

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 Everetts Christian Church

other names/site number Everetts Church of Christ

2. Location

street & number 109 South Broad Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Everetts

N/A vicinity

state North Carolina

code NC

county Martin

code 117

zip code 27825

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 for 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.)

Stephen Alron SHPO

3/9/05

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature]

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Everetts Christian Church
Name of Property

Martin County, NC
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 count.)

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

OTHER: Church Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1923

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.

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Everetts Christian Church
Name of Property

Martin County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .24 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>303940</u>	<u>3967420</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather Fearnbach and Penne Sandbeck
organization consultants date November 1, 2004
street & number P.O. Box 6363 telephone 919-832-7935
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27628

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Everetts Christian Church
street & number 109 South Broad Street telephone (252) 792-7365
city or town Everetts state NC zip code 27825

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Everetts Christian Church
Martin County, NC

7. Narrative Description

Everetts Christian Church is located on the east side of Broad Street near its junction with Ayers Street in the small town of Everetts. The church occupies a 70 by 150-foot lot surrounded by modest, early-twentieth-century, Craftsman-influenced residences. Azaleas line the front (west) and north elevations of the building. A low brick retaining wall creates a terraced front lawn, the north end of which has been paved to create a handicapped parking space. A chain-link fence encloses the rear of the church lot and encompasses a small corrugated-metal storage shed with a low, front-gable roof.

Everetts Christian Church is a one-story, brick-veneered, Romanesque Revival building with a front-gable façade dominated by three arched stained-glass windows capped with corbelled brick hoods. A two-story bell tower shelters the entry to the original double-leaf six-panel front door of the church. The bell tower originally had a crenellated parapet above a corbelled cornice and open arched windows at the upper level, but the flat roof and parapet were covered about ten years ago due to ongoing issues with water damage. A pyramidal roof with a deep overhang now shelters the tower and louvered vents enclose the arched windows. A short flight of brick steps and a wooden handicapped ramp provide access to the arcaded entry porch. An intersecting side-gable wing extends from the north elevation, allowing space for three Sunday School classrooms. A gable-roofed wing on the east (rear) elevation of the church houses restrooms and a nursery, while a small, hip-roofed, circa 1999 addition includes a kitchen. A brick stovepipe chimney is on the east gable end of the building. Wooden steps lead to a secondary entrance at the southeast corner of the church.

The interior of Everetts Christian Church is divided into three distinct areas: the sanctuary, three Sunday School classrooms to the north and service areas (kitchen, restrooms and nursery) at the back of the building. The sanctuary retains original elements such as a decorative pressed-tin ceiling, raised-six-panel doors and simple window and door surrounds with mitered corners. The plaster walls of the sanctuary were covered with sheetrock, the glass light fixtures replaced with brass chandeliers, and the original pine pews replaced with modern oak pews in 1953. Two sections of pews are oriented toward the altar at the east end of the sanctuary. The baptismal pool was covered when the altar was elevated. Flat-head, stained-glass windows have

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illuminated all of the rooms in the church since about 1980, when they replaced the original frosted glass windows.

Folding, paneled, wooden doors with frosted glass panes separate the sanctuary from the three Sunday School classrooms on the east side of the building. This configuration allowed for additional seating in the sanctuary when needed, as intended by the Akron plan. These rooms retain rough plaster walls, vertical tongue-and-groove wainscoting, glass light fixtures and pine pews.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

Everetts Christian Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an intact example of an early-twentieth century, Romanesque Revival church. Everetts Christian Church is a product of the movement to incorporate popular national architectural styles into North Carolina churches during the first decades of the twentieth century. The 1922 building is one of three of the eight extant Disciples of Christ churches constructed in Martin County during this period that retain sufficient integrity for National Register listing. Everetts Christian Church meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A as it derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction.

