

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Memorial Reformed Church  
other names/site number Memorial United Church of Christ

### 2. Location

street & number 201 E. Main St. N/A not for publication  
city, town Maiden N/A vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Catawba code 035 zip code 28650

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic & Architectural Resources of Catawba County, N.C.  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Finley 4-30-90  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
 Religion: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
 Religion: religious structure

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
 (enter categories from instructions)

Gothic  
 Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
 walls brick  
 roof metal  
 other wood  
 glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**Memorial Reformed Church**, located in the south central Catawba County town of Maiden, is an 1887 brick structure with 1914 entrance/bell tower and 1936-1937 Sunday School addition. Being the first church in Maiden and closely related to the founding of the town, the church's central location is significant. Despite the two additions to the structure, the overall integrity of Memorial Reformed Church remains basically intact. The belfry addition enhances the vernacular feeling of the main facades, while the rear Sunday School annex does not significantly detract from the main form of the church.

Memorial Reformed Church faces southwest on the northeast corner of East Main Street and South Second Avenue in a residential area just southeast of Maiden's commercial center. The church is the only structure on the lot, which is raised several feet above the street grade, and is bordered by shrubbery across the facade and several trees on the southeast side.

The original two-bay-wide by four-bay-deep structure, believed to have been built by a Salathiel Bolick, is an unusual vernacular combination of Classical Revival and Gothic Revival stylistic traits. The pedimented facade, pilastered walls, and segmental-arched windows with keystone lintels suggest the continued influence of the Classical Revival, while the steeply arched brick hood molds over the side windows provide the strongest hint of the Gothic Revival. The somewhat irregularly laid hood molds are more pointed than round, thus vaguely imitating Gothic lancet arches. Identical hood molds were originally also found on the facade, but these were removed in 1914 when the original paired entrances were converted to windows.

The windows at Memorial Reformed Church contain twenty-four-over-twenty-four-light sash, unusual for church architecture but typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century textile mills, thereby revealing an interesting visual connection between this church and its industrial patronage. The present sashes are believed to date from a 1926 remodeling of the interior. An early photograph<sup>1</sup> of the structure shows the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Memorial Reformed Church, Catawba County, N.C.

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windows enclosed by shutters (now removed), so that the original sash type is not known.

Another interesting feature of the exterior is the decorative brick work, seen in the corbeling of the raking facade cornice and in the bands of sawtooth-laid bricks at the base of the front pediment and under the side eaves. Along with the segmental-arched window lintels and the hood molds, these details offer a decorative contrast to the plain common bond brickwork of the walls.

In 1914, a two-stage bell tower with entrance at its base was added to the southwest corner of the church. The corner buttresses of the tower and the steeply pitched stepped parapet gable roof add to the Gothic feeling at Memorial Church, while the segmental-arched entrance, windows and belfry openings reflect the fenestration treatment of the original part of the church. Prior to the erection of the entrance/bell tower, the bell had been installed in the attic of the church.<sup>2</sup> An early photograph show what appears to have been a small belfry with pyramidal roof on the gable ridge near the front of the building.<sup>3</sup> The belfry openings have been closed with wood sheeting in recent years.

The double leaf entrance with six-horizontal-panel doors at the base of the tower leads to a small vestibule, which in turn leads to the sanctuary. The interior of Memorial Reformed Church, with its wooden pews separated by a center aisle, beaded board ceiling with cross beams creating a coffered effect, plastered walls, carpeted floor, chancel recessed behind a large segmental arch, and twenty-four-over-twenty-four-light sash is largely the product of a 1926 remodeling.<sup>4</sup> The original appearance of the sanctuary is not known.

