United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received JUL 2 8 1980 date entered

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and/or common Reedy Chap	el		
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Category Ownership district public building(s) both site	yes: restricted	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museum park private residence X religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Pro	perty		
name African Methodist	Episcopal Church		The street of the state of the
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city, town Waco	vicinity of	state	Texas 76705
5. Location of L	egal Description	on	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Reedy Chapel is a one and one-half story brick and stucco structure built in the Gothic Revival style. It was built in 1886 and is located on Broadway, a main thoroughfare in Galveston.

The church is basically rectangular in shape, with a projecting pier tower on the northeast corner. The strucure is load-bearing brick covered with stucco. Square brick buttresses support the east and west walls. The dentiled gabled roof is steeply pitched, and is covered with shingles. Three small gables protrude at equal intervals along each side.

The projecting pier tower dominates the main, or north, facade. Headed pilasters on the corners of the tower rise to a bracketed cornice. Its roof is pyramidal in shape with a curvilinear transition to the corners. A small Gothic window occupies three of its four sides.

The main entrance is to the west of the projecting tower. Above the double entrance doors is an elaborate stained glass transom, consisting of five lancet windows combining to form a large pointed arch window. Above the transom, directly below the gable, is a large circular window, also of stained glass. A smaller stained glass Gothic window is to the right of the entrance doors.

The interior is a simple basilica in plan. There is a wooden balcony above the foyer. The roof is vaulted, and the exposed support

beams are elaborately worked.

In 1947, 1957, and 1976 extensive repairs were made to the chapel in keeping with its architectural style. However, the lancet windows at the tower and at the gabled roof have been closed, and the interior furnishings tend to be modern.

8: Significance

1600-1699 1700-1799 _X 1800-1899	architecture	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	military music philosophy politics/government	eX religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify
Specific dates	18/8 1866 1886	Builder/Architect Unkr	Oran	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1886 in the Gothic Revival style, the Reedy Chapel is the Mother Church of African Methodism in Texas. It was the result of the efforts of white slave owners to provide a place of worship for their slaves, and stands as a symbol of black heritage in the southwest.

The property on which the building stands was purchased in 1848 by four white trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church-South, for the use of the slaves. It was originally used as an open meeting area. Before Emancipation a small structure was built, and white members of the Methodist Church held services there for the blacks. A permanent structure was erected in 1863.

In the turmoil following the Civil War, the Methodist Episcopal Church-North filed suit against the Methodist Episcopal Church-South in an attempt to gain possession of the former slave churches. The courts ruled in favor of the Southern sector, and the property was given to the ex-slaves to establish their own church. In 1866 the church and property was deeded to the newly formed African Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1867 the chapel obtained its first pastor, a missionary from Philadelphia named Houston Reedy. It was subsequently named in his honor.

The chapel was destroyed by fire in 1885; in 1886 the present building was erected. Although hurricanes and severe weather have caused damage to the building, it has been kept in good repair, and still serves the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Galveston Daily News
Galveston City Directory
Souvenir Brochure and Orientation Bulletin of Reedy Chapel

10.	Geographica	al Data	Essan)	Connection of the connection o		agerage, consistent on the stage of the state of the stat
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organiza	tion Texas Histori	cal Commiss	sion	date	July 14,	1980
street &	number Box 12276			telephone	512-476-	5428
city or to	wn Austin			state	Texas	
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Keeper	of the National Register					
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United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Questions con	cerning this nomination may be directed to Bell Growens.
on the Nation	Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401
- 11 0	your attention to the above items. Date: 10/08/80
Chief, Branch	of Registration Date: 10/28/80

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received AUG | 1984

date entered SEP | 4 | 1984

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Type all entries—complete applicable	sections		
1. Name			
historic Reedy Chapel African		Church	
and or common Reedy Chapel			
2. Location	1		
street & number 2013 Broadway		Ŋ	/A not for publication
city, town Galveston	N/A vicinity of		
state Texas coo	de 048 county	Galveston	code 167
3. Classification			
Category Ownership district public building(s) private structure both object N/A in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Prope	rtv		
name African Methodist Epis	copal Church		
street & number 2812 Kendall La	ne		
city, town Waco	N/A vicinity of	state	Texas 76705
5. Location of Leg	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	alveston County Cou	rthouse	
street & number 21st Street			
city, town Galveston		state	Texas
6. Representation	in Existing	Surveys	
1) Historic American Buil	ding Survey		
title 2) Recorded Texas Histori 3) Historic Sites Invento		pperty been determined el	igible? yes _x_ no
date 1) 1967, 2) 1975, 3) 1979		_1_federal 2,3 star	te county local
depository for survey records Texa	as Historical Commis	sion	
city, town Austin		state	Texas

7. Description

Condition excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one X original site	
fair	ruins unexposed	X altered	moved date _	N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Reedy Chapel, A.M.E. Church, is an interesting example of a late 19th-century Gothic Revival structure. Constructed of stuccoed brick, the church features a prominent corner bell tower and massive square piers along the side walls. The interior features a handsome timber-truss ceiling and an important 1870s pipe organ.

