

**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

August 23, 2018

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Replacement of Bridge 116 on SR 2600 over US 29,  
PA 17-12-0074, , BR-0042, Rockingham County, ER 18-2053

Thank you for your memorandum of July 23, 2018, transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to lack of integrity as outlined in the report.

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](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, [mfurr@ncdot.gov](mailto:mfurr@ncdot.gov)

Received: 08/10/2018  
State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

**ER 18-2053**

July 23, 2018

Due -- 8/31/18

MEMORANDUM

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

H- ER letters  
8/21/18  
RGE

**FROM:** Kate Husband  
Architectural Historian  
NCDOT Division of Highways

**SUBJECT:** BR-0042, Replace Bridge No. 116 on SR 2600 (Mizpah Church Road)  
over US 29, PA 17-12-0074, Rockingham County

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

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Location:  
1020 BIRCH RIDGE RD  
RALEIGH NC 27610

# HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT REPLACE BRIDGE No. 116 ON SR 2600 (MIZPAH CHURCH ROAD) OVER U.S. ROUTE 29

Rockingham County, North Carolina

WBS No. 67042.1.1 / TIP No. BR-0042 / PA No. 17-12-0074



Prepared for:



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

Prepared by:



**Louis Berger**

Louis Berger  
1001 Wade Avenue, Suite 400  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

*Final Report  
July 19, 2018*

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT  
REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 116 ON SR 2600  
(MIZPAH CHURCH ROAD) OVER U.S. ROUTE 29

Rockingham County, North Carolina

WBS No. 67042.1.1  
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PA No. 17-12-0074

*Prepared for:*

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

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Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor  
Historic Architecture Group

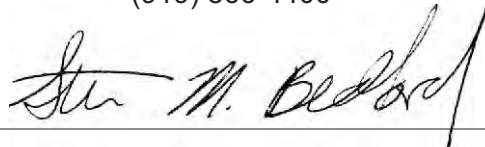
*Date*

*Prepared by:*

Megan Privett

**Louis Berger**

1001 Wade Avenue, Suite 400  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605  
(919) 866-4400



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Steven M Bedford, Principal Investigator

*Final Report*  
*July 19, 2018*



## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Louis Berger U.S., Inc. (Louis Berger) conducted an architectural survey and evaluation in preparation to replace Bridge No. 116 on SR 2600 (Mizpah Church Road) in Rockingham County, North Carolina. The state project number is WBS No. 67042.1.1, the T.I.P. No. is BR-0042, and the PA No. is 17-12-0074.

The project area is located in rural Rockingham County south of Reidsville, in the upper Piedmont region of North Carolina just at the intersection of U.S. Route 29 and Mizpah Church Road. The project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) follows the study area diagram for the BR-0042 project delineated by NCDOT. Forming a narrow rectangular shape, the APE extends approximately 150 feet from each side of the centerline of Mizpah Church Road for approximately 3,500 feet along Mizpah Church Road to the east and west of U.S. Route 29.

In June 2018 NCDOT requested Louis Berger to complete an architectural survey and eligibility evaluation for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for one property that fell within the project's APE: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452). This property was previously deemed worthy of further study by a preliminary investigation conducted by an NCDOT architectural historian. An additional surveyed site, labeled as "House" (RK1452), is also within the APE but is no longer extant. Mizpah United Methodist Church was previously surveyed and identified most likely as part of the county-wide comprehensive architectural survey of Rockingham County conducted by Edwards-Pitman Environmental during 2002-2003.

As a result of the survey and evaluation, Louis Berger has determined that Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) is not eligible for the NRHP because it lacks integrity and historical significance, with a number of other, higher quality examples of its type surviving in Rockingham County.

RESOURCE NAME	SITE NUMBER	NRHP ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION	SITE ADDRESS/PIN No.
Mizpah United Methodist Church	RK1452	Not Eligible	733 Mizpah Church Road Reidsville, NC 27320/891203046666

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Description

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Louis Berger U.S., Inc. (Louis Berger) conducted an architectural survey and evaluation in preparation to replace Bridge No. 116 on SR 2600 (Mizpah Church Road) over U.S. Route 29 in Rockingham County, North Carolina (Figure 1). The state project number is WBS No. 67042.1.1, the T.I.P. No. is BR-0042, and the PA No. is 17-12-0074. The scope of the current evaluation included the survey and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of one property: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), south of the Town of Reidsville. Rockingham County's hilly landscape, full of hardwood forest, agricultural fields, and ridgelines, is typical of the upper Piedmont region of North Carolina. The Dan River is the county's most dominant natural feature; the Haw River and large creeks are other primary waterways. The project lies between two small waterways: Little Troublesome Creek and Big Troublesome Creek in the southeast quadrant of the county.

### 1.2 Methodology

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this project consists of the BR-0042 study area as delineated by NCDOT (see Figure 1). Forming a narrow rectangular shape, the APE extends approximately 150 feet from each side of the centerline of Mizpah Church Road for approximately 3,500 feet along Mizpah Church Road, east and west of U.S. Route 29. NCDOT Architectural Historian Kate Husband conducted a preliminary screening for the project and determined that one resource in the APE warranted additional evaluation for NRHP eligibility (Figure 2). The APE as delineated captures the historic resources that would be affected not only by project construction and replacement of Bridge No. 116 but also by any new traffic patterns, widening of streets, paving, or equipment staging. Design plans were not available from NCDOT at the time of this survey.

Louis Berger Architectural Historian Megan Privett conducted the research and field survey and wrote the report. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's (NC SHPO) online GIS mapping system, HPOweb, and the most recent Rockingham County architectural survey (2003) provided information on the project location. Mizpah United Methodist Church was previously recorded and has a survey file at the NC SHPO in Raleigh. Primary and secondary sources at local and state archival repositories included the Reidsville Public Library in Reidsville and the North Carolina Collection (UNC Chapel Hill Libraries), and online sources such as UNC Maps Collection and Ancestry.com (U.S. Census records). Property information also came from Rockingham County's Register of Deeds office and interviews with local residents.

