

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 Sherrill Methodist Episcopal Church, South

other names/site number Sherrill United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 301 Main Street  not for publication

city or town Sherrill  vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Jefferson code 069 zip code 72152

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

I, 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Sherrill Methodist Episcopal Church,  
South

Jefferson County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

**Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

	Contributing	Noncontributing	
	1	0	buildings
	0	0	sites
	0	0	structures
	0	0	objects
	1	0	Total

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

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL: Late Gothic Revival

foundation WOOD

BRICK

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

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

Sherrill Methodist Episcopal Church,  
South

Jefferson County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

**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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

**Levels of Significance (local, state, national)**

Local

**Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)**

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1909

**Significant Dates**

1909, 1926

**Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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):**

- 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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

#

recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

Constructed during 1909 and 1910, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Sherrill, Arkansas, is a wonderful example of years of church construction by the Methodist in Arkansas. The single-story, wood-frame, Gothic Revival and Craftsman influenced church building is located at 301 Main Street in the town of Sherrill, Arkansas. The building's two most defining features are a square bell tower and lancet windows. The church developed its "T" plan when the addition of the fellowship hall was completed in 1926 on the south elevation. In 1952 the entrance was slightly altered with the addition of a broken pediment featuring a carved urn finial.

### ELABORATION

Sherrill Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is a "T" plan, frame church building constructed in the Gothic Revival style, with an intersecting gable roof. The building rests upon a wood and brick pier foundation. A covering porch built during the original construction was removed when the broken pediment and symbolic urn finial was added to the entryway. The original clear windowpanes were replaced with stained glass shortly after the building was constructed, but the frames are original to the building's construction. There are two small brick chimneys that pierce the roof from the interior. A handicap ramp was completed in the summer of 2001.

### North Elevation

Before entering from the northeast elevation, under the almost three story belfry, one sees several noteworthy characteristics. The first is the belfry itself. It has three rectangular vents at the top level on the north, east, and south elevations and is crowned with a belcast roof. The belfry still houses the bell that is rung each Sunday as a call to worship. This type of belfry is a common feature on churches constructed by Methodists throughout the southern United States. The entryway was changed in 1952 with the removal of the original porch overhang and the addition of a broken pediment, but this did not drastically alter the building's appearance and is now a historic alteration. The north elevation is also fenestrated by two one-over-one double hung lancet windows.

### West Elevation

The west elevation is fenestrated by four double-hung one-over-one lancet windows. These were originally clear, but the panes were replaced with stained glass at an unknown date shortly after the building's construction. The fellowship hall forms a "T" at the back of the elevation. It can be entered on the north facing section by a wheel chair ramp leading to a single leaf door. The 1926 fellowship hall is also fenestrated by a two-over-two aluminum window and then by a single pane stationary window. The exposed rafter tails that show the building's craftsman influence are most visible from this and the east elevation.



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### South Elevation

The south elevation of the original building is obscured by the fellowship hall. The fellowship hall was constructed in 1926 using wood salvaged from a dismantled parsonage. The six stationary windows located along the elevation replaced original windows. The change is on the back section of the building and does little to detract from the overall integrity of the building.

### East Elevation

The back portion of the east elevation is comprised of the fellowship hall and is fenestrated by two single-pane windows. There is a doorway located on the north facing section of the addition. Like the west elevation, the east elevation is also fenestrated by four lancet windows.

### Interior

The interior of the church is deceptive, given the external view. The thirty-four foot wide sanctuary, with its fourteen-foot ceiling, gives an air of spaciousness. The domed ceiling is divided into large rectangles by criss-cross molding. The pale green walls and luxurious emerald green carpeting are an impressive setting for the twelve-foot wide mahogany pews. The wide center aisle and side aisles lead to the altar.

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### SUMMARY

Sherrill Methodist Episcopal Church, South (known today as, Sherrill First United Methodist Church) is a historic landmark in the town of Sherrill located in Jefferson County, Arkansas. Construction of the Gothic Revival-Craftsman style church began in 1909 and was completed in 1910. It is the best example of a Gothic Revival influenced building in the community among both religious and secular structures. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Gothic Revival influenced building in Sherrill, Arkansas. It is also being nominated under Criteria Consideration A: religious properties.

