

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR LISTED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NOV 07 1996

~~AHPP~~

1. Name of Property

historic name: Methodist Episcopal Church, South

other name/site number: YE0093

2. Location

street & number: Northeast corner of Locust Drive and 2nd Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Dardanelle

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Yell code: AR 149 zip code: 72834

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Name of Property

Yell County, AR
County and State

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slator
Signature of certifying official

9-9-96
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper Date of Action

Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Name of Property

Yell County, AR
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic: RELIGION

Sub: Religious facility

Current: RELIGION

Sub: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Prairie

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick
 walls Brick

roof Asphalt
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.
sheet.

See continuation

Summary

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, currently known as the First United Methodist Church, is a one and a half story brick religious structure. Originally constructed as a wood-frame church in 1858, it was replaced to the present with a brick building in 1891 and was then remodeled to the present Prairie style in 1917. The plan is irregular with a hipped roof on the top half story, a flat roof behind a brick parapet on the first and a flat roof on the extended one-story porch. Ornamentation is restrained. The interior contains a central dome with a stained glass skylight, second story balcony, coffered oak altar, hardwood floors and stained glass windows throughout. The First United Methodist Church is located in Dardanelle at the northeast corner of Locust and Second. The church is in good condition with the addition of a short brick wall bearing the name of the church in metal relief lettering on the east facade, and a handicapped ramp on the southern elevation.

Elaboration

The 1917 Methodist Church at Dardanelle is a one and a half story brick structure with concrete lintels and window sills, a partial basement, one-story extended brick porch, a flat set-back roof on the first floor, and a hipped roof on the top half story with wide boxed eaves and a wide wooden frieze band. Its plan is irregular.

The eastern elevation contains the front entrance which is approached by concrete steps to a full one-story, extended brick porch with a bank of five segmental arches supported by brick piers. Decoration consists of a double row of flush soldier bricks on the arch surrounds and single row of soldier bricks along the base of the piers. Within the arches a flat concrete stoop leads to a central double door. The entry contains modern metal paneled doors topped by a stained glass transom with a concrete lintel. There are four double-hung, stained-glass memorial windows with concrete lintels, sills and mullions flanking the double doors. To the north there is a single metal door with stained glass transom and decorative lintel. The southern end wall of the porch holds a small segmented arch opening. The northern end wall contains a similar arched door that leads to a covered walkway. The addition of a brick exterior wall with the name of the church in metal relief lettering reaches northward from the porch. The first floor facade extends up to a flat set-back roof. There is a border of extended soldier bricks, broken by the roof of the porch, that encircles the building. A border of flush soldier bricks also rings the building just above the concrete foundation. The second story has a central projection which holds a ribbon of five fixed stained glass windows separated by concrete mullions. There is a brick chimney on the northeast corner of the roof and open wooden belfry with a hipped roof on the opposite SE corner.

The southern face holds an off center projection. There are eight memorial window matching the eastern windows. Two windows are at the southeast corner next to a single modern metal door with a concrete lintel. Three double sets of windows are spaced evenly across the projection. A second single door stands at the southwest corner. The doors on this elevation are connected with a concrete handicapped ramp.

The rear, or western, elevation has a small central projection holding two small double hung stained glass windows. There are four larger double hung windows matching those seen throughout the first floor; two on either side of the projection. A single paneled wooden door with concrete lintel opens from the northern edge of the projection. A brick chimney rises from the first floor. The top story is similar in shape to the other elevations, but there are no windows on this side.

The northern facade matches the southern in plan. There are ten stained glass windows, a single window at the northwest corner next to a single wooden door with a glass, fixed window, and a ribbon of three windows at the northeast corner with three sets of windows on the projection corresponding to those on the south. The top story matches the southern face.

