

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95001061

Date Listed: 9/13/95

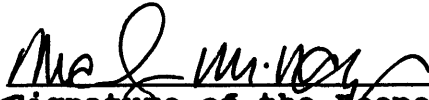
First Presbyterian Church
Property Name

Warren
County

TENNESSEE
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

10/16/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

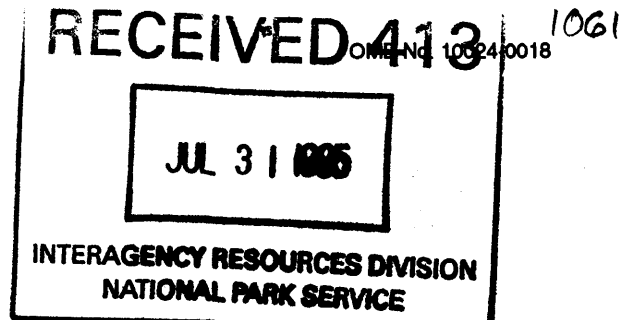
This nomination is amended to delete Criterion A and religion as an area of significance. Although the property is clearly significant under Criterion C, for architecture, the case is not made for historical religious significance.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 Cumberland Presbyterian Church
other names/site number First Presbyterian Church (PREFERRED)

2. Location

street & number 205 West Main Street N/A not for publication
city or town McMinnville N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Warren code 177 zip code 37110

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.)

Herbert L. Haysa 7/24/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
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 M. J. M. [Signature] Date of Action 9/13/95

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Warren Co., TN
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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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: religion facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religion facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone
walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT SHINGLES
other GLASS, CONCRETE, 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** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION
 ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1872, 1906

Significant Dates

1872, 1906

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dobson and Williamson (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): 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:

MTSU, Center for Historic Preservation

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Warren Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

McMinnville, TN 92 NE

1 16 610820 3949070
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
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 Leslie Draper, Graduate Research Assistant
organization MTSU Center For Historic Preservation date May 1995
street & number PO Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

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 First Presbyterian Church, USA
street & number 205 West Main Street telephone 615-473-2690
city or town McMinnville state TN zip code 37110

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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JUL 31 1985

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

VII. Architectural Description

The First Presbyterian Church is located at 205 West Main Street in McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee. The brick rectangular-shaped, center steepled church, constructed in 1872, is an example of vernacular Gothic Revival architecture. The church is one story high over a raised basement and a limestone foundation. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A corbeled, stepped brick design runs from the center steeple to the flanking sides of the church; this feature defines the roof line along the west and east facades as well.

The symmetrical north or front facade consists of a projecting entrance bay, flanked by two round arched stained glass windows with round arched brick surrounds. Leading from the street level are brick steps, added during the building's renovation in 1966. In the center of the facade of the steeple portion which projects out, is a rounded arch which borders an original double door which provides access from street level. Each door has three main areas, divided by molded triangular panels. These panels are found on both the exterior and interior of the doors. Above the doors is a round arched, stained glass fanlight window. Above the door is an original concrete plaque in the shape of a shield with the words "C.P. Church Erected ADMDCCLXXI Dobson and Williamson", which identifies the architects for the church. Above this are the original arched double stained glass windows. The original octagonal, church tower, with louvered belfry and spire and lightning rod on top, is made of wood and painted white.

On the east elevation, five separate bays are divided by slightly extended, three brick wide pilasters. Within each bay are brick arches which surround round arched stained glass windows. Below the stain glass windows are wood molded frame windows, fitted with aluminum screens, possibly original to the church building. Double fire doors flank the north facade and lead to the basement from below street level. The west elevation is similar to the east with the

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

exception of the double fire doors, which are not evident on the west elevation.

In 1906, when an alcove was added to the church, the two stain glass windows, which flanked the east and west sides of the north facade were completely bricked in; only the white framing along each pane is visible.

The south elevation is the 1966 rear addition, designed by Nashville architects Yearwood and Johnson. This rectangular building is connected to the church auditorium by two passage ways on both the east and west sides of the building. The gable on hip roof of the 1966 addition has asphalt shingles. The two story brick building has six bays. A modern glass door on the west side of the building can be entered from street level. An aluminum canopy covers the width of the door. The 1966 addition retained the exterior walls of the original church structure. To retain the integrity of the exterior wall of the original building, the architects bricked the walls in at the back of the building, leaving a small walking space, four feet in width according to the building plans, between the interior brick wall of the 1966 addition and the exterior wall of the original building. (See attached detail drawing from the plans of Yearwood and Johnson.)

