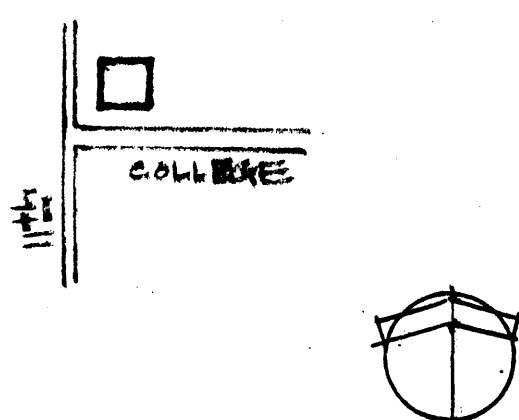
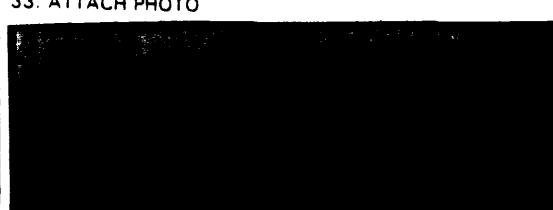


KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Site No. Sh - S 72

1. Historic Name(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. John United Methodist Church Original Owner		22. ADD/County KIPDA / SHELBY 106	
2. Present Name St. John United Methodist Church		23. U.S.G.S. Quadrant (15'/75') SHELBYVILLE 	
3. Location College Street Shelbyville, Ky.		24. UTM Reference 16 655480 4230780 Zone Easting Northing	
4. Owner's Name St. John Methodist Church		25. Coordinate Accuracy 	
5. Owner's Address College St. Shelbyville, Ky. 40065		26. Prehistoric Site _____ Object _____ Historic Site _____ Structure _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building _____ Other _____	
6. Open to Public Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ 7. Visible from road Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____		8. Ownership X Private _____ Local _____ State _____ Federal _____	
9. Local Contact/Organization SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY		27. National Register District Name: MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF SHELBYVILLE 	
10. Site Plan with North Arrow 		28. Significance Evaluation National Register 	
		29. Status _____ Date _____ National Landmark _____ National Register _____ Landmark Certificate _____ Kentucky Survey _____ Local Landmark _____ HABS/HAER _____	
		30. Historic Theme Primary _____ Secondary _____ Other _____	
		31. Endangered Yes _____ No _____	
		32. Preservation Project Status Actual Cost in \$1,000s 	
4. Description One story frame church sanctuary. Latin cross-plan; circular windows in gable ends; corner entry tower; pointed arch openings; wood frame has been covered with narrow aluminum siding		33. ATTACH PHOTO 	
11. Architect _____ 12. Builder _____ 13. Date 1896 A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. _____ 14. Style A. Gothic Rev. D B. _____			
15. Original Use Church H 16. Present use Same			
17. Condition Good B No. Stories One A Single Pile _____ NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double Pile _____ Floor Plan 			
Structural Fabric Frame A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. _____ Decorative Fabric A. _____ B. _____ Roof Form Gable			
19. History See attached.		Roll No. <u>7: 2,3,</u> Picture No. _____ Direction _____	
20. Significance Church is the best local example of frame Gothic Revival religious architecture. Building is also important landmark in the evolution of black religious history in Shelbyville		34. Prepared by: Helen Powell KTG/ Ky. Heritage Council 1979	
21. Source of Information Marie Payne Reed		35. Organization CARMAN AND POWELL, INC. 36. Date 1983	
		37. Revision Dates _____ 38. Staff Review _____	

(Continue on Back)

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name St. John United Methodist Church Site # SH-S-72
Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title Multiple Resources of Shelbyville

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTM's if property is ten or more acres.

