

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moore's Hill United Methodist Church
other names/site number Methodist Episcopal Church 029-168-41059

2. Location

street & number 13476 Main Street N/A not for publication
city or town Moore's Hill N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Dearborn code 029 zip code 47032

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 11-5-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1871

Significant Dates

1871

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Boyd, B.C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	665340	4330850
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arthur L. Meyer, Chairman, Board of Trustees

organization Moore's Hill United Methodist Church date 12-27-96

street & number 14412 High Street telephone 812/744-3269

city or town Moore's Hill state IN zip code 47032

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps**
- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees of Moore's Hill United Methodist Church, S.E. Conference

street & number 13476 Main Street telephone 812/744-3908

city or town Moore's Hill state IN zip code 47032

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Moore's Hill United Methodist Church, Dearborn County, Indiana

Section 7-Description

Moore's Hill United Methodist Church, 1871, stands in the small Southern Indiana town of Moore's Hill in Dearborn County. The town was built on high land overlooking Whitaker Creek in typical gently rolling terrain for this part of the state, and Main Street runs in front of the building. The site falls away at about thirties degrees slope to the rear of the building, and Manchester Street along the west side of the church follows the terrain downhill.

Although the church is very much a simple one story gable-front building, its builders embellished it with both Greek Revival and Italianate architectural details. The foundation is of limestone, capped by a dressed stone water table on the front facade. Walls are of brick and carpenters crafted other architectural elements of wood. The three bay wide main facade faces Main Street. Masons laid the front facade walls entirely in Flemish Bond brick. Much of the brick has been repointed in a light mortar at some point; this shows best on the rear wall of the church. Four sturdy Doric pilasters divide the three bays with the center bay housing the main entrance, a broad, round arch reaching nearly to the projecting plain brick frieze. The paneled wooden double door entrance has a tall art glass transom and art glass in fills the lunette as well. This arched opening has a simple, double-coursed brick hood with brick springer blocks. The flanking bays have narrow hooded windows with stone sills, the opening is in filled with art glass.

Above the arches rests a plain brick frieze with paired wooden scroll brackets centered over each pilaster. The brackets support a wooden cornice which enclosed the gable end to form a full pediment. The raking cornice has paired wooden brackets and a plain frieze. A large oculus with a surround and keystones similar to the window hoods marks the center of the pediment. Inside the oculus is a sexfoil rose window. From the 10 o'clock position, each small circular window has a letter in art glass: U - E - C - 18 - 70. Set back from the pediment is a wooden steeple. It is a recent replacement for the storm-damaged original steeple. It has a square drum, octagonal louvered base, and needle spire.

The other sides of the church are less ornate. The west end faces onto Manchester Street. Because of the grade change, the basement is exposed and has six openings centered over those of the primary floor. From the front, the first four openings are tall four-over-four windows with stone sills and lintels. The fifth opening is a wooden door with sidelights and transom, and lastly, another four-over-four window. One of the pilasters of the front facade is repeated at the north edge of this, the west elevation. A brick double stringcourse divides the basement from the first floor proper. Six windows similar to the front windows are arranged across the first floor of the west side. Builders carried the frieze over to this side but it differs. The paired brackets are placed between windows and rest on a brick stringcourse. The soffit is plain with a simple fascia board. A plain internal brick chimney rises from the center of the roofline. The east elevation is similar to the west.

The rear of the church faces south and is very plain. It has two symmetrically placed four-over-four windows, similar to the other basement windows, at the basement level. A small window or vent opening is centered in the gable end; it too has a stone sill and lintel. Wooden cornice returns imply but do not enclose a pediment. The entablature has no brackets. The roof of the church was likely wooden shingles originally, but has been

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Section number 7 & 8 Page 2

Moore's Hill United Methodist Church, Dearborn County, Indiana

asphalt shingles for decades.

The interior of the church is simply finished but retains many typical features. Visitors enter into a vestibule with two staircases, one leading down to the basement on the left, and another on the right leading up a narrow balcony area in the sanctuary. Doors lead to the left and right aisles of the sanctuary. The sanctuary is one large open room with a high ceiling, plaster walls, and carpeted floor. The ceiling is now a suspended acoustical tile and florescent light installation. Fourteen rows of simple wooden pews line the sanctuary. Although the tall windows are round arched on the exterior, on the interior, the builders set these windows within splayed rectangular openings with architrave moldings. Similar moldings surround most doors and windows. The art glass windows were added in the early 20th century and are good examples of glass craftsmanship. Every other window has an ogee arch motif while the others have primarily floral designs.

The balcony has cut-out flat wooden railings recalling urn-like silhouettes. At the other end of the sanctuary is the altar. The entire blank wall of the altar area is painted in a trompe-l'oeil scene with a pointed arch "opening" into a pastoral scene of Christ as the lamb of god. The semi-circular raised dias of the altar is divided from the congregation's seating by a semi-circular wooden communion rail. A portion of original wooden flooring is exposed along the communion railing's path. Along the rear wall of the altar area the floor steps up yet again from the raised dias level and is lined with pews.

The basement has a large carpeted meeting room with pressed metal ceilings, a kitchen, and restrooms.

Section 8-Statement of Significance

Moore's Hill United Methodist Church meets Criterion C as a fine example of Italianate architecture. It is the most significant religious building in the small town of Moore's Hill as well as in Sparta Township of Dearborn County. The Methodist Church played an important role in the life of Moore's Hill, most notably, the church sponsored and started Moore's Hill College in 1856. Through the years the college was active (till 1915), students and faculty of the college attended services each Sunday at the church.