The primary historic spaces of the interior retain integrity. The main entrance way has ceramic tile flooring, added during the 1966 remodeling. On either side of the entrance way are two rounded arched alcoves with wooden engaged pilasters. Two bell pull ropes are found on either side of the entrance way doors. An original wood paneled pedestal is found on the right hand side of the entrance way, closest to the sanctuary doors. This piece is decorated with egg and dart design. Entrance into the sanctuary is through approximately 10 foot high double doors. Each door has two short lower panels with two long vertical panels found above. Original enamel door handles with the original key surrounds and key surround covers are evident on the doors. This is the case for the two sets of

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double door which are found on either side of the sanctuary doors.

The sanctuary has two side rows of pews with one center row of pews. The wooden pews which are original to the building have scroll worked arms. Original yellow popular flooring runs the length of the sanctuary and is partially covered by red carpeting along the aisles. Wooden wainscoting rests on beaded vertical board which is approximately four feet high, which is found on all four plaster walls.

At the chancel portion of the sanctuary is the pulpit, which is on a raised platform. Immediately behind this is the choir, which rests slightly above the pulpit. Originally, the pulpit was in the center of the church with the pews surrounding it. This was changed in 1906, when the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation united with the Presbyterians. Original Victorian chairs with scroll work and red plush seats are found on the chancel. A half wall of wood separates the chancel from the choir. This wall is paneled and appears to be an original fixture to the church. The wall has round arched panels with half-turned pilasters in between. The posts on the ends of the panels are decorated with egg and dart molding.

Behind the choir is the organ pit, where a significant example of a Henry Pilcher and Sons organ is found. The organ, which was bought by the congregation in 1897, has decorative piping and wood work. Scroll designs are painted on each individual pipe.

Along the east and west interior walls are four wooden framed stained glass windows, enclosed with an architrave, circa 1872. Each window has five panels, two rectangular panels at the bottom, followed by two rounded panels of approximately the same length and topped by a small fan-shaped panel. Each window is permanently fixed to the wall.

The Church has a simple cove ceiling with stained wood molding separating the wall from the beginning of the ceiling. The stained wood molding mimics a coffered

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ceiling. Nine panels make up the ceiling, three long and three wide. Each panel is intersected with a bulls eye motif. Pendant light fixtures are found on the outside panels of the ceiling. Altogether, six light fixtures are found along the panels. Three air conditioning vents added with the 1966 addition are found in the three center panels.

Two sets of wood doors on either side of the chancel mark the entrance of the two-story rear addition. The brick addition was added in 1966. Two passageways on both the east and west sides of the pulpit lead to the 1966 addition. Construction of the 1966 addition did not alter the integrity of the original building. A small walking space, four feet in width according to the building plans, was left between the original exterior brick wall and the new brick wall for the addition, leaving all of the historic exterior wall intact. The interior rooms are of concrete blocks. Linoleum tile covers the floor.

Six classrooms run the length of the southern facade. The basement can be entered from the rear addition or from an original stairwell found on the western side of the front of the sanctuary. Linoleum tile also covers the basement floor and rooms included on the first level floor plan of the addition. This modernization of the basement into a community room was part of the 1966 remodeling.

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

VIII. Statement of Significance

The First Presbyterian Church in McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee, is eligible for the National Register under criterion C as a significant local example of vernacular Gothic Revival architecture. The Gothic Revival Style was popular in this country from approximately 1840-1880. The style in churches was largely marked by arched windows and center steeples. Constructed between 1872 and 1876, the First Presbyterian Church has two representations of these with the center steeple facade and the arched windows that are on both the west and east sides of the building.

The significant periods of Gothic Revival architecture ranged from 1835-1860. This style of architecture had a brief period of new popularity during the 1870s due to interest in the writings of the English critic, John Ruskin. Ruskin first influenced American architecture in the 1830s during which time his book, *The Poetry of Architecture*, became available. Ruskin's essay advocated the belief that architecture should reflect the present state of society. Designs should reflect the lifestyles of the community. Victorian Gothic architecture was mainly applied to public and religious buildings, such as the First Presbyterian Church. The design for the American version of Gothic Revival churches was mainly derived from patterns of fourteenth century English parish churches. Gothic Revival architecture is defined by a pitched roof with an emphasis on verticality, which Augustus Pugin, in his explanation on Gothic Revival architecture in churches in 1843, described as an expression of the resurrection through architecture. Arched or pointed Gothic windows are also found on the facade. Stained glass windows were also utilized to create a contrasting effect. During this period, Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books for houses helped spread the style among rural, middle class communities. The books dictated the styles and tastes for American landscapes. Pattern books for churches were developed as well.