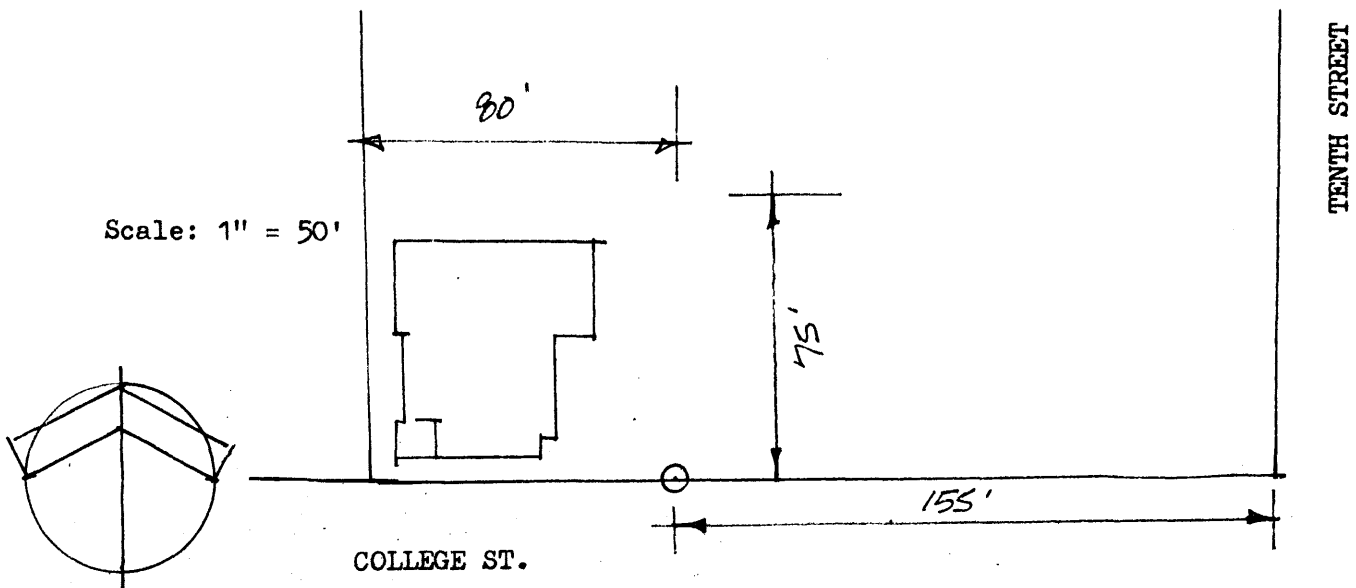
A. 16 655430 4230730 D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description

Acreeage less than 1/2 acre

From a point in the northwest corner of the intersection of College and Tenth St., west along the right of way of College 155 feet to a point of beginning; then north 75 feet to a point; then west 80 feet to a point; then south 75 feet to a point in the north right of way of College St.; then east 80 feet along the north right of way to the point of beginning.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

CHURCH HISTORY

The Methodists in America trace their beginning to the work of two Irish immigrants, Philip Embury, who came to New York in 1760, and Robert Strawbridge who migrated to Maryland in 1766. The rapid growth of the society in New York, and the consequent appeal to John Wesley, English founder of Methodism, for help led the British Conference to send out two missionaries, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor in 1768 and a third one, Francis Asbury, three years later. In 1784, John Wesley ordained Thomas Coke as the first superintendent of America.

The first conference in December 1784 organized itself as the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The first important divisions in the Methodist Episcopal Church occurred with the formation by Negro groups of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816 and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1820.

The Methodist Episcopal Church had been troubled with the slavery question. The Southern delegates protested this action, and in 1845 they held a protesting conference and formed the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1870, the Negro members of the Methodist Episcopal Church separated to form the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

The St. John Methodist Church in Shelbyville was a part of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. The Lexington Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in March, 1869 and held the Annual Session at Shelbyville, Kentucky

in March, 1893 under Bishop Randolph S. Foster. St. John was in the Louisville District of the Lexington Conference. In 1893, the Lexington Conference had a total of one hundred fifty-one (151) churches and a total of nine thousand, six hundred fifty-two (9,652) conference members.

In 1893, the Rev. Ezar D. Miller was appointed to the Shelbyville charge. In 1894 and 1895, the Rev. George Smith was appointed. It was during this time that St. John Church was built at the present location on College Street. The land was purchased from David H. Wayne in 1887 by the trustees of the church who were: L. Coleman, Charles Davis, Alfred Buss, Peter Gordon, Davis Riggs, F. Mason, Lazarus Howard, Henry Wilson, Jr., and W.M. Stewart, for the sum of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00).

The lot was situated in Martinsville. The dimensions are 225 feet by 50 feet. All of the purchase price was paid in full August 5, 1887. The Reverend John Russell was Pastor at the time. The church held its services in the Lodge Hall one-half block up the street.

The church was completed in 1896 at the cost of \$3,000.00. The members marched from the Lodge Hall to the church the Sunday of the Dedication. The large white wooden structure was a sight to behold. It contained thirty (30) beautiful stained glass windows, double doors, spacious seating arrangement, very high ceiling and the tall steeple enclosing one of the largest church bells in town. When the bell rang out, one could hear it all over town. The church was the largest Negro Church in town. At that time, it had the largest membership of two hundred (200).

