



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

December 18, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structure Survey Report, Improve US 64 from future Asheboro Bypass to Existing US 64, Reconstruct NC 49 Interchange, Replace NC 49 Bridge over US 64, U-5813, Randolph County, ER 17-2550

Thank you for your November 16, 2017, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the West Bend United Methodist Church (RD0931) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The church does not meet Criterion Consideration A which would allow a religious property to be considered eligible for listing if it "derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historic importance." It is one of many small congregations in the area and among several mid-century modern churches locally. Additionally, its historic integrity has been compromised by replacement windows, doors, and interior finishes throughout.

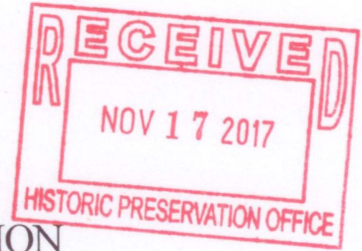
The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pop Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

November 16, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: PA No. 17-04-0020, Historic Structures Survey Report, U-5813 Improve US 64 in Randolph County

ER 17-2550
H

Due 12/13

Hannah 11/17/17
JHP

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project in compliance with the Section 106 review process. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Location:
1020 BIRCH RIDGE RD
RALIEGH NC 27610



Historic Structure Report

TIP No. U-5813, WBS No. 44385.1.3

Improve US 64 from the future Asheboro Bypass to Existing US 64,
Reconstruct NC 49 Interchange, Replace NC 49 Bridge over US 64,
and Reconfigure the US 64 and Albemarle Ramps and Loops
Randolph County, North Carolina
S&ME Project No. 4213-17-254

PREPARED FOR:

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598**

PREPARED BY:

**S&ME, Inc.
620 Wando Park Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464**

November 3, 2017



**Historic Structure Report
TIP No. U-5813**

**Improve US 64 from future Asheboro Bypass to Existing US 64,
Reconstruct NC 49 Interchange, Replace NC 49 Bridge over US 64, and
Reconfigure the US 64 and Albemarle Road Ramps and Loops
Randolph County, North Carolina**

**FINAL REPORT
WBS No. 44385.1.3**

Prepared for:

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:

S&ME, Inc.
620 Wando Park Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

S&ME Project No. 4213-17-254

Heather J. Carpini

11/3/2017

Heather Carpini, M.A.
Principal Investigator, S&ME, Inc.

Date

Mary Pope Furr
Supervisor, Historic Architectural Resources Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

November 3, 2017



Management Summary

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), S&ME, Inc. (S&ME) has completed a historic architectural analysis of one property located within the project area for the improvement of US 64 from the future Asheboro Bypass to existing US 64, including the reconstruction of the NC 49 interchange, the replacement of the NC 49 bridge over US 64, and the reconfiguration of the US 64 and Albemarle ramps and loops, in Randolph County, North Carolina (TIP No. U-5813, WBS No. 44385.1.3) (Figures 1.1 and 1.2).

NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project, which corresponded to the Environmental Study Area for the proposed improvements. In June 2017, S&ME conducted a preliminary investigation of the APE and completed a building inventory, identifying 91 resources within the APE that are older than approximately 50 years old and making recommendations on resources that warranted additional study and eligibility evaluation. The building inventory identified one property for additional study.

This project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2007).

Table 1. Summary of properties surveyed in U-5813 project area.

Property Name	Building Inventory No.	NC-HPO Survey Site No.	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
West Bend United Methodist Church	59	RD0931	Not Eligible	N/A

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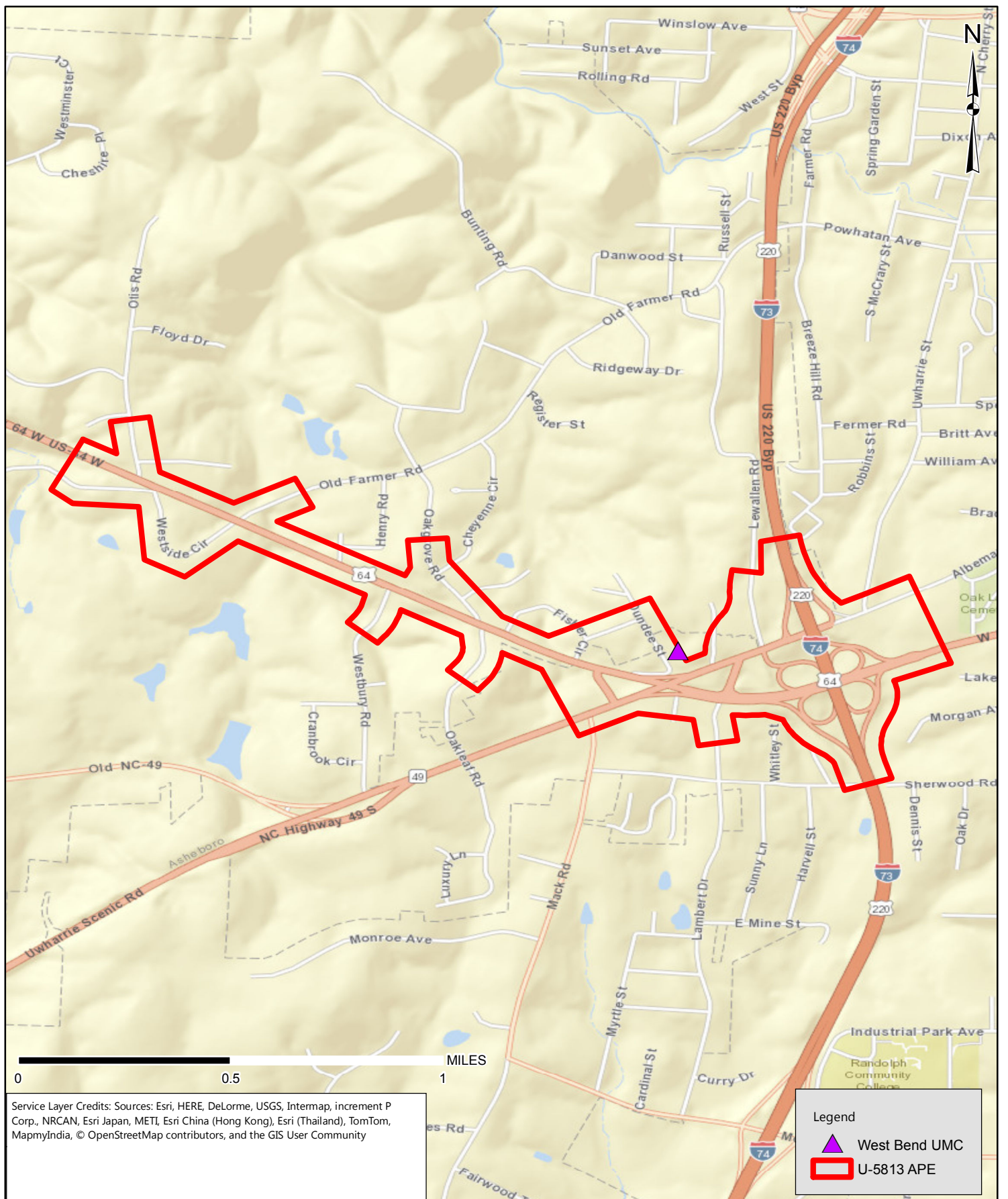
1.0 Introduction (Methodology)

