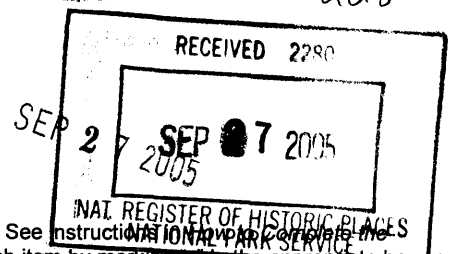


1225

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 on the back of the form. 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 Central United Methodist Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 201 East Third Avenue

N/A not for publication

city or town Knoxville

N/A vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Knox

code 093

zip code 37917

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Herbert L. Hays

9/27/05

Deputy 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

Edson H. Beall

11.9.05

Central United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee
County and State

5. 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

0	buildings
_____	sites
_____	structures
_____	objects
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

Knoxville and Knox County MPS

1

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)

Gothic Revival

foundation Stone
walls Brick

roof Asphalt shingle
other Marble, Limestone

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** moved from its original location.
- 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

1926- c. 1945

Significant Dates

1926-1927

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

R.H. Hunt and Company, Architect; A. B. Baumann & Son, Associate Architect

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 # _____
- 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:

Central United Methodist Church

Central United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre Knoxville, TN 147 NW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>236502</u>	<u>3985300</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Virgie Peake, Archivist
organization Central United Methodist Church date 06/15/05
street & number 1636 Maremont Road telephone (865) 219-9544
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37918

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 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 Central United Methodist Church, c/o Mrs. Pat Keyes
street & number 201 East Third Street telephone (865) 524-1659
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37917

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.

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

Narrative Description

The Central United Methodist Church of Knoxville, located at 201 East Third Avenue, was built in 1926-1927. The building was designed by the architectural firm of R. H. Hunt Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Baumann & Baumann of Knoxville served as associate architects. The building stands as a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture. The complex forms a 'T', with the sanctuary forming the base and the four-story educational wing forming the crossbar.

Central United Methodist Church is sited on a full city block facing East Third Avenue, a residential street, and is bounded by Morgan and LaMar streets. The city block measures approximately 300 ft. x 275 ft. The location was chosen because of its being the very center of the population of Knoxville at the time the church was built. It was and is only two blocks north of the Historic Old Knoxville High School and one block from the juncture of Broad Street and Central Avenue, two of the city's main arteries. The location was readily accessible by streetcar from anywhere in Knoxville.

The Central United Methodist Church has a limestone foundation. The building is built of brick in a medium red color. The trim and ornamentation is done in gray marble and limestone. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle roofing.

The southeast (front) façade of the sanctuary is dominated by its central bay containing the main entry portico and a large stained glass window unit. The stained glass window unit is located above the entry portico and is set in a pointed arch opening. The window unit is composed of three panels, each with Gothic arches formed by stone tracery. Directly below the window the entry portico projects out slightly. The top of the portico features two rows of limestone panels. Each panel in the top row contains a nicely carved rosette. Centered in the rows of panels is a large panel containing a stylized design composed of a shield and grape vines. Three sets of double doors made of walnut with large panels of beveled glass are set in an arched opening. Each set of doors is topped by multiple pane transoms and carved panels containing grape vines. The main entry is approached by a wide walkway of sandstone leading from the public walkway to a set of twelve steps made of Tennessee marble and bordered on either end by a slanting wall of brick capped by a slab of limestone. Two large engaged buttresses containing limestone decorations flank the portico. The wall outside each buttress on the southeast façade has two double-hung stained glass windows, one on each floor. The wall of this façade rises slightly above the roofline forming a parapet wall.

The northeast and southwest facades of the sanctuary each contain five stained glass window units with stone tracery set in pointed arch openings. The wall between each window has an engaged buttress. Directly below each stained glass window is a nine-over-nine double-hung window set in the basement level. The southeast end of these facades each has a secondary

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

entry topped by a multi-pane transom set in an arched opening. Above each entry are two stained-glass double-hung windows.

A large bell tower is located at the northeast juncture of the sanctuary and the education building. The tower reaches 125 feet in elevation from ground level and is gracefully decorated at the top by paired arch openings topped with carvings matching those found above the front entry. The bell tower originally had four limestone spires, one on each corner. However, one spire was destroyed by lightning in April, 1987. The three remaining spires were subsequently removed for safety's sake.