The members certainly sang their praises to God that Day. The Reverend Booker was pastor for the opening.

During its history, St. John has had four (4) pastors to die while pastoring the church. The Reverend D.P. Jones, died April 27, 1883; Reverend Alexander McDade, died October 22, 1897; Reverend C.G. Nichols, died June 25, 1911; and Reverend R.P. Threlkeld died, 1922. The history includes three deceased wives of our Methodist ministers, Mrs. Mary Walton, who died March 27, 1885; Mrs. Sally Dupree who died in 1923; and Mrs. Jane B. Bush who died July 13, 1929. To these deceased ministers, ministers' wives and the faithful trustees, we surely can say their work was not in vain. The fruit of their labor is here today.

In past years, we have had a number of pastors who laboured faithfully and continued the work of Methodism. Some of them are:

Reverend Charles White	Reverend J.W. Crook
Reverend W.H. Bloomer	Reverend John Roach
Reverend R.D. Hines	Reverend Rusaw Downs
Reverend R. Jones	Reverend Samuel Chenault
Reverend Bradford	Reverend Donald Herndon
Reverend Crawford	Reverend Greer,
Reverend H.J. Johnson	and at the present,
Reverend J.W. Robinson	Reverend H.H. Greene.
Reverend C.H. Brower	Some of these pastors
Reverend W.V. Henderson	servered for one, two
	and four years.

Under the following pastors, Rev. J.W. Robinson, Rev. C. H. Brower, Rev. W.V. Henderson, Rev. J.W. Crook and Rev. H.H. Greene, extensive work in redecorating was done. The improvements are a new roof, exterior painting, repairing the stained

glass windows, enclosing the sunday school rooms and installing gas heating.

In 1979, under the leadership of Reverend Greene, we replaced the carpet, purchased new pews, new altar drapes, pulpit and baptismal front, communion table, hymn books, clock, communion table linens, vases and three screens. All of this was done by the donations from each member. Some of the pews were donated by families in memory of their loved ones. The ceilings have been lowered and new lights have been added since Rev. Greene has been here. The Dedication Services was November 11, 1979. In 1982, we repaired the roof, added fans and put aluminum siding on the exterior.

The month of June is our month of Loyalty. Each Sunday, a special program is given. The Pew Service, Men's Day, Women's Day and Youth Day are held during this month. The fifth Sunday in July or August (which ever one of the months has a fifth Sunday), we have our church picnic with our Sister Church, Allen's Chapel of Finchville.

Our present pastor, The Reverend H.H. Greene of Lexington, Kentucky, has been a legend in the Methodist Church. He gave his trial sermon in November of 1925 at New Coke and in the Spring of 1926, he preached at St. John for a special service. He was ordained in the Lexington Conference in 1929. Rev. Greene is the grandson of one of our Methodist preachers, The Late Reverend W. H. Bloomer.

Reverend W.H. Bloomer was at the St. John Church from 1906 - 1909 and returned later for one (1) year.

Reverend Greene is a native of Louisville; a graduate of Gammon Seminary at Atlanta, Ga., and has served as a member of the executive board of the Old Kentucky Home Boy Scouts Council. He has served as the District Superintendent of the Louisville District from 1948 to 1952. He was the first Negro to hold the office of President of Louisville Ministerial Association. He was a regular panelist on television "Religious Round Table" in 1956 to 1957.

Reverend Greene was appointed District Superintendent, Louisville District in the closing session of the Lexington Conference, June, 1964.

The Louisville District merged with the East Tennessee and the Tennessee Conferences in August, 1964 to form the Tennessee-Kentucky Conference. He continued on the Louisville District Conference until May, 1965 when the District was renamed the Lexington District. He led the District into merger with the Louisville Conference, May 1968 and the Kentucky Conference, June, 1968.

In August, 1964, the District Conference met in Shelbyville at St. John.

In 1971, Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky bestowed the Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree on Reverend Greene for his outstanding work in the Appalachian Mountains.

Reverend Greene retired in 1973.

One of the most active groups in the life of our conference both the Lexington and the Tennessee-Kentucky was the ministers'

wives association.

In 1926, the Ministers' Wives Association started their support of the Pension Fund which was their chief concern until the dissolution of both conferences. Mrs. Daisey E. Greene served as the last Chairperson of our District. Mrs. Greene is now retired. She was an assistant music supervisor in the Lexington School System. Mrs. Greene is also a member of St. John United Methodist Church.

