

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

For NPS use only

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

received **OCT 7 1985**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Verona Methodist Episcopal Church South

and/or common Verona United Methodist Church

**2. Location**

street & number Verona - Berlin Road N/A not for publication

city, town Verona N/Avicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Marshall code 117

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name United Methodist Church c/o Bishop Ernest W. Newman

street & number Scarritt College, 1008 19th Avenue South

city, town Nashville N/Avicinity of state Tennessee 37203

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marshall County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Lewisburg state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A 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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Verona Methodist Episcopal Church South in Verona, Marshall County, Tennessee is one of the better examples of vernacular chapel architecture in Marshall County. The church, built between 1880 and 1881, is located at the intersection of the Berlin and Lewisburg roads in the center of the small village of Verona. The one story weatherboarded church building is rectangular in form with identical transept wings attached to the north and south elevations. Although the interior of the church has been altered, it still retains much of its original character.

The front gabled church building rests on a stone pier foundation. The east facade displays twin entrances along with gable returns and a wooden wheel window with radiating muntins. Concrete steps lead to the front entrances, both of which are comprised of paneled doors topped by transom lights and pedimented lintels. Wooden pilasters define the corners of the church. A small wooden belfry surmounted by a bell cast hip roof and tin finial is located on the front ridgeline near the entrance. It contains the original bell from the Cave Spring Methodist Church, which was dismantled in the 1880s. Each of the transept wings has a paneled door and one 6/6 double hung sash window on the facade. The wings are capped by side gable roofs with exposed rafters and lookout brackets.

The north and south elevations are identical and feature two triple hung sash windows with 9/9/9 lights topped by pedimented lintels. Attached to these sides near the rear, the gabled sections which form transept wings complete the overall symmetry of the structure. Each wing displays two double hung sash windows with 6/6 lights on their north and south elevations. At the rear of the building is a one story, flat roofed schoolroom addition, built in the 1930s.

On the interior of the church, the sanctuary follows an open hall plan with the transept wings completing the main portion of the church. The interior contains a raised dais with a chancel rail supported by lathe-turned balusters. A chair rail is located along the walls with beaded wainscoting below the railing. Much of the interior has been remodeled.

The church is located in a grove of mature trees in the village center adjacent to the community school. Also located on the property is a small privy covered with vertical wooden siding and topped by a shed roof.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1880-1881 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Verona Methodist Episcopal Church South is nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance in the Verona community and Marshall County, Tennessee. The church was constructed between 1880 and 1881 on its present site and is one of the better examples of vernacular chapel architecture in Marshall County. The simple frame chapel is restrained in decoration, but interesting for its modified cruciform plan and simple decorative elements which include a heavy wooden raking cornice, gable returns, pedimented lintels and a belfry with a tin finial.

The Verona Methodist Episcopal Church South congregation was composed of members from the old Cave Spring Methodist Episcopal Church established in the 1840s. Cave Spring Church remained active until about 1880 when the congregation was divided, one portion of the membership forming a new church in nearby Farmington and the other group establishing a church in the Verona community. At this time, the old Cave Spring church was dismantled, and some of the materials were used in the construction of the new Verona Methodist Episcopal Church South. These included much of the timber from the old church, the pews, and the church bell.

The land for the new Verona Church was deeded to the church trustees in July 1880 by W. A. and Hattie McGurdy for a payment of twenty-five dollars. The first minister at the new Verona church was Thomas Burr Fisher (1844-1922).

The original structure remains essentially intact. A rectangular shaped rear shed addition which serves as Sunday School rooms was constructed in the 1930s. A hand-carved cedar cross utilizing cedar wood from the old doorsteps of the dismantled Cave Spring Church was also placed in the church at about the same time. The Verona United Methodist Church remains an integral part of the Verona community as well as contributing to the architectural character of the area.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Verona Methodist Church." Marshall County Historical Quarterly, Vol. XVI No. 1, Spring 1985, pp. 29-30.  
"Verona Methodist Church - Verona, Tennessee." Typed MSS, n.d.  
Whitesell, Ralph. "History of Verona United Methodist Church, 1881-1981." Typed MSS, 1981.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one acre  
Quadrangle name Verona, TN Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>52106210</u>	<u>3193115810</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
C				D						
E				F						
G				H						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is irregular in shape and one acre in size. It is bounded on the east by Verona-Lewisburg Road and adjacent property lines, on the south by Verona-Berlin Road, and on the north and west by adjacent property lines. This includes all the property historically associated with the Verona Methodist Episcopal Church South.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James (Bo) Childress, Community Development Research Analyst  
organization South Central Tenn. Development District date March 1985  
street & number P. O. Box 1346 telephone 615/381-2040  
city or town Columbia state Tennessee 38402-1346

