

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee Instructions In How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received
date entered

1. Namehistoric Eureka United Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N. side Church St. (SR 1520) 2nd building from
junction with Davis Street (SR 1519) not for publication

city, town Eureka vicinity of Congressional District
3rd

state N. C. code 037 county Wayne code 191

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of PropertyStanley Yelverton
name Eureka United Methodist Church

street & number

city, town Eureka vicinity of state N. C. 27830**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wayne County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Goldsboro state N. C.**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records N/A

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 Eureka United Methodist Church (1884) is located in the small town of Eureka in rural northeast Wayne County in the sandhills of North Carolina. The Eureka United Methodist Church is a simple vernacular interpretation of the Carpenter Gothic style church made popular in North Carolina and the United States during the second half of the nineteenth century by Richard Upjohn's Rural Architecture (1852).

The main block of the church is three bays wide and four bays deep, and rests on brick piers, now infilled. The steeply pitched gable front roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is surmounted by a small bell tower with a concave pyramidal roof topped by a turned finial. There is an oversize dentil cornice around the bell tower roof. The belltower has four lancet windows with heavy labels and were enclosed in 1960. The windows now contain loudspeakers to broadcast chimes. The bell is mounted in the front yard of the church near the church sign.

The front gable of the roof has a modest quatrefoil gable decoration which is repeated in a circular window over the vestibule and on the interior with a similar round blind window over the slightly recessed apse. These windows have a four-light diamond shaped pane in the center with four semicircular leaves, one on each side of the diamond, with smaller curved panes completing the circle.

All bays, with the exception of the front entrance, are identical narrow lancet arched sash windows of four over six clear glass under steeply pointed simple molded hoods. Much of the glass is original. In the tympanum of the arch of each window the mullion divides to separate three clear glass panes in a "Y" pattern.

The entry is in a small gabled vestibule and consists of double-leaf doors--each consisting of two panels, one larger rectangular one over a small square one--set under a lancet arched window. The transom is divided by curved "V" mullions into three panes. A replacement brick stoop with wrought iron stair rails has been added.

There is a 1940 one story kitchen ell extending from the rear of the church. There is a 1960 side gable two by five bay story and a half education wing which ties into the kitchen ell and extends across the rear and to one side of the main block. The bays of this addition are square six over six sash. The entry is through double doors, consisting of six lights over a solid panel, with six light transom under a one bay extension of the roof at the front near the junction with the main block. There is a small shed dormer over the entry and a small gable dormer visible from the front over a double bay. There is a larger two bay shed dormer across the center of the rear facade of this wing. The six over six bays do not complement the narrow vertically oriented bays of the main block, but the overall massing, scale, weatherboarding and pitch of the gable roof are consistent with the original portion of the church.

The interior of the vestibule is sheathed in beaded tongue and groove sheathing and has an arched ceiling. There are a second set of doors, identical to the exterior entrance, which lead into the center-aisle sanctuary. This entry is surmounted by the round window with quatrefoil visible from the outside. The sanctuary is finished in white plaster with darker woodwork so typical of the Carpenter Gothic mode.

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Description

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The ceiling rises in two distinct stages with the change of angle above the heads of the tall narrow bays, and angles in for about three feet, then angles up less sharply. This broader expanse joins a narrower flat central portion which extends over the aisle between the two rows of pews, creating a three-segmented flat arch. The portion of the ceiling directly over the windows is divided into square geometric panels of horizontal, vertical, and diagonally applied tongue and groove. The second plane is much wider and similarly sheathed with rondels at the corners provided by molded dividers. The flat central portion over the aisle is divided into square sections again with rondels at the corners provided by molded dividers. The flat central portion over the aisle is divided into square sections again with rondels at the corners and the squares consist of diagonally applied sheathing. In the central panel there are heavier molded dividers.

The light fixtures were added in 1929 and consist of circular globes depending from the ceiling to hang at the level of the first stage of the ceiling.

At the rear of the sanctuary there is a shallow Tudor arched apse with a heavy molded surround. The wainscot, which is vertical under the bays beside the doors, and diagonally applied in a chevron pattern elsewhere, curves gracefully up to meet the sides of the apse and continues within the slight recession. The left front corner has been enclosed by a rail to form a choir loft.

