

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Saint Paul United Methodist Church

**Local Historic Landmark #88**

**401 New St., Kernersville**

**Construction Date: 1889**

**Landmark Designation Date: 01/05/1993**

Saint Paul United Methodist Church is an African-American church that was organized in 1873 as a Methodist Episcopal Church. Prior to that time, both African-Americans and whites worshipped together at Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church was the first church in Kernersville and was housed in a log cabin constructed in 1837.

After the Civil War, the Main Street church members began making plans to build a new church. The African-American members wanted to establish a separate church; they purchased the 1837 log church and moved it to nearby land acquired from John F. Kerner. Today, that site is the location of the present Saint Paul's graveyard, which has been restored. The log cabin was eventually demolished.

In 1886, Saint Paul Methodist Episcopal Church acquired property on a site located approximately three miles north-east of its original church. The church deed is dated April 2, 1886, and specifies that the building be used for the purpose of "Divine Worship" of the Methodist Episcopal Conference. It also deemed that its pastors were to be assigned by the Methodist Episcopal Conference, and its ministry and members would become members



of the Conference. Saint Paul's congregation remained with the Conference through the changing of the name from Methodist Episcopal Church to Methodist Church in 1939 and to United Methodist Church in 1968. The current sanctuary was complete in 1889, which is the date appearing on the cornerstone.

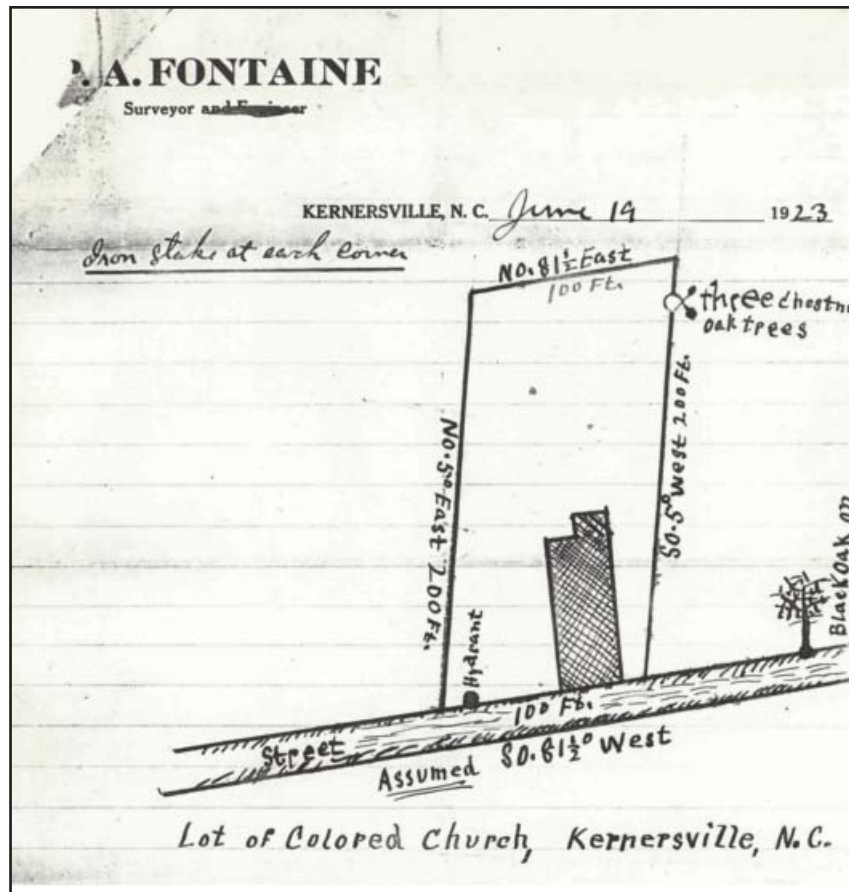
Saint Paul United Methodist Church was designed in the vernacular Carpenter Gothic style. It is a gable-front, frame structure with a central front steeple and features arched windows. While the exterior of the building has undergone substantial revision, the interior is substantially intact.

Saint Paul United Methodist Church is significant for its strong association with the history of the African-American community in Kernersville, as well as the growth and development of the Town of Kernersville, as a whole. During the late 19th century, Kernersville witnessed a great period of economic growth and prosperity, and Saint Paul United Methodist Church is a historic structure from this period of Kernersville's history.

Today Saint Paul United Methodist Church remains in use as a church.



*St. Paul United Methodist Church,  
Date Unknown  
Courtesy of Forsyth County  
Historic Resources Commission's Files*



Church Plat, 1923  
Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's Files



This information is also available  
at the Forsyth County  
Historic Resources Commission's web site:  
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>