Ms. Privett conducted the field survey on June 8 and 11, 2018, which included surveying and photographing the exterior and interior of the resources along with interviewing local residents and church members. Megan Privett also conducted a windshield survey of nearby comparable resources in the area on June 13, 2018, photographing the resources for architectural context. Ms. Privett wrote the report.

This report was prepared in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation of 1983 (48 *Federal Register* 44716), as amended; *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources* (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources [NC DCR] 2008); NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products*; and *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (NC SHPO 2018). The architectural historian who performed the assessment meets or exceeds the Professional Qualifications Standards specified in 36 CFR 61.

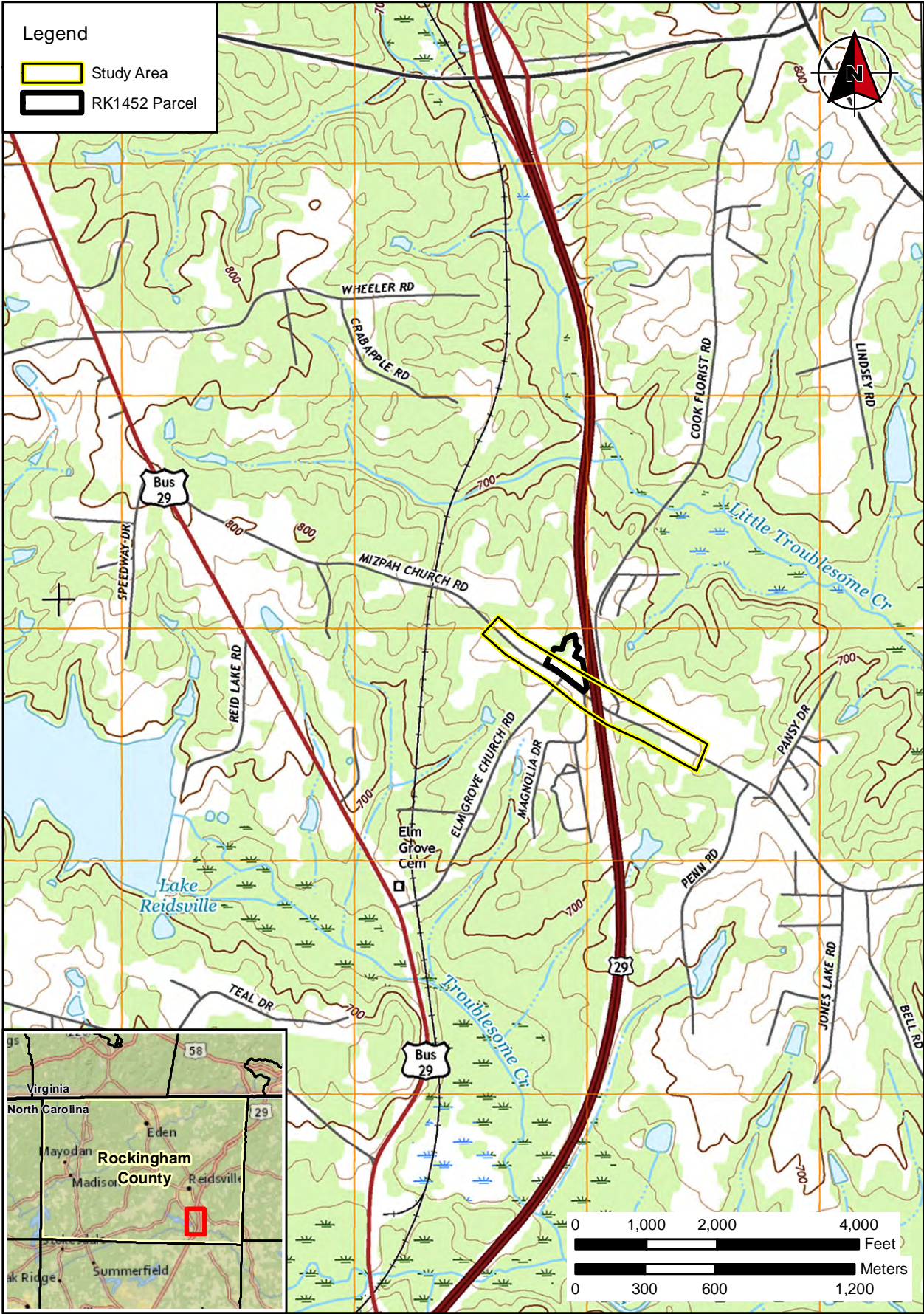


FIGURE 1: NCDOT TIP No. BR-0042 Project Study Area Showing Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina (USGS Reidsville 2016)





FIGURE 2: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Site Plan, Rockingham County, North Carolina  
(NC OneMap 2014; USGS Reidsville 2016)



## 2.0 ELIGIBILITY EVALUATIONS

### 2.1 Mizpah United Methodist Church

<b>Resource Name</b>	Mizpah United Methodist Church
<b>HPO Survey Site No.</b>	RK1452
<b>Location</b>	733 Mizpah Church Road Reidsville, NC 27320
<b>PIN</b>	891203046666
<b>Date(s) of Construction</b>	1925, 1955
<b>NRHP Recommendation</b>	Not Eligible



#### 2.1.1 Setting and Description

Located southwest of Little Troublesome Creek and northeast of Big Troublesome Creek, Mizpah United Methodist Church stands just east of the Southern Railway and just west of U.S. Route 29 in Simpsonville Township in eastern Rockingham County. The 3.4-acre parcel, divided by a short paved drive accessed from Mizpah Church Road, lies at the corner of Mizpah Church Road and Elm Grove Church Road. A gravel drive forms an arc immediately south of the church building through the front lawn. An additional gravel parking area is located south of the fellowship hall. The complex consists of the church building itself, a fellowship hall, a small shed, and a substantial cemetery located north of the church property (see Figure 2). It is bounded by wooded areas on three sides and by light residential development and Mizpah Church Road on the south side of the parcel. Large, old-growth oaks dot the front, rear, and side lawns of the property; the cemetery is largely cleared of trees. Situated in rural Rockingham County south of Reidsville, the surrounding community is lightly developed with housing and small farms.