On behalf of the NCDOT, S&ME has completed a historic architectural analysis of one property located within the project area for the improvement of US 64 from the future Asheboro Bypass to existing US 64, including the reconstruction of the NC 49 interchange, the replacement of the NC 49 bridge over US 64, and the reconfiguration of the US 64 and Albemarle ramps and loops, in Randolph County, North Carolina (TIP No. U-5813, WBS No. 44385.1.3) (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). Work was conducted in general accordance with the agreed-upon scope, terms, and conditions presented in the Proposal No. 42-1700992, dated August 16, 2017.

NCDOT architectural historians established an APE for the project which corresponded to the Environmental Study Area for the proposed improvements. In June 2017, S&ME conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation. The project area is located on the outskirts of the city of Asheboro, southwest of the center of the city. Interstate 73/74 travels north-south to the east of the project area. Based on the construction dates of the residential and commercial structures within the U-5813 improvement corridor, this portion of Asheboro developed primarily during the mid-twentieth century.



The historic architectural analysis included surveying, analyzing, and evaluating one historic property according to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria. Fieldwork for the project was conducted in September 2017, by Senior Architectural Historian Heather L. Carpini, who completed photography, mapping, research, and authored the report. Research was conducted at the Randolph County Registers of Deeds and the Randolph County Public Library in Asheboro, North Carolina, as well as in the files of the West Bend United Methodist Church and a conversation with Richard Lanier, a member of the church. Additional information was compiled from survey records of the NC-HPO survey files and additional research was conducted using online federal census data, historic maps, and other county records.

This report has been prepared in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1979; the Department of Transportation regulations and procedures (23 CRF 771 and Technical Advisory T 6640.8A); procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 800); 36 CFR Parts 60 through 79, as appropriate; NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Report Products* (2015); and NC-HPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (2015).



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Legend

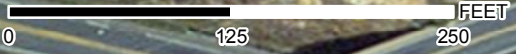
-  West Bend UMC
-  U-5813 APE



SCALE: 1:19,236
 PROJECT NO: 4213-17-254
 DRAWN BY: HLC
 DATE: 11/2/2017


Street Map
 APE and Surveyed Property, TIP No. U-5813
 Asheboro, Randolph Conty, North Carolina

EXHIBIT NO.
1.1



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Legend

 West Bend UMC



SCALE:	1:1,295
PROJECT NO:	4213-17-254
DRAWN BY:	HLC
DATE:	11/2/2017

Aerial Photography
 Surveyed Property, TIP No. U-5813
 Asheboro, Randolph Conty, North Carolina

EXHIBIT NO.
1.2

2.0 Eligibility Evaluations

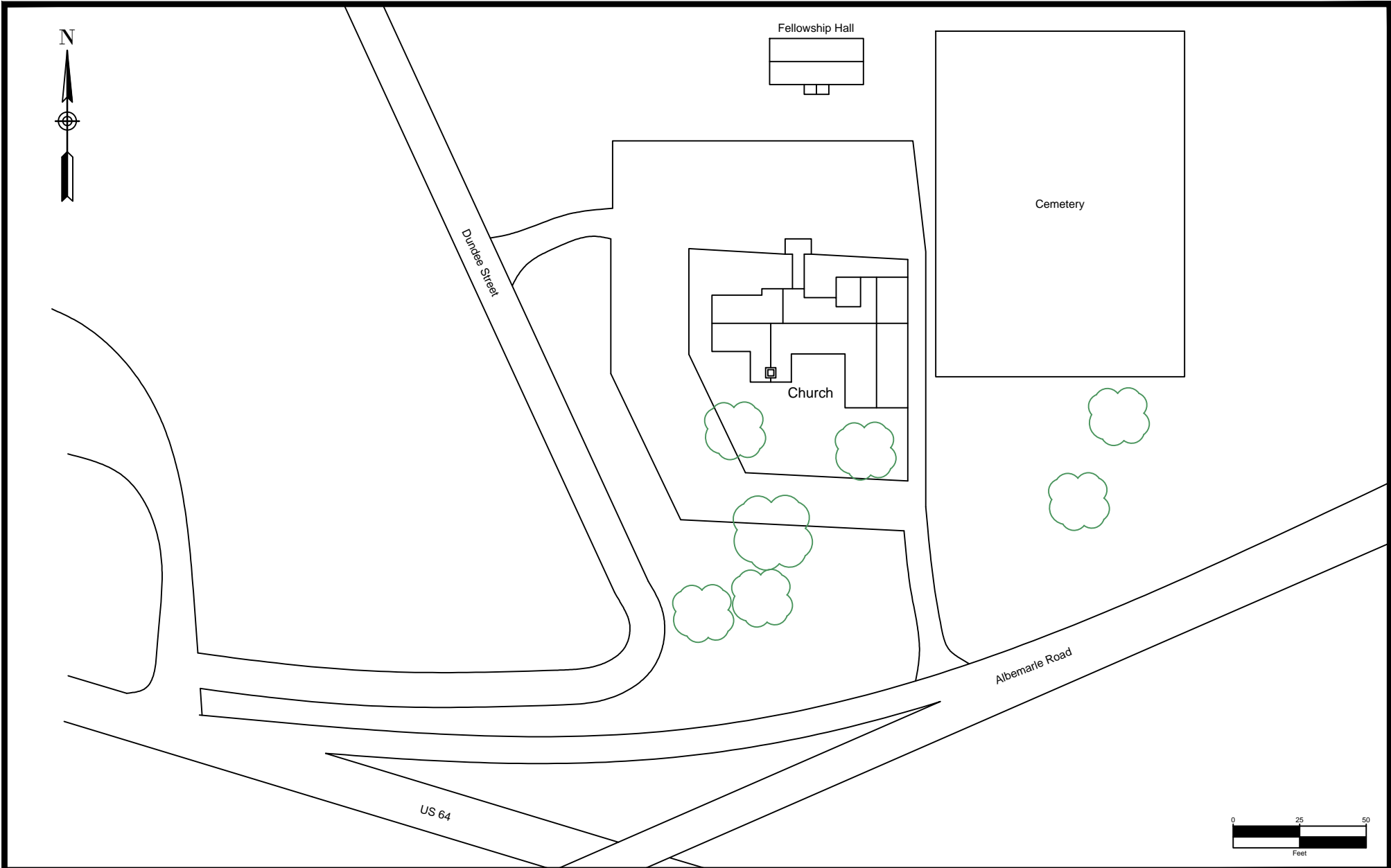
2.1 West Bend United Methodist Church (RD0931)

