

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Bridge Street (US 25-70) at Meadow Lane N/A not for publication

city, town Hot Springs N/A vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Madison code 115

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church Trustees

c/o Mrs. Arthur Painter

street & number 12 Jones Street

city, town Sylva N/A vicinity of state North Carolina 28779

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Madison County Courthouse

city, town Marshall state North Carolina 28753

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Survey of Historic

title Buildings has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Asheville state North Carolina

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## 7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church is located on the north side of Bridge Street in the village of Hot Springs, Madison County, North Carolina. Hot Springs is situated on the French Broad River at its confluence with Spring Creek, a major tributary. The French Broad flows basically southeast to northwest through the southern Appalachian Mountains. Wooded hillsides surround the village of Hot Springs. Bridge Street crosses, first, Spring Creek three hundred feet west of Dorland Memorial Church and then the French Broad at fifteen hundred feet.

The church is sited close to the street on a small, one hundred foot square lot. Its basic form is a modified cruciform plan, with its principal entrance to the east side facing narrow Meadow Lane. The pebbledash-covered structure is wholly intact and little-changed both on its interior and exterior, save for a stucco-on-block educational wing added to the west in 1958. The use of grey stucco on the annex represents a minimal effort to blend the addition with the original building, and yet this effort fails due to an awkward disparity between roof lines as well as to contrasts in texture and fenestration. Still, the original structure is intact and well maintained, and upon approaching it from its east (entrance) side, one does not see the addition.

Architecturally, the church has significance as a nontraditional, architect-designed structure in a rural, mountain village context. Despite the fact that Hot Springs has served as a backwoods health resort and tourist destination since the early nineteenth century, by far the majority of buildings constructed there through 1900 were builder-wrought vernacular designs. Architect Richard Sharp Smith had supervised the construction of George Vanderbilt's Biltmore House just south of Asheville before establishing an active and influential architectural practice in Asheville that served much of western North Carolina between 1900 and 1915. It is not surprising that the building committee of Dorland Memorial turned to him for his services. He was at the time the only professionally trained architect residing in that part of the state.

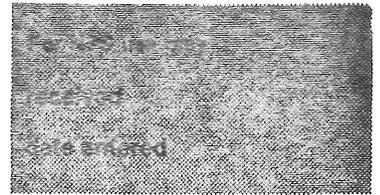
Smith's design for the church has the same flavor as the English-derived pebbledash cottages he was producing for Biltmore Village at the same time. With its splayed, gable roof, pebbledash exterior, and Gothic windows the church might be considered reminiscent of an English parish chapel.

The cruciform plan is symmetrical about its east-west axis, with the traditional relationship between nave and transepts reversed in that the nave, though broader and higher at its roof ridge, forms the minor arms. Each arm is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof that splays at the open eave. The asphalt-shingled roof overhangs at each gable end and is closed by a simple bargeboard with raked molding. A four-sided belfry surmounted by an octagonal steeple rises at the intersection of the roof lines. The belfry broadcasts through curiously modern-looking unframed vents that run continuously around its upper walls (documentary photographs confirm this was the original design).

Small entrance vestibules are set against the main mass of the building at its two east-facing inside corners. Both are covered by simple shed extensions of the main roof. The principal entrance is on the east side of the vestibule which faces Bridge Street.

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The church's olive grey (natural cement color) pebbledash walls rise off a low concrete block foundation. Fenestration follows a simple pattern: triple lancet windows (the center window taller) are centered in each gable end, north, south, and east; both side walls of the north and south arms--the elongated transepts--have paired, segmental arch windows centered in them; and each side wall of the shallow west arm (the chancel end) holds a single segmental arch window. The vestibules are each lit by a small double-hung, one-over-one window. All windows are framed by broad, flat boards and all are tied together by a bold, two-part wooden string, or shelf, that circumscribes the building at sill height. Small, rectangular vents are centered high in each gable wall. All building trim is presently painted white. Widely-spaced low box bushes provide minimal foundation planting. A small, free-standing pedimented marquee is located near the building on its southeast lawn (a documentary photograph shows there has been at least one previous marquee).