##### 2.1.1.1 Mizpah United Methodist Church, 1925

The modest, unimposing, frame Mizpah United Methodist Church stands one story tall with a cross-gabled roof and very little architectural detailing other than its lancet-arched, stained-glass windows (Plate 1). According to congregation members and church histories, the present church was constructed in 1925 with a major renovation conducted during the 1950s. Vinyl siding covers all of the original weatherboard as well as any wood trim. In addition, all original exterior doors have been replaced with modern steel or fiberglass versions and overhanging eaves have been wrapped in vinyl on all sides. The church rests on a brick foundation. The roof is covered in 5-V metal sheathing. According to church members and original documentation from the church's archives, an earlier frame church built in 1850 as the congregation was organized was removed from the site and placed farther west on Mizpah Church Road to serve as a store once the 1925 church structure was erected.

The south elevation of the church building features three bays on its southward-projecting block: a central double-leaf entrance topped with a triangular stained-glass transom inscribed with "Mizpah United Meth. Ch" and two window bays flanking the entrance consisting of stained-glass memorial windows with a triangular, lancet-arched form (Plate 2). The stained-glass windows, according to church member Patrick Jones, were installed around 1970. Brick steps with a metal railing lead from the entrance down to the





PLATE 1: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Facing Northwest from East Side of Gravel Drive, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 2: South Elevation, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina

sidewalk, which leads to the gravel drive. A brick and concrete ADA-accessible ramp extends off the west side of the south elevation and also leads down to the gravel driveway. The recessed portion of the south elevation, located on the west side of the elevation and part of the main block, is pierced by one window bay identical to those described above. The west elevation features a brick chimney flue attached to the center of the elevation and rising through the church's roofline. Window bays identical to the others flank the chimney, and a single-leaf steel replacement door pierces the far north end of the elevation (Plate 3). The south end of the elevation is recessed and contains a single window bay. The church's north elevation consists of a shed addition and a small, hip-roofed addition both extending from the main block. The shed addition, located on the west end of the elevation, is pierced by a paneled, steel replacement door with a half-moon light in its upper half as well as an eight-over-eight vinyl replacement window (Plate 4). The east elevation's main block features three stained-glass windows identical to the others. The two recessed portions to either side of the main block are pierced by one window bay each, and the east elevation of the shed addition is pierced by one six-over-six vinyl replacement window (Plate 5). Square vents pierce all three of the church's gable ends.

The interior of the church consists of an entryway, the sanctuary and pulpit, Sunday school classrooms, offices, and storage space. Upon entering, facing the entryway, is a center aisle leading to the recessed pulpit, which is raised on a circular platform contained with a wood, turned railing (Plate 6). Rows of pews dating to the 1970s face the pulpit on either side of the central aisle, with two other pew sections facing the pulpit oriented to the east and the west at the far north end of the sanctuary (Plate 7). Additional seating with original wood pews fills two recessed portions at the rear (south) of the sanctuary, which formerly functioned as Sunday School classrooms that could be closed off by doors (Plate 8). Original flooring has been either removed or covered over with carpet and tile. Original beadboard wainscoting survives on the sanctuary walls. Light fixtures, stained-glass windows, and wall treatments appear to date to the mid-twentieth century and later. Two sets of three one-over-one-paneled doors open to two additional classrooms, which lead to an office and storage area on the north side of the floor plan (Plates 9 and 10).

#### *2.1.1.2 Fellowship Hall, ca. 1960*

The one-story, concrete-block fellowship hall stands directly west of the church. It features a side-gable roof, steel fixed and awning divided-light window bays with rowlock sills, and minimal detail (Plate 11). Vinyl siding fills the gable ends of all elevations, and the building rests on a concrete-block foundation. Asphalt shingle covers the roof. One small concrete-block chimney flue rises through the roof in the east portion of the building. Its façade (south elevation) features a gabled entrance portico supported by decorative metal posts sheltering a double-leaf entrance of two-light-over-four-panel doors with storm doors (Plate 12). Two awning-type steel window bays containing nine lights each flank the entrance, and two small, fixed-window bays of two lights each pierce the far east end of the elevation (Plate 13). The west end of the elevation contains one awning steel window bay of nine lights each and a modern, steel replacement door. The west elevation is pierced by two six-over-six vinyl replacement window bays and contains vinyl siding in its gable end (Plate 14). The north elevation of the fellowship hall is dominated by a large concrete-block chimney in the center of the elevation, with four additional window bays and one modern steel door piercing the elevation (Plate 15). The east elevation is pierced by a slightly smaller steel awning window bay of six lights (Plate 16). The interior of the fellowship hall was not accessible to the surveyor at the time of the survey.

#### *2.1.1.3 Shed, ca. 1990-2000*

A small, one-story, frame, pre-fabricated shed stands north of the fellowship hall and northwest of the church. It features a gambrel roof covered in asphalt shingles, vertical wood sheathing, and a concrete-





PLATE 3: South and West Elevations, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 4: North Elevation, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 5: East Elevation, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 6: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Interior, Facing North Toward Pulpit, Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 7: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Interior, Facing Northwest, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 8: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Interior, Facing Southwest Toward Former Sunday School Rooms, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 9: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Interior, Facing North Showing Doors Opening to Classrooms on West Side of Church, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 10: Sunday School Classroom, Facing Northwest, Mizpah  
United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham  
County, North Carolina





PLATE 11: Fellowship Hall, Oblique View of South Elevation, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 12: Detail of Entrance to Fellowship Hall, South Elevation,  
Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452),  
Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 13: South Elevation of Fellowship Hall, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452),  
Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 14: West Elevation of Fellowship Hall, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452),  
Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 15: Oblique View of North Elevation of Fellowship Hall, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 16: East and North Elevations of Fellowship Hall, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina



block pier foundation. Its east elevation contains the only bay, consisting of an entrance with hinged double doors featuring cross bracing (Plate 17).

#### 2.1.1.4 Cemetery, ca. 1850

A substantial cemetery is located immediately north of the church, bounded on its south side by a picket fence and on its east side by a wire and metal fence (Plate 18). Containing approximately 239 burials, the cemetery is oriented with grave markers and headstones primarily facing the east, with some facing the west, laid out neatly in rows (Plate 19). Included are several family plots. The majority of markers date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Plate 20). Common marker types are manufactured, inscribed marble and granite headstones sitting atop a base, some with decorative funerary motifs and symbology (Plate 21). The oldest marked grave dates to 1868, with 11 graves marked by fieldstones (Plate 22).