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

These church architecture books offered various guidelines for the building of church buildings. First, the church should reflect the function of the congregation. Rural churches should be designed on a smaller scale with less ornamentation to reflect the size, and wealth, of the community. This is the case with the First Presbyterian Church. The only ornamentation, other than the stained glass windows, is a corbeled brick design which runs from the center steeple of the church along both the east and west elevation roof lines. The pattern books further advocated the idea that materials used in church designs should be represented as they naturally are and not painted or altered to represent another material. For example, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, used brick instead of stone as advocated in the books. The church builders retained the integrity of the material by not painting it.

One possible source for the design of the First Presbyterian Church, is a design in a pattern book from 1853, titled *A Book of Plans for Churches and Parsonages*, page 43. The design was for a rural church and reflected the simplicity of the surroundings for the church design. The church had five bay elevations with a center steeple, much in the same manner as the First Presbyterian Church. (See attached photocopy.)

The Cumberland Presbyterian churches in Tennessee began when three disgruntled members of the Presbyterian Church in Kentucky decided to start their own Presbytery separate of Presbyterian law. The first problems with the Presbyterian Church arose when, in 1805, the Synod of Kentucky began the rapid dismissal of ordained Presbyterian ministers for their support of the revivalist movement. Three of these members, Finis Ewing, Samuel King and Ephraim McLean, traveled from Kentucky to Dickson County in February 1810, to meet with Samuel McAdow, an ex-Presbyterian minister. The four men together formed the first Cumberland Presbytery in Tennessee. The first official meeting of the Church was in March 1810 at McAdow's log cabin. Efforts were made in the early founding of the church to reunite with its parent

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Church. It was not until 1906, however, when the two churches united again, if only in a limited capacity. The majority of Cumberland Presbyterians remained mostly in Tennessee. However, denominations can be found in Kentucky, as well as Texas.

The history of the Cumberland or First Presbyterian church in McMinnville can be traced to the Presbytery of Transylvania, which made the city of McMinnville part of the Synod of Pennsylvania. In 1802, a Synod of Kentucky was created and the Presbytery of Transylvania was divided into two portions.

The Southern half became known as the Cumberland Presbytery. The church of McMinnville remained within the boundary of the Cumberland Presbytery from 1810-1813. In 1813, the Cumberland Presbyterians divided the church into three separate Presbyteries, the Elk, Logan and Nashville. "Cumberland" thus became designated as the Synod for that particular area. McMinnville during that time became part of the Nashville Presbytery until 1828. During that year, the Cumberland Synod, which was located in Franklin, divided itself into four other Presbyteries; Knoxville, Hopewell, Nashville and Lebanon. McMinnville again became part of another Presbytery when it was placed under the auspices of the Lebanon Presbytery.

Some time between 1839 and 1841, the first permanent structure of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in McMinnville was erected on East Main Street, approximately one-half mile from the site of the current church. The first building was a simple one story brick building. No direct date of construction has been found but remarks made during a meeting of the General Assembly of Tennessee indicates that the building was possibly constructed during 1840. During time, Tennessee was trying to decide on a permanent state capitol. McMinnville was one of those cities considered and the Cumberland Presbyterians offered their place of worship to the General Assembly. In 1840, the Assembly proposed that the group take the offer of the

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church to assemble at the premises. The congregation worshipped in this structure until November 1865 when reportedly the building caught fire from a flue and was completely destroyed. The congregation then moved its sanctuary to the Cumberland Female College in McMinnville and the Methodist Episcopal Church, located on Main across the street from the present church site.

In 1867, the congregation began to raise funds to build a new sanctuary. Construction, however, was delayed due to a recession that occurred during 1868-1869. In 1871, the congregation voted to rebuild the church on its original site. That site, however, was determined to be inadequate for the size of the church. A new site was selected that same year and construction began in 1872 on the sanctuary that now stands on Main Street in McMinnville on a land that was once known as Pickett's lot. The building became the first large church building in McMinnville in 1876 when the new structure opened for services. According to the McMinnville "New Era" of July 6, 1876, the building would be formally dedicated on the third Sunday of that month.

Within a year, the large, handsome brick church had become the locale of various community events. On July 5, 1877, for example, the Odd Fellows held public "exercises" at the church, with speeches and a cornet band concert being featured. In April 1878, the congregation hosted a second dedication ceremony, this time to celebrate that the new building had been completely paid for. The final total construction cost was \$19,322.98.

The idea was put forth by some of the women of the church to expand the choir and chancel in 1897. It was not until 1906, however, when the chancel was expanded to the alcove where the organ is now housed, did the expansion take place. In 1897, the congregation raised approximately fifteen hundred dollars to purchase a new pipe organ for the sanctuary. The Henry Pilcher and Sons organ which is dated 1897, is still in perfect working condition. The organ is significant in music and is listed with the Organ Historical

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

Society as an important historical organ. It is also on the roll of historic pipe organs of the United States.

