United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking “x” in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter “N/A” for “not applicable.” For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name  Euphronia Presbyterian Church
other names/site number __________________________________________

2. Location

street & number  3800 Steel Bridge Road N/A □ not for publication
city or town  Sanford  □ vicinity
county state North Carolina code NC county Lee code 105
state North Carolina code NC county Lee code 105

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this □ 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 □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
□ nationally □ statewide □ locally. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title ______________________________ Date 4-20-94
State of Federal agency and bureau ______________________________

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 ______________________________

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
□ 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: __________________________

Signature of the Keeper ______________________________ Date of Action ______________________________
5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Enter as many boxes as apply)
- [ ] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Enter only one box)
- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Architectural Resources
of Lee County, North Carolina, ca.1800-1942

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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<td>sites</td>
<td>structures</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- RELIGION/religious facility
- FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- RELIGION/religious facility
- FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
- Other: nave form

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation: BRICK
- walls: WOOD
- roof: METAL
- other: STONE

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ 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.

☒ 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.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1886

Significant Dates
1886

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Campbell, Daniel C., builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository:
Euphronia Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Lee Co., N.C.

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.44 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  J. Daniel Pezzoni

organization  Preservation Technologies, Inc.

date  February 18, 1994

street & number  PO Box 7825

telephone  (703) 375-3128

city or town  Roanoke

state  Virginia

zip code  24019-0825

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property’s location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
DESCRIPTION

Euphronia Presbyterian Church is located on a prominence above the confluence of Big Governors Creek and the Deep River in western Lee County, North Carolina, less than half a mile from the Moore County line. The sparsely settled area around the church was once utilized for agriculture but is now largely reforested, with pines, oaks, and other deciduous trees comprising the dominant species. The 1886 church building stands on a 2.44-acre parcel near the end of a gravel drive approximately 1,000’ off Steel Bridge Road (State Route 1318). The church building faces southeast onto the drive. Located to the north of the church is a cemetery established in the mid-nineteenth century. A fellowship hall was built off the south side of the church in 1956, and a modern shed and a modern pump house are also located on the parcel. Near the church are several large oaks and other deciduous shade trees.

Inventory


Euphronia Presbyterian Church is a two-story frame building with weatherboard siding and a gable-fronted nave form. Twentieth-century metal roofing replaces the original wood shingles, and the stretcher-bond brick foundation dates to the 1950s. Rising from the roof ridge above the front (southeast) elevation is a belfry consisting of two weatherboarded tiers surmounted by a wood-shingled spire with a wood finial spike. The second belfry tier has peaked louvered vents that are Gothic in inspiration. The front and rear gables have cornice returns; the front gable has a seven-sided louvered vent. The only other opening on the front elevation is an entry with double four-panel doors over which are a light fixture and a sign with the church’s name (the light and sign date to the third quarter of the twentieth century). A set of brick steps dating to the 1950s lead up to the front entry. The northeast and southwest side walls of the church feature five two-story windows with 6/6-sash and two tiers of louvered wood shutters. To the rear is a three-sided apse with narrow 1/1-sash side windows. A concrete block furnace flue rises up the west side of the apse. The building measures approximately 27’ wide by 50’ long.

