National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received JAN 1 4 1985 date entered FEB 2 0 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number

4,7,8,9,10

DATE: 1901

BLOCK/LOT:

ACREAGE:

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(See Verbal Boundary

Description)

#41, PHOTOS, 7,8

NAME: Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal

Church

ADDRESS: Church Street

PRESENT OWNER: United Methodist Chruch

c/o Mrs. Lilian Smith, Secy.

P.O. Box 35

Chappell Hill, Texas 77426

ORIGINAL USE: Church

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: 7.5' Chappell Hill, TX

CURRENT USE: Church

U.T.M. REFERENCE: 14/764680/3337680

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Physical Condition: Excellent; roof in need of minor repair

Dates of Alterations: New Composition roof installed over wooden one, protective glass positioned over stained-glass windows in 1980s

The Methodist Church is a large Carpenter Gothic structure with pine clapboard siding and a hipped roof. The structure is dominated by two corner towers, each of which displays a pyramidal roof crowned by a finial, and which contains a double wooden entry door. The larger north tower has a louvered belfry with a skirt directly below. Tripartite intersecting tracery windows pierce the large wall areas on three sides. The

lancet form is the salient feature of all the stained-glass windows and door entrances. The other single variety of window which occurs is the small circular portal appearing on the west front side of both corner towers, directly above the entrance doors.

The interior is distinguished by its handsome, wooden, decorative detailing and square floor plan. The interior space is totally finished in wood whose dark color contrasts with beaded edges articulate the ceiling. Several small vault-like arches are formed on the interior ceiling above windows where there are exterior gables ends. The wainscoting around the auditorium is also of wood. Further accentuating the interior are two pairs of oversized, pivoting, double doors with carved wooden panels and through which access is gained from the area within the two corner towers. Seating is in semicircular form, with focus on the pulpit situated in the southeast corner. A Sunday School room extending the entire length of the east wall is separated from the main auditorium by a series of moveable coffered and paneled wooden doors with symmetrically molded trim and bull's-eye corner blocks. The interior of this east room is finished with plaster and dark-stained wooden molding with corner block that frames additional stained-glass windows.

Minimal additions to the structure include a new roof and protective glass covering over fragile stained-glass windows.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

Period: 1900-

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Built to replace the original 1853 edifice destroyed in the 1900 Hurrican, this 20th-century Methodist Church has been associated with the beginnings of Methodism in Texas and recognized as a landmark in the Chappell Hill Community since its construction. The first church (and the 1901 structure) was built on land donated by the town's founder, Mary Haller.

The Methodist Church, one of the strongest influences in the overall development of the community (especially education), had its beginning in the numerous camp meetings held at Cedar Creek (approximately one mile north of Chappell Hill) in the 1830s. Reverend Robert Alexander, who arrived as a missionary in Texas at the beckoning of William B. Travis, was the main organizing force behind early Methodism in this community. A prominent citizen of the Republic of Texas, Alexander succeeded Dr. Martin Ruter as the minister responsible for the establishment of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Texas. Cedar Creek declined to be the location, and Methodist Church was moved to Chappell Hill and the first edifice built in the early 1850s. Many trustees of the Chappell Hill Methodist Church were earlier members of the Cedar Creek Church. Reflecting the statewide importance of this Methodist center, the Texas Conference of the Methodist Church was held in Chappell Hill five times between 1854 and 1878.

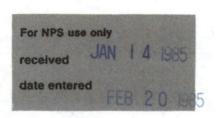
After the establishment of the church in Chappell Hill in the 1850s, the town soon gained prominence as an early center of Methodism and education. The subsequent establishment of two church-affiliated schools, the Chappell Hill Male and Female Institute in 1850 and Soule University in 1856, provided the impetus for the initial growth and settlement of Chappell Hill and the surrounding region. Now prominent as an early educational and religious center, the town attracted wealthy planters, religious leaders, and educated settlers from southern states.

The architectural style of the 1901 building is characteristic of other Carpenter Gothic Methodist churches in the state. Particularly noteworthy are the interesting applications of decorative wood trim to the interior. Wood for the building was procured from T. A. Mercer's lumberyard in Chappell Hill.

The builder of the structure was Heinrich C. Brandt, a local craftsman, cabinetmaker, and businessman who was born in Germany. He served a four-year apprenticeship to a "Scheiner" (joiner) in Buckeburg, where he received his journeyman's certificate on March 15, 1856. He worked for many years as a cabinetmaker and building contractor in Chappell Hill, and in 1874 he opened a general merchandise store. A few of his carpentry tools are on display at the museum.