Resource Name	West Bend United Methodist Church
HPO Survey Site #	RD0931
Street Address	1080 Albemarle Road
PIN	7750159903
Construction Date(s)	1959
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 2.1.1. View of the West Bend United Methodist Church, facing north.

The West Bend United Methodist Church (Figure 2.1.1) sits on an approximately five acre tax parcel, which also includes a portion of the West Bend Methodist Cemetery and the fellowship hall, which was built in 1981. The church building, which was constructed in 1959, sits back from Albemarle Road and is fronted by an open lawn, with mature planted trees, and a parking lot that surrounds the building (Figures 2.1.2 and 2.1.3). A long, sloping driveway provides access to the parking lot from Albemarle Road. The church building is situated on a sloped portion of the lot. The U-shaped building is primarily single story, although the western wing has a basement area that is revealed by the slope of the lot and there is a two-story, educational wing attached to the rear of the west elevation (Figure 2.1.1). The building is of concrete-block masonry construction, with a brick veneer exterior that is laid in a Flemish stretcher bond. The main structure consists of two front-gabled wings that are connected by a side-gabled central hyphen. Although the building is a U-shape, it is not symmetrical, as the eastern wing is larger than the western wing.



West Bend United Methodist Church - Site Plan

Historic Structure Report
 TIP No. U-5813
 Asheboro, Randolph County, North Carolina

SCALE:

As Shown

DATE:

10/19/2017

PROJECT NUMBER

4213-17-254

FIGURE NO.

2.1.2



The east wing of the church extends forward from the central hyphen with a low-pitched, front-gabled roofline. The south elevation has a single, tall, metal-framed casement window that has a crinkled-glass treatment with a diamond pattern; there is a metal cross mounted on the exterior of the window (Figure 2.1.4). Entry into the church is through a single glass door in a fully-glassed bay, which is recessed into the west elevation of this wing (Figure 2.1.5). Also on the western elevation are three single two-over-two, double-hung, double-paned, aluminum sash windows. The eastern elevation has eleven windows in two configurations, two-over-two, double-hung, double-paned, aluminum sashes and four-over-two, single-hung, double-paned, aluminum sashes (Figure 2.1.6). The windows, like those on the other single story sections of the building, have a rowlock course as a sill and a wide, wooden panel as a header. The east wing projects slightly back from the central hyphen as well, and there is a small, flat-roofed extension at the northwest corner (Figure 2.1.7). The north (rear) elevation has a central glass doorway, with a sidelight and transom, and four single four-over-two, single-hung, double-paned, aluminum sashes.

The west wing of the church also extends forward from the central hyphen, with a low-pitched, front-gabled roofline, but the projection is shallower than that of the east wing. The east elevation of this wing features a portico, which is created by an overhang of the main roofline that is supported by a single, square post (Figure 2.1.8). The portico leads to a glass vestibule area, which is accessed by a glass double door. Outside of the glass vestibule, the east elevation is solid, with no fenestration, as is the south elevation. The western elevation of the west wing is set into a slope in the topography, revealing the basement level of the building (Figure 2.1.9). The upper story has two single four-over-two, single-hung, double-paned, aluminum sashes, while the lower story has a small, wooden, basement access door and a rectangular vent. The west wing has a small, square steeple tower centered near the front of the gabled roofline. A portion of the west wing projects slightly from rear elevation of the structure, although it does not line up with the front projection (Figure 2.1.10). This rear projection also has a visible basement level and has two single two-over-two, double-hung, double-paned, aluminum sash windows on each level. The eastern portion of the projection is an entry portico, created from an extension of the roofline that is supported by a single, rectangular post, which leads to a double entry door.

The central hyphen portion of the church building connects the east and west wings; it has a low-pitched, side-gabled roofline. The south (front) elevation of this portion of the structure is symmetrical, with a ribbon of six windows centered in the wall (Figure 2.1.11). The windows are three groups of two fixed pane windows, with horizontal tilt casements above them; below the windows, but above the brick sill, is a section of aluminum siding. A low brick wall, with planted shrubbery behind it, spans the front elevation and wraps around to the eastern side of the west wing. The rear portion of the central hyphen is not symmetrical, because of the flat-roofed extension from the east wing. Although it has the same window configuration as the front elevation, it appears off-center because of the extension (Figure 2.1.12). The windows on the hyphen each have a crinkled-glass treatment with a diamond pattern (Figure 2.1.13).