Dearborn County was settled early in Indiana's history. Following the 1795 Treaty of Greenville, Governor William Henry Harrison made Dearborn a county of the Indiana Territory in 1803. Close to Cincinnati and bordering the Ohio, Dearborn County prospered as Scots-Irish settlers poured in from Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas during the early years of Indiana's statehood (1816). In 1818, the Methodists held a special class meeting at Moses Musgrove's cabin in Sparta Township, and all that year, the a circuit rider held meetings outside in good weather an in member's homes during winter. The church held special meetings every three months, and they would last for two or three days. Also in 1818, settlers carved a wagon road from Sparta Township to Aurora. The road passed through the Moore's Hill site.

Moore's Hill began as a Methodist church site in 1820, when the many Methodist families in the area began to meet in John Dashiell's house nearby. Many of the early families in Sparta Township were Methodists originally from Maryland and Delaware. The congregation was served by a circuit rider minister and was part of the

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Moore's Hill United Methodist Church, Dearborn County, Indiana

Lawrenceburg circuit, and later they met in neighbor Adam Moore's house. They built a small brick church on Moore's land in 1829. The next year, Adam's son John Moore opened a harness shop nearby. Moore's and other early merchant's shops benefited from the previously mentioned road to Aurora, a bustling Ohio River port. Several merchants began a cooperage trade which prospered in town. In 1838, preachers from the Wilmington circuit began to serve the church. One year later, the congregation built a new, larger church, and the same year, Nathaniel Squibb platted the village of Moore's Hill on land owned by Adam Moore and Andrew Stevens. Moores Hill Church became a station in its own right, with a permanent minister, in 1851-52.

The role of the Methodists in the history of the small town expanded greatly when church members decided to establish a Methodist-sponsored college in Moore's Hill in 1856. All along Main Street, professors and administrators made their homes and students were housed in the community. The trustees of the school required students to attend church and Sunday School at the Moore's Hill United Methodist Church.

By the 1870s, both the community of Moore's Hill and attendance at the college had grown considerably. In 1856, the school began with 197 students, but enrollment in 1870 was 365 pupils. Enrollment varied through the years between 110 in 1890 to 234 in 1907. The Ohio and Mississippi Railroad (later Baltimore and Ohio Railroad) came through Moore's Hill and connected to Aurora in 1857, giving the town an advantage over other communities of its size in the area. The congregation outgrew its 1839 building, and in 1870-71, they built the present church building. John C. Moore, son of town co-founder Adam Moore, was a prominent leader and benefactor in the movement to build a new church. The new seventy-five by forty-five foot brick and stone structure cost \$15,000 to construct.

The importance of the church in the community is reflected in the growth of the village. In 1850, its population was 206, and in 1870, 617 persons lived there. In 1885, the church's membership was 215, and the town's population was 625. The church provided spiritual guidance for a significant portion of the townfolk and its resident students.

The Moore's Hill United Methodist Church is a well-detailed example of the gable-front vernacular. Builders used the basic gable-front form for schools, churches, town halls, and other public buildings beginning in the 18th century. Carpenters and designers of churches in established east coast towns enlarged the format, adding porticos and vertical steeples to suit the tastes of the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, or even Italianate mode. On the western frontier of Indiana, small log, then frame and later still masonry churches recalled these gable-fronted buildings in simpler detail and format. Some builders approached the sophistication of the east as means allowed. In Dearborn County, several congregations built temple or gable-front houses of worship. Hamline Chapel in Lawrenceburg (NR) is the oldest example, dating from 1847. The German Methodist Church of about 1860 in Lawrenceburg continued the format. The Zion Church, 1867, also in Lawrenceburg, is very similar to the Moore's Hill church.

Locally, the Moore's Hill Church is the most sophisticated example of its type in Sparta Township. The most comparable building is the Cold Springs Baptist Church, c. 1860, a wood-frame one room church with a bell tower on the front facade. The Moore's Hill Methodist Church is distinctive because it combines elements of

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Moore's Hill United Methodist Church, Dearborn County, Indiana

Greek Revival (pilasters and pedimented front) and Italianate (round arches, window hoods, and scroll brackets), all with the simple gable front type as a basis. Its masons used fine craftsmanship in the construction of the Flemish Bond front facade and elaborate brick window hoods.

In 1907, Moore's Hill College officials obtained a grant from Andrew Carnegie to build a vast new building called Carnegie Hall. However, the institution faced mounting debt, and Moore's Hill College was soon in crisis. The school closed and moved to Evansville in 1915, but the Moore's Hill United Methodist Church congregation remained. The old Carnegie Hall building became a public school and the community settled into a more typical small town state. A number of buildings in Moore's Hill recall the days when the community was a vital center of learning, and the church is prominent among them. It is still in use by the original congregation.

Section 9-Bibliography

History of Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland Counties, Indiana. Chicago: F.E. Weakley & Co., 1885.

Heller, Herbert L. Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church 1832-1956. Published under the Auspices of the Historical Society of the Indiana Conference, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN.

Holliday, Rev. F.C. Indiana Methodism. Cincinnati: Hitchcock and Walden, 1873.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Dearborn County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1983.

Shaw, Archibald. History of Dearborn County, Indiana. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen Co., 1915.

Winkley, Dr. John W. Moore's Hill College. An Intimate History. Evansville, IN: Evansville College, 1954.

Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

Church's Addition, Lot 7, in the Town of Moore's Hill, Dearborn County, Indiana. Otherwise described as: commencing at the intersection of Main and Manchester Street, 170' to the southwest corner of the lot, then 90' to the southeast corner, then 170' to the northeast corner, then 90' to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.

