

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUN 5 1985
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Carthage United Methodist Church

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 609 South Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Carthage N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Smith code 159

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	NA <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Carthage United Methodist Church

street & number 609 Main Street

city, town Carthage N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37030

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar's Office

street & number Smith County Courthouse

city, town Carthage state Tennessee 37030

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated within the corporate limits of Carthage (pop. 2,558) in Middle Tennessee, the Carthage United Methodist Church is a one story vernacular Gothic Revival Church built in 1888-1889. Constructed on a rusticated limestone foundation, the exterior surface is formed by red brick laid in common bond. The gable roof church is embellished by stained glass lancet windows with y-tracery, a contiguous brick corbel table under the eaves and brick buttresses with stone weatherings. An elaborately ornamented bell tower is accentuated with pilasters, dormers and brackets. Rectangular in plan, the church is comprised of the original building and a rear addition added in 1925 and expanded in 1950. The most distinctive interior features are the stained glass windows surrounded by paneled wood trim and a wide wood cornice. Overall, the Carthage United Methodist Church has retained its architectural integrity.

The west (front) facade, consists of a central pavilion surmounted by a bell tower and flanked by stained glass lancet windows with y-tracery. Dating from 1889 and 1893, biblical, floral and geometric motifs ornament these windows. Buttresses with stone weatherings are located at the corners of the pavilion and the church itself. The buttresses are hollow and have a brick removed from near the top to allow for venting of the foundation. Double doors ornamented with three tiers of molded panels lead into a vestibule. A stained glass overlight with y-tracery and a brick corbel table complete the ornamentation on this section.

Above the entry an elaborately detailed tripartite belfry rests on a hip roof with a trefoil pattern wood frieze. Each side of the lower section of the square belfry is comprised of paired louvered lancet windows set between fluted pilasters that are capped with ornamental brackets and surmounted by a hip roof. Each side of the central section consists of paired lancet sash windows that are separated by semi-circular pilasters and ornamental brackets. Finally, the upper section consists of four gable roof dormers containing lancet windows below a pressed tin hip roof capped with a decorative finial.

Both the north and south sides of the church are delineated by three stained glass lancet windows with y-tracery. Similar to the west (front) windows, most were installed in 1964 and are set between narrow brick buttresses with stone weatherings. The two story rear addition, a design compatible with the original, is five bays wide with 6/6 sash windows and a hip roof that is covered with asphalt shingles like the main roof. A brick corbel table is carried over onto the sides of the original building but not on the addition.

The dominant features of the interior are a wide wood cornice and stained glass windows surrounded by molded and paneled wood trim. Other woodwork, lighting and carpeting are recent alterations. The plan of the church consists of a nave with choir loft and vestibule, plus the rear addition. The addition to the church contains classrooms of no architectural distinction.

The Carthage United Methodist Church is located on a flat corner lot in a residential neighborhood and surrounded by various shrubs, evergreens and trees. South of the church is the 1912 Nelson Fisher House, now used as an annex to the church. Purchased in 1975, it has not been associated with the church long enough to be considered part of a complex and, therefore, is not included in the nomination.

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1889 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Carthage United Methodist Church is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance in Carthage, Smith County, Tennessee. A fine example of late nineteenth century vernacular Gothic Revival Church architecture in a small Middle Tennessee town, the church features a distinctive bell tower embellished with pilasters, brackets, trefoil pattern woodwork and an elaborate finial. Stained glass lancet windows, most of which were donated by parishioners, compliment the overall outstanding design of the church. Although the interior has had some alterations and an addition was built on the east (rear), the Carthage United Methodist Church has retained much of its architectural integrity.

Established in Carthage in 1808 with the Reverend John McClure as pastor, the Methodist Church first held services in a log building (non-extant). In 1820 a frame church building (non-extant) was constructed but this was sold in 1841 and a new brick church built. This brick church is now known as Braden's Chapel and is still in use as a Methodist Church. The Carthage church began a cemetery in 1845 and this eventually became the City Cemetery.

