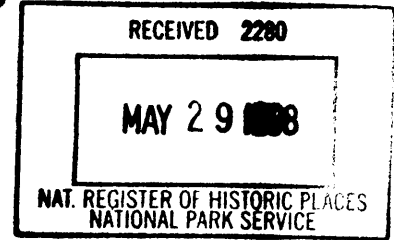


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

97-1232

Resub



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number US Highway 41A

not for publication N/A

city or town Shelbyville

vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Bedford

code 003

zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hargis
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/18/98
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

M. J. M. [Signature]

7/10/98

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Name of Property

Bedford County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
1		structures
		objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: church
FUNERARY: cemetery

RELIGION: church
FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Greek Revival influences

foundation Concrete Block
walls Wood
roof Asphalt Shingle
other Concrete, Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1876, ca. 1807-1946

Significant Dates

1876

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Congregation

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Center for Historic Preservation

Shofners' Lutheran Church and
Cemetery
Name of Property

Bedford County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.4 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Normandy, TN 79NE

1 16 560850 3922600
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Smith and Kate Carothers

organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date 12/12/96; revised 5/98

street & number P. O. Box 80, MTSU telephone 615-898-2947

city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37130

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Michael Shofner, Board of Directors

street & number 615 N. Main Street telephone 615-684-2632

city or town Shelbyville state TN zip code 37160

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Section number 7 Page 1

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

VII. Description

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery is located about eight miles east of Shelbyville on US Highway 41A. The building and cemetery can easily be seen while driving the US Highway 41A. The construction of this building dates to 1876 and is the third church built for the congregation, the first two are no longer extant. It is a Greek Revival influenced building, which retains its original form and is still used by the congregation today.

The building is a one story, frame temple-form church sitting on a concrete block foundation, which was added ca. 1940 to reinforce the original stone pier foundation. The shape of the building is rectangular, roughly seventy feet long and forty feet wide, with the long sides facing east and west. The high-pitched gable roof is an off-white composition asphalt shingle with small, over-hanging eaves. The sides of the building are weatherboard which have been painted white. The east and west elevations each contain five sets of nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows which are 1996 reproductions of the original windows. The south facade shows a recessed vernacular form of a distyle in-antis entrance. According to Talbott Hamlin, the "in antis" type was "probably first used by A. J. Davis in the Carmine Street Presbyterian Church, in New York..."(Hamlin, 344)

The south facade, provides the only doors to the building and is dominated by the high pitched roof line. Under this roof line begins the weatherboard wall and a wooden stringcourse that connects the overhanging eaves and creates a stylized tympanum. Characteristic of this style is the wide trim on the gable end and the wide trim at the cornice line. An air ventilation duct is located in the tympanum. In the center of this elevation is a recessed entryway containing two pairs of original two-paned wooden double doors each topped by an original three-paned transom that leads into the sanctuary of the church on the facade. Surrounding the entryway is a simple shouldered architrave trim. Pilasters are located on each side of the entryway as well as the center of the entryway. On the east and west walls of the entryway are two original single double-panel wooden doors that lead into Sunday School rooms. Two simplified Corinthian fluted columns are used to frame the entrance to this recessed entryway.

The north elevation is also dominated by the high-pitched roof line. Under this roof line begins the exterior weatherboard wall. The wide band of trim is discontinuous across this elevation. Roughly centered on this end is an outhouse, approximately six feet long by four feet wide, that has its shed roof line abutting to the north elevation. Added ca. 1930, it is of wood frame construction.

The east and west elevations are dominated by the high-pitched composition asphalt roof with small over-hanging eaves. Under the eaves are the exterior weatherboard wall where five sets of nine-over-nine windows appear. These windows are original, but contain reproduction glass added in the summer of 1996.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

The exterior of the church has been kept extremely close to its original appearance by the congregation. The roof was replaced with a composite asphalt shingle roof in the summer of 1996, and the exterior heat ventilation duct, located on the south facade, was added ca. 1960.

Shofners' Lutheran Church is a fine example of the manner that the Greek Revival style influenced rural vernacular church building as late as 1876. The facade of this church was built facing a roadway with the intention of making an impression and showing wealth. Shofners' Lutheran Church attempts to present itself as the "mother church" for Lutheranism in Middle Tennessee with its formal temple form facade. This temple form is a hallmark of the Greek Revival style observed in many Southern churches. The influence of "the traditional Wren-Gibbs church type" was reflected in the Greek Revival style and filtered down to affect more simplified vernacular style buildings such as Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery. (Hamlin, 32)

The interior of Shofners' Lutheran Church remains close to its original appearance with some changes for heating and lighting purposes. The original heating furnaces have been replaced with central heating and the Victorian era kerosene light fixtures have been electrified. A commercial grade red carpet borders the sanctuary and runs the length of the aisles continuing up to the chancel. This carpet was added about twenty years ago. The sanctuary interior plan is of a rectangular design with two small, square rooms extending from the rear serving as Sunday School rooms. These two smaller rooms are presently used for storage purposes.