Central's building site slopes gradually down and away from Third Avenue, so that the main sanctuary entrance, facing Third Avenue, is several steps above street level, while the entrance into the education building, at the opposite end of the building, is one level below the sanctuary floor.

The northwest facade of the educational building lacks the ornamental embellishments of the sanctuary. The education building is four stories in height. The outer sections have a pent roof at the top of the third story with a recessed fourth story. A large brick chimney extends from the pent roof on the southwest end of the façade. This façade contains nine-over-nine double-hung sash wood windows that are evenly spaced. The central entry contains metal and glass doors situated under a metal canopy that were added in 1968-69. A paved parking lot borders the education building to the northwest.

The northeast and southwest facades of the education building are nearly identical. They have nine-over-nine double-hung wood windows, except on the fourth floor, which has six-over-six-over-six triple-hung windows. The central windows on the third and fourth floor have stone trim that features three panels between the floors and an arch with a small shield above the fourth floor window. The northeast and southwest facades each have metal fire escapes that were added as part of a building improvement campaign in 1968-69. The bottom sash of a window on the top three floors has been converted to a door to provide access to the fire escapes.

The interior of the church conforms to the same architectural character as the exterior – Gothic and graceful – with pews, furniture and woodwork all done in warm, rich walnut. The nave measures one hundred feet from the vestibule to the chancel and is eighty-six feet wide. The roof vault rises in a 'ship's keel' to a height of approximately eighty feet above the floor of the sanctuary.

The Third Avenue entrance opens into a lobby at the rear of the auditorium. To the left and right are double glass-paned doors opening onto a landing from which steps lead up to a balcony, or down to the side entrances. Three sets of double doors lead from the vestibule into the auditorium, and single doors lead from each stair lobby to the sanctuary. These doors are all

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

encased in black leather outlined with hobnails. Each door also has hardware made of heavy cast bronze and a small shield-shaped window centered at head height. All of these doors open onto a back aisle under the balcony.

The balcony runs across the rear of the sanctuary, opposite the pulpit and choir loft, and along two sides of the sanctuary. The rear balcony slants very slightly so that the occupant of each seat can see the face of the speaker in the pulpit. The rear balcony is supported by two small iron posts, one on either side of the front of the balcony. The side balconies are cantilevered. This allows an unobstructed view of the pulpit from the entire sanctuary.

The pews in the sanctuary are of walnut and are arranged in three slightly curved tiers with two off-center aisles. The pew ends are decoratively carved to match the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. The entire floor slopes gradually to the altar area. The chancel rail is curved to correspond with the three-tier arrangement of the pews. It is of the same walnut used elsewhere. The rail consists of open pointed-arch panels. On the rear of the wide, slightly bowed chancel rail top is a rack stretching its entire length, provided for placement of used sacrament glasses. Each end of the rail is marked by a four-sided newel post, each side of the post has an elongated lower panel and a square upper panel inset with carved leaves. The posts are topped by decorative molding and a finial adorned with acanthus leaves.

The aisle floors of the sanctuary are covered with carpet. However, the floor underneath the pews is covered with the original dark battleship linoleum, which was designed for easier cleaning and better sanitation.

The arched ceiling is done in panels, each framed with the same rich walnut wood used in other areas. The ceiling is divided into six sections by arched ribs, each section containing thirty-six rectangular panels. So perfect are the acoustics in the sanctuary that a whisper from the pulpit can be heard in any part of the sanctuary. The acoustics are a result of the arched ceiling, lined with Celotex panels. This material, a product of cane pith, absorbs the reverberations of the human voice instead of sending forth an echo.

The sanctuary is lit by six paired sets of electric chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. The chandeliers consist of historic ribbed pendant globes which encase one thousand watt light bulbs. The globes are crowned with ornate brass collars. Brass chains attach to the collars and continue up into the attic over the ceiling. The chandeliers can be lowered from the attic to the floor for cleaning and changing bulbs. The pendant globes and brass fittings are original. They are echoed by single hanging pendant globes that provide light in several of the education building classrooms.