Historical Background

Everetts Christian Church formed in the summer of 1921 after a revival led by Reverend James M. Perry, the pastor of the Robersonville Christian Church, during which forty-four individuals were baptized and thirty-eight others joined the Disciples of Christ by membership transfer. Louis A. Mayo, a student from Atlantic Christian College, served as the first minister to the new congregation, which originally met in a hall over a garage. During the first year over one

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hundred people attended Sunday School classes, resulting in the need for a more suitable meeting place.¹

J.T. Barnhill, Ben F. Perry and Charles B. Roebuck, trustees of the church, purchased a lot on Broad Street in Everetts from Mrs. Mary L. Roebuck in June of 1922 for \$400. Local tradition holds that the men of the congregation cut timber from the forest outside of town on Thanksgiving Day 1922 to frame the church. Ben Perry, a local merchant, supervised the construction of the building, which cost about \$6,500. The new church, designed to accommodate three hundred people, was dedicated in the fall of 1923. Electric lights were installed shortly after the church was completed.²

In 1945 the Everetts congregation consisted of eighty-two members, a sizable number for a town with a population of 244 in 1950. In 1951 improvements such as a new pulpit set, including a communion table, pulpit stand, five chairs and two flower stands, were made. Restroom facilities were added to the building in 1954 (utilizing existing space) and the first hot water heater purchased in 1957. The congregation diminished to thirty members by 2000, with worship services scheduled for two Sundays a month.³

Denominational History

Religious reformers Barton W. Stone (1772-1844), Alexander Campbell (1788-1866) and Thomas Campbell (1763-1854) united in 1832 to promote a return to the doctrine, worship and practice of New Testament Christianity. They traveled throughout Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, organizing congregations known as Disciples of Christ, the Christian Church, and locally, Churches of Christ. The Disciples shared some affinities with Protestant

¹ Charles Crossfield Ware, *Albemarle Annals* (New Bern, NC: Owen G. Dunn Company, 1961), 34; Frances M. Manning and W. H. Booker, *Religion and Education in Martin County, 1774-1974* (Williamston, NC: Enterprise Publishing Company, 1974), 29.

² *Ibid.*; "Everetts Church of Christ," *North Carolina Christian* (Wilson, NC: Charles Crossfield Ware, August 1924), 1.

³ Charles Crossfield Ware, *Albemarle Annals*, 34-35; Manning and Booker, *Religion and Education in Martin County*, 130.

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denominations: simplicity of worship, lay ministry, adult baptism, separation of church and state, stringent rigorous and ascetic morality and freewill doctrine. Efforts to organize a national church never came to fruition. By 1860, as church membership grew to almost 200,000, theological, political, social and economic differences, exacerbated by the controversial issue of slavery, resulted in a schism among the congregations.⁴

Stone and the Campbells were opposed to the American institution of slavery, but the regional spread of congregations in the border states between the north and south included proslavery areas. The lack of a formal national denominational structure precluded a split in the church over slavery and secession, but sectional divisions festered and correlated with later congregational divisions. The more conservative Churches of Christ, located for the most part in rural areas south of the Ohio River, argued for a strict interpretation of the scriptures and objected to the formation of missionary societies and the use of instrumental music in church services. The modern, predominately northern, urban and more affluent Disciples of Christ advocated a more progressive reading of the scriptures. Despite the dissension, congregations continued to grow, doubling by 1875 and including over one million members by 1900. By 1906, the federal religious census recognized the two groups as separate and distinct denominations. It was not until 1968, however, that a representative assembly in Kansas City approved the *Provisional Design for the Christian Church*, officially naming the Disciples of Christ as an independent denomination.⁵

In 1906, the census recorded 159,658 members of the Churches of Christ, with almost two-thirds of that total living in the former states of the Confederacy. By 1994, the Churches of Christ had become a worldwide movement, found in 121 nations. United States membership totaled 1,260,838, with Texas having the most, followed by Tennessee with 169,190 members. The largest single Disciples of Christ congregation in North America is the 9,000-member Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, an African-American congregation, in Memphis.

⁴ Heather Fearnbach, "Churches of Christ and Disciples of Christ" in *Powerful Artifacts: A Guide to Surveying and Documenting Rural African-American Churches* (Murfreesboro, TN: Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University, 2000), 12.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 13.

