Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 14 1980
DATE ENTERED FEB 29 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
~~The~~ Mount Bethel Methodist Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

S of Vienna on

STREET & NUMBER
Mount Bethel Road (Mansfield Township) __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
~~Mount Bethel~~ Vienna X VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
13th

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
New Jersey	034	Warren	041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
X STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The Trustees of the Church (A list of names and addresses are on an attached sheet;
STREET & NUMBER these persons each have a three-year term)

CITY, TOWN STATE
__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Warren County Court House
STREET & NUMBER
Second Street
CITY, TOWN STATE
Belvidere New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory
DATE
__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation
CITY, TOWN STATE
Trenton New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church is a good example of a simple meetinghouse form. The walls, for the most part, are constructed of rough-square stone with Federal style lintels over the doors and windows. From all evidence, the exterior of this structure has not changed with the exception of a modern kitchen to the rear of the structure. This lean-to addition does not distract or mar the original structure. A round-arched window with curved mullions lights the attic in front. This attic area was originally a balcony on the interior used for additional seating. On each side of the linear facades are 3 regularly spaced sash windows. Each has recessed one-panel double shutter doors below a transom. Both are lined with matching panels. The simple cornice is returned on both gables.

The interior is a simple one-cell or one room plan with an adjacent frontal foyer. The foyer is flanked by two doors. The left door leads to the upper enclosed balcony-attic area and the door on the right is a storage closet. There is one entrance to the main sanctuary, with a central aisle flanked by rows or pews. The chancel area is elevated by one step to form a semi-circular recess by means of the alter rail. The chancel wall retains a decorative Greek Revival frieze. The basement's supportive structures are hand-hewn oak beams.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1809 - Naming of Church
1844 - Actual Date of Structure

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mount Bethel Methodist Church, the oldest Methodist edifice in this rural township, was constructed in 1844 in a conventional meeting-house form with restrained vernacular Greek Revival styling. The building is an interesting mixture of the conservative nature of Methodism (the simple meetinghouse plan), the traditional construction technology of Warren County (stone), and popular mid-19th century architecture (massing and details).

A significant aspect of the church is the establishing of the Methodist religion in the area. The church is the oldest Methodist church in the Township of Mansfield and possibly the oldest of any denomination in the township.

The earliest known date connected with the establishment of Mount Bethel Congregation is January 16, 1788. At that time Dr. Robert Cummins, a Revolutionary War surgeon, bought four tracts of land from Andrew Bray. The land was then known as Schamp Farm. Cummins, in turn, sold part of this land to James Egbert of Staten Island in 1796. Egbert, a Methodist, decided to give a tract of land to construct a church.

It is historically established that in 1809 the village and church was named Mount Bethel by Bishop Francis Asbury, America's first Methodist bishop.

Up until the time the cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1844, the church meetings where held in various homes in the area. The church was dedicated in the fall of that same year and cost approximately $2,600.

The architectural aspect is also significant as its basic theme is more distinctly a holdover from the eighteenth century rather than the strong ornate influences of the nineteenth century.

It is important to note the cemetery as two of the early owners of the land are buried there, Dr. Robert Cummins 1742-1806 and James Egbert 1742-1817.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

155th Anniversary Book of Mount Bethel Methodist Church, 1964.

Yates, Bernice M. A Short History of Mount Bethel, 1976.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

QUADRANGLE NAME Washington QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	508260	4519200
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached maps for complete reference.

Block 901, Lot 23

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Revised by the Office of Historic Preservation)

NAME / TITLE

Bernice M. Yates, B.A. M.A.H. Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

July 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

252 Jane's Chapel Road Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D.

TELEPHONE

(201) 637-4455

CITY OR TOWN

Mt. Bethel

STATE

New Jersey 07863

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL XX

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

10-26-79
DATE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2/29/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE 2/22/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

GPO 921-803

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The Mount Bethel Methodist Church
Warren County, New Jersey

OWNER OF PROPERTY

CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Charles Almer, Jr.
Jane's Chapel Road
Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D. 07863

Leonard S. Brown
Jane's Chapel Road
Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D. 07863

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grimm
Jane's Chapel Road
Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D. 07863

