NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Methodist Episcopal Church, South

other names/site number First United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 200 N. 12th Avenue N/A☐ not for publication

city or town Humboldt N/A☐ vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Gibson code 053 zip code 38343

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

E. Patrick McIlhaney, Jr. 6-02-08

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt, Built up
other Copper, Wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1899-1957

Significant Dates

1899, 1929

Significant Person
(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown; Dean Hill and Associates (education building); Jacoby Art Glass Company (stained glass windows)

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Name of Property

Gibson County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre Humboldt, Tenn 437 SW

UTM References
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	326693	3965807	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Crenshaw and Doris Neal
organization First United Methodist Church date 12/09/07
street & number 200 North 12th Avenue telephone (731) 784-2993
city or town Humboldt state TN zip code 38343

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name First United Methodist Church, c/o Rev. Larry Riley
street & number 200 North 12th Avenue telephone 731-784-2993
city or town Humboldt state TN zip code 38343

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

DESCRIPTION

The First United Methodist Church in Humboldt, Tennessee (pop 9467) is a beautiful example of Gothic Revival architecture from the turn of the twentieth century with later additions from 1929 and 1964.The exterior of the sanctuary consists of buttresses, towers, a copper steeple and cross, and pointed arch stained-glass windows. In 1929 a two story annex was added to the east end of the sanctuary. Then in 1964 a two story education building was constructed and connected to the east elevation of the annex by a narrow connector. The annex has a flat roof, rectangular windows, stone trim, and an arched entry. The education building has minimal ornamentation and is dominated by large rectangular banks of fixed windows. The church retains the majority of its original features and materials, and has a high level of integrity.

The church is located in a residential neighborhood adjacent to the downtown commercial area. The west façade stands near 12th Avenue with a line of shrubs and a small grassy slope to the sidewalk. There are small crape myrtle trees growing in front of the south elevation as well as shrubbery and a planter of flowers. In 2001, a clear shatterproof glass was installed over the memorial stained glass windows. Then in 2002, exterior floodlights were placed to illuminate the stained glass windows every night.

Two towers rise up on the north and south ends of the west façade. A third tower, originally located on the south elevation, was removed in 1929. The north tower is slightly recessed and is smaller than the south tower. Each tower has a set of tall double doors topped by a round stained glass window set in a pointed arch opening. Tan brick voussoirs contrast with the red brick of the church's walls. Engaged buttresses flank the entries. Above the entries on each tower are two pointed arch openings. The openings on the north tower are shuttered while those on the south tower are screened. The original bell hangs within the south tower and is still rung regularly. The south tower has a tall copper steeple roof topped with a cross that replaced the original steeple in 1946. In 1928 the steeple roof was removed from the north tower.

The towers flank a central front gabled section that is divided into three bays by engaged buttresses. The outer two bays each contain a stained glass pointed arch window topped by tan brick voussoirs. The central bay has a panel of decorative brickwork topped by a pointed arch stained glass window with tan brick voussoirs. Above this is a small pointed arch vent opening located at the top of the wall. The windows all have stone sills.

The sanctuary, annex, and education building are all visible on the south elevation. The west end of the elevation contains the southernmost tower, the south elevation of which is identical to the west façade. East of the tower is a gabled section with three bays separated by engaged buttresses. The central bay has a large stained glass unit composed of a circular window above six rectangular windows. This unit is set in a pointed arch opening with tan brick voussoirs. Above this is a pointed arch vent opening. Flanking this central bay are pointed arch stained glass

window with tan brick voussoirs. Extending east are three pointed arch stained glass windows separated by engaged buttresses.

East of these windows begins the two story annex that was built in 1929. Originally a third tower stood on the southeast corner of the church, but this tower was removed during the construction of the annex. The westernmost bay of the annex contains a metal and glass double door entry in an arched opening. The entry is covered by a small gabled portico that was added in 2002. The portico has a pointed arch opening and piers that mimic the engaged buttresses found on the sanctuary. Above the portico are a pointed arch decorative element and a belt course that extends around the annex.

The first floor of the annex east of the entry has three sets of paired, eight-pane, rectangular casement windows with stone sills. The second floor has four sets of identical windows. Above the second floor windows are the belt course and a central decorative panel.

