

FINAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**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 Salem Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON Salem United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER R.R. 1

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Hillsdale VICINITY OF Seventh CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Indiana CODE 018 COUNTY Vermillion CODE 165

**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"/> MUSEUM               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT           |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL           |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY             |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                 |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC           |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:               |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME South Indiana United Methodist Conference

STREET & NUMBER 2427 East Second Street

CITY, TOWN Bloomington VICINITY OF Indiana STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Vermillion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Newport STATE Indiana 47966

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

## 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

Salem United Methodist Church is located in a rural area of Vermillion County. The Gothic Revival structure is a one-and-a-half story brick building. The main facade features two pointed-arched windows flanking a pointed-arched double door entry. The entrance is set in a square brick tower with corner buttresses trimmed with limestone. Above the entrance is a stone inscribed with "M.E. Church 1878". A round window which has been covered over is located above the inscribed stone. The brick tower is capped with a truncated hipped roof which in turn is surmounted by a square wooden bell tower with two vent openings on each side. The bell tower has a bellcast hipped roof. The sanctuary roof has a plain cornice fascia, while the bell tower roof is supported by a boxed cornice decorated with dentils.

The sides of the main block are divided into three bays separated by buttresses with limestone trim. There are also corner buttresses. All the windows in the main block have Gothic arches with brick surrounds and four over four lights. A one story addition at the back of the sanctuary has an entrance on the east side and windows which have segmental arched brick surrounds. A large central chimney is located at the rear of the main block.

The major alterations to the structure have been the rear addition added in 1902, the asphalt shingle roofs, and a small square shed for the heating plant on the east side. While the interior retains the original altar rail and pews, modern paneling has been placed on the altar wall.

## 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 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Salem Methodist Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as an example of the transition between typical examples of small-scale nineteenth century churches. Like the earliest known meeting houses and churches in this region, the Salem Church is a modest rectangular structure one bay wide and three bays long. Although the first such structures were simply large log cabins, later churches were clapboard and frame buildings, elaborated by tall lancet windows and the placement of a spire on one of the gable-end elevations. In the Salem Church this architectural tradition is continued with additional elaborations in the form of stepped buttresses which accentuate the bay divisions of each elevation and the use of header coursing for hood moulds over lancet arches of the windows. The spire is a curious departure since it is a truncated belfry instead of the usual open, attenuated sort usually associated with the Gothic style. Perhaps this treatment can be ascribed to a desire to achieve greater visual interest by having a more irregular outline rather than the simplicity of a more typical design. The same motive can be seen in the treatment of the buttresses as well as in the corbelling to accentuate the levels on each elevation of the masonry portion of the spire. These are devices more commonly associated with the larger more elaborate urban churches of the late nineteenth century. The Salem Church is a structure which incorporates features of both the Gothic Revival's humble beginnings and imitations of its later fruition in urban churches.

Historically the Salem Church is a reminder of the beginning of Methodism in Helt Township. The Salem congregation is the oldest in the township and one of the oldest in Vermillion County. Established in 1821-22 by circuit riders, the congregation first met in a log barn, a schoolhouse and residence until 1846 when a frame church was built on land donated by James and Elizabeth Harper. In 1878 the frame building was sold and moved, and on the same foundation the congregation erected the present brick structure, measuring thirty by sixty feet. The church cost \$2,838. The bricks were made in Parke County, ferried across the Wabash River and hauled to the site.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Record of Vermillion County, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1888.

Cline & McHaffie. The People's Guide: A Business, Political and Religious Director of Vermillion County, Indiana. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Printing & Publishing House, 1874.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Clinton, Indiana QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |         |          |     |      |         |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|------|---------|----------|-----|------|---------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| A | 1,6  | 4,6,5   | 7,8,0    | 4,3 | 9,7  | 8,8,0   | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |     | ZONE | EASTING |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C |      |         |          |     |      |         | D |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E |      |         |          |     |      |         | F |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G |      |         |          |     |      |         | H |  |  |  |  |  |  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(The South Quarter of Section West and Fifteen feet North of the Southeast corner of) commencing twenty five in Township Fifteen North of Range Nine West and running West

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

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Crum, Jr. Layleader

ORGANIZATION

Salem United Methodist Church

DATE

July, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1, Box 95A

TELEPHONE

(Crum Res.) 317-665-3739

CITY OR TOWN

Hillsdale

STATE

Indiana 47854

## 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Joseph D. ...* Dec 12-1978

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHEF OF REGISTRATION

Form No 10-300a  
(Rev 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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History of Parke and Vermillion Counties, Indiana. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and  
Company, 1913.

