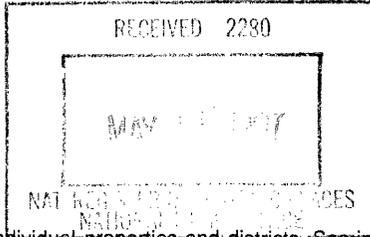


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 709 Oak Street N/A not for publication

city or town New Bern N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Craven code 049 zip code 28560

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 36 CFR 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.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD 4/29/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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

6/30/97
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(s), district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Historic African American Churches in Craven County, N.C.: 1864-1947

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register -0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure church-related residence

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick walls brick roof metal-tin other wood

Narrative Description

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

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church

Craven, N.C.

Name of Property

County and State

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)

- Religion
Ethnic Heritage-Black
Architecture

Period of Significance

1920s-1947

Significant Dates

1941
1920s

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lewis, Joseph F., Builder
Becton, Willie, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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:

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 1**7. Physical Description**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church stands in a residential neighborhood north of Queen Street in New Bern, at the northwest corner of Oak and Hamilton streets, surrounded to the rear and sides by Craven Terrace, a public housing project. Across the street are one and two-story frame houses from the 1920s to 1940s era.

The Gothic Revival style brick church, with gabled nave flanked by corner entrance towers, has a marble cornerstone in the right facade with this inscription:

RUE CHAPEL A.M.E.
CHURCH
BUILT 1873
REBUILT 1941
JOSEPH F. LEWIS
WILLIE BECTON
BUILDERS
T. R. FISHER, SEC.
S. M. RIDDICK PASTOR

The brick building is set on a raised basement and capped by a gabled roof covered with standing seam metal. The main facade, six bays wide, faces east. It contains a central front-gabled section flanked by corner towers: the south tower two bays wide, the north tower one bay wide.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 2

Each tower contains a double door surmounted by a pointed arched transom with colored glass. The doors, each side having five horizontal flat panels, appear original. Sets of concrete steps with iron railings lead up to the entrances. The upper stage of the towers features brick pilasters, with inset wall surfaces, and terminate in a squared-off roof cornice and flat roof. The towers have rectangular wooden one-over-one sash windows in the first stage and pointed arch sash windows in the upper stage.

The central section contains a double row of triple windows: one row of rectangular windows surmounted by a row of arched windows. All window openings are created from double rowlock arches; triple rowlock arches form the front tower entrances. Window glass is colored opaque blue, with a border of small multi-colored panes. These sash, similar to the original sash, are 1984 replacements.

Side elevations, eight bays deep, are each articulated by a three-bay wide cross-gable set in the center and by shallow brick buttresses. These elevations are lit by pointed arch wooden one-over-one sash windows. Small four-pane casements illuminate the basement, which is set apart from the upper levels by a string course of vertical bricks. Walls are laid in one-to-five bond brick reused from the earlier sanctuary, thus giving the building an older appearance than its 1941 completion date. An additional sanctuary door is located in the south elevation, with brick steps and an iron railing; an auxiliary basement entrance is set in the rear wall of the south tower, protected by a flat-roofed metal shelter.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 3

The interior of the sanctuary features a wide nave finished with wood flooring, plaster walls, beaded wainscotting, and a vaulted plaster ceiling. The chancel, a raised platform, is separated from the main sanctuary by a curved railing with turned balusters. The lectern, an ornate wooden piece of furniture with pointed arched panels and heavy brackets, probably dates to the early twentieth century. The three high-backed wooden clergy chairs were donated by the Gaskins Hotel through the efforts of trustee and builder Joseph F. Lewis. One original wooden pew, of traditional design, remains in the choir loft in the rear of the chancel. The rest of the pews are recent replacements. Flanking the chancel are small rooms: the pastor's study to the north, the choir room to the south. In the south entrance vestibule, a set of stairs leads down to the basement, with painted brick walls, unfinished floor joists in the ceiling, and a concrete floor. The area is partitioned into Sunday School classrooms and finished with up-to-date surface materials.

Set a few feet to the rear of the church is the parsonage, a one-story, front-gable brick house of Craftsman style. This apparently dates from the 1920s, and was used as the parsonage for the second church, completed in 1925. About 1940, when the second church was demolished and rebuilt nearby, the New Bern Housing Authority brick veneered the frame building, and may have used it temporarily as an office during construction of the Craven Terrace housing project. This functioned as the parsonage until about 1980.¹ It is presently used as a church office.