The Methodist church is in excellent condition because of a continuing maintenance program and the concern of local citizens. The church is still active and weekly services are held.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Marcum Plelan, <u>History of the Expansion of Methdism in Texas</u>, 1867-1902, Dallas, Texas 1937.

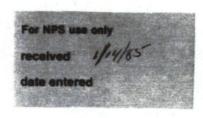
Washington County Deed Records, Brenham, Texas.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks Files, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: (See Attached Sketch Map) - North de de la

A cerain lot or parcel of land in Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas, and more fully described as beginning at the intersection of Poplar and Church streets which is the southwest corner of this lot; thence S 89° 00' 55", 138 feet; thence N 3° 20' E, 6.40 feet; thence N 59° 46' 55" E, 16.24 feet; thence S 89° 15' 28" E, 37.83 feet' thence N 2° 41' W, 125 feet; thence S 89° 20' W. 201 feet to the east line of Church Street; thence with the east line of Church Street S 0° 21' E, 138 feet to the point of beginning.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group dnr-11

tate	Washington County, Tex	cas	Cone	acryst.
Nomi	nation/Type of Review			Date/Signature
	Main Street Historic Distr	ict Inbetantive Revie	Keeper	Full n Wellerd 5/15/80
	Applewhite, Isaac, House	Entered in And	Keeper	Alon Byen 2/2
	Chappell Hill Circulating Library	Entered in the National Registe	Keeper	Helvertoyen des
•	Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church	Referred In the National Hegister	heeper Attest	Alelan Syen 3/20,
	Chappell Hill Public Schoo and Chappell Hill Female College Bell	1 Substantive Hevi	Keeper Attest	Ludi mcClelland 2/20)
	Felder, E. King, House	Estered in the Estimate Register	Reeper Attest	Alous Byen 4/20
	Rogers, William S., House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	Sulour Byen 2/20
	Routt, J.R., House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	Allan Byan 2/20/8
	Smith, John Sterling, Jr. House	Entered in the	Keeper	Sulore Byen 2/20
٥			Keeper	
.0.			Attest	

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Chappell Hill Methodist E (Chappell Hill MRA) Washington County TEXAS	piscopal Church		Working No. JAN Fed. Reg. Date: Date Due: Jay 185 Action: ACCEPT	- 2/28/85				
resubmission nomination by person or local	government	Estered in the	RETURN	arcent of the second				
owner objection appeal			Federal Agency:					
Substantive Review: samp	le request	appeal	☐ NR decision					
Reviewer's comments:								
			Recom./Criteria					
			Reviewer					
			Discipline					
			Date					
			see continuation sh	eet				
Nomination returned for:te	echnical corrections cited below ubstantive reasons discussed below	w						
1. Name								
2. Location								
3. Classification								
	wnership ublic Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use					
4. Owner of Property		in Entry of the	agular est je mar, realis som Circa sistas sa sistema en	Agencia de la como de				
5. Location of Legal Description		let .						
6. Representation in Existing Surv	eys							
Has this property been determined	eligible?	no						
7. Description								
Condition	Check o	ne	Check one					
	riorated unal		original site					
good ruins		red	☐ moved date	te				
fair unex	posed							
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance								
summary paragraph								
completeness								
clarity								
alterations/integrity dates								
boundary selection								

8. Significance							
Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below	AND MINOR LAW!						
Specific dates Builder/Architect							
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)							
summary paragraph completeness	Chappell Will Methodist Spiscopal Church (Chappell Cirl MicA)						
□ clarity	Reshington County						
applicable criteria justification of areas checked							
relating significance to the resource context							
☐ context ☐ relationship of integrity to significance							
☐ justification of exception ☐ other							
□ other							
9. Major Bibliographical References							
10. Geographical Data							
Acreage of nominated property							
Quadrangle name							
UTM References							
Verbal boundary description and justification							
11. Form Prepared By	Andrews Control of the Control of th						
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification							
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:							
national state local	action diseased the the Community						
State Historic Preservation Officer signature							
title date							
13. Other	The state of the s						
☐ Maps							
☐ Photographs ☐ Other							
Comment of the commen							
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to							
Signed Date	Phone:						



Historic Resources of Chappell Hill Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#41 Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church Church Street

Photo by William Schaer, April 1984, neg on file at Texas Historical Commission

Northwest elevation, camera facin southeast

photo 7 of 58



Historic Resources of Chappell Hill Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#41 Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church (Historic Photo) Church Street

Photographer Unknown, 1930, neg on file at Texas Historical Commission

Southwest elevation; camera facing northeast

photo 8 of 58

Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number:

64000834