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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 10 1989

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). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Methodist Episcopal Church, South
other names/site number Prestonsburg First United Methodist Church Site # FD-6

2. Location

street & number west side South Arnold Avenue n/a not for publication
city, town Prestonsburg n/a vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Floyd code 071 zip code 41653

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan 3-30-89
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Kentucky
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets 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.
 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:)

Patrick Andrews 5/18/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religious Structure: Church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religious Structure: Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late Nineteenth & Twentieth Century
Revivals: Late Gothic Revival

foundation Stone
walls Brick
roof Tile
other Brick, Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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
1917-1931

Significant Dates
1917-1919,

1931

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Overview Form

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Warminski, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date December, 1988

street & number 340 East Second Street telephone 606/581-2883

city or town Newport state Kentucky zip code 41071

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Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Section number 7 Page 1

The Methodist Episcopal Church South (1917-1919; 1931) is sited on the west side of South Arnold Avenue north of West Graham Street. This block lies south of the city's downtown business district and is largely residential in character. To the south of the church building is a large paved parking lot, also owned by the church. To the north of the church is the parsonage, a two-story orange brick structure that is vaguely Colonial Revival in style and dates from the 1940's. Included in the nominated area are the church building, its rear addition, and surrounding yard.

The church building rises almost directly from the front lot line with a shallow setback and thus has a dramatic impact upon the streetscape. The building follows a "cross" plan with one roof ridge paralleling the street, and another perpendicular to it. This roof treatment forms steep wall dormers on the north, east and south elevations. The symmetrical main facade is balanced by two corner towers, both of which culminate in steep pinnacles with stone caps. The north tower is higher and includes a set of bells which are no longer operational.

The church is built of glazed yellow-orange mottled-finish brick in running bond with narrow joints of red mortar and rests on a raised foundation of concrete block. Yellow sandstone, both rough-cut and smooth-dressed, is used extensively for decorative effect, particularly in the window surrounds. The main building and towers are roofed with a low-relief, highly glazed green clay tile set in regular courses. One large section of the tile is missing from the facade gable and has been rather inexpertly replaced with a substitute synthetic material. The sanctuary windows are lancet-arched and are found singly or in pairs. The major windows of the main facade and side elevations are the geometric type, featuring a sizeable cusped arch with a pair of lancet windows in the lower portion and a quatrefoil set in a rondelle at the top of the arch. The two main doorways leading into the facade towers are surmounted by tudor arches trimmed with smooth dressed stone, and are set into a blind equilateral arch outlined by stone voussoirs.

The church's art glass windows are of high quality, and were executed by the R. Mueller studio of Cincinnati (a firm about which little so far is known). The east sanctuary window features ecclesiastical motifs executed in clear, brilliant-hued glass on a translucent or opalescent ground, while those of the side elevations, anterooms, doorway transoms, and towers display abstract designs in shades of clear green and rose on a creamy-yellow translucent field. The east window tells the story of the Resurrection, and its quatrefoil displays Masonic symbols. Smaller panels depict the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ the Good Shepherd, and the parable of the Sower Who Went Forth to Sow.

The "auditorium-plan" sanctuary of the church features semi-circular rows of pews divided by a central aisle. They face a chancel set on a low platform defined by an oak balustrade. Behind the altar table, ranks of organ pipes fill the lancet-shaped niche (on the west wall) that appears to have once been occupied by an art glass window. A pair of

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Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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balconies overlook the sanctuary; they are supported by distinctive wooden trusswork with diagonal bracing and carved corner corbels. From the steeply vaulted ceiling hang Gothic-inspired chandeliers of opalescent glass set into brass frames. The Gothic theme is also carried out by lancet and tudor-arched doorways. The pews, and the woodwork of the sanctuary and anterooms, are dark-fumed oak polished to a high gloss, as is the columned mantelpiece in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

The rear education building, built in 1931, is functional in design. Built of an orange brick chosen to harmonize with that of the main building, it stands two stories high with a flat roof and steel casement windows. Due to its modest scale, and unobtrusive placement behind the church proper, it is not a discordant element. It is now connected to the main building by a narrow passageway.

The church has been carefully maintained and is in very good condition. Alterations have been minimal. The most significant exterior change was presented by the 1931 addition. More recently, a wheelchair ramp (not visible from the street) was built along the north side of the main building. These changes, and the aforementioned roof tile replacement, have diminished the complex's integrity only slightly.

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Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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The Methodist Episcopal Church South, built 1917-1919 with a 1931 addition, is significant under Criterion C in the context of the architectural resources of Prestonsburg as a fine example of the Gothic Revival style that also ranks as one of the most architecturally distinguished buildings in Prestonsburg. The church's exterior, and many features of its interior, have been carefully preserved. The church building has achieved significance primarily on the basis of its architectural quality and thus is being nominated under criteria exception A.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South is unique among the religious buildings of Prestonsburg in its stylish design, comparatively large scale, and high quality materials. Only one other church building of historic significance, the former Presbyterian church (1902) on Central Avenue, survives in the city. It is a modest vernacular structure whose integrity has been greatly diminished by additions and alterations. Three other houses of worship, constructed at various times by other Protestant denominations, are no longer extant. The church is also noteworthy in the larger context of the city's public or institutional buildings, since few possess architectural significance.

