

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>
COUNTY: <b>Claiborne</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>MAY 29 1975</b>

### 1. NAME

COMMON: <b>Big Spring Union Church</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Highway 32</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Springdale</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>Second</b>	
STATE <b>Tennessee</b>	CODE <b>47</b>	COUNTY: <b>Claiborne</b>	CODE <b>025</b>

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

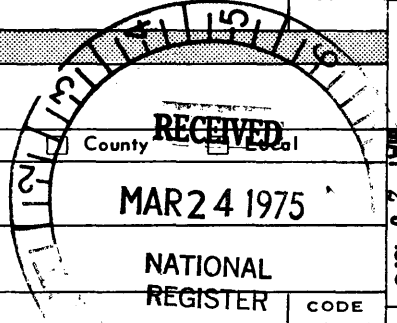
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Big Spring Southern Baptist Congregation</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Springdale</b>	STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>	CODE <b>47</b>

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Claiborne County Register's Office</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Courthouse</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Tazewell</b>	STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>	CODE <b>47</b>

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:		
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Claiborne

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 29 1975  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

		(Check One)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
(Check One)			(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

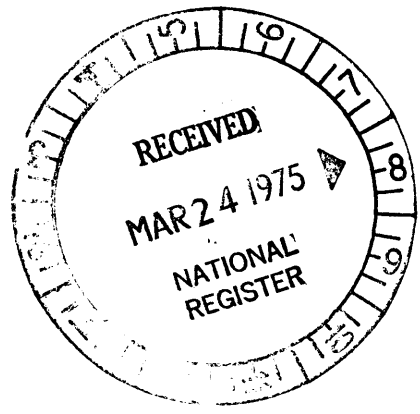
Big Spring Union Church, a log building located south of Highway 32 at Springdale, was built in 1795-96 as a frontier church. The structure still serves as a church and retains much of its original integrity.

The grounds have been well maintained with large oak and cypress trees providing shade for the church.

The structure sits on a stone base thus saving the lower logs from rotting. All openings seem to be original except the larger window on the south side which does not have the same proportions as the other smaller windows. The joints at the corners have been covered by 1 x 6 boards apparently added during the 1950's. The boards in the gables have also been added as has the roof although there are no dates for these additions.

The interior is heated by a coal stove located in the center of the church. Neither electricity nor plumbing facilities have been added. Originally the church probably had a hard dirt floor although today it has a hardwood one. The walls have been plastered and painted.

Although there have been these additions and alterations over the years, they have not changed the basic integrity of this frontier church.



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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1795-96**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Big Spring Union Church is significant not only because it is one of the oldest still functioning churches in Tennessee, but also because it is a fine representation of a frontier church.

The church was constructed during the winter of 1795-96. Apparently a local farmer named Drew Harrell hewed the logs and assisted Rev. Tidence Lane in erecting the building. Rev. Lane was then pastor of Bert Creek Church. The first known pastor of the Big Spring Church was Jesse Dodson who is listed in the 1800 minutes.

History pretty much passed the Springdale area by as settlers no longer used nearby Cumberland Gap to get to the West. The area saw no action during the Civil War although there were Union and Confederate troops in the county. The continued existence of the log church is probably at least in part explained by Springdale not being in the major currents of change over the years.

Today Springdale is still a crossroad town. The log church is now supplemental to a new, larger concrete block church located across the gravel road. The members of the Big Spring Union Church are proud of their log church and it does not seem threatened by destruction.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Morristown Citizen-Tribune, April 14, 1968.  
Tennessee Historical Markers, Tennessee Historical Commission  
 (Nashville, 1972. Sixth Edition.)

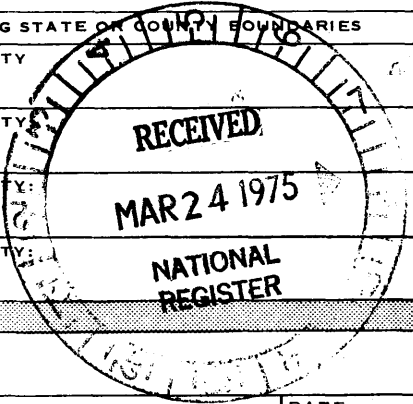
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 25 ' 20 "	83 ° 31 ' 28 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Jon Coddington

ORGANIZATION: East Tennessee Development District DATE: 5/11/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Lauren [Signature]

Title Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 3/19/75

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/29/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5-21-75

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