

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCPS use only
received DEC 19 1979
date entered FEB 22 1980

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

1. Name

historic Jordan's Chapel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number NW of Pipestem on SR 18 County Route 18 not for publication

city, town Pipestem inc. vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 054 county Summers code 089

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name United Methodist Church, West Virginia Area

street & number 900 Washington Street, East

city, town Charleston vicinity of state West Virginia 25301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Summers County Court House

street & number

city, town Hinton state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Jordan's Chapel, located in a peaceful, rural setting facing County Route 18 near the village of Pipestem in Summers County, West Virginia, is a frame structure that, despite its apparent simplicity, contains elements of the Greek Revival Style.

Jordan's Chapel is essentially a simple frame structure that, despite its 127 years, is in remarkably good condition. This is due primarily to its solid construction and the excellent quality of the workmanship involved in its construction. Extensive repairs made in 1952 (the one-hundredth anniversary of its construction and dedication) made few real alterations in the original design of the building, while serving to strengthen and preserve the church.

Jordan's Chapel is basically rectangular in design, though a three-sided, single story bay, which contains the pulpit area, protrudes from the rear. The sides of the church are clapboard, and the main rectangular section of the building rests on a stone rubble foundation. The rear three-sided bay rests on a concrete block foundation that replaced its stone rubble foundation in 1952.

The roof of Jordan's Chapel is a gabled one and was originally constructed of wooden shingles. This shingled roof, badly deteriorated over the years, was replaced in 1952 by a corrugated tin roof. The chimney was also replaced at this time.

A small louvered belfry, which has a low pyramidal roof, surmounts the church. This belfry, though repaired somewhat during the 1952 repairs, remains essentially in its original form. The bell no longer hangs in the belfry, though the original 1852 bell is in the possession of one of the trustees of the church.

The cornices of the chapel, which lend to its Greek Revival appearance, are boxed and partially returned.

The door of the church, which is original, is paneled, as are the shutters. Some of the glass in the windows is also original to the 1852 period.

The interior of Jordan's Chapel has undergone the most extensive changes, the wooden flooring replaced (though with a similar type of wood) as well as the ceiling. Some of the original flooring was re-used to construct new benches and chairs for the church. Heat is provided by a wood and coal burning pot-bellied stove which dates from the 19th Century.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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There are some wooden outbuildings, including two privys (the chapel has no indoor plumbing). These outbuildings also date from the 19th Century.

The original wooden steps leading to the entrance were replaced in 1952 by concrete ones. Above the entrance is a wooden plaque, erected in 1952, which states:

Jordans Chapel
1852

Jordan's Chapel, sitting as it does in a peaceful, expansive rural setting, has a quiet, simple dignity that greatly contributes to its aesthetic significance and its secure place in the hearts of the people of this small Summers County community.

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 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 checked="" 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 1852 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Jordan's Chapel, located in a rural setting near the village of Pipestem, is significant as the oldest frame church in Summers County, West Virginia¹ and as one of a very few remaining structures from the region's settlement period.²

Explanatory Notes

¹ Jordan's Chapel was constructed in 1852 near the village of Pipestem in what was then Mercer County, Virginia. The property on which the church was built was donated by Gordon L. Jordan (1812-1886), a prominent early settler, merchant, and community leader who at various times served as a justice of the peace and member of the Mercer County Court. His brother, Thomas Jordan, also donated a portion of the land. The church was constructed from locally obtained materials, much of which was also donated by the Jordan brothers, and with labor donated by area residents. At the time of its construction, Jordan's Chapel was the first frame church in the area, indeed the first such church in all of what is now Summers County, West Virginia. At the same time that the church was constructed, Gordan L. Jordan also constructed the first frame residence in the area, which not only served as his home but as a place of public entertainment. Many individuals prominent in 19th Century Virginia and West Virginia history are known to have stopped here, some staying long enough to worship at Jordan's Chapel.

After the church was completed, it was donated to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and is still the legal property of the Methodist Church.

Jordan's Chapel was the scene of many memorable worship services and revivals, and was a favorite pulpit for the famed 19th Century Methodist circuit rider Robert Sawyers Sheffey. The church is no longer used regularly for religious services. Once a year, in August, there is a "Jordan's Chapel Home-coming" during which a service is held in the church, funds are collected for its upkeep. Members of the community, as well as former church members from far away, gather together to renew old acquaintances, strengthen community ties, and pay respect to this integral part of their historic heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Miller, James H., History of Summers County From the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time. Hinton, W.Va., 1908.
 The Hinton Leader, "Historic Chapel", August 5, 1968.
 Elmore, Ruth, "Brief History of Jordan's Chapel", 1979.
 Summers County Deed Book, II C, Page 281.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1 Acre
 Quadrangle name Pipestem, West Virginia

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>117</u>	<u>501341810</u>	<u>41151521510</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification One Acre, more or less, lying and being in the County of Summers and District of Pipestem, bounded as follows: Beginning at a stooping chesnut oak & black oak East of Jordan's Chapel, thence N.61°W 12 Poles to a chesnut and two red oaks, thence S.29°W 13 Poles to white oak, thence S.61°E 12 Poles to a dogwood

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 Michael J. Pauley, Historian
Historic Preservation Unit
 organization W.Va. Dept. of Culture & History date December 10, 1979
Science & Cultural Center
 street & number Capitol Complex telephone (304) 348-0244
 city or town Charleston state West Virginia

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Clarence Morrow
 State Historic Preservation Officer Culture & History
 title Director, Historic Preservation Unit, W.Va. Dept. of date December 12, 1979

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Keeper of the National Register Sally Gadden date 2/22/80
 Attest: W. Ray Luce date 2-20-80
 Chief of Registration

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2 When Jordan's Chapel was constructed in 1852, this area was sparsely populated, being isolated by mountains and poor to nearly non-existent roads. Dwellings were few and mostly of log construction. The area, which is very scenic and fertile, was growing, however, and the erection of this, the area's first frame church, represented an important aspect of that growth. It took nearly twenty years, however, for this area to reach the point where the need for a separate county (and closer Court House) became apparent. The formation of Summers County in 1871 was a response to this need. Jordan's Chapel stands as one of the oldest structures in that county and, as such, a vital link with the area's past.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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and a hickory, thence N. 29° E. 13 Poles to the beginning.