

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FINAL

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Putnamville Presbyterian Church/Putnamville Methodist Church

and/or common Putnamville United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number State Road 243 N/A not for publication

city, town Putnamville N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Putnam code 133

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<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 Putnamville United Methodist Church

street & number State Road 243

city, town Putnamville N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46170

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder

street & number Putnam County Courthouse

city, town Greencastle state Indiana 46135

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Indiana Historic Sites and

title Structures Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April, 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Putnamville Methodist Church is one of the oldest churches in this area and one of the few from the early 19th century constructed of brick. This building, an example of Greek Revival architecture, is on its original site, and features many of the original components such as its exterior brick masonry, hardwood floors, unique center support post, and original bell.

The dimensions of the initial rectangular portion of the church are 45' x 60' with two additions, one an 8' x 8' vestibule added in 1953, and the other a 55' x 25' section for educational rooms added in 1961.

The roof is a low-pitched gable with asphalt shingles. On the roof, directly above the main doors, is a white clapboard bell house. The main double doors are located in the center of the north gable end, while another set of double doors also faces north from the west extension of the educational rooms.

The exterior wall material is red brick obtained from the former Putnamville kiln. A variety of masonry patterns can be seen in these exterior walls. The north end and the west side (the street sides) of the original part of the building are a Flemish bond, while the east side is common bond, and both additions are stretcher bond. This inconsistency is also seen in the types of window heads, with the north and west window heads being a flat arch with keystone, the east window heads a flat radiating voussior, and the vestibule window heads a vertical joint.

The windows themselves remain consistent. The 12 memorial windows in the sanctuary, each with the name of a founding church member painted above the glass, are double-hung sash with six panes in both the upper and lower sash. The bottom set of panes are stained glass with many of the original panes still intact. The windows in the additions are six-paned fixed sash windows.

The main wooden, six-panel double doors lead into a tiled vestibule. From this small hall, the sanctuary is entered through glass double doors which replaced the initial wooden doors. However, the white door frame and wooden arch above it are original and bear the inscription, "M.E. Church", on the north side of the arch and, "In Memory of His Saints" on the south side.

This one story church has a sanctuary ceiling of 14'. In the center of this room is an 8" square support post that adds a bit of character to the church, since posts such as this are seldom seen nowadays. The sanctuary has three rows of pews, six pews to a row. The floor beneath the seats is the original hardwood floor, while the two 3' aisleways and the 20' x 45' front area of the sanctuary have been carpeted in a red indoor/outdoor carpet. In this front area of the church are located three pews for the choir, the organ, and a 15' x 24' raised platform which supports the original pulpit. The pulpit and the two chairs on either side have all been refinished and upholstered in red velvet. The platform, with a carved wood rail along its edges, was constructed at the same time as the church, the only change being the addition of the carpeting.

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Continuation sheet Putnamville Church

Item number 7

Page 1

The entire wall behind the pulpit and the 3' base of the other walls have been covered in a pecan paneling. The remaining portions of the walls are papered.

The back door, which initially led outside, now goes to the back, 1961, portion of the church that houses the educational rooms and the "Fellowship Hall". This door opens into a hall that leads to the four educational rooms and two restrooms on the east end. These rooms are tiled and painted and have five windows. The west end of the hall leads to the other exterior double doors and to the "Fellowship Hall" on the lower level. In the basement there is a kitchen and a dining area carpeted in a yellow carpet similar in type to that used in the sanctuary and paneled in the same pecan paneling. Here there are seven fixed sash windows.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1834 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (~~in one paragraph~~)

The Putnamville Methodist Church is perhaps the most significant public building remaining in the small town of Putnamville from its early period. The church was a very important factor in the settling of this area, and has continued its influence to the present day.

The Presbyterian congregation in Putnamville was organized and founded by Isaac Reed on November 7, 1830. Reed, Missionary who helped bring Presbyterianism to Indiana and other frontier states, resided for some time with his family in Putnamville and ministered to both the Putnamville and Greencastle Presbyterian churches. His publications, The Christian Traveler and The Youth's Works, discuss his dedication to this area of the state.

The Presbyterians built this brick building in 1834. After its completion, the church was dedicated by the renowned Presbyterian minister, Henry Ward Beecher, brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe. The congregation remained in this building until the Presbyterian ideological split between the old and the new schools in 1849. The building was then transferred to the old school faction until 1861 when it was sold to the Methodists.

During the church's first years, Putnamville was a growing community due to its location on the National Road. It was a very self-sufficient town with a doctor, a school, mills, stores, inns, and quarries. The bricks and limestone foundation of the church came from the Putnamville kiln and limestone quarries. The community even competed with Greencastle for the county seat and Asbury University (presently DePauw University). However, the town did not obtain either of these advantages and after the fire of 1878 in its business district Putnamville began to decline.

According to a survey that was recently completed for Putnam County, only a handful of buildings remain in Putnamville from 1840 or before. This church was the only building in the town rated as Outstanding, suggesting its importance to the present community.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Putnam County, Indiana 1879. Chicago: J. H. Beers & Company, 1879.

"Bishop Raines Will Speak at Putnamville." Greencastle Banner, October 2, 1961.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cloverdale

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6
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5	1	1	6	0	0
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4	3	8	0	2	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All of lot 32 and the west half of lot 31 in the Original Town of Putnamville.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erin Mahoney

organization Putnamville United Methodist Church date March, 1983

street & number R. 2, Box 764 telephone 317/653-5247

city or town Greencastle state Indiana 46135

## 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 

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-24-84

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Putnamville Methodist Church  
Putnamville, Indiana  
UTM Reference: 16/511600/4380230