One enters Dorland Memorial Church through a broad doorway in the east side of the street-facing vestibule. The door itself is constructed of unframed boards assembled in two opposing diagonal rows to form an upward oriented chevron pattern. This same pattern is exposed on both sides. Hardware consists of a stamped thumb latch and four plain strap hinges. The threshold is a granite slab.

The interior of the church is arranged so that all of the original building could be used as sanctuary space, or the north arm of the transept could be set off by moveable, narrow board partitions for use as classrooms.

The interior is finished in a simple combination of natural woods and plaster. The walls are plaster above a vertical board wainscoting. The multi-faceted ceiling is sheathed in narrow, beaded boards and follows the pitch of the roof to a high truncation. Floors and pews are pine. Pews are arranged in simple, long rows in the south and east arms of the cruciform plan, facing the center of the building. A simple dias fills the shallow west arm forming the chancel. Pastoral furniture on the dias is of oak in a Gothic design. A plain hollow core door set into the north end of the chancel wall provides communication from the sanctuary to the church annex. Original interior doors are composed of five horizontal panels, and have white procelain knobs. Schoolhouse-type lights hang on long chains over the sanctuary seating. All woodwork is lightly stained and varnished.

The simple pattern of natural finishes on the building's interior provides an understated and harmonious backdrop for a splendid collection of memorial windows. Stained glass compositions illuminate every major window in the original church structure. Of unknown provenance, the windows set off the small village church as being exceptional in its rural mountain context.

Dorland Memorial Church, though the subject of an unsympathetic 1958 addition, survives basically intact to reveal the special nature of its founding. It is an exceptional village church, designed by a sophisticated architect adept at translating wider architectural values within the constraints of a modest, rural building program. Architecturally, it well represents both the desires of its founders to memorialize a gifted mountain missionary and the particular talent and background of its designer.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1900 **Builder/Architect** R.S. Smith (architect)/Zeke Goforth (builder)

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church was built in 1900 in the small Madison County town of Hot Springs, in the North Carolina mountains. Asheville architect R. S. Smith designed the small, modified cruciform-plan structure, and local carpenter Zeke Goforth reportedly built it. Exterior walls are covered in pebbledash, a rough stucco popular in nearby Asheville at the turn of the century. Smith's design features a splayed steeple at the intersection of the roof's ridges, splayed eaves, and colorful stained glass Gothic-arched windows. The church was named in honor of prominent Presbyterian minister Dr. Luke Dorland (1851-1897). Dr. Dorland, a native of Ohio, came south after the Civil War and helped establish churches and schools in Cabarrus County, the most famous of which is Scotia College, a school for black girls. Dorland and his wife moved to Hot Springs in 1886, intending to retire. Struck by the educational inadequacies of the isolated mountain community the Dorlands instead started a small school, which evolved into the Dorland School. The church was closely associated with the school. In 1942 Dorland School (Dorland-Bell by that time) was merged with an Asheville school to form Warren Wilson College and the Hot Springs facilities were closed. Therefore the church is one of the few reminders of the school in the town of Hot Springs. A number of Dorland's ministers have been prominent in the Presbyterian Church, especially Francis McGaw and Woodward Finley, both of whom were well known foreign missionaries. The church still plays an important role in Hot Springs community and religious life and has an active membership of over forty.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

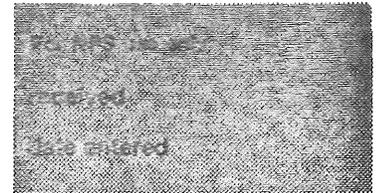
- A. The Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church is associated with the extensive educational and religious mission work undertaken by the Presbyterian Church in the southern Appalachians during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- B. Several prominent Presbyterian ministers have been associated with the church: it was named in honor of Dr. Luke Dorland, who established a school in Hot Springs which became Dorland School; Francis McGaw and Woodward Finley, both ministers at Dorland Church, were well known foreign missionaries.
- C. The church building stands out architecturally in its rural village context for being a nontraditional design by Asheville architect R. S. Smith.