Thirteen years later, in 1858, the Methodist Church began its first Sunday School. The present church was begun in 1888 and completed the following year. An annex used primarily for Sunday School classes was built in 1925 and expanded in 1950 to accommodate a growing parish. In 1975 the Carthage United Methodist Church purchased the former Nelson Fisher House, built in 1912, to use as additional space for educational and other church related functions. Located on adjacent property south of the church, it has not been owned by the church long enough to be considered historically associated with the church and is, therefore, not included in the nomination.

The Carthage United Methodist Church still continues to be used for religious services and Sunday School. A locally significant example of vernacular Gothic Revival design, the church is dominated by the finely crafted bell tower and large stained glass lancet windows. An architecturally distinctive resource in Carthage, Tennessee, the church has undergone a few alterations but has retained most of its architectural integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Carter, Cullen T. "History of Methodist Churches and Institutions in Middle Tennessee 1787-1956," 1956.
- Matlock, Dr. J.W.L. "An Explanation of the Symbolism of the stained-glass windows in the Carthage Methodist Church, Carthage, Tennessee." February, 1964.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Carthage, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 6	5 9 4 2 4 0	4 0 1 2 5 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is rectangular in shape and less than one acre in size. It is bounded on the west by South Main Street, on the north by Fisher Street and on the east and south by adjacent property lines. It includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the Carthage United Methodist Church.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Burchett, Director of Planning

organization Upper Cumberland Development District date April 1985

street & number 1225 Burgess Falls Rd. telephone 615/432-4111

city or town Cookeville state Tennessee 38501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/20/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 7-5-85