The Mizpah United Methodist Church cemetery was recorded in 1996 by Linda C. and Landon Vernon; its records are published in the James Hunter Chapter of the DAR's Cemetery Records of Rockingham and Stokes County, North Carolina. Common surnames represented in the cemetery include Jones, Smith, Warf, Childress, Evans, Diamond, Fooshee, Martin, Turner, Preddy, McCollum, Wagoner, Watlington, Wheeler, Stallings, Austin, Harrison, Perdue, and Cook. The cemetery appears to be well maintained and cleared of trees and debris. It remains in use by the members of Mizpah United Methodist Church.

#### 2.1.2 History

Rockingham County's earliest religious groups were mostly Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists. Speedwell Presbyterian Church was the county's first recorded congregation, established in 1759. Early settlers consisted mainly of Irish, Scottish, and English descent who came to the area from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and other areas of the Carolinas. The first Methodist churches in the area organized in the late eighteenth century, encouraged by the proliferation of Methodist ministers who traveled the circuit preaching to various congregations (Plate 23). Lowe's United Methodist Church and Salem Methodist were established during this period, with Hayes Meeting House, Sharon Methodist, and Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church following not long after (Woodard 2003:7,14). The oldest standing Methodist church in Rockingham County is Wentworth Methodist Church (RK0028), which is listed in the NRHP and has an impressive associated cemetery (Plate 24). The most noted Methodist ministers in the county were the Rev. James Reid and his son Numa Fletcher Reid, who were prominent ministers and became well-known leaders in higher education.

Mizpah United Methodist Church, originally Mizpah Methodist Protestant Church, grew out of a movement of union societies that broke away from the Methodist Episcopal Church. John Wesley founded the Methodist movement in England in the eighteenth century, and in America the movement was organized in 1784 in Baltimore. Methodist circuit preachers traveled in North Carolina as early as the late eighteenth century, which with its rural, agricultural-based population was particularly well suited for Methodism to take hold, according to Clark's (1966:14-16) history of the Methodist movement in western North Carolina. Chiat (1997:246) notes that, "The frontier spirit of Methodism spread by itinerant preachers at open-air camp meetings that were religious revival and part social gatherings attracted many followers, particularly among people living in isolated rural areas." The same spirit of democracy that swept the county with the election of Andrew Jackson to the presidency in 1828 resulted in the formation of the Methodist Protestant Church, which opposed the episcopal form of church government and promoted democratic principles and lay representation within the annual conferences. Essentially, the new denomination differed from the Methodist Protestant Church only in the form of government.



PLATE 17: Shed, East and North Elevations, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452),  
Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 18: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Cemetery, Facing Northeast, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 19: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Cemetery, Facing Northwest, Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 20: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Cemetery, Facing South, Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 21: Detail of Marker for Alice Fooshee Martin (1870-1941), Facing South, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 22: Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452) Cemetery, Facing Southeast, Rockingham County, North Carolina

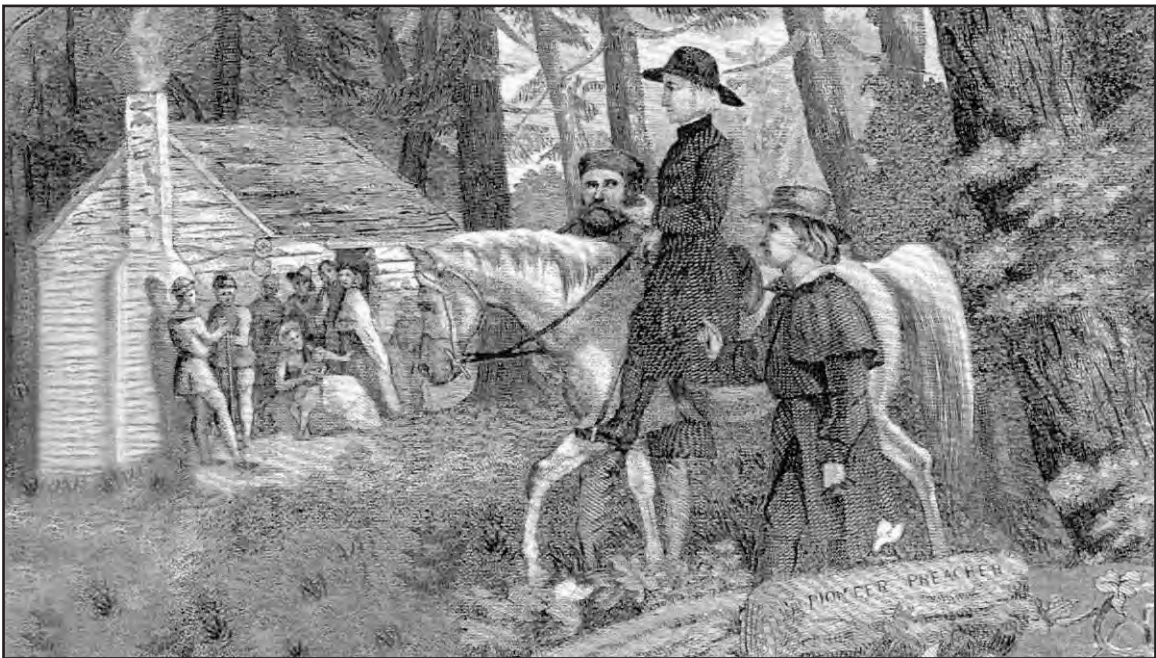


PLATE 23: Early Methodist Preachers Traveled from Town to Town as Circuit Riders Preaching the Gospel, First at Camp Meetings and Revivals, Later on a Regular Circuit of Methodist Churches (The United Methodist Church 2018)





PLATE 24: Wentworth United Methodist Church (RK0028), North and East Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina

Prior to the formal split in 1828, union societies formed throughout Methodist congregations, with the first in North Carolina organized in Halifax County in 1824. Closer to Rockingham County, the third to be established was near Greensboro at Moriah Church on the Guilford Circuit in 1829, composed of 34 members. These union societies formed Methodist Protestant churches and were primarily located in rural areas for the first 75 years of the denomination's existence (Plate 25). Not until the late nineteenth century did the denomination begin expanding into towns and cities, with a Methodist Protestant church organized in Reidsville around 1900 (Carroll 1939:11-33).

