

**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 EBENEZER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHAPEL AND CEMETERY

and/or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Golden vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Adams code 001

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Ebenezer Chapel Society, Inc.

street & number % Florine Nelson, Secretary

city, town Bowen, IL 62316 vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse

street & number 521 Vermont Street

city, town Quincy, state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ 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

Summary paragraph: Ebenezer Chapel is a rectangular (38'x48') frame structure with Greek Revival detailing. The adjoining cemetery forms an integral part of the Chapel's rural setting.

Description: The foundation is of limestone. Exterior walls are of wood drop siding painted white. The low pitch gable roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles (added 1983). There is a simplified entablature terminating in cornice returns at the gable ends.

The front (east) facade contains two separate single doors below three light transoms. The north and south facades contain three 4/4 double hung windows. The original shutters for these windows were removed approximately 40 years ago, due to deterioration, but the shutter hardware remains. The west (rear) facade has a single window, identical in size to the others, but covered by the original shutters. A brick chimney is located at the east facade roof peak.

The interior space is a single one story room, with a ceiling height of 20'. The floor is of 1"x6" unfinished oak. Due to church precepts requiring separation of the sexes, the double aisles yield a mirror image interior seating arrangement. Pews are made in simple bench style, with single boards for seat and back. Backs of the pews are topped with a smooth finished trim and the arm rests are adorned with hand carved scroll caps. The center pews are divided by a pew-high centerboard to prevent mixing of the sexes. All four walls have a 3' wainscot, which provides support for the pews at the exterior walls. Between the rear and center windows on each side, a small square open space is formed by having one rear-facing, one-side facing, and one-front facing bench. These spaces were formerly occupied by heating stoves, since removed. The altar is on a dais, centered along the west wall. The dais has curved corners and a matching hand-hewn hand-bent altar railing. Interior door and window casings consist of tapered jambs topped by pediment shaped heads. Interior walls are wallpaper on plaster.

The topography of the setting is rolling and surrounded on three sides by stands of timber. Immediately west of the Chapel is the cemetery, plotted in two sections. The first section contains burials from 1857, while the second section reflects the expansion of the cemetery in 1893. The stones and monuments reflect the styles, motifs and symbolism popular in gravestone art in the 19th century. Burials include non-church members as well as members, due to the church's policy of free burial for all.

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/humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1858

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ebenezer Chapel, built in 1858-59, is representative of the pre-Civil War church architecture in Illinois. A vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style, the Chapel represents a well preserved example of a once common type, and the only remaining example in Adams County. The Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey identified no other rural churches of this type in Adams County. The adjoining cemetery is an integral part of the Chapel's setting, while the surrounding woodlands enhance the Chapel's historic rural character.

Methodist Episcopal congregations began organizing in Adams County in the 1830's, with early missions established in Clayton, Payson, and Melrose townships. These fledgling churches, often holding services in members' homes, were serviced by traveling circuit preachers. One such circuit, the Columbus Circuit, included a 5-county area.

The history of Ebenezer Chapel, in Houston Township, is fairly typical of the period. The Ebenezer Chapel Society of the Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1858 as part of the Pulaski Circuit. (The Pulaski circuit was later incorporated into the Columbus Circuit). Land was donated by William Willard for the erection of a church building, near an existing log schoolhouse. (The schoolhouse site is within the nominated property, in the northwest corner of the cemetery). Among the conditions attached to the land transfer were that a portion of the land be set aside for a free cemetery, and that, in the event the chapel property was sold, the land would revert back to the Willard family.

The Chapel erected by the congregation reflects the persistence of the Greek Revival style in Illinois' church architecture. Though not a classic example of the style, the building's rectangular shape, gable roof, cornice returns, and overall simplicity illustrate the Greek Revival influence.