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As Dr. Harold Hazelip of Lipscomb University observes, “historically marked by internal and external controversy, the Churches of Christ remain committed to their ideals. While some representatives have claimed these churches to include the only known Christians, others insist that their commitment is to be ‘Christians only’ – an ideal which reflects the original goals of unity (nondenominational) and restorationism (restoring primitive practices of the earliest churches).”⁶

The message of the Disciples of Christ movement found fertile ground in some North Carolina Baptist congregations by 1819, as both Disciples and Free Will Baptists relied upon literal interpretation of the Bible as the supreme authority for the spirit and practice of the Church. The earliest annual Disciples of Christ convention in North Carolina was held on February 2 and 3, 1831, at Little Sister Church, seven miles north of Kinston. Thomas Campbell’s North Carolina visit in 1833, during which he preached in the state’s eastern towns of Edenton, Greenville, Hookerton and Pantego, resulted in even more converts to the Disciples faith. The oldest Disciples of Christ church in North Carolina is a former Free Will Baptist congregation, Wheat Swamp, in Lenoir County, reorganized under Disciples principles in 1829. Wheat Swamp was listed on the earliest roles of the Bethel Conference of North Carolina Disciples of Christ along with Hookerton (Greene County), Bay Creek, Broad Creek and Concord (Pamlico County), Pleasant Hill and Kinston (Lenoir County), Pfafftown (Forsyth County), Piney Grove (Sampson County), Oak Grove (Pitt County), Beaver Dam and Old Ford (Beaufort County), Mill Creek (Johnston County) and Chinquapin Chapel (Jones County). By 1860 there were 2,500 members of Disciples of Christ congregations in North Carolina.⁷

The first Disciples of Christ congregation in Martin County appeared at Welch’s Creek, near Dardens in Jamesville Township in 1841, serving as an alternative to the Episcopal, Methodist and Primitive Baptist churches that were organized in the county by the end of the eighteenth century. The Welch’s Creek membership included Native Americans, free blacks, slaves and

⁶ Ibid., 13-14; Harold Hazelip, “Churches of Christ,” in Carroll Van West, et. al. eds., *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (Nashville, TN: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), 162.

⁷ Winifred Ernest Garrison and Alfred T. DeGroot, *The Disciples of Christ: A History* (St. Louis: Christian Board of Publication, 1948), 276-280; Charles Crossfield Ware, *North Carolina Disciples of Christ* (St. Louis: Christian Board of Publication, 1927), 64-65.

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whites. The church dissolved in less than twenty years, with some members of the congregation forming new churches. Some of the black membership organized Uniontown Free Union in 1854, the oldest black church in Martin County.⁸

Christian Chapel, located on Wynn Road (SR 1113) in Cross Roads Township, is the oldest surviving Disciples of Christ church in Martin County. The congregation organized in 1857 and the church was constructed around 1869. Taylor's Chapel, a Disciples of Christ church in eastern Martin County, was organized in 1854 but is no longer extant. Zion's Grove, located in the country two miles north of Robersonville, was established in 1872 and was the mother church of the Robersonville Disciples of Christ congregation, organized in 1876.⁹

Other Martin County congregations formed between 1865 and 1946 include Macedonia Christian Church (1865), Poplar Chapel Church of Christ (1867), Fairview Christian Church (1874), First Christian Church, Robersonville (1876), Hassell Christian Church (1877), First Christian Church, Jamesville (1887), First Christian Church, Williamston (1889), Gospel Light Church of Christ (1902), Maple Grove Christian Church (1910), Oak City Christian Church (1919), Everetts Christian Church (1921), Smithwick Chapel Disciple Church (1932) and Hamilton Church of Christ (1946). Many of these congregations were organized in response to revivals and shared ministers. Only three of these early churches remain architecturally intact, as most were expanded and remodeled over the years.¹⁰

Architecture Context

The earliest Disciples of Christ churches in North Carolina were plainly finished, frame, front-gable buildings, some of which had previously served as meeting places for Free Will Baptist congregations. Christian Chapel, the oldest extant Disciples of Christ church in Martin County, is representative of this tradition, as are the original Macedonia Christian Church and the

⁸ Manning and Booker, *Religion and Education in Martin County*, 9.

⁹ Charles Crossfield Ware, *Albemarle Annals*, 21, 82.

