

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUN 5 1985  
date entered AUG 30 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Chapel Hill N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Marshall code 117

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Columbia Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, c/o Mrs. Norman Johns

street & number Route 1

city, town Chapel Hill N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

**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

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

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

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

Situated on the east side of Main Street one quarter-mile north of the business district of the small market town of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, the Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church is a brick chapel constructed in a local adaptation of the Greek Revival style. The 1866 church, oldest in the community, is one of the best examples of vernacular Greek Revival architecture in Chapel Hill and northern Marshall County.

The church is a large two-story rectangular structure, constructed of soft red brick, laid in common bond. The building rests on a limestone foundation and is topped by a front-gable roof of composition shingles. The interior is largely taken up by the open hall sanctuary, but a small area at the back contains Sunday School rooms on two levels. At the very rear of the building is a one-story shed addition containing a kitchen and service wing. Decoration is classical in influence, including a heavy cornice and gable returns, Doric pilasters framing the entry, and tall sash windows topped with flat wooden beam lintels.

The front of the church faces west towards Main Street (U.S. Highway 431). The front is three bays wide, arranged around a central entry with six-panel double-leaf doors topped by a wooden segmental arch supported by reeded Doric order pilasters. Windows are paired and set in recessed bays bordered by corbeled brick borders, and are of double-hung sash construction, with 4/4 lights at either side of the entry and with 6/6 lights in the central windows above the door. The gable features heavily molded eaves and gable returns. Near the roof line are iron structural stars attached to internal hurricane bolts.

The south and north elevations are identical. Each is four bays deep, with a blind bay on the west end. The other three contain paired tall 4/4 light sash windows with wooden sills and topped by wooden beam lintels. A heavy cornice extends along both sides.

A one-story shed section is attached to the rear of the church, it is of light frame construction, covered with asbestos shingles. This section, added in recent years, is topped by a shed roof with exposed purlins at the eaves. Access is provided by two glass-panel doors, and the area is lit by a series of fixed four-light windows.

The interior of the church is quite simple, the sanctuary being a large rectangular hall with little expressed decoration. Pews are laid out on a central-aisle plan, facing a raised dais on which are located the pulpit, altar, and choir. The sanctuary was extensively remodeled in the 1960s. At the rear of the main part of the building are four Sunday School rooms on two-floors, the upper rooms being reached by a straight stair. The rear addition behind this part contains a modern kitchen and service wing.

*Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

## 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 1866 Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Chapel Hill, Tennessee (pop.752) is nominated under National Register criterion C for its local significance to Chapel Hill and Marshall County, Tennessee in architecture. The brick chapel, built in 1866, is one of the few structures of masonry construction in northern Marshall County, and is distinguished by its classical decoration, including a simplified temple front, heavy cornice and gable returns, and classical entry framed by pilasters. The congregation was organized in 1840 and completed work on the present church building in 1866. The interior of the building was remodeled in the 1960s, however, the Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church retains its architectural integrity.

The congregation was organized as Pleasant Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church on June 21, 1840. At that time Jason M. Ogilvie, James Tingles, Moses Wilson, and E.H. McLean were elected and ordained as ruling elders, McLean also being ordained deacon. Membership was listed as 72, several of these being slaves. Despite the promising start, by 1846 membership was listed at only 47. Throughout the 1850s the congregation met in the homes of the people. Membership still lagged. In March, 1866 the name of the congregation was changed to Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The church was evidently built by this time, for records of that year refer to the new church house and plans to liquidate the debt against it. In 1869 the congregation hired the Rev. G. P. Hasting for one year at a salary of one hundred dollars. Records show that he was preaching there in late 1871, his salary having risen to \$125. The congregation had by this time grown again to 64 members.

Some of the other early preachers were Willie Burgess, Henry Jones, P.L. Atkisson, William Hendrix, William Garrett and the Rev. Smotherman. An organ was added to the church in 1878. By the 1890s, membership had passed one hundred and in 1893 a parsonage was built. This building is extant but not located near the church building so it is not included in the nomination.

Architectural significance is derived from the restrained use of classical detailing. The church is laid out on a simplified temple plan, with brick pilasters defining the three bays of the west, or main front below the front-gabled roof. Other decorative features include a molded wooden cornice, gable returns, tall paired windows topped by heavy flat lintels, and double-leaf entry framed by fluted Doric order pilasters and topped by a rounded pediment. Brick construction is relatively rare in the cedar barrens of northern Marshall County, and the Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church is the earliest church house and one of the oldest brick structures in the community.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Fellowship Class of Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church. "Bits and Pieces of the Early History of Our Church as Taken From Old Record Books 1840-1895." Typed MSS, 1973.

