air of uniqueness. The octagonal belfry and high shingled steeple further add to the Gothic appearance of the church.

The church was designed by Issac Purcell, a noted Philadelphia architect and was constructed under the direction of one of West Virginias most noted craftsmen. Lemuel Chenoweth (I8II-1887) achieved notoriety in the region for his having designed and built many bridges along the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike in the mid-19th century. Two of his covered bridges are still standing and in use and are part of a National Register Thematic Nomination. The Barrackville Covered Bridge was built by Chenoweth in 1853 and listed on the National Register March 30, 1973 and the Philippi Bridge was built in 1852 and listed September 14, 1972. The Philippi Bridge is considered by many a masterpiece in design and construction.

History of the Tygarts Valley Church and Congregation

Although the Tygarts Valley Church was not officially brought under the authority of the Greenbrier Presbytery until 1820, Tygarts Valley Presbyterians were practicing their form of workshop as a group as early as 1772. This makes the congregation one of the oldest organized religious groups west of the Allegheny Mountains. The original church was completed in 1831 and was built of brick. This church was destroyed by Union troops during the Civil War who used the bricks for building ovens and chimneys for their winter encompment at Fort Melroy on Cheat Mountain. The current church was completed in 1883 and was the first edifice in Randolph County erected upon architects drawings. Of particular note is the large Gothic window on the front elevation. Of the various symbols and emblems on the window, two deserve particular attention. One is of the church of Scotland (a candle) commemorating the origin of the Presbyterian Church and the Scotch-Irish settlers who built the congregation. The other symbol, a burning bush, is of the Waldensian Church which was an Italian Protestant order. The men who actually built the church were Italian laborers contracted from railroad construction and were members of the Waldensian order.

9. Major Bibliographical References

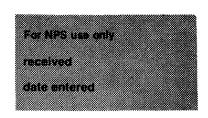
See Continuation Sheet

CDO 894-785

| 10. Geograph | ical Data | |
|--|---|--|
| Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name Mill Creek | Approximately I acre | Quadrangle scale 1:24:000 |
| | A 2 8 5 7 0 0 B | ne Easting Northing |
| Verbal boundary description | and justification | st marchita |
| See Continuation | Sheet | |
| List all states and counties | for properties overlapping state o | or county boundaries |
| state N/A | code county | code |
| state | code county | code :: |
| organization West Virgini | right, Historian a Dept. of Culture & History bl Complex | date January 14, 1986 telephone (304) 348-0240 |
| city or town Charleston | | state - WV |
| 12. State Hist | oric Preservation | n Officer Certification |
| The evaluated significance of th | _X statelocal | distant Process As A 4 4000 (Public Low 90) |
| 665), I hereby nominate this proj | perty for inclusion in the National Regiscedures set forth by the National Park | Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– ster and certify that it has been evaluated a Service. |
| State Historic Preservation Office | er signature | 1-/ |
| title State Historic Pres | servation Officer | date 2-21-86 |
| For NPS use only I hereby certify that this pr | operty is included in the National Regis | ster date 4/15/86 |
| Keeper of the National Regis | ster | |
| Attest: | · | date |
| Chief of Registration | | |

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Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical Ref.

Item number

9

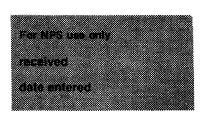
Page ²

- 1. Dorsey D. Ellis, Th.D., Look Unto the Rock (McClain Printing Co., 1982)
- 2. A.S. Bosworth, History of Randolph County (McClain Printing Co., Reprint 1975).
- 3. Forinash, Lena, and Forinash, Donna E.; A History of Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church (Unpublished 1983)
- 4. Interview Rev. J.S. Franklin Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church April 12, 1985
- 5. West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, 1st Edition Vol. 5. Jim Comstock ed. Richwood, WV 1976
- 6. Report on the Condition of the Covered Bridges of West Virginia for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. Michael Gioulis, September, 1985.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

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Continuation sheet

Tygarts Valley Church

Item number

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point at corner of paved driveway and Route 219 and proceeding North along Route 219, 200 feet to point, thence travelling Northwest 200 feet to point, thence Southwest 200 feet to driveway, thence following driveway southwest 200 feet to point of beginning.