

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 McJOHNSTON CHAPEL of the McCutchanville United Methodist Church and
the adjacent cemetery.
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Corner Kansas Road and Erskine Lane __ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
McCutchanville, Indiana CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Indiana VICINITY OF Evansville, Ind. Vanderburgh County

COUNTY
Vanderburgh CODE

CODE
100 018 163

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Burial</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME McCutchanville United Methodist Church owns the Chapel. The Cemetery is controlled by a separate Board of Trustees.

STREET & NUMBER
9401 Old Petersburg Road

CITY, TOWN
Evansville STATE

VICINITY OF Indiana 47711

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder's Office, Vanderburgh County, Indiana

STREET & NUMBER
Civic Center

CITY, TOWN
Evansville STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE NONE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

This is a small, red brick building in simple American Gothic style designed by the eminent Terre Haute and Evansville, Indiana, architect, Josse A. Vrydagh (1833-98).

The main mass of the building is rectangular (inside measurements 36' x 55'), set east and west, with a vestibule (10' x 24') projecting from the west corner of the south elevation. The vestibule is surmounted by a bell steeple. All the exterior walls are buttressed. There are three narrow lancet-windows on the south and north elevations and a very tall triple lancet-window in the west end of the building. The central panels in the windows are white frosted etched glass, surrounded by borders of clear etched glass in ruby, amethyst, and topaz. The roof is polychrome slate, steeply sloped and set on a corbeled molding.

The construction of the chapel was supervised by the architect's assistant, Levi S. Clarke of Evansville. However, much of the actual labor was performed by the men of the McCutchanville community. The huge trusses that support the roof (10" by 10" poplar) were cut from the surrounding woods. The bricks were hand made and burned on the site, and even the sand used in the mortar came from a sand deposit in a hillside on the Erskine farm not more than a hundred yards from the building. The first brick was laid on Monday, April 12, 1880, and the building was completed by the end of the year.

There have been only two alterations to the exterior of the building. First, three tall chimneys which accommodated the old pot bellied stoves were removed from the NE, SE and NW corners of the building. In 1949 a new building of compatible design called the Parish House was constructed immediately behind the original building and attached to it by an enclosed passageway to the north door of the old building.

The inside of the chapel has a vaulted ceiling 25½' from floor to peak. Walls and ceiling are rough plastered and painted off-white. A wooden wainscot rises to the bottoms of the windows, which have sloping wooden sills. A high arched pulpit alcove fills the east end of the room. This was originally empty, but now houses the pipes of the organ. Two small alcoves in the NE and SE corners of the room formerly had the pot bellied stoves in them. These remain unaltered and are now empty. An open staircase rises from the vestibule to a balcony across the back of the chapel. Brass hardware on the interior doors is original. A brass bell in the belfry bears this inscription - "Vanduzen & Tift, Cincinnati, Ohio. Buckeye Bell Foundry 1880".

A number of pieces of the original furniture remain, including the lecturn, communion table and pulpit chairs. Pews in the balcony are original, but the ones on the main floor are circa 1941. The old oil-burning chandeliers have been replaced with gothic design electric lanterns.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1880 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Josse A. Vrydagh

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McJohnston Chapel of the McCutchanville United Methodist church is one of the few remaining examples of the work of architect Josse A. Vrydagh in the Evansville area. Except for the McJohnston Chapel and the Iglehart house on S.E. Second, all the Vrydagh buildings in Evansville have fallen to the wrecker's ball or have been altered radically. Vrydagh, born in Belgium in 1833, emigrated to the United States in the 1850's. In 1870 he was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and four years later he submitted competitive drawings for the Centennial Buildings at Philadelphia. For these he was awarded one of the ten premiums offered. In 1877 he received an award from the United States Government for submitting the best plans for rebuilding the U.S. Patent Office. In 1881-82 he worked in the office of James G. Hill, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C. Among the buildings he designed were Court Houses for Sullivan, Mt. Vernon, and Bedford, Indiana; the Terre Haute Opera House, St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Patrick Catholic Church, and the Indiana State Normal College in Terre Haute, Indiana; and several buildings at DePauw University at Greencastle, Indiana. Vrydagh died in Terre Haute January 16, 1898.

The McCutchanville United Methodist Church is also significant for its influence on the historic McCutchanville community, remaining through the years one of the focal points of community life. Erected in 1880, the McJohnston Chapel stands on the exact site of an earlier frame church established by Charles McCutchan-Johnstone (later known as Charles McJohnston), who came from County Longford, Ireland in 1819. Mr. McJohnston, as a child, had heard John Wesley preach during the great religious leader's Irish crusades, and McJohnston came to America thoroughly steeped in Methodism. He encouraged the Methodist Circuit Riders to come into the area at a very early date. Mr. McJohnston died in 1828 while serving in the Indiana State Legislature, and in his will he left the money to erect the first frame church on the site. In 1878, when one of his daughters died she left money in her will to start a fund to replace the old frame church with the present brick chapel.

The church and the school have been the bulwarks of society in this somewhat isolated rural community. The founders of the community came from Europe as educated and cultured people who, from the first, laid a cultural foundation that was to have a marked influence on the development of Evansville and Vanderburgh County.

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In 1859 one of the first attempts at secondary education in the county was made when classes of high school level were taught week-days in the old frame church by Saunders Hornbrook. Mr. Hornbrook served in the 65th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War and obtained the rank of Colonel.

Two famous ladies were members of this church's congregation from childhood until they reached maturity. Annie Fellows Johnston, the author of the Little Colonel Series for children, wrote of her childhood memories of the old church in her last book, Land Of The Little Colonel, published 1929 by L.C. Page & Co., of Boston. Her sister, Albion Fellows Bacon, nationally known social worker and a member of President Herbert Hoover's Commission on Home Building and Ownership, wrote of the old church and its influence on her life in her book, Beauty for Ashes, published in 1914 by Dodd, Mead & Co. of New York.

The church cemetery is one of the oldest in Vanderburgh County still in use. Buried here are all of the founders of this important Scotch-Irish community and several generations of their descendants. The oldest gravestone is dated 1819 and there are several from the 1820's. Approximately 125 graves are more than a century old. Some thirty-two (32) Civil War veterans are buried here (including one who served in both the Confederate and Union armies), nine veterans of World War I, two from World War II, and one from the Korean War. Five men who served in the Indiana State Legislature are buried here:

Charles McJohnston	1827-1828
Robert P. Hooker	1871-1873
James F. Ensle	1913-1915
Thomas W. McCutchan	1923-1925
	1925-1927
Herbert F. Grimwood	1927-1929

Researchers will find a number of examples of interesting primitive gravestone folk art and several quaint epitaphs. This cemetery is important to genealogists and historians.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 2½ acres (1½ for cemetery; ½ acre for chapel)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	4,5,4	1,2,0	4,2	1,2	8,5,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Pt NW NW Sect. 27, Twp 5 S, range 10 W

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

Kenneth P. McCutchan

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 188

TELEPHONE

(812) 867-5267

CITY OR TOWN

Evansville

STATE

Indiana 47711

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

Kenneth P. McCutchan

11/15-78

TITLE

Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Oakey, C.C. Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County.
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CENTER

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