¹⁰ Shelby Hughes, ed., *Martin County Heritage*, 6, 9-16, 19-22, 25, 34.

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Christian Church in Jamesville. Although the 1869 Christian Chapel has been moved and currently functions as a packhouse, it retains some original weatherboards and boxed cornices with deep gable returns. There is evidence that a gallery was located above the entrance. The building was moved in 1950 when the Christian Chapel congregation built a new brick church.¹¹

Corinth Christian Church, constructed in 1863 in the Lang's Crossroads Community of Pitt County, is almost identical in appearance and plan to Christian Chapel. First Christian Church in Jamesville, built in 1887, is an example of a simple, front-gable, frame building with unusual decorative embellishments including scalloped, pierced fascia on the side elevations and elaborate window surrounds with decorative lintels. Jamesville First Christian Church was expanded in 1922 and replaced by a larger brick building in 1951.¹²

Macedonia Christian Church, built in 1886, is a front-gable, weatherboarded building with two raised-panel front doors and nine-over-six windows. The church was enlarged in 1915 and replaced by a new building in 1942. The new church retains the traditional front-gable form of earlier Disciples of Christ churches and has a series of rear additions dating from 1956 to the present. The old church was sold and moved from the property to be used as tenant housing.¹³

By the first decades of the twentieth century, North Carolina Disciples of Christ churches, like churches of other Protestant denominations, reflected the influence of popular national architectural trends. Eight Martin County Disciples of Christ churches were built or remodeled during this period as new congregations were established and old congregations grew in size, all of them manifesting restrained elements of Gothic Revival, Craftsman, Colonial Revival or Romanesque Revival styles. Oak City Christian Church, First Christian Church and Everetts Christian Church are excellent examples of the incorporation of Gothic Revival and Romanesque

¹¹ Thomas R. Butchko, ed., *Martin Architectural Heritage: The Historic Structures of a Rural North Carolina County* (Williamston, NC: Martin County Historical Society, 1998), 147.

¹² *Ibid.*, 273; Scott Power, ed., *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina* (Greenville, NC: Pitt County Historical Society, 1991), 80.

¹³ Shelby Hughes, ed., *Martin County Heritage*, 18-19.

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Revival features into relatively modest churches constructed for the Disciples of Christ congregations of small Martin County towns.

Gothic Revival features such as steeply-pitched gable roofs, pointed-arched windows, castellated towers, patterned masonry and asymmetrical massing were widely incorporated into high-style churches and public buildings throughout the country from the late nineteenth century through the first few decades of the twentieth century. The frame, weatherboarded, Oak City Christian Church, constructed in 1921, incorporates some Gothic Revival elements such as a corner tower and arched stained-glass windows, but its simplicity is very much in keeping with the earlier Disciples of Christ churches in the state. Hassell Christian Church, constructed in 1929, is representative of a more eclectic approach to the Gothic Revival style. The front-gable, brick church, the third building utilized by the Hassell congregation, is characterized by mixture of architectural styles: Gothic Revival pointed-arched windows, Craftsman exposed rafter ends and Colonial Revival stuccoed keystone accents. A projecting front-gable vestibule and side-gable Sunday School wings on the rear of the building almost double its size. Like Oak City Christian Church, First Christian Church in Robersonville and Everetts Christian Church, Hassell Christian Church is a good example of the incorporation of elements of popular architectural styles into the local building vernacular.¹⁴

Hickory Grove Church of Christ, constructed around 1900 in the Sandhill vicinity in Lenoir County, also displays modest Gothic Revival features such as pointed-arched windows. The front-gable church was originally weatherboarded but was brick-veneered in the 1970s. An entry vestibule and a side wing were added at that time, but the church retains a steeple with a broached hip roof similar to the bell tower at Oak City Christian Church.¹⁵

The Romanesque Revival style is represented in even fewer Martin County Disciples of Christ churches. Identifying features of Romanesque Revival buildings include arched windows and entrances, masonry walls (often stone or brick in a combination of colors and textures), corner

¹⁴ Thomas R. Butchko, ed., *Martin Architectural Heritage*, 244.