The pulpit and presiding elder seating, located on a raised platform at the front of the sanctuary, is forty-two feet in width and has a curved leading edge mirroring the curve in the altar rail. The

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

platform is faced with the walnut paneling used elsewhere. The paneling continues along the three walls enclosing the choir loft, situated behind the platform, and across the choir modesty wall. The pulpit and elder bench ends are carved with pointed arch design seen in the stained-glass windows and pew ends. The organ chamber is housed behind handsome grillwork atop the ten-foot high paneling at the rear of the choir loft. White and gilded organ pipes, set in pointed arch openings, sit atop the paneling. Grillwork consisting of rosettes attached with tracery rises to the top of the back wall's arch. The engaged columns that outline the back wall's arch are of plaster, carved and painted to resemble the walnut used elsewhere. The grillwork above the organ pipes and the engaged columns on the walls of the sanctuary are likewise composed of plaster.

The first organ was a Wurlitzer pipe organ that was installed in 1935. This organ was removed from the Riviera Theatre, repaired at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars, and installed in the church. The current organ, a Moeller organ with approximately two thousand nine hundred pipes and stops, was installed in 1958 at a cost of sixty thousand dollars.

On either side of the pulpit area and choir loft are walnut double doors leading into a lobby or large hallway which serves the different rooms and areas on the second floor of the education building. Each door is carved with two elongated rectangular panels topped by two small square panels, giving the effect of a cross. Each lower panel is centered with a small shield-shaped window at head height. On the auditorium side of the doors, carving inset in the rectangular panels reflects the pointed arch design of the stained-glass windows.

Also to the left and right of the pulpit area are narrow stairways running up the outside walls to the balcony level. The stairs are paneled and have newel posts echoing the posts at the ends of the altar rail. At the top of the steps single carved walnut doors echo the doors below them and provide access to the third floor of the education building.

The education building is a four-story building that runs perpendicular to the sanctuary. It was designed to accommodate a Sunday school of two thousand four hundred. It is plainer in design with plaster walls, wood paneled doors and wood trim. The education building has had a few changes, but it still retains much of its historic materials and design.

On each floor of the education building, at each end, there are large assembly rooms for each department of the Sunday school. The assembly rooms are lined on two sides by small Sunday school classrooms. All doors in the Sunday school areas and many of the individual class and hallway walls have transoms above them. Walls of large, multi-paned windows separate some of the classrooms. By opening transoms and windows, air circulation could be controlled throughout the building. The transoms and windows are still in place, but many are covered with wallboard or paint. Every department in the Sunday school was connected to the main office by an intercommunicating telephone system. Unfortunately this communication system has been

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

removed. In 1964, the Children's Department on the third floor was reshaped by the installation of sheetrock walls to make a center hallway lined with separate classrooms for first through fifth grades. This rearrangement eliminated the original assembly room at that end of the floor.

One distinctive feature of the building is that space was made for recreational activities in the education building. The entire fourth floor of the building was designed for physical activity with a standard size gymnasium (38 ft x 68 ft.), separate showers and locker rooms for boys and girls, a Boy Scout room, and two handball courts. On the floor below (third floor) a large room was designed for the Girl Scouts and other similar organizations. The third floor was occupied mainly by the Children's and Youth Sunday school departments.

Careful attention was also given to the social life of the congregation. The first floor (under the main auditorium) provided a large assembly room, commonly known as Fellowship Hall, and two large classrooms for adults. Fellowship Hall is fitted with a raised stage large enough for presenting plays. To the rear center of the stage is a baptismal pool for the purpose of baptism by immersion, which is a most unusual provision in a Methodist church, and used only upon request. Sometime in 1939 an unemployed man came to the church seeking food for his family. He offered to work in exchange for money with which to buy groceries. The pastor learned that this man was a talented artist, and asked him to paint a mural on the wall behind the baptismal pool. The mural is a forest scene centered by a stream of water that appears to flow into the baptismal pool. The mural is still the focal point of the large assembly room. The artist signed it "V. Presley."

A large kitchen adjoins the Fellowship Hall to the east. A smaller dining room also adjoins the kitchen; it can also be entered from the hallway. The Fellowship Hall will seat at least four hundred people and the smaller dining room will seat one hundred.