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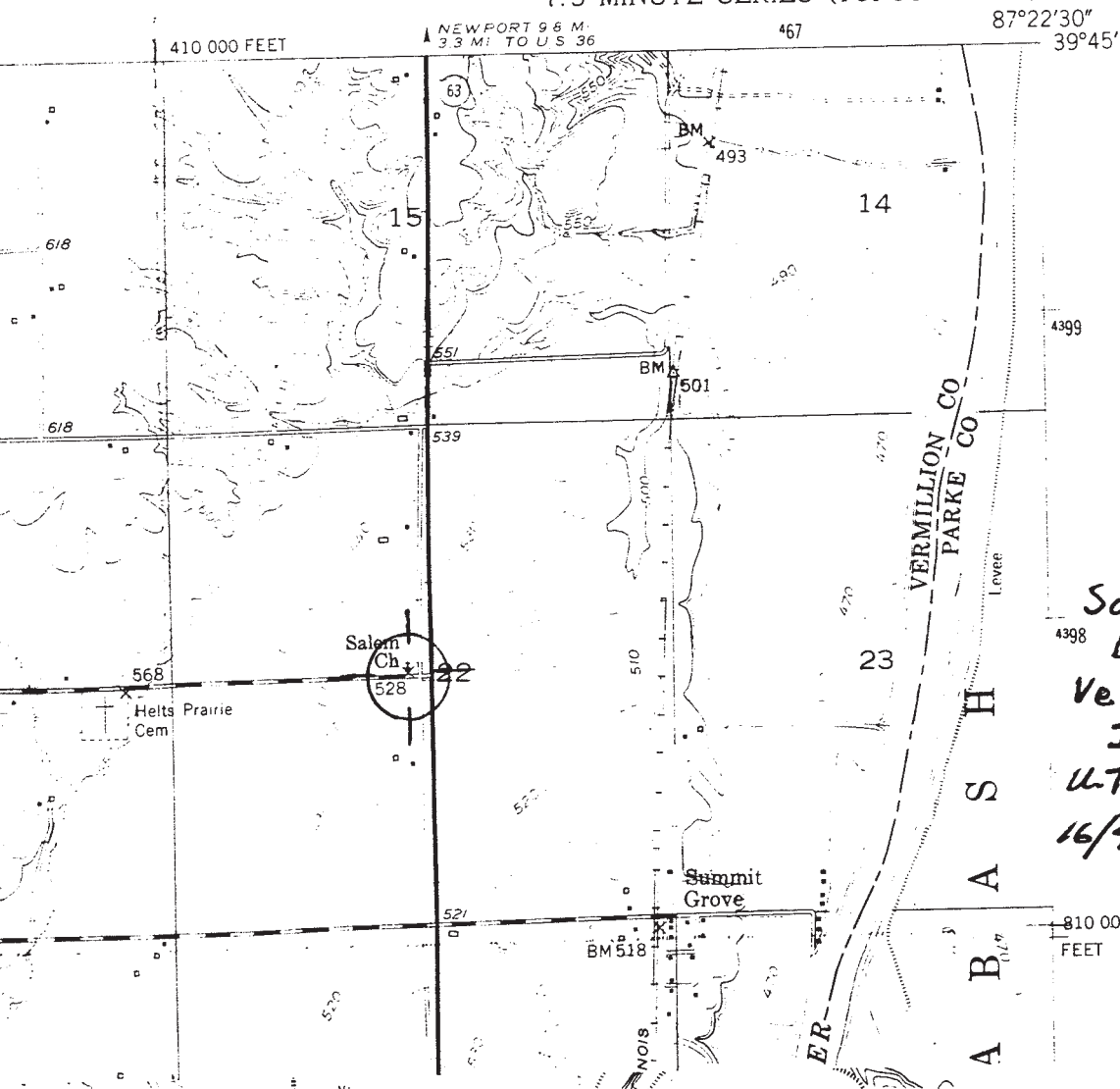
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary (con't)

Ten rods, thence North Six rods, thence East Ten rods, thence South to the place of beginning.

CLINTON QUADRANGLE  
INDIANA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3563 IV SE  
(MONTEZUMA)



Salem Methodist  
Episcopal Church  
Vermillion County,  
Indiana  
U.T.M. Reference  
16/465780/4397820