

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received JUN 3 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove.

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Sweden Cove Road N/A not for publication

city, town South Pittsburg vic. X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Marion code 115

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove

street & number Swedens Cove Road

city, town South Pittsburg N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37380

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Courthouse

street & number U. S. Highway 72

city, town Jasper state Tennessee 37347

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date N/A N/A ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove is a small Greek Revival period-influenced church building in rural Marion County about five miles west of South Pittsburg on Sweden's Cove Road. Built in 1853, the clapboard church is two-stories, rectangular-shaped and gable-roofed. It has a square bell tower at the return gable end of the facade, symmetrically-placed rectangular windows, and a central double-leaf door. Situated on a .63 acre lot and facing northeast, the church is surrounded by rolling hills and farmland. Except for minor alterations made during a post Civil War renovation, the church remains virtually unaltered and retains its architectural integrity.

Functional and simple in design, the small rural church features a double-leaf wood-paneled, screened door in the central bay of the facade over which hangs a flat wood awning. Two 2/2 light windows are symmetrically placed on the second story. Return gables on the facade and rear elevation are supported by cornerboard Doric pilasters. The square clapboard bell tower, located slightly offset from the facade gable end, has a square louvered vent on each side and a small finial atop its pyramidal metal roof. The three-bay wide side elevations of the church are comprised of 2/2 light windows on each story. No structural openings are located on the rear elevation. A stone foundation is covered by a plain wood sill board and the building's gable roof is covered with raised-seam tin.

The interior of the church also remains practically unaltered. Its first floor was used for services and the second story was used for classrooms. Three plain wood columns are located in the center of the building on each floor. A vestibule, housing the staircase and entrance to the first floor is located in the front section of the church. The simple wood pews are original. The ceiling of both stories is relatively new, as well as the oak floors.

No outbuildings are located on the .63 acre lot of the church and its grounds.

The name *Sweeten's Cove* is sometimes spelled *Sweden's Cove*, as on the USGS map for the area. However, the more tradition and historic spelling, *Sweeten's Cove*, has been chosen for the nomination.

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 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 Ca. 1853 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1853 Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove is nominated under National Register criterion C for its local architectural significance to Marion County as an outstanding example of a rural Greek Revival period church building. The two-story rectangular frame church exemplifies the simplicity and functionalism of rural or folk architecture while embodying characteristics of the Greek Revival period of architectural influence in which it was built.

The history of the Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove begins with the organization of its congregation in 1821. Emerging from doctrinal controversy and stigmatized the "Hardshells," were a faction of Baptists in the Sequatchie Valley area of East Tennessee that adopted the name Primitive Baptist. The Sequatchie Valley Association of the Baptist Church was formed in 1820 and the next year the Primitive Baptist Church in Sweeten's Cove was established. Elisha Blevins and John Kelly were called from another church up river to help in the organization. The new church was called Union Church.

The Union Church's first meetinghouse (no longer extant) was built in 1822 on the banks of Sweeten's Creek. In 1853 the congregation built the present church building. At a cost of \$96.75 the building was constructed under the guidance of a building committee. The committee was composed of Samuel Beene, Evander McKeever Roulston, and Owen Russell Beene.

For many years, the Sweeten's Cove Church had a strong congregation. It became the parent of new churches, as typical of other prosperous congregations. Services have been held continuously in the church except for a few years during the Civil War when services were suspended while the building was used as a hospital and barracks for Union soldiers. After the war hostilities in the area ceased, the church reconvened and the building was repaired and renovated.

Since its renovation after the Civil War, the Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove has remained virtually unaltered. The exact extent of alterations made to the original 1853 building are not known; presumably the windows were changed to their present 2/2 lights and the bell tower may have been added. Whatever changes were made, they however did not detract from the church's very basic, simplified Greek Revival period character. The building retains its integrity as a rural meetinghouse-type vernacular church of the Greek Revival period with its two-story rectangular form, clapboard siding, return gable end facade, cornerboard pilasters, symmetrically-placed rectangular windows, and central double-leaf wood paneled doors.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Raulston, J. L. and J. W. Livingood. Sequatchie, A Story of the Southern Cumberlands, Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .63

Quadrangle name Orme, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	1	1	2	4	0	3	8	8	1	3	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries are shown on the accompanying Marion County property assessment map. These were selected to include the church building and .63 acre lot on which it sits owned by the church congregation.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shain T. Dennison, Architectural Historian

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date January 1983

street & number 701 Broadway telephone 615/742-6716

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 5/19/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melvyn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/30/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration