

**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:** 93001457

**Date Listed:** 1/3/94

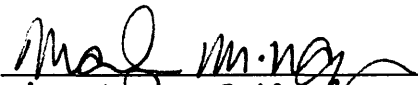
**First United Methodist Church  
Property Name**

**Osceola  
County**

**FLORIDA  
State**

Kissimmee MPS  
**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**

1/4/94  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Action**

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to show that this church qualifies for listing under Criteria Consideration A, for religious properties.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Florida SHPO (1/4/94).

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 26 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 First United Methodist Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 215 East Church Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Kissimmee N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Osceola code 097 zip code 34741-5062

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 forth 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.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 11/18/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources  
State of 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

M. J. M. [Signature]

11/31/94

First United Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Osceola, Florida  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
Historic and Architectural Resources  
of Kissimmee, Florida

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Religion/Church  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Religion/Church  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
roof Asphalt  
other Brick: Tower  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- 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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1913

**Significant Dates**

1913

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Weatherly, L.M. (Architect)

Buzza, S.S. (Builder)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

First United Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Osceola, Florida  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   7	4   6   0   1   2   0	3   1   2   9   1   6   0
	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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees, First United Methodist Church

street & number 101 West Dakin Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Kissimmee state Florida zip code 34741-5062

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**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 listings. 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 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Summary Paragraph

The First United Methodist Church is a two-story, brick, Gothic Revival style building located at 215 East Church Street, immediately north of the downtown commercial area of Kissimmee. The church was constructed in 1913 and features a variety of exterior and interior elements based on Gothic style ecclesiastical architecture. Chief among these are battlemented towers, wall buttresses, arched windows and doorways, and stained glass. The most impressive feature of the interior is the large pipe organ and panelled choir area located at the southeast (altar) wall of the church.

Supporting Narrative

The First United Methodist Church is located on the northern fringe of Kissimmee's downtown commercial area at the northeast corner of the intersection of East Church Street and North Dakin Avenue. The building occupies lot 5 of block 7 of the South Florida R. R. Co. subdivision. All of the other buildings on the block are owned by the First United Methodist Church. These include the Sunday school (215 Church Street), church offices (116 Sproule Street) and the former Holy Redeemer Catholic Church (120 Sproule Street). The latter is now the Wesley Memorial Chapel which also serves the Spanish speaking Methodist congregation of Kissimmee as the Iglesia Metodista Hispana. Buildings on the blocks surrounding the church property are commercial structures and those that are used by various department of the city government.

The church is a good example of the Gothic Revival style which was popular for religious architecture in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The building has load bearing masonry walls, finished with red brick set in running bond. The plan of the church is basically symmetrical and consists of a five-bay main facade, side walls that are not broken by ells or additions, and a five-bay apse at the rear of the building. The church has a steeply pitched cross gable roof that is visually dominated on the main facade by square, battlemented towers of unequal height that define the main entranceways to the building. A tower located at the juncture of the sidewall and the rear apse on the northwest elevation of the church marks the site of a secondary entrance.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 7 Page 2

Description

Main (Southeast) Elevation

The main (Church Street) facade of the building is dominated by two towers that flank the gable wall of the church (Photo 1). The larger of the two is a three-story structure found at the southwest corner of the building. The tower has a flat, built-up roof surrounded by a battlement whose brick crenels feature concrete caps. A corbelled brick cornice encircles the tower just below the parapet. Lancet vents set in groups three are found in recessed panels on each elevation of the tower. These indicated the location of the church bells. A course of brick set in repeating arches wraps around all sides of the belfry just above its junction with the main roof. Triple fixed lancet windows reflect the pattern of the vents above them. Decorative stepped buttresses are located at the corners of the belfry. Double doors crowned by Gothic arch, stained glass transoms are set in lancet openings at ground level on the south and west sides of the tower. The shorter tower on the southeast corner of the facade lacks the belfry section but otherwise is similar to the taller structure. The center of the gable on the main facade features a triple lancet window and three single double hung sash windows separated by buttresses.

Southwest Elevation

The southwest (Dakin Avenue) elevation (Photo 2) of the church is similar in some respects to the main facade. A tower identical to the one at the southeast corner of the building is located at the junction of the main block and rear apse. Fenestration in the cross gable consists of a large stained glass window set in a lancet arch opening, flanked by two smaller double hung sash lancets. Like those on the main facade elevation, the windows are separated by stepped buttresses.

Northwest (Rear) Elevation

The five sided apse is the main feature of the rear elevation (Photo 3). Each bay is separated from its neighbor by stepped buttresses, which frame a pair of stained glass lancet windows.

Northeast Elevation

The northeast elevation is similar to the one on the opposite side of the building but lacks a tower at the juncture

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Section number 7 Page 3

Description

with the apse. One also finds on this elevation two tall brick chimneys with corbelled caps.(Photo 4).

Interior Features

The ground floor of the sanctuary of the church is sloped to provide an unobstructed view of the altar from all angles (Photo 5). The dominant visual feature of altar area is a recessed Gothic archway that houses the pipe organ and choir. The platform on which the altar stands projects out from the organ area in a semicircle and is surrounded by a mahogany communion rail. Paneled mahogany wainscoting lines the sides of the church walls and terminates at the apse. The stained glass windows on the sides and rear of the church provide natural interior lighting (Photo 6). A semicircular gallery is located in the apse (Photo 7).

Alterations

The exterior of the church remains much as it appeared when completed in 1913. The only major alterations to the interior have were made in the altar area. Originally the altar was recessed under the archway. In 1924 the first pipe organ was installed in the archway and the altar was moved forward to its present location. The original organ pipes were removed in 1983 when the present ones were installed.



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Section number 7 Page 4

Photographs

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List of Photographs

1. First United Methodist Church, 215 East Church Street
2. Osceola County, Florida
3. Stephen A. Olausen
4. 1992
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Southeast (Main) Facade, Looking North
7. 1 of 7

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the rest of the photographs

6. Southwest Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. 2 of 7

6. Northwest Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. 3 of 7

6. Northeast Elevation, Looking West
7. 4 of 7

6. Interior, Altar and Organ, Looking Southeast
7. 5 of 7

6. Interior Stained Glass Windows, Looking Northeast
7. 6 of 7

6. Interior, Gallery, Looking Northwest
7. 7 of 7

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance

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Summary Paragraph

The First United Methodist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under criterion C in the area of Architecture as a notable local example of Gothic Revival style design as applied to a small church. The building is significant for its exterior and interior planning and for its various decorative details. The building was designed by Tennessee architect L.M. Weatherly in 1913 to serve the local methodist congregation. The church contributes to the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Kissimmee" multiple property group as defined under sections E and F of the cover document.

Supporting Narrative

Methodists in Kissimmee trace their roots to 1878, when a group banded together to construct a church. This first structure, called Mt. Zion, was located about two miles west of the present city limits. The congregation moved its worship services to Kissimmee soon after the town was founded in 1881. Around 1885, the congregation purchased two lots on Church Street about two blocks from where the present structure stands and erected a one room, wood frame church that measured approximately 60' X 100'.

The congregation continued to use that building until 1912, when it became evident that a newer and more modern facility was required. The trustees of the church purchased the lot at the intersection of Dakin Avenue and Church Street and hired architect L.M. Weatherly of Memphis, Tennessee, to design an elaborate Gothic Revival style building. Ground was broken for the church on January 21, 1912, and construction of the facility proceeded under the supervision of a local contractor named S.S. Buzza, who was also a member of the congregation.

Work on the structure progressed rapidly, and by the summer of 1913 the edifice was nearly complete. The congregation held a celebration on July 4 to mark the laying of the cornerstone, and the Kissimmee Valley Gazette remarked that the festivities attracted a crowd numbering in the thousands. Those in attendance included not only residents of Kissimmee but also people from the countryside and nearby towns. The finished building had cost \$28,000 to erect and had a seating capacity of 500. It was described by the local newspaper as "not only a

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 8 Page 2

Significance

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dream in architecture and design, but an ornament to our city that demonstrates the loyalty of the members to their church."

As it was originally laid out, the main entrance to the church was located on the Church Street side of the building. The pulpit was located under an archway at the southwest end of the sanctuary. In 1924 an impressive pipe organ, which cost \$5,500, was added in the space under the archway and the pulpit was moved forward to its present location.

Architectural Significance

The First United Methodist Church displays many of the defining elements of the Gothic Revival style. These include the use of pointed arch entranceways and windows, towers, buttresses, corbelled brick decorative elements, and stained glass. The overall style of the building reflects similar trends in other parts of the United States for the design and construction of small Protestant churches. The direct stylistic antecedents for the church can be found in English ecclesiastical architecture of the 17th century, particularly designs for small parish churches in rural villages.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

### Bibliography

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#### Bibliography

Cantrell, Elizabeth. When Kissimmee Was Young. Kissimmee:  
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Cody, Aldus M. and Robert S. Cody. Osceola County, the First  
Hundred Years. Kissimmee: Osceola County Historical  
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Fire Insurance Map of Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida. New  
York: Sanborn Map Company, 1889-1944

First Methodist Church. A Firm Foundation: A Historical Look at  
First Methodist Church. Kissimmee, 1982.

