

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

received **OCT 17 1984**

date entered **NOV 15 1984**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

and/or common

2. Location

street & number **204 West Main Street** not for publication

city, town **Louisa** vicinity of

state **Kentucky** code **021** county **Lawrence** code **127**

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name **First United Methodist Church**

street & number **204 West Main Street**

city, town **Louisa** vicinity of state **Kentucky**

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Lawrence County Courthouse**

street & number

city, town **Louisa** state **Kentucky**

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title **KY Historic Resources Inventory** has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date **1984** federal state county local

depository for survey records **Kentucky Heritage Council**

city, town **Frankfort** state **Kentucky**

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The **First United Methodist Church** is a three-bay, gable end, single cell, Gothic Revival, red-brick church constructed about 1850. It is of common bond, on brick foundation; has pointed arch windows and door, buttressed sides, steep-pitched roof, and bell tower (photo #1). It is located in the residential section of Main Street in the town of Louisa, county seat of Lawrence County, and is about three blocks from the courthouse square. Louisa contains some of the earliest buildings in the Big Sandy Area, which was the last area of Kentucky to be settled. Sites previously listed in the National Register in Louisa are the Birthplace of Fred M. Vinson (September 4, 1974), Garred-Burgess House, Chapel and Burial Vault (October 29, 1975), and the Yatesville Covered Bridge (March 26, 1976).

The main entrance of the building is centered in the front facade. The opening is a pointed arch and contains double doors with stained glass above (photo #2). Each gable end contains a large window (photo #5). Trefoils decorate a panel supported by brackets at the apex of the gable (photo #3). The roof is crowned by a Gothic bell tower (said to replace a steeple) containing a prized bell, cast in 1852 by A. Fulton in Pittsburgh. Pointed arch windows flank the entrance doorway.

There are buttresses on each side of the building, double shouldered with stone coping. Pointed arch windows matching those on the front facade are between the buttresses. A double row of brick headers surround the tops of the openings. The stained glass panes are diamond-shaped sections within double arches in the upper sash.

The interior of the church has an elevated railed chancel opposite the entrance, containing the pulpit and choir pews (photo #6). The entrance foyer is separated from the auditorium by hinged folding doors, small ante-rooms are on each side, above this area is the balcony (photo #7).

In the 1920s a hall was added to the side of the church also containing stained glass windows, which are memorials for past members. In this section are classrooms, a fellowship hall, and a kitchen. A new roof was recently put on the hall, altering its silhouette.

An addition was constructed at the rear of the main building in 1964.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1850 Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The **First United Methodist Church** in Louisa, Kentucky, formerly the Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the best examples of Gothic Revival church architecture in the Big Sandy Valley of Eastern Kentucky. Built around 1850, it is today one of the oldest existing buildings in the town and one of the oldest, if not the oldest, Methodist Church in the Big Sandy Valley Area.

Additional Information: In 1823, the Methodist Class of Louisa was formed. The group met in the town's log courthouse, and were preached to by traveling circuit riders of the day. As they grew, a simple two story frame church was built on the public square. Philosophies and politics divided the church and in 1844 during the Great Separation, the congregation split into the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Methodist Episcopal Church was the only congregation in the Big Sandy Valley which did not join the southern branch.

Land for a new building was purchased by the minister, Robert D. Callihan in 1847, and the brick church building was constructed between 1847 and 1854. Reverend Callihan was minister of the church until 1866 when he and his wife moved to Boyd County and deeded the church to the church trustees. Accounts are given of Federal troops occupying the church during the Civil War, but the most damage was done to the old church on the courthouse square.

The first parsonage was built before 1887 on the lot adjoining the church, and the present parsonage was built in 1970. The name of the church was changed to First United Methodist Church in 1968. It is one of three Methodist Churches in present day Louisa, the others being the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (now Louisa United Methodist Church), and the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Repass, Mary Eva Berry. Faith Within the Hills, Louisa, Kentucky: The Heritage Group 1983

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Louisa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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3	5	9	2	3	0
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4	2	1	9	5	3	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at A at West Main Street, 48 feet west of the center of South Clay Street, thence south midway between the church and the parsonage to B at the rear lot lines, thence with said line west to C and north to D at West Main, thence east with the street to the beginning, containing less than one acre and including the church but not the parsonage which is of recent construction.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Murray Wooley, Architectural Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date September 1984

street & number 12th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David L. Morgan

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 4, 1984

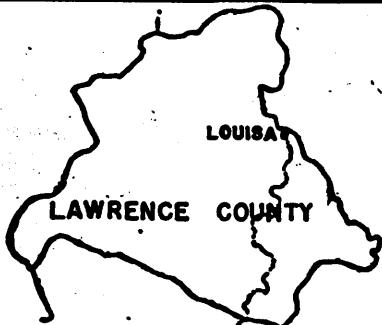
For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Delores Byers **Keoper of the National Register** Entered in the **National Register** date 11-15-84