East of the annex is the 1964 two story education building, which is minimally attached to the east elevation of the annex by a recessed connector. The south elevation of the education building has four large window units on both the first and second floors. Each window unit is slightly recessed and has three large fixed glass windows above three smaller windows. Plain, vertical brick piers separate the window units. A continuous concrete band projects out slightly and runs along the top of the window units. The band above the second floor windows extends around the east and west elevations of the building. The north elevation of the education building is the same as its south elevation with one exception. The north elevation has two doors leading out to a playground that is north of the building.

The east elevation of the education building has two doors on the first floor and a stairway that leads to a single door on the second floor. There are no other openings or windows on this elevation.

The north elevation of the annex has five rectangular windows on the first floor. These windows are paired two pane windows and are slightly smaller than those on the south elevation. The second floor has six windows of the same configuration as the first floor. However, the outer two windows are shorter than the central four windows. The annex projects out slightly from the sanctuary on the north elevation.

The north elevation of the sanctuary is similar to its south elevation with the major differences found in the towers. Instead of an entry at the base of the tower, there are two long, narrow, pointed arch, stained glass windows. Another difference between the north and south elevations is a brick chimney on the north elevation located in place of one of the engaged buttresses on the east half of the sanctuary.

Entry to the church is gained through the entrance in the south elevation of the annex. Inside the entry is a landing for a set of steps that lead up to the main foyer and down to a fellowship hall in the basement level. In addition to the fellowship hall, the basement contains storage, classroom space, and a kitchen. These spaces are part of the 1929 annex. An elevator was installed east of the stairs in the mid-nineties.

The main foyer on the first floor provides access to the sanctuary via two sets of double doors on the west wall. The foyer has three large brass chandeliers that are accented by applied molding on the ceiling. The space is painted white and has wainscoting on the walls between the doors and stairs; there is also heavy molding along the top of the walls. The current teal colored carpeting was put in place in the foyer and sanctuary when the spaces were redecorated in 2002. The foyer also provides access to a ladies restroom, ladies parlor, secretary's office, and a small chapel. A staircase in the north end of the foyer leads up to the second floor of the annex. The second floor contains the activity director's office, two classrooms, the church library, restroom, and a choir room. On the west end of the second floor of the annex is a balcony that overlooks the sanctuary. The staircases from the first floor lead directly into the balcony. Three rows of pews are arranged in three sections with two aisles. A waist high paneled wall partially separates the balcony from the main body of the sanctuary. The walls of the balcony and sanctuary are plaster.

The large sanctuary has several notable features including the ceiling, stained glass windows, and pipe organ. The ceiling has large beams running north-south that form a flat arch with large curved brackets where they meet the walls. These beams are intersected at regular intervals by beams that run east-west. This creates a coffered effect on the ceiling. Large chandeliers dating from 1928 hang from the ceiling. Additional lighting is provided by modern recessed light fixtures.

The sanctuary pews are arranged in three sections with two aisles. The oak pews have decorative carving on their arms and are believed to be original to the church. At the west end of the sanctuary is a step up to the pulpit area. A railing with a decorative balustrade is on the east end of this section. Behind the pulpit is a recessed area framed by a dramatic large pointed arch opening, which contains two rows of seating for the choir and the large pipe organ. The choir space is partially separated from the main body of the sanctuary by a waist high paneled wall. Behind the choir space the pipes of the organ rise from the top of a short paneled wall. The pipes are partially covered by an intricate wood screen. Wood tracery on the screen contains numerous decorative pointed arches and trefoil designs. Two sets of six-paneled double doors lead to entry foyers in the base of the towers. Entry to the choir area is through doors in the tower foyers. These doors are topped by stained glass window units.

The sanctuary contains several highly decorative stained glass windows. The windows on the façade and in the cross gables were installed in 1901 and were made in St. Louis by the Jacoby Art Glass Company, a renowned company who manufactured thousands of church windows

between 1896 and 1970. According to the Jacoby Company archives, an order was placed for these windows in 1899 and they were completed and installed in 1901.[1] The windows located east of the cross gables, along the nave, were installed in 1929 and are believed also to have been made by the Jacoby Art Glass Company. The windows depict a variety of religious and inspirational people and scenes. One of the largest windows in the south wall displays the figure of Christ, while the opposite window on the north wall depicts Moses with stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments. The four figures of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John representing the gospels are prominently displayed in other stained glass windows.