The interior is reached through a small foyer. A door to the north opens into an one-shaped parlor with hardwood floors and a rough brick fireplace

with a plain wooden mantelpiece. Double wooden doors with frosted glass panels open into the sanctuary. Two Sunday school rooms stand to the south of this entrance. The pews are arranged in a half-moon pattern facing west toward the coffered oak pulpit. A pipe organ is set into the wall directly behind the pulpit. Wooden paneled doors flanking the organ open into offices at the rear. Six Sunday school rooms, three on either side, are reached through single wooden doors to the north and south. The three doors on the north are set into small coffered entries. A central dome bordered with a wooden rim and round bare bulbs, holds an interior rose window with a single hanging light fixture in the center. The balcony is accessed by steep, enclosed switchback staircases to the north and south. The balcony runs along the east, north and south walls and has a stepped seating arrangement in a curvilinear pattern.

Located at the intersection of Locust and Second streets in Dardanelle, the First United Methodist Episcopal Church, South is in good condition.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1917 _____

Significant Dates: 1917 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Unknown _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
___ See continuation sheet.

Summary

Criterion C, local significance

Located in the antebellum Arkansas River town of Dardanelle, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best extant example of a Prairie-style church building in Dardanelle.

Elaboration

Author Dr. Horace Jewell suggests that William Patterson, a local preacher, might have preached the first Methodist sermon in Arkansas about 1800-1804. Methodism as an organized religion came to Arkansas in 1814 through Missouri emigrant, William Stevenson. He is thought to have been the first presiding elder to preach in Arkansas. Stevenson "felt a great desire for the salvation of these destitute people", and by the time of growing white expansion in the area, he had begun to institute Methodist outposts in Arkansas. The Tennessee Conference reported in 1815 that William Stevenson had helped to form the Spring River Circuit in Northeast Arkansas. In 1816 the Missouri Conference was authorized by the General Conference to include all Arkansas north of the Arkansas River but with no firm western boundary. Stevenson was responsible for all Methodist work south of the Arkansas River until the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church authorized the creation of an Arkansas Conference in 1836.

The first settlers came to Dardanelle (located on the south side of the Arkansas River, nearly opposite the site of the Dwight Mission, an early settlement in this area) in 1840 and the town was formally laid out in 1847. In the years immediately following several businesses were established, including a transfer and ferry, coal dealers, a saddle maker, milliners, a broom factory, distillers, an ice factory, saw and planing mills, and a carriage factory. The county's first newspaper was established in Dardanelle in 1853 and several public schools educated the community's children after the Civil War.

The Arkansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assigned W.L. Guthrie to Dardanelle in 1848. A schoolhouse constructed in 1848 or 1849 served as a place of worship for Methodists and other denominations until 1858 when voluntary contributions, totaling \$12,000.00, paid for the construction of a frame building serving as the first Methodist Church in Dardanelle. During the Civil War the church was commandeered for soldier's barracks and stable commissaries. In 1891 it was replaced with a brick building and in 1917 it was completely remodeled into a brick version of the Prairie style. At this time the front entrance was moved from the southern elevation to the east and the front porch was added. The sanctuary was also re-oriented to the west, and the balcony and the Sunday school rooms were added at this time.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South is locally significant under Criterion

as the finest example of a church building designed in the Prairie style in Dardanelle. Its broad, spreading eaves, asymmetrically-placed, hipped roof belfry and ribbons of geometrical, stained glass windows are all characteristic of this style and reflect the growing influence of this early twentieth century idiom.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Arkansas Gazette, Centennial Edition, 1936.

First United Methodist Church, Dardanelle, Arkansas, Sesquicentennial Celebration Program, November 24, 1991.

Rogers, Catherine Eikleberry, Readin', 'Ritin', and 'Rithmetic, 1981.

Scrapbook of George F. Upton, in personal collection of Mr. Eldridge Upton.

___ See continuation sheet.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A 15 485960 3897270 B 15
C 15 D 15

___ See continuation sheet.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Name of Property

Yell County, AR
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the northeast corner of the intersection of Locust Drive and Second Street, proceed northwesterly along the latter edge to a perpendicular line located approximately 20 northwest of the building's northwestern facade; thence proceed northeasterly along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line located approximately 20 feet northeast of the building's northeastern facade; thence proceed southeasterly along said line to its intersection with the northwestern edge of Locust Drive; thence proceed southwesterly along said edge to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Ken Story, National Register/Survey Coordinator
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 09/06/96
Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

WILSON
METHODIST
CHURCH