The maker of the organ, Pilcher and Sons, was an important organ making firm in the central part of the United States from the mid to late 1800s. Pilcher had moved to the United States from England, where during his time in England, he had served as an apprentice in London and later established his own business in Dover, England in 1820. In 1832, Pilcher moved his family to New York City. He remained in New York for a brief period and then moved again to Newark, New Jersey. In 1838, the family moved to Connecticut, where the first known Pilcher organ was made for the St. Stephens Church in East Haddam, Connecticut in 1839. During that time, Pilcher was working out of New Haven, Connecticut. By 1844, the Pilcher were again living in New York where Pilcher served as an organist for the Seaman's Institute. It was apparently during this time that Pilcher worked for Henry Erben, who was described as one of the most eminent organ builders in the United States during the early to mid 1800s. Erben was known for his fine craftsmanship and sound quality of his pipe organs.

After learning organ techniques from Erben, Pilcher moved his family to St. Louis in 1852. During this time, his sons Henry, Jr. and William entered the organ making business. In 1857, the Pilchers had established themselves in the organ making business and had established a factory and shop. The firm became known as Pilcher and Sons in 1858 after Henry retired and his sons took over. The Pilcher and Sons company then moved its operation to Chicago in 1862 to escape from the possible perils of the Civil War in Missouri. There they remained until 1871, when their factory was destroyed during the infamous Chicago fire.

After the fire, the family relocated to Louisville, Kentucky, where the organ at the First Presbyterian was made. It was during the stay in Louisville when the organ company gained importance in the South central states. Examples of Henry Pilcher and Sons organs can be found in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in New Orleans

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

(1888) [NR HD 11/25/80], St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Memphis (1905) [NR 12/12/76], St. Cecelia Convent in Nashville (1907), Bell Buckle United Methodist Church in Bell Buckle (1890) [NR 1/20/76] and Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill (1878 or 1888) [NR 5/17/76]. In 1944, the company was sold to Moller and Sons.

The Pilcher organ in McMinnville has approximately 600 pipes and seven stops. In 1982, the community raised funds to restore the organ to its original state. This was mainly due to the deterioration of sound quality of the pipes due to change in temperature with the installation of the air conditioning unit in 1958. The Henry Pilcher and Sons factory usually designed and built tracker-action organs, as is the example in the church in McMinnville. These types of organs utilize mechanical as opposed to electric key action. The restoration of the organ did not change the action of the organ but kept it with its original mechanical action. In 1992, the McMinnville organ was included in a documentary project of the top 12 organs in the state of Tennessee. This project, as developed by Professor of Music John Brock, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, recorded those organs considered the best examples in the state. Brock developed a list of historic and modern tracker organs throughout the state, and then narrowed the list down to the 12 organs on the list. A twenty minute recording was made on each organ and the recordings could be heard on a series of half hour radio programs titled "The Volunteer Organist."

In 1928, the congregation voted to redecorate the church. Unfortunately, there was no record available for what that work involved. Air conditioning was added to the church in 1958. In the 1960s, the congregation approved plans to expand the church by building an Educational Building. This addition was added to the main edifice in 1966, to deal with the growing congregation's need for more room and more space for classrooms.

The First Presbyterian Church represents the best example of vernacular Gothic Revival architecture in McMinnville and

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

has one of the best examples of a Pilcher and Sons organ in the state of Tennessee. Most churches in McMinnville were built less than fifty years ago. The only church building remaining from the late 1800s is the First United Methodist

Church of McMinnville. This church structure, which was completed in 1889, represents a more elaborate example of the vernacular Gothic Revival Style. It appears that the First United Methodist Congregation modeled their church building after the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which was located on the across West Main Street.

The First Presbyterian Church is also eligible under Criterion A for its significant associations with the development of community religious services and civic welfare programs in the early twentieth century history of McMinnville. At the turn of the century, the congregation of the church began once again to use the building as a community center, especially for different community religious services and for civic welfare programs. In 1898, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of Reverend Holmes, helped establish mission homes in order to help the needy in Warren County. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church continued to take part in the community religious and welfare programs, and in 1900, sent two men to take part in mission movement. Reverend Holmes also continued with his work in the evangelical movement by preaching at country churches in the county. The Cumberland Presbyterian congregation also allowed the Methodist Conference to use the church for its meeting.

After the return of local soldiers from World War I, the First Presbyterian Board voted to hold a county wide picnic in honor of these men on the church grounds. The event was a success and reaffirmed the church's commitment to community service.

