

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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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 Stidham United Methodist Church

other names/site number 157-550-55023

2. Location

street & number 5300 South 175 West N/A not for publication

city or town Lafayette  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Tippecanoe code 157 zip code 47905

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.)

*Patrick R. Roberts*

10-20-92

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Date of Action

*Delores Byers*

11/27/92

Stidam UM Church

Name of Property

Tippecanoe, IN

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE

roof CERAMIC TILE

other WOOD

GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Stidham UM Church  
Name of Property

Tippecanoe, IN  
County and State

### 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

Art

#### Period of Significance

1912

#### Significant Dates

1912

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Nicol, Charles

Ruby, Edna

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Stidham UM Church  
Name of Property

Tippecanoe, IN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6
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5	0	5	2	6	0
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4	4	6	5	4	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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 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 Wilma Osterhoff, Committee Chairman

organization Stidham United Methodist Church date 2-10-92

street & number 4812 S. 175W telephone 317/474-3234

city or town Lafayette state IN zip code 47905

**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 North Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church

street & number P.O. Box 869 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Marion state IN zip code 46952

**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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The Jasper H. Stidham United Methodist Church, built in 1913, is a fine example of Gothic Revival with Craftsman influence style architecture. The church is set on a rural 3.19 acre plot several miles southwest of Lafayette. The landscape around the church is flat with a few mature trees. The building is a one and a half story structure built on a co-axial plan. The two rectangular sections of the church come together under a steeply sloped cross-gabled roof.

The foundation of the church is a combination of cement block and poured concrete. All of the exterior facades are constructed of dark red flemish bond brick with a soldier belt course.

The main facade faces east. The bell tower is located on the south side of the main facade where the cross-gabled roof meets. The tower is decorated with tudor style battlements and flanked with masonry buttresses. The main entrance at the foot of the bell tower has a Craftsman style plain wood portico with simple bargeboard. Leading up to the double-leaf doors is a handicap ramp, which was constructed in 1984.

Roughly centered above the east bell tower entrance is a stained glass window set in a wood pointed cusped arch sash with a plain sill. An identical single window is located on the south bell tower. Two other identical windows, but on a smaller scale, are located on the south narthex section of the main facade. The fenestration of the windows progressing north of the bell tower is comprised of a three window arrangement, another three window arrangement, a two window arrangement and a single window. The windows are identical to those south of the bell tower. The window arrangements are separated by brick buttresses with stone ledges. The bell tower is flanked with identical buttresses.

The sanctuary (north) section of the west facade is identical to the sanctuary section of the main facade. The narthex or south rectangular section of the west facade is where the addition was connected to the original church. This addition was constructed to the church's southwest corner between 1957 and 1958. The addition is a one-story rectangular structure with a low pitched gabled roof. The facade of the addition is constructed of red brick to match the original structure.

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The main entrance on the south elevation is identical to the bell tower entrance save the handicap ramp. There is a three window arrangement located west of the entrance. This arrangement is identical to those on the east and west elevation.

Centered below the steep gable of the north elevation is a gothic stained glass window. A plain wood door is located on the east side of this elevation, leading into the small room east of the sanctuary chancel area. A single pointed cusped arch sash is set on the west side of the north elevation.

The first floor of the interior consists of the narthex, sanctuary, chancel area, and a room on either side of the chancel. Above the narthex is a balcony level and a large classroom. Another classroom, three storage rooms, and the furnace room are below the narthex. The lower level and the second story are accessible through an open stairwell with wood balustrades inside the bell tower. The lower level walls are cement block and poured concrete.

The south entrance opens into the narthex and to the rear of the sanctuary. In addition, there is access to the sanctuary through the bell tower. The semi-circular chancel area is flanked by two doors with gothic trim which lead to small corner rooms. The northwest room has a door facing north that leads outside. The northeast room has access behind the large stained glass dome. The dome encompasses the area directly above the chancel area. The stained glass dome consists of geometric and floral patterns in an array of pinks, emeralds, rubies, velvetlike purple, and opalescent cream. Moving towards the top of the dome arch, the size of the various panes straighten. This gives a three dimensional appearance by adding a sense of depth.

The sanctuary has a vaulted ceiling with nine exposed beams. Two massive wood gothic arches supported by trusses span the width of the sanctuary.

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The Stidham United Methodist Church meets criterion C for listing in the National Register in the areas of architecture and art. Stidham Church features a significant example of local artisan Edna Ruby's stained glass work. The church is significant locally as the only example of an ecclesiastical Gothic building with elements of the Craftsman style. The Gothic style is evident in the vertical design achieved through the bell tower, steep sloped roof, pointed arched sashes, and buttresses. The vaulted ceiling, massive wood arches, and arched doorways are elements of gothic architecture inside the sanctuary. The simple woodwork around the porticos, tiled roof and exposed purlins are unique characteristics of the Craftsman style.