The primary entrance of the church, that is located in the center of the south facade, opens into the sanctuary of the church. This area is one continuous space with the raised chancel centered at the north end. Forty-four original walnut pews, the pulpit, lectern, and altar are intact and continue to be used by the congregation. These pews sit on exposed original poplar wood flooring. The original poplar paneling remains and is painted the original color, white. The east and west wall elevations each contain five sets of nine-over-nine windows that are flanked by the original shutters and have been painted white. The shutters retain the original Victorian era hardware. The original bead board ceiling remains intact in this space and is also painted white. Hanging from the ceiling are the original Victorian era kerosene light fixtures and attached to the walls are the original Victorian era kerosene sconces. All fixtures were converted to electricity ca. 1930. The two sets of original, double wooden doors each have an original three-paned transom.

The original cemetery surrounds the church on all sides, displaying numerous graves of founding members of the Shofners' Lutheran Church. The cemetery contains burials from ca. 1807 to the present day, with the majority of the stones dating prior to 1950. Due to its historical association with the church building and the fact that the cemetery surrounds the church on all four sides, it is a contributing site to the nomination (C). The cemetery is an integral part of the historic setting. Several of the earlier graves have small unadorned headstones, listing name and the birth date and death date. The majority of stones, however, date from 1870 to 1950, and display a range of decorative motifs and religious themes, typical of the Victorian era and the early twentieth century. The more prominent grave markers display local

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Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

masonry skills of professional stone carvers and mark the sites of wealthier members of the congregation. The cemetery contains several family plots that are marked by low concrete walls and two examples of early nineteenth century limestone grave houses.

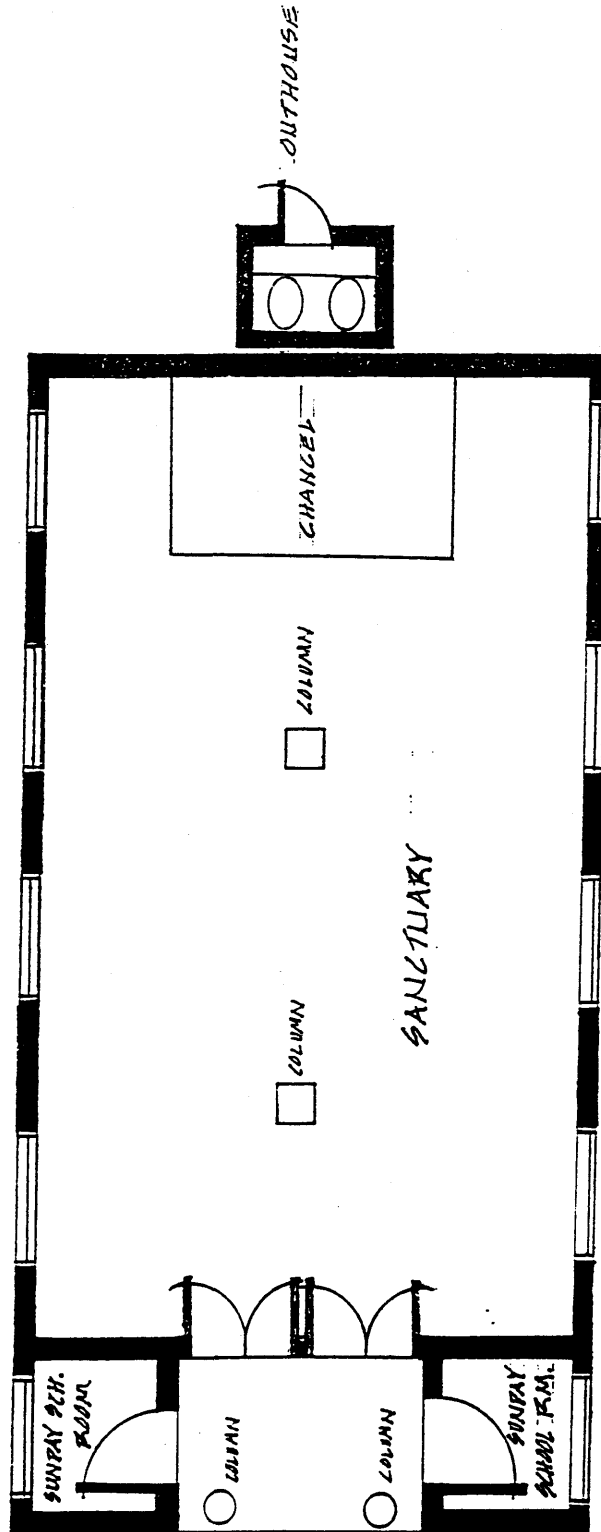
Half of the cemetery is surrounded by a black wrought iron fence erected ca. 1890. This structure contributes to the nomination. (C)

