

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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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 Woodland Baptist Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 885 Woodland Church Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Woodland

NA vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Haywood

code 075

zip code 38012

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. Styer
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/7/03
Date

Deputy State Historical 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

Edson H. Beall

3/26/03

Woodland Baptist Church
Name of Property

Haywood County, TN
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	2	buildings
<hr/>		sites
<hr/>		structures
<hr/>		objects
1	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE; BRICK
walls BRICK; VINYL
roof ASPHALT SHINGLE
other METAL; GLASS

Narrative Description

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

See 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

(Mark "x" in all the 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 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1920; 1950

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Woodland Baptist Church
Name of Property

Haywood County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately six acres Denmark 430 SE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>309626</u> Easting	<u>3937457</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Sherri Robertson and Carroll Van West
organization Center for Historic Preservation date January 29, 2002
street & number Middle Tennessee State University—Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

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 Woodland Baptist Church, c/o Bob Bond
street & number 5236 Brownsville Highway telephone 731-424-5603
city or town Denmark state TN zip code 38391

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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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Description

Woodland Baptist Church, located outside the county seat of Brownsville (pop. 10,140, 1996 figures) Haywood County, in the rural community of Woodland at 885 Woodland Church Road, is set among tall oak and hickory trees and surrounded by cotton fields. The setting of the church, positioned among these large trees, suggests the origins of the name. The church building, completed circa 1920, is the fifth building occupied by this congregation. The church is a one and one-half-story brick building in a common-bond pattern. The brick foundation is faced with concrete. All windows, frames, and doors are trimmed in white wood, giving the building its cottage appearance. The plan of the circa 1920 building is a Greek cross, but around 1954 an annex was built on the south elevation. The use of this cross reflects an aesthetic approach to building; the cross could represent safety, as well as the religious meaning that the cross symbolizes. Square windows with radiating muntins are set in the half story or clerestory. Each of the four projecting rooms of the cross-plan contains stained glass windows placed along each side of the projecting walls. The opaque window glass is set off by wood muntins to form a geometric Craftsman pattern. An asphalt shingle hip roof covers the sanctuary, while the projecting sections have gable roofs. The overall appearance is similar to an airplane bungalow residence.

The design of the church results in the appearance of two primary façades. The north façade faces Woodland Road, while the east façade faces Brown's Creek Road. Entry to the church building is through double doors on both the north and east. The east façade contains paired wood two paneled doors. Each door contains a small eight light window with radiating muntins, similar to the clerestory windows. Four steps covered in brick pavers wrap around the northeast corner of the building. The brick steps are newer, circa 1980, than the original cement steps they cover. Two plain iron-balusters, circa 1980, are on the east entry to assist congregation members up the stairs. There are two brass carriage lights, circa 1980, which flank the east entry doors. The central portion of the façade is highlighted by two stained glass windows with heavy lintels. The gable end contains cornice returns and a decorative semi circular piece with an exaggerated keystone. Two sets of tripled square windows are visible on the clerestory, which is now sided with vinyl. A boxed cornice and overhanging eaves, now covered with vinyl, are seen on this façade and on the other sides of the building. The north façade is the same, without the modern carriage lights.

The west elevation originally had a porch that was supported by two square wood columns. Parishioners and choir members would exit the small side door, to escape the lengthy sermons or to cool off from the hot West Tennessee summers. Once air-conditioning was installed, the original porch was bricked, circa 1950, with bricks that match the original. The original windows on the building elevation are still located behind the enclosed porch, but new windows were positioned on the exterior of the brick fill-in to match the original symmetry and look of the building. A small wood door and five steps take the parishioners out to the west side of the porch. Additional doors are located near corners and the clerestory windows are visible from this elevation.

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Also evident outside of the porch is the more modern addition to the building of central heating and air-conditioning. The mechanical units are placed on a metal structure and are located above the hip roof of the porch area. This area of the property also contains two propane gas tanks that provide fuel for the heating system. These mechanical units are intrusive, but they do not detract from the overall architectural integrity of the church.

The south elevation is connected to a 1954 addition. A covered porch connects the addition on the southeast corner. Here is another of the originally placed small doors, but this door has been altered to allow access for the wheelchairs. The same geometric shaped windows are located on the side of this extension. The front of the elevation contains the same placement of two symmetrical windows with the centered placement of the lunette under the pediment. The other small door that is located on the southwestern corner is again connected to the new annex with a brick hyphen or small hallway. South of this is a 1997 metal building that is connected to the main building by a modern covered walkway. This building is noncontributing. There is also a noncontributing modern frame storage building on the property.

The exterior of the church reflects many of the aspects of the original building. However, white vinyl siding has been added over sections that were originally exposed weatherboard. The carriage lights are not original, nor are the iron banisters for the steps. A hailstorm damaged some of the windows. However, at least eighty percent of the colored, geometrically shaped windowpanes are original to the church.

The additions to the building occurred in three stages. The first two stages between 1954 and 1980 resulted in a square brick building to house expanding Sunday school programs and to provide a community room for church gatherings. These expansions also provided extra bathrooms. The most recent addition occurred circa 1997, when a nursery and small classrooms were built. This building is constructed out of metal, and is not in harmony with the environment, but it is functional for the parishioners. It must be noted that a bench from the original church of the 1800s rests in the entrance of this new addition. The church pew is symbolic of the utilitarian makeup of the original members of the congregation, the lack of comfort or aesthetics is very apparent in the design of this pew. The pew is a reminder to all of the long history of the congregation.

The primary entrance located on the east, opens into the vestibule of the church. The entry contains a small area, approximately six by four feet that is made up of small square tiles. Upon inspection, these tiles appear to be original. The use of tile is unusual for this region, and it again signifies the Craftsman aspects of this church building. The rest of this floor is said to be hard wood, perhaps oak underneath carpeting that was installed circa 1990. The windows from the two double doors illuminate the entrance. The light fixtures are not original. Carbide luminaries were originally installed because of the absence of electricity to the area, which was introduced in 1938, by Tennessee Valley Authority and the Rural Electrification Administration. By circa 1940 the church had electricity and had installed electrical lights. Walls are made of plaster while the interior

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

wood doors are original.

The sanctuary itself, which includes, the chancel, the area where the pastor conducts his service, and the nave, where the congregation sits, is connected to the four classrooms that protrude out to form the cross of the building. This configuration was popular in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, especially as the Sunday School Movement gained popularity, and is referred to as the Akron Plan. The interior of the building is laid out on a southwestern access. The lectern and pulpit or ambo is built upon a small stage. The ambo is situated at an angle, and is positioned between two rooms. The two sets of the three windows illuminate this area. Curtains now are draped down from the shelf behind the pulpit to define the space and hide the baptistery. Located behind the ambo is the baptismal.

In the sanctuary, each of the four corners above the first floor joists, have original shelves that contain short ornamental balustrades, with balusters spaced one inch apart. Each ledge now contains sound speakers that are cleverly disguised behind cloth panels that reflect the design of the muntin pattern of the exterior windows. The effect is symmetrical and clean, as well as functional.

The four rooms were designed to serve as classrooms and also to open onto the sanctuary by opening folding wood doors (extant). Three of the rooms now act as extensions of the sanctuary, when they are not in use as classrooms. The fourth room is for the choir and is positioned to the northwest of the pulpit. Each room gains light from the four symmetrical placed windows located on the façade of the protruding walls. The corners all contain smaller rooms similar to the entry, but each has a different purpose. The east and north corners contain access to the side parking lot. The corner located behind the baptistery in the southwest contains the hallway to the annex, a small door to the mechanical system space, and a small room now used for storage. The corner to the northwest contains access to the front elevation, mechanical area, and houses the old pews no longer in use.

A few of the original pews are visible in a spare room to the right of the choir room, at the northeastern corner. The old pews were replaced with curved oak pews circa 1980 that do not offer the same craftsmanship, but enabled the congregation to have matching pews in each room as well as the main nave.

Located on the west elevation is the entrance into the cellar through the bricked-in porch. Here is evidence of modern typical building materials used for the decade in which repair took place. Cement headers and beams carry the floor joists. There was a coal heating system in the church that was very modern for the 1920s and uncharacteristic for this area since modern conveniences including electricity would not be available for nearly twenty more years. There is evidence of the use of brick foundation instead of a concrete block foundation and of square columns used on the original porch that represent the Craftsman style that is used throughout the building.

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Generally, woodwork and trim of the interior of the building are unadorned. Unlike other Craftsman buildings, attention to the wood trim is not apparently visible. The rooms are painted a creamy white. The color reflects the light from the colored windows and offers a warm glow to the room. The vestibule or small wall in front of the choir does suggest some small imprint of Craftsman styling with the paneling and square end caps, but it has not been verified as original.