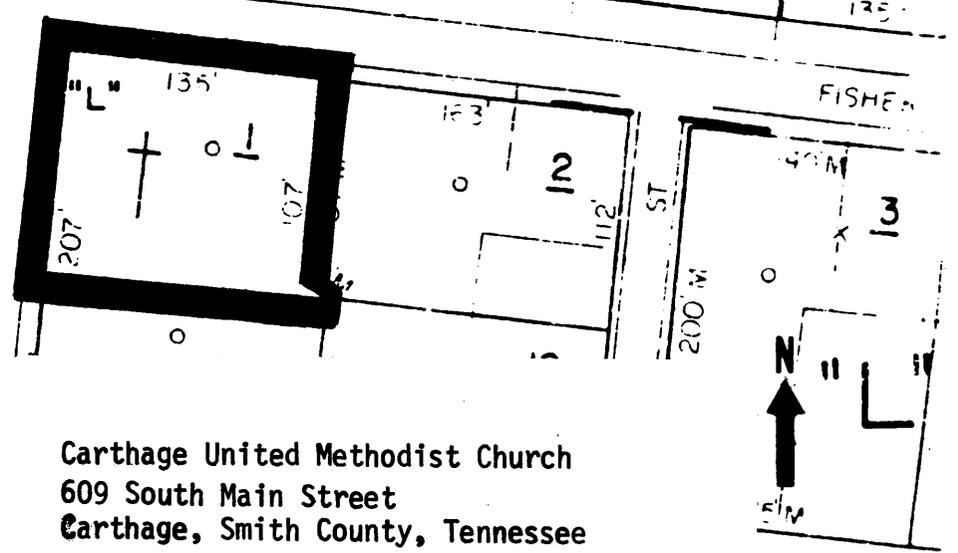
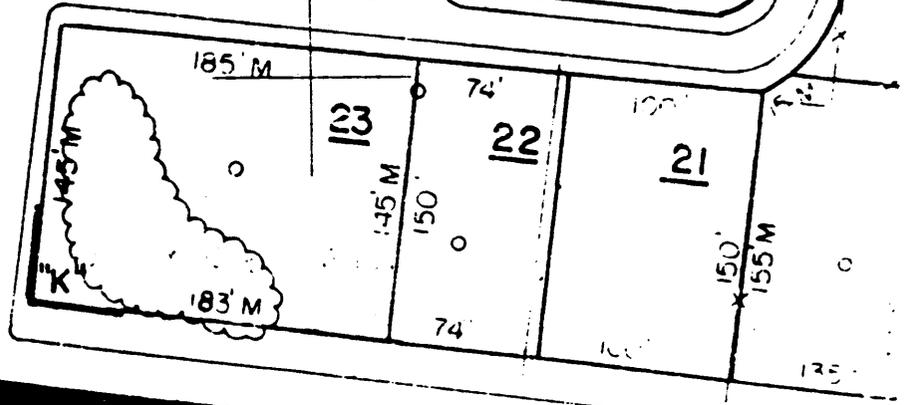
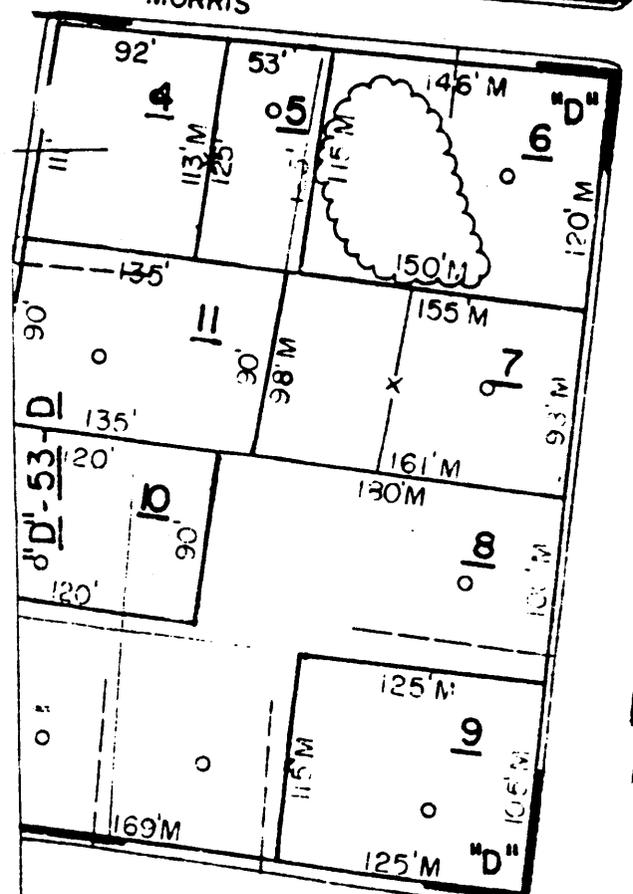
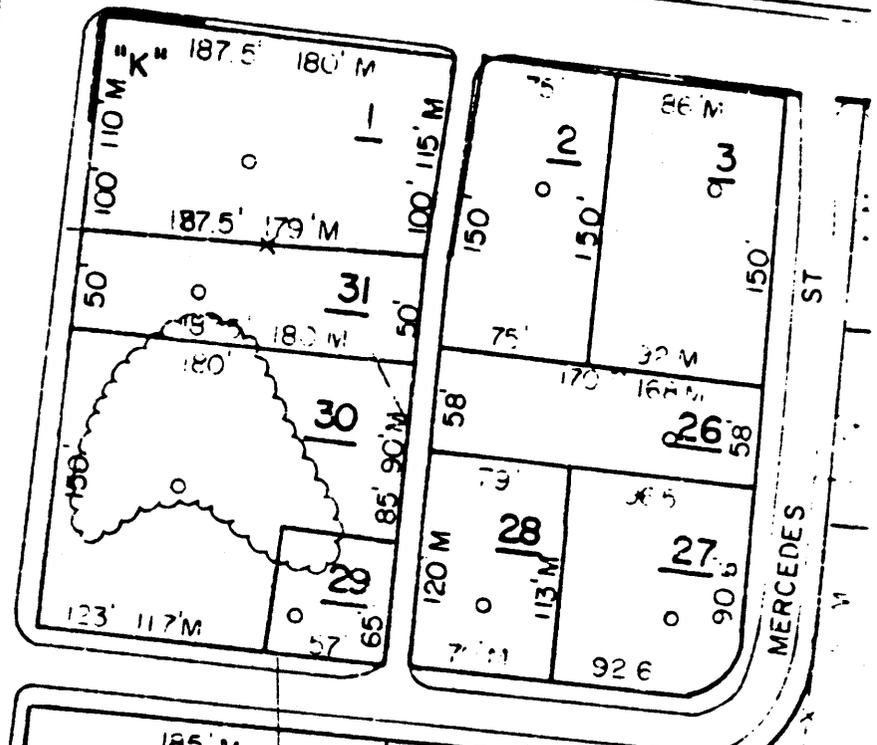
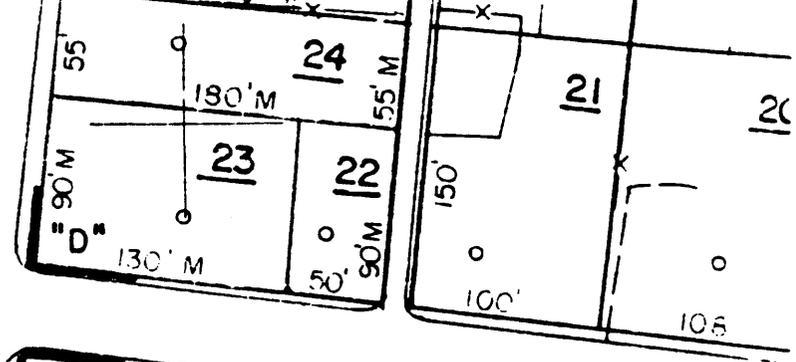
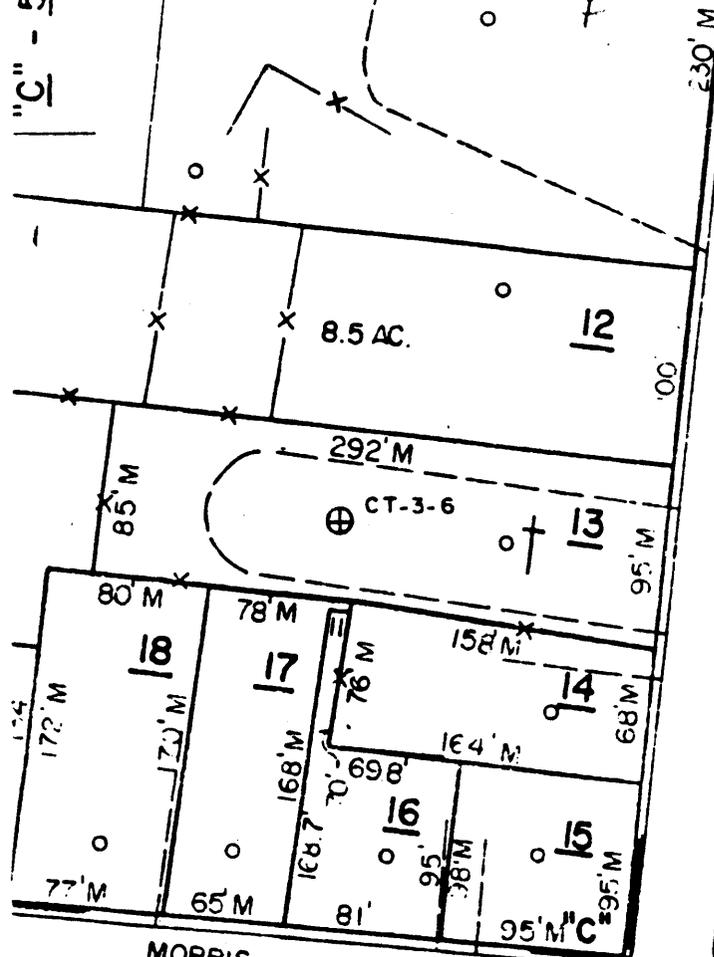
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

"C" - 50



Carthage United Methodist Church
 609 South Main Street
 Carthage, Smith County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 100'

2,014,000

A-34-H

B-34-H

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