Extending west from the western elevation of the west wing is a two-story, side-gabled, educational annex, built the same time as the rest of the building; it is three bays wide by three bays deep. The front and rear elevations each have three symmetrically placed single two-over-two, double-hung, double-paned, aluminum sash windows on each story (Figures 2.1.14 and 2.1.15). The windows are recessed into vertical panels, with contrasting colored concrete between them and a rowlock course forming a sill for the whole panel below the lower story window. On the west elevation, the windows are also set within this type of panel; however, the central bay has a single glass door on the lower story, which is covered with a flat-roofed, metal hood that is supported by square brackets.

Alterations to the church building include a new roof, in the twenty-first-century, and the replacement of windows and doors in the late 1970s, including the installation of the crinkled-glass windows on the hyphen.



Figure 2.1.3. Aerial photograph showing West Bend United Methodist Church.



Figure 2.1.4. Front elevation of eastern wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing north.



Figure 2.1.5. West elevation of eastern wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing northeast.



Figure 2.1.6. East elevation of eastern wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing northwest.



Figure 2.1.7. Rear oblique of eastern wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing southwest.



Figure 2.1.8. Oblique view of western wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing northwest.



Figure 2.1.9. West elevation of western wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing east.



Figure 2.1.10. Rear oblique of western wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing southeast.



Figure 2.1.11. Front elevation of central hyphen, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing north.



Figure 2.1.12. Rear elevation, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing south.



Figure 2.1.13. Rear elevation of central hyphen, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing south.



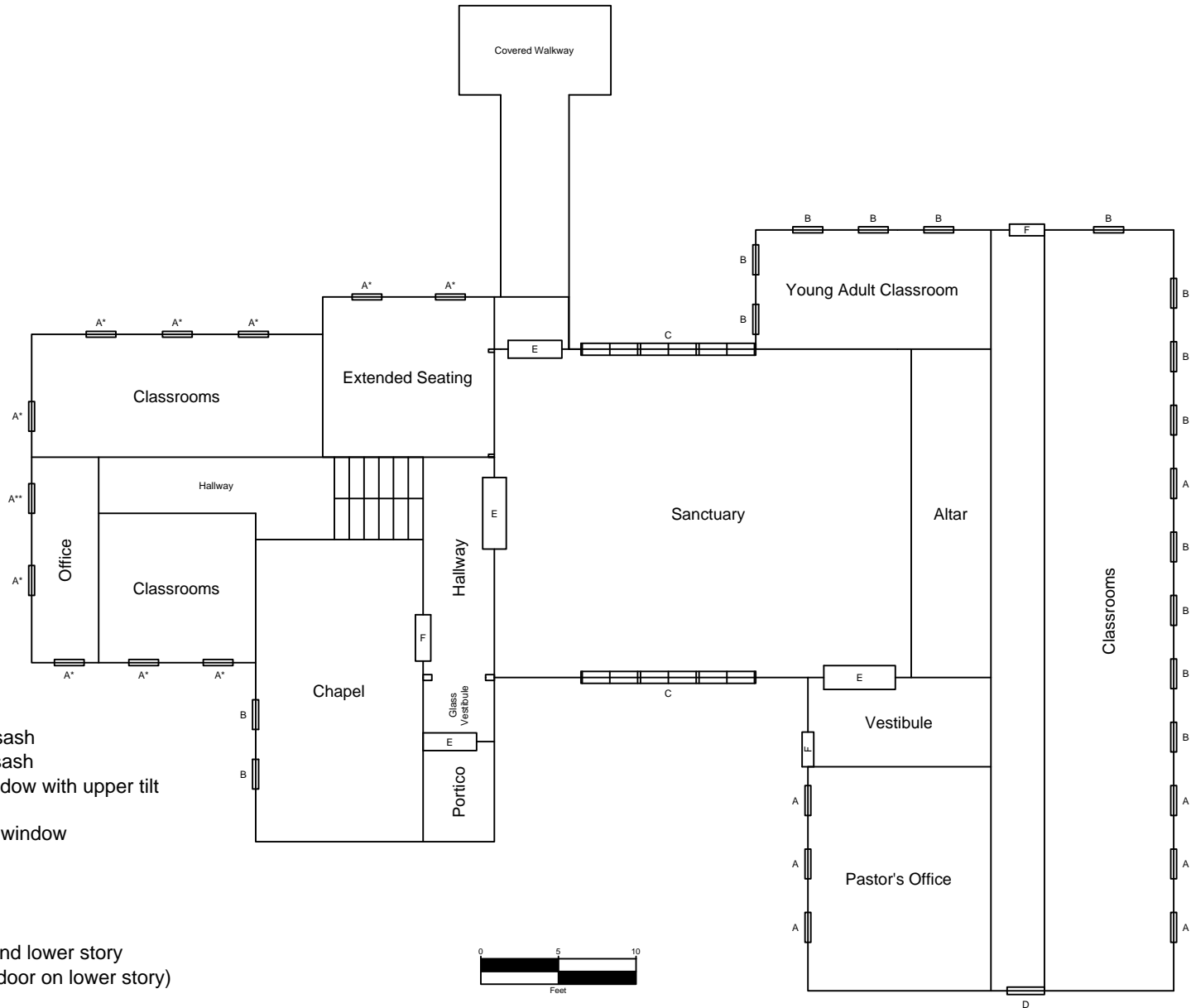
Figure 2.1.14. Oblique of education annex, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing northeast.



Figure 2.1.15. Oblique of education annex, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing southeast.