The overall interior of the building is an excellent representative of the Akron plan. The non-traditional styled colored glass windows add a dramatic flair to the interior, and acts as focal points. The windows both from the one and half story walls and the colored glass windows on the main floor allow natural light to filter into the closed spaces. The effect is somewhat diffused and cast an earthy glow over the church's cream painted interior. These windows heighten the appearance of this Craftsman style building.

The Woodland Baptist Church has undergone a few changes, but retains its character defining features and retains its architectural integrity.

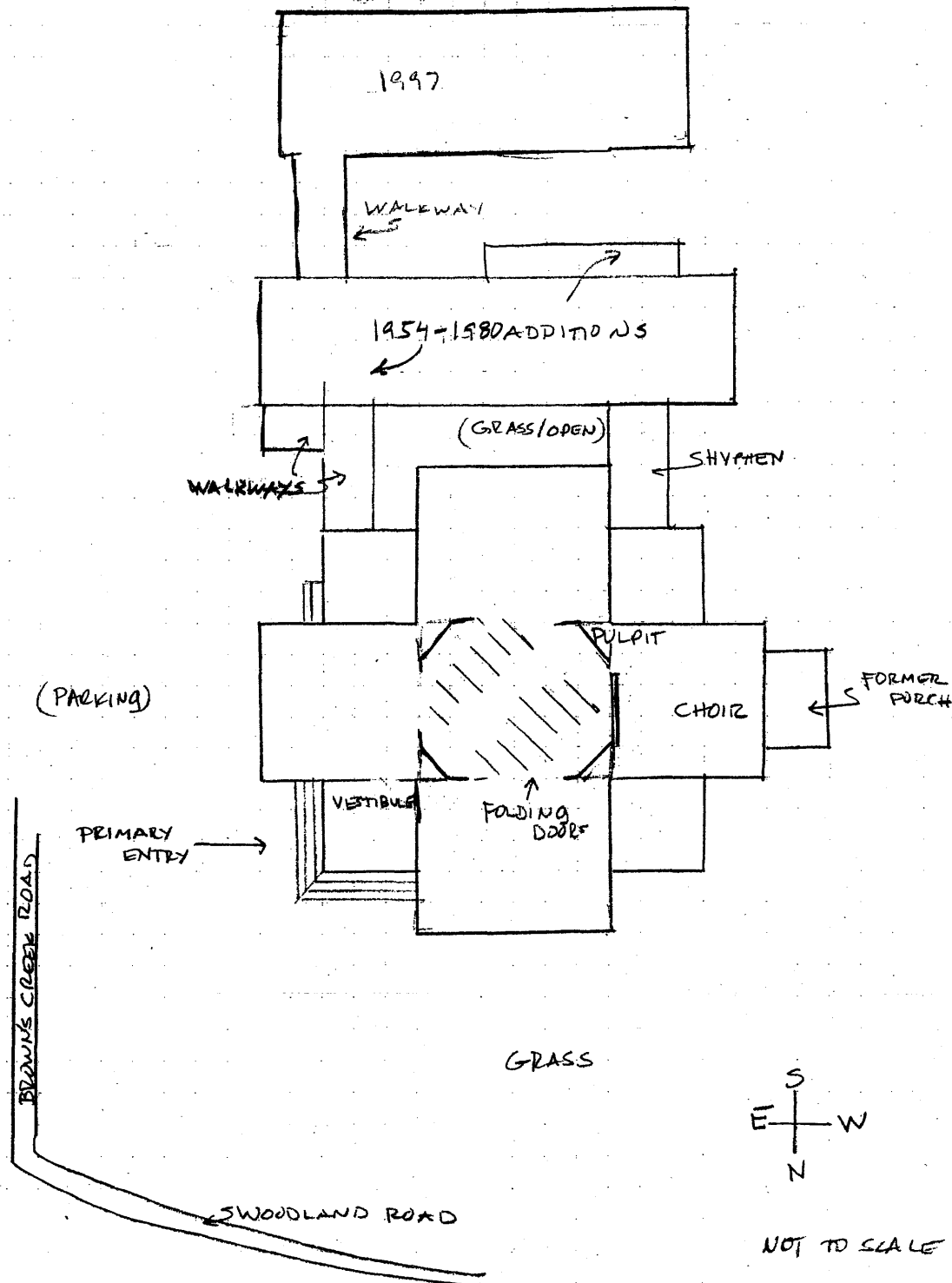
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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Sketch plan, not to scale