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Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee



SHOFNER LUTHERAN CHURCH
FLOOR PLAN

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

VIII. Significance

Shofners' Lutheran Church in Bedford County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in Bedford County under Criterion C, as a significant example of rural vernacular Greek Revival church architecture of the late nineteenth century.

In 1820, the first Tennessee Lutheran Synod was established in East Tennessee. This formal establishment came in response to almost twenty years of activism in East and Middle Tennessee and the steady, yet slow, rise in the numbers of German immigrants throughout East and Middle Tennessee. The Lutheran faith initially appeared in Sullivan County, East Tennessee, at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The spread of Lutheranism began in Middle Tennessee in 1806 to 1808. Martin Shofner, a "patriarch of Lutheranism," had received a revolutionary war grant for land in present-day Bedford County. (Armstrong, VIII, 100). In 1806, Margaret Shofner Burrow, his daughter and the wife of Phillip Burrow, settled with her husband on land near the confluence of Thompson's Creek and the Duck River, supposedly within the Shofner land grant. Then in 1808 Martin Shofner's son, John Shofner, along with Newton Cannon, surveyed the area that was to become Bedford County. John Shofner then migrated to Middle Tennessee from Orange County, North Carolina, followed soon by his father Martin Shofner. The Shofner family was of Germanic origin, and when they came to Tennessee they brought many of their family traditions with them, including their religious beliefs. Martin Shofner founded a Lutheran congregation that began worshipping in private homes in Bedford County. The Lutherans also established a cemetery on Shofner land. This Lutheran congregation is recognized as one of the oldest established Lutheran congregations in Tennessee, and one of the oldest established Lutheran congregations west of the Allegheny Mountains and south of the Ohio River. (Armstrong, 2)

As more German Lutherans began to arrive from North Carolina and settle in Middle Tennessee, the Shofner congregation began to grow, precipitating the need for a pastor to lead the group. Early in 1824, Martin Shofner, along with Michael Fisher, another Lutheran pioneer in Bedford County, wrote to the North Carolina Synod requesting a minister to lead the Lutherans in Bedford County. The Tennessee Lutheran Synod was already in operation and why Shofner and Fisher directed their request to North Carolina church authorities is unknown. The North Carolina Synod responded by sending the Reverend William Jenkins, a young man of 22, who arrived in Bedford County on September 21, 1824. Jenkins was a new minister, as he had just been licensed to preach on May 24 at St. John Church in Cabarrus County, North Carolina that same year. (Armstrong, VIII-100)

The Reverend Jenkins held his first service in October of 1824 to a largely German congregation, and his first communion service was held in March of 1825. Thirty-eight people attended the communion service, five of these people being slaves. Jenkins would serve as pastor to the Shofner congregation as well as the congregations at Jenkins Chapel (NR 10/17/97) and Crowell's Chapel until his death in 1877, with the exception of a four-year stint at Lovettsville, Virginia, ca. 1855. Although there was no money available to pay the Reverend Jenkins when he arrived in Bedford County, he was employed as a carriage and wagon

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Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

maker. In addition, Jenkins helped in the building of both the Shofners' Lutheran Church and Jenkins Chapel.

Soon after Jenkins' arrival in Bedford County, the Shofner congregation made plans to build a church. The first Shofners' Church was built with logs on the tract of Martin Shofners' land that he donated to the church ca. 1825. The first church was destroyed by fire several years later, at which time the second Shofners' Church was built. Its exact date of construction is unknown, but it stood just west of the present-day church, within the historic cemetery. After the construction of the present church building, the congregation used the second church building as a schoolhouse.