In the years before the Civil War, the fledgling town of Prestonsburg was part of a circuit served by traveling Methodist preachers. In 1865 the Prestonsburg Methodist Episcopal Church South, the second religious organization to be established in the city, was founded. At first the congregation met in public buildings, including the school and courthouse. In 1883 Joseph M. Davidson of Prestonsburg donated a lot to be used as a site for a church building. Although he died before the paperwork was finalized, his heirs deeded to the church a 46' by 50' lot on the north side of Court Street in what is now the downtown business district. On this lot in 1883 was built the congregation's first permanent home, a small gabled brick building crowned with a steeple. The first wedding noted in church records took place in 1894, and the first christening three years later. In 1894 the congregation numbered 78 members. During the following year 16 more members were added. By 1915, the total had reached 151.

In January of 1916 the Prestonsburg Methodist Episcopal Church South held a highly successful revival and admitted 39 new members. A week later, the congregation held a special meeting and resolved to sell the old church building and construct a new one. In July of that year the church accepted the donation of a lot on South Arnold Avenue, formerly used as a potato patch, from Prestonsburg residents George and Emma Archer. Ground was broken for the new church in the spring of 1916, and the cornerstone set in place in April of 1917. (According to May's church history, the 1916 date on the cornerstone is incorrect.) However, construction was soon halted by the outbreak of World War I. During the war years building materials were scarce and finances were also a problem. The influenza epidemic of 1918, which closed down the church for seven weeks, also resulted in delays. Despite these setbacks, the new building was completed and occupied in 1919. Shortly after the congregation moved into its new building, its former home was accidentally destroyed by fire.

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Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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Once in its new home, the congregation grew steadily, reaching a total of 375 in 1937. Numerous improvements were made to the building over time. In 1931, the education building (located directly behind the church) was completed. The present church organ was purchased in 1935, and in 1949 new pews were installed. A milestone in church history was observed in 1939, when the three divisions of the Methodist Church--the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church--were united for the first time since the Civil War. The Prestonsburg congregation thus dropped the label "South" from its name and became part of the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Church.

In the years since World War II the congregation has continued to grow and prosper. Unlike other area Protestant churches who have built new facilities on the outskirts of the city, the Prestonsburg United Methodist Church is committed to remaining in the center of town. The congregation recognizes the historic significance of its church home and intends to preserve it for the future.

Section 10. Geographic Information

Beginning at a point in the west line of South Arnold Avenue 225 feet, more or less, north of the north line of West Graham Street; then proceeding in a southerly direction along the west line of South Arnold Avenue a distance of 60 feet, more or less, to a point; then in a westerly direction at right angles to said street a distance of 100 feet more or less; then in a northerly direction parallel to South Arnold Avenue a distance of 60 feet, more or less; then in an easterly direction at right angles to said street a distance of 100 feet, more or less, to the west line of South Arnold Avenue: the place of beginning.

The nominated property includes the portion of the legal parcel that contains the church and its rear addition; excluded are the parsonage to the north and parking lot to the south. The boundary includes all the property contributing to the significance of the property.

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Methodist Episcopal Church South
Historic Resources of Prestonsburg MPS, Floyd Co., KY

Photo 36

Prestonsburg Multiple Properties Submission (same for all photos)
Methodist Episcopal Church South
West side South Arnold Avenue north of West Graham Street (same for photos 36 through 41)
Prestonsburg, Kentucky (same for all photos)
Margaret Warminski (same for all photos)
February 1988
Negative location: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky (same for all photos)
Streetscape view showing facade and north elevation, looking southwest from the east side of South Arnold Avenue

Photo 37

Methodist Episcopal Church South
July 1988
Facade view, looking northwest from the east side of South Arnold Avenue

Photo 38

Methodist Episcopal Church South
December 1987
View of north bell tower, showing lancet-arched vents with stone surrounds, tile roof, and paneled brickwork; looking west.