¹ Interview with Adelaide Fenner, long-time church member, New Bern, November 8, 1996; information supplied by Doris Johnson, January 21, 1997.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 4

8. Statement of Significance

Rue Chapel is believed to be one of the two earliest African Methodist Episcopal churches established in North Carolina, the other being the St. Luke's A.M.E. church in Wilmington. New England A.M.E. missionary George Rue, said to be a native New Bernian, established this congregation in 1865. The first sanctuary, apparently built by the Freedmen's Bureau, may have doubled as a black school house, but was destroyed during the Great Fire of 1922. The second building, completed in 1924, was dismantled by the congregation following its condemnation by the town housing authority in 1939. The present Gothic Revival style brick church was rebuilt out of the earlier church materials in 1941 by church members Joseph Lewis and Willie Becton. It is an eloquent monument to the spiritual faith of New Bern's second oldest African American congregation. As the architecturally significant complex of a historic black congregation, Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church building and 1920s parsonage are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (architecture) and A (religion and ethnic heritage-black), as discussed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic African American Churches in Craven County: 1864-1947."

Historical Background

Because Rue Chapel's pre-1922 records burned, issues of the A.M.E. church newspaper, *The Christian Recorder* bear the burden of documentary proof of the establishment of the congregation. Early histories of the A.M.E. Church name George Alexander Rue as one of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 5

pioneering missionaries of the denomination in the South after the Civil War.² Rue appears frequently in the weekly issues of the newspaper during the Civil War: his whereabouts mentioned by third parties and directly in letters from him. The weekly column titled "Washington Correspondence" of early August 1862 made mention that "Rev. George A. Rue passed through the city on his way to Newbern, N.C. He preached in Israel church, and stated his mission, and the people voluntarily, without being asked, came up and put \$18 in his hands." [New Bern was generally written as "Newbern" or "New Berne" in the nineteenth century.] In early October Rue described in a letter to the *Recorder* his perilous adventures attempting to reach New Bern. In July he had taught and preached to refugees in a contraband camp on the James River in Virginia, but Confederate shelling of the camp and his own sickness from a fever forced him back to Baltimore. There he tried in vain to get a pass from military authorities to go to North Carolina. New Bern had been under Federal occupation since march 1862 but apparently was not yet deemed safe for outsiders. Finally he returned to his home base of Newport, Rhode Island. Rue must have remained in the North during the next two years of the war, since the bishop, making his annual appointments in July 1864, placed Rue on the Boston circuit for the year.

At the end of his appointment, in July 1865, Rue wrote a goodbye letter to readers of the *Recorder*. He said that he was leaving New England after twelve years to go "from a well-cultivated field to an almost barren plain." He thanked his New England friends for their kindnesses, and for two going-away gifts--a portrait of himself and a silver cup. Just two months

² John T. Jenifer, *Centennial Retrospect History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* (Nashville: Sunday School Union Print, c. 1916), 54; L. L. Berry, *A Century of Missions of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 1840-1940* (New York: Gutenberg Printing Co., Inc., 1942), 65.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 6

later, in the issue of September 9, 1865, we discover the identity of Rue's "barren plain." He wrote from New Bern to inform readers as follows:

Bethel Church is now and has been for the last four weeks, highly favored with the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords....A great many persons have been added to the Church since her re-organization, and many more expect soon to become members. In a word, the Church has set up her banner, and is marching on in triumph. The church is beautifully situated on a hill and the people from the valleys flow into it. The Sabbath School is very large, and is in a prosperous condition, having for its superintendent our worthy and competent Bro. W. H. Hunter, chaplain of the colored troops now stationed at Newbern.³

The congregation called "Bethel Church" was thus founded in July 1865 immediately upon Rue's arrival in New Bern. The war had ended in May of this year. The original A.M.E. church in Philadelphia was called "Bethel," as were many of the other early churches of the denomination.⁴ The name "Rue Chapel" must have been given after Rue's death, the date of which is unknown. Rue's description of the site of the church as a hilltop was a figurative reference to its spiritual significance. The other major source of the early history of the church, a 1941 history written by T. R. Fisher, builder and trustee of the church, states that Rue's funeral took place at Rue Chapel and that he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New Bern. Rue probably moved on to other

³ *The Christian Recorder*, Aug. 9, 1862, Oct. 4, 1862, July 9, 1864, July 1, 1865, Sept. 9, 1865.