The present Shofners' Church was built ca. 1876 in a vernacular Greek Revival style. The Greek Revival style was popular from 1820-1850, but was a long-lasting and popular style in the South up until the late nineteenth century. According to Lee and Virginia McAlester,

Greek Revival was the dominant style of American . . . architecture during the interval from about 1830 to 1850 . . . during which its popularity led to it to be called the National Style. It occurs in all areas settled by 1860 . . . and especially flourished in those regions that were being rapidly settled in the decades of the 1830s, 40's, and '50s. The style moved with the settlers from the older states as they crossed into Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Old Northwest Territory or what is now considered today's Midwest. (McAlester, 182)

Shofners' Lutheran Church is a significant example of the popularity of this style in an ecclesiastical building, as interpreted by rural craftsman and builders in Bedford County. The Greek Revival style is known for its temple form through its use of a recessed distyle in-antis entrance supported by classical columns. Shofners' Lutheran Church is a vernacular example of this temple form with its recessed portico and pediment supported by a local interpretation of the Corinthian column. The two columns are traditionally round constructed of wooden boards and topped by a vernacular leaf-like form representing the Corinthian column. This elevation of the church is considered the primary entrance that is also noted by its position facing Highway 41A making it a landmark on this modern road. The Greek Revival style served to make an impression and display wealth by the formal facade facing primary roads. The Shofners' Lutheran Church is positioned in this way to display its place as the "mother church" for Middle Tennessee Lutherans and the vision and wealth of its founders and congregation.

Thus, its more stylistic architectural statement stands in contrast to the later Jenkins Lutheran Church, nearby in Bedford County, that is much more vernacular and unadorned in appearance. Also, the Victorian era decorative treatments on the interior of Jenkins Lutheran Church reflect the time during the 1880s when this second congregation chose to build its own church building.

The interior of Shofners' Lutheran Church retains its architectural integrity, as the original window shutters, wood pews, and Victorian light fixtures are intact. The original light fixtures, that were gas, have

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Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

been electrified, but are otherwise unchanged since 1876. The overall appearance of Shofners' Church is one of the finest and oldest Lutheran congregations/churches established in Middle Tennessee.

Surrounding the Shofners' Lutheran Church on all sides is one of the oldest cemeteries in Bedford County and Middle Tennessee. In the cemetery are grave markers dating to over a century, ca. 1807 to the present with the majority dating prior to 1950. Two limestone grave houses at the southeast of the cemetery predate the rest of the headstones and date to the earliest years of congregation, between ca. 1807 and 1824. The cemetery contains several prominent Lutheran family names, such as: Shofner, Ayers, Jenkins, and Miller. The Reverend William Jenkins and his wife, Mary Eules, are among those buried in the cemetery. In specially marked graves located in the front of the church are Martin Shofner with this wife. These graves are marked with a bronze plaque that was donated on June 29, 1941, and made possible by the descendants of Martin Shofner and sponsored by the Shelby chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This recognition of the church and these graves further emphasizes the position of Shofners' Lutheran Church as the pioneer church of Lutheranism in the Middle Tennessee region. Many of the historic headstones exhibit Victorian era design traditions. For example, Martin Gordon's headstone of September 15, 1879, features a tall shaft topped by an urn. John M. Eules, who died in 1874, has a flat headstone, with a Victorian floral pattern flanking a recessed carved inset of two hands in an embrace. The headstone for Calvin Jenkins, who died in 1906, has a shaft covered by a shroud. Mirroring the importance of family to the history of the church, most graves are arranged in large family plots, that in some cases are outlined by low stone walls.

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery is one of the oldest churches and cemeteries in Bedford County. It has served as a "mother church" for Middle Tennessee Lutherans from its beginnings in the early 1800s through the twentieth century. Shofners' Lutheran Church is a significant example of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture in Bedford County. Located with a contributing historic cemetery, the nominated property conveys well the interplay between architecture and faith among the Lutherans of Bedford County, Tennessee.

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Section number 9 Page 8

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

IX. Bibliography

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

X. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all property in listed tax map 97, parcel 46, bounded by US Highway 41A as documented in the enclosed Bedford County tax map. The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