In 1878 the Methodist Protestant Church became part of the Western Conference in North Carolina, which had 18 circuits and nearly 8,500 members, most of which were located in rural areas. By 1936 the Western Conference had grown to 140 churches in 25 counties across the state. A major milestone in the Methodist church occurred when leaders from the various Methodist branches prepared a Plan of Union to unite all branches of the Methodist movement, which was adopted in 1939. Still, the Methodist Protestants left a notable legacy of the incorporation of lay representation into American Methodism (Clark 1966:69-70). Not until 1968 did additional mergers occur at the General Conference with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, forming the United Methodist Church as it is known today.

Organized in 1850, Mizpah Methodist Protestant Church members broke away from Lowes Methodist Episcopal Church, located not far from Mizpah in Rockingham County. The congregation was part of the Haw River Circuit along with other nearby churches such as Browns Summit, Midway, Fairgrove, and Friendship Methodist Church (Carroll 1939:95). The original trustees included John V. Jones, Ezekiel Wheeler, Samuel G.B. Smith, Joseph P. Coe, and Tilman C. Chance.

An early 1854 deed reveals that the church property was conveyed from John V. Jones to the trustees of the Methodist Protestant Church as a parcel of roughly 2 acres near Big Troublesome Creek (Rockingham County Deed Books [RCDB] 2DT/491). John V. Jones was an extensive landowner, with holdings in the vicinity of the church property and surrounding areas. A farmer and slave-owner<sup>1</sup>, his descendants continued to be prominent members of Mizpah Methodist Church for generations (Patrick Jones, personal communication 2018).

The period when Mizpah's congregation erected their church was part of an era when numerous rural churches across Rockingham County were building new sanctuaries, the great majority of them frame with a simple Greek Revival form and detailing. Baptists dominated the county, but various new Methodist churches formed in towns where population was growing, such as Leaksville, Madison, and later Reidsville. Furthermore, in addition to the economic boom led by the tobacco industry in Rockingham County, the Second Great Awakening also encouraged the proliferation of new congregations and churches throughout the region. Camp meetings and revivals were held regularly in rural areas, during which the newly converted formed congregations of their own. Because the poor roads of the period, along with wide rivers and steep-banked streams, made early transportation difficult, new churches blossomed all over rural areas to serve the county's largely farming-based population (Woodard 2003:11). Between 1872 and 1980, the number of churches in Rockingham County jumped from 22 to 45, mostly from the same denominations that had always served the county (Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist). Many established, rural churches built new sanctuaries during the late nineteenth century, and African-Americans formed their own church congregations and houses of worship during this period (Woodard 2003:42-53). Two churches near Mizpah United Methodist Church served the African-American population of the nearby community: Elm Grove Church and Wesley's Chapel, both established during the Reconstruction years after the Civil War (Jones 2018).

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<sup>1</sup> By 1840 Rockingham County's population consisted of 4,752 residents with 34 percent of its residents enslaved (Woodard 2003:E-4).



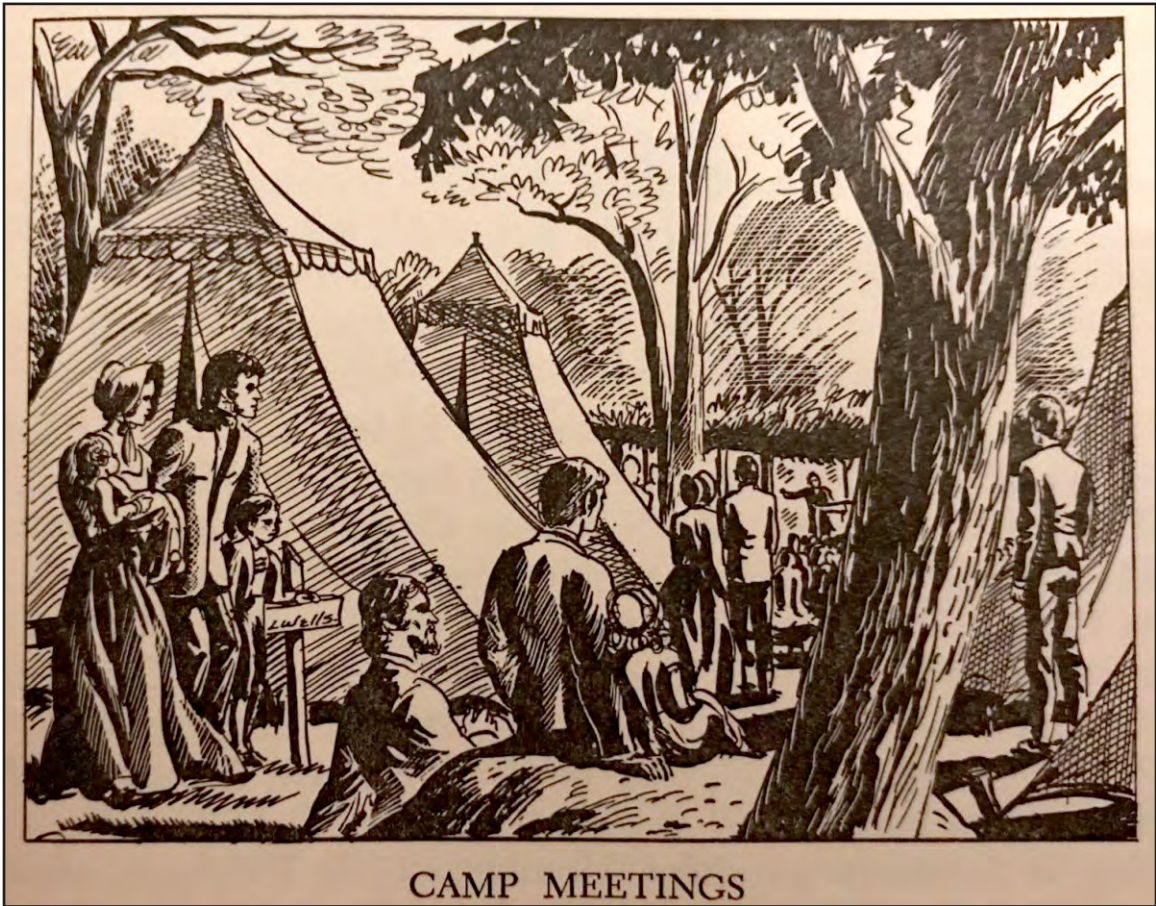


PLATE 25: Rendering of an Early Methodist Nineteenth-century Camp Meeting (Clark 1966)

