

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Halltown Union Colored Sunday School

and or common Halltown Memorial Chapel

**2. Location**

street &amp; number County Route 340/12 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Halltown \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Halltown Memorial Chapel Association

street &amp; number Box 392

city, town Harpers Ferry \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state West Virginia

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street &amp; number Washington and George Streets

city, town Charles Town \_\_\_\_\_ state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Halltown Memorial Chapel, formerly the Halltown Union Colored Sunday School, sits on a small (100' by 75') lot on the old Smithfield-Charles Town-Harpers Ferry Turnpike, at Halltown, Jefferson County, West Virginia. Its setting is just as it was when the chapel was constructed in 1901 and the building itself is in near-original appearance and condition, due to a thorough restoration undertaken in 1982-83.

The chapel itself is a small one-story structure 50 feet long and 40 feet wide. An excellent vernacular example of Gothic Revival Style architecture, the chapel is of rubble stone construction with eight engaged buttresses (four on each side wall) that reinforce the walls of the chapel to the height of the window sills. The pointed arched windows and door are prominent elements in its design. The roof is steeply pitched in the Gothic manner and is sheathed with wooden shacks. The entrance stoop is of stone with solid stone rails and is sheltered with a gabled stick-style roof which carries a short shingle covered belfry. This belfry is another of the prominent features that distinguish the chapel.

The opened beamed gable roof of the sanctuary is designed in the same manner as the open beamed roof of the gabled entrance porch. A tripartite arrangement of lancet stained glass windows in the center of the sanctuary rear wall is a very distinguishing feature, as is the memorial stained glass overlight over the door. The interior wall finish is a white painted plaster surface. The original raised dias and pulpit are intact.

The Halltown Memorial Chapel is a landmark of unique character and design to Jefferson County, West Virginia.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1901 Builder Architect Not Known

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Halltown Union Colored Sunday School, located at Halltown in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is significant as a fine example of vernacular stone construction.<sup>1</sup> The building's greatest area of significance is, however, its unique relationship to the community of Black Americans in Jefferson County and the importance it has played in the social and religious life of that community.<sup>2</sup>

### Explanatory Notes

1. The Halltown Memorial Chapel, to use its present designation, is a unique example of stone religious architecture in Jefferson County, West Virginia. While stone is a common building material in this region, the chapel is a small (40' by 50') structure of the Gothic Revival, that is cathedral-like in appearance and which has a commanding, almost stately presence. There is certainly no other edifice in the county that has the same architectural feeling, and it is, it is believed, unique in design in the state of West Virginia.

2. The Halltown Union Colored Sunday School was constructed in 1901 in response to a need in the Black Community in Jefferson County for a place of worship. At the urging of leaders of the local Black Community, Daniel B. Lucas, former state supreme court justice, detached a parcel of land from his "Rion Hall" estate (listed in the National Register, September 20, 1982) for the purpose of erecting a Sunday School building adjacent to the old "colored free school." Artisans and workers from the Black community labored after working hours and on days off to erect on the Old Smithfield-Charleston-Harpers Ferry Turnpike, the splendid little stone chapel that became the Halltown Union Colored Sunday School, which was open to all denominations. Among the original trustees of the Sunday School were T.C. Green, George S. Euster, Frank Nichols, Morton Shelton, Roy Allison, and William White.

For over sixty years the Halltown Union Colored Sunday School served the Jefferson County Black community as a focal point in their lives. Not only church services, but marriages, funerals, and many social and community events were held at the little stone chapel. The Sunday School closed in 1967, though the chapel continued to be used for occasional weddings and funerals. In 1982, however, the community formed the Halltown Memorial Chapel Association and, during 1982-83, have completely restored the building to excellent condition. Thus, the future of this building, which has such high significance to the Black community, seems assured.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Halltown Memorial Chapel," booklet prepared by George W. King, privately printed.  
Jefferson County Deedbook, Book 91, page 793.  
"Oral Interview with Rev. George W. King" by Michael J. Pauley, July 10, 1983.  
"Dream Chapel," by Joe McGavin, Martinsburg Journal, June, 1983.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .17 acre

Quadrangle name Charlestown, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 1 8 2 5 8 3 2 0 4 3 5 4 6 6 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B                                               
Zone Easting Northing

C                                             

D                                             

E                                             

F                                             

G                                             

H                                             

Verbal boundary description and justification A .17 acre lot that is unchanged from December 12, 1901 when it was separated from the "Rion Hall" estate. The lot begins at a point on Jefferson Co. Route 340/12 and runs 100 feet southeast along the edge of a private drive marked by a metal fence; thence 75 feet southwest along a metal fence; thence 100 ft northwest along a metal