Reverend Lawrence, a pioneer in the pursuit of religious education in public schools in Warren County, approached the local school board for permission in 1925 to begin religious instruction in the school. The details of this program are

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unknown, but the timing of the request is interesting. This was the year of the Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tennessee, and the passage of the controversial Butler Act by the Tennessee State Legislature. The Butler Act gave state educational experts more control over local school matters; many rural school boards, and rural residents, resented this state intrusion and looked for ways to protect their "traditional" curriculum. The effort by the First Presbyterian Church in suggesting a religious education program for the public schools is likely associated with the general rural reaction to the educational issues raised by the Scopes Trial. The school board also approved a program of Fine Arts which was to be conducted at evening services.

In 1932, the First Presbyterian Church attempted to help its sister church in the area, the Spring Street Presbyterian Church, which needed a church sanctuary. The congregation extended an affiliate membership to the church in order to solve this problem.

During the Depression decade, the First Presbyterian Church enhanced its civic welfare programs, particularly working closely with the nearby and newly established W.H. and Edgar Magness Community House and Library (NR 11/04/93). Women of the church helped work on the welfare committee for the W.H. and Edgar Magness House and library that same year. The Sunday School Library of the First Presbyterian Church was later dissolved and given to the Magness Memorial Library.

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church made efforts to help the needy during the Depression. In 1935, the church voted \$200 in order to clothe indigent children in the area. But by the late 1930s, it appears, the period of community activism and civic welfare taken on by the First Presbyterian Church had come to an end. Other community centers, namely the Magness Community House, now existed. A generation of activism (1900-1935) was no longer such a pressing need in Warren County and the church turned its attention to more internal matters.

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

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Interview with Charles Nunnley by Leslie Draper and Trina Binkley, September, 1994.

Interview with Professor of Music John Brock, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, by Leslie Draper, October, 1994.

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

Vaughn, Barbara Porter, *History of the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street, McMinnville, 11.*

Womack, Walter, *McMinnville at a Milestone, 1810-1960*, McMinnville: Standard Publishing Co., Inc., 1960, 219-220.

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville
P.O. Box 293
McMinnville, TN 37110

Verbal Boundary Description

The Property is located on a city lot in McMinnville as defined in the attached tax map 68 EL 2, lot 2. The property sits on West Main Street and is bounded by Colville Road on the South side.

Boundary Justification

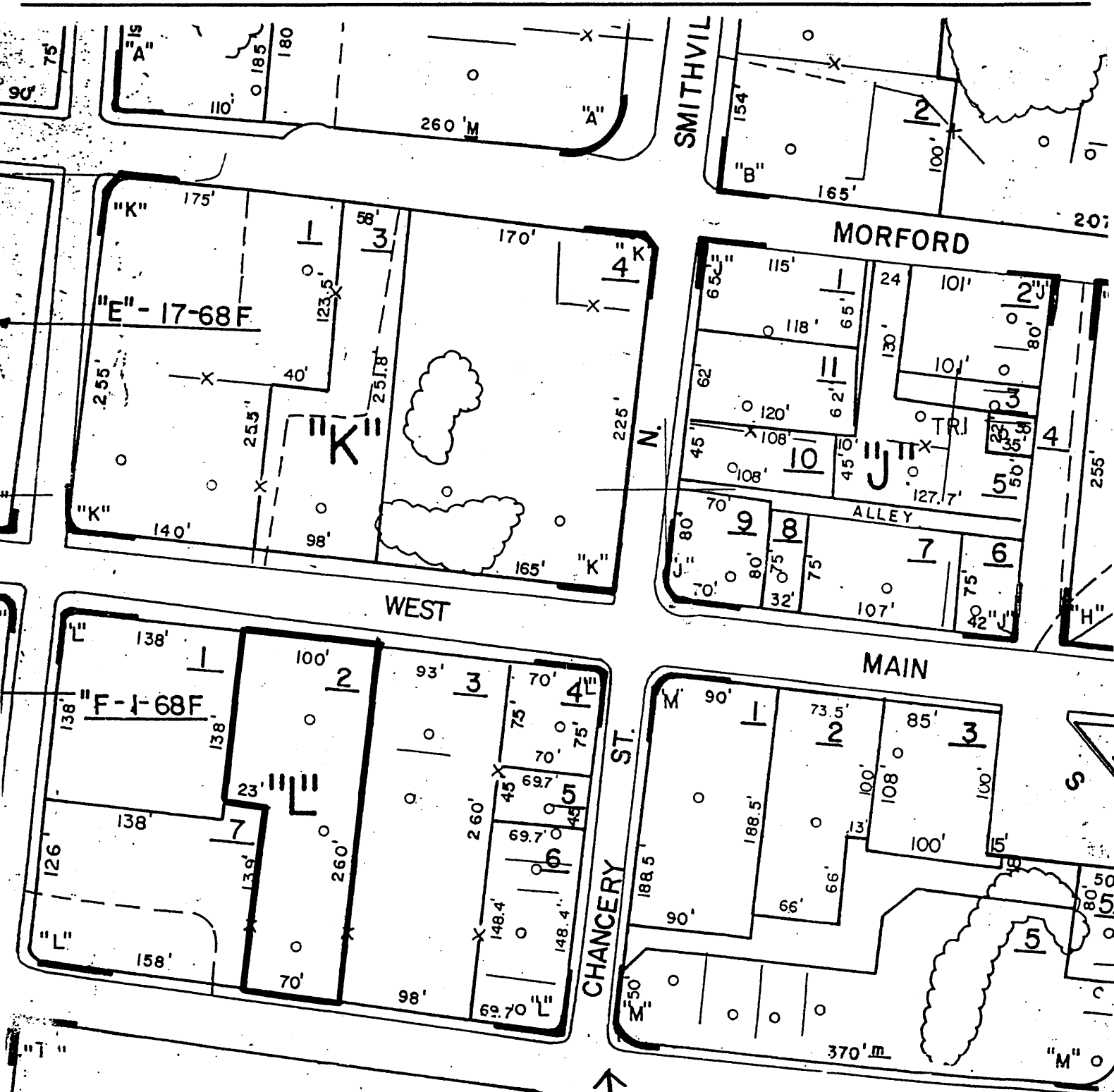
The boundary of the city lot in McMinnville is the boundary of the property associated with the First Presbyterian Church, USA, in McMinnville.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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First Presbyterian Church
Warren County, TN