Church doctrines and practices are also reflected in the building's design. Vestiges of the separation of men and women during services include separate entrances and pews. The "Amen Corner", a group of pews in the southwest corner facing the altar, was reserved for church elders. (These pews were removed in the early 1900's to make way for a Sunday school corner. The screen erected to separate the school from the remaining congregation has since been removed.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Since the original land grant stipulated a cemetery free to all, both Chapel members and non-members are interred here. Burials in the original section (south) date from 1857. In 1893, additional land was purchased north of the original section to expand the cemetery. The burial monuments are modest in scale and include miniature obelisks as well as standard slabs. Designs and inscriptions carved into the stones illustrate popular 19th century motifs, including shocks of wheat, weeping willows, and fingers pointing to heaven.

In 1952, reduced membership and rising costs led to the consolidation of the Chapel with the nearby Centennial Methodist Church. Since that time the chapel and cemetery have been maintained by the Ebenezer Chapel Society. Annual services are held in the Chapel on the Sunday closest to Memorial Day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Records of the Ebenezer Chapel Society
History of Adams County, Illinois Murray, Williamson & Phelps.
publishers, Chicago, 1879

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5

Quadrangle name BOWEN, IL.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	6	1	5	8	0	4	4	4	6	9	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Southwest corner of the Northeast quarter of Section 16, Township 2N, Range 6 West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, to include the Chapel and cemetery.

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

state	code	county	code
NA			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Willard with Michael Ward, IL Department of Conservation
organization Ebenezer Chapel Society, Inc. date January, 1984
street & number Box 106 telephone (217) 842-5576
city or town Golden state Illinois 62339

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 [Signature] date 3/23/84
title [Signature]

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 12 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning June 3, 1984 and ending June 9, 1984. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ARIZONA, Navajo County, Homolovi I Ruin, (06/04/84)

COLORADO, Denver County, Denver, Denver City Railway Company Building, 1635 17th St., 1734—1736 Wynkoop St. (06/04/84)

FLORIDA, St. Lucie County, Ft. Pierce, Casa Caprona, 2605 St. Lucie Blvd. (06/07/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Battery Hasebrouck (Artillery District of Honolulu TR), Ft. Kamehameha (06/05/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Battery Hawkins (Artillery District of Honolulu TR), 440 Nelson Ave. (06/05/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Battery Hawkins Annex (Artillery District of Honolulu TR), Ft. Kamehameha (06/05/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Battery Jackson (Artillery District of Honolulu TR), Ft. Kamehameha (06/05/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Battery Randolph (Artillery District of Honolulu TR), 32 Kalia Rd. (06/05/84)

HAWAII, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Battery Selfridge (Artillery District of Honolulu TR), Ft. Kamehameha (06/05/84)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Golden, Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Chapel and Cemetery, NW of Golden (06/04/84)

INDIANA, Wayne County, Centerville vicinity, Jones, Lewis, House, College Corner and Eliason Rds. (06/07/84)

IOWA, Pottawattamie County, Council Bluffs, State Savings Bank, 509 W. Broadway (06/04/84)

LOUISIANA, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, Hart House, 2108 Palmer Ave. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Allegany County, Cumberland vicinity, Big Bottom Farm, Hazen Rd. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Baltimore (Independent City), Hutzler Brothers Palace Building, 210—218 N. Howard St. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Baltimore (Independent City), Rieman Block, 617—631 W. Lexington St. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Cecil County, St. Augustine vicinity, Great House, 284 Great House Farm Rd. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Charles County, La Plata vicinity, Exchange, The, Spring Hill-Newtown Rd. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Garrett County, Swanton, Anderson Chapel, Swanton Hill and Pine Hill Rds. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Kent County, Betterton, Betterton Historic District, Roughly bounded by Sassafras River, Gut Marsh, 6th, and Ericsson Aves. (06/07/84)

MARYLAND, Queen Annes County, Centreville vicinity, Lansdowne, MD 305 (06/07/84)

Stemgar Chapel

E 661580
N 4446900

1:270,000
FEET