The interior of Euphronia Presbyterian Church matches the exterior in its elegant simplicity. The front entry opens into a transverse vestibule. (See floor plan in Exhibit 3.) At the two ends of the vestibule are partly enclosed two-run stairs with closets underneath. From the vestibule a pair of doors opens into the two-story sanctuary space. The sanctuary has a ceiling of varnished flush boards, plaster-and-lath walls painted white (the plaster dates to the 1960s and replaces earlier plaster), and a wood floor partly covered by red carpeting. The ceiling is 16’-4” above the floor. The focus of the sanctuary is a dais at the west end on which stands a paneled and chamfered wooden lectern. In the apse behind the lectern are a modern wood cross donated by
the Tillman family and three turn-of-the-twentieth-century chairs made by the Tomlinson Chair Manufacturing Company of High Point, N.C. with vasiform splats, carving, and caned seats that are now upholstered. Near the lectern are a table with splayed turned legs and glass ball and claw feet, and an early bier believed to incorporate wood from Scotland. The pews date to the nineteenth century and are constructed of pine with dovetail joints. On the northeast and southwest walls of the sanctuary are the two wings of a gallery. The gallery is supported by chamfered posts with molded caps and neckings. Extending from the tops of the posts are bracketed platforms that supported oil lamps before the church was wired for electricity in the 1950s. The gallery has a sloping floor and a railing of vertical beaded tongue-and-groove boards. The southeast end of the gallery (the section above the vestibule) was enclosed with vertical beaded tongue-and-groove boards in the 1950s to form a partitioned-off area for Sunday school. The woodwork in the church, original and later, is natural in color or stained, except for the partition and ceiling of the Sunday school, which are painted white. Suspended from the sanctuary ceiling are translucent glass electric light fixtures.

The church is constructed primarily of circular-sawn lumber. The major structural members are said to be mortised and tenoned and pegged together. Under the church, running up the center, is a series of large stone footers supporting a sill. The roof appears to consist of two separate structural systems. A series of wood trusses support the ceiling of the sanctuary; above the trusses and distinct from them are common rafters that support the roof sheathing. Towards the west end of the roof cavity is a ceramic stove flue. Off the south corner of the church are a half dozen of so large sandstone blocks placed around the trunk of a tree. These blocks may have served as foundation stones for the church building that preceded the present one. They were moved to their present location in the 1950s to serve as an outdoor sitting area.


Off the south side of the church is a one-story concrete block Fellowship Hall constructed in 1956. The hall has a metal-sheathed gable roof, a concrete block chimney on the southwest gable end, an entry on the front (southeast) elevation, and large windows with metal frames. The interior contains a meeting/dining room with a suspended ceiling and a sandstone fireplace, and also Sunday school rooms and restrooms.


To the west of the church stands a modern metal-sided prefabricated storage shed with a shallow-pitched gable roof and a small ramp leading to a single opening.

Off the south end of the Fellowship Hall is a small, rectangular concrete block pump house that probably dates to around 1956.

5. Cemetery. Late Nineteenth Century. Contributing site.

To the north of the church extends a cemetery with marble, granite, and concrete markers dating largely from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The oldest headstone in the cemetery is that of George Willcox (died 1857), a tall marble marker with a segmental arched top and an inscription with various styles of lettering. The date and style of the stone suggest it may have been made at the Fayetteville, N.C. workshop of George Lauder. Some more modern headstones dating from the second half of the twentieth century are interspersed among the earlier markers, but these are few, owing to the decline in interments that has resulted from the decrease in the size of the congregation.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Euphronia Presbyterian Church is a well preserved representative of the rural churches built throughout Lee County, North Carolina in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Euphronia was organized by Highland Scot settlers in the 1810s, making it one of Lee County's oldest congregations. The present church building, completed in 1886, is a weatherboarded frame building with a front-gable nave form, a belfry, an interior gallery, and simple but elegant exterior and interior detailing. Adjoining the church are a late-nineteenth-century cemetery and a 1956 fellowship hall. Euphronia Presbyterian Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the area of architecture, as defined by the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of Lee County, North Carolina, ca.1800-1942."

Historical Background

Euphronia Presbyterian Church was organized in the early 1810s by Highland Scot settlers, making it the second oldest Presbyterian congregation in Lee County, as well as one of the oldest congregations of any denomination in the county. The establishment in 1811 of a school known
as the Euphronian Academy may also date the formation of the congregation, for the headmaster of the school, Murdoch McMillan, was also the first minister of the church, and it was common practice during the period for schoolhouses to double as churches and vice versa in rural North Carolina. The church was in existence in April, 1814, when the second session of the newly formed Presbytery of Fayetteville met at Euphronia. The original church building stood approximately one to one-and-a-half miles north of the present site, about a mile south of the village of Carbonton. The form and other architectural characteristics of this first church building are unknown. Presumably no cemetery was associated with the church, since most early church members were buried in family plots scattered throughout western Lee County such as the Murchison and Farrar cemeteries. "Euphronia" is based on the Greek euphron meaning "of good mind" or "harmony of mind and body," perhaps a reference to the educational philosophy of the Euphronian Academy. The Euphronian Academy operated into the 1840s.