In 1936-1937 a one-story, red brick Sunday School annex with flat roof, sash windows, and segmental-arched entrances as added to the rear of the church. The addition projects one-bay's width on either side of the church, and hides the fourth (rear) bays of the sanctuary. The interior of the annex contains a long transverse hall with a bathroom at the east end and a row of five classrooms which open into each other, shotgun style, by a series of double doors.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1887  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1887  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Bolick, Salathiel  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

**Memorial Reformed Church**, an 1887 vernacular brick sanctuary in Maiden, is related to the Property Type "Religious Buildings and Sites in Catawba County: Churches," and meets the registration requirements for that property type under Criterion C, in the area of architecture, as one of a small group of late nineteenth century buildings surviving in Catawba County. It embodies characteristics of both the Classical Revival and Gothic Revival styles, combined in an unusual vernacular manner that makes this church unique among those surviving from the late nineteenth century in Catawba County. Memorial Reformed Church also is related to the Historic Context "Religion in Catawba County: 1747-1939," in the area of exploration/settlement because of its integral relationship with the early development of Maiden.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Memorial Reformed Church, Catawba County, N.C.

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### Historical Background

The **Memorial Reformed Church** (now Memorial United Church of Christ) was founded in the mid 1880s in the southern Catawba County town of Maiden. The church was built largely under the auspices of the Carpenter family, a family locally prominent in industry and agriculture. The history of the church is related closely to the Carpenter family and to the growth of the town of Maiden. Memorial originally belonged to the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, formerly the German Reformed Church. It is now affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Maiden was incorporated in March of 1883. The town was a trading and industrial center for that part of the county. Henry F. Carpenter, his three sons Lonnie, Martin and Perry, and associate George Rabb founded H.F. Carpenter, Sons and Company and built a cotton mill near the center of present day Maiden and commenced operation in 1883. The mill was a success and the town grew up around it.<sup>5</sup>

The Carpenters were members of the Reformed faith as was George Rabb and many of Maiden's new citizens. A loose organization met as early as 1885 under the leadership of Reverend Joseph L. Murphy, who preached occasional services in the community.<sup>6</sup> In 1886 Murphy and Dr. Jacob Clapp were appointed to "a committee to look after the interest of the Reformed church in the village of Maiden, and if deemed advisable, to organize a Reformed congregation there."<sup>7</sup> Murphy's services were taught at the local school, while the Maiden citizens were primarily members of Hickory's St. Matthew's Lutheran and Reformed, where Murphy was rector, or another Lutheran church in the county.<sup>8</sup>

Perry Carpenter, youngest son of Henry Carpenter, died on July 9, 1886. The Reformed congregation, which was formally organized in September of 1886, decided to honor Carpenter by calling their church the "Memorial Church." The Carpenter family, especially Henry Carpenter, bore most of the expenses for the erection of the church building. The Carpenter firm donated a two acre lot in downtown Maiden in March of 1887 and construction was begun in July of that year. The church construction has been attributed to a Salathiel Bolick.<sup>9</sup> No other information on Bolick or possible other buildings he may have constructed has been discovered. The first service was held

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Memorial Reformed Church, Catawba County, N.C.

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in the building April 8, 1888 and the structure was formally dedicated on September 16, 1888.<sup>10</sup>

The Memorial Church had twenty nine members at the time of its organization in 1886. It was the first church in the town of Maiden and membership grew quickly. By 1890 the church boasted 112 members. The church also built a parsonage (later razed) and established a cemetery (now used by the city of Maiden) about this time. Both were on land donated by the Carpenter firm and were largely paid for by Henry Carpenter.<sup>11</sup>

Carpenter's mill operations were a success. He expanded his operations, competitors moved into Maiden, and the town continued to grow, as did the congregation of Memorial, peaking on several occasions at around 200. The town of Maiden suffered seriously during the Great Depression and its population has remained relatively stable since then. The membership at Memorial has declined in recent years, since the 1965 merger of the Reformed Church into the United Church of Christ.<sup>12</sup>

Memorial Reformed Church has had numerous ministers over the years, many of whom have been shared with other churches. Most have only ministered to Memorial Reformed Church for a few years. A notable exception to this was Reverend John A. Koons, who served from 1919 until 1944 and then again from 1948 until 1953. James D. Rumley served as pastor from 1958 until 1965.<sup>13</sup>

Although the size of its membership has diminished in recent years, Memorial Reformed Church remains an historically significant church in southern Catawba County, both as the first church in Maiden and as a church whose early development reflects the early development of Maiden.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Photograph attached to inside front cover of old church Register, in possession of Memorial United Church of Christ.