¹⁵ M. Ruth Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy: The Historic Architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina* (Winston-Salem, NC: Jostens Printing and Publishing, 1998), 389.

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towers and asymmetrical massing. Everetts Christian Church, constructed in 1922, represents a vernacular, cost-effective approach to the Romanesque Revival style in its use of plain brick and modest architectural embellishment, which is also very much in keeping with the restrained exterior appearance of earlier Disciples of Christ churches in the state. Only the windows in the front gable of the sanctuary are topped by corbelled arches, and they originally contained frosted rather than stained glass. The crenellated parapet of the bell tower was covered with a pyramidal roof in a pragmatic remedy for ongoing water damage. The white walls and simple window and door trim on the interior are equally modest, enlivened only by a decorative pressed tin ceiling. Folding, paneled, wooden doors with frosted glass panes separate the sanctuary from the three Sunday School classrooms on the east side of the building. This efficient design, that allowed the partition doors to be opened to provide additional space for the regular worship service, was invented by a Sunday School teacher in Akron, Ohio in the 1860s.¹⁶

First Christian Church in Robersonville, built in 1913, is a much more elaborate example of the Romanesque Revival style. The one-story, brick building has a cross-gable façade dominated by two sets of three arched stained-glass windows capped with corbelled, blonde-brick hoods. The two-story corner bell tower has a corbelled cornice surmounted by a crenellated parapet, arched window openings at the upper story and arched entries to a small porch on the lower story. Corbelled blonde brick hoods accent all of the arched openings in the tower. The eight-panel double-leaf front door is set at an angle and surrounded by stained-glass sidelights and a transom. Auxiliary double-leaf entrances on the south and west elevations are recessed in front-gable bays and topped with arched, stained-glass transoms. A cast-stone waster table, a cast-stone band at window sill level and a corbelled blonde brick band at window lintel level encircle the church, providing additional decorative interest. The interior of First Christian Church retains its original Akron plan, grained window and door trim, and plaster walls and ceilings.

Farmville Christian Church in Pitt County, built in 1910, is almost identical in form and plan to Robersonville First Christian Church. The Romanesque Revival brick churches share features such as round-arched stained-glass windows, double-leaf front doors and corner bell towers with

¹⁶ See Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 325-327 for more on the Akron plan.

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crenellated parapets and arched entries. Farmville Christian Church is further distinguished by the vaulted, paneled ceiling in the sanctuary.¹⁷

Gordon Street Christian Church in Kinston, constructed in 1915, and Broad Street Christian Church in New Bern, built in 1921, are much more sophisticated interpretations of national architectural styles. Gordon Street Christian Church is a monumental tan brick, Romanesque/Byzantine Revival-style building characterized by low massing, octagonal towers, a two-tier lantern dome and paired ogee-shaped entrance arches. Like the Martin County Disciples of Christ churches, Gordon Street's interior was originally arranged in an Akron plan, with Sunday School classrooms separated from the sanctuary with movable partitions. Broad Street Christian Church is an imposing yellow brick, Neoclassical Revival-style building with a pedimented classical façade supported by stuccoed columns. Two projecting front-gable porticoes shelter the entrances to the church, which has a semi-circular interior illuminated by the skylight in a central dome.¹⁸

Martin County Disciples of Christ churches constructed in the mid-twentieth century continued to reflect broader national architectural trends. Hamilton Church of Christ, built in 1946, is a traditional front-gable, brick church with a projecting front-gable entry bay with a double-leaf door topped by a transom. Side-gable wings extend from the rear of the building. First Christian Church in Williamston, constructed from 1951 to 1953, is a modernist brick building.¹⁹

Many Martin County Disciples of Christ churches were brick-veneered in the 1960s and 1970s. Poplar Chapel Church of Christ, a front-gable, weatherboarded building constructed south of Jamesville in 1871, was brick-veneered in 1977. A projecting front-gable vestibule was also added at that time. Fairview Christian Church, also a front-gable, frame building has undergone similar changes. The church was built in 1905, added onto in 1948 and enlarged and brick-veneered in 1968. Building campaigns in 1966 and 1972-73 at Maple Grove Christian Church,

¹⁷ Scott Power, ed., *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County*, 404.

