

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED ON:	
VLR	12/15/2011
NRHP	02/08/2012

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Macedonia Methodist Church
other names/site number VDHR No. 005-5159

2. Location

street & number 1408 Coffeytown Road N/A not for publication
city or town Vesuvius N/A vicinity
state VA code VA county Amherst code 009 zip code 24483

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

12/21/11
Date

Title

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	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

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival, Carpenter

Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE: Random Rubble

walls: WOOD: weatherboard

roof: Asphalt shingle

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Macedonia Methodist Church is centrally located within a secluded community called Coffeytown in the mountains of northwest Amherst County. The 1896 frame church was built on a low, cleared area along Coffeytown Road across from Staton Creek and has a triple rail fence along all but the front of the property. It replaced the earlier 1875 log church, which once stood on the same property. The building is an excellent example of a vernacular country church with Gothic Revival influences, featuring frame construction with triangular window heads instead of lancet arches on the exterior. The interior features original unpainted American chestnut beaded board paneling on the walls and ceiling. To the northwest or rear of the church is a modern privy.

Narrative Description

(See Continuation Sheet)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1896

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

F. E. Coleman

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance is 1896 for the year that the building was constructed.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

(See Continuation Sheet)

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

(See Continuation Sheet)

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:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: **Amherst County Museum**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 005-5019

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17S 656099 4181808
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The two-acre property lies in a clearing along the east side of Coffeytown Road. The property has a triple rail fence along its north, east, and south sides. The area beyond the fence on the east and south is wooded. This property is the same land deeded by the Coffey family in 1888 to the Methodist Episcopal Church South, listed in Amherst Deed Book NN, p. 601, and it is the same property deeded in 1990 to the Macedonia Community Association, listed in Amherst Deed Book 854, p. 124.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

This is the property listed in Amherst County Tax Map 8 A 20, which is currently owned by the Macedonia Community Association.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sandra Esposito
organization N/A date 6 August 2011
street & number 140 Cradon Hill Lane telephone 434-946-7496
city or town Amherst state VA zip code 24521
e-mail espositosf@earthlink.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Photolist

Name of Property: Macedonia Methodist Church

City or Vicinity: Alto

County: Amherst State: Virginia

Photographer: Sandra Esposito

Date Photographed: November 2009 and March 2010

1. **View:** West and South Elevations and privy -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0001
2. **View:** West Elevation -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0002
3. **View:** West and North Elevations and Privy -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0003
4. **View:** East Elevation Detail -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0004
5. **View:** Privy -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0005
6. **View:** Interior Facing West -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0006
7. **View:** Interior Facing North -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0007
8. **View:** Interior Facing South -- VA_Amherst County_Macedonia Methodist Church_0008

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Macedonia Methodist Church

Amherst County , VA

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Narrative statement

Macedonia Methodist Church is a frame building with Gothic Revival detailing. In 1896, the present building replaced the original log 1875 church (that was located near the site of the current edifice), which was situated centrally within the Coffeytown community. The church sits on a two-acre cleared area along Coffeytown Road near Staton Creek. The churchyard is surrounded by a triple rail fence and in the northeast yard is a privy.

The building has a random rubble stone foundation, weatherboard exterior siding, and a front gable roof with asphalt shingles. There is a bell tower at the western (front) edge of the roof. The bell tower has vertical board siding with a triangular arch vent with louvers. The pyramidal tower roof has overhanging eaves supported by corner brackets.

The main (west) elevation has a projecting front-gabled vestibule with a double-leaf entry with a multi-light Gothic arch transom. The sides of the vestibule have a 1/1 double-hung sash window. Above the vestibule on the front wall of the church there is a four-light circular window and in the peak of the gable is a small wooden quatrefoil decoration. Most of the windows on the side elevations of the building have triangular window heads for a simplified interpretation of lancet windows. The north and south side elevations have four large 5/4 double-hung sash windows. In the center of the south elevation is a modern exterior random rubble chimney flue. The rear (east) elevation features an apse with two 1/1 doublehung sash windows. Near the southeast corner of the rear elevation is a horizontal paneled single-leaf entry with a multi-light triangular transom. A rear deck accesses this doorway and has a railing with cutwork balusters and a stair of four risers.¹

The interior of the church has a sixteen-foot double-leaf Gothic arched door separating the vestibule from the sanctuary. The walls, ceiling, and this interior door are paneled with one-inch wide, chevron pattern, unpainted beaded chestnut. A vertical board wainscot adorns the interior walls. The sanctuary has a double-aisle plan with the altar area opposite the main entrance. The pews, altar rail, and lectern are original and made of chestnut. The floors are the original two-inch wide pine boards. Hanging from the ceiling are 1930s electric pendant lamps which replaced the original oil lamps. In the ceiling is the remnant of the original flue for the coal stove that was replaced by the 1930s era oil stove. The oil stove was replaced by the woodstove, which was relocated to the south wall after 1990.

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After 1990, the Macedonia Community Association repaired and restored the building. Asphalt shingles replaced the original tin shingle roof when it was severely damaged during an ice storm. It was at the same time that the oil stove was replaced by the "Englander" woodstove and a new chimney flue was placed on the exterior south wall. Other work undertaken by the Association was to repoint the foundation, refinish the floors and pews, and construct a new privy.