Extending west from the annex is the 1964 education building. The connector between the two sections is a small space with a set of stairs leading to the two floors of the education building. On each floor the stairs lead to a small foyer. A set of double doors with a single-pane transom and sidelights lead from the foyer into the main body of the education building. Classrooms are arranged along either side of a center hallway. The hallway contains single-pane windows along the top of the walls. These windows allow light from the classrooms to filter into the hallway.

The main feature of the classrooms is the large banks of windows. The windows are recessed from the surface of the walls and have a shallow padded seating area. The classrooms on the second floor are separated by movable partition walls that allow the rooms to open to accommodate larger groups of people.

First Methodist Episcopal Church, South retains the majority of its historic features and has a high level of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

[1] Personal communication between authors and Katie Gross of The Stained Glass Association of America.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Humboldt, Tennessee is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion C as a good example of Gothic Revival architecture. The church sanctuary was begun in 1899 and finished in 1901. Numerous pointed arch window and door openings, as well as two ornamented towers, distinguish the church as an attractive example of the Gothic Revival style. Additions housing offices and classrooms were built in 1929 and 1964 as the church expanded and increased educational activities were offered. The church is further distinguished by several notable stained glass windows, which were manufactured by the renowned Jacoby Company from St. Louis. These colorful windows depict various people and scenes from the Bible.

The seeds of the Methodist faith were planted in Humboldt in 1857 when Nathan Sullivan, Presiding Elder of the Paris District, helped several families organize a Methodist church in Humboldt. Descendants of several of the founders continue to be members of the church today. The church was formally organized and dedicated in 1860, meeting first in a grocery store, then in the Masonic Lodge. It was not until 1867 that a small frame building was erected for primary use as a church. This building was located on Crenshaw Avenue, just east of the current church building. At this time the congregation received its first appointed pastor, Reverend R. H. Mahon, and became a sturdy, growing institution.

As the congregation grew, it became apparent that a larger church was necessary. When W. I. McFarland moved his law office from the corner of Twelfth Avenue and Crenshaw Street, he donated this property to the Methodist Church. They built the current brick structure on this site in 1899. There were 392 members when the church was erected. The old frame church was razed in 1899 after the new one was constructed, and a parsonage was built on the site.[2] The parsonage has been demolished and the 1964 education building now stands on the site.

A newspaper article dated September 12, 1900, describes the event of laying the cornerstone, which was attended by all the city's school children and a large crowd. In his remarks, the Presiding Elder, Rev. G. B. Baskerville, made mention of the beauty of the church and stated, "Too much money could not be expended in the erection of a house of worship."[3] The church purchased the cornerstone from James Gillen, proprietor of the Humboldt Marble Works. The cornerstone was filled with a variety of objects including a Bible, standard hymn book, various photographs, newspapers, 1899 Southern Methodist Year Book, names of church members, minutes of the 1899 Methodist Episcopal Conference, and other historical documents of the church.

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[2] Mrs. Charles Lee Harris, Church Historian. "First United Methodist Church, Humboldt", *Families and History of Gibson County, Tennessee, to 1989.* p. 58.
[3] "Laying the Cornerstone", *Humboldt Journal and Courier.* September 10, 1900.

Although the architect is unknown, the church is an impressive example of a Gothic Revival church in Gibson County. The building of this structure gave the congregation a permanent home and allowed it to grow and have an increased presence in the community. This growth is seen in the construction of the 1929 annex that provided space for an assembly room, Sunday school rooms, a chapel, and offices. The addition of the annex allowed the church to expand its place in the community by providing a place for community groups to gather. To finance this building program, bonds were issued in the amount of $42,000.[4]

At a church conference held September 23, 1962, it was decided to construct an educational building. The building was designed by Dean Hill and Associates based out of Memphis. This same firm also designed the public library building in Collierville, Tennessee. A portion of the overall $120,000 cost was financed by the issuance and sale of building bonds in the amount of $72,000, and the difference was paid from funds obtained in a special fund-raising drive and otherwise accumulated in a building fund. Ground was broken on the building on September 8, 1963 and it was consecrated on August 23, 1964.[5] The education building currently houses preschool activities.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Humboldt is one of a few prominent churches in the county designed in the Gothic Revival style. The First United Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian Church, both located nearby in Trenton, share many characteristics with this church.[6] They are all impressive brick structures with decorative bell towers and arched stained glass windows. First Presbyterian Church, in particular, is similar to the First Methodist Episcopal Church, South in that they were built within a few years of each other and share the same form with two front towers containing entrances, a prominent front gable, and a side gable.