¹⁸ M. Ruth Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 192; Peter Sandbeck, *The Historic Architecture of New Bern and Craven County, North Carolina* (New Bern: The Tryon Palace Commission, 1988), 161.

¹⁹ Shelby Hughes, ed., *Martin County Heritage*, 11, 13.

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Oak City Christian Church
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constructed in 1910, resulted in a new baptistry, Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall and brick veneer. Smithwick Chapel Disciple Church, built in 1932, has also been extensively remodeled and brick-veneered.²⁰

Everetts Christian Church is representative of the movement to incorporate popular national architectural trends into North Carolina churches during the first decades of the twentieth century. It is one of two extant Romanesque Revival-style Disciples of Christ churches in Martin County. Although not as elaborate as some Disciples of Christ churches in urban areas, it does manifest similar exterior elements such as a two-story bell tower with arched entries and round-arched stained-glass windows with corbelled caps. Everetts Christian Church also reflects national design trends in the arrangement of the Sunday School classrooms and sanctuary in an Akron plan.

9. Bibliography

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Fearnbach, Heather. "Churches of Christ and Disciples of Christ." In *Powerful Artifacts: A Guide to Surveying and Documenting Rural African-American Churches*. Murfreesboro, TN: Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University, 2000.

Garrison, Winifred Ernest, and Alfred T. DeGroot. *The Disciples of Christ: A History*. St. Louis, MO: Christian Board of Publication, 1948.

²⁰ Ibid., 9, 12, 19, 25, 34.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Everetts Christian Church
Martin County, NC

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Harrell, David Edwin, Jr. *The Social Sources of Division in the Disciples of Christ, 1865-1900*. Atlanta, GA: Publishing Systems, Inc., 1973.

Hazelip, Harold. "Churches of Christ," in Carroll Van West, et. al. eds., *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Nashville, TN: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998.

Hughes, Shelby Jean Nelson, ed. *Martin County Heritage*. Williamston, NC: Martin County Historical Society, 1980.

Little, M. Ruth. *Coastal Plain and Fancy: The Historic Architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina*. Winston-Salem, NC: Jostens Printing and Publishing, 1998.

Manning, Frances M., and W. H. Booker. *Religion and Education in Martin County, 1774-1974*. Williamston, NC: Enterprise Publishing Company, 1974.

North Carolina Christian Yearbook of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of North Carolina. Wilson, NC: Charles Crossfield Ware, 1917-1929, 1945, 1950.

Power, Scott, ed. *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina*. Greenville, NC: Pitt County Historical Society, 1991.

Sandbeck, Peter. *The Historic Architecture of New Bern and Craven County, North Carolina*. New Bern, NC: The Tryon Palace Commission, 1988.

Ware, Charles Crossfield. *Albemarle Annals*. New Bern, NC: Owen G. Dunn Company, 1961.

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Photos

Everetts Christian Church
Martin County, NC

_____. *North Carolina Disciples of Christ*. St. Louis, MO: Christian Board of Publication, 1927.

Whitsett, William H. *Origin of the Disciples of Christ (Campbellites): A Contribution to the Centennial Anniversary of the Birth of Alexander Campbell*. New York, NY: A. C. Armstrong and Son, 1888.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of Martin County tax parcel 06-00564 (.24 acres), as indicated by the heavy dashed line on the enclosed tax map 5746-2148.

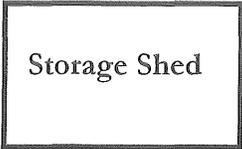
Boundary Justification

The nominated tract is the original site of Everetts Christian Church and provides a historically appropriate setting for the property.