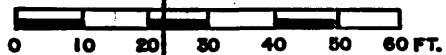
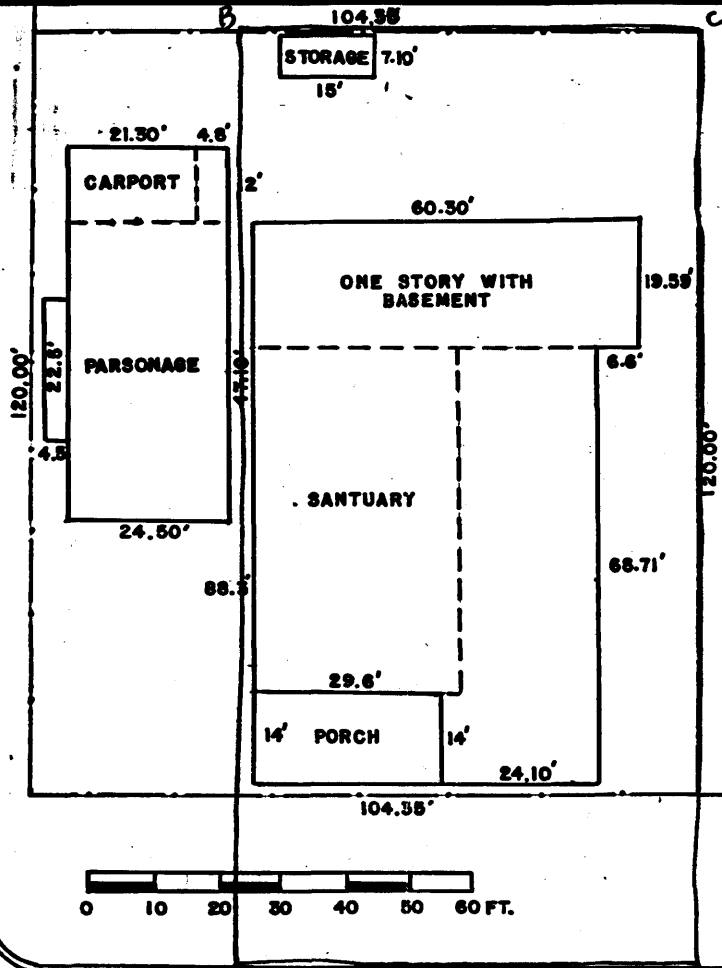
Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

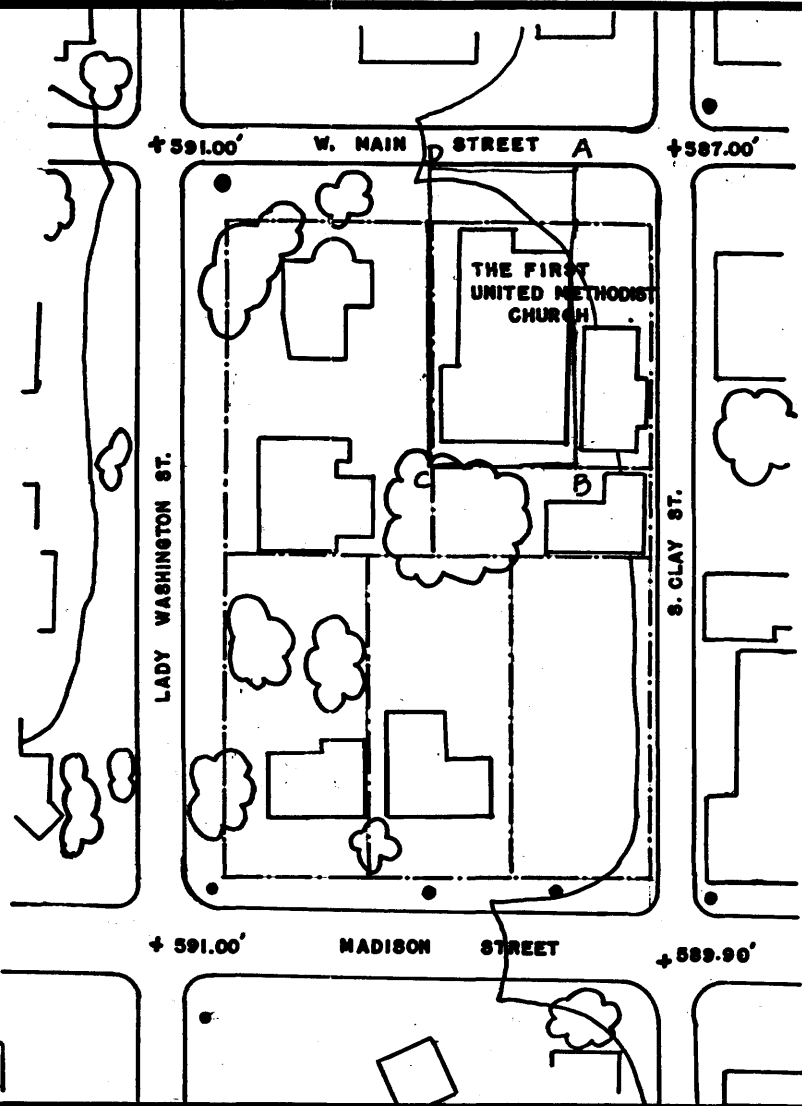


MAP 2

S. CLAY STREET



W. MAIN STREET



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOCATED IN LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
10-84

First United Methodist Church
Louisa, Lawrence County, Kentucky

Map 3

FORT GAY
WEST VIRGINIA