John V. Jones and other original members of the trustees erected the first church building at the crossroads of the Old Danville and Courthouse roads, now Mizpah Church Road and U.S. Route 29 (Plate 26). A one-story frame building with a side-gable roof, the unadorned church had two single-leaf paneled entrances and no windows; windows were installed in 1876, according to church records. In 1880 a stove was installed to heat the interior of the church, and in 1886 the building underwent several renovations, including new weatherboards, new flooring, painting, new seating, and carpeting on the floors (Jones 1950:1-6; Mizpah Methodist Church Rolls Book). At least five other Methodist Protestant churches were deeded land for the construction of church buildings from the late 1840s through the 1870s in Rockingham County. In 1905 J.D. McCollum and his wife Mannie sold an additional half-acre lying immediately north of the church property to Mizpah Methodist Church trustees for one dollar, presumably for additional cemetery space (RCDB 138/163). Additional land was acquired east of the church from J.R. McCollum in the early twentieth century (Jones 1950). The church is shown on a map from ca. 1910 (Figure 3). Mizpah Methodist Church did not acquire more land until 1992, when Beulah E. Stanfield added 0.40 acre of her property to the church (RCDB 865/1420). In 1997 the name of Mizpah Methodist Church officially changed to Mizpah United Methodist Church, as referenced in another deed from Beulah Evans Stanfield dividing her property among her four children (RCDB 1080/613).

Mizpah Methodist Church's first pastor was Rev. John Hinshaw, who dedicated the new church in March 1850. Membership rolls recorded in the late nineteenth century total 92 members. The number of members fluctuated from around 80 to 130 people until after World War II, when membership began to dwindle. Most families throughout the church's history lived in the immediate vicinity of the church and were farmers by profession. Influential pastors throughout the church's history include John Kincaid, Rory War, and Elwood Carroll. Mr. Billy Hill is also fondly remembered as a long-time trustee of the church, serving nearly 50 years (Jones 1950:1-6, 2018).

Religious life in the churches of Rockingham County changed little up through the early twentieth century, except that other denominations appeared, including Roman Catholic, Brethren, Pentecostal Holiness, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Friends, Lutheran, Moravian, and Independent Baptist. In the years following World War II, a new wave of church building commenced fueled in part by the economic prosperity of the postwar era. Forms mostly reflected the same rectangular, front-gabled buildings, but instead of a frame exterior, most were constructed with brick veneer.

In 1925, when Rev. W.D. Reed was pastor, Mizpah Methodist Church constructed a new church based on the plan of West End Methodist Church in Greensboro. The former church was moved farther west on Mizpah Church Road and used as a roadside store. The new church faced south instead of east as the original church had, and it remained plain in architectural detail with only a few references to its purpose as a church building (Plate 27). Church membership rolls reflect steady membership retention and growth during this period. The first Women's Society of Christian Service was organized in 1937 by Mrs. C.W. Bates, the wife of the pastor at the time. This group eventually evolved into the United Methodist Women, which has been instrumental in many of the church's mission-oriented and service projects (Mizpah United Methodist Church 2000:5-10). One of the church's most significant events of the year is its annual homecoming celebration occurring in August, typically after the tobacco harvest (Jones 1950:7-8).

Mizpah United Methodist Church has remained active, but the number of members dwindled after World War II and continues to decline. During World War II, 22 of its young men served in the military. In 1952 Sunday School classrooms were partitioned from the sanctuary of the church and also added onto the rear of the building. The interior was renovated in 1954 and central heating installed. The one-story fellowship hall standing west of the church was constructed in 1960, providing indoor space for social gatherings and communal meals. Stained-glass memorial windows were installed in 1970, replacing the original windows. In 1974 the church received new pews and new railing marking its pulpit and chancel area.