The interior floor plan of the church building conforms to its U-shape and places the sanctuary in the center (Figure 2.1.16). The central hyphen portion of the structure contains the sanctuary, with the altar being a slightly raised platform located in the eastern portion of the room (Figure 2.1.17). The ceiling of the sanctuary is beadboard, with faux-trusses visible (Figure 2.1.18). The windows, which consist of three sets of paired crinkled-glass casements, with horizontal tilting transoms, were originally three parts, with a lower tilt portion as well, to allow increased ventilation. When the crinkled-glass windows were installed in 1977, the bottom windows were changed to metal (Figure 2.1.19). The rear extension of the west wing makes up the extended seating room for the sanctuary; this room was originally a kitchen, but it was converted into additional seating space in 1983. The sanctuary can be accessed three ways: by a set of double doors next to the altar, leading from the vestibule in the east wing; from a set of double doors at the rear of the room, leading from the hallway off the east wing portico and vestibule; or a set of double doors on the north wall, west of the ribbon of crinkled-glass windows, leading to the rear portico and serving as the only handicapped accessible entrance (Figures 2.1.17, 2.1.18, and 2.1.20). The pews and the carpet in the sanctuary were installed in the mid-1970s.

The east wing of the church building is accessed via a single, glass door in the west elevation, which leads to a vestibule area (Figure 2.1.21). This vestibule provides access to the sanctuary and to a hallway that runs centrally north-south through the east wing (Figure 2.1.22). This hallway provides access to the Pastor's office and classrooms/gathering rooms that are located along it. The south end of the hallway has the tall, rectangular, crinkled-glass window, installed at the same time as the crinkled-glass windows in the sanctuary (1977), while the north end has a single, glass door (Figure 2.1.23).

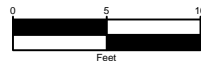


Key

- A - 2/2 double-hung, metal sash
- B - 4/2 double-hung, metal sash
- C - Stained glass ribbon window with upper tilt sash
- D - Stained glass casement window
- E - Double door
- F - Single door

For two-story wing:

- * - windows on both upper and lower story
- ** - window on upper story, door on lower story



West Bend United Methodist Church - Floor Plan

Historic Structure Report
 TIP No. U-5813
 Asheboro, Randolph County, North Carolina

SCALE:

As Shown

DATE:

10/19/2017

PROJECT NUMBER

4213-17-254

FIGURE NO.

2.1.16



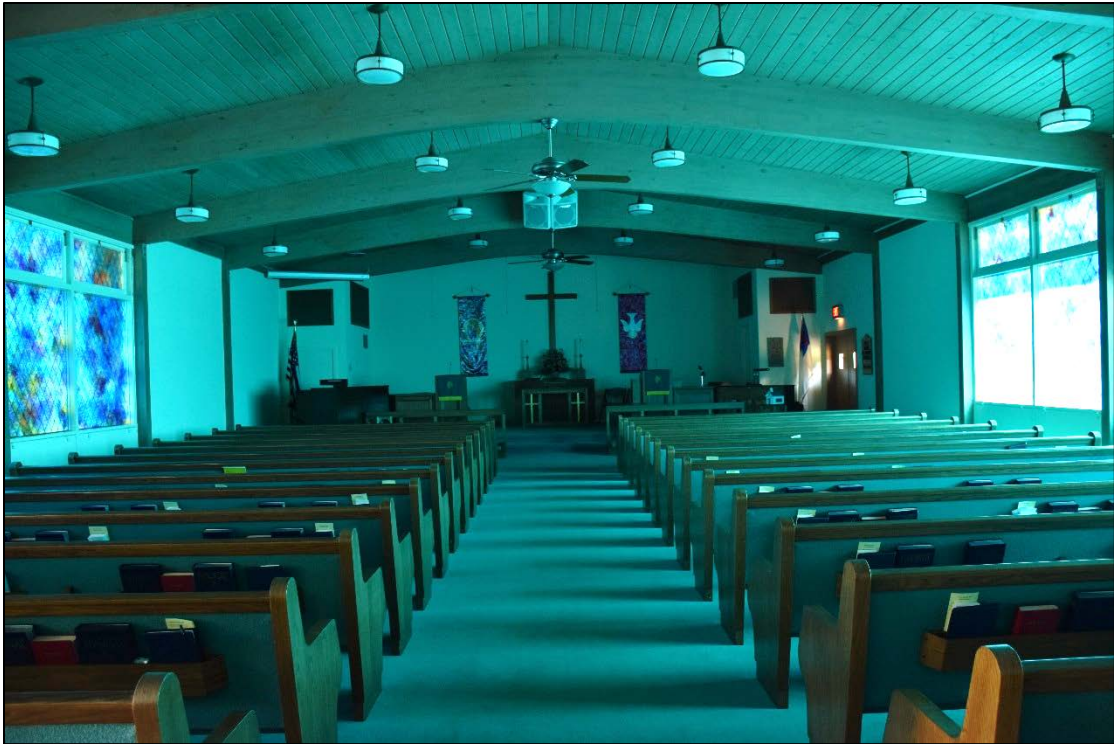


Figure 2.1.17. View of the West Bend United Methodist Church sanctuary, facing east.