The Eureka United Methodist Church is a relatively unaltered example of simple Carpenter Gothic-inspired architecture set on a large spacious lot in the small community of Eureka. There are trees to the front and rear, and a large hedge to the east side of the property. There is a parsonage adjacent to but not included in the property nominated. There are several graves to the rear of the church, but there is not a formal cemetery on the property. The aspect is one of simplicity and beauty, and typifies the pastoral setting associated with the Carpenter Gothic style in rural North Carolina.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1884 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

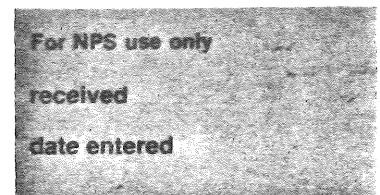
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eureka United Methodist Church is a vernacular representation of "Carpenter Gothic" inspired architecture popular in the second half of the nineteenth century throughout North Carolina. The exterior lines of the structure are simple and clean with relatively little decorative detail. The interior finish is much more detailed. Beaded tongue and groove sheathing has been used as wainscot and ceiling. The wainscot is applied vertically under the windows and diagonally elsewhere. The ceiling consists of three planes, each exhibiting geometrically applied panels, with a central panel with rondels, and bosse and pendant in the center. The church is associated with a widespread growth of Methodism in North Carolina during the late nineteenth century.

- B. The Eureka United Methodist Church is representative of small Carpenter Gothic churches, inspired by Richard Upjohn's Rural Architecture (1852), which were popular during the second half of the nineteenth century throughout North Carolina. The intricacy of detail is more evident in the interior finish than the more simple exterior.

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The seeds of North Carolina Methodism, officially planted at the Green Hill Conference in 1785, grew to full blossom in the century that followed. From a church body of just over 8,000 in 1800, mushrooming congregations pushed the membership to more than 140,000 by the close of the "gay nineties."¹ With its revivalist nature, sense of mission, and circuit riding ministers, the Methodist church appealed particularly to the rural dwellers in North Carolina. The last quarter of the century saw an average of nearly twenty new churches annually, forcing the creation of new circuits to serve the growing number of congregations.² During this "boom period" of Methodism Eureka Church was born.

In the northeastern corner of Wayne County, near the head of Watery Branch, a small community began to form in the mid 1870s; it was incorporated as Saul's Cross Roads in 1879.³ Located six miles from Fremont and twelve miles from Snow Hill (Greene County), Saul's Cross Roads frequently hosted Methodist ministers traveling the Wayne Circuit.⁴ The religious teachings fulfilled the spiritual needs of the small community and in 1880 the citizens established a congregation. A brush arbor with "makeshift" seats provided the early accommodations for the members as they listened to N. M. Journey who came from Fremont to preach. O. L. Yelverton apparently permitted the congregation to use his land for the brush arbor.⁵

For two years (1883-1884) the Rev. J. N. Andrews served the Wayne Circuit, preaching at Saul's Cross Roads at regular intervals. Andrews was an old line revivalist and created much religious fervor during his ministry.⁶ Probably he should be credited with preparing the congregation to receive his successor's plan to build a church at Saul's Cross Roads.

The North Carolina Conference, at its annual meeting in 1884, appointed R. C. Beamon to the Wayne Circuit.⁷ Beamon's interest in building a house of worship was well received by the cross roads community. Using local labor, and timber from the nearby forests, the members of the congregation constructed in 1884 the church that now stands.⁸ O. L. Yelverton had agreed to sell the one acre tract of land, and apparently the timber also, for a modest sum. Nevertheless, it took three years for the congregation to pay off the debt, but in 1887, the church became the official property of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.⁹ First called Beamon's Chapel in honor of R. C. Beamon, the name was changed shortly after 1901 when Saul's Cross Roads became Eureka. The present name stems from the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church.¹⁰

Over the nearly one hundred years since its construction, Eureka Church has undergone some changes, among which are lights in the sanctuary (1929); an educational building attached to the sanctuary (1940); a new pulpit (1950); a kitchen and restrooms (1960); chimes and public address system (1962); new pews in sanctuary (1964); wrought iron railings on steps of educational building; enclosure of choir loft (1973); sound panels for organ (1974); repainting of sanctuary, raising of choir loft, extension of altar (1975); two pew screens (1976); and exterior painting (1980).¹¹ When a charge was formed by joining Eureka and Yelverton in 1954, a parsonage was built in Eureka. In 1972 the joint charge invested in a new parsonage adjoining Eureka Methodist Church but on land belonging to Larry Darden. The church purchased the property from Darden's estate in 1979. Fire had damaged the structure in 1976, necessitating a complete remodeling of the kitchen and painting of the exterior. New furniture was purchased in 1980.¹²