## CRITERIA EXCEPTION:

- A. The Dorland Presbyterian Church is an exceptional village church designed by an architect, R. S. Smith, adept at translating wider architectural values within the constraints of a modest rural building program. It represents its founders' attempt to memorialize a gifted mountain missionary, Dr. Luke Dorland.

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Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church is located in the Madison County community of Hot Springs, in the North Carolina mountains, several miles from the Tennessee border. The church was founded in 1900. It was named in memory of Dr. Luke Dorland, a noted Presbyterian minister and educator. Its primary historical importance is its close relationship with the Dorland (later Dorland-Bell) School founded in Hot Springs by Luke Dorland.

Luke Dorland was born in Ohio in 1815. He studied theology at New York's Union Seminary and at Princeton before his ordination in 1844. Dorland was a circuit rider in the midwest prior to and during the Civil War. After the war the church sent him south to minister to the needs of the freedmen. He stayed for many years in Concord, North Carolina where he founded four churches and Scotia Seminary, a school for black girls. In 1886 he and his wife, the former Juliette Goodfellow retired to Hot Springs. Shortly thereafter the Dorlands started a small school in their home for white girls. By the end of its first year this small school had sixty students. The next year Dr. Dorland built a small school building, at his own expense. By 1900 the Dorlands had over 100 students. In 1893 the Woman's Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church began sponsoring Dorland School. The Presbyterian Church sponsored at least twenty five such schools in the North Carolina mountains in the latter part of the nineteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

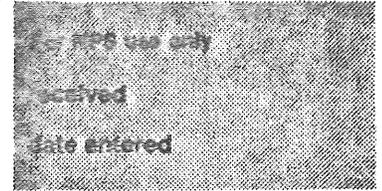
Dr. Dorland and Hot Springs Presbyterians discussed establishing a Presbyterian church in that town several times in the 1890s but nothing had been done by 1897 when Dr. Dorland, visiting relatives in Ohio, became ill and died, at the age of 82. His widow remained in North Carolina and helped bring the proposed church to fruition. The church was built "with funds contributed by friends," and was named in honor of Dr. Dorland. Many of these friends were summer people who were regular visitors to Hot Springs. James Rumbough donated most of the land upon which the church was built. Asheville architect R. S. Smith designed the structure, and local carpenter Zeke Goforth built it.<sup>2</sup>

F. A. McGaw was the first minister of Dorland Memorial. The church shared Reverend McGaw and subsequent ministers with other small Presbyterian churches in the area. A number of these ministers were prominent in the church. McGaw (1855-1942) was a native of Illinois. He was a minister for sixty years, much of it in the midwest. In the 1930s he served in Warsaw, Poland and from 1937 until death in 1942, he was a missionary in Nairobi, Africa. After his death Reverend McGaw was honored when McGaw Memorial Hall was dedicated in his honor at Northwestern University.<sup>3</sup> Dr. Woodward E. Finley served as pastor of Dorland from 1927 until 1935. A native of Iowa Dr. Finley lived in Madison County from 1907 until the middle 1930s. In addition to his religious duties Dr. Finley was a civic leader. He was editor of the French Broad News, the Madison County newspaper, from 1910 until 1912, and was county auditor from 1916 until 1920. He was also a missionary, serving in South America during the 1890s.<sup>4</sup> Bruce Doyle served as pastor of Dorland on two occasions. He was also a foreign missionary.<sup>5</sup>

Dorland Memorial Church had its largest enrollment in the 1920s and many of its members were associated with Dorland-Bell School. In 1942 the school was merged with the Asheville Farm School to form Warren Wilson College in Asheville. Enrollment in the church suffered a subsequent decline. Membership size has held steady in recent years. In 1982 Dorland had 44 active members. The present pastor is Robert J. Gruber. All of the current members of the church are residents of Hot Springs.