In the 1850s, Euphronia Presbyterian Church moved to its present location and a church building was built a short distance to the west and down slope from the present building. A session house was also built at the new location and a cemetery established. The earliest known interment at the cemetery was for George Willcox, who died in 1857. During the Civil War, the church took care of ten children orphaned by the conflict. The church had African-American members before the Civil War and for a short while afterwards; in 1870, the congregation of 120 counted eight black communicants among its members. All black communicants had left Euphronia by the end of the nineteenth century.

New Presbyterian congregations formed in the Lee County area during the late nineteenth century as prosperity returned to the region and population growth accelerated. Euphronia contributed members to several new congregations, including Gulf Presbyterian Church (formed in 1881), White Hill Presbyterian Church (1889), Pocket Presbyterian Church (1889), and Horseshoe Presbyterian Church (formed between 1889 and 1904). Despite the loss of some of its members, Euphronia's congregation had grown sufficiently large by the 1880s to warrant the construction of a new church building. According to tradition, Euphronia elder and local builder Daniel Campbell built the present Euphronia Presbyterian Church, which was completed in 1886.

Daniel C. Campbell (born circa 1810) appears to have been one of the more prominent builders in Moore County (the county from which Lee County was formed) during the mid- and late nineteenth century. One of his earliest known works was the male academy in the Moore County seat, Carthage, constructed in the mid-1840s and affiliated with the Presbyterians. Campbell is credited with building his own house on Crawley Creek, the Duncan Sinclair House on the Deep River, and Coles Mill on McLendon Creek, all built in present Moore County. One of Campbell's last known projects was the construction of the A. J. Thompson House on Hawkins
Euphronia Presbyterian Church
Lee County, N.C.

Avenue in Sanford in 1889, when the builder was nearly 80 years old. Builders were particularly numerous in the local branch of the Campbell clan during the period; builder and contractor D. J. Campbell operated out of Blues Crossing and Aberdeen in present Moore County, and W. B. Campbell operated out of Pocket in present Lee County.

Euphronia Presbyterian Church shares several architectural features with other Lee County churches of the period, such as the tiered belfry rising from the roof ridge, the decorative louvered gable vent, cornice returns, a polygonal apse, and the stained beaded tongue-and-groove work on the interior. It is not known whether the gallery in the 1886 church was intended for use by black church members, or whether it was simply intended as extra seating space for all communicants. Euphronia is one of the best preserved of the churches of its period in Lee County.

Euphronia’s congregation decreased during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From a postbellum high of 140 members in 1880, the congregation shrank to 87 members in 1890, to 62 members in 1900, and to 40 members in 1940. The shrinkage resulted from the loss of members to other congregations formed in the area, and from a gradual decline in the population of the Lee-Moore county border vicinity.

Several traditions were a part of church life during the first half of the twentieth century. Older church members recall with fondness the August meetings held after the crops were laid by, when preaching and dinners were hosted at the church over the course of several days. Food for the occasion was brought to the site by participants and included standard dishes such as barbecue and chicken and dumplings. Before the fellowship hall was built in 1956, the food was placed on an outdoors table formed by stretching wire mesh between posts. In the evenings after the meetings, dances were held at nearby farms. Another important event was homecoming, held in October, when individuals who had moved out of the area were invited to worship with the resident congregation.

Perhaps the most significant events in the life of the church during the second half of the twentieth century were the improvements made to the church in the 1950s and the construction of the fellowship hall. The improvements to the church included electrification, the construction of a brick foundation, and the insertion of Sunday school rooms in the east end of the gallery. The concrete block fellowship hall was begun in 1956 by local contractor Rad Fry and completed in 1958.
Endnotes

1. At the time the congregation was organized, Highland Scot Presbyterians formed the dominant settlement group in the Lee County area.