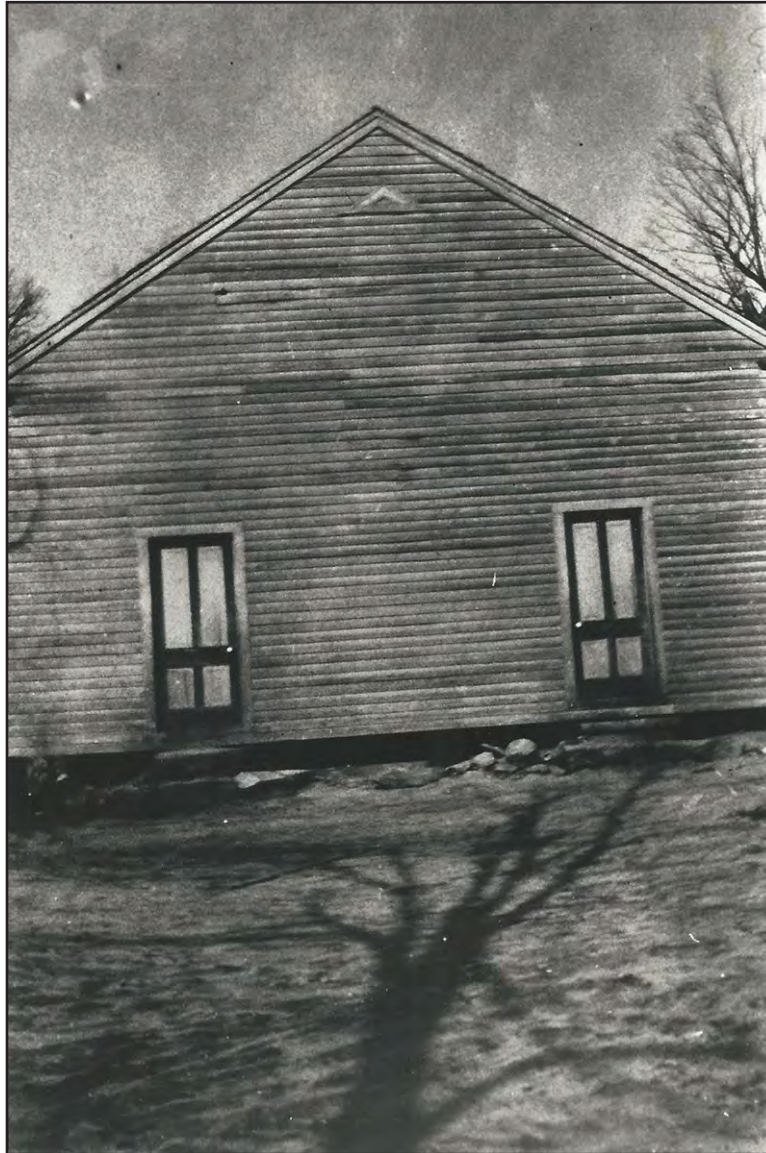


PLATE 26: Original Mizpah Methodist Protestant Church, ca.  
1875-1900 (Jones 1995)





FIGURE 3: Ca. 1910 map of Rural Delivery Routes in Rockingham County, North Carolina, Showing Mizpah Methodist Church (United States Post Office Department 1910s)





PLATE 27: Mizpah United Methodist Church, 1950, Rockingham County, North Carolina  
(Fowler 1950)

### 2.1.3 NRHP Evaluation and Architecture Context

Rockingham County's earliest dwellings were primarily constructed of logs, with weatherboard siding covering the walls of the more refined log dwellings. Single- and double-pen structures were ubiquitous throughout the county. As the nineteenth century progressed, the county's agricultural prosperity and plantation-based tobacco economy gave way to more stylish Greek Revival homes with larger floor plans. After the Civil War traditional house forms and conservative building practices still prevailed, with some newer influences like the Italianate style popping up periodically. Victorian-era styles were often more prevalent in cities and towns as opposed to rural areas of the county (Woodard 2003:3, 33-60).

Like dwellings, existing churches in the early to mid-nineteenth century were nearly all log buildings in Rockingham County, with a few frame structures documented. The earliest houses of worship were almost indistinguishable from houses. Most new churches built during this period reflected the unadorned, Greek Revival, front-gabled temple form with little to no stylistic or religious ornament. Wentworth Methodist Church (RK0028), built in 1859, embodies this type and is the oldest surviving Methodist church in Rockingham County. It retains a high degree of integrity with its original form and fenestration patterns intact; original siding and trim, windows, and doors; and an early, substantial cemetery (Plate 28). The property is representative of the mid-nineteenth-century, Greek Revival, frame church commonly employed in rural areas and one of only four churches in Rockingham County listed in the NRHP (Black 1985:8-1).

Even after the Civil War, rural church builders clung to antebellum aesthetics, and nationally popular trends in Rockingham County were slow to catch on. Eventually, however, starting in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, elements of the Gothic Revival style were frequently implemented into religious architecture. Well suited for religious architecture, this style commonly displays towers, pointed-arch windows and transoms, spires or steeples, and window tracery. The embodiment of this style varied depending on location and monetary resources. Architectural historian and author Catherine Bishir states of the Gothic Revival style used so widely in rural areas: "So universal was its acceptance, in fact, that the most stylized renditions of its elements—a pointed arch, a triangular headed door or window, a tower—became standard indicators of a church" (Bishir 1990:371). Less frequently, some churches applied Queen Anne or Italianate ornamentation to their sanctuaries, fueled by the availability of mass-produced building materials. Essentially, church design paralleled trends in residential architecture of the late nineteenth century (Phillips 1981:18; Woodard 2003:60-80).

The former Stoneville Methodist Church (RK1304) exemplifies a restrained version of the Gothic Revival style often employed in frame church buildings in rural areas. Dating to ca. 1890, the church was moved to its present location sometime during the mid-twentieth century. An asymmetrical façade with prominent bell tower and windows with triangular transoms are its most defining features (Plate 29). Mizpah United Methodist Church also hints at the Gothic Revival with its triangular, pointed-arch, stained-glass windows and triangular transom topping its exterior entrance. Although vinyl siding wraps over its exterior walls, the former Stoneville Methodist Church displays a higher degree of integrity and serves as a better example of its type than Mizpah, retaining original windows and trim, doors, and configuration.

With stylish architecture concentrated more in towns than rural areas during the early twentieth century, frame churches during this period differed little from their nineteenth-century predecessors except for minimal decorative elements. Gable-front forms still dominated, with interior church plans either reflecting a meetinghouse plan or a center aisle dividing pews facing a pulpit at the rear of the sanctuary. Main entrances, sometimes sheltered by a gabled porch, led either directly into sanctuaries or into small vestibules that then opened to the sanctuary. Opposite the main entrance stood the pulpit, sometimes raised or recessed and usually the most architecturally elaborate portion of the interior. Sunday School classrooms were typically built onto one of the sides or the rear of the sanctuary as churches expanded their educational programs for children and adults in the twentieth century.





PLATE 28: Wentworth United Methodist Church (RK0028), North Elevation, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 29: Former Stoneville Methodist Church (RK1304), South and East elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina



Most rural churches in Rockingham County maintained an associated cemetery for the graves of their members. Those not buried in church cemeteries were often buried in family cemeteries in rural areas, with a large farm frequently containing its own family cemetery. The most common nineteenth-century grave marker was the uncarved fieldstone (Plate 30). Occasionally flat soapstone tablets with round heads and incised inscriptions were used, although more rare for early graves. By the late nineteenth century manufactured marble and granite grave markers were among the top choices for memorializing the deceased, with some elaborately designed with Victorian influences or in the form of raised vaults (Woodard:125-130). The Mizpah United Methodist Church cemetery contains uncarved fieldstones as well as a wide array of manufactured, late nineteenth- and twentieth-century grave markers.