Gothic Revival churches typically have steeply pitched roofs, pointed arch openings, one or more towers, and elaborate stained glass window units. The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South contains all of these characteristics. The Gothic Revival style of the church is also seen in the interior with the curved ceiling beams and arched opening for the choir and organ.

One of the more notable features of the church is its collection of beautiful stained glass windows. The windows in the façade and cross gables were made by the Jacoby Art Glass Company in St. Louis. The remaining windows east of the cross gables in the nave are stylistically similar and are

[4] April Jackson. "Church Commits to Downtown Area", *The Chronicle*. Humboldt, TN. March 12, 2003.
[5] Harris. Pg 58.
[6] Both First United Methodist and First Presbyterian in Trenton are listed as contributing resources in the Trenton Historic District, listed 4/15/1982.

believed also to have been made by the Jacoby Art Glass Company. The Jacoby Company designed stained glass windows from 1896 to 1970. In the first half of the twentieth century St. Louis was a leading center for the design and production of stained glass windows and The Jacoby Company was one of the largest companies in the industry. Examples of their stained glass can be found in churches throughout the country.

The windows depict people and scenes from the Bible. For example one stained glass unit depicts Jesus at the Sea of Galilee in two vertical panels with a round window depicting the Ten Commandments. Another window unit portrays Jesus with lambs in the vertical panels with a round window showing a chalice.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South retains the majority of it original materials and has a high level of integrity. The modern 1964 Educational Building is minimally attached to the church and does not detract from the building's integrity.

Bibliography

Families and History of Gibson County, Tennessee, to 1989. Lee-Davis UDC Historical Society, Milan, TN 1989.

Greene, W.P. *Gibson County, Tennessee Illustrated, A Souvenir of 1901.* Gospel Advocate Publishing Company, Nashville, TN. 1901.

Harris, Sue; Ron Pyron; Hal Fisher. *Humboldt, Tennessee, A Pictorial History.* Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, KY. 1996.

"History of First United Methodist Church, Humboldt, Tennessee". Date unknown. First United Methodist Church, Humboldt, TN.

Jackson, April. "Church Commits to Downtown Area". *The Chronicle*, Humboldt, Tennessee. March 12, 2003.

"Laying the Cornerstone". *Humboldt Journal and Courier*, Humboldt, Tennessee. September 10, 1900.

Oppliger, William H. "A Short History of the Jacoby Studios". *Stained Glass.* Quarterly of the Stained Glass Association of America. Lee's Summit, Missouri. Fall 1999. p 207-213.