The central entry on the northwest façade of the educational building opens into a vestibule and then into a large hallway serving the rooms and areas of the first floor. The east end of the ground floor contains the nursery department rooms and an adult Sunday school room known today as Memorial Chapel. In July, 1941, the Fidelis Sunday school class decided to make their classroom into a chapel. This was accomplished and the chapel was dedicated on April 22, 1945. The chapel continues to be used as their classroom and provides a place for meditation and prayer, as well as for small weddings and some meetings. To the west are the kitchen, classrooms, the small dining room and kitchen storage.

On the second floor, just outside the main auditorium, is the pastor's study and library. The church office is on the second floor, as is an office and study provided for an associate pastor and one for the Presiding Elder of the Knoxville District. Also on this floor is a parlor, the main focal point of which is a faithful reproduction of the famous masterpiece, Hoffman's "Jesus in the Temple." This notable work of art, together with the beautiful hand-carved frame was presented to the church by Mrs. Eleanor Deane Swan Audigier in 1927.

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

In 1968-1969 a general program of improvement for the church building was carried out. The heating system was updated and fire escapes were installed on the northeast and southwest facades of the education building. Parking lots were paved and a large permanent awning was installed over the rear entrance. In 1971 a chair lift was installed on the main entrance to provide individual transport between the first and second floors. On May 19, 2002 the congregation voted to install a commercial elevator with stops on the first, second and third floors. This involved taking a portion of the Wallace classroom on the first floor, the library on the second floor, and part of the choir library on the third floor. This elevator has been installed and is now in operation.

The church has been well-maintained and, except for a few minor changes, remains much as it was when it was originally built. Floor coverings have been replaced as they have worn out; repainting has been done as time and aging necessitates; restrooms have been upgraded to some extent, but still contain their Tennessee marble stall surrounds and walnut panel stall doors. Also two cast-iron handrails have been installed on the marble steps at the front entrance. The wood and glass entrances into the education building have been replaced with metal and glass security doors.

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

Statement of Significance

Central United Methodist Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria C for its significance in architecture. Built in 1926-27 the church is an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture designed by a prominent architectural firm: R. H. Hunt and Company. The church features large stained glass units with elaborate stone tracery. The pattern of the tracery is also found throughout the church on the ends of the pews and on the handles of the front doors. Currently the church stands as a contributing resource in the Fourth and Gill Historic District (N.R. 04/29/85). Central United Methodist Church meets the registration requirements of the Knoxville and Knox County Multiple Property Submission. Through its history the building has undergone few changes and still retains a high level of integrity.

Central United Methodist Church came into existence through the merger of two historic churches in the Methodist Episcopal Church South – namely Broad Street Church and Centenary Church. Broad Street Church was organized on November 10, 1870. Rev. John W. Carnes and Rev. George D. French led in the organization of Broad Street Church. There were twenty charter members. The congregation first met in a rental frame building at the corner of Fifth and Broad streets. By 1886 the congregation had grown to about five hundred members and a new building was erected on the northeast corner of West Fifth Avenue and Broad Street (later renamed Broadway). On November 17, 1924, the church building was badly damaged by fire.

Less than one mile away from Broad Street Church stood another Methodist Episcopal Church – Centenary Church. In 1883, the Rev. J.N. Lotspeich was appointed by Bishop McTyeire to the Knoxville City Mission. The Centenary Church congregation came into existence at that time. In 1884, they occupied their first building at the south corner of West Gill and Irwin streets, and chose the name Centenary in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of Methodism. In September, 1903, the cornerstone was laid for a building at the corner of Broad and Silver Streets. Bishop E.E. Hoss dedicated the brick building in October 1905.

Central United Methodist Church came into being at the Quarterly Conference held at Centenary Church on January 22, 1925. In a joint meeting with the Broad Street Church conference members, the two churches agreed to merge. The official hand-written document has been carefully preserved. An article from the *Knoxville News Sentinel* written in 1930 states, “probably Broad Street and Centenary Churches were too close together to begin with or perhaps the development of better streets and easier transportation had some effect.” In any case, a feeling that had been developing over several years finally crystallized into the movement to unite. Certainly the fire at Broad Street Church had some effect on the decision to merge.