At the northeast corner of the churchyard is the noncontributing frame privy which has a poured concrete foundation, horizontal board siding, and a gable front roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. There is a wooden three-bay porch with square posts and railings with square balusters and a stair with nine risers. The building is divided into two stalls, each with a single-leaf entry.

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Statement of Significance

Macedonia Methodist Church is architecturally significant as an example of a vernacular country church with Gothic Revival influences constructed of local materials that retains excellent integrity. The church is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture with a period of significance of 1896. Significant features of the church include the triangular window heads, bell tower, quatrefoil design in the front gable peak, arched entries, and the use of the unpainted chestnut beadboard paneling in the interior.

Macedonia was one of nine churches constructed between 1850 and 1910 in Amherst County. These buildings were mostly constructed in a traditional form with gable front entry, three to four large windows along the sides, and an altar opposite the entry on the interior. The decorative elements of the buildings would vary according to congregational preference and influence from popular trends. Only six of the churches remain and Macedonia is the best-preserved frame example of the Gothic Revival church style.

Developmental History

The Coffeytown community was established around 1830 by Jordan Coffey (1780-1852) and his six sons (Hudson, Schyler, John Jack, William, Nelson, and Henry). The men established farmsteads and soon other families moved to the area and the families intermarried. The community, locally known as Coffeytown, had a general store and a post office. The U.S. Postal Service called the community Alto.²

By 1875, the community was large enough to support its own church and the first minister, Rev. J. W. Parrish, suggested the name of Macedonia for the original log building. The church was centrally located within the community and it served as a community center. In 1888, Charles E. and Sara Coffey, the landowners, deeded land ownership officially to the Methodist Episcopal Church South.³

In 1896, possibly due to membership growth the original log church was replaced. A local contractor, F. E. Coleman, constructed the present edifice and used locally-obtained materials from the surrounding forests prepared near the site. The total cost of the construction was \$488.⁴

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Soon, the community constructed a school behind the church. The two-room Macedonia School resembled many in the county with its frame construction and recessed entry. The school closed in the mid twentieth century and was razed in the 1960s.⁵ Today, the Church is the only remaining non-residential building left in the community of Coffeytown.

By 1981, church membership had declined to a point where the Methodist Church no longer believed the community could support the church. Memberships were transferred to nearby Mt. Horeb Methodist Church (DHR # 005-5255). Macedonia was closed and stood abandoned until 1990. That year, the Macedonia Community Association was formed and it obtained ownership of the building. The Association began to restore the building. Today, the Association uses the building for annual community events in July and December and other special events throughout the year.⁶

During a period from about 1850 until 1910, nine churches were erected with Gothic Revival influence in Amherst County; most were for the fast growing Methodist faith. Today, only six remain and of those, three are Methodist, one is Episcopalian, and two are Baptist. The nine churches were Pleasants Chapel Methodist (c. 1850, razed in the early twentieth century), El Bethel (pre-1860, DHR # 005-5259, a transitional brick building with Greek and Gothic Revival elements), Emmanuel Methodist (1888, DHR # 162-0015, razed in 1979), Macedonia Methodist (1896), Beulah Methodist (c. 1890, DHR # 005-0068, frame with a side tower and lancet windows), Ascension Episcopal (1846, DHR # 163-0006, masonry with a crenellated tower and lancet windows), Emmanuel Baptist (1907, DHR# 005-5071, masonry with a crenellated tower and large stained glass windows), New Prospect Baptist (c. 1890, DHR # 005-5273, frame with a side tower and lancet windows) and the old Presbyterian church at Woodson (Carpenter Gothic details but razed in late twentieth century).⁷ Both Ascension and Emmanuel Baptist are excellent examples of the formal Gothic Revival style; however, Macedonia is the best-preserved example of a frame, vernacular Gothic Revival church. Macedonia retains its original design and much of its original material and furnishings. Its detailing includes the arched entry and sanctuary doors, triangular window heads as simplified versions of lancet windows, a small bell tower, circular window, and the quatrefoil design in the front gable peak. The interior decoration is simple with unpainted chestnut bead board paneling throughout on the walls and ceiling; the original chestnut pews remain. The high level of integrity of the church, particularly the original chestnut paneling, sets it apart from other Amherst churches of the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth-centuries .

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Settle, Jim *Amherst New Era Progress*. "Churches Native to the Amherst Area." August 11, 2010 (accessed online March 21, 2011).

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Endnotes

¹ It is unknown whether this deck is similar to the historic deck.

² John Taylor, "One Story of "Coffeytown" in Amherst County, Virginia: 1827 to present." *Coffeytown Weather*. www.coffeytown.com, accessed March 2010; *Amherst County Heritage Volume 1*. 1999, pp. 12, 54; and *Amherst County Heritage Volume 2*. 2004, pp. 9, 82.

³ Taylor, "History of Macedonia Church; John Taylor, "One Story of "Coffeytown" in Amherst County, Virginia: 1827 to present." *Coffeytown Weather*. www.coffeytown.com, accessed March 2010; and *Amherst County Deed Book NN*, p. 401.

⁴ John Taylor, "History of Macedonia Church." Private files of Macedonia Community Association; and "Macedonia Community Association Files." Private Files.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Photographs of the Pleasants Chapel and Woodson church are included in *Amherst County Heritage Volume 1*. 1999, pp. 46-69.

