United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: ________________________ Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church
other name/site number: ________________________

2. Location

street & number: __jct. CR 41 & CR 32__________________________ not for publication: _N/A_
city/town: __Morgantown__________________________ vicinity: _X_
state: __West Virginia____ code: __WV____ county: __Monongalia__ code: __061__ zip code: __26501__

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally ___ statewide _X_ locally. (See continuation sheet.)

Randall Reid-Smith                                                   Date
State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau                                 Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official/Title                          Date

State or Federal agency and bureau                             Date
4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:                     Signature of Keeper          Date of Action

___ entered in the National Register                     ____________________       _________
   See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the National Register
   See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

other (explain): ____________________       ____________________       _________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:                                   Category of Property

__ X private                                           __ X building(s)
   __ public-local                                     ____ district
   __ public-State                                     ____ site
   __ public-Federal                                   ____ structure
   ____ object

Number of Resources within Property

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<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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buildings  
sites
structures
objects

TOTAL: 1  2

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

RELIGION: Church

Current Functions

RELIGION: Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

Materials

Foundation: Stone
Walls: Wood
Roof: Asphalt
Other: Wood

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

_____ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_____ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

__X__ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_____ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church
Monongalia County, WV

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

_____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
_____ B removed from its original location.
_____ C a birthplace or grave.
_____ D a cemetery.
_____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
_____ F a commemorative property.
_____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets)
Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church
Monongalia County, WV

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(See continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
____ previously listed in the National Register
____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
____ designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey   #_____________
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____________

Primary location of additional data:

__X___ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other

Name of Repository: _______________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1 acre

USGS Quad Name: Rivesville Quad Map

UTM References:  

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Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet)
11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Hannah Leigh Cole, student
Organization: ____________________________________________ Date: August, 2006
Street & Number: 239 Lynch Road Telephone: 304-685-6593
City or Town: Morgantown State: WV Zip: 26501

Property Owner

Name: The United Methodist Church, West Virginia Area
Street & Number: 900 Washington Street, East Telephone: 304-344-8330
City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25301
Location and Setting

Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church is situated at the junction of County Route 41 and County Route 32 in rural Monongalia County on approximately one acre. It rests on a hillside facing Little Indian Creek Road and borders 80 acres upon which sits the Lynch family homestead. The setting presents a pleasant, peaceful country scene of a white church amidst green pines. Built by local men and church members, the church rests in its original setting among the pines in its original splendor, representing the common frame form of church architecture found in rural Appalachia and America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The property includes the contributing church building and two noncontributing privies.

Description

Lynch Chapel  1902  Contributing
The small, one-story, rectangular church has its original drop siding and stone foundation. The building has a front-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The front of the church features an entrance vestibule with a set of replacement double-doors. The doors are topped with a wide lancet (pointed arch) window. Each side of the vestibule has a narrow, double-hung sash lancet window. Centered above the vestibule is a steeple bell tower with a pyramidal roof boasting folk Victorian accents such as delicate brackets and scrollwork. The tower also features its original, functional bell and its pulley mechanisms. Handicapped accessibility has been provided by a ramp leading to the top of a flight of stairs to the double front doors.

Each side elevation has four lancet windows symmetrically placed. Each window is one-over-one, double-hung sash with a simple hood and key. From the rear of the church extends the pulpit area. It has a gable roof-line with return cornice ends and each side features one window.

The interior of the church sanctuary has horizontal wood siding with vertical beaded wainscoting. To the front of the room, or rear of the church, includes a raised platform with two steps and a handcrafted altar and railing bearing the words “do in remembrance of me.” The pulpit is lit by a deco-style drop light and accented by a painting of Jesus Christ. The church has original handcrafted wooden pews, with carved shields on the side supports, resting on original hardwood floors. The ceiling is stained tongue and groove wood with two ornate brass drop lights with etched glass globes suspended from the center. To the sides, deco-style drop lights illuminate the pews.

A small furnace room and restroom were recently constructed to the rear of the sanctuary, off the vestibule. The bell pull rope hangs in the vestibule.
Privy 1  c.1912  noncontributing
The original privy is situated to the rear of the church. It has clapboard siding and an asphalt gable roof. The door and some siding are missing. The resource is no longer used and does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered contributing.

Privy 2  c.1959  noncontributing
This resource is situated near the original privy to the rear of the church. It has a five-panel door, painted particle-board siding and a shed roof.
Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church

Monongalia County, WV

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Statement of Significance

Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register under **Criterion C: Architecture** as a locally significant example of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture. The church also meets **Criterion Consideration A: Religious Properties**. The period of significance is 1902, the year the church was constructed.

History

The Cold Spring Methodist Episcopal Church, served by Monongalia circuit riders, was organized in 1849. The name was derived from “a spring of water that ran over a bed of coal on land owned by Jacob Yost on the south-western part of Grant District” (Ralphsnyder). The first leader of the church was John B. Lough. Not only was he leader of the church, Lough served as justice to the Monongalia Circuit Court from 1852 to 1864; (Cole) served in six different state houses (the Virginia legislature in 1853 and the West Virginia legislature in 1863, 1864, 1870, 1871, and 1874); and was recording steward of the Granville and Monongalia circuits and the Cold Spring Episcopal Church (Core, 368) and later the new Lynch Chapel. The importance of Lough’s involvement in the legislature is perhaps more due to the significant time period during which he served, even more so than the longevity of his political career.