Photograph Catalog

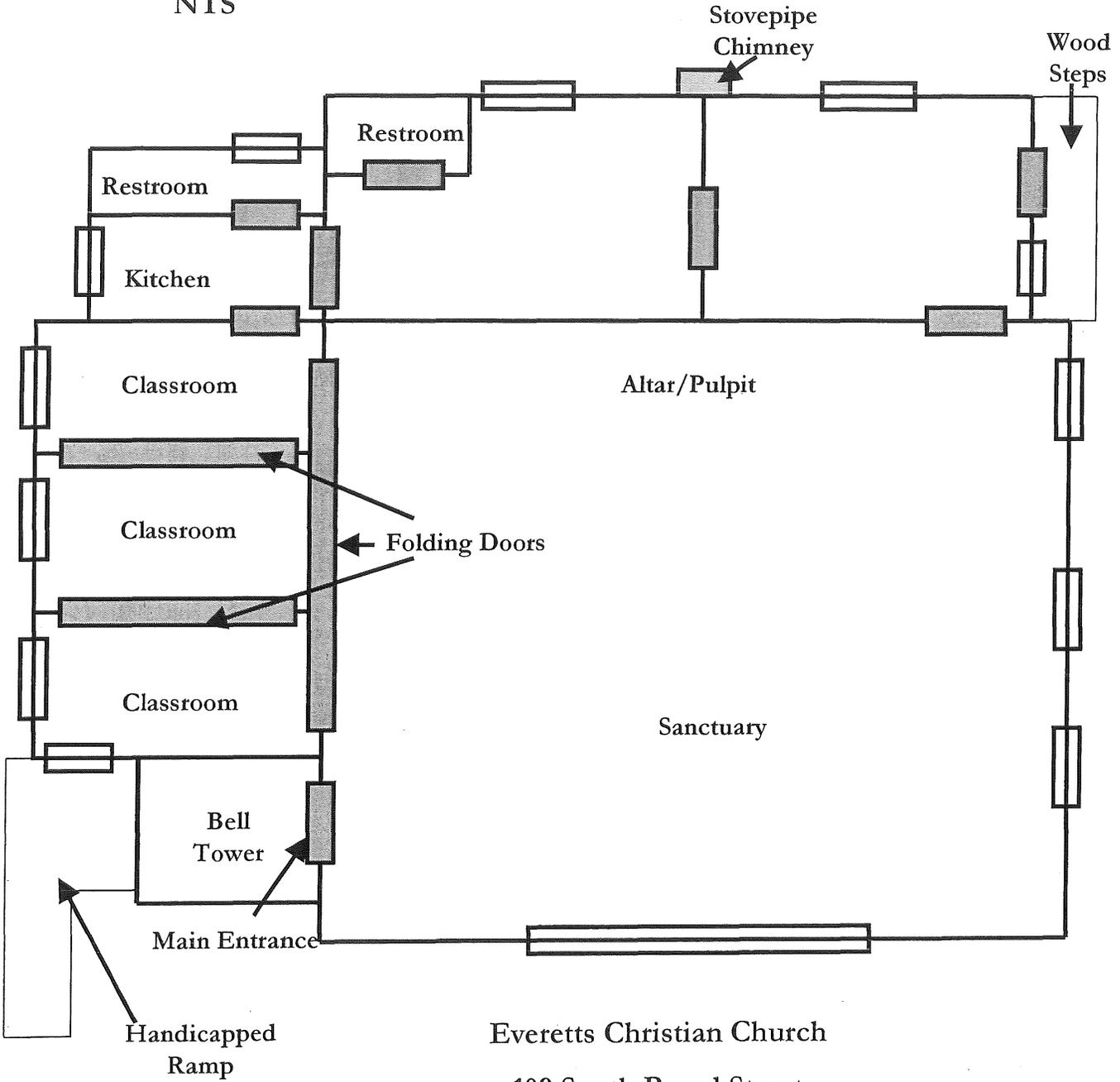
All photographs by Penne Sandbeck, P.O. Box 6363, Raleigh, NC, on March 15, 2003. Negatives located at the North Carolina HPO.

