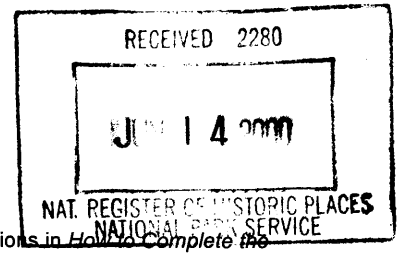


(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



811

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 St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church

other names/site number Spring Hill Primitive Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number Maury Hill Street

not for publication N/A

city or town Spring Hill

vicinity N/A

state Tennessee

code TN

county Maury

code 119

zip code 37172

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. Hager
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/12/00
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): _____

for
Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

7/14/00
Date of Action

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
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

Historic Rural African-American Churches in TN

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; CONCRETE

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT SHINGLE

other CONCRETE

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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American
RELIGION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

ca. 1900 - 1948

Significant Dates

ca. 1900, ca. 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 Record # _____

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

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church

Name of Property

Maury County, TN

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Spring Hill, TN, 63W

1 16 506080 3545020
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 Heather Fearnbach, Susan Besser, Carroll Van West

organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date August 1, 1998

street & number Box 80, MTSU 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 St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church (Elder Robert T. Armstrong, contact person)

street & number Maury Hill Street Telephone (615) 486-0210

city or town Spring Hill state TN zip code 37172

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

7. DESCRIPTION

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church is located on Highway 31, Spring Hill, Maury County, Tennessee. This sanctuary is a one-story frame, steeply pitched gable front building with its original weatherboard siding and cut limestone pier foundation. Although documentary evidence is unclear, and the congregation does not have a firm oral tradition about the date of the building, this nomination concludes that the church building dates to circa 1900. Further investigation may find an earlier date of construction. The limestone foundation was filled in with concrete blocks, circa 1940, and an asphalt shingle roof was installed in 1989. A wood door in the northeast corner of the foundation allows access to basement storage.

The west (front) facade has centrally located double front doors, added circa 1988 to facilitate access to the building for members. A four-paneled wood door is located to the northwest side of the front entrance, with a set of concrete steps, circa 1940. A three-over-three double-hung window is located in the northwest corner. A three-paneled wood door is located to the southwest side of the front entrance and has a set of concrete steps, circa 1940. A four-over-four double-hung window is located to the southwest corner. The original double door entrance to the church is characteristic of the architecture of Primitive Baptist churches. The steeply-pitched gable front also has cornice returns. Two metal pipes provide ventilation to the exterior. A circular opening at the apex of the roof indicates that a metal vent was also on this elevation. Wide sawn lumber trim runs along the eaves.

The south elevation contains four six-over-six double-hung windows. To give the appearance of stained glass an adhesive backed translucent design has been applied to the panes of the windows on the south elevation and north elevation. A window air-conditioner is located in the second window from the northeast corner. A metal stove pipe provides ventilation.

Concrete steps, circa 1940, with a wood handrail lead to the east elevation (rear) entrance. The entrance to the sanctuary is offset and has a three paneled wood door, circa 1970, topped by a double-paned transom. A six-over-six double hung window is offset balancing the entry. The steeply pitched gable front has cornice returns and a metal star-shaped vent near the apex of the roof. An exterior light, circa 1940, is centrally located. Wide sawn lumber trim runs along the eaves.

The north elevation contains four six-over-six double-hung windows. A window air-conditioner is located in the second window from the northwest corner. A metal stove pipe provides ventilation.

The interior of the church has been divided into two sections. The primary front entrance has a three feet, ten inches by twenty inches (3' 10" x 20") vestibule with a thirteen feet, four inches by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

six feet, 7 inches (13'4" x 6'7") Sunday School room to each side. Plumbing was added to each of the smaller rooms to create indoor restroom facilities in the late 1960s. The light fixtures and linoleum in the vestibule date circa 1920, while the dropped acoustic tile ceiling was added circa 1988.

At the rear of the sanctuary is an original raised platform for the choir and the pulpit. Pictures of former pastors are located on the wall behind the pulpit. The present primary entrance is located in the southeast corner of the sanctuary. The circa 1940 dark red painted wainscoting with chair rail covers the lower half of the south and north original exposed wood walls in the forty-four feet, nine inches by thirty-four feet (44'9" x 34') sanctuary. Paneling above the chair rail and the east and west walls is circa 1988. All windows, wooden floors, and interior trim in the sanctuary are original to the building. Gas heaters, window air conditioners, a public address system, red level loop carpeting in the aisle and altar area, a piano, twenty-two new pews and three ecclesiastical chairs were added to the sanctuary circa 1988.