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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Significance

The Woodland Baptist Church in Haywood County, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in architecture, as an example of Craftsman-influenced ecclesiastical design with an Akron plan interior, a rarity for rural Tennessee churches. The Woodland Baptist Church suggests the influence of the Craftsman movement through its hipped roof, colored glass windows with geometric designs, and gable pediments. The color choice of the selected bricks represents another important architectural element. The bricks are dark red, dark maroon, or black and have an earthy feel that fit in with the Craftsman ideal of a building in harmony with its environment. The color also reflects a rich, understated display of stability. The church does not stand out but blends in with the trees and flat fields that surround it. The large trees seem to protect the sturdy little building. Despite minor changes to the historic building, for Sunday School and community activities, the building retains its integrity.

The church was completed circa 1920 at a reported cost of \$15,000. According to church records and a history of the church, Dr. Henry E. Watters was the pastor of the church and he chose the design of the building, which on the exterior reflected the popular Craftsman style while the interior embodied the Akron Plan, which provided more room for the Sunday School Program he wished to expand at the church. Watters is an important individual in the history of the Baptist church in West Tennessee. He served as pastor of the Woodland congregation first from 1908 to 1911 and then from 1919 to 1920, the latter term coming when he also was serving as the progressive president of Union University, a Baptist-supported college, in nearby Jackson. A former school principal, he taught history at Union University and was President of Union University from 1918-1931. While at Union he was able to gather a new charter for the university. This allowed the university to expand its curriculum. He wrote four books including *Bible of Super-Human Origin* (1908) *Physics Simplified* (1905) *Planning A Life* (1935) and *Youth make the Choice* (1938). Dr. Watters later served as president for Georgetown College from 1931-1934. While president of Georgetown College he was unable to reverse a trend of financial difficulty for the school and resigned. (1)

The building's significance lies in its unique design, a Craftsman influence church in a rural, largely vernacular landscape. An undated brochure (most likely prepared in 1928 when the church was host to a regional Baptist meeting) in the church's records cites James Murray, an architect with the Memphis firm of Grace and Associates, as saying "It is one of the earliest and best examples of American-modern architecture in rural West Tennessee. Such high architecture from this school of design was unusual for this area during the early twentieth century." Few churches in rural West Tennessee exhibit this clear architectural commitment to the Craftsman style. Rather, most are vernacular-styled gable-front buildings or show a Classical Revival or Colonial Revival influence in their double column portico entrances. None of the previously listed National Register churches in Haywood County exhibit this "American-modern" style; indeed the previously listed churches are of Gothic and/or Classical Revival style. The Woodland Baptist Church near Brownsville Tennessee offers visitors a glance at an interesting attempt to interpret a progressive

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

style of architecture in a rural church setting.

The Akron Plan of the interior also speaks to the progressive agenda of Rev. Watters and the congregation in 1920. The name refers to the first known American church that had a central sanctuary (or rotunda) surrounded by individual classrooms, the First Methodist Episcopal Church, built in Akron, Ohio, between 1866 and 1870. According to the research of James Hudnut-Beumler, a professor of religious history at the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University, the Akron Plan embodied "a radical design innovation entailing multi-use spaces and a new conception of the social role of the church building."⁽²⁾ Brother Christopher S. Jenks adds that when churches decided to follow a Uniform Lesson Plan method of Christian education - where instruction by grade was combined with group recitation and prayer - many congregations found that the Akron Plan was ideally suited to this new method of Sunday School instruction. Jenks explains:

After the morning service, teachers and children would proceed to the Sunday School building and enter their respective classrooms. The Sunday School superintendent would then open the day's session with a prayer and a reading from the relevant passage of scripture, speaking from a podium located in the center of the rotunda that was in sight of each student's seat. The teachers would then close the folding doors or sliding shutters, thereby separating each classroom from the rotunda and begin the day's lesson. At the appointed time, the doors or shutters would be reopened and the students would recite the scriptural passage for the day. The session would end in prayer, and the students would rejoin their parents in church.
(3)