## 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. Bryan

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 9/27/85

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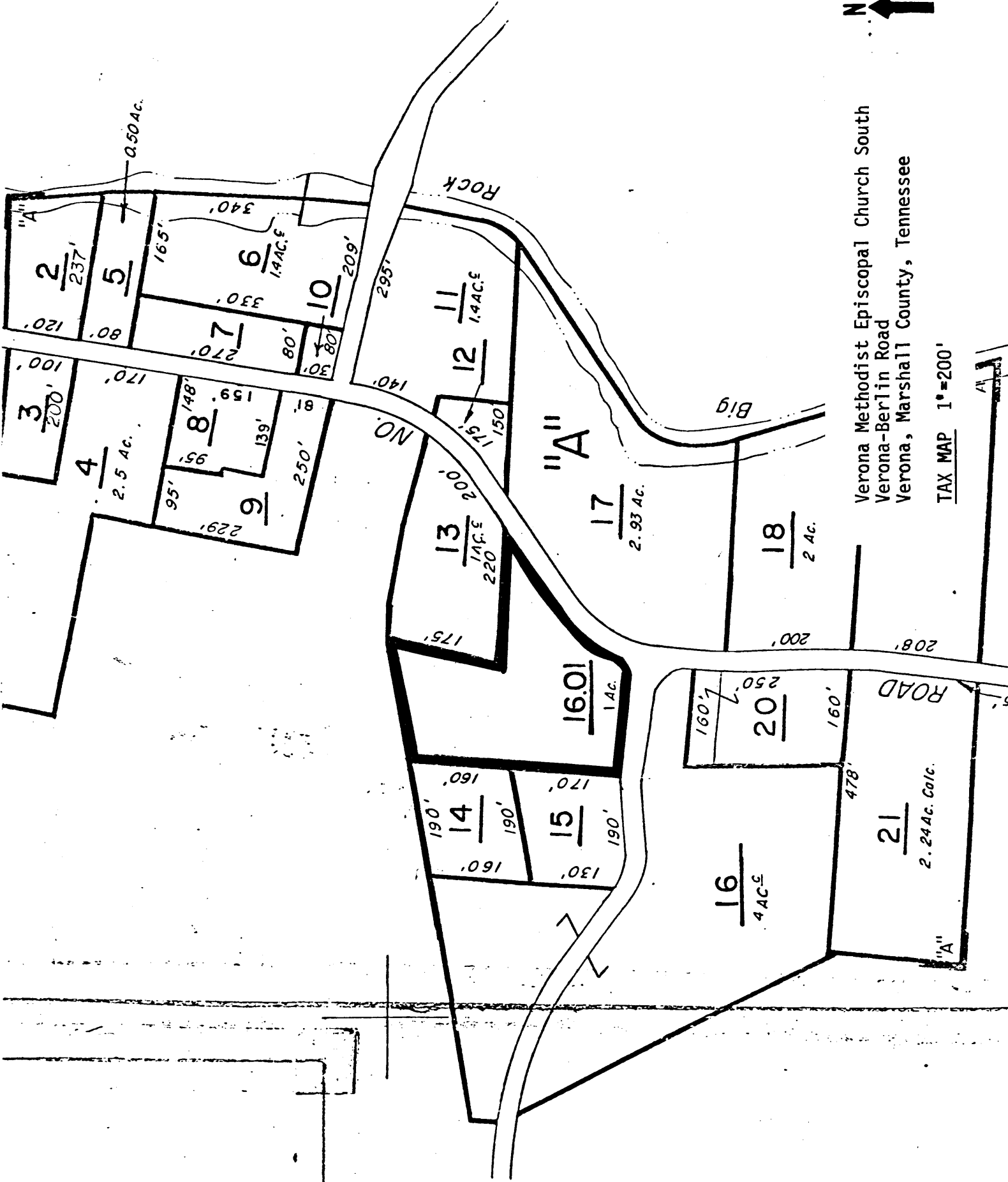
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Herbert L. Bryan Entered in the National Register date 11-7-85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date



Verona Methodist Episcopal Church South  
 Verona-Berlin Road  
 Verona, Marshall County, Tennessee

TAX MAP 1"=200'