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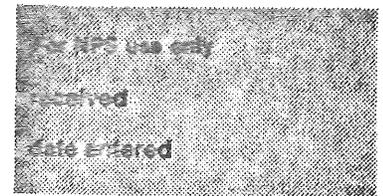
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The church's primary historical significance lies in its close relationship with the Dorland-Bell School. Inasmuch as few buildings from the school still stand the church is one of the only remaining structures in Hot Springs associated with either the school or Dr. Dorland. The significance of the school is further enhanced by the fact that a number of its pastors, in particular Dr. Dorland, Dr. McGaw, and Dr. Finley, were men of prominence in the Presbyterian Church.

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Henry W. Jensen and Elizabeth G. Martin, A History of Warren Wilson College (Privately printed, 1974), 21-26; Ina Van Noppen and John J. Van Noppen, Western North Carolina Since the Civil War (Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973), 159-160; Manly Wade Wellman, The Kingdom of Madison (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973), 116; Grant Dorland to Mrs. Arthur Painter, February 23, 1982, including information on Dr. Luke Dorland, hereinafter cited as Dorland to Painter.

<sup>2</sup>Dorland to Painter; Madison County Deed Book 13, p. 130; Asheville Citizen, December 1, 1900.

<sup>3</sup>Foster G. McGaw to Mrs. Arthur Painter, February 25, 1982, including information from Northwestern University archives.

<sup>4</sup>Marshall News Record, 1942, no month or date.

<sup>5</sup>Information supplied by Mrs. Arthur Painter.

<sup>6</sup>Information supplied by Mrs. Arthur Painter.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Hot Springs, N.C. - Tenn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7	3	3	4	9	5	0	3	9	7	3	3	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

## Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached map. Boundary of nominated property outlined in red. This represents the lot on which the church was built, and the lot traditionally associated with the structure.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Significance by Jim Sumner, Research Specialist, N.C. Division of Archives and History; Description by Douglas Swaim, Preservation Specialist, N. C.

Division of Archives and History, Asheville, N.C.

organization N.C. Division of Archives and History date October 20, 1983

(704) 298-5024 (Asheville)

street & number 109 E. Jones Street

telephone (919) 733-6545 (Raleigh)

city or town Raleigh

state North Carolina 27611

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. P... p.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 22, 1986

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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Asheville Citizen, December 1, 1900.

Dorland, Grant to Painter, Mrs. Arthur. February 23, 1982. Includes information on Dr. Luke Dorland. Copy in file.

Jensen, Henry W. and Martin, Elizabeth G. A History of Warren Wilson College. Privately printed, 1974.

McGaw, Foster G. to Painter, Mrs. Arthur. February 25, 1982. Includes information from Northwestern University Archives on Dr. McGaw. Copy in file.

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

News Record (Marshall). 1942 issue, no month or date. Copy in file.

