

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

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

For NPS use only

received JUL 13 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic New Salem United Methodist Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 2417 Tipton Station Road N/A not for publication

city, town Knoxville vic. N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Knox code 093

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 New Salem United Methodist Church

street & number 2417 Tipton Station Road

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37920

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Knox County Register of Deeds (V-2,567; WD,353)

street & number City-County Building, Hill Avenue

city, town Knoxville state Tennessee 37902

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		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on Tipton Station Road at Martin Mill Pike and Twin Creek Road in the Stock Creek community, the New Salem United Methodist Church is a single-story rectangular structure of clapboard and shingle construction set on a yellow brick foundation. Thirty feet in width and fifty feet in length, the church is four bays deep and three bays wide. The foremost side bays, forming twin narthex, are eight feet deep and project an additional three feet on either side of the main structure. One projection is covered by a small gable crossed to the central gable, which runs the length of the building and covers the nave. The other projection is topped with a bell tower and steeple. The entire roof has been recently reshingled and is in excellent condition. A single chimney, no longer in use, is set flush to the east wall midway its length.

The main facade, facing south, is sheathed in horizontal grooved-joint boards halfway up. The remainder to the wide eave moulding is covered in alternating courses of square cut and pointed shingles forming a sawtooth pattern. The lap boarding extends upwards six courses over the central bay. The shingles terminate above the clapboard with a slight outward flair which rests on simple rounded brackets. A medallion window consisting of a square with semicircles projecting from each side punctuates the gable end. An inappropriate goose neck light has been added above the window. The remainder of the building is sheathed with the horizontal groove-joint boards, all being painted white. Cornerboards with quarter round terminate each side.

The doors to the narthex bays are nine paneled and are set into rounded pointed arch frames capped with a hood moulding. Escutcheon plates and knobs are of Art Nouveau design; the locks require two skeleton keys for operation.

The central bay of the facade holds four mitred-arch windows, five over six double hung sash; the odd upper lite is a diamond pane formed in the mitre. The panes are of opalescent stained glass, blue and yellow; a few are cracked and one has been hideously mismatched with a wave glass. The side windows are of similar mitred-arch design but containing clear glass, nicely sagged. An attic vent on the gable end of the south narthex projection contains a gingerbread floral pattern.

Above the west projecting bay, an octagonal steeple rises from a square bell tower sheathed in the saw tooth shingle pattern. The lightning rod is a finial consisting of crockets springing from a cushion and topped with a sphere. The transition from octagon to square employs truncated hips at the corners with cross gables into which are set triangular lights behind gingerbread verge boards. Each side of the bell tower contains three rectangular bays; the wider central bay falls beneath the gable and extends six courses below the side bays which are filled with rectangular panes. A wide steeply pitched sill extends another six courses below the central bay which holds a gingerbread pointed arch set into a similarly decorated frame. Between each bay and at

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Methodist Church

Item number 7

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each corner of the tower thick gingerbread boards project outward from the face and extend the height of the shorter side bays.

On the rear north wall a three-sided flat-roofed apse projects four feet from the main body of the structure. Above the apse is a triangular window filled with blue stained glass.

In 1956, an addition was made to the original building for Christian education purposes. Twenty-eight feet wide and fifty feet long, this building is three bays wide and three bays deep, the front being set back even with the rear of the narthex projections of the main structure. The addition is sheathed in horizontal grooved-joint boards matching exactly the original. It is covered with a gable roof and sits on a yellowish-red brick foundation. The windows are six over six double hung sash with flat heads and clear glass. Thus, the addition complements the original church, sensitively matching its materials, scale, massing, color, texture and setback.

The two buildings are connected by a breezeway in front of a small changing room. The breezeway is formed with two arches, one pointed (probably original) and the other wider and rounded but relating proportionally in a pleasing manner. At the rear of the small room are two double hung sash, the upper of which is composed of small diamond panes.

The nave of the church, excepting the narthex, is a single space extending to the roof height. During the day, light shining through both the stained glass and the aged clear glass provide the interior with an unusually airy and unrestrained feel for its size. The wooden pews are original and have been worn and polished to a deep patina. Unfortunately, the ceiling has been inappropriately covered with a white acoustic tile and inappropriate white woodgrained paneling has been used to construct choir screens.