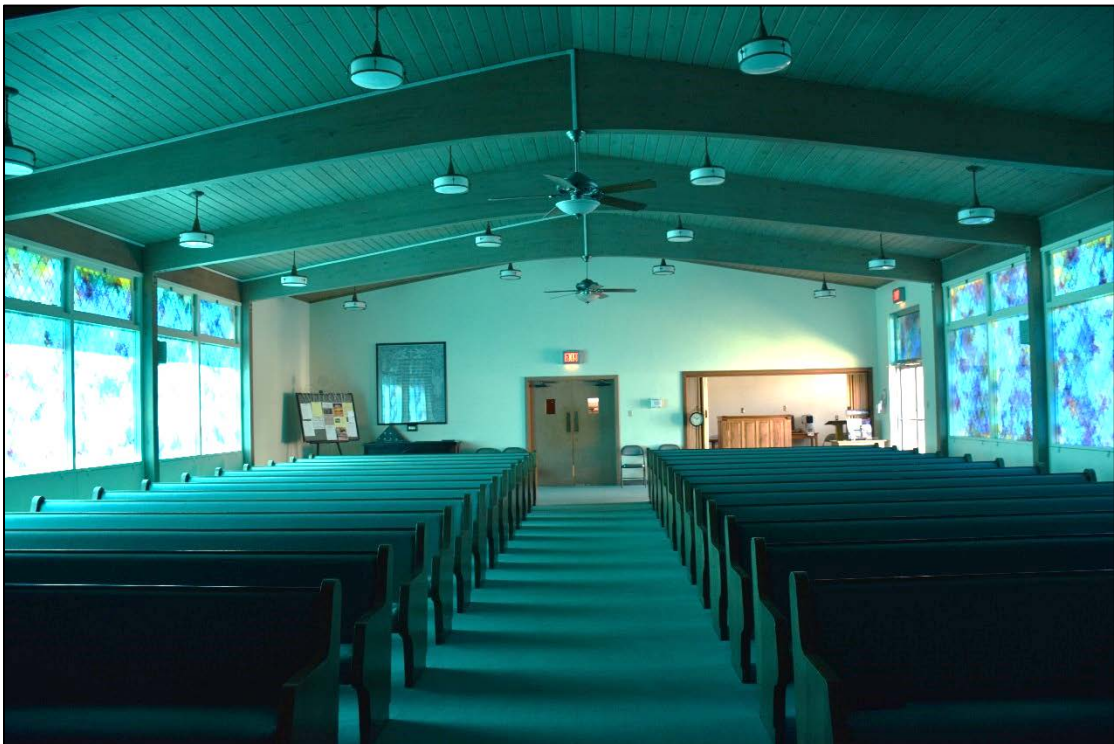


Figure 2.1.18. View of the West Bend United Methodist Church sanctuary, facing west.



Figure 2.1.19. Crinkled-glass windows in West Bend United Methodist Church sanctuary, facing north.



Figure 2.1.20. Handicapped accessible doorway at West Bend United Methodist Church sanctuary, facing north.



Figure 2.1.21. East wing vestibule, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing west.

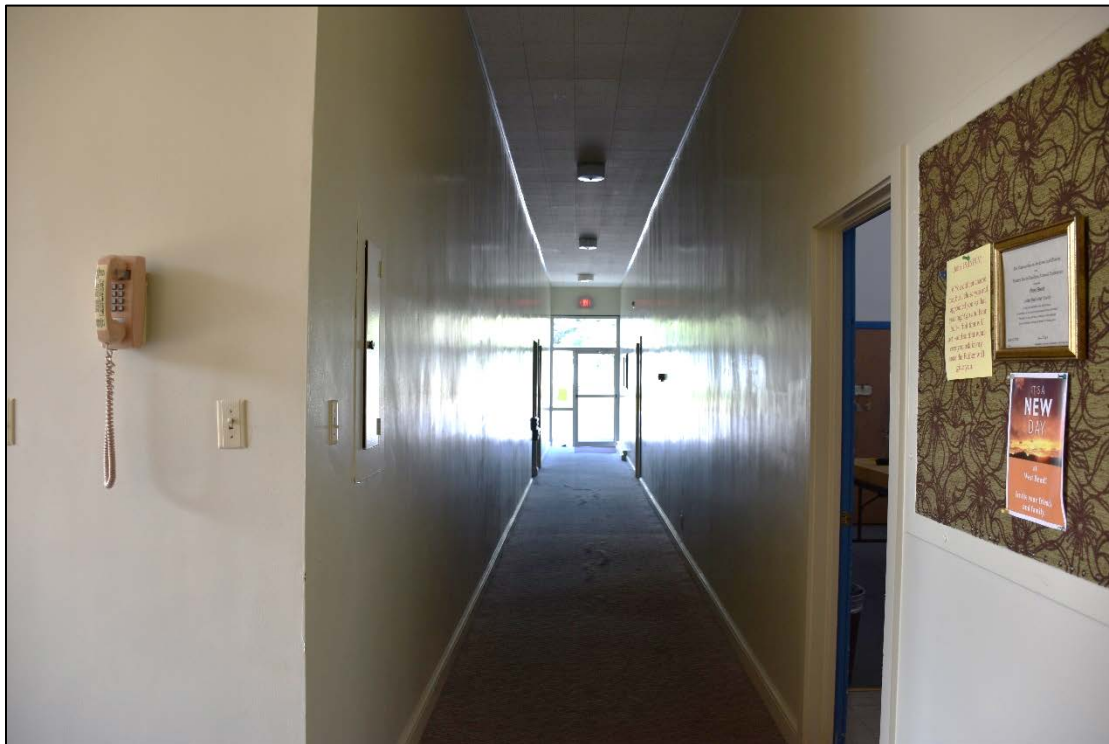


Figure 2.1.22. East wing hallway, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing north.

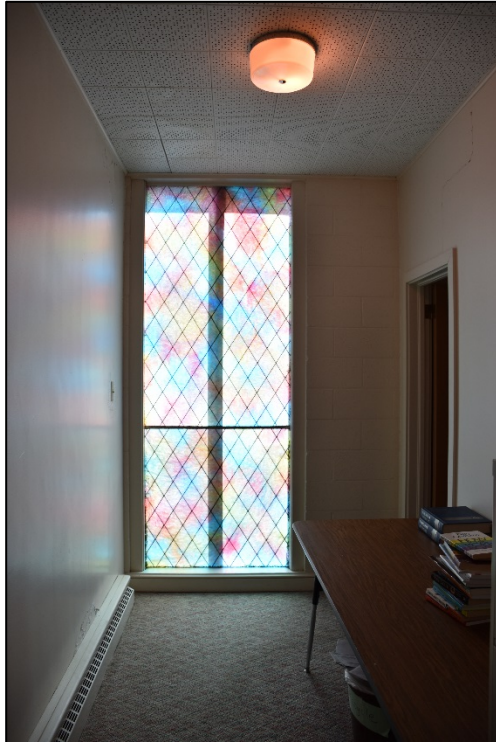


Figure 2.1.23. East wing hallway, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing south.