"History of Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church." Typed MSS, n.d.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.03 acres

Quadrangle name Chapel Hill, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

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5	2	7	9	8	0
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3	9	4	2	7	0	5
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B 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is bounded on the west by Main Street, on the south by an alley, and on the east and north by adjoining property lines. This is all the land historically associated with the Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

**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 Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central Tennessee Development Dist 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. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/20/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

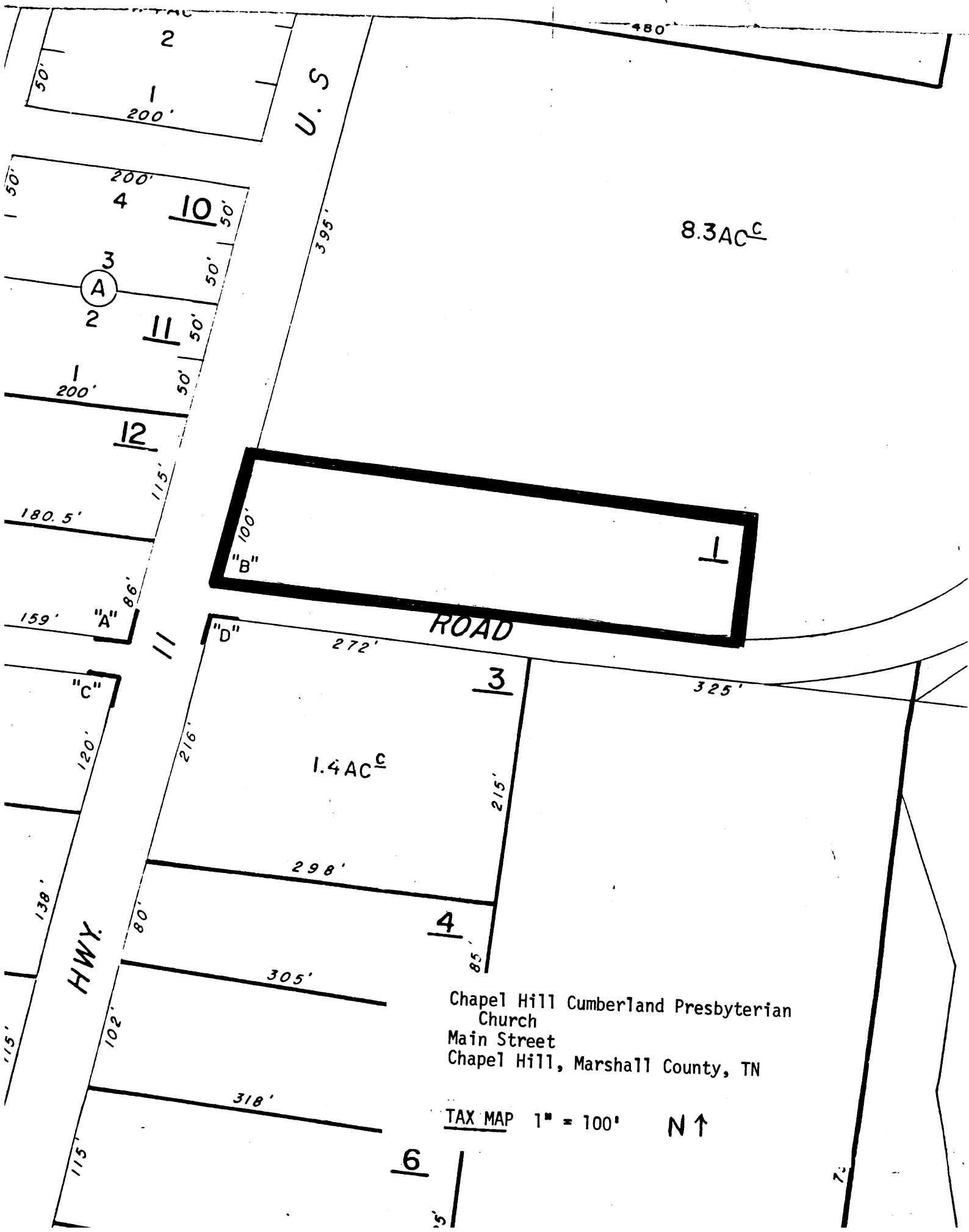
date 8/30/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



480

U.S.

8.3 AC<sup>C</sup>

10

A

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ROAD

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D

3

1.4 AC<sup>C</sup>

C

4

HWY.

Chapel Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Main Street  
Chapel Hill, Marshall County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 100' N ↑

6

