

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

SEP 21 1987

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Waynesboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number High Street city, town Waynesboro state Tennessee code TN county Wayne code TN 181 zip code 38485

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1.

Name of related multiple property listing: NA Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission. Date: 9/17/87.

In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. (checked) determined eligible for the National Register. (checked) determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Date of Action: 10.22.87

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

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Religion/religious structure

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Religion/religious structure

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

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Greek Revival

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Other: eclectic influences

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foundation 

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Limestonewalls 

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Brick

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roof 

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Asbestosother 

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Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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Situated in the center of Waynesboro (population 2,109), county seat of rural Wayne County, Tennessee, the Waynesboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of mid-nineteenth century rural ecclesiastical architecture. The two story church, which also housed a Masonic Hall on the second floor, is laid out on the rectangular hall plan common to many rural Tennessee Protestant churches. Exterior decoration includes a gable covered with sawn wooden shingles, a shingled open belfry, and round arch windows.

The church is a two story common bond brick structure, three bays by five, and rectangular in plan. The building rests on a continuous limestone foundation, and is topped by a front gable roof. Over the central entry is an open wooden belfry. At the east end of the two story main block is a corbeled interior gable end chimney.

The west or principal facade faces High Street. The three bay front is arranged around a central entry comprised of double-leaf six-panel doors. These are flanked by four-light sidelights set over beveled wooden panels and topped by a four-light transom. The entry is framed by wooden pilasters and a frame segmental arch applied over the doors. Windows on both floors are round arch, double-hung sashes with two-over-two lights set under flat wooden lintels with corner blocks; over the central entry is a paired set of windows. Framed by a simple box cornice, the gable field is covered with imbricated wood shingles in a variety of decorative shapes.

Above the entry is an interesting open wood belfry, the lower sides of which are covered with wood fishscale shingles; the area above the open gallery is framed by vertical boards with decorative sawtooth trim. The structure is topped by a hipped roof, and contains the original large iron church bell.

The north and south elevations of the church are identical. Each is five bays wide, but the windows in the westernmost bay on each side have been bricked in. The first story windows consist of mixed stained and colored glass set in lead channels so as to create a lancet-shaped appearance. However, the windows are topped by flat wooden beam lintels with corner blocks and have wood sills. Windows on the second floor are two-over-two double-hung sashes like those on the west facade.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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In the 1950s a one story brick section, topped by a combination gable and shed roof, was appended to the east or rear elevation of the building. This small five room section contains classrooms and a kitchen and service area. The section is of separate construction and has no intrusive effect on the interior of the main part of the church.

The interior is laid out with a small entry foyer at the west. The interior features original oak floors, dark-stained oak pews in a double aisle plan, a raised chancel area at the front with original pulpit furniture, and a small enclosed choir stall behind the chancel. This choir area and the rear service area is screened from the sanctuary by a vertical board wall. The foyer just inside the entrance is a small room with two two-panel wooden doors to the sanctuary and doors on either side to small rooms, one now used as a bath and a classroom. A fifth door on the south wall opens to reveal a small staircase to the old lodge hall on the second floor.

The second floor, which housed the Masonic Hall until about 1967, is a large rectangular room of similar dimension to the sanctuary. Four two-over-two light arched windows set in rectangular frames are spaced equally on the north and south walls. The floor is of black and white tiles and the ceiling of narrow beaded wooden siding. Raised platforms are located at the east and west ends. The room retains the same appearance it had in the years it was occupied and used by the Masons.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1854  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Waynesboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church is being nominated under National Register criterion C because of its local architectural significance. Constructed in 1854, the two story brick church is Greek Revival in form, but is embellished with elements of various nineteenth century styles. The temple form church displays pilasters, a transom and sidelights around the entry, round arch windows, wood shingles in the gable field, and a belfry. It is one of two brick antebellum churches in Wayne County. The church retains its architectural integrity.

The congregation was first established in 1820, soon after the formation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and only a year after the final establishment of Wayne County. In 1821, the city of Waynesboro was founded, although it was not incorporated until 1852. The area began to develop more around 1844 when the old Central Turnpike from Columbia to Clifton was built.