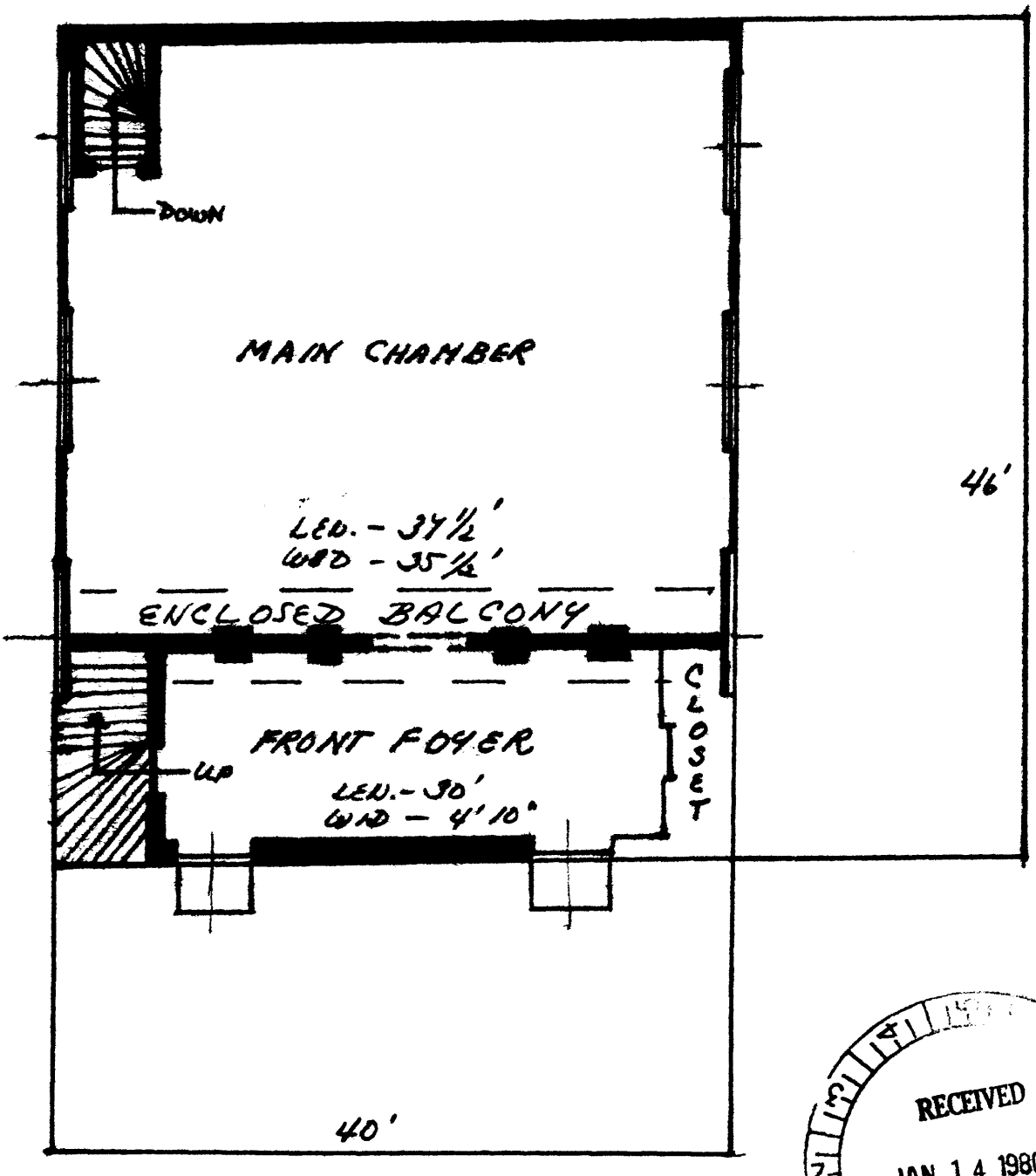
Frank Lebo
Oak Hill Manor
Hackettstown, R.D. 07840

Herbert McCann
Valley Road
Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D. 07863

Charles Parke
Parke Road
Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D. 07863

Loren Picking
Jane's Chapel Road
Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D. 07863

Mrs. Vernet Steinmann
Jane's Chapel Road
Mt. Bethel-Oxford, R.D. 07863



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JAN 14 1980
NATIONAL REGISTER

Mt. Bethel Methodist Church FIRST FLOOR
August 4, 1978 Warren County, New Jersey
Bernice M. Yates