

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCERS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

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

**1. Name**

historic TABOR REFORMED CHURCH (United Church of Christ)

and/or common \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Tenth and Walnut Streets \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lebanon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 16th

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lebanon code 075

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Congregation of Tabor United Church of Christ

street & number Tenth and Walnut Streets

city, town Lebanon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lebanon County Courthouse

street & number South Eighth Street

city, town Lebanon \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pa. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date March 7, 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

# 7. Descripti

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Tabor Reformed Church is a 2½ story native limestone building erected in 1792 to replace its log predecessor which was constructed in 1760 and destroyed by lightning on June 6th, 1792. On June 26th, 1792, the dated cornerstone was laid for the 42 ft. by 62 ft. original portion of Tabor which was dedicated in its completion May 8th, 1796. Christopher Uhler designed the church as architect, John Mae Fadyan was the stone mason, Conrad Wittemeyer provided the stone steps, Christian Beck did the gilding of the pulpit, Philip Fisher was the metalsmith, John Rohrer was locksmith and Tobias Greter furnished 252 wagon loads of stone. The total cost of the new church amounted to \$4,355.

The ground upon which the church stands was granted to deacons of the congregation by George Steita, founder of Lebanon, for the construction of a place of worship and for provision of land for the burial of the dead. The purchase price was a nominal 5 shillings and a ground rent of one red rose every June for ever after, and hence Tabor has been called the "Red Rose Church".

The original 2½ story structure of 1792 is rectangular in shape. A 4 story stone tower with spire is attached to the south side of the original structure, with the lower 3 stories being part of the original church. In 1914 a Chapel was added to the east end of the original church wherein special care was taken to make the two structures appear as one unit seemingly erected at once. Further east beyond the Chapel is the original church graveyard with many of its markers dating from the 18th Century.

The original Tabor of 1796 is 3 bays wide by 6 bays long with a slate roof and gabled ends. The east and west sides have cornices with medallions and the south gable end has a classical pediment interrupted by the tower. Original doors are located on the left end of the west side and on the middle of the north side and are identical, both displaying classical pediments with medallions, single pilasters, and three paneled double doors, the middle panels being glass. First story windows have keystone lintels and the 2nd story has larger windows of stained glass. This fenestration pattern holds tone throughout the original section. The north side attic story has a keystone arched fanlight. The 6 bay west side of original Tabor exhibits carved German biblical verses on small tablets above the 2nd story window. Seen above the first window is a notice of renovation, "Hoch Dentshe Reformte Kirche Neu Eingerichtet A.D. 1844". There is also a water table. The south side is centered on this gable end. Four stories high, the tower has two identical doors on its south and west sides. These recessed doors are three paneled and double with glass middle panels, classical pediments, medallions, single pilasters and stained glass fanlights. On these same two sides of the tower above the doors are single windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors of each side. These windows have keystone radiating arches. Between the 3rd and 4th stories of the tower is a cornice with medallions, and above this is the belfry and octagonal spire with string course and an arched, keystone opening on each side with stone balusters at the bottoms of the openings. The stone belfry-spire was preceded by two wooden spires both of which were destroyed by lightning.

The chapel built in 1914, has a main central section 6 bays long with an east to west orientation and is 2½ stories high. It has two adjacent wings, joined length wise and having the same east to west layout, which are only 2 stories high. The Chapel has a slate roof, a stone chimney on the northeast corner and on the eastern side, an apse. The north side has a plain paneled door at the 6th bay and a plain cornice. The windows on all sides have flat radiating arches composed of the same limestone found throughout the structure. The 2nd bay of the south side is a three paneled double door entrance, the middle panels here also being windows, and above this is located a fanlight and a semi-circular arch. The 1st two bays of the chapel's south side are extended slightly and capped with a plain classical pediment. The east end of the chapel is 7 bays wide and the fourth, or middle bay is a two story apse

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

**TABOR REFORMED CHURCH**

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*with a hip roof. The first second and sixth and seventh bays each have a small stained glass window on each story which all have flat radiating arches. The third, fourth, and fifth bays are large, rounded, stained glass windows with keystoned arches. At the top center of the gable is a round vented opening.*

*East of the chapel is located a graveyard with numerous 18th century tombstones, two examples of which are sandstone decorated with skulls and crossbones. In 1772, a dry stone wall was built on the north and east sides of the property but the present wall there dates from 1816. In this cemetery were buried prominent 18th and 19th century Lebanon citizens and also 12 soldiers from the Revolutionary War.*

*Tabor stands on the corner of 10th and Walnut Streets on a property approximately 207 feet on the south side by 215 feet on the west with various shrubbery and confirs.*

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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

Builder/Architect Architect: Christopher Uhler

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Builder: John MacFaydan

Tabor Reformed Church, named after a mountain in Galilee, is a good example of a colonial Central Pennsylvanian Church constructed of local materials and standing in good condition to this day. The older portion of the church as viewed from western and southern perspectives has retained its original design to the effect that one can still determine exactly how 1792 Tabor looked. Tabor is the oldest standing church within the Lebanon city limits and although a large chapel was attached in 1914, the original eighteenth century form has not been obscured.

During the Revolutionary War the original Tabor, a log structure on the northeast corner of the present property, served as a hospital and holding point for Hessian prisoners. This first log church was struck by lightning on June 6th, 1792 and badly damaged. After the congregations of Tabor Church and Salem Lutheran Churches met difficulties in paying their construction debts, the Pa. State Legislature authorized a lottery to help both parishes. Since 1907 Tabor can be seen as the mother of six other churches in Lebanon and the surrounding area. They are St. John's (1860), St. Paul's (1877), St. Mark's (1885), Grace (1885), Templeman's (1888), St. Stephen's (1907).