Monongalia County entered the Civil War in April 1861 as part of the state of Virginia and emerged in June of 1863 as part of the state of West Virginia. Not only was the county forced to transfer its allegiance from one government to another, but the change was made under the stress and agony of war. It is remarkable that the functions of government continued uninterrupted through this period of time and that the lapse of public affairs that has so often accompanied such a political revolution in world history did not at all take place. For the new state legislature of the newly formed state of West Virginia in 1863, Monongalia County sent Delegates Lee Roy Cramer and Lough. Even Winston Churchill has been quoted expressing his amazement that delegates were elected in 1863 and that the due process of law was not suspended during the war. “It was astonishing that in the height of ruthless civil war all the process of election should be rigidly maintained. They believed the purpose of government was to serve the people and, come what may, they were determined to uphold it” (Core, 575).

The Cold Spring congregation, led by Lough, first met in the schoolhouse on Little Indian Creek Road. Gatherings moved to a new United Methodist Church built in 1902 to replace the old Cold Spring Church. “The Lynch family donated the land and finally paid off the indebtedness on the building. Out of gratitude, the congregation named it Lynch Chapel” (Dilgard). Originally, Indians camped on the land surrounding the old Lynch homestead and its acreage (a small
Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church
Monongalia County, WV

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portion of which was donated for the building of the chapel) and hacked a trail through its woods. Later, that land was transferred to Samuel Lynch by a deed bearing the signature of Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence and three-time governor of Virginia, whose grandson and great grandson both served as presidents of the United States. A large smooth stone on which the Indians ground their corn is still wedged on the grounds of the Lynch property close to its homestead, which borders Lynch Chapel. The homestead was constructed in 1855 and its first inhabitants were “among the first settlers in the Indian Creek area” (Wiley, 726).

The social life of the Little Indian Creek Community began to take root in the new Lynch Chapel Church, as the congregation used it, as well as its nearby community building and bordering property for its spelling bees, husking parties, bean shellings, apple parings, and quilting bees. “Families planning husking parties would haul their corn to the churchyard and place it all in one pile. Along about dark, the huskers would arrive. The captains were selected and a rail or board was put in the center of the pile. Then each side would race to see which side could first husk its pile. At the bean shellings a lot of beans were gathered. All the neighbors were invited in to help shell the beans. After the beans were shelled the young people danced, played peel-the-willow, and enjoyed various other games. At the apple parings the girls got partners. The girl peeled the apple and the partner cored it. Then the apples were sent to some other person who would string them on strings then they were hung to dry” (Rich).

Significance and integrity

Eligible for its local architectural significance, Lynch Chapel exhibits excellent qualities of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture. This style was popular among churches during the first decades of the twentieth century. The style is a successor to the earlier Gothic Revival and High Victorian Gothic styles popular in the nineteenth century United States. Elements of the style exhibited by Lynch Chapel include the pointed arched windows and restrained use of detail.

When compared to the few other small, rural churches in the immediate area, Lynch Chapel retains a high level of integrity as the others have additions and/or siding and altered interiors. Lynch Chapel has been well maintained and its architectural integrity, including materials and design, has been preserved by its congregation. The addition of the modern conveniences, such as the furnace, restroom, and ramp do not affect its ability to convey architectural significance.
Summary

Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church, resting on a hillside facing Little Indian Creek Road and bordering eighty acres upon which rests the Lynch family homestead, presents a pleasant, peaceful country scene of a white chapel amidst green pines. Built by local men and church members, the church rests in its original setting among the pines in its original splendor, representing the common frame form of church architecture found in rural Appalachia and America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

This chapel serves as a reminder of the simple country church, which served as an anchor for rural communities in nineteenth and twentieth century America. It is architecturally significant reflecting the Late Gothic Revival style architecture. The building is a recognized landmark and has retained its original materials of construction.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

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Bibliography


Dilgard, Margaret. Interview. 4 April 2005. Stewarts Run Road. Morgantown, WV. 26501


Ralphsnyder, Iris. “Cold Spring Episcopal Church History.” Monongalia County, WV. 1922.


Wiley. History of Monongalia County. p.726.
Verbal Boundary Description:

Monongalia County Grant District Map 11 Parcel No.2. See attached tax map.

Boundary Justification:

The National Register boundary includes the area historically associated with Lynch Chapel when constricted in 1902.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

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Photographer: Erin Riebe  
Date: July 2006  
Images: Digital  

- Photo 1 of 5: Lynch Chapel, general overview, camera facing southeast  
- Photo 2 of 5: Entrance detail, camera facing southeast  
- Photo 3 of 5: Side elevation, window detail, camera facing west  
- Photo 4 of 5: Exterior pulpit area detail, camera facing south  
- Photo 5 of 5: Church interior
Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church
Monongalia County, WV

Lynched Chapel

17.57 Ac.
11.75 Ac.
43.375 Ac.
95 Ac.
9.3 Ac.
4663 Ac.

2.14 Ac.
0.37 Ac.
18.25 Ac.
2.28 Ac.
1.1 Ac.
7.3 Ac.
8.6 Ac.
Lynch Chapel
Monongalia County, WV

↑ N

Not to scale
++++++ NR bandaig
↑ photo vantage points
Lynch Chapel United Methodist Church
Junction of Rt. 41 and Rt. 32
Grant District Monongalia County
Morgantown, WV 26501

Floor plans (not to scale)