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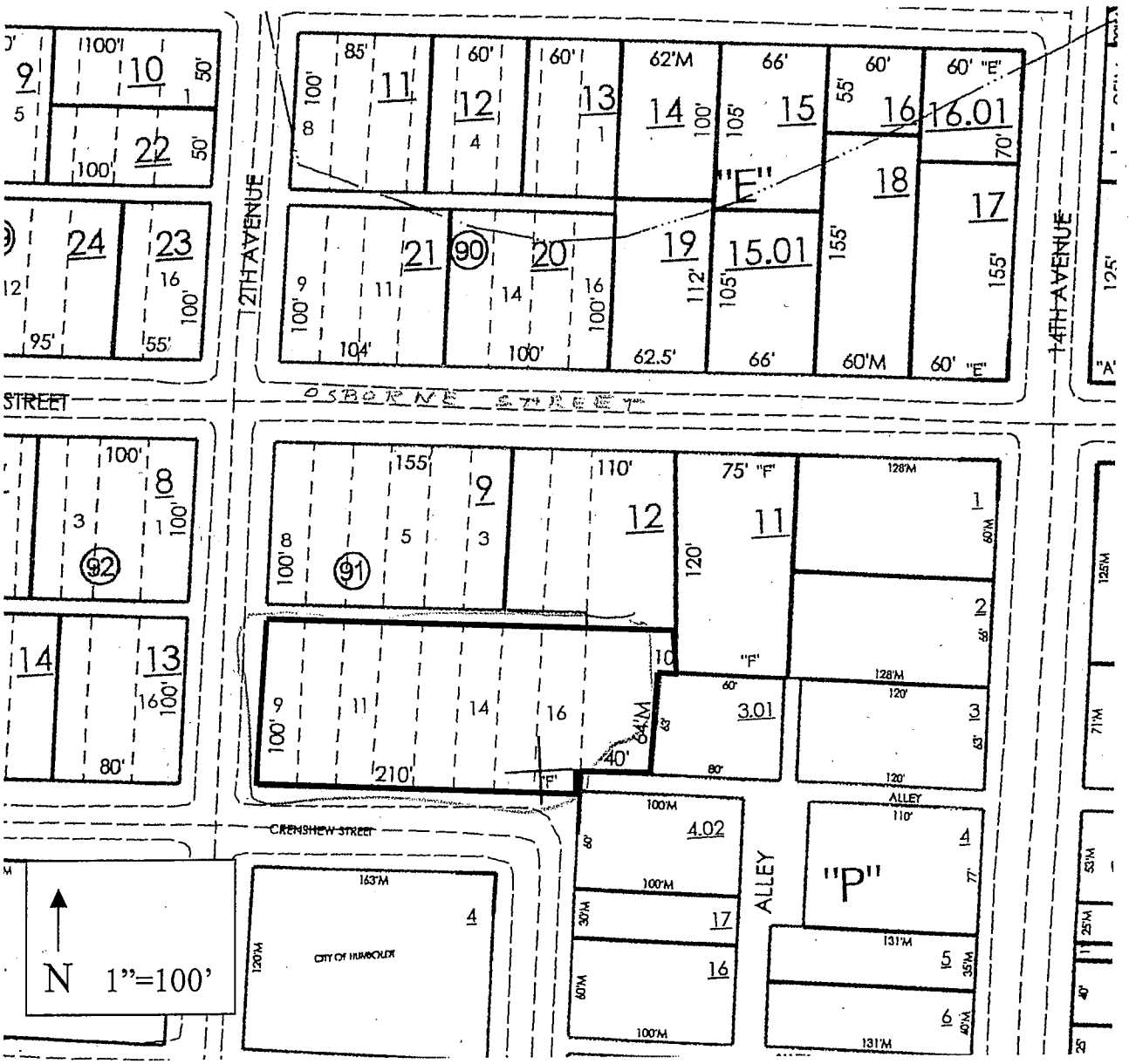
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION and JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is roughly a rectangle and is less than one acre. It is a portion of parcel 012.00 on map 170H, group F. These boundaries include land that is currently and historically associated with the church.



Photographs

Date: December, 2007
Digital Files: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

South elevation of sanctuary, photographer facing north.
1 of 18

South elevation of annex, photographer facing north.
2 of 18

South elevation of education building, photographer facing north.
3 of 18

West façade of sanctuary, photographer facing east.
4 of 18

North elevation of sanctuary, photographer facing south.
5 of 18

North elevation of annex and education building, photographer facing southeast.
6 of 18