Boundary Justification

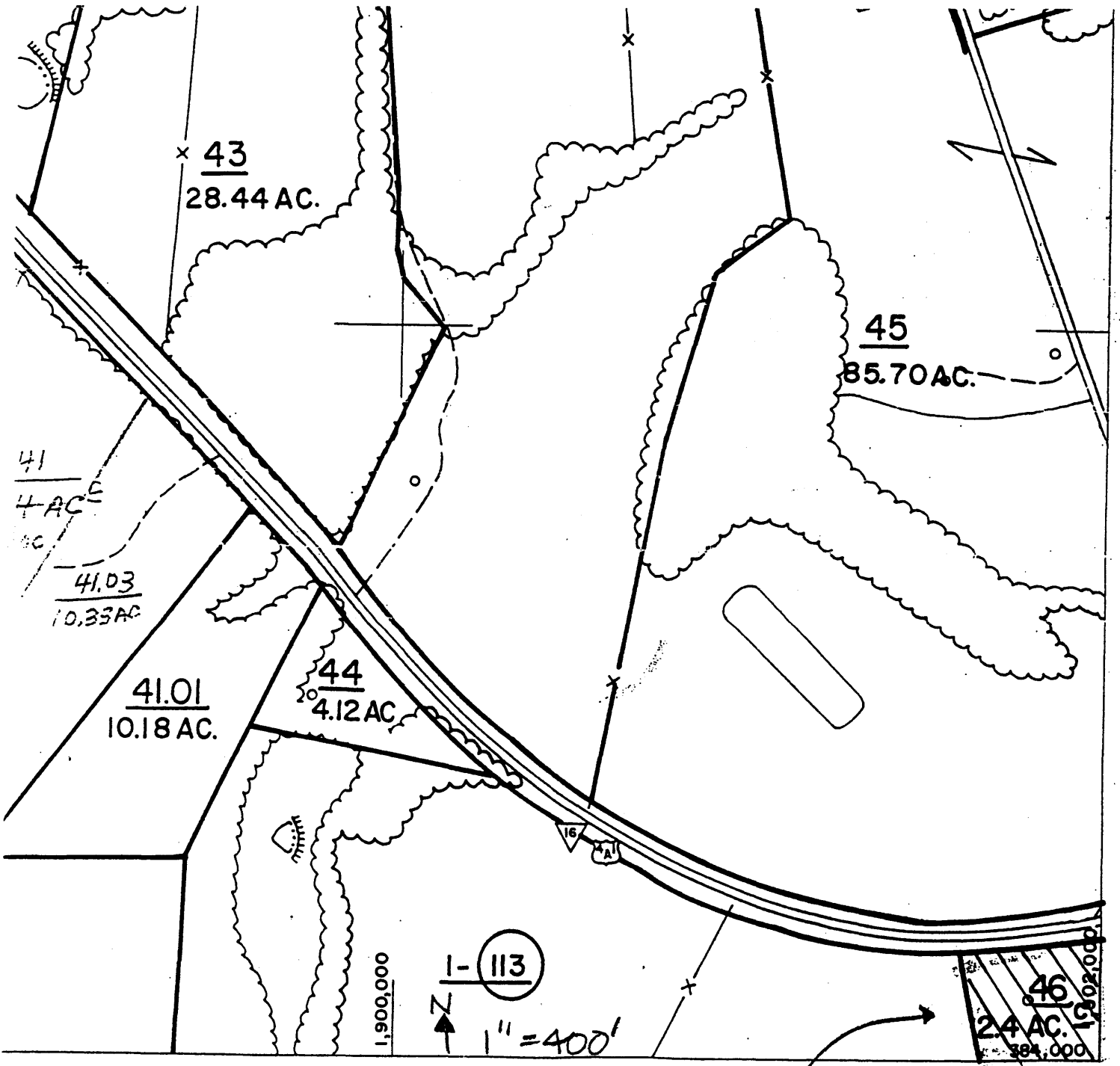
The nominated parcel is the site of the present and past Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
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Section number 10 Page 10

Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee



© Church & Cemetery

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
MTSU Photographs by: Carroll Van West
for Historic Preservation
PO Box 80, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: June 1996

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

Church, southeast elevation, facing northwest
1 of 22

Church, south facade, facing north
2 of 22

Church, southeast facade, facing northwest
3 of 22

Church, east elevation, facing west
4 of 22

Church, north elevation, facing south
5 of 22

Church, northwest elevation, facing southeast
6 of 22

Church, west elevation, facing east
7 of 22

Front doors, south elevation, facing north
8 of 22

Sunday School room door, east elevation, facing west
9 of 22

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Shofners' Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Bedford County, Tennessee

Interior, front doors, south elevation, facing south
10 of 22

Interior, sanctuary, facing northeast
11 of 22

Interior, sanctuary, facing south
12 of 22

Interior, original pews, facing southwest
13 of 22

Interior, original pew, facing southeast
14 of 22

Interior, sanctuary, facing northeast
15 of 22

Interior, Victorian light fixture
16 of 22

Cemetery and fence, facing west
17 of 22

Cemetery, facing southwest
18 of 22

Cemetery, facing west
19 of 22

Limestone "tent" grave houses, facing west
20 of 22

Infant grave marker, facing east
21 of 22

Cemetery, facing northwest
22 of 22