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian

Historic Preservation Unit

organization WV Dept. of Culture & History

date October 4, 1983

Cultural Center

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Commissioner, WV Department of Culture & History

date November 18, 1983

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

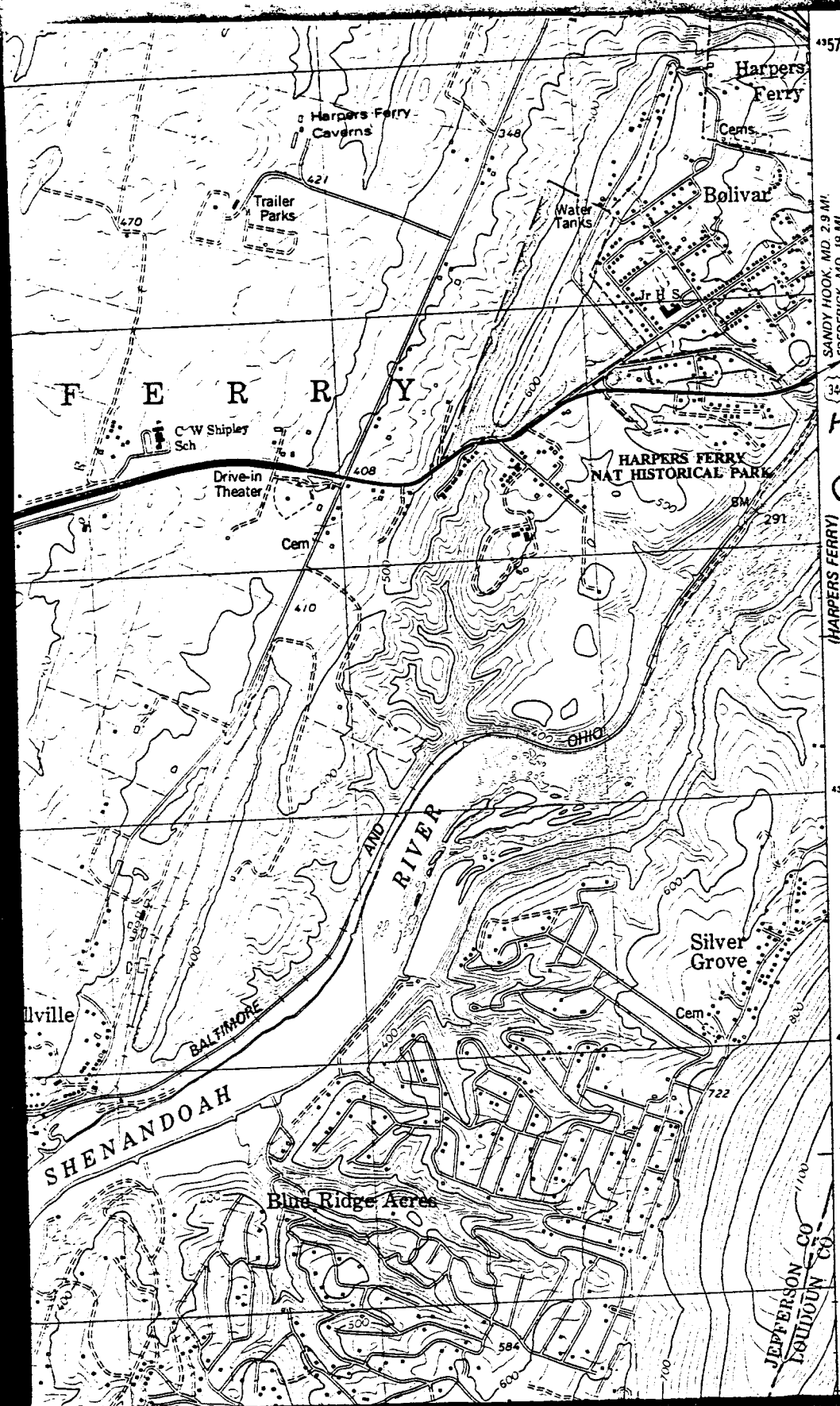
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Continuation sheet Halltown Memorial Chapel Item number 10 Page 2

fence; thence 75 feet northeast along the edge of Jefferson County Route 340/12 to the point of beginning.



Halltown Union Colored  
Sunday School  
(Halltown Memorial Chapel)

County Route 340/12  
(Halltown Road),  
Halltown,  
Jefferson County,  
West Virginia

Charles Town, W.Va.  
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle  
U.T.M. Coordinates  
18/258320/4354660

