

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

JAN 14 1985

date entered

FEB 20 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number 4,7,8,9,10

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#41, PHOTOS, 7,8

NAME: Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal
Church

DATE: 1901

ADDRESS: Church Street

BLOCK/LOT: (See Verbal Boundary
Description)

PRESENT OWNER: United Methodist Church
c/o Mrs. Lilian Smith, Secy.
P.O. Box 35
Chappell Hill, Texas 77426

ACREAGE: 1

ORIGINAL USE: Church

CURRENT USE: Church

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

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 semi-circular 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.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Marcum Plelan, History of the Expansion of Methodism in Texas, 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) - *not included*

A certain 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 $89^{\circ} 00' 55''$, 138 feet; thence N $3^{\circ} 20'$ E, 6.40 feet; thence N $59^{\circ} 46' 55''$ E, 16.24 feet; thence S $89^{\circ} 15' 28''$ E, 37.83 feet; thence N $2^{\circ} 41'$ W, 125 feet; thence S $89^{\circ} 20'$ W, 201 feet to the east line of Church Street; thence with the east line of Church Street S $0^{\circ} 21'$ E, 138 feet to the point of beginning.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Chappell Hill Multiple Resource Area
State Washington County, Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Main Street Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 5/15/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 2. | Applewhite, Isaac, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 3. | Chappell Hill Circulating Library | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 4. | Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 5. | Chappell Hill Public School and Chappell Hill Female College Bell | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 6. | Felder, E. King, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 7. | Rogers, William S., House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 8. | Routt, J.R., House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 9. | Smith, John Sterling, Jr. House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <u>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 10. | | | Keeper | |
| | | | Attest | |

85000344

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church
(Chappell Hill MRA)
Washington County
TEXAS

Working No. JAN 14 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86
Date Due: 2/14/85 - 2/28/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2-20-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ 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

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



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

Inv. 44



SW

14

1930 (58)

59 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