⁴ *The Bicentennial Book of Discipline*, Nashville, Tennessee: The African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1984), 19.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 7

locations to spread the A.M.E. gospel a few years after founding Rue Chapel. However local traditon holds that he was a New Bern native, thus he must have returned home before his death.

The 1941 history adds many specifics to the contemporary documentary evidence of the founding of Rue Chapel found in the *Recorder* and appears to be credible in most details. The following statements appear in the history. Rue was a native of New Bern and a free black who preached at Andrew Chapel, a black Methodist congregation in New Bern during the antebellum period. Rue was the son of Hannah Neal. Rue fled to the north before the Civil War broke out in order to avoid being impounded to work for the Confederacy. While in the north, he was converted to the A.M.E. Church and commissioned as a missionary to return to his home town. He wrote his brother-in-law, Rev. Joseph Green, to "save" Andrew Chapel for him but before he returned in 1865, Rev. James Walker Hood had brought the church into the African Methodist Episcopal Zion connection. Rue took charge of the Christian Church building which stood on the site of present-day St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and converted it to an A.M.E. Church, and members worshipped there until 1872. Early members were Rev. Foy, Rev. George B. Willis, Abram Starkey, Alfred Reed, and Aron Bell.⁵

The *Recorder* and the 1941 history conflict in only one instance. Fisher states that Rue went North to avoid the war, but Rue himself stated that he served in New England from 1853 to 1865, thus he had left the South long before the War broke out. Minutes of the annual conferences of

⁵T. R. Fisher, "Brief History of the Founding of Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, 1865," copy in file.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 8

the New England District of the A.M.E. Church document Rue's prominent role as a preacher during this period. He pastored churches in Providence and Newport, Rhode Island and Norwich, Connecticut. At the 1862 conference a "North Carolina and Virginia Mission" was established and Rue was appointed to this mission.⁶

One aspect of Rue's "mission" became a four-year quest to reach New Bern during the Civil War, apparently to claim Andrew Chapel for the A.M.E. Church. However, James Walker Hood arrived one and one-half years ahead of Rue, and brought most of the congregation into the African Methodist Episcopal Zion connection. When Rue arrived in 1865 he must have attracted some of the congregation into the A.M.E. fold. According to Fisher's history, Rue had powerful allies in the community. Gracy Green, a free black born in 1828, who was married to Joseph Green by 1860, is said to have been Rue's sister. Gracy apparently operated a private school. Joseph Green was a minister, a trustee of Andrew Chapel, and a delegate to the black convention in Raleigh in 1865.⁷

Another documented facet of Rue's New Bern activities is his attendance as one of four representatives from New Bern at the freedmen's convention in Raleigh in late 1865. Rue was one of several convention members chosen to draft a declaration summarizing the results of the

⁶ *Minutes of the New England Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in America*. Bethel Church, New Bedford, Massachusetts, 1962. (New Bedford: Evening Standard Steam Printing House, 1862), 9.

⁷ 1860 Census, Craven County, household of Thomas and Hannah Neale; Fisher's 1941 history; James Walker Hood, *One Hundred Years of the A.M.E. Zion Church*, (New York City: A.M.E. Zion Book Center, 1895), 29.2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 9

convention to President Andrew Johnson.⁸ Rue's fiery political rhetoric appears in his letters to the *Recorder*, where he championed black suffrage and denounced the rebels as devils and traitors.⁹ Rue had almost certainly moved on to establish other A.M.E. churches by 1870, because he is not listed as a resident in New Bern in that census.

Fisher's subsequent history of Rue Chapel is equally full of credible specifics, including his account of property acquisitions, which is backed up by actual deeds. Fisher gives the following history of the church during the Reconstruction period. The second pastor (and the first local pastor) was Rev George B. Willis, a prominent local black politician, serving as a state representative to the North Carolina House from 1870-1872.¹⁰ During this period the authorities of the white congregations who had been in charge of black congregations before Emancipation fought with the newly independent black churches over title to church property. In order to avoid such a battle over their building, in 1872 Willis purchased a lot at the northeast corner of Cypress Street and Braggs Alley (apparently now known as Howard Street) and gave it to the trustees of the A.M.E. Church of New Bern: Lewis Williams, Samuel Lewis, Alfred Reed, William R. Gardner, James P. Jones, Peter H. Hicks and Paul Williams for the purpose of building a sanctuary.¹¹ Willis is said to have bought the lot from Dr. R. S. Primrose.¹²

⁸ Alan D. Watson, *A History of New Bern and Craven County* (New Bern: Tryon Palace Commission, 1987), 429.

⁹ *The Christian Recorder*, Sept. 9, 1865.

¹⁰ Thomas Hanchett and M. Ruth Little, "The Historic Architecture of Long Wharf and Greater Duffyfield" (City of New Bern Historic Preservation Commission, 1994) 9.

¹¹ Craven County Deed Book 73, 313-314.

¹² Fisher, "Brief History."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 10

The new sanctuary was completed in 1873. No image of this sanctuary has survived, but Fisher called it a "stately edifice." George Willis arranged for the Freedmen's Bureau to use the church for some years as a school house, perhaps in exchange for assistance in its construction. Willis organized the first Sunday School, served as its first superintendent, and led the choir.¹³

In 1875 the church trustees bought from Sarah S. Primrose for \$80 a lot at the corner of Jacksmith Road and Coats Street on which to build a parsonage. It is not known whether one was ever built. Neither of these streets exists today, but Coats Street extended north of Northcool Avenue near the railroad tracks, to the north of Cedar Grove Cemetery near the location of the Rue Chapel sanctuary built in 1873.¹⁴

The name of the church continued to be Bethel A.M.E. Church, the name given by Rev. George Rue, throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century. Rue had certainly left the church by 1872, when the Rev. John R. Brown was pastor. Brown served through 1878, at least. By 1884 the Rev. G. W. Offley was pastor. By 1896 the Rev. Ed Chambers was pastor. In his list of pastors at Rue Chapel, T. R. Fisher mentions Rev. Offley, and a Rev. Chambers, noting that most of Rev. Rue's successors were from Baltimore.¹⁵

¹³ Fisher. "Brief History."

¹⁴ The 1913 Sanborn Insurance Map shows Coats Street extending north of Primrose Street.

¹⁵ *Branson's North Carolina Business Directories*, 1869, 1872, 1878, 1884, 1896; Fisher. "Brief History."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 11

A number of prominent African Americans in New Bern worshipped at Rue Chapel. One who was saved there was I. P. Hatch, a New Bern entrepreneur who is best known as a funeral director during the second quarter of the 20th century. In his memoirs, Hatch recalls failing to “get religion” at St. Peter’s Church but being saved during a revival in Rue Chapel, apparently during the early 1900s. He became a life-long member of the church, serving as superintendent, teacher and trustee.¹⁶

The 1873 church burned during the Great Fire of 1922. Worship services took place in a tent in “Tent City,” set up along George Street, until 1923 when the church trustees, J. B. Willis, E. W. Johnson, J. B. Henderson, I. P. Hatch, Prince McDaniel, David Bell and Daniel Hewitt purchased a lot at the northwest corner of Elm and Oak Streets for \$1,650.¹⁷ Building proceeded slowly as the congregation raised construction money. Services were held in the church basement until its completion in 1925. The rectangular building facing Elm Street appears on the 1924 Sanborn Map, although it is inscribed “from plans-to be known as Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church Colored,” indicating that the building had not yet been completed.¹⁸

When the New Bern Housing Authority planned Craven Terrace, a public housing project for African Americans, in 1939-1940, they condemned a portion of the land on which the church

¹⁶ I. P. Hatch, *An Autobiography of I. P. Hatch* (New Bern, n.p., c. 1963), 12.

¹⁷ Craven County Deed Book 255, 540.

¹⁸ Sanborn Insurance Map of New Bern, 1924, sheet 17.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 12

stood.”¹⁹ I. P. Hatch recalled that the congregation fought the city to keep their church, but they lost, and were forced to tear the building down.²⁰ Mr. Fisher states without malice, that “We went to work, took the church down, cleaned the brick and have put it up to where it is today.” The congregation tore down the building, brick by brick, and rebuilt it about 114 feet to the north, facing Oak Street. Church trustees at this time were Willie Becton, T. R. Fisher, Joseph F. Lewis, Louis Ward, Lawrence Davis, and Harrison Batts. The Housing Authority brick-veneered a frame house which was in use as Rue Chapel’s parsonage, and may have used it as an office during the construction of Craven Terrace. This house still stands behind the present Rue Chapel, and served as the parsonage until about 1980.

As indicated by the cornerstone, the two primary builders were trustees Joseph Lewis, a bellhop at the Gaskins Hotel and a brickmason, and Willie Becton, a carpenter. Willie Becton built a number of houses in the Harlowe community of Craven County, and built a house for Joseph Lewis at 519 First Avenue, in the Rue Chapel neighborhood. Becton also built pews for the church, one of which has survived.²¹

In the past fifty years, Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church has played a strong role in local affairs and greater church affairs. It has held annual conferences of the A.M.E. Church, district conferences, Sunday School conventions, and served as a meeting place for the Civil Rights movement.

¹⁹T. R. Fisher History, 1941.

²⁰Hatch, *Autobiography*, 12.

²¹Interview with Doris Johnson, daughter of Willie Becton, New Bern, November 8, 1996.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 13

However, in recent decades, membership has declined due to the migration of young black families away from the urban neighborhood where Rue Chapel is located, to the general decline in membership of the A.M.E. church, and certainly to the unfortunate proximity of the housing project. A small core of faithful members clings to the proud history of Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, which was in the forefront of the declarations of independence made by black Christians after Emancipation.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 **Page** 14 Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Major Bibliographical References

Berry, L.L. *A Century of Missions of the African Methodist Episcopal Church: 1840-1940*. New York: Gutenberg Printing Co., Inc., c. 1942.

The Bicentennial Book of Discipline, Nashville, TN: The African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1984.

Branson's North Carolina Business Directories, 1869, 1872, 1878, 1884, 1896.

The Christian Recorder (national newspaper of the A.M.E. Church), letter from Rev. J.C. Gibbs, Wilmington, May 6, 1865; letters from George A. Rue, September 22, 1862, July 1, 1865, August 28, 1865.

Craven County Deeds.

Fisher, T. R. "Brief History of the Founding of Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, 1865". Coy on file at the N.C. State Historic Preservation Office.

Hanchett, Thomas W. and Little, M. Ruth. *The History and Architecture of Long Wharf and Greater Duffyfield*. New Bern Historic Preservation Commission, 1994.

Hatch, I.P. *An Autobiography of I. P. Hatch*. New Bern: n.p., c. 1963.

Hood, James Walker. *One Hundred Years of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*. New York City: A.M.E. Zion Book Concern, 1895.

Interview with Adelaide Fenner, New Bern, November 8, 1996.

Interview with Doris Johnson, New Bern, November 8, 1996.

Jenifer, John T. *Centennial Retrospect History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. Nashville: Sunday School Union Print, c. 1916.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 **Page** 15 Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Minutes of the New England Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Bethel Church, New Bedford, Massachusetts, 1962. New Bedford: Evening Standard Steam Printing House, 1862.

The 1913 Sanborn Insurance Map.

Watson, Alan D. *A History of New Bern and Craven County.* New Bern: Tryon Palace Commission, 1987.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Section number 10 Page 16

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The parcel, a rectangle, is shown in the accompanying Craven County tax map 8-7: being a part of Parcel 8-008-304, Craven Terrace Public Housing Project.

Boundary Justification

This parcel constitutes the entire property historically associated with Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church sanctuary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000572

Date Listed: 6/30/97

Rue Chapel AME Church
Property Name

Craven
County

North Carolina
State

Historic African American Churches in Craven County
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

7/1/97
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to delete Criterion C and architecture as an area of significance, since the architectural importance of this resource is not addressed either in the cover or in the individual nomination.

The period of significance is changed from 1920s-1947 to 1941-1947. The contributing parsonage was built in the 1920s, but its significance is derived from the church, which was not completed until 1941.

These changes have been discussed with the North Carolina SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 17

Rue Chapel A.M.E. Church, Craven County, N.C.

Photographs:

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: November 1996

Location of negatives: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Raleigh

- A. Overall view from southeast
- B. View of rear and side elevations and parsonage from southwest
- C. Interior of sanctuary