Kissimmee Valley Gazette, February 7, July 11, 1913.

Polk's Kissimmee City Directory. Jacksonville: R.L. Polk  
Publishing Co., 1921.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description & Justification

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the First United Methodist Church is lot 5, block 7 of the South Florida R.R. Company Subdivision of Kissimmee, Florida.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the lot upon which the First United Methodist Church was constructed in 1913. Although the church now owns all of block 7 and the buildings located on it, the other structures are either those less than fifty years old or (in the case of 120 Sproule Street) unrelated to the development of the First United Methodist Church during the period of historic significance.

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
SITE PLAN

CENTRAL AVENUE

MITCHELL AVENUE

CHURCH STREET

N. DAKIN AVENUE

215

200

3




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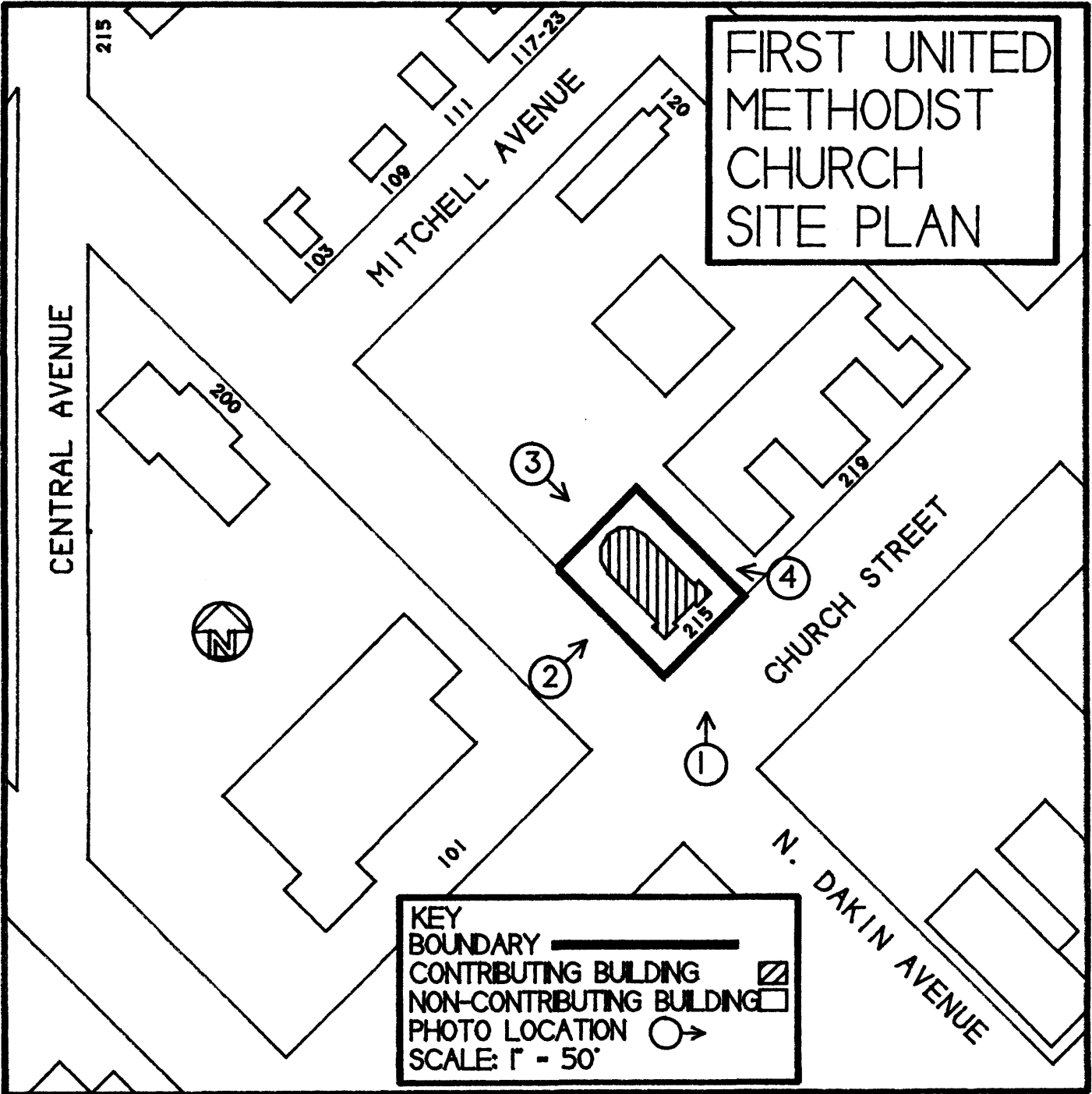
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1