Jasper H. Stidham, a long time resident and land owner in Union Township, died on April 24, 1912. He left instructions in his will that a bequest of \$10,000 be used to incorporate a church near Taylor Station. The will further stated that the church was to be organized within six months of his death. Rev. George W. Switzer of Lafayette was appointed by Bishop W.F. McDowell of Chicago to implement the terms of the will.

By July, the first service was held in the Consolidated School Building of Union Township with the Articles of Association of the Jasper H. Stidham Methodist Episcopal Church being signed in September. In November, 1913, two acres of land were purchased for the sum of eight hundred dollars in the immediate vicinity of Taylor Station. Several months later, Charles W. Nicol was chosen as designer and the Joshua Chew Company was contracted to do the construction. The dedication service was held on May 16, 1915. Total cost of the land and the building came to approximately \$14,600.

Charles Wheeler Nicol, a Purdue graduate and senior partner of a Lafayette firm, designed over 1,200 buildings during his lifetime. Stidham United Methodist Church is the only ecclesiastical structure designed by Nicol that received an "outstanding" rating in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Tippecanoe County. Three other Nicol structures were rated "outstanding" in the county survey. Located in the plat of Highland Park, these works include a Craftsman house, a Tudor

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Revival house, and the William Blistain House, perhaps the best example of a Prairie style home in Tippecanoe County. Stidham United Methodist is significant as the only example of a Gothic/Craftsman Church designed by Nicol in his native county. The later work of Nicol is represented in the National Register through the listing of the Leland Hotel in Richmond, 1928 (NR 2-28-85) and the Roberts Hotel in Muncie, 1921 (NR 7-15-82).

The Stidham United Methodist Church represents the work of local master artisan Edna Browning Ruby. Miss Edna Browning Ruby worked hand in hand with architect Charles Nicol in her design and implementation of the art glass windows and dome. Both are excellent examples of ecclesiastical art glass for the period. The geometric and floral patterns in the windows can also be seen in the stained glass dome. The art glass is beautiful on its own visually, but is even more significant because of the association with nationally known artisan Ruby.

Miss Ruby was a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, and received honorary degrees from the Royal Academy in London. She was highly respected and honored in Indiana, the United States, and many parts of the world as an educator and an artist. She served as director of Applied Art at the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis (1913-16) and director of the Art School at Muncie National Institute (1916-18). Indiana Governor Samuel Ralston named Miss Ruby as the State Representative to the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. Ruby was honored as an "Outstanding Woman of Achievement" by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, an honor which carried the award of a tour of Europe. Miss Ruby lectured on the "design and manufacturing of textiles" across the country and in Europe, receiving several awards in Berlin, Paris, and London.

Edna Browning Ruby is clearly a significant person in women's history in addition to being an acknowledged master artisan. She was the only known woman in the United States who designed, built, and installed art glass windows. The fact that she was a native of Lafayette brings national recognition to her designs at the Stidham United Methodist Church. Miss Ruby designed art windows for two other intact churches in Lafayette, the Trinity United



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Methodist Church and the New Christian Church. However, Stidham United Methodist is the only church represented with an art glass dome, a distinctive feature rarely seen in the works of Ruby. The dome is the primary focus of the sanctuary and is the best example of a Ruby art glass dome in her native state.

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Bibliographical References

Butler, Ola Drake. Jasper H. Stidham Methodist Church History.  
Tippecanoe County Historical Museum. 16 Oct. 1974.

"Charles Wheeler Nicol." Indianapolis Star. 4 Dec. 1959: 18

"Hoosier Girl Wins Honor's as Textile Designer." Indianapolis Sunday Star. 1 Jan. 1911: 8.

"Hoosier Woman Enjoys Unique Reputation as Builder of Stained Glass Windows." Indianapolis Sunday Star. 18 Feb. 1923.

"Lafayette Artists Among Most Distinguished D.A.R. Members." Indianapolis News. 24 April 1931: 10

"Lafayette Woman Wins Fame as a Designer of Art Glass Windows." Indianapolis News. 23 Jan. 1915: 24

"Many Bequests by Jasper H. Stidham." Lafayette Journal and Courier. April 1912.

"Miss Edna B. Ruby, Noted Artist, Dead." Indianapolis Star. 17 Oct. 1937: 14

Morehouse, Lucille E. "Scriptures and War Sacrifice Portrayed in Windows." Indianapolis Star. 8 May 1921:2

"Stidham Church is Dedicated." Lafayette Journal and Courier. 17 May 1915.

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Stidham UM Church

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point (A) where 175 West meets the church driveway, 230 feet north of 550 South. Then proceed north along the west line of 175 West turning west at the point (B) intersected by the south driveway of the manse. Then proceed 287 1/2 feet west (point C). Turn south and proceed to a point (D) intersected by an extended line along the north side of the church driveway. Then proceed east along the north side of the church driveway to the point of beginning (A).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Stidham UM Church National Register nomination include only the immediate property surrounding the church building and the educational building addition.

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