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SCALE 1" = 100'

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs by: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 80, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: September 1994

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243

North facade, facing south
#1 of 17

North facade, entrance detail, facing south
#2 of 17

North facade and east elevation, facing southwest
#3 of 17

East elevation, facing southwest
#4 of 17

West elevation, facing southeast
#5 of 17

South elevation, facing north
#6 of 17

Front hall, facing north
#7 of 17

Storage space, off front hall, facing north
#8 of 17

Sanctuary, facing south
#9 of 17

Sanctuary and pews, facing north
#10 of 17

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First Presbyterian Church, Warren Co., TN

Sanctuary and organ, facing south
#11 of 17

Pilcher organ, facing south
#12 of 17

Pews and east sanctuary wall, facing southeast
#13 of 17

Stained glass window, east wall, facing east
#14 of 17

Stained glass window, east wall, facing east
#15 of 17

Double doors of sanctuary to new educational wing, facing
south
#16 of 17

Basement, community room, facing northwest
#17 of 17

A BOOK OF PLANS
FOR
CHURCHES AND PARSONAGES.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE,

APPOINTED BY THE

GENERAL CONGREGATIONAL CONVENTION, OCTOBER, 1852.

COMPRISING DESIGNS BY

JOHN. DOWNING, RENWICK, WHEELER, WELLS, AUSTIN, STONE, CLEVELAND, HACKES, AND REEVE.

NEW YORK:

PUBLISHED BY DANIEL BURGESS & COMPANY, NO. 60 JOHN-STREET.

1853.

Library
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WARREN Co. TN
ATTACHMENT B PAGE 1

DESIGN VIII.

This Design for a village church is well adapted for almost any situation. It has been made, however, with a more especial reference to places where stone is not readily obtained, while wood is abundant, and the use of the latter material has been contemplated in its construction. This is obvious, indeed, from a mere inspection of the elevations. The upright lines on the corners, and between the windows, represent posts, and show at once the mode of construction and the material employed. The building is represented as a wooden church, without any disguise; and it is intended that there shall be no reason or warrant for the practice, so common, but so directly opposed both to truth and to good taste, of giving the structure, by means of the artifices of painting or otherwise, the appearance of being constructed of other material than that which is actually used. At the same time it should be said, though it seems hardly necessary, that this design is one which may very appropriately be executed in stone or brick.

It will be noticed, perhaps, that this design has less of the distinctive ecclesiastical look to which we are accustomed than most of those given in the present work. This has resulted from the endeavor of the architect, Mr. Wells, to adapt it to the ready use of wood, in a satisfactory and economical manner. Many features of churches, and those which are almost universally recognized as belonging to ecclesiastical structures, would hardly have originated except in the use of some other material than wood, and their repetition in our wooden edifices is too often only a sufficiently near approach to the original to make the failure quite obvious.

The present design is one, we think, which will strike many with great favor. It was originally made for one of our congregations not far from this city, but as yet, for want of the requisite pecuniary means, has not been built; a lecture-room of corresponding style having thus far been made to take its place. We might direct attention to the particular features of this plan, but they are too obvious to need this. The boldly perforated brackets will, of course, be noticed. They give

a peculiar effect to the structure, and on a village site, with the accompaniment of surrounding trees, would be extremely pleasing in character.