### ELABORATION

Methodism moved into the Sherrill area in the late 1840's. The first recorded house of worship was a "small, rude wooden structure which was erected on Flat Bayou in North Jefferson County". It was known at that time as the Pastoria-Raineyville Circuit and the church was called Jones Chapel. The pastor was W. I. Rogers, and he ministered to a stalwart group of frontiersmen. The settlers were attracted to the area because of the dark, rich alluvial soil, where "a cotton seed dropped today became a two-inch seedling tomorrow". The people braved the icy winters and survived the humid, mosquito-infested summers. They were frequently hungry, poorly clad, and often ill with recurring bouts of malaria. But they were made of stern stuff. They survived to clear the forests, break the soil, harvest their crops, and build a chapel.

By the 1880's the iron horse had come to the aid of the horse and wagon. The steam locomotive, however, went only where the tracks were laid. There were no Missouri-Pacific or Cotton Belt railway lines at Raineyville. However, there was the Cotton Belt at Sherrill. The residents of Pastoria and Raineyville were unhappy about the situation, but prudently recognized that the days of their small towns were numbered. So leaving their little church and homes behind, the citizens of Raineyville and Pastoria moved to Sherrill, Arkansas.

A review of the Methodist Conference Journals reveals that in 1894 the Raineyville-Pastoria Circuit became the Sherrill-Tucker Circuit. For years the two churches, only two miles apart, shared the same minister. It was a happy union, but one that was destined to dissolve.

The copy of the original deed revealed that on the 9th day of February, 1894, J. F. Quattlebaum and his wife, Mrs. S. E. Quattlebaum, for the princely sum of \$150.00 sold to R. R. Donnaldson, W. T. Lytle, and \_\_\_\_\_ Buie, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South of Sherrill, Lot 1 of Block 13 as platted. The document was notarized by J. D. Quattlebaum on January 19, 1895.

Recorded in the same deed book is a warranty deed executed by John M. Barrett and his wife Ada E. Barrett, granting to the trustees named previously for the consideration of \$1.00 paid in cash the full property rights for Lot 2, Block 13 in Sherrill, Arkansas. J. D. Quattlebaum also notarized this document. Both documents



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were filed at 12:00 noon on March 22, 1895, and recorded on March 25, 1895, by E. B. Blum, Deputy Clerk, acting in behalf of H. A. McCoy, Clerk, Jefferson County, Arkansas.

It is interesting to note that Ada E. Barrett before here marriage was Ada E. Quattlebaum, a sister to both J. F. Quattlebaum who deeded Lot 1, Block 13 and to J. D. Quattlebaum who notarized the documents.

The founding members of the Methodist Church at Sherrill included the Raineys, Harringtons, Quattlebaums, Motes, Donnalsons, Lytles, Buies, and Barretts. They built a church upon the same site the present one occupies today. It was a small wooden structure, serving as a house of worship on Sunday and a school on weekdays. Nearby, a small parsonage was also constructed. It was a center for teaching and preaching, and as such it remained for fourteen years. In 1908, the Home and Foreign Mission Society, a forerunner of the United Methodist Women, was organized under the leadership of Mrs. B. L. Willey, who was chosen its first president.

By 1909 the congregation had outgrown the home it had occupied since 1895. Under the leadership of the Reverend Mr. Frank Rogers, ground was broken on the same site and construction of the present structure began. One wonders if perhaps this was the grandson of the Reverend Mr. Rogers who helped build the church at Raineyville. It was a significant year with dreams and plans for a larger and more elegant structure coming to fruition. Many of the original families were still around. The Harringtons, Motes, Barretts, and Quattlebaums had been joined by the Gibsons, Fords, Rowlands, Harveys, Pipkins, Chadicks, Hutchison, Jacksons, Moores, and others.

By 1926 the membership had once more outgrown its accommodations. The parsonage was dismantled and the salvaged materials were used to build an addition at the rear of the building. This addition contained the fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms.

Weekly Sunday worship services are still held in the Sherrill Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It still stands a pillar in the community as it has for over ninety years.

### Statement of Significance

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South at Sherrill, Arkansas, is an excellent example of vernacular architecture combined with the Gothic Revival and Craftsman styles. It is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a Gothic Revival influenced building in the town of Sherrill. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A**, religious properties that achieve significance through their design and not for religious merit.

Sherrill Methodist Episcopal Church,  
South

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas

County and State

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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