Churches constructed fellowship halls with much more frequency in the mid- to late twentieth century. Also during that time, in the wake of the prosperity following World War II, many churches constructed new, modern facilities. The great majority of these churches were still built in the traditional gable-front form but with brick veneer construction rather than frame (Woodard 2003:120-124).

Several Methodist Protestant churches were organized roughly around the same timeframe as Mizpah's congregation, one such example being the Midway United Methodist Church (RK1346), originally built in 1866 and rebuilt in 1888 and in 1928. Larger than Mizpah United Methodist Church, Midway features a front-gabled, brick-veneered building with elements of the Classical Revival style. Its front gable with cornice returns is filled with wood shingles, as is its small entrance portico supported by fluted columns. Midway United Methodist Church's various construction phases demonstrate the architectural evolution of rural church properties over time in Rockingham County (Plate 31).

Salem United Methodist Church (RK1385) is a front-gabled, Greek Revival, frame church dating to around 1850 with an impressive bell tower topped with a conical spire and very large windows on its east and west elevations illuminating the sanctuary (Plate 32). Its façade, pierced by a double-leaf entrance flanked by window bays, is sheltered by a gabled portico supported by fluted columns. It contains a two-story rear addition. Salem's congregation was organized by 1799, and, like most rural churches in Rockingham County, it has a cemetery. Statelier and architecturally more impressive than Mizpah United Methodist Church, Salem appears to have received a number of alterations in the form of vinyl siding, replacement windows, reconstructed portions of the porch, and rear ell. Still, both reflect the rural tradition of the frame, gable-front form so prevalent in rural areas throughout North Carolina.

Eden United Methodist Church South (RK1164) was constructed only five years later than Mizpah United Methodist Church in 1930 but with very different materials and architectural details. It was also a new structure built by an older congregation. The front-gabled form with frame bell tower is familiar to the small, rural church lexicon, but its walls are constructed out of stone with grapevine mortar joints, giving the church a distinctive, rustic feel. It also typifies the Gothic Revival style in the form of its pointed-arch, stained-glass windows, heavy wood entry doors with a medieval appearance, and pointed-arch transoms (Plate 33). Eden United Methodist Church South also contains a large cemetery with mostly twentieth-century markers located the west of the church building. Its high level of integrity and architectural motifs and materials unusual for Rockingham County's rural churches make it a better candidate for NRHP eligibility than Mizpah United Methodist Church.

Speedwell Presbyterian Church remains the oldest standing church in Rockingham County (organized 1759), reflecting the early arrival of Scottish settlers in North Carolina. It exhibits the frame, front-gable form so ubiquitous throughout the region. Many alterations to its historic fabric have compromised its integrity, and therefore it has not been listed in the NRHP (Plate 34). However, the church property boasts an impressive early cemetery containing headstones for some of Rockingham's earliest known burials (Plate 35) (Woodard 2003:14).



PLATE 30: Early Burial Markers at Speedwell Presbyterian Church (RK0991), Facing East, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 31: Midway United Methodist Church (RK1346), North and West Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 32: Salem United Methodist Church (RK1385), South and West Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 33: Eden United Methodist Church South (RK1164), South and East Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina





PLATE 34: Speedwell Presbyterian Church (RK0991), West and North Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 35: Speedwell Presbyterian Church (RK0991) Cemetery, Facing East, Rockingham County, North Carolina



This survey found that the Mizpah United Methodist Church property retains a medium degree of integrity. The primary alterations are the replacement of original windows, interior alterations, and the introduction of modern materials, such as vinyl covering the original weatherboarding and trim on the exterior. Its integrity of materials and design has therefore been compromised. However, the property retains stained-glass windows (although from a later date), many of its interior doors, and interior architectural elements, reflecting its original massing in each phase of church construction (Plate 36). Mizpah United Methodist Church therefore retains sufficient integrity of workmanship. The concrete-block Fellowship Hall appears to have its original materials, workmanship, and design, having changed very little from its original construction. The church property also has integrity of location, as none of the extant buildings have been moved from their original sites and the cemetery remains in its original location north of the church. Likewise, the property retains integrity of setting, even with the increased use and development of U.S. Route 29. Its surroundings are still rural in nature, with very light residential development on surrounding roads. The property retains its feeling and association as a rural Methodist church in Rockingham County and still functions in its original purpose and as an early representation of the Methodist Protestant denomination in the county.

The Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Rockingham County, North Carolina, ca. 1799-1953*, discusses the NRHP registration requirements for institutional buildings such as churches. The report states that properties must "...retain their location, setting, and overall architectural integrity of design and workmanship." However, it notes that "New siding does not automatically preclude eligibility if it matches the original and other architectural features, including the original siding beneath the replacement sheathing, are intact" (Woodard 2003:F-130).

Mizpah United Methodist Church is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with significant events in history or historical patterns or trends. It is one of many examples of small, rural, frame Methodist churches in Rockingham County that served their respective communities. No significant historical events in the county's or state's history are associated with Mizpah United Methodist Church. Furthermore, it does not retain enough integrity to be considered eligible for the NRHP, especially as there are other, better examples of similar properties with a higher degree of integrity in Rockingham County.

Mizpah United Methodist Church is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B for association with significant individuals in history. No single individual, former pastor, or member of the church could be identified who has contributed significantly to the history of Rockingham County to qualify for Criterion B.

Mizpah United Methodist Church was also found to be not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture. The church building dates to 1925 and is a common form and type, with alterations that have compromised its historical integrity, such as vinyl siding and trim, replacement windows, and changes to the interior. It does not contain any outstanding or significant architectural features for churches of the period, and other, better, examples of this property type survive in Rockingham County, such as Wentworth United Methodist Church and Salem United Methodist Church, among others.

A building may be eligible under Criterion D if the buildings and/or structures have the potential to yield important information pertaining to undocumented or rare local building traditions. None of the buildings on the Mizpah United Methodist Church property meets Criterion D.



PLATE 36: Stained-glass Window Detail, West Elevation, Mizpah United Methodist Church (RK1452), Rockingham County, North Carolina



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