

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 12 1979
DATE ENTERED APR 3 1979

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

Capleville Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Capleville United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5053 Shelby Drive

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Capleville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

STATE

Tennessee

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
047

COUNTY
Shelby

CODE
157

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of the Capleville Methodist Church ✓

STREET & NUMBER

5053 Shelby Drive

CITY, TOWN

Capleville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee 38129

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shelby County Register

STREET & NUMBER

160 North Main

CITY, TOWN

Memphis

STATE

Tennessee 38103

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

May 1978

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Capleville United Methodist Church is located in Capleville, a small town in south central Shelby County, two miles north of the Tennessee-Mississippi state line. The cornerstone for the present building was laid on March 22, 1921, and on May 27, 1923, the church was dedicated.

Built on a brick foundation with a stone water table, the building stands a full two stories. The plan is T-shaped with a shortened crossbar. Stretcher bond is used throughout the building. Composition shingles cover the medium-pitched gable roof. There are three tall chimneys in the two-story crossbar section of the building.

The facade (north elevation) presents a symmetrical appearance and has three bays. The left and right openings are contained in elements that project slightly from the plane of the facade and repeat the parapeted gable and Gothic buttress motives.

The left contains a paired window with a stained glass transom and the right a double-leaf, paneled door which has a similar transom. The center bay has a three-section, Gothic Revival, stained glass window and above this is a trefoil window.

The east and west elevations are identical. Each has five bays and four transomed windows. The fifth (southernmost) bay houses an entrance to the sanctuary and a staircase to the second floor of the crossbar section.

The interior of the original section of the church is an open rectangular space. In the north end of the sanctuary there are three arched and recessed spaces; the center of these contains the altar, the left the entrance vestibule, and the right the choir section. The left and right arches have stained glass transoms. The south end of the sanctuary has a gallery and the entrances to a series of classrooms on both levels. Carpeting covers the floors and the ceiling is slightly vaulted.

East of the church stands the parsonage. This is a brick-veneered, single story house which was erected ca. 1960.

The property nominated is owned by the Trustees of the Capleville United Methodist Church and contains the church and parsonage. The tract measures 203 feet by 227 feet and contains 1 acre.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bethlehem Methodist Church was organized in 1849 two miles southeast of Capleville; a year later the congregation met in the town in a log schoolhouse. By 1857 a church had been built, and when this burned in 1869, a second was erected. A second congregation was formed in 1897 and constructed the Capleville Methodist Church. In 1921 the Bethlehem and Capleville congregations merged and began erecting the present house of worship. In 1968, the Oakville Methodist Church, which was organized in 1853, also merged with the Capleville United Methodist Church.

Architecturally this church is typical of those erected in Tennessee after World War I; however, it is an imposing building for a small community like Capleville. The extensive use of stone trim and stained glass distinguishes this church from those customarily found outside of the larger cities. It is a stylistically transitional building; while retaining some elements of the Gothic Revival style, which had achieved popularity during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the church design also shows a tendency toward the eclecticism of early twentieth-century architecture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Capleville Methodist Church, 1851-1951, a pamphlet prepared for the centennial celebration of the congregation, 1951.

Capleville United Methodist Church, Bethlehem-Capleville-Oakville, 1951-1976, a pamphlet prepared for the 125th anniversary of the congregation, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Southeast Memphis, Tenn.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 2, 3, 5, 8, 3, 0 3, 8, 7, 8, 9, 0, 0

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular tract which measures 203 feet by 227 feet; the boundary of this property is described in Shelby County Deed Book 303, p. 528.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE July 1978

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. Huger

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 2/6/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William Lebovich

DATE off 2/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William Lebovich

DATE March 30, 1979

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION