

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Forsyth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Bethabara Moravian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Gemein Haus

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2147 Bethabara Road (SR 1681)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Winston-Salem (Fifth Congressional District, Honorable Wilmer Mizell)

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Forsyth      CODE: 067

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Moravian Church (Southern Province)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
459 South Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Winston-Salem      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Forsyth County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Winston-Salem      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina  
COUNTY: Forsyth  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bethabara Moravian Church, constructed in 1788, is a rectangular building of stucco over stone with a high water table. Its plan is most interesting and unusual in that it accommodates both church and parsonage, each with a separate gable roof. The parsonage roof is slightly lower and features splayed eaves.

The main (east) facade, including four bays from each section, presents a long eight-bay front. In the church (south) section, the second and fourth bays contain entrances, while the other two contain large segmental-arched windows with geometric tracery and unusually heavy molded sills. The entrance in the second bay is topped by a segmental arch, while the other has a four-light transom and is surmounted by a somewhat higher semicircular arch. Both have four-panel doors with heavy molded architraves. All four bays of the parsonage are marked by smaller semicircular arches containing trabeated windows with six-over-six sash.

The rear facade is six bays wide, including three bays from each section. The church and the parsonage each have an arched entrance in the left bay. The other bays contain windows similar to those on the front. Both entrances have flat-paneled doors surmounted by four-light transoms.

The south (church) gable end features two segmental-arched windows at the first level with a tiny central arched window above. The top half of the gable is of brick laid in Flemish bond with gilded headers. It is ornamented with a central stone tablet framed by three small circular vents: one on either side and one in the apex of the gable. The tablet is inscribed with "ANNO 1788".

A narrow expanse of the north gable of the church section is exposed above the roof line of the parsonage. This allows space for two very small rectangular casement windows set diagonally, containing three panes each.

The north end of the parsonage is dominated by a narrow, slightly projecting brick chimney that intersects the roof at its apex. The lower portion of the chimney is enclosed by two small brick shed additions that house ovens for the interior kitchen. At the first level the chimney is flanked by rectangular windows with six-over-six sash below segmental arches. The whole gable is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond and contains windows with six-over-six sash on either side of the chimney. Beyond these windows are single small casement windows each containing three panes. All are surmounted by brick segmental arches. Near the top of the gable are two circular attic vents framed by headers.

The most striking feature of the exterior is the graceful octagonal bell tower that rises above the church's north gable. Resting on the octagonal plinth finished with beaded weatherboards, is an open arched belfry surrounded by a balustrade with a rounded handrail and balusters square in section. It is protected by a delicate splayed roof covered with wooden shingles and topped by a brass weather vane. This bell tower, as is frequently the case in Moravian Churches, is by far the most elaborate feature of the building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Forsyth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description

Such special treatment is, as Thomas T. Waterman notes, consistent with its functional importance. From the tower "the congregation was called to the services by the ringing of bells or by the sound of trumpets, the latter so much a part of the Moravian Liturgy."

Inside, Bethabara Church reflects the plain, utilitarian life of the early Moravian settlers of North Carolina. The interior of the church consists of a large meeting room with a hall across the north end. The meeting room is simply finished with plaster walls and a concave ceiling above a narrow molded cornice. The windows are set in splayed plastered reveals. The hall, entered through a door at either end of the north wall, features a steep winding closed-string stair to the gallery above. The gallery has a sawn flat balustrade topped by a molded handrail. At either side is a full-height plaster partition that extends from the end of the balustrade into the curve of the concave ceiling and is pierced by a segmental-arched opening. A winding stone stair descends under the gallery stair to a long narrow basement room with a concave ceiling. This space apparently was used by the entire church community for summer food storage.

The parsonage, entered from the church hall, consists of four unequal rooms all having plaster walls and windows set in splayed reveals. If possible it is even more severely plain than the church. The southwest and southeast rooms have corner fireplaces with no mantels, while the northeast room is heated by a tile firebox, which is a replacement for the original. The northwest room features a wide cooking fireplace in the north wall with an unusually large oven located behind the fireback.

A central doorway in the north wall of the church gallery leads to the attic of the parsonage. It is unfinished except for a small room located at the north end, which has plaster walls and is heated by a firebox.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE																																							
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate) <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century																													
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century																																				
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century																																					
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) <u>1788</u>																																							
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate) <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Political</td> <td style="width: 25%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Science</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Art</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Military</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Music</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military			<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning																																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____																																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____																																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____																																				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____																																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____																																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____																																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military																																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music																																						
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE <p style="margin-top: 10px;">               The building of a Moravian structure was a community project, and to some extent so was its design. Bethabara Moravian Church was, however, mainly the work of Frederick William Marshall, a distinguished member of the Moravian clergy. A native of Germany and the son of an army officer, Marshall was ordained in the church in 1748. His importance in the Moravian Church is attested by the fact that title to the original Moravian land-holdings of 100,000 acres was confirmed to him by the North Carolina Legislature in 1782.             </p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">               An entry in the Moravian records for November 18, 1787, states that Marshall "had a conference with the committee in regard to the condition of the Gemein Haus [church], which becomes worse and worse and necessitates the building of a new one . . . ." On December 27 a plan was presented for the Gemein Haus to be built at Bethabara. The plan provided for rooms for the parson and "a gallery for those who play the wind instruments; also a bell tower. The Bethabara people would prefer to have the annex carried up to the roof, but this would reduce the light in the Saal [hall]." Certain alterations in the plan of the church were called for, and in January of 1788 Marshall laid before the committee a revised plan.             </p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">               Although some question remained about the design of the church, the "house-fathers" of Bethabara village were advised "to begin breaking stone at once." Two of the brethren rode to another village, Bethania, to ask for help. "Their promised help amounted to twenty days' work of one wagon and two men." With the aid of money and labor from the villages of Bethania and Salem the building moved steadily toward completion. In July, Marshall came to inspect the building and brought with him the plan for the tower to be placed on it. On November 20, 1788, the bell was taken into the tower and fixed in place. Six days later "while the trombonists played, the congregation left the old Gemein Haus and Saal and passed into the new. As they entered a chorus sang a <u>Hallelujah</u>, the congregation joining in." In this manner, with appropriate sermons in German and English, the Bethabara Moravian Church was consecrated.             </p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">               Bethabara Moravian Church is the oldest congregation of the Moravian Church, South. Moravians from Pennsylvania settled on the site in 1753, and named their village Bethabara, "House of Passage." The church and parsonage they built, described by Waterman as among "the most unusual and foreign . . . in the state," reveal in their extreme simplicity and fine workmanship the character of these sturdy settlers who played a unique role in North Carolina history.             </p>																																							

V. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forsyth County Records, Forsyth County Courthouse, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Forsyth County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Fries, Adelaide (ed.). Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Vol. 5. Raleigh: The North Carolina Historical Commission, 1941.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 09' 12"	80° 18' 01"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Eight Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: June 14, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date June 14, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Forsyth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography

Waterman, Thomas Tileston, and Johnston, Frances Benjamin. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.