Figure 2.1.24. Glass vestibule, west wing, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing south.

The western portion of the church building has two sections, the east wing and the two-story education annex. The west wing is accessed by a portico, which leads to a glassed-in vestibule that has a double entry doorway and opens into a hallway (Figure 2.1.24). This portion of the building also contains the chapel, which is located in the western half of the wing and spans its length (Figure 2.1.25). The hallway leads to a stairwell that provides access to the upper and lower floors of the education annex (Figure 2.1.26). The upper floor of the education annex contains an office and classrooms, while the lower story has classrooms and storage areas, including a mechanical room (Figures 2.1.27 and 2.1.28).



Figure 2.1.25. Chapel interior, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing south.

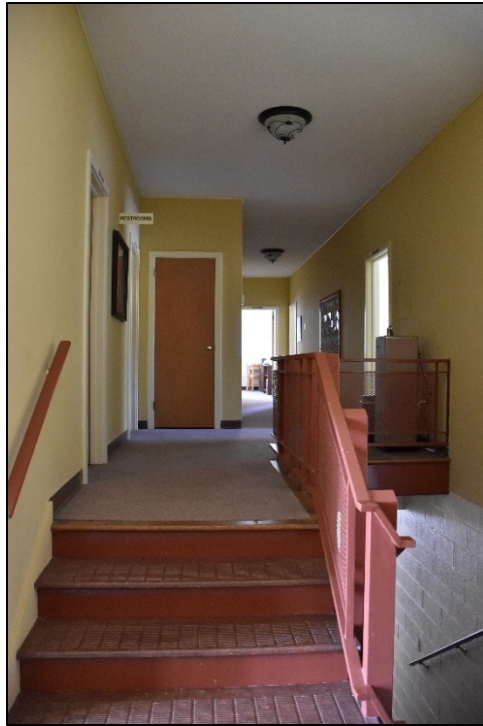


Figure 2.1.26. Stairwell in education annex, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing west.



Figure 2.1.27. Classroom wing, upper story of education annex, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing west.



Figure 2.1.28. Classroom wing, lower story of education annex, West Bend United Methodist Church, facing west.

2.1.1 History

The West Bend United Methodist Church congregation dates to 1909, as the increase in members of the Methodist Church in Asheboro led to a desire to establish “a new church at West Bend, a suburb of Asheboro” (Sowers 1984:1). The land on which to construct a church building was given to the congregation’s trustees by S. E. and Mattie Davidson in 1910, with the stipulation that “said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of Diving Worship” and contained the condition “that said church shall be built on the said premises within two years from the date of deed, otherwise the premises are to revert to the grantor” (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1910 Book 165:107). The church was named for the “west bend in the Uwharrie Road”, the former name of Albemarle Road (Sowers 1984:1). In 1916, additional acreage was given to the church to establish a burial ground (Randolph County Register of Deeds 1916 Book 173:573).

The original one-room frame church building was completed in 1910 (Figure 2.1.29) and was used by the congregation for nearly 50 years, although it was enlarged with two two-room additions in 1939 (Sowers 1984:2, 22). The 1950s saw an increase in the number of church members and the original structure did not have enough room for all of the attendees of services, plus it was in disrepair (Sowers 1984:30–32). In the 1940s and 1950s, donations of land surrounding the original church property were made to the congregation, giving them a lot large enough to expand their church building. Beginning in 1951, members of the West Bend congregation began expressing interest in planning to build a new church building. This discussion continued throughout the early 1950s and in 1956, plans for the new structure were agreed upon and a \$40,000 financial drive for its construction was begun (Sowers 1984:28). Although original blueprints from the church could not be located, Richard Lanier indicated that the architecture firm hired by the church was out of Greensboro and the original plan was to build a much larger structure, with a large sanctuary located south of the current structure.



Figure 2.1.29. Photo of West Bend United Methodist Church, 1910 building.



Figure 2.1.30. Photo of West Bend United Methodist Church, 1959 building, taken in 1983.

The current church building was completed in 1959 and the first service was held in the building on November 1 (Figure 2.1.30). This structure was supposed to serve as a temporary sanctuary; it had originally been planned as an educational building and the larger sanctuary was to be constructed at a later date. However, the cost of construction had overrun original projections and the West Bend congregation was over \$60,000 in debt upon its completion (Sowers 1984:32). As church attendance, and monetary donations, fell during the 1960s and 1970s, the planned larger sanctuary was never constructed and this educational building was converted into a permanent sanctuary, with alterations occurring over the course of the following decades. In 1961 and 1962, the organ and bells were installed, as was the altar rail. In 1975, the chapel was refurbished and pews were installed. The original windows in the current sanctuary portion of the building were altered in 1977, with the installation of the crinkled-glass panes and the removal of the lower tilting pane. In 1978, new windows and doors were installed throughout the church building (Sowers 1984:45–47). In 1983, the extended seating room was created from a former kitchen at the rear of the sanctuary (Sowers 1984:50).

During the 1980s, the church again stabilized its finances and began additional improvements on its lot. The rear parking lot was paved and the small Fellowship Hall building at the rear of the lot was completed in 1981.

2.1.2 *Architectural Context*

The central portion of North Carolina grew significantly during the Post World War II era, requiring the construction of new residences, commercial buildings, government structures, and churches. In 1948, the School of Design at North Carolina State University in Raleigh was established and began teaching the principles of modern architecture. The surrounding areas of the Piedmont saw an increase in modernist designs in their architect-designed structures from the 1950s through the 1970s because of this trend (Bishir and Southern 2003:78). Although churches are generally seen as traditional in nature, following World War II they gradually began to adopt a more modern ideal for the types of buildings they wanted. “The Modernist movement was embraced as an expression of technological triumph of the war. Many pastors followed the lead of government and big business by building abstract, asymmetrical and futuristic churches in modern materials” (Stroik 1997). Although Asheboro was not as large as some of the surrounding cities, it also saw a preference for modernist movements in many of its larger buildings that were designed during this period. However, since the Randolph County historic architectural survey was conducted in the mid-1980s, these types of structures were not old enough to be considered for survey and many were not included (Whatley et al. 1985).