The bathrooms, installed circa 1968, have red painted wainscoting with chair rail. The area above the chair rail is horizontal three-inch wood that is original to the building.

The vestibule walls are painted plywood with trim covering the seams. The baseboard is flat wood trim and the doors have simple wood trim. The ceiling is drywall. A gas heater supplies heat for the vestibule.

There are no associated outbuildings with this property.

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church meets the integrity registration requirements set forth in the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1850-1970 MPN Cover Sheet. Located on its historic lot on the southwest corner of Spring Hill, the property maintains a high degree of integrity in setting, location, association, and feeling, even with the massive industrial and suburban development in the city since the late 1980s. It also retains integrity in its exterior materials, workmanship, and vernacular design. The original entrance doors have been replaced in 1988, but the historic foundation, weatherboard siding, roof life, and alterations of circa 1940 in the concrete steps and exterior light remain. In addition, since parking for the congregation is now at the original rear of the building, most members use the rear door entrance to enter the church. The entrance facing Maury Hill Street is now the building's secondary entrance. More change is apparent on the interior, especially in the vestibule where restrooms were installed in 1968, and in the dropped ceiling tiles. Other interior features are historic, including the wood flooring, wood woods, windows, interior wood doors, and interior trim. The wainscoting was added circa 1940, but now that alteration is over fifty years old.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church, located in the rural community of Spring Hill, in Maury County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in African-American ethnic heritage, specifically in the area of religion. Due to its age and its significant historic association with the development of the Primitive Baptist faith among African Americans during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the property meets the registration requirements for historic African-American churches listed in the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1850-1970 MPN Cover Sheet. The building has been in use since the late nineteenth century, and is probably the oldest extant African-American church in Maury County. It is the oldest extant Primitive Baptist church in the county, and is one of the oldest extant Primitive Baptist church buildings in the state.

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist was originally named Spring Hill Primitive Baptist. The Spring Hill Primitive Baptist Church was part of the Big Harpeth United Primitive Baptist Association of Tennessee, established in 1866 with headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. On August 31, 1872, the Association convened at the Spring Hill Primitive Baptist Church. The Big Harpeth United Primitive Baptist Association draws from churches throughout the Eastern United States, and it is therefore significant that the annual meeting was held on this site. This also means that the congregation dates between 1866 and 1872 and is strongly associated with the intense period of establishment of permanent African-American institutions, such as churches, in the Reconstruction period. A 1987 survey of Spring Hill by the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation dated the building as circa 1870, and believed that the building was probably constructed before the meeting of 1872. Later research and interviews, however, have led to the conclusion that the present building was constructed after the 1872 convention. Probably circa 1900 is a more reliable date of construction for the church.

Since its earliest days it has served as an active contributor to the community and as a place for Primitive Baptist worship. It also served as a local school for African-American children until the opening of the Spring Hill Rosenwald school in 1920-21. This trend of dual use for black church buildings in small towns or rural areas is a significant trend of social history noted for the Jim Crow Era in the Historic African-American Churches MPN Cover Sheet.

Elder Robert T. Armstrong is the present pastor of this active congregation of twenty-two; the congregation meets every Sunday. At one time in the mid-twentieth century, the congregation numbered fifty people. Members of this faith maintain a strong devotion to the church of their childhood and hold dear the setting where they first professed their faith. This is evidenced by a program from the funeral of Mrs. Betty Jean Ralston that acknowledges St. Mark's as her church home and setting for her funeral even though she had transferred her membership to McNairy Hill

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

United Primitive Baptist Church.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 5

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Armstrong, Robert, Interview. October 1997. Notes at MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Murfreesboro, TN.

Goodspeed, Westin. *History of Tennessee*. Nashville: Goodspeed Publishers, 1887.

Spring Hill Documentary Survey, 1987. MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Murfreesboro, TN.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property stands at the corner of Maury Hill Street and Spruce Street in Spring Hill, a town lot that corresponds to Maury County Tax Map 28A, Group B, Parcel 1 as attached.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historic property associated with the St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church.