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Music has always been an essential part of the Methodist liturgy and Eureka Church has long enjoyed a fine music program. Until 1970 a piano served as accompaniment for hymns and choral arrangements. The first known pianist was Susie Sauls, known as Miss Susie, whose achievement was magnified because of her blindness. Miss Susie's musical ear obviously compensated for her lack of sight, for those who remember her recall that "she could hear a tune and immediately sit down and play it." She died in 1928 but the piano served the church for many years afterwards. In 1970 Mrs. Agnes Becton and her son Robert donated an organ to Eureka Church as a memorial to the late Leon Becton, husband, father, and loyal member for many years.¹³

On November 2, 1980, Eureka United Methodist Church celebrated the centennial anniversary of the congregation. Plans are now being made for the birthday of the original church building which will be 100 years old in 1984.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, rev. ed., 1973), 265, hereinafter cited as Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina; and Donald G. Mathews, "North Carolina Methodists in the Nineteenth Century: Church and Society" in Methodism Alive in North Carolina, edited by O. Kelly Ingram (Durham: The Duke Divinity School, 1976), 73.

²Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 417; and Journals of the North Carolina Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (titles vary), 1878-1892 (place and publishers vary), Journal of 1878, p. 15; Journal of 1879, p. 20; Journal of 1880, p. 21; Journal of 1881, p. 30; Journal of 1882, p. 33; Journal of 1883, p. 43; Journal of 1884, p. 47; and Journal of 1885, p. 76. These represent the trend which continued to the end of the century. Annual Conference records hereinafter cited as Journal with appropriate year and page.

³William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 165, hereinafter cited as Powell, Gazetteer.

⁴(Mrs.) Sam Martin and others, "A History of the Eureka United Methodist Church" (typescript, 1977), copy in Eureka United Methodist Church File, Wayne County. Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Martin, "Eureka Church." See also Journal of 1878, p. 35; Journal of 1879, p. 32.

⁵(Mrs.) Rom Chase and Sallie Davis, "History of Eureka United Methodist Church" (Revised typescript, 1980), 1, hereinafter cited as Chase and Davis, "Eureka Church (Revised)." Margaret Yelverton did much of the research for this revision, consulting extensively the Journals of the District Conference in the Methodist Building in Raleigh. At the time of the congregation's founding and the building of the church, the Wayne Circuit was a part of the New Bern District. See also Journal of 1880, pp. 35, 44. In 1887 Yelverton sold the land on which the brush harbor had stood, and on which a church building had been erected, to the church trustees. See Wayne County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Wayne County Courthouse, Goldsboro, Deed Book 58, p. 424, hereinafter cited as Wayne County Deed Book.

⁶Journal of 1882, pp. 37, 53; Journal of 1883, p. 53, 84; and Journal of 1885, pp. 48-49 (Memorial Service). The appointments were made in December for the following year.

⁷Journal of 1884, p. 34.

⁸Chase and Davis, "Eureka Church (Revised)," 1; and Researcher's interview with Mrs. John B. Chase of Eureka, April 19, 1982.

⁹Wayne County Deed Book 58, p. 424. See also Journal of 1887, p. 67. The number of churches owned by the Conference in the Wayne Circuit increased by one from 1886, thus reflecting the addition of the Eureka property.

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FOOTNOTES (continued)

¹⁰Chase and Davis, "Eureka Church (Revised)," 1; Powell, Gazetteer, 165; and The Encyclopedia Americana (Danbury, Conn.: Americana Corporation, 30 vols., 1980), vol. 18, p. 736. For membership of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical Church just prior to the merger, see Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 667.

¹¹Martin, "Eureka Church," 2-3, 5-6; and Chase and Davis, "Eureka Church (Revised)," 5.

¹²Martin, "Eureka Church," 3, 6, 7; and Chase and Davis, "Eureka Church (Revised)," 5.