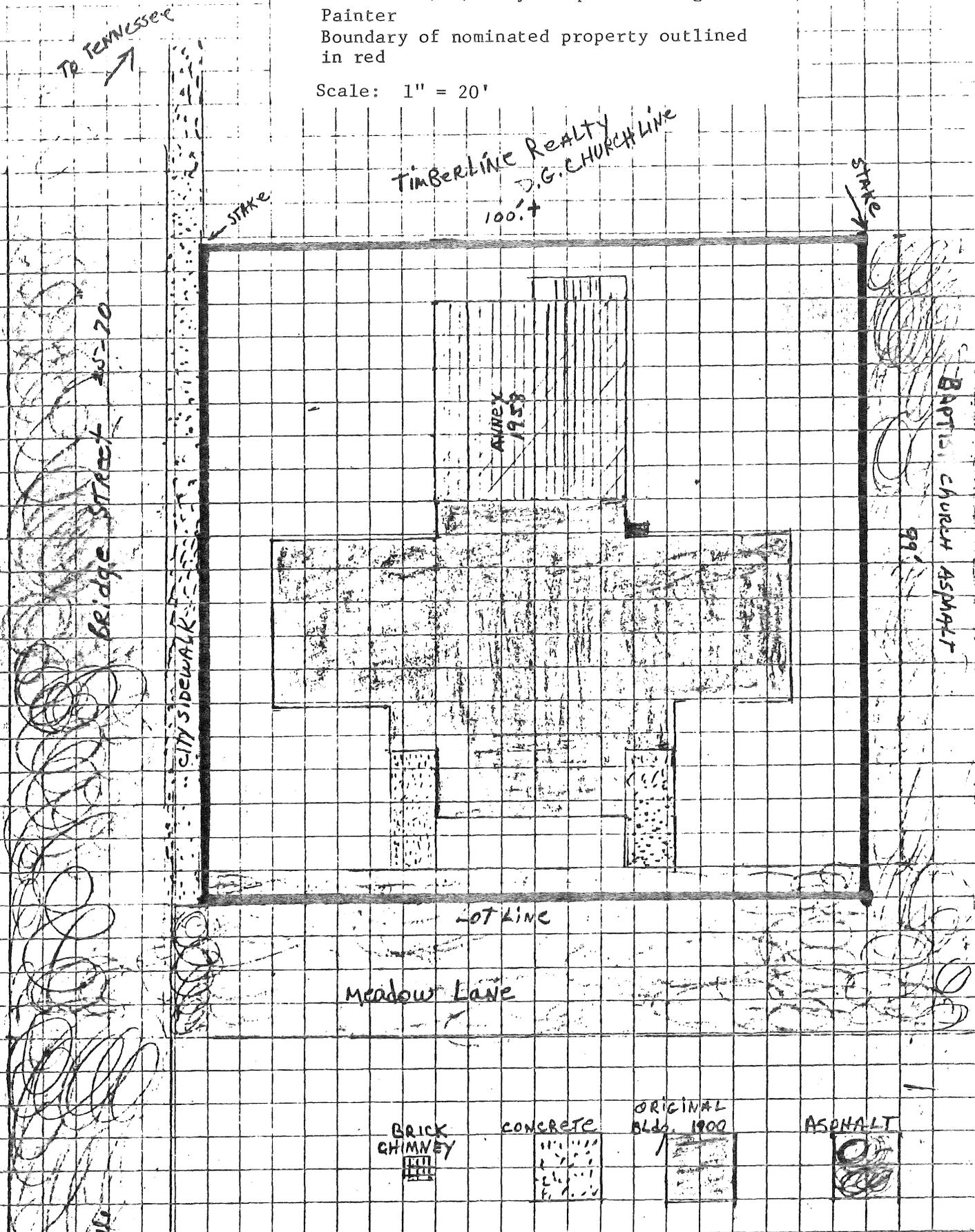
Painter, Mrs. Arthur. Information on the church. Copies in file. Mrs. Painter is the church historian.

Van Noppen, Ina and Van Noppen, John J. Western North Carolina Since the Civil War. Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973.

Wellman, Manily Wade. The Kingdom of Madison. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973.

