THOMPSON'S MEETING HOUSE

About 400 yards south of this Marker near Goodie creek stood Thompson's Meeting House. It was the forerunner of Bethlehem Methodist Church, the name having been changed when the church was moved to its present location.

Thompson's Meeting House was the second Methodist Church built in the state. Bishop Coke is quoted as saying in 1786, "We have stretched our borders into Georgia". (See Metyiere's History of Methodism, page 357).

A memorial plaque was presented to Bethlehem Methodist Church by the 1966 North Georgia Annual Conference, "recognizing this church as the oldest continuously organized Methodist Church in the state of Georgia." "Organized in 1737, it was known as Thompson's Meeting House, Broad River Circuit." (Annual Conference Journal of 1966, page 70).

Bishop Francis Asbury preached in the church five times, sometimes referring in his Journal to it as "Thompson's Chapel." Other great founders of American Methodism such as Nicholas Snethen, later Chaplain of Congress, Moses Park, John Major, Thomas Humphries, and Hope Hull were heard from the pulpit of this Mother Church of Northeast Georgia Methodism.

(Erected 1972 by the Commission on Archives and History, North Georgia Conference)