Stained glass window in sanctuary, photographer facing south.
7 of 18

Stained glass window in sanctuary, photographer facing south.
8 of 18

Stained glass window in sanctuary, photographer facing north.
9 of 18

Stained glass window in sanctuary, photographer facing north.
10 of 18

Stained glass window in sanctuary, photographer facing north.
11 of 18

Stained glass window in sanctuary, photographer facing north.
12 of 18

Interior of sanctuary, photographer facing west.
13 of 18

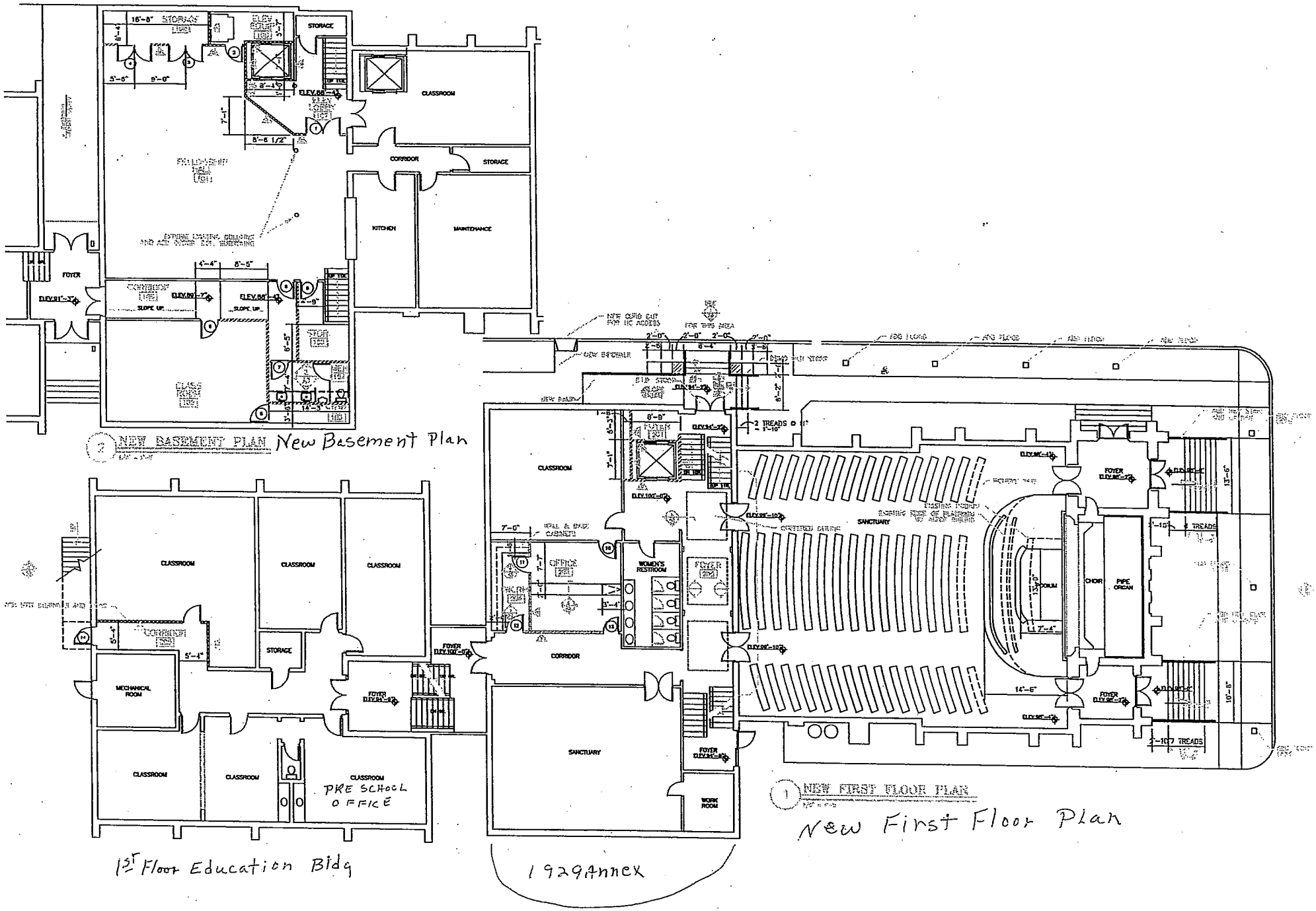
Interior of sanctuary, photographer facing east
14 of 18

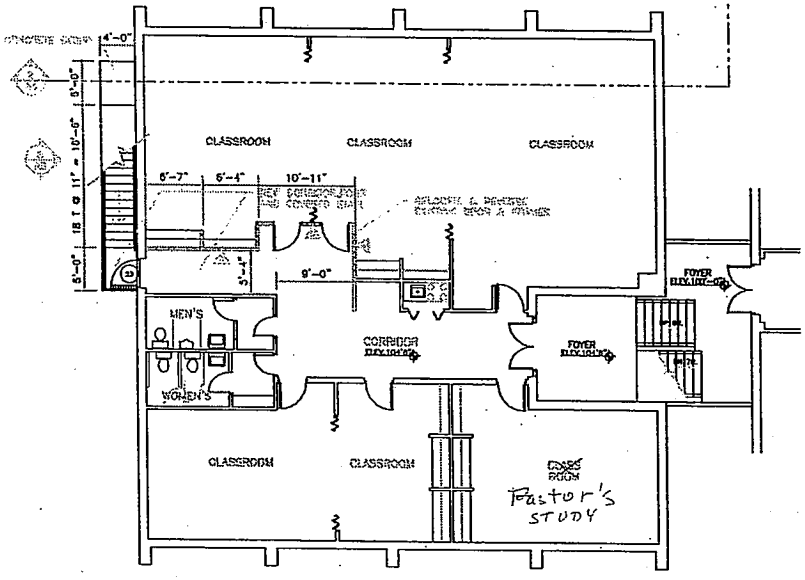
Interior of sanctuary, photographer facing south.
15 of 18

