




Internal Rating: crit A + c

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

update

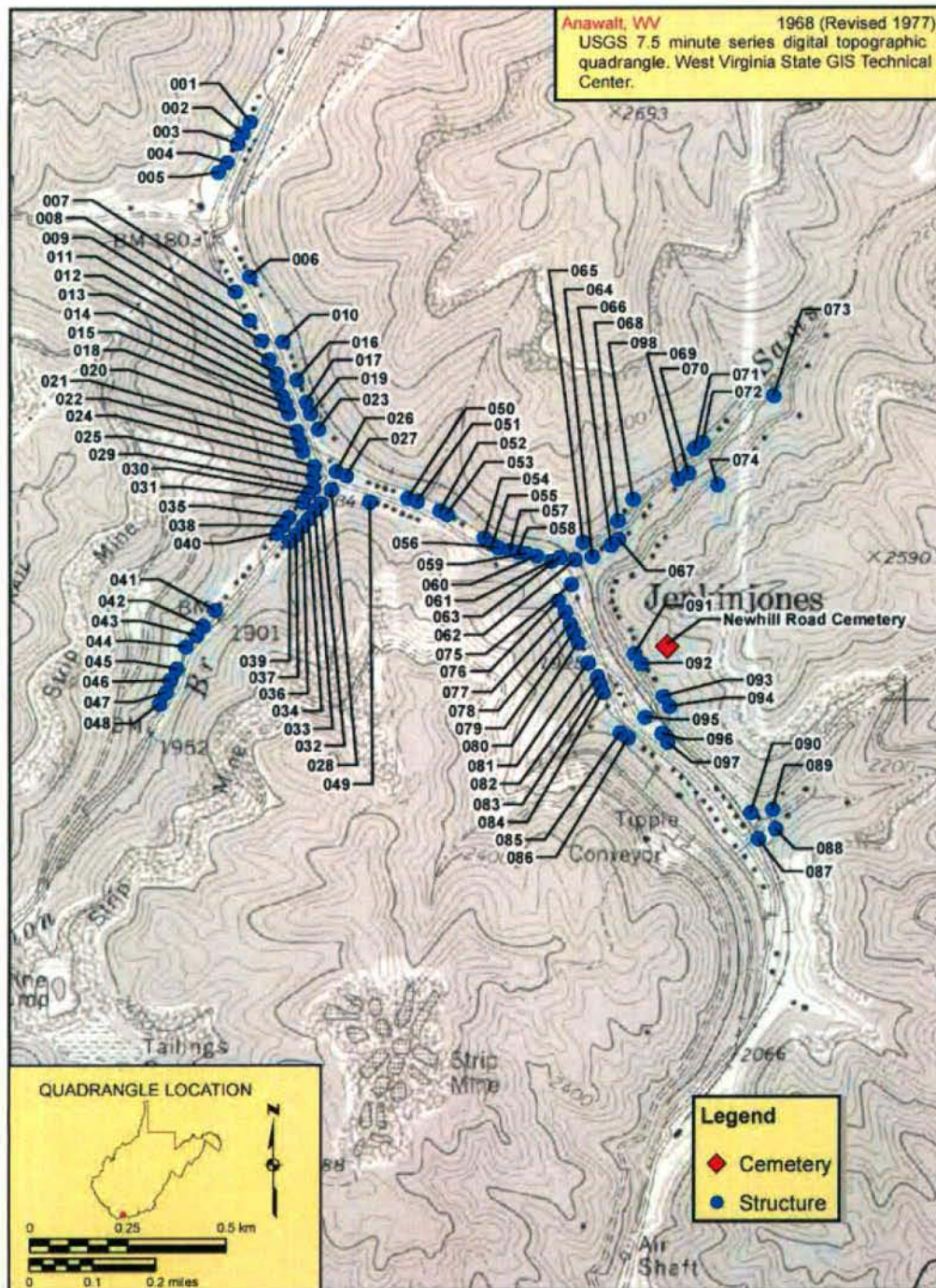
Street Address n/a Jenkinjones Road (CR 8) Hillside	Common/Historic Name/Both Morning Star Baptist Church	Field Survey # S-020	Site # (SHPO Only) MD-1484
Town or Community Jenkinjones, WV Adkin District	County McDowell	Negative No. N/A	NR Listed Date N/A
Architect/Builder Unknown	Date of Construction c. 1913-1917	Style Vernacular	
Exterior Siding/Materials Wood-Weatherboard, Aluminum Siding	Roofing Material Asphalt Shingles	Foundation Brick Piers with Concrete Fill	
Property Use or Function Residence <input type="radio"/> Commercial <input type="radio"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UTM# Zone 17 E: 461601 N: 4128001 NAD: 1983		
Survey Organization & Date Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. November 2011	Quadrangle Name Anawalt, WV (1968, revised 1977)		
Part of What Survey/FR# FR# 11-249-MD			



Site No.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME:	Morning Star Baptist Church	Field #:	S-020
Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.	County	McDowell	Town or Community
			Jenkinjones



Portion of the Anawalt, WV topographic quadrangle map showing the location of the resource.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET



NAME:	Morning Star Baptist Church	Field #:	S-020	
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View showing the church façade, facing northeast.



View of the northwestern elevation, facing south.

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View showing the northwestern elevation and setting, facing southeast.



View of the southeastern elevation, facing northeast.

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Excerpted from
Hunter, W.M., and C.L. Nelson.

2012 *Cultural Historic Survey for the Proposed Mid-Vol Coal Sales Jenkinjones Refuse Removal , Adkin District, McDowell County, West Virginia.* Contract Publication Series WV11-123. Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. Hurricane, WV.