Church records indicate that an earlier structure was used before the present edifice was constructed; however, there is no record of its location. The present building was constructed in 1854, according to records of the Masonic Lodge which shared the building for many years. The Masons were organized under a charter granted July 7, 1846. The Lodge's records are continuous from 1854. An entry for October 10 of that year states: "On that date a group of Masons and members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church marched, accompanied by a band, from their former meeting place to the present location of the church and lodge hall and laid the cornerstone for the present church building." Records indicate that the cost of materials for the building was \$300.00. Services evidently were held here soon afterwards, but all records for this early period were destroyed during the Civil War and the accompanying domestic disturbances which paralyzed the Wayne County area. During most of the conflict, services were discontinued, and the building occupied for a while by troops.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Galloway, Charles. Interview. January, 1987.

History of Tennessee. Nashville: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886.

Yeiser, Ruth. Interview. January, 1987.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	3	0	6	1	0	3	9	0	8	7	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

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See continuation sheet

Waynesboro, TN 33SE

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is bounded on the north by Water Street, on the west by High Street (SR13), on the east by adjacent property lines and on the south by an imaginary line located 50' north of the south property line of the church.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The area included in the boundary is historically associated with the church and provides a setting. It excludes land with intrusive buildings or building not related to the church.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central TN Development District date April 1987

street & number P.O. Box 1346 telephone 615/381-2040

city or town Columbia state Tennessee zip code 38402-1346

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Waynesboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church

The first meeting after the war was held on November 3, 1866. Records state "Whereas for the past five years the public worship of God and church business in many places couldn't be attended to because of circumstances over which they had no control and it being the case in this community when only one elder and four members were left in its bounds and now through the instrumentality of the Revs. R. S. and James M. Walker we have increased members to over forty ..." There were now fifty-two church members and three elders. Their pastor's salary was \$100.00 per annum, however, the Waynesboro congregation contributed only a one-fourth share, being on a circuit with other churches.

Formal title to the property was secured near this time, in May 1867. At a Session meeting on September 3, 1872, a motion was adopted to have the church dedicated at the next meeting of the Richland Presbytery. The Waynesboro church remained in the Richland Presbytery until 1899, then was a part of the Madison Presbytery, and now is in the Columbia Presbytery.

In 1878, the north wall of the church fell in during services, but there was only one minor injury. Local accounts state that the wall was weakened by soldiers' bullets during the Civil War, but this cannot be substantiated. Records indicate that part of the burden of rebuilding was shared by the Northern Methodists who used the same building for their services for a while ending in 1895. The Session at one point adopted a policy of allowing the church to be used by any Christian group as long as such use did not conflict with the Methodists or the Presbyterians.

In 1902, the church's old tall spire was replaced, after being struck a number of times by lightning. Some parishioners had reported that they feared going to church during storms because the old spire posed a hazard. The steeple was replaced by the present belfry.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church bought out the Masonic Hall in 1976, and now uses the old lodge hall for extra space.

The church is one of only two historic brick churches in the county, and is significant in architecture for its fine pedimented front, pilasters separating the three bays, and its original arched windows. The belfry features an open cote housing the original bell, sides covered with wood fishscale shingles, and a pyramidal roof. The interior follows the open rectangular hall plan of most churches of the region. About 1948, the choir area at the front of the sanctuary was remodeled, and the interior has been painted since that time. The lodge hall upstairs retains its basic original form, again a large open room with a simple tile floor.

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The church is the second oldest church building in the county and the oldest still in active use in the county. A small frame Methodist chapel was established in the 1840s at Oak Grove, just north of Waynesboro on the Green River, but the building has been severely remodeled on several occasions and is infrequently used. The Waynesboro Cumberland Presbyterian Church is quite similar to the First Presbyterian Church (1858) in Clifton, located in the northwest corner of the county on the Tennessee River. The Clifton church is another large rectangular brick church but with a simpler wooden bell tower and plain interior. The front of this church was severely altered during the Civil War when it was used as a livery stable by Union irregulars. The use of brick was relatively uncommon in Wayne County until late in the nineteenth century, and the Waynesboro church was for years the largest structure of brick construction in the community. The church remains an important landmark in the community.