The interior is designed to be finished either with an open timber roof, together with plastered or wainscoted side walls, or the whole might be plastered, the ceiling being made to take the form of an arch.

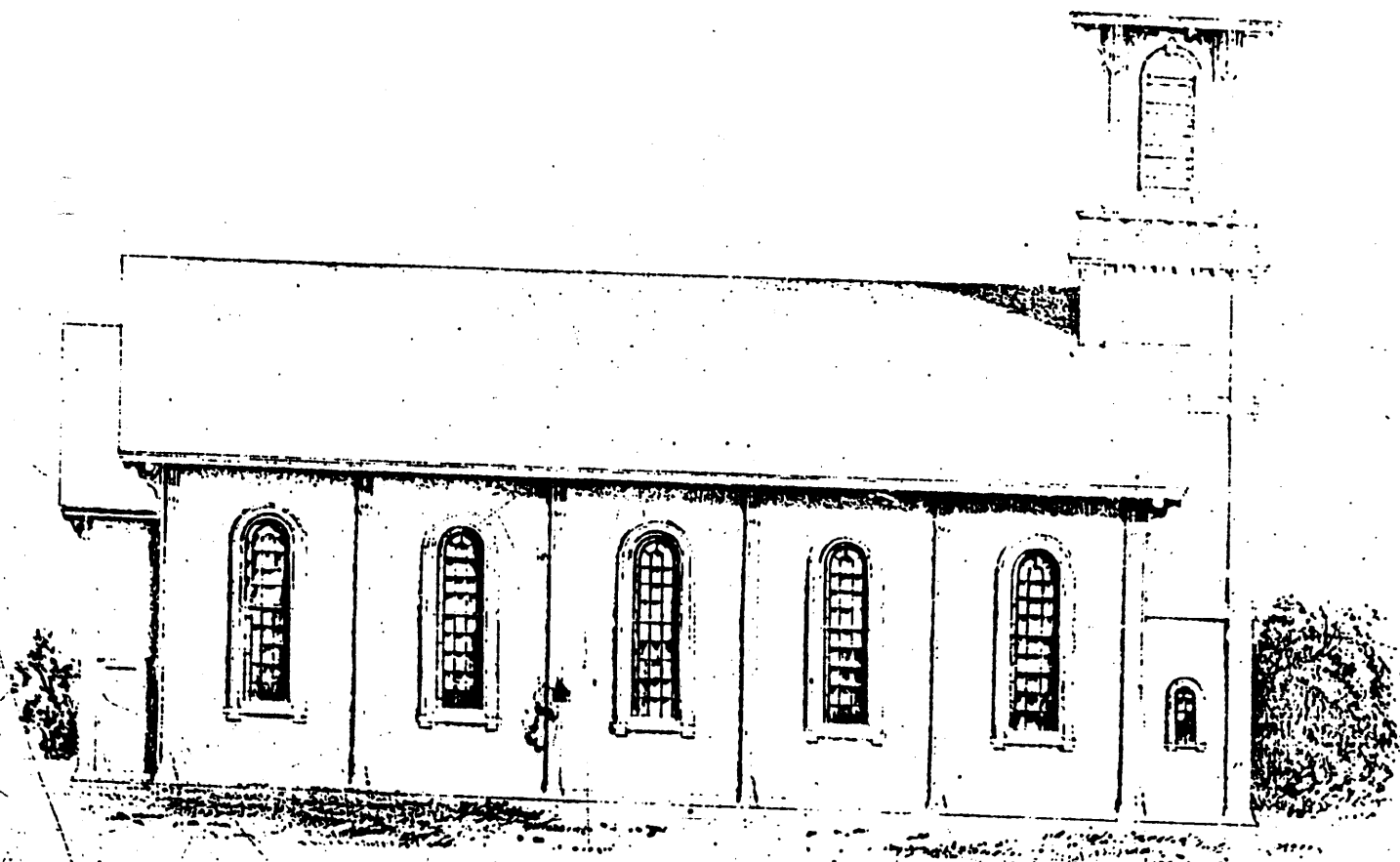
The projection on the rear of the building is six feet in depth in the clear; and furnishes an appropriate recess for the pulpit, and on either side of it a room measuring about ten feet by six, having an independent entrance from the outside. One of these is designed for the minister's room. The other may be used for the Sabbath-school library and a place of deposit for communion furniture and the like, and by throwing open both its inner and outer door, may be made also a side entrance to the church.