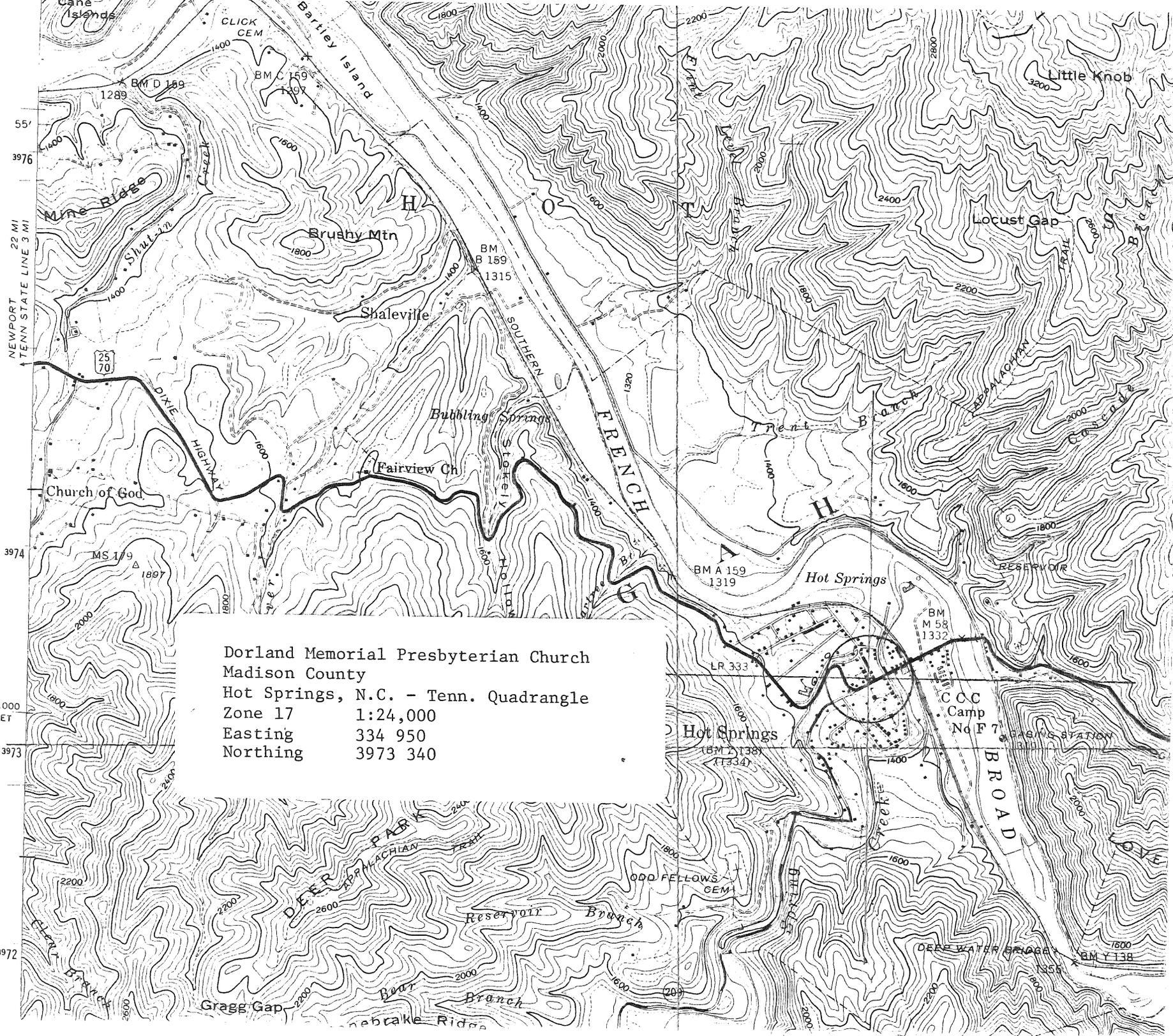
Property of Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Plotted 10/12/83 by Jacqueline Burgin Painter  
Boundary of nominated property outlined in red

Scale: 1" = 20'



DORLAND Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Hot Springs, N.C.

plotted October 12, 1983 by



Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Madison County  
Hot Springs, N.C. - Tenn. Quadrangle  
Zone 17      1:24,000  
Easting      334 950  
Northing     3973 340

TENNESSEE 560,000  
FEET

NEWPORT 22 MI  
TENN STATE LINE 3 MI

55'  
3976

3974

3973

3972

