

**DATA SHEET**

**PH0678546**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 6 1979  
DATE ENTERED 18 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Northcutts Cove Chapel  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**LOCATION** SE of Altamont

STREET & NUMBER  
Northcutts Cove  
CITY, TOWN  
Altamont  
STATE  
Tennessee  
VICINITY OF  
X  
CODE  
37301  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Fourth  
COUNTY  
Grundy  
CODE

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints ✓  
STREET & NUMBER  
50 East North Temple  
CITY, TOWN  
Salt Lake City  
STATE  
Utah 84150  
VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Grundy County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Court Square  
CITY, TOWN  
Altamont  
STATE  
Tennessee

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Historical and Architectural Survey  
DATE  
November 16, 1978  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Tennessee Historical Commission, 170 Second Avenue, North  
CITY, TOWN  
Nashville  
STATE  
Tennessee 37201  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Northcutts Cove Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is located in Northcutts Cove approximately four hundred feet west of Nunleys Creek in northeastern Grundy County. It was constructed in 1909 by local members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) and by sympathetic neighbors.

The chapel is a frame building sheathed with its original weatherboards. The gable roof is covered with metal which replaced the original wooden shingles. The perimeter foundation is field stone. Attached to the west end of the basically rectangular sanctuary is a bell tower covered with pyramidal roof and metal roofing. The bell compartment is vented by two louvered openings on each of the four sides of the tower.

The facade (west elevation) is dominated by the attached bell tower which also serves as an entrance vestibule. A double leaf door surmounted by a fanlight in the elevation of the tower provides the only entrance to the chapel. The north and south elevations of the sanctuary each contain four windows; the east elevation is blank.

In plan, the building consists of the rectangular sanctuary and an entrance vestibule located in the base of the bell tower. The sanctuary is unadorned; the walls and ceiling are narrow boards. At the east end of the room a raised platform supports a podium and a bench with a slatted back. Identical benches face the podium and provide seating for the congregation. These furnishings are original.

A cemetery is located to the east of the chapel. It contains primarily graves of early members of the congregation, but continues in use today for occasional burials of Mormons from local families.

The nominated property is the entire tract owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It measures approximately 135 feet by 130 feet and contains .4 acre. Both the church and cemetery are within the boundary of the parcel.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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

1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first missionaries dispatched by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) began evangelizing in Tennessee and Kentucky in 1834; they worked energetically in this area until 1846. After a lull of nearly thirty years LDS missionaries redoubled their efforts; special emphasis was focused on Tennessee and a headquarters established in Chattanooga. Until ca. 1900 Mormons and their friends and associates experienced extreme harrassment from Tennesseans; they were driven out of some regions, whipped, tarred and feathered, and on one occasion murdered. On August 10, 1884 a farmhouse in Lewis County was attacked by a masked band. Mormon missionaries William S. Berry and John H. Gibbs, their associates Martin Condor and J. R. Hudson, and a member of the mob were killed.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century the LDS Church encouraged its converts to emigrate from Tennessee. Many did and these settled in Colorado and Arizona. Following the enactment by Congress of a law which prohibited polygamy in the United States -- Tennesseans were violently opposed to this practice -- Mormons could safely establish permanent congregations and build churches in the state. Once the controversy created by the Reed-Smoot hearings had subsided, the citizens and public officials in Tennessee were willing to coexist with the Mormons.

Joseph F. Smith, trustee for the LDS Church purchased 1/4 acre of land in Northcutts Cove from John and Belle Tipton on May 10, 1910; the price of the land was \$1.00. Seven months before, on October 24, 1909, LDS Southern States Missionary President Charles A. Callis dedicated the newly completed meeting house. Missionaries, members of the congregation and neighbors built the church. Friends donated materials and furnishings or the congregation subscriptions were used to purchase them. Scott Katsnatger volunteered his sawmill and William Perry of Beersheba Springs drayed the logs to Morrison to be sawn. Except for electrification, the chapel retains its original appearance. It has been scrupulously maintained for nearly seventy years.

Northcutts Cove Chapel is the oldest Mormon church in Tennessee and one of the oldest in the southeastern United States. It was for many years the headquarters for the Eastern Tennessee Conference of the Church. Numerous conference meetings were held here as well as a notable three-day debate between President Charles A. Callas and a Campbellite. Members of the press covered this event, and news coverage, which, in the opinion of church officials was fair, helped to ease relations between Mormons and non-Mormons in the state.

Plans to paint and effect minor repairs to the church are being studied. It will continue to be used for weddings and local conference meetings.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Manuscript History of the Southern States Mission of the Church, 1834-1910.  
LDS Church Historical Department, Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .4

QUADRANGLE NAME Irving College, Tennessee

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,1,3,3,6,0 3,9,3,0,4,8,0

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a rectangular tract which measures approximately 135 feet by 130 feet. A description of the boundary is contained in Grundy County Deed Book U, page 303.

## 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 Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian  
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE January 11, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue, North

TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville

STATE Tennessee 37201

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL x

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Herbert L. Hayden*

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 2/20/79

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles Spang*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
*Robert E. Dalton*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7-18-79

DATE 4/17/79