Room in annex, photographer facing southeast.
16 of 18

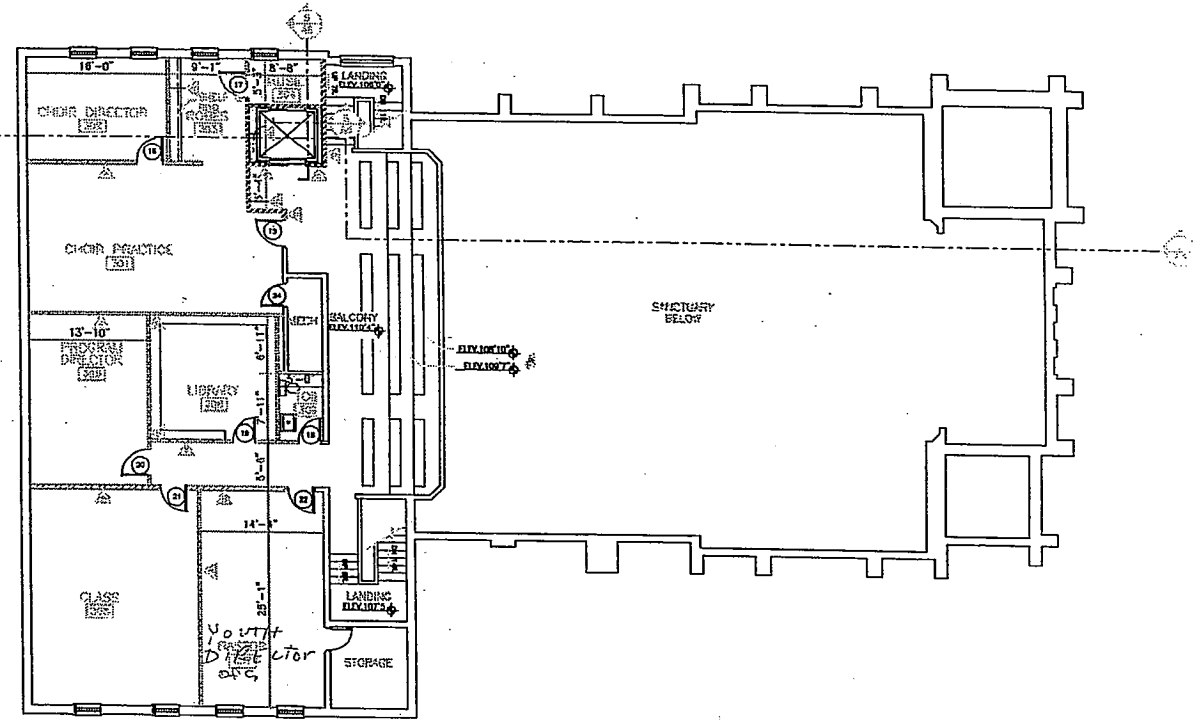
Interior of connector leading from annex to education building, photographer facing east.
17 of 18

Interior of classroom in education building, photographer facing southeast.
18 of 18


STORAGE
CLASSROOM
CORRIDOR
STORAGE
KITCHEN
MAINTENANCE
FOYER
SLOPE UP
2 NEW BASEMENT PLAN
New Basement Plan
CLASSROOM
CLASSROOM
CLASSROOM
STORAGE
MECHANICAL ROOM
CLASSROOM
CLASSROOM
CLASSROOM
PRE SCHOOL OFFICE
1st Floor Education Bldg
CLASSROOM
WOMEN'S RESTROOM
CORRIDOR
SANCTUARY
WORK ROOM
1929 Annex
SANCTUARY
FOYER
CHOIR
PIPE ORGAN
1 NEW FIRST FLOOR PLAN
New First Floor Plan



1 NEW SECOND FLOOR EDUCATION BLDG.
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



1 NEW SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"