The church should be warmed by a furnace, or enclosed stoves, situated in a cellar excavated for the purpose. Here, too, we may say, what we intended to say in our previous general remarks on the subject of warming, that it will be found most economical, as well as conducive to comfort, to have the fires kindled on the evening preceding the Sabbath, or very early on that day, so that the house will be thoroughly heated by the time the services commence, and the fires should then be allowed to go down. The walls and whole substance of the building having become thoroughly heated by long continued but not intense fires, a moderate warmth will be radiated from every part, from walls and pews and floors, which will be much pleasanter to the congregation, and more congenial to the purposes of the place, than the concentrated heat arising from furnaces or stoves fully charged with fuel.

The building contemplated in the preceding design is forty feet in width and seventy in length, and, without any gallery, will accommodate four hundred and fifty persons. Its cost in the vicinity of New York would be about six thousand five hundred dollars.

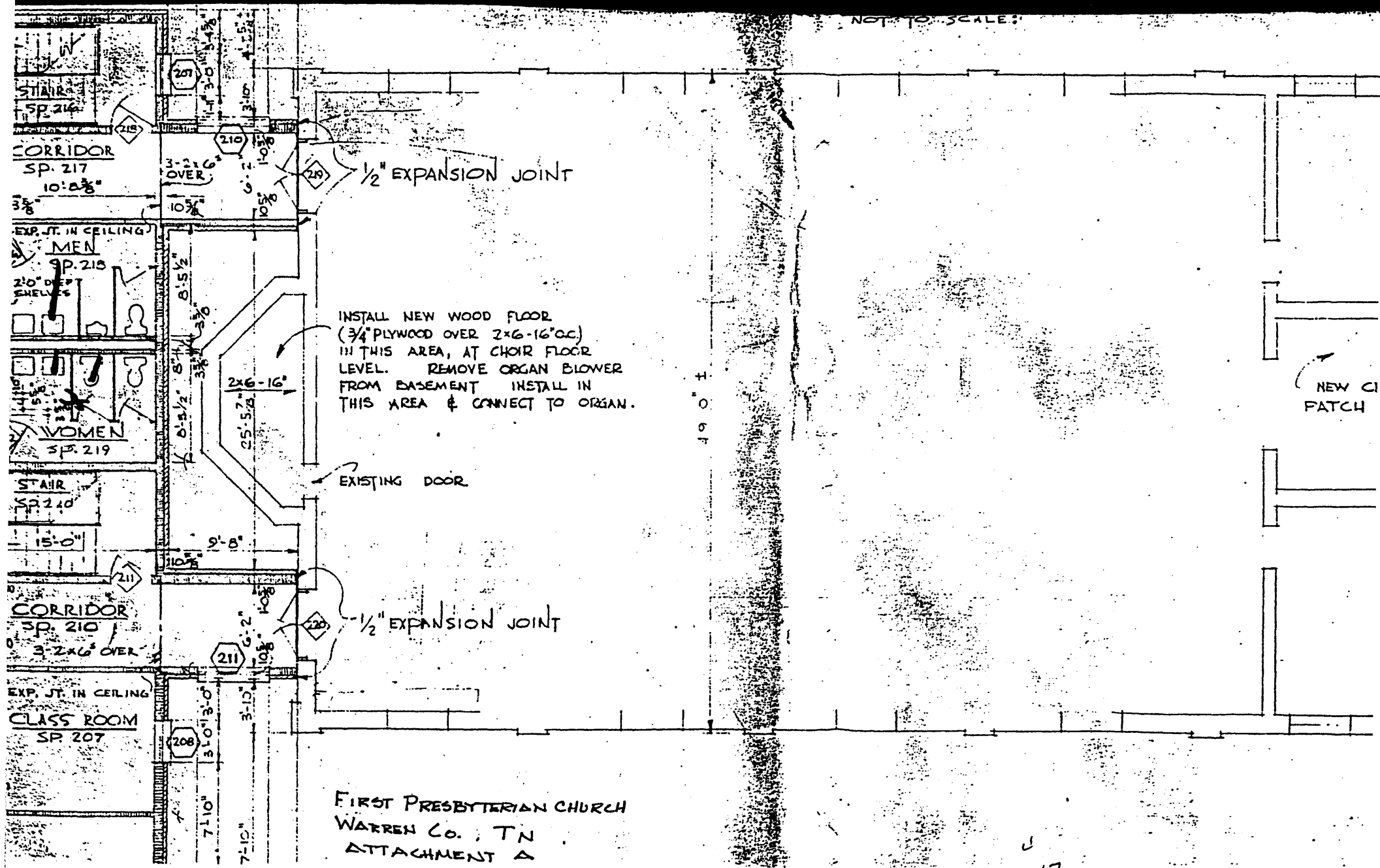


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WARREN CO., TN



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WARREN CO. TN
ATTACHMENT B PAGE 4

NOT TO SCALE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WARREN CO., TN
ATTACHMENT A

NEW CI
PATCH