Photo 39

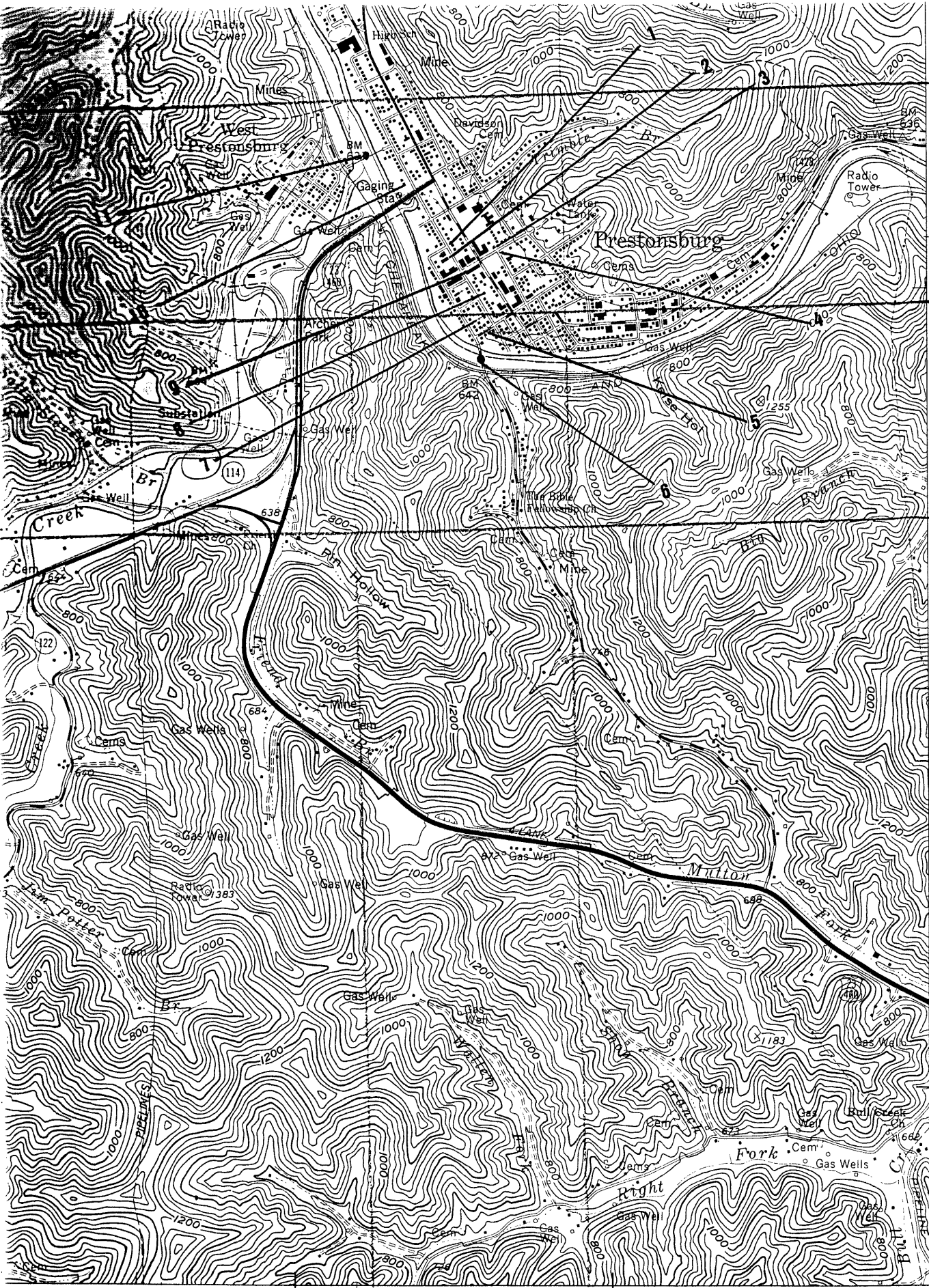
Methodist Episcopal Church South
February 1988
View of entrance in north tower, showing blind equilateral arch with stone voussoirs, and stone Tudor arch over door with stained glass transom.

Photo 40

Methodist Episcopal Church South
July 1988
Streetscape view showing facade, south elevation, and rear addition (community building) with parking lot in foreground. Looking northwest from South Arnold Avenue.

Photo 41

Methodist Episcopal Church South
December 1987
View of interior of main sanctuary looking east toward front elevation from altar. Illustrated is a series of art-glass facade windows depicting scenes of the Resurrection, and a quatrefoil window with Masonic emblems. Tudor-arched doors at either side of photo lead into facade towers. Advent wreath, suspended from ceiling, in foreground.



#7 Methodist Episcopal
 Church South
 Floyd County, Ky
 17/343600/4169980

47°30' 342

343

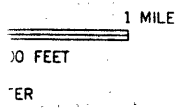
● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978
 344 345000m. E.

82°45'

37°37'30"

NEW ALLEN 1.2 MI.
 PIKEVILLE 22 MI.

4166000m. N.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road

(HAROLD)
 4-5-9 11 SW

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000391

Date Listed: 5/18/89

Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Property Name

Floyd
County

KY
State

Historic Resources of Prestonburg MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

5/18/89
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

National Register Criteria Consideration A (Religious property) applies to this building. The form has Criteria Consideration C (birthplace/grave) selected. Marty Perry with the KY SHPO says that this was a technical oversight. The form is now officially amended to add Criteria Consideration A (and delete c).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)