A windshield survey of church buildings in Asheboro and the surrounding areas, found a number of churches from the 1950s through the 1970s that were constructed using the principles of modern architecture, as the West Bend United Methodist Church was. Some of these combined elements of other architectural styles were to serve as transitional structures between earlier periods and the late-twentieth century. For instance, the former Grace Methodist Church, now Mision Metodista Unida Adonai, which was built in 1957, has a traditional shape, a more steeply pitched roof than West Bend United Methodist Church, and cornice returns in the gable ends, a nod to the Colonial Revival style that was popular in the earlier part of the century (Figure 2.1.31). However, the front-facing gable has an unwindowed façade with a tall panel of contrasting concrete, which would become common in later modern designs and the entrance is not prominent in the front elevation, as in traditional churches, but hidden in a wing, as in West Bend United Methodist. Cavalry United Methodist Church, built in 1950, also conforms to a more traditional design, with a cruciform shape, but has a front elevation with three tall, slender stained-glass windows and no visible entryway, which are characteristics that are more common in modernist style churches. Amity Hills Baptist Church, built in 1974, also uses a traditional linear form, but has tall, slender, linear window slits in its front façade and a hidden entryway, off of the front elevation (Figure 2.1.33).



Figure 2.1.31 Mision Metodista Unida Adonai (1957), facing east.



Figure 2.1.32. Cavalry United Methodist Church (1950), facing east.



Figure 2.1.33. Amity Hills Baptist Church, facing northeast.

Saint Luke United Methodist Church (RD0393), constructed in 1971, is an example of an irregular form and a modern design in a church building (Figure 2.1.34). The varied roof heights, tall wall of casement windows, and entryway off of the primary façade, all demonstrate traits of the modernist style. However, unlike West Bend United Methodist Church, St. Luke has a more massed plan, as opposed to a sprawling design. Central United Methodist Church (RD0503), built in 1968, appears to be an example of what West Bend United Methodist Church might have become if its planned sanctuary was constructed. Central United Methodist Church is a sprawling church complex, with a dominant sanctuary along South Main Street and a number of single story, low-pitched roof additions with walls of windows, which form the educational annex and fellowship hall (Figures 2.1.35 and 2.1.36). These multiple wings with various projecting depths, diminutive beside the large sanctuary and steeple, are analogous to the irregular U-shaped building that comprises the current West Bend United Methodist Church, which was originally planned as the fellowship hall and education annex, before it was converted to the permanent sanctuary. Ultimately, while no church in Asheboro or the surrounding area was found to be built with the same plan or design as West Bend United Methodist Church, the use of modern design principles in its construction is not unique for churches in the area built during the 1950s through the 1970s. Multiple examples were found that also utilize elements of modernist design, and many of these have not undergone the alterations that West Bend United Methodist has.



Figure 2.1.34. St. Luke United Methodist Church (RD0393) (1971), facing north.



Figure 2.1.35. Central United Methodist Church (RD0503) (1968), facing southwest.



Figure 2.1.36. Central United Methodist Church (RD0503) (1968), facing northwest.

2.1.3 *Integrity*

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the West Bend United Methodist Church are as follows:

- Location: High

West Bend United Methodist Church remains at its original location.

- Design: Low to Medium

The current West Bend United Methodist Church building retains its historic form and has not been expanded since its original construction, in 1959. However, as originally designed, the building was not planned for use as a sanctuary and changes to the interior of the structure have been made to alter its function to serve as the permanent sanctuary. The large room in the central hyphen area was changed from an originally planned gathering hall to the sanctuary, through the construction of an altar space and the installation of pews. The original kitchen space has been altered to become an extended seating area, to accommodate the number of people who attend church services in the building.

- Setting: Medium

The West Bend United Methodist Church retains much of its 1959 setting, which was within a small, residential community on the outskirts of Asheboro. Although some additional residential development occurred during the 1960s, this construction is consistent with the style and pattern of the 1950s development which had already occurred when the church was constructed. However, the road configuration surrounding West Bend United Methodist Church has changed significantly, with the construction of Interstate 73/74 to the east, the widening of Albemarle Road/NC 49, and the construction

of multiple interchanges to handle the increased traffic flow. Although its location on a hilltop isolates the church from some of this change, the increased traffic in the area has made the setting more urban than it was in the late 1950s.

- Materials: Low to Medium

The original materials of the West Bend United Methodist Church have been altered by replacement windows and doors, along with changes to interior finishes.

- Workmanship: Low to Medium

The original workmanship on the exterior of West Bend United Methodist Church has been altered by replacement windows and doors. The interior of the structure has been changed through the consistent upgrades to interior furniture and finishes throughout the late-twentieth-century.

- Feeling: Medium

The West Bend United Methodist Church retains the feeling of a mid-century religious structure. It is readily recognizable as being constructed during the mid-twentieth century and as a church building.

- Association: High

The West Bend United Methodist Church congregation has owned the building since its original construction and continues to be associated with the structure.

2.1.4 *Eligibility*

Religious properties are normally not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. However, Criteria Consideration A allows for a religious property to be considered eligible for listing if: "it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance". West Bend United Methodist Church (RD0931) is recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A. The church is one of many small congregations in the greater Asheboro area and does not meet the threshold of historical importance established by Criteria Consideration A. It is ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have an association with a prominent person. West Bend United Methodist Church is not a significant example of a specific style of church construction, but instead is one of multiple examples of mid-century religious architecture in the greater Asheboro area and has undergone changes that have compromised its architectural integrity. Therefore, West Bend United Methodist Church is recommended as ineligible under Criterion C for its architecture. The church does not have the potential to yield important historical information about church construction during the mid-twentieth-century, so it is ineligible under Criterion D, for building technology.

3.0 References

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