1. NAME(S), historic/common: Bethel A.M.E. Church

2. LOCATION, street/road: 820 Clay St.
   TAX MAP-LOT #: 80-168
   city/town: Parkersburg, WV 26101
   (incorporated/uncorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: vacant
   original: church

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: Bethel African M.E. Church
   address above
   original: African M.E. Church

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF: 8112-R3-F2-3

6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map):

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

8. ACREAGE (approx): 42' x 70' x 80'
9. DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate): See attached

a. Exterior Fabric
- stone
- brick
- concrete
- stucco
- weatherboard
- clapboard
- board & batten
- shingle
- other

b. Structural System
- masonry
- frame
- log
- metal
- other

- foundation stone

- other

c. Roofing Material
- wood
- metal
- slate
- tile
- asphalt
- composition
- other

- other

d. Associated Structures (use/type):
- outbuildings
- dependencies
- other

e. Integrity (include dates):
- original site/relocated
- alterations
- stucco
- additions

f. Condition:
- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- abandoned

9. Threats:
- Deferred maintenance.

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

b. Style/Period:
- Vernacular
- Gothic Revival

c. Date(s): 1887 (datestone)

This was one of three Black churches in the City of Parkersburg. Its design is the very simplest interpretation of a common ecclesiastical style. It is the oldest black church building in west-central West Virginia and commands a site only a block from the central areas of the downtown. It is a quiet sentinel of a settled and older neighborhood significant in the black history of Wood County.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

12. FORM PREPARED BY Eliza Smith, Christina Mann DATE 12/81

a. Address Allegheny Square Wes Pittsburgh, PA 15212

b. Organization Landmarks Planning,
Bethel A.M.E. Church
820 Clay St.
80-168

Located in a neighborhood of slightly deteriorating wood frame houses of the late 19th century, this is a simple 2 story church building of 1 by 3 bays. It is faced in stucco. The metal gable roof has small exposed rafter ends. The 2nd story windows are slightly arched d/s (2/2); in the NW end, the window is stained glass. The 1st story windows are d/s (2/2) set in segmental arched apertures. A datestone is above the central door on the NW.