Description: The rectangular structure (38 ft cx 34 ft.) is a gable-front building, with a prominent corner tower, that faces southwest. The building core has been supplemented by a modern one-story shed addition off the southern elevation. A one-story apse projects off the rear of the building. Typical of buildings in Jenkinjones, the church rests on piers rather than a continuous masonry foundation. The piers were built of pale industrial brick, not seen on many buildings in town, enhanced with modern concrete blocks and molded poured concrete. The height of the piers is unusual, but it allows for the ascent up the stairs to the first story, and enhances the prominent site and situation of the building. The basement level is pierced on the northern elevation by a doorway. The light frame side addition is found on concrete blocks and molded concrete. A plain wooden drip mold separates the wooden cladding of the church core from the foundation.

The building is fundamentally vernacular in its materials, although there are stylistic embellishments common to the Late Gothic Revival movement, in this case executed in modern industrial vernacular materials. The balance of the window and door arrangement is a central feature of the aesthetic, with the two church entrances, one of which enters into the bell tower and both accessed by concrete stairs. The doorways are located on either side of four elongated three-light window bays. These window bays, and the large transom lights above the doorways, are set in plain wooden frames. A round vent at the center of the gable, and a prominent decorative verge board at the crest of the projecting gable overhang, reinforce the symmetry of the façade, disrupted only by the bell tower. The bell tower has a three-part design, with the entryway, the bell tower proper – featuring scrollwork on the ogee arch opening to the interior – and the pyramidal roof.

The church exterior largely retains its original wooden siding, tightly fit wooden weatherboards. The modern addition is clad in aluminum. The northern elevation is raked with five elongated three-part windows inset in plain wooden frames. The original windows on the southern elevation are now obscured by the modern frame addition, which is inset with plain modern single-light sliding windows set in aluminum frames. The gable roofs and shed addition are covered with asphalt shingles; only an interior brick furnace chimney located at northern slope of the main roof breaks the roofline. Bargeboards and decorative verge boards are also found on the rear gable and gable over the apse.

Historical Background: The church is located on a prominent rise on the east side of CR 8, approximately 500 ft northeast of its intersection with CR 8-1. The prominent location at the head of New Town, the African-American section of the coal company town, reflects the segregation of the town and its institutions. The role of the church and ministers within the African-American community was dramatically changed by the advent of the coal company town. Long a cornerstone of southern African-American culture, vernacular and organic forms of worship and ministry vanished in a setting where the coal company built the church, established its governing principals, managed its finances, and selected its ministers.

The church was one of two churches in Jenkinjones built or sanctioned by the company in the early years of the town’s construction. Many companies viewed an investment in religion as a business proposition. In the coal company town, the miners’ religion was not necessarily a factor in determining the type of denomination established by the coal company. Often the pastors served a dual role as minister and company agent, and many miners were reluctant to attend a company-sanctioned church. Yet, the company felt the practices of the church community reinforced behaviors such as temperance, thrift, and discipline, all to the advantage of both the coal company and the congregants. The congregants continued to regularly worship at the church long after the end of the company town era.

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NRHP Evaluation: The West Virginia Department of Highways (WVDOH) recorded the Morning Star Baptist Church (MD 1484) for the WVHPI. The WVDOH concluded that the church lacked any significant historical association with important events, patterns of events, people, or movements in American architecture, and was therefore not eligible for the NRHP.

In light of the character of Jenkinjones as a coal company town, the significance of the nearby "white" Methodist church, and the role that company-sponsored religion played in the management and operation of the town, CRA does not concur with the earlier WVDOH recommendation. In a manner that is fundamentally different from that of an individual residence, the church reflects, through its material characteristics and prominence in the landscape, the social engineering embodied in the plan of Jenkinjones. The church is representative of the role of the coal company in shaping the social life of the town's residents through the provisioning of amenities, and is therefore eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. Although undoubtedly associated with many ministers and important figures in the history of Jenkinjones, research did not find substantive association with a person important to our past in manner necessary for consideration under Criterion B.

Additionally, the Morning Star Baptist Church is eligible under Criterion C as an intact example of vernacular church construction executed with Late Gothic Revival embellishments. The late Gothic Revival style was popular during the first three decades of the twentieth century and is a successor to the earlier Gothic Revival and High Victorian Gothic styles popular in the nineteenth century. The church possesses the architectural characteristics necessary to convey that it is a regionally important adaptation of a style popular at the time. Despite some minor alterations and the construction of the light frame shed addition, the building retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

A fundamentally religious property, the Morning Light Baptist Church was also evaluated under NRHP Criteria Consideration A. Since religious properties are not normally considered eligible to the NRHP, this consideration covers religious properties that derive their significance from architectural or historical importance. Since the church derives its significance from its association with the management and operation of the coal company town and its architectural characteristics, rather than from religious importance, the property satisfies Criteria Consideration A, and CRA therefore recommends the property as eligible under Criteria A and C.

The church is located on what was a large tract of former coal company land, and is separated from the body of the tract by the old N&W right-of-way, including a junction between the No 6 Mine Hollow and No. 8 Mine Hollow spurs that once included a trestle. Unlike the nearby Methodist Church of Jenkinjones, the Baptist Church was never set off from direct company ownership, and now rests on a 3,989.38-acre tract owned by the Pocahontas Land Corporation (Adkin District Map 374, Parcel 6; McDowell County Deed Book 31, Page 1). Not associated with a discrete town lot, CRA recommends the historic property boundary include the church building and surrounding graded lot, extending 20 feet from the base of the church foundation.