A small cemetery rests a short way in front of the church. The grave markers are of quite a variety: ranging from uncut stones pushed into the ground, to obelisks, to heartshaped stones marking the graves of children. One unusual stone shaped as a tree trunk is of Woodman of the World origin. Within the church grounds, particularly within the cemetery, is a stand of the largest trees in the entire community. Maple, oak, magnolia, walnut, and several species of conifer are represented of which several are over three feet in diameter.

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 1898 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria C.

The New Salem United Methodist Church is a notable example of Carpenter Gothic of the late 19th century. In its execution it shows a high degree of craftsmanship. The integrity of its design has been maintained through the years. The church remains today, as it has throughout its history, an important part of the social, cultural, and spiritual life of its members in the local community.

The present church is the third to be constructed on the site. The first was a log meeting house, twenty feet by twenty feet, built in 1813 at the behest of and on land donated by Peter and Rosanna Rule French. They represented one of several families of German origin to settle in the immediate vicinity of Stock Creek: a verdant area of rolling hills and valleys set between two higher ridges in southern Knox County. During the week, this log cabin served as a school house. The position of the altar is known from the placement of Rosanna Rule French's (d. 1830) gravestone in the cemetery of the present New Salem Church.

In 1832, a second church of frame construction was erected. As an enclave of abolitionist sentiment amidst support for the cause of the Confederacy, this building became a rallying point for the Stock Creek community. Since many had fled persecution and oppression in their mother countries, they were unwilling to see others held in submission. A meeting was held in the church affirming this commitment. During these years, Stock Creek remained a virtually armed camp; thus, the residents have felt a sense of insularity and isolation from surrounding Knox County through the years.¹ For instance, in the listing of area churches compiled for the 1982 World's Fair, New Salem United Methodist Church is not to be found. Parenthetically, many people have retained idioms and accents unique to the area.

Unfortunately, this second church was also razed when the present church building was dedicated in 1893. Like the first, however, the site of the 1832 church is approximately known, as beneath the place of its pulpit Ephram Williams (d. 1901) is interred.

1. East Tennessee Historical Society. Knox County in war time. The French Broad - Holston Country. 135.

9. Major Bibliographical References

THE FRENCH BROAD-HOLSTON COUNTRY, KNOXVILLE: EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The official journal of the Holston Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1941. Interviews conducted with Rebecca French Freeborg, New Salem Church Historian, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.9

Quadrangle name Knoxville, Tn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	2	3	8	3	5	0	3	9	7	4	8	9	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Arthur D. Reed, Jr., Student

organization University of Tennessee, Architecture School date 1/13/83

street & number 1704 East 5th Avenue telephone (615) 522-8778

city or town Knoxville state Tennessee 37917

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 6/29/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/11/83

for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet New Salem United
Methodist Church

Item number 8

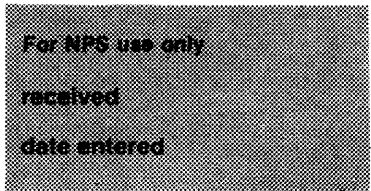
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Architecturally, the exterior of the present church is much as it was when constructed and is well maintained. For instance, glass was installed in the bell tower in the 1960's to prevent infestation by wasps and birds. The few inappropriate exterior alterations, e.g. the lamps and the bullhorn, could be easily corrected given funds and proper direction. The interior has been likewise inappropriately altered with acoustical tiles plastered on the high ceiling and by the use of a white woodgrain paneling for the choirs' stalls. These too are not irreversible. The interior retains its sense of simplicity in its light and airy single volume.

For the building of this church, the timber was locally cut and milled by the Goddard family. Others within the congregation contributed time, money, and skills in the construction. In the era when it was built, Carpenter Gothic was a prevalent style for small rural churches and others are extant in the upper East Tennessee region; one in Rugby, Tennessee is contained in that District's listing.

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Methodist Church

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated site encompasses the church, its grounds, and cemetery. Beginning at the intersection of Tipton Station and Twin Creek Roads, the southern boundary runs 110' feet east along Tipton Station Road. Thence north 600 feet along a fence (and its imaginary continuation), which borders the east side of the cemetery, to another fence 50 feet behind the church building. Thence west along this fence 200 feet to Twin Creek Road. Thence south 600 feet along Twin Creek Road to the beginning. The cemetery fronts Tipton Station Road and extends the width of the site 350 feet up the slope. Five hundred feet from Tipton Station Road, the church is set upon the knob of the hill.