¹³Chase and Davis, "Eureka Church (Revised)," 4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Fremont

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A

1	8
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2	3	8	9	4	0
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3	9	3	7	0	4	0
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Zone

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Zone

Easting

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Town lot of approximately one acre,
See plat map outlined in red.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. Virginia Oswald, Survey Specialist; Jim Sumner, Researcher
and History

organization North Carolina Department of Archives date July 8, 1982

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ 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 William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 8, 1982

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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National Park Service

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The Encyclopedia Americana. 30 vols. Danbury, Conn." Americana Corporation, 1980.
Vol. 18.

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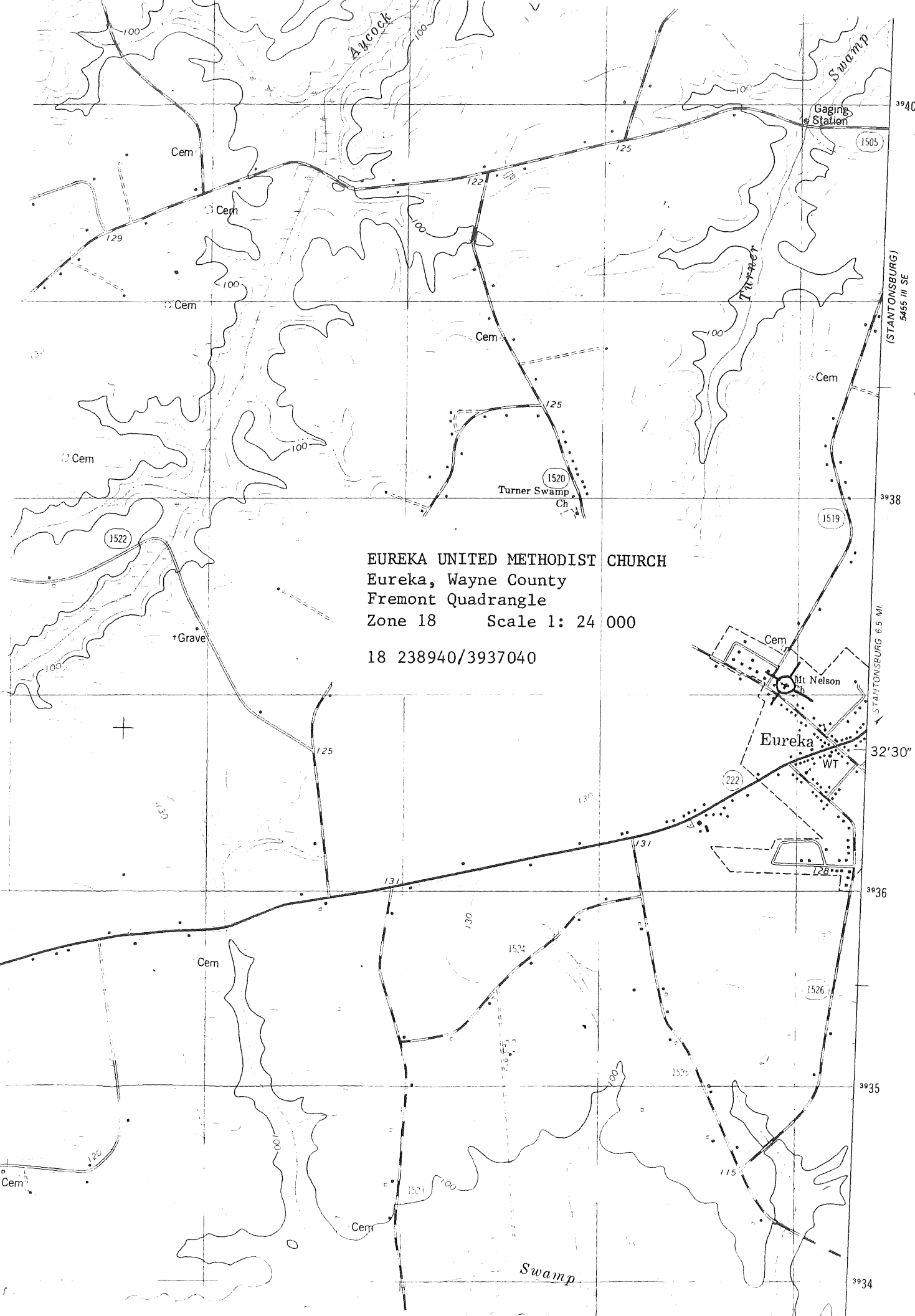
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EUREKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