The additions to the building made after 1954 document another shift in educational philosophy for Sunday School instruction. By that time, few educators followed the ideas of the Uniform Lesson Plan, believing instead that "the content of Sunday School lessons, not just the style and manner of teaching, should be tailored to each age group. Sunday School buildings became more like public school buildings using separate classrooms for each 'grade.'" This is quite evident in the contemporary use of the church sanctuary where individual classrooms with the sliding doors were maintained in part, but typically the classroom spaces were opened up and used for additional seating during worship services.⁽⁴⁾

The congregation of Woodland Baptist Church is one of the oldest Baptist congregations in West Tennessee, dating to the 1820s and 1830s. The congregation took the name of Woodland in 1870, after a split between white and black members (the whites took the name Woodland; the blacks took the name Brown's Creek Missionary Baptist Church). In 1880 Woodland Baptist Church sponsored the Woodland Academy, a school that stood on the present church lot until the 1960s. Together the church and lot comprised a twentieth-century community center for rural whites in this section of the county. Baptists from throughout rural West Tennessee recognized the prominence of the Woodland church in 1928, when the church hosted the centennial celebration of the Big Hatchie Baptist Association, the regional organization for Southern Baptist

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Convention congregations in this section of West Tennessee. The church building continues to be used today.

Endnotes

1. Glen Taul and Ora Lunceford, "Guide to the Papers of H. E. Watters," Georgetown College Archives, Georgetown University, Kentucky.
2. James Hudnut-Beumler, "The Many Mansions of God's House: The Religious Built Environment as Assimilation and Differentiation," www.materialreligion.org/journal. Accessed July 18, 2002.
3. Brother Christopher Stephen Jenks, "American Religious Buildings: The Akron Plan Sunday School," *New York Landmarks Conservancy Common Bond* (December 1995), reprinted in www.sacredplaces.org/PSP-InfoClearingHouse/articles. Accessed July 18, 2002.
4. Ibid.

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

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- Big Hatchie Baptist Association. *One Hundred Fiftieth Annual Session*. Covington: Big Hatchie Baptist Association, 1978.
- Bond, Bob. Interview by Sherri Robertson. November 4, 2001.
- Brownsville/ Haywood County Historical Society. *History of Haywood County, Tennessee, 1989*. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing, 1989.
- Hudnut-Beumler, James. "The Many Mansions of God's House: The Religious Built Environment as Assimilation and Differentiation." www.materialreligion.org/journal. Accessed July 18, 2002.
- Jenks, Brother Christopher Stephen. "American Religious Buildings: The Akron Plan Sunday School." *New York Landmarks Conservancy Common Bond* (December 1995). Reprinted in www.sacredplaces.org/PSP-InfoClearingHouse/articles. Accessed July 18, 2002.
- Moore, Dorothy. Interview by Sherri Robertson. November 4, 2001.
- Watters, H. E., Papers. Special Collections. Georgetown University Library, Georgetown, KY.