The newly formed Central United Methodist Church hired R.H. Hunt and Company of Chattanooga to design the new church. Reuben H. Hunt (1862-1937) was one of the most widely known architects in the southeast. Having designed several notable buildings around the South, he was

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Knox County, TN

known primarily for his designs of churches and public buildings. His designs through time have included several different architectural styles, including Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Beaux Arts, Neo-Classicism and Art Deco. Much of his work in Chattanooga has been placed on the National Register under the Reuben H. Hunt Buildings in Hamilton County Thematic Resources Nomination. Some of his notable buildings include the Hamilton County Courthouse (NR 11/21/78), U.S. Post Office in Chattanooga (NR 02/29/80), Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium (NR 09/15/1980) and Second Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga (NR 02/29/80).

The associate architect of the church was A.B. Baumann & Son, later known as Baumann & Baumann. The firm was primarily composed of Albert B. Baumann and Albert B. Baumann Jr. They have designed several prominent public buildings in East Tennessee including the Knoxville Post Office (NR 05/31/1984).

Gothic Revival architecture was a popular choice for churches throughout the country. Its popularity in Knoxville persisted into the twentieth century as seen in Central United Methodist Church as well as St. John's Lutheran Church (NR 04/04/1985) and Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church (08/26/1982).

Central United Methodist Church displays qualities typical of the Gothic Revival style. The windows in the sanctuary are pointed arches and feature elaborate tracery. This tracery is mimicked in several places throughout the church including on the pew ends, interior doors, door hardware, pulpit, and chancel rail. Another Gothic Revival characteristic of the interior is the paneled ceiling that rises in a pointed arch. The church also features a large tower that is topped with pointed arches and quatrefoil designs. At the time of its construction the tower was topped with four small decorative spires, one on each corner. The brick walls of the sanctuary have engaged buttresses with limestone trim.

At the time of the church's completion it was praised as an architectural achievement. An article in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* called it "one of the most beautiful church structures in the entire south, and will be a show place for architectural beauty in the city of Knoxville."¹ Central United Methodist Church was designed to accommodate large gatherings. Pews on the floor of the auditorium will seat around six hundred fifty people. Theater chairs installed in the balcony will seat six hundred forty people, and the choir loft will seat up to sixty. The combined seating capacity of around one thousand three hundred made it Knoxville's largest church auditorium at the time of its construction.²

Many memorable and important events have taken place over the years that Central United Methodist Church has been in service to its congregation and community. On October 6, 1939, an Affirmation Service of the "Declaration of Union" was held at Central Methodist Episcopal Church

¹ "Edifice is Achievement of Church Efficiency", *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, March 20, 1927

² "Central Methodist Church Building is Last Word in Modern Designing", *The Knoxville Sunday Journal*, March 20, 1927

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

South, in Knoxville, at which meeting the Holston Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Holston Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church were joined as one, "United Methodist Church." This was an historic uniting conference. The gallery, main floor, and the choir loft were filled. An overflow crowd listened to the service over a loudspeaker in the large assembly room on the first floor. Central United Methodist Church was, of course, a member of the historic Holston Conference.

The historic Uniting Conference was the first of thirteen sessions of the Holston Annual Conference to be held at Central Church. Central Church also hosted the Annual Conferences in 1940, 1945, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1961, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974, and 1977.

The Central United Methodist Church building now serves as a buffer between the Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood (N.R. 4/29/85) and the ever-increasing encroachment of a commercial district. It continues to be noteworthy for its involvement in and service to its congregation and community. The building provides a regular meeting room or space for a number of local organizations. To name a few: Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis Flight for Youth, The Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Association, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Knoxville Inner City Churches United for People (KICCUP), and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

All this, as well as the use of the main auditorium for concerts, baccalaureate sermons, high school graduations, weddings and receptions, not to mention the regular worship services and related social and fellowship events for all age groups throughout the year, keep Central United Methodist Church a building in active use.

