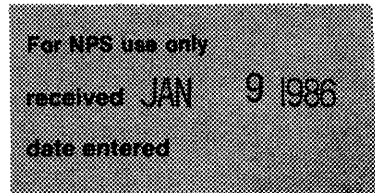


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Name: First Christian Church

Owner: First Christian Church

Location: 111 N. 5th

Classification: Building

Description: This exotic Gothic Revival-type structure is the most architecturally significant religious building in Murray. The double towers and central gable dominate the skyline of Murray and create a well-known visual landmark.

The central block of the building has a massive front gable. A triple-arched central entrance provides access to the two doorways to the sanctuary. A row of arched clerestory windows rises above this. A circular rose window is surrounded by a stone ogee arch. Brick corbelling decorates the cornice of the gable.

At the southwest corner of the building is a four-story, square bell tower. This tower is decorated with arched windows, stone beltcourses, and brick corbelling. The tower ends with round corner pinnacles and a pyramid roof. Balancing this tower is a second hexagon tower at the northeast corner of the building. This three-story tower has stone beltcourses and arched windows. This tower has a castellated top.

The two sides of the church have arched colored glass windows divided by brick pilasters. Each side of the church has a one-story brick addition. During the 1956 renovation of the church, the interior of the church was modernized.

Significance: The Christian Church of Murray erected one of the first public buildings in Murray after the town became the county seat in 1843. That frame church structure was located at 202 South Sixth. The present lot for the First Christian Church was purchased in 1867-68. A two-story brick building was constructed on this site, owned and occupied by the Oddfellows Lodge on the second floor and the Christian Church on the first.

In 1902 the church purchased the Oddfellows interest in the property and church members began to plan for a new building. Paducah architect A. L. Lassiter was hired to design the building. Murray contractor George Aycock was employed to supervise the construction of the church. On September 1, 1904, the cornerstone of the new building was laid. The new Christian Church was dedicated on October 5, 1905. The original interior of the church was unusual, with the pulpit, baptistry, choir loft and organ niche situated in the northwest corner of the sanctuary. The church pews were arranged in a half-circle facing these locations.

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First Christian Church continuation

Over the baptistry was the inscription "One Lord, one faith, and one baptism."

The interior of the church burned on November 17, 1956. The congregation decided to rebuild the church within the original walls and the church was rededicated on March 30, 1958.

Acreage: Approximately . 25 acres

UTM References: (Murray Quadrangle) 16/383460/4052340

Verbal Boundary Description: The First Christian Church is loated on the accompanying Murray tax map as Block 8, lot 6.