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 has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' scale 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

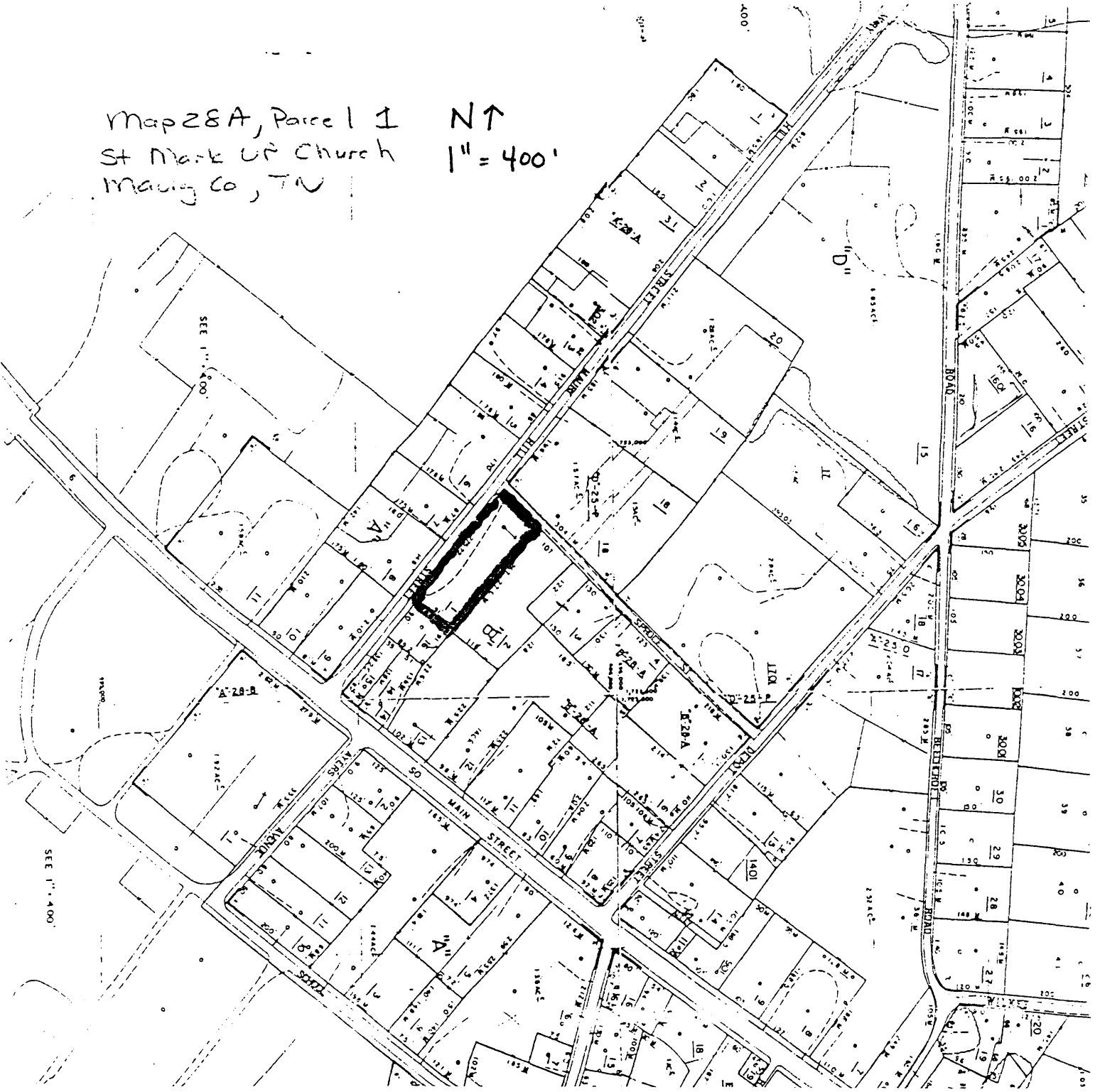
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

Map 28A, Parcel 11
St Mark UB Church
Maury Co, TN

N ↑
1" = 400'



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 8

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Highway 31
Spring Hill, Maury County, TN

Date: October 1997
Photos by: Carroll Van West
 MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
 PO Box 80, MTSU
 Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