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

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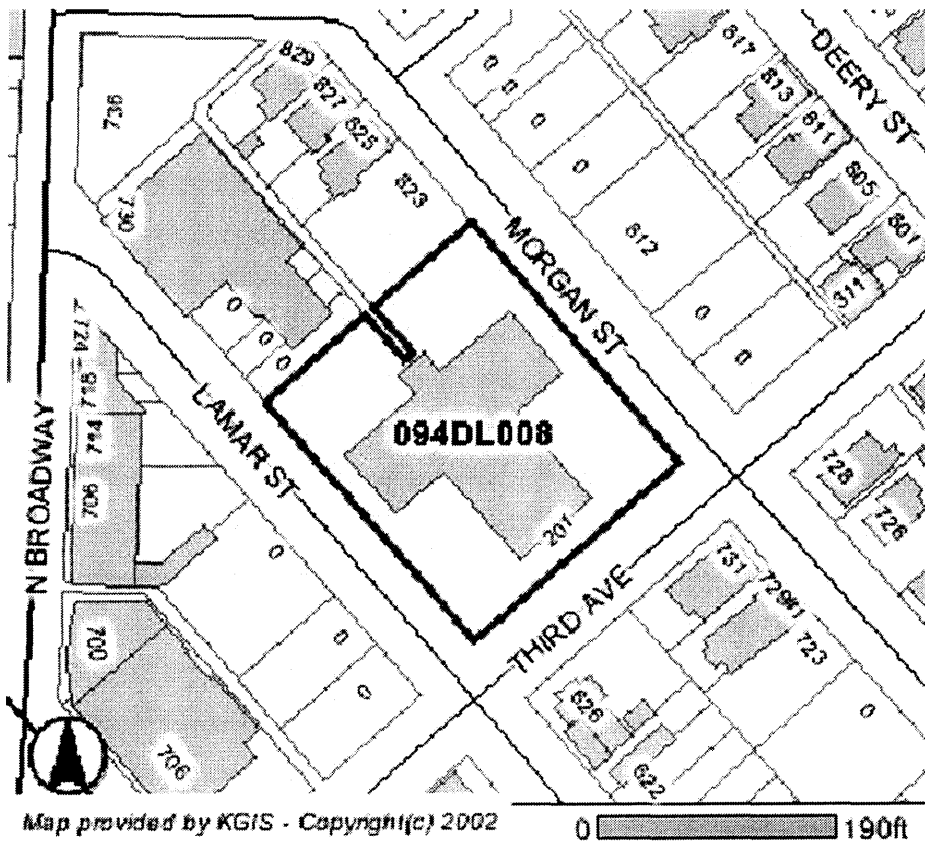
Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is mapped on Knox County CLT map 094 as parcel 008.

Boundary Justification

The parcel described above is the entire parcel on which the church sits.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

Photographs

Central United Methodist Church
201 East Third Avenue
Knoxville, TN

Photos by: William L. Hutton
Date: September 9, 2004
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission; Nashville, TN

Southeast façade, facing northwest
1 of 24

Tower and entrance to education building, southeast facade, facing northwest
2 of 24

Southeast and northeast facades of sanctuary, including tower, facing northwest
3 of 24

Southwest façade of sanctuary, facing northeast
4 of 24

Northeast facade, facing southwest
5 of 24

Southwest façade of education building, facing northeast
6 of 24

Northwest façade of education building, facing southeast
7 of 24

Detail of tower, facing northwest
8 of 24

Exterior detail of sanctuary window, facing southwest
9 of 24

Detail of education building entrance in tower, facing northwest
10 of 24

Detail of decorative panel above main entrance, facing northwest
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Central United Methodist Church
Knox County, TN

Detail of central decorative panel above main entrance, facing northwest
12 of 24

Interior of sanctuary from balcony, facing northwest
13 of 24

Interior of sanctuary from balcony, showing balcony seating, facing north
14 of 24

Interior of sanctuary from main floor, facing northwest
15 of 24

Doors leading from lobby into sanctuary, facing northwest
16 of 24

Detail of bronze plates and pulls on leather lined entry doors from lobby into sanctuary, facing northwest
17 of 24

Detail of chandelier in sanctuary, facing northwest
18 of 24

Detail of sanctuary pew end
19 of 24

Detail of chancel rail, paneling surrounding choir loft, pulpit and ecclesiastical bench, facing north by northwest
20 of 24

Detail of chancel rail panel, facing northwest
21 of 24

Detail of post at end of chancel rail, facing north by northwest
22 of 24

Detail of narrow staircase from front of sanctuary to balcony, facing northwest
23 of 24

Detail of doors from front of sanctuary into second floor hallway, facing northwest
24 of 24