Our church had a division in March, 1969 under the pastoring of John Roach. The church was in dire need of a devoted, upright, and true Methodist Minister who would help in bringing the church together.

Our prayers were answered because God's gift to our church was in the form of our beloved pastor, Rev. Greene. We were able to turn our crisis into a blessing, and so many of our church members returned.

We give thanks for all the blessings we have received. Special thanks goes to our founders, fore-parents, all of the previous pastors, the pastors' wives, officers and members.

I would like to mention a few of our outstanding members in the early years. We feel that you should know some history of our members.

Dr. John W. Robinson was born in Shelbyville and a member of our church. He was ordained into the Lexington conference.

He had charges in Chicago and New York. He was District Superintendent and Builder. He ^{Builder} ~~was in charge of~~ St. Mark in Chicago and St. Mark in New York.

Mrs. Zora Clark, aunt of Reverend Greene, was the first Negro woman in Shelby County to receive a nursing degree.

T.S. Baxter was a member of our church and he was the first Negro to be elected as councilman in Shelbyville. He also was a member of the Republican Party Committee.

William Baxter, restaurateur and a great pianist was a member of our church. He traveled with a band and was also the pianist for a number of years at our church.

Mrs. Verna Chinn was the first Negro woman to establish a kindergarten in Shelby County. She served for many years as the Sunday School Superintendent. Mrs. Rebecca Smock Tilley, wife of Civil War Vet Corp. Josephy Tilley, educator and Sunday School Superintendent was a member of our church. Dr. Diggs, a very outstanding physician, unfortunately was killed while practicing here.

Emma Payne Roland, the first Negro reporter for the Shelby Sentinel Newspaper, served from 1961 until 1963, and wrote a column entitled "Community Life."

Lura Roland, Jr., was the first Negro to be appointed as a Barber Inspector by the State Barbering Board. He was also the first individual Negro to receive a grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development in this area.

Some of the officers are now due a great deal of thanks and recognition too. We owe so much to them for the hard work that they have done. They are Sisters Ada White, Hattie Hicks, Anna Crittendon, Ruby Dale, Hattie Payne, Orantes Dale, Eva Cottrell, Estella Marshall, Linda Crittendon, Myrtle Stone, Bessie Davis and Jannie Stoner. Also the members of the choir and Brothers Dennis Morton, George Lee Stone, William Payne, Edward Lancaster, Carl Reed and George Cottrell deserve recognition. These are all officers and special program chairpersons. We have a small membership of one hundred thirty (130) members. The value of our church property is two hundred thousand dollars. We are presently trying to secure parking facilities and a dining room for the church.

The Methodist Church is a well organized institution. The Legislative power of the Methodist Church is vested in the General Conference, which meets every four years and which has an equal number of representatives from clergy and laity. The council of Bishops, meets semi-annually and has general supervision of temporal and spiritual matters. The organized activities include the Methodist Publishing House, the Board of Missions and Church Extension. It also includes the Board of Education, Board of Temperance and lay activities such as the Methodist Youth Fellowship. We started in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784. In 1845, we were in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1870, the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was our conference. From 1869 - 1964, we were in the all Black Conference.

The Tennessee-Kentucky Conference was our conference in 1964. We went back into the White Methodist Conference in 1968 and are presently known as the United Methodist Church.

Methodism is regarded as a revival of primitive Christian doctrine, fellowship and discipline. Our Methodist preachers taught a full, free and present salvation as the privilege of every man through faith alone in Jesus Christ. The Methodist doctrine of regeneration is through "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord, Jesus Christ" (not through baptism). Sanctification is through the saving truth spiritually received and applied by faith and obedience.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

We are proud of our heritage through the Methodist Church. In 1984, we will be celebrating our Heritage.

Eunice Marie Payne Reed

HISTORY CONTINUED

the fund raising was a success. Mrs. Jane Campbell donated a lot for the church in 1859.

Part of the community concern was to provide a church for the Irish and German craftsmen who came to Shelbyville to help with construction or to work in the schools.

Excavations for the foundation were started in 1860. The bricks were made by Ed and John Brady, while James McCarthy supervised the construction. The bricklaying was done by Campion, the carpentry by Watts and Wells, the plastering by Nolan, and the dressed stonework by Herman Deiss. The church was dedicated in 1860. Rev. M.D. Lawler came in 1861 and other improvements were made including a bell tower and iron fence.

Ed Shinnick pp. 20-24