A masonry structure measuring approximately 60 by 120 feet, the Reedy Chapel AME Church faces north on Broadway in Galveston. The entrance facade is an asymmetrical composition, with the main entrance door located in the center of the facade. The doorway is set in a large lancet-arch opening, and its transom is divided by a series of elegant muntins. A single lancet opening with a stained-glass window is set to the west of the door. The most dominant element of the facade is the bell tower, set at the northeast corner of the facade. The bulk of the tower steps out slightly from the plane of the facade, and is supported at the corners by substantial, square piers. The tower is capped by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The north face of the tower contains a single large lancet opening which holds two tiers of stained glass. The upper segment of the glass work is divided so as to form two lancet-arch panels. The east face of the tower also contains a large lancet opening which is far shorter than its counterpart on the north side, occupying only the upper stage of the tower wall. The tower piers feature simple molded capitals. The frieze above the piers is decorated by a series of blind lancet panels. The eaves of the tower roof are supported by a course of simple brackets. Directly above the main doorway is a large, round window whose stained glass is divided by muntins into nine sections. The steeply pitched, gabled roof of the church is decorated by a dentil cornice.

The side elevations of the church are four bays long, each bay being framed by heavy square piers similar to those found on the bell tower. Each bay contains a single lancet-shaped opening with stained glass fitted within. The south elevation features a large lancet opening aligned with the peak of the gable roof. To each side are single lancet doorway openings.

The interior of the church is simply yet handsomely detailed, with the ceiling and church organ of special interest. The ceiling is of wood, highly varnished. Its rafters are supported on a series of open timber trusses whose ends rest upon timber brackets mounted in the side walls. The darkness of the woodwork contrasts with the simple white walls of the interior. Dominating the south end of the church is the imposing organ, set within a carved wooden case, fabricated by the firm of E. & G.G. Hook of Boston in 1872. It was originally installed in Trinity Episcopal Church in Galveston, and sold to the congregation at Reedy Chapel in 1912. The pipes are raised high above the floor level, with five groups of pipes set within elaborate, carved Gothic detailing. This organ is considered to be one of the oldest intact church organs in Texas, and is the product of one of the oldest organ works in the United States. To each side of the organ case are rows of seats for the church choir. Two ranges of pews are set alongside the nave.

The church suffered damage in the devastating 1900 hurricane, as well as the storm of 1915, but in both cases, the structure was quickly restored by the congregation. Repairs have been made through the years, and the floors of the church are now carpeted.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page 1

Ornamental iron gates have been installed in front of the original wooden doors for security, and similar protective grilles have been placed on the main-facade window. Neither of these modifications is of a permanent character, and the integrity of the structure is mainly intact.

8. Significance

1600–1699 X 1700–1799 X 1800–1899	agriculture architecture art commerce communications	education engineering exploration/settlement		sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Reedy Chapel, A.M.E. Church, built in a restrained Gothic Revival style, is deeply rooted in the history of the Black community of the city of Galveston. It is the second church to stand on the site, and has survived serious damage from numerous hurricanes, including the great storm of 1900. The church's congregation has included many prominent Black Galvestonians among its members, and is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal congregation in the state of Texas.

The Gothic Revival structure which houses the congregation of the Reedy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church is the second building to occupy the site on the south side of the 2000 block of Broadway in Galveston. The building site was acquired in 1848 by white trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the express purpose of serving as a meeting place for Black members of that faith. A separate Black congregation was organized in May of 1856, and by 1863 a frame church building had been constructed. The first pastor of the church was the Reverend Houston Reedy of Philadelphia. The original church structure was destroyed in the major fire of 1885, and because of the efforts of the late Reverend J.E. Edwards a brick church was built the following year (1886) and was named in honor of the first pastor. The second church survives today, although it suffered damage from the many hurricanes which struck the island city. The great hurricane of 1900 proved to be the most destructive, causing serious damage to the roof and walls. The congregation, under the direction of the Reverend H.L. Trapp, who was pastor from 1903 to 1906, raised \$2,600 for the needed repairs. At the same time a new charter was granted to the Reedy Chapel, and the trustees of Reedy formed a corporation and withdrew from the Texas Conference of African Methodist Episcopal Churches.

The church edifice, in comparison with some of the more flamboyant Gothic Revival churches in Galveston, is rather restrained in its use of Gothic detailing. It is apparent that although it has been repaired and renovated after the 1900 and 1915 hurricanes, the overall form and character of the church has been maintained. In addition to the repair work to the church, the congregation constructed a parsonage on an adjacent lot in 1926, at a cost of \$8,500.