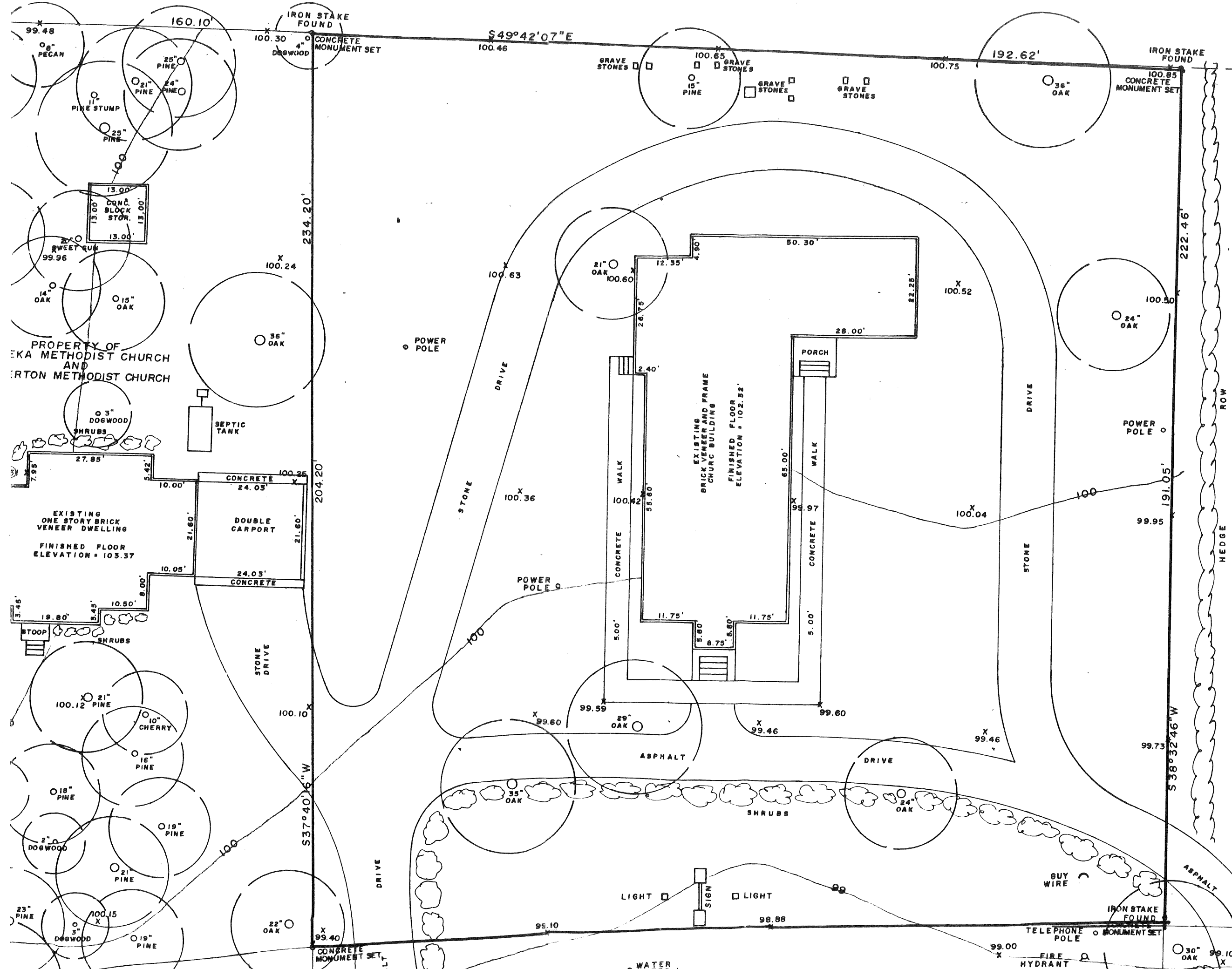
Eureka, Wayne County

Fremont Quadrangle

Zone 18

Scale 1: 24 000

18 238940/3937040



PROPERTY OF
Lanie
D.B. 863 P. 273