1. North and West Elevations
2. East and North Elevations
3. Bell Tower
4. Sanctuary
5. Folding partitions between Sunday School classrooms and sanctuary



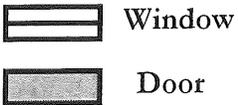
Schematic Floor Plan

NTS



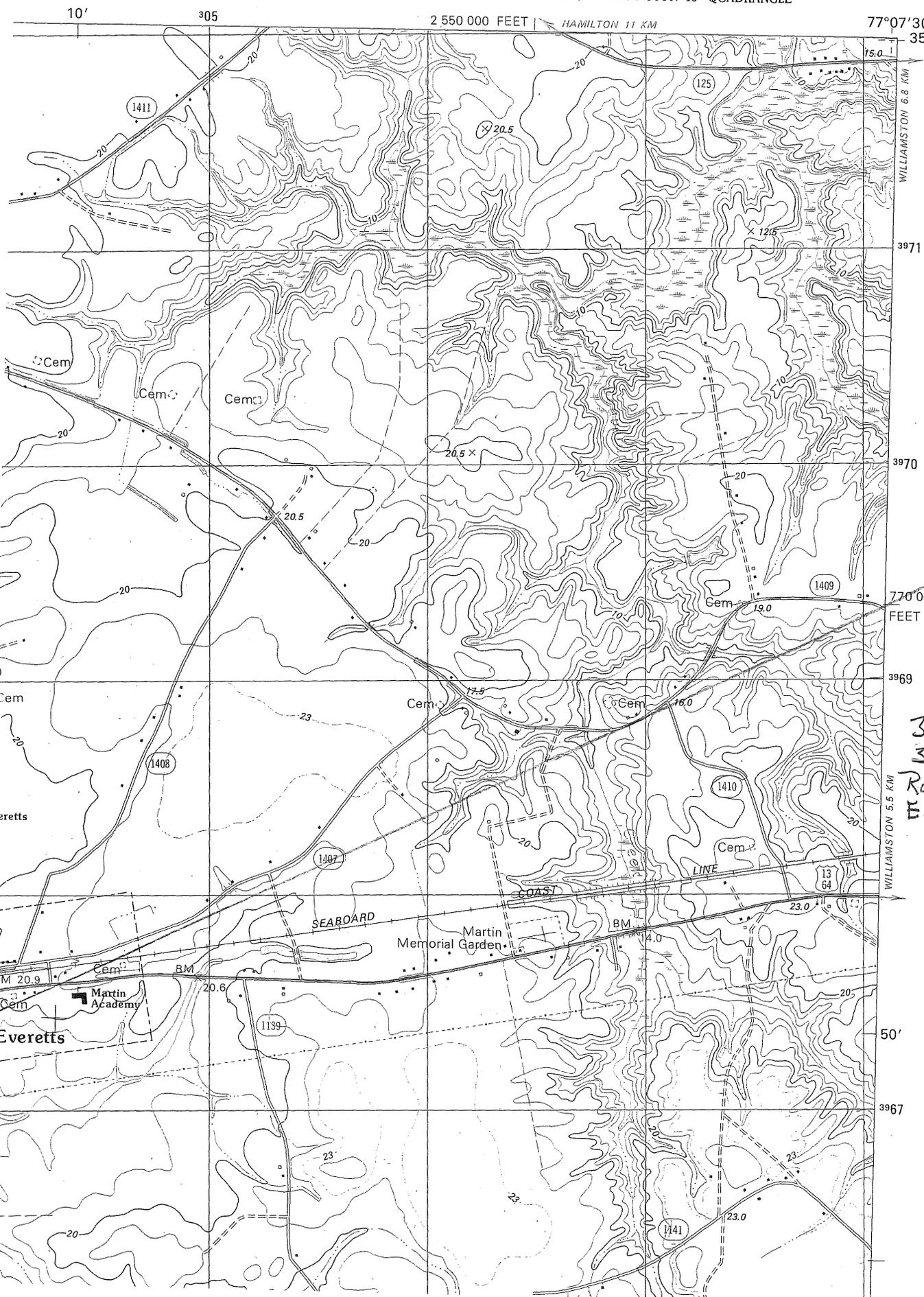
Everetts Christian Church
109 South Broad Street
Everetts
Martin County

Heather Fearnbach
November 2004



ROBERSONVILLE EAST QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 SW/4 WILLIAMSTON 15' QUADRANGLE

5595 1 NE
 (QUIT SNA)



Everetts
 Christian Church
 109 S. Broad St.
 Everetts
 Martin County
 Zone 18
 303940 E
 3967420 N
 Robersonville
 East Quad

CONVERSION
 SCALES