The congregation has a history of involvement in community affairs, including affiliation with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. During the Great Depression, the Women's Missionary Service of the church operated a free-meal program and also assisted in collecting clothing for the needy, as well as helping to locate jobs and housing during that period. Prominent members of the church congregation have included T.H. Love, principal of Central High School in Galveston, the state's first high school for Black students, and Norris Wright Cuney, alderman on the Galveston City Council and Collector of Customs.

9. Major Bibliographical	References
	uly 22, 1951 in of Reedy Chapel, in files at Texas Historical see continuation sheet)
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre Quadrangle name Galveston, Texas UTM References	Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000
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List all states and counties for properties overlap	pping state or county boundaries
state N/A code	county code
state code	county code
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Julia J. Gribble (with John C.	Ferguson, THC)
organization Texas Historical Commission	date July 1980 (April 1984
street & number Box 12276	telephone (512) 475-3094
city or town Austin	state Texas
12. State Historic Prese	rvation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the sta	ate is: local
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the State Historic Preservation Officer signature	
title State Historic Preservation Office	er date // July 1984
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date 9/14/89
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

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Page 1

The church still continues, on its original site, to serve the Black community of Galveston, ministering to the needs of a congregation of over 350 members.

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Item number

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Page

1

[&]quot;History of Reedy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1900-1984." Typescript MS by E. Goldie Smith for Dr. Leon A. Mayan, on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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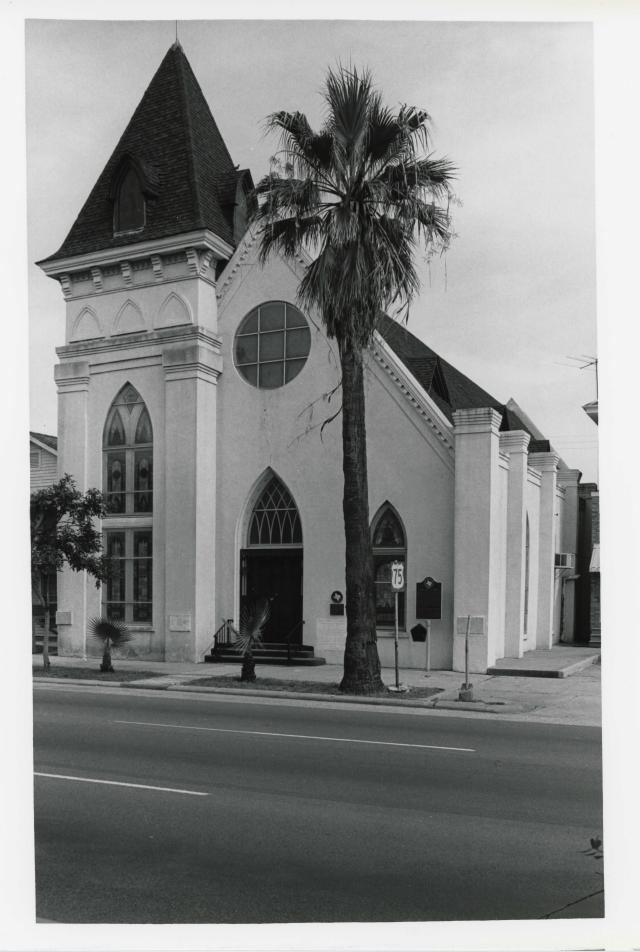
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8. Significance		
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Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)		
summary paragraph completeness clarity applicable criteria justification of areas checked relating significance to the resource context relationship of integrity to significance justification of exception other		Reedy Chapel And Shareh
9. Major Bibliographical References		
10. Geographical Data	Jan Sparie	
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name UTM References		
Verbal boundary description and justification		
11. Form Prepared By	All property and the same	STORY OF THE STORY
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification The evaluated significance of this property within the st	tate is:	
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State Historic Preservation Officer signature		Test delication of the second
title date		
13. Other	The State of	
☐ Maps ☐ Photographs ☐ Other		
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed	to	
Signed	Date	Phone:



Reedy Chapel, A.M.E. Church
2013 Broadway, Galveston, Galveston Co., Texas
Photo by Kenneth Breisch, September 1983. Neg.
with Texas Historical Commission, Austin.
Northwest oblique, camera facing Southeast
Photo 1 of 3



Reedy Chapel, A.M.E. Church 2013 Broadway, Galveston, Galveston Co., Texas Photo by Kenneth Breisch, September 1983. Neg. with Texas Historical Commission, Austin. Northeast oblique, camera facing East Photo 2 of 3



Reedy Chapel, A.M.E. Church
2013 Broadway, Galveston, Galveston Co., Texas
Photo by James B. Smith Sr., 1984. Neg. with
A.M.E. Church, 2013 Broadway, Galveston
Interior view of organ and choir pews, camera
facing south
Photo 3 of 3