101



KEY  
BOUNDARY ———  
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING   
NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING   
PHOTO LOCATION   
SCALE: 1" = 50'



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FLOOR PLAN

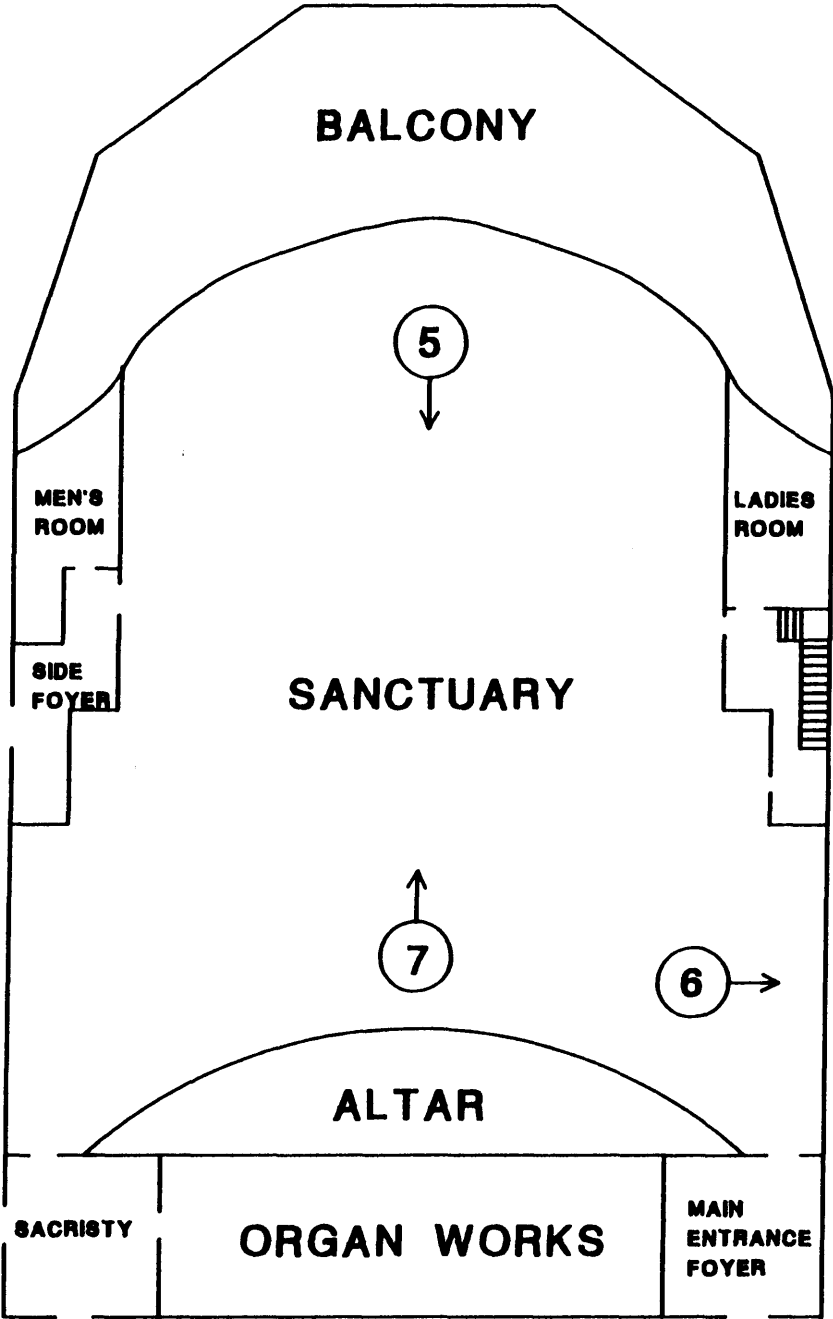


PHOTO LOCATION = ○ →