<sup>2</sup>"Youth Bequeaths Church."

<sup>3</sup>Photograph in Church Register.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Memorial Reformed Church, Catawba County, N.C.

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<sup>4</sup>Rev. Banks J. Peeler, ed., A Story of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church (n.p.: Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1968), p. 300, hereinafter cited as Peeler, Southern Synod.

<sup>5</sup>Charles J. Preslar, Jr., A History of Catawba County (Salisbury: Rowan Printing Company, 1954), 355-357, hereinafter cited as Preslar, A History of Catawba County.

<sup>6</sup>Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965; Peeler, Southern Synod, 298-299.

<sup>7</sup>Peeler, Southern Synod, 299.

<sup>8</sup>Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965; Peeler, Southern Synod, 299.

<sup>9</sup>"Youth Bequeaths Church," Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965. Bolick's background and other buildings in the area are unknown at this time.

<sup>10</sup>Catawba County Deed Book 32, p. 201; Peeler, Southern Synod, 299-300; A marble tablet on the church reads "Built in memory of Perry L. Carpenter, who died July 9, 1886, Aged 29 years, 1 month, and 29 days, built in 1887."

<sup>11</sup>Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965; Peeler, Southern Synod, 299-300.

<sup>12</sup>Preslar, A History of Catawba County, 355-358; Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965; Peeler, Southern Synod, 300-301.

<sup>13</sup>Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965; Peeler, Southern Synod, 300-301.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Catawba County Deed Books. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Hickory Daily Record. September 11, 1965.

Peeler, Reverend Banks J. A Story of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1968.

Preslar, Charles J. Jr. A History of Catawba County. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Company, 1954.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1 acre +/-

UTM References

A 17 480960 3936620
Zone Easting Northing
C

B
Zone Easting Northing
D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of lot 9, block 1, Sheet 3M, Catawba County Tax Maps.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Entire remaining parcel historically associated with property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Kooiman, compiler; Laura A. W. Phillips, description; Jim Sumner, history.
organization Catawba County Historical Assn., Inc. date May 27, 1989
street & number Rt. 1, Box 76 AB telephone 704/256-3040
city or town Conover, state N.C. zip code 28613

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1 Memorial Reformed Church, Catawba County, NC

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The following pertains to all photographs:

- 1) Memorial Reformed Church
  - 2) Maiden, North Carolina
  - 5) North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC
- 
- A.
    - 3) Barbara Kooiman
    - 4) June 1989
    - 6) to north
  - B.
    - 3) Randall Page
    - 4) March 1982
    - 6) to northwest
  - C.
    - 3) Randall Page
    - 4) March 1982
    - 6) to south
  - D.
    - 3) Barbara Kooiman
    - 4) June 1989
    - 6) to southeast
  - E.
    - 3) Randall Page
    - 4) March 1982
    - 6) interior, to apse

NOTE: Three of the photographs used in this nomination were taken in March 1982. The building was field checked by Barbara Kooiman in 1989 and was determined to be unchanged from its appearance and condition portrayed in the 1982 photographs, with the exception of the infill of the belfry openings with louvered plywood as shown in photo A.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

4755 1/2 NE  
(HICKORY)

ZONE 17

81° 15' 35' 37" 30"

4780000 E.

479

HICKORY 1.3 MI.  
NEWTON 2.8 MI.

81° 12' 30"

MAIDEN QUAD

- A E-478360 N-3942100
- B E-477920 N-3941500

REINHARDT  
&  
HARREN-HOOD  
FARMS

- C E-478140 N-3940960
- D E-478840 N-3940980

MAIDEN QUAD  
ZONE 17

Wm. PINKNEY REINHARDT HOUSE

E-478500 N-3940030

MAIDEN QUAD  
ZONE 17

MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH

E-480960 N-3936620



