

JUN 12 1985

Carter Family Thematic Nomination, Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks
Thematic National Register Nomination Inventory Form

Historic Name: Mt. Vernon Methodist Church	Common Name: Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church
Street Address/Rt. No.: Route 614	VHLC File Number: 84-13
Vicinity of: Maces Spring	Owner: Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church
USGS Quad: Hilton 7.5	Box 10, Hiltons, VA 24258

Date(s): 1890s	Architect/Builder: Unknown
Original Use: Church	Style: Vernacular
Present Use: Church	
Condition: Good	
Altered <u>xx</u> ; unaltered <u> </u>	

Physical Description:

The Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church is a typical example of the rural church form found throughout Virginia in the 19th and early twentieth centuries. The rather simple rectangular block contains a double-door entrance in the east gable-end facade, with three bays on each side. A projecting hexagonal chancel on the west end, opposite the entrance, provides the only deviation to the box-like plan, while a square wooden steeple serves as the only exterior decoration. The original weatherboarding to this frame structure has been replaced by modern siding, but the standing seam metal roof remains.

Like the exterior, the interior is also quite plain. The plastered walls, original wood flooring, and molded trim with bulls-eye carved corner blocks remain. The congregation has lowered the ceilings and replaced the pews and pulpit furniture. An older pulpit, perhaps the first in the church, has been moved to the basement, while an original hewn wooden pew has been preserved in the Carter Family Memorial Museum.

In the mid-twentieth century, the congregation had a basement excavated. The additional space now houses four Sunday School rooms.

The cemetery on the east side of the church contains mainly twentieth-century stones, including those of A. P. Carter and Sara Carter Bayes.

Statement of Significance:

The primary significance of the church lies in its association with the Carter family, as a "cornerstone" in the lives of A. P., Sara, and Maybelle Carter. All three were quite religious and remained active in the life of the church. Many of the songs recorded by The Carter family during their careers were hymns and other religious songs. As a boy, A.P. Carter sang in the Church choir. When he and his brother Ezra married, their wives Sara and Maybelle attended Mt. Vernon Church as well. Sara and A. P.'s three children, who live in the Maces Spring community, still attend this church.

In addition to its association with the Carter family, the Mt. Vernon Church survives as a little altered example of the simple rectangular church plan, usually of frame construction, that characterizes rural Virginia's vernacular landscape throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. Picturesquely sited on a steep knoll in Poor Valley, the church serves as one of the few public focal points for the small community of Maces Spring.

Geographic Data/Acreage: Approx. 1 1/2 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point approx. 200' N-NW of intersection of VA 690 with VA 614 and approx. 50' east of dirt access road extending N from VA 614;(continued)

Boundary Justification: The boundaries have been drawn to include the church, cemetery, and immediate church yard.

UTM: 17/376020/4059670

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: February, 1985

Verbal Boundary Description continued:

Mt. Vernon United Methodist
Church 84-13

thence extending approx. 300' E-NE; thence extending approx. 300' N-NW;
Thence extending approx. 300' W-SW; thence extending approx. 300' S-SE to
point of origin.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 5/3/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Carter Family Thematic Resources
State Scott County, VIRGINIA

Nomination/Type of Review

Cover 6/20/85

Date/Signature

52 1. Carter, A.P., Store

Substantive Review

Keeper

[Signature] 6/14/85

Attest

2. Carter, A.P. and Sara, House

**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper

[Signature] 6/12/85

Attest

3. Carter, Maybelle and
Ezra, House

**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper

[Signature] 6/12/85

Attest

4. **Mt. Vernon Methodist
Church**

**Entered in the
National Register**

Keeper

[Signature] 6/12/85

Attest

5. Carter, A.P., Homeplace
(Previously listed 7/30/76)

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REF #
85001413

Mt. Vernon Methodist Church (Carter
Family TR)
Scott County
VIRGINIA

Working No. MAY 3 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 5/30/85 - 9/17/85
Action: ACCEPT 6-12-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____