The Tabor property was acquired directly from George Steitz, founder of Lebanon city, by the Tabor congregation deacons for five shillings and the ground rent of one red rose every June. June, 1979 marked the 219th consecutive payment of a red rose to the descendants of George Steitz.

The nave of old Tabor is now undergoing restoration with the supervision of the architectural firm Haak, Kauffman, Reese, and Beers in order to restore its appearance to the original form.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

A History of Tabor (First) Reformed Church, Earnest D. Klopp, Lebanon, PA 1892  
 First (Tabor) Reformed Church: History of Pastors and Congregation, William J. Hinke and William Happel, Lebanon, PA 1935  
 Centennial History of the Lebanon Classics of the Reformed Church, Thomas Stein, Lebanon, PA 1920  
 Old Tabor (1760-1960) 200th Anniversary Booklet, Lebanon, PA 1960

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property One Acre

Quadrangle name Lebanon, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	3	7	8	7	4	0	4	4	6	5	9	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

One acre (composed of church, church yard and cemetery) bounded on west by South Tenth Street, on south by Walnut Street, on east by Partridge Street, and north by Federal Street.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David C. Mark, Pastor / Bruce Bomberger

organization / PHMC

date February 13, 1980

street & number 690 Bachman Road / Box 1026

telephone 717-867-2392

city or town Annville / Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Ed Weintraub, Director

title Office of Historic Preservation

date

For HCERS 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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1	8	3	7	8	7	4	0	4	4	6	5	9	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

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Ed Weintraub, Director

title Office of Historic Preservation

date

4-8-80

For HCRS use only

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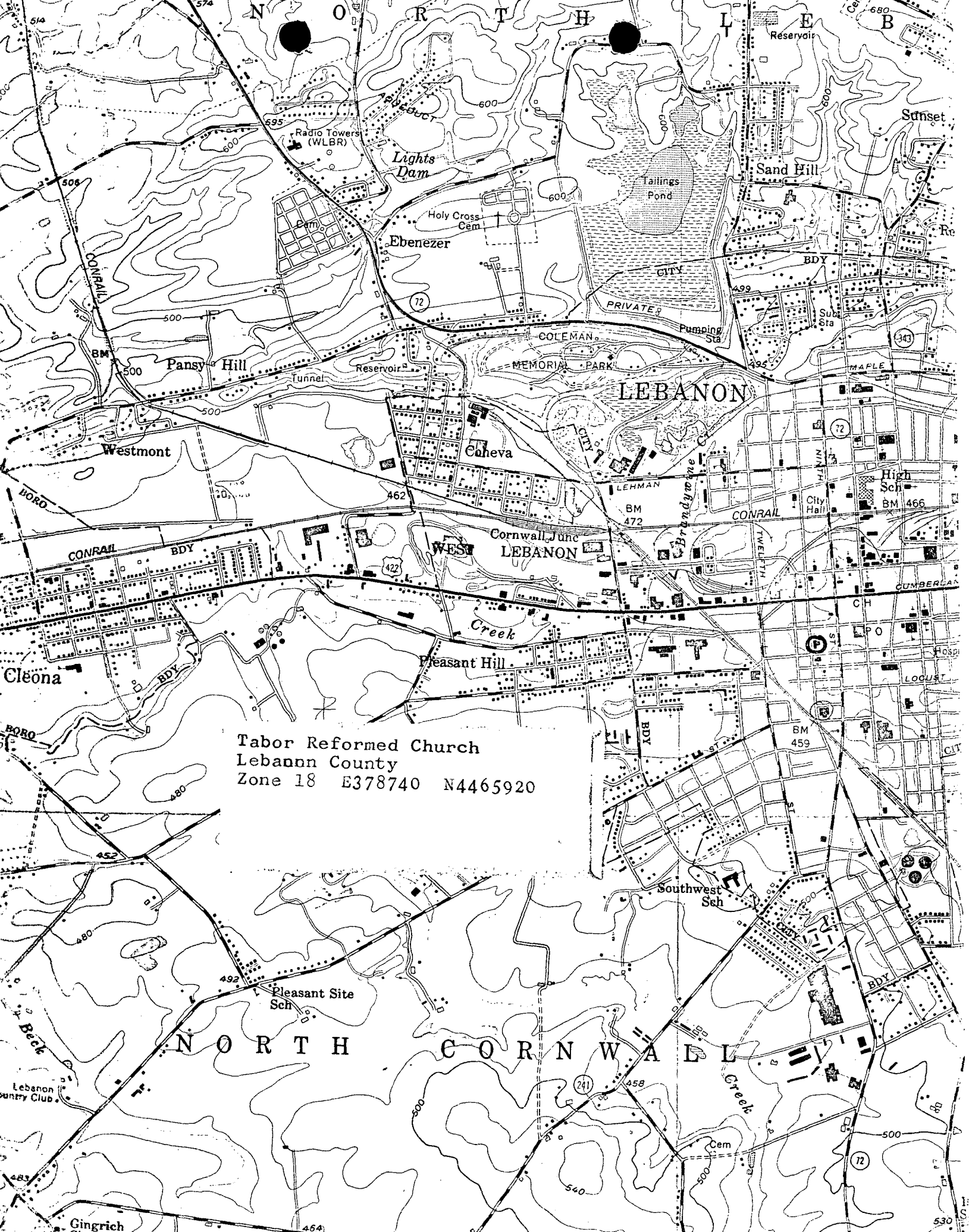
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Tabor Reformed Church  
Lebanon County  
Zone 18 E378740 N4465920

N O R T H C O R N W A L L