

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 12 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 18 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 AND/OR COMMON
Pickett Chapel Methodist Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: East Market Street
CITY, TOWN: Lebanon
STATE: Tennessee
VICINITY OF: Fourth
COUNTY: Wilson
CODE: 47
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE: 189

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mrs. Richard D. Lawlor
STREET & NUMBER: 112 South Hatton
CITY, TOWN: Lebanon
STATE: Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Wilson County Register's Office
STREET & NUMBER: Wilson County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN: Lebanon
STATE: Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey
DATE: July 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Tennessee Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN: Nashville
STATE: Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pickett Chapel Methodist Church has stood on a town lot near the center of Lebanon for nearly 150 years and has served both the black and white citizens of this county seat during most of this period. The small (forty by sixty feet), rectangular, brick church was built on a cut and coursed limestone foundation. All of the sixteen-inch thick walls, except the north, contain handmade brick laid in the Flemish bond pattern. The medium gable roof, originally sheathed with wooden shingles, is now clad with composition roofing material. An inset, centered belfry surmounts the roof. Although the construction date of this feature is unknown, an old photograph reveals that it was already in place as early as 1896. The open tower was built on a paneled platform, and the bellcast hip roof, covered with composition shingles and topped with a finial, rests on four posts which form modified trefoil arches. A boxed cornice and four brackets on each side further ornament the belfry.

The south elevation has a gable-roofed, enclosed porch constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond with modern, aluminum double-leaf doors, having head and side lights, and concrete steps. This addition, which probably dates from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, also has a decorative cornice, a brick belt course, and below the eaves line, a corbel table. The main roof raking features a decorative, compound cornice.

The east and west elevations are identical; each has four elongated, four-over-four windows which have translucent lights, plain wooden sills, and brick, radiating voussoir arches. A distinguishing feature of these walls is the segmented cyma recta cornice constructed of gray, shaped brick. Chimney stacks, centered on the top of both walls, project through the eaves. A small section of the northwest corner of the church was apparently damaged and relaid in common bond. Although the hardware remains, the shutters have been lost.

The north wall, laid in common bond, has only one opening, a large aperture which would accommodate double leaf doors. The roof trim has closed verges. Traces of an earlier addition, which had approximately the same size, configuration, and location as the front porch, are still visible on the north wall. A hodgepodge of concrete and cinder block, flat-roofed additions were attached to the rear of the church in recent years; fortunately these cannot be seen from the street.

Although the church interior has been considerably modernized, it is still possible to determine its original configuration. The hardwood floor slopes ten inches in a distance of forty feet from the south wall. A dais, located in the northwest corner, is enclosed by a balustrade which contains a heavy rail and turned balusters. The plaster, baseboards, wainscotting, chair rails, and crown and frieze moldings all appear original. Decorative molding surrounds the double leaf doors in the south wall. A gallery constructed across the south end of the room, according to local tradition, provided space for the slaves of the antebellum church members. The ceiling, which is covered with acoustical tile, has a twenty-by-forty-foot barrel vault, and six round columns are evenly spaced under the long sides of this feature; this vault was constructed within what was originally a post and lintel framework. At least five styles and vintages of benches, some of which seem handmade, are found in the 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 checked="" 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 1829-30

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shortly after Wilson County was organized in 1799, Methodist circuit riders held meetings in the open or in the courthouse. About 1823 a few settlers met at the house of a Dr. Frazier and organized a congregation. In 1829 a lot in Lebanon was purchased and the Methodists built the first church in the city a year or two later. Until the area Cumberland Presbyterians erected their own church, the Methodists shared their meeting house with that sect. The Methodists soon outgrew the church and in 1856 built a new edifice on East Main Street. Ten years later the church was sold to a Negro Methodist congregation; this group named the church Pickett Chapel in honor of Calvin and James Pickett, members of the board of trustees of the Tennessee Conference, who had assisted them with organization of the congregation. In 1974 the black congregation moved to a new building and rented the church to a white group, the Lighthouse Tabernacle Cogic. The church is now vacant.

In 1834 Tennessee Conference was held in this church, and Bishop William McKendree, the first, native-born American Methodist bishop, presided over this, his last conference. Among the luminaries attending this meeting were John Carr, an early Tennessee historian and one of the originators of the camp meeting movement; a powerful and influential orator Logan Douglass; Bishop James O. Andrew, who inadvertently precipitated a schism in the denomination; leading Southern educator and author of the constitution of the M.E. Church Bishop Joshua Soule; James Gwin, Andrew Jackson's chaplain during the Battle of New Orleans; and John B. McFerrin who wrote Methodism in Tennessee.

Pickett Chapel was the first brick church built in Lebanon and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, brick buildings in the city. Although considerably altered by generations of occupants, the building still retains many of its original architectural refinements--shaped brick cornices, slave gallery, and decorative woodwork--which set it apart from the few surviving examples of early nineteenth-century brick churches in the state.

The present owner, Mrs. Richard D. Lawlor, who acquired the church in July 1976, promises a bright future for this important building. A nonprofit organization, the Golladay-Lawlor Foundation, is being formed to insure that the property will be converted for public uses. Immediate plans call for the establishment of the Wilson County Museum in the building; the church hall will house exhibits, and the modern additions in the rear will serve for storage and office and exhibit preparation space. It is envisioned that the growth of the museum will necessitate moving the facility to larger quarters; this will then provide space for setting up a small, intimate playhouse for legitimate theater productions and children's programs.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Richard Lawlor, County Historian, Wilson County, Tennessee.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 ⁹⁴⁰ 563140 4007940
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

October 1976

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Hays

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

10/5/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/18/77

ATTEST

 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2.18.77