West facade, facing northeast
1 of 12

North elevation, facing southeast
2 of 12

East elevation, facing west
3 of 12

South elevation, facing northwest
4 of 12

Vestibule, men's restroom, facing north
5 of 12

Vestibule, women's restroom, facing south
6 of 12

Women's restroom, facing west
7 of 12

Pulpit and choir platform, facing east
8 of 12

Sanctuary, facing northwest
9 of 12

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 9

St. Mark United Primitive Baptist Church
Maury County, TN

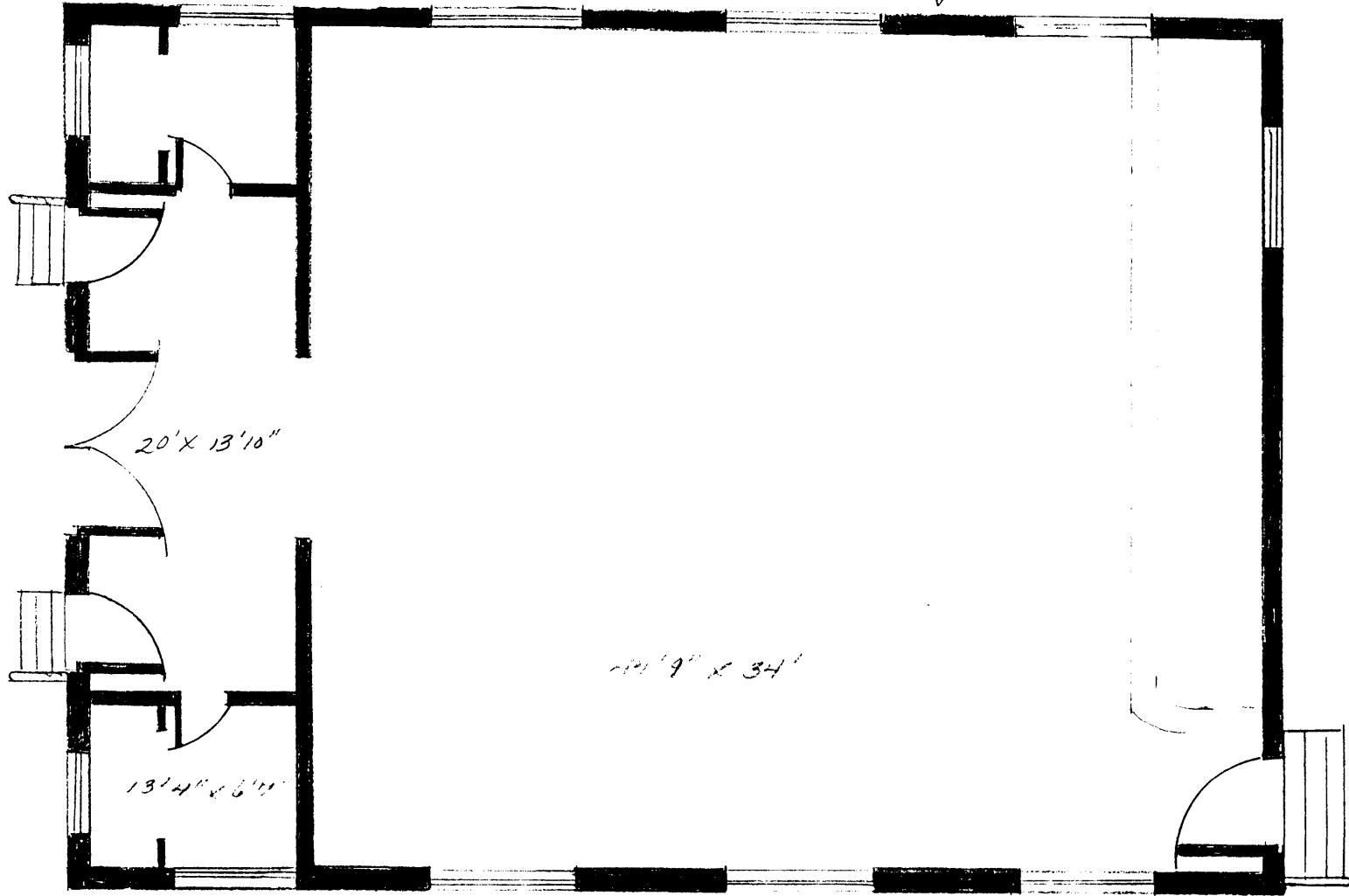
Sanctuary into vestibule, facing west
10 of 12

Wainscoting, north wall, facing northwest
11 of 12

Wainscoting, gas heater, south wall, facing southwest
12 of 12

St. Martin's United Methodist Baptist Church
Maury Co, TN

Limestone^{pier} Foundation filled in appearance to blocks



Limestone Foundation

- 22 Pews
- 3 altar chairs
- 6 over 6 double hung windows

59'11" x 35'4" (overall dimensions)

WTS: 1997