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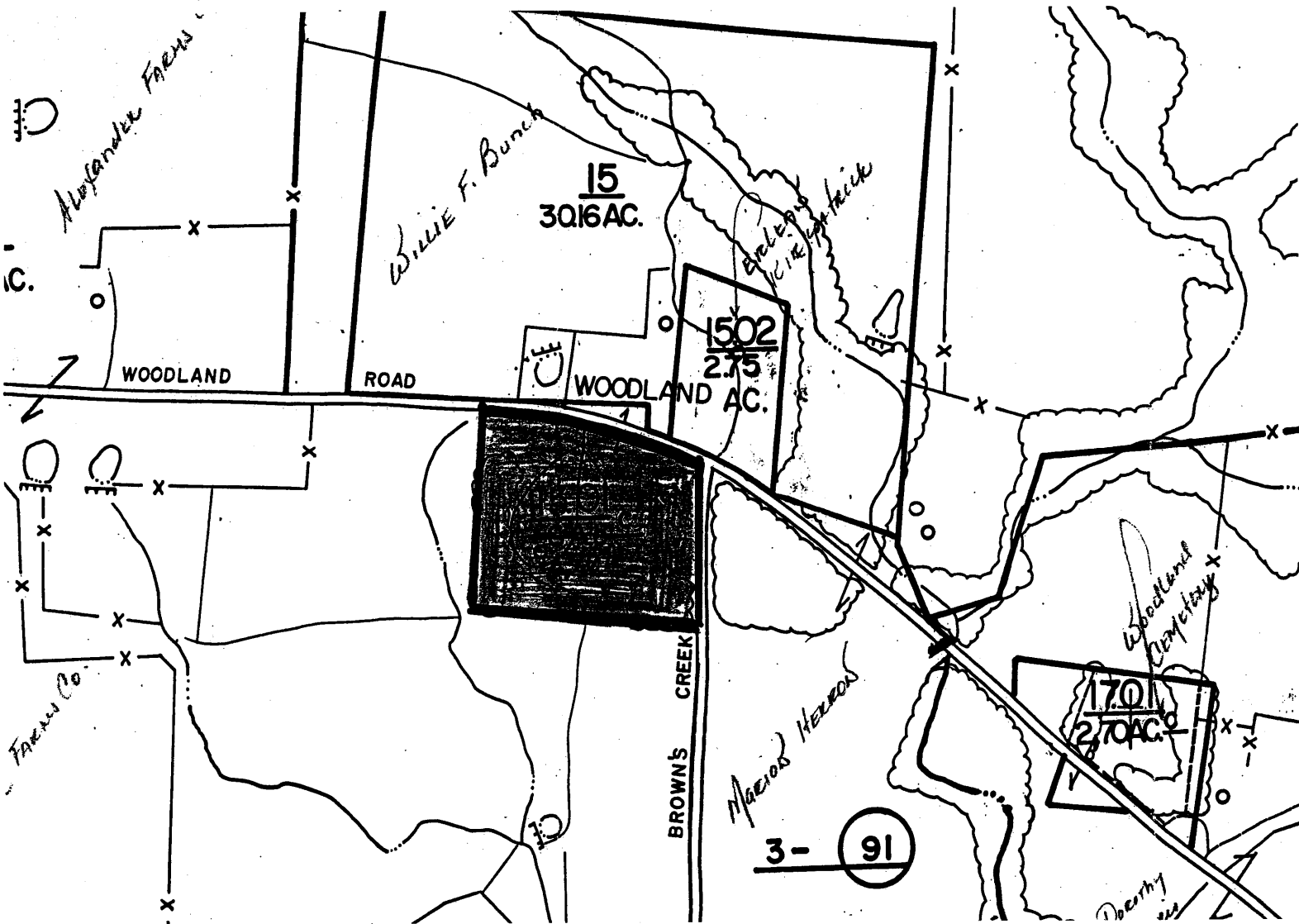
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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Boundary Description and Boundary Justification

Woodland Baptist Church lies at the intersection of Brown's Creek Road and Woodland Road in Haywood County. The roughly rectangular lot is approximately six acres in size and corresponds to most of parcel 15.01 on the Haywood County tax map. The small portion of the property north of Woodland Road is not included in the nomination since it contains no historic resources. The nominated boundaries contain property historically associated with the Woodland Baptist Church.

The map scale is 1" = 400' which is the only scale of map available for rural areas of the state.



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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Photographs

Photos by: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Date: November 2001

North facade, facing south
1 of 30

East façade and north facade, facing southwest
2 of 30

East facade, facing west
3 of 30

North facade, facing south
4 of 30

North façade and west elevation, facing southeast
5 of 30

Detail, porch conversion, west elevation, facing southeast
6 of 30

West elevation and south elevation, with hyphen addition, facing northeast
7 of 30

West elevation with additions to rear of building, facing east
8 of 30

Hyphen between south elevation and addition, west
9 of 30

South elevation with addition and covered walkway, facing northwest
10 of 30

Vestibule, facing northeast
11 of 30

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Sanctuary, from vestibule, facing southwest
12 of 30

Sanctuary
13 of 30

Sanctuary
14 of 30

Sanctuary, with classroom
15 of 30

Sanctuary, with classroom
16 of 30

Choir
17 of 30

Classroom
18 of 30

Connecting doors and classrooms
19 of 30

Classroom and opening doors into the sanctuary, facing west
20 of 30

Classroom and sliding doors into sanctuary, facing southwest
21 of 30

Classroom, facing east
22 of 30

Detail, colored glass window covered in porch renovation, facing east
23 of 30

Historic photograph of church, circa 1928
24 of 30

Walkway from main part of church to 1997 building, facing west
25 of 30

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Woodland Baptist Church
Haywood County, Tennessee

Walkway from main part of church to 1997 building, facing east
26 of 30

West elevation of original church, hyphen and 1954 addition, facing east
27 of 30

East elevation of 1997 building, facing west
28 of 30

Southeast corner of 1997 building, facing northwest
29 of 30

Southeast corner of 1954 addition, facing northwest
30 of 30