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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JUN 16 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 Bethlehem Methodist Church
other names/site number Bethlehem Methodist Church (BL-2090)

2. Location

street & number On Bethlehem Road, one-half mile south of Ellejoy N/A not for publication
city, town Road - Wildwood X vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Blount code 009 zip code N/A

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: Hist. & Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

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.
Signature of certifying official: Herbert L. Byers, Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission
Date: 6/8/89

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. (checked)
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: Alton Byers, Entered in the National Register 7/25/89
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Wood

roof Metalother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bethlehem Methodist Church is a one-story frame, gable front, single bay church built in 1886. The church has a brick foundation, shiplap siding and gable roof of metal standing seam. On the main (S) facade is a projecting central bay with original double doors of five panel design and a Gothic arched transom with tracery. At the roofline is a square bell tower with louvered Gothic arched openings and a pyramidal roof of metal standing seam and finial. Beneath the eaves is a plain fascia board. Windows on both sides are original four-over-four sash with the upper sash displaying Gothic arching with tracery. On the east facade is an added ca. 1960 concrete block flue. The interior retains its original floor plan with ca. 1960 frame paneling added to the walls and acoustical tiles added to the ceiling. Floors are original wood and there are also ca. 1920 light fixtures. The interior was inaccessible for photography. At the rear is a ca. 1930, one-story shed roof privy with vertical board siding. The church is sited on a hillside in the rural eastern section of the county.

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

1886

Significant Dates

1886

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.

The Bethlehem Methodist Church is significant under criterion C for its architectural design. The church is the only unaltered example of a Gothic Revival Church of the late 19th century remaining in the rural sections of Blount County. The church was built in a rectangular plan typical of the period and displays Gothic Revival detailing in its Gothic arched windows, door transom, and tower. Alterations have been confined to the interior of the church such as added paneling. The church continues to occupy its prominent hillside site and setting.

The Bethlehem Methodist Church congregation was formed in 1831 and trustees for the church included Adam and Isaac Kountz, James Julian, Samuel Palmer, and Alexander Logan. The first church on this site is believed to have been of log construction and occupied this site until 1886 when a new church was constructed. This new church was of frame construction with Gothic Revival detailing. Since its construction the church has continued to serve the local Methodist congregation and minor alterations have been confined to the interior.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Blount County Deed Records. 1800 - 1989. Blount County Courthouse, Maryville, Tennessee.

Burns, Inez E. History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip. Tennessee Historical Commission, Mary Blount Chapter DAR, 1957.

Morgan, John. Blount County Cultural Resource Survey. Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approx. 2 acres.

UTM References

A 117 245840 3963900
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

Wildwood Quad

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Bethlehem Methodist Church is illustrated on accompanying Blount County tax map 40, lot 47, which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Bethlehem Methodist Church is drawn to include the majority of the lot which has been historically associated with the church. The property is bounded on the north and east by a fence line, on the south by Bethlehem Road, and on the west by the eastern boundary of the adjacent cemetery. This cemetery contains statuary and markers which are typical of late 19th and 20th century rural cemeteries and is not included within the boundary.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason
organization Thomason and Associates date 3/30/89
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Photographs Page 1 Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

Bethlehem Methodist Church
Bethlehem Rd., Wildwood vic., Blount County, TN
Photographs By: Thomason and Assoc.
Date: Fall, 1988
Location of Neg: THC

View: South and east facades.
Photo # 1

View: South and west facades.
Photo # 2

View: East and north facades.
Photo # 3

View: Privy
Photo # 4

#2090 — BETHLEHEM
METHODIST CHURCH