2. George Willcox, interview with author, Lee County, N.C., January 11, 1994. Much of the historical discussion in this report is based on research by Mr. Willcox.


4. George Willcox interview.

5. Nancy Griffin, "Euphronia Church" (typescript, Sanford, N.C., 1989).

6. George Willcox interview.


8. According to one account, the sandstone blocks that now form a seating area in front of the present church came from the foundation of this session house. Emily Jeanette Brooks, "Euphronia: A Church History" (paper, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., ca. 1982. [Hereafter cited as Brooks, "Euphronia." ])

9. George Willcox interview.


13. The 1886 date of completion for the church is based on the May 9, 1886 entry in the Euphronia Presbyterian Church Minutes of Session, which notes that the session met in the "New Church." Daniel Campbell was among the elders present at this meeting. Another reference to the completion of the church is contained in the September 22, 1887 issue of the Sanford, N.C.
Central Express: "Last Sunday, we shook the outstretched hands and looked into the honest faces of many of the dear friends, who saw us... It was at the communion services at Euphronia church. A new church in modern [style] has taken the place of the old. It was crowded [sic] with people... Truly that is a happy church." (This notice was brought to the author's attention by James Vann Comer of Cameron, N.C.)


15. George Willcox interview. The Daniel Campbell House may still stand. The Duncan Sinclair House and Coles Mill are no longer standing; lumber from the former may have been incorporated into a Sinclair (also spelled St. Clair) house in Sanford.

16. Central Express (Sanford, N.C.), March 23, 1889.


19. Euphronia Presbyterian Church records. The congregation grew in size during some periods, for example, from 62 members in 1900 to 94 members in 1910, but the general trend was downward.

20. George Willcox and Zona Tillman interviews. In an earlier day, dancing was not tolerated by the congregation. In 1838, Flora McLeod and Margaret Nicholson were censured for the "unchristian conduct" of "joining in night revels and dancing." Brooks, "Euphronia".

BIBLIOGRAPHY


*Central Express* (Sanford, N.C.). Microfilm, Suzanne Reeves Library, Sanford, N.C.


Euphronia Presbyterian Church records.


"Minutes of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, Volume I, From 1813 to 1824." At North Carolina Presbyterian Church archives in Montreat, N.C.


United States Census, Population Schedules, Moore County, N.C., 1870 and 1880.

Unpublished research on Euphronia Presbyterian Church.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The boundaries of the Euphronia Presbyterian Church nominated parcel are shown in exhibits 1 and 2 of this report.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION
The boundaries of the Euphronia Presbyterian Church nominated parcel provide an appropriate setting for the two contributing resources associated with the church—the church itself and the adjoining cemetery—and correspond to the present property lines of the 2.44-acre parcel on which the church stands.

PHOTOGRAPHS
1. 1. Euphronia Presbyterian Church (same for all photos).
2. Lee County, N.C. (same for all photos).
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos).
4. Date of photo: January, 1994 (same for all photos).
5. Location of negative: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh (same for all photos).
7. The photo number appears at the beginning of each heading.


3. 6. Euphronia Presbyterian Church sanctuary showing apse and lectern area.
   Direction of view: northwest.

4. 6. Fellowship Hall. Direction of view: north.

Exhibit 1. Portion of "Property Map of Lee County, North Carolina, Map No. 8692." Heavy line indicates boundaries of Euphronia Presbyterian Church nominated parcel. Scale: 1" = 200'.

Euphronia Presbyterian Church
Lee County, N.C.
Exhibit 2. Euphronia Presbyterian Church nominated parcel. Heavy line indicates boundaries of parcel. Location and size of resources in parcel approximate. Numbers in triangles are keyed to photographs and indicate direction of view. Scale: 1" = 200'.

3. Shed
2. Fellowship Hall
4. Pump House
1. Church

Steel Bridge Road (SR 1318)

Euphronia Presbyterian Church
Lee County, N.C.