

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 25 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Presbyterian Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 313 N. Patterson Street N/A not for publication
city, town Valdosta N/A vicinity
state Georgia code GA county Lowndes code GA185 zip code 31601

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Elizabeth A. Lyon 9/19/87
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

Almond Byrum 11-2-87
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Masonrywalls Masonry

roof tileother terra cotta within tympanum, sandstone
and concrete columns

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The First Presbyterian Church was built in 1910 on the northeast corner of Magnolia and Patterson Streets in Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia. The church is a Classical Revival two-story, gray-tone brick building with the main pedimented facade facing Patterson Street. This facade also has a portico with Corinthian columns, dentils and modillions on the cornice and pediment, three round-arched entries, round and rectangular windows, and decorative terra cotta in the tympanum. The Magnolia Street facade has two pedimented cross-gabled pavillions with dentils and modillions. The plan of the church is a modified rectangle. The building has a tile-clad pitched roof. The sanctuary and additions fill the lot and are close to the sidewalk.

On the main facade of the church are six sandstone and concrete modified Corinthian columns. Within the tympanum are decorative terra-cotta elements. The church has three entrances on the main facade which have double leaf, multi-panel doors with round blind arches. Above each door is a rectangular stained-glass window. The stained glass, the brass hardware and the paneled doors are original materials. The building's marble cornerstone was quarried in Hawkins County, Tennessee, and sculpted by Valdosta sculptor J.W. White. The exterior walls are loadbearing masonry construction and the roofing system is a wooden truss frame.

In the interior of the sanctuary there are two aisles and the pews are arranged in a curved manner facing the altar and choir area which are on a raised platform. Galleries are on either side of the choir area, and balconies with tiered seating flank the nave. Sunday school rooms are on the first and second floors at the rear of the building.

The sanctuary still has the original smooth plaster walls, raked flooring, coffered chevroned ceiling and wainscoting with the same paneled motif as the ceiling. The woodwork is painted white. Records indicate that this was the original finish and color. Other original features include brass hardware and pocket doors. The church's pews and pulpit furniture are hand carved and have a natural finish. On the corners of the interior walls are pilasters topped with composite order capitols. The organ pipes are behind the choir loft on the sanctuary's southern elevation.

When the church was built it was constructed with running water, and gas light and heating systems. The gas systems were removed when central heat and air were installed in 1956. In 1958, a Fellowship Hall and Sunday School annex were built to the east of the sanctuary. These buildings were built of concrete block and connected to the sanctuary by a covered concrete walk. Also in 1958, a concrete block storage room was constructed to the east of the sanctuary. In 1964, another structure was built to the east of the previous construction. Known as the Centennial Building, it is a masonry building used for the church office, pastor's study and more Sunday School rooms. See continuation sheet

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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None of these nonhistoric auxiliary buildings is included in the nominated property. In addition to the changes made to the sanctuary's mechanical systems in 1956, the original cloth-curtain choir rail was replaced with a paneled rail during redecorating in this same year.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Butt and Morris/Architect
M.E. Shaw/ Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement of Significance

In the area of architectural significance the First Presbyterian Church of Valdosta is important because it is the city's only Classical Revival church building and one of only a few non-residential Classical Revival buildings of any kind. Built in 1910, the main facade has a full-width portico supported by Corinthian columns and a pediment with dentils and modillions. The church was designed by Butt and Morris, an Atlanta-based architectural firm which designed several churches, residences, and banks through-out Georgia. This structure meets the National Register Criteria "C", because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Classical Revival-style architecture of the early 20th century. The church also meets criteria consideration (exception) "A" because it is a religious property deriving significance from its architectural character.

The First Presbyterian Church is the only Classical Revival church in Valdosta and is of monumental proportions. It also is one of just a few nonresidential examples of Classical Revival architecture of any kind in the city. The building still retains nearly all of its original architectural features and materials which makes it an important example of early 20th-century architecture in Valdosta. The Atlanta architects who designed the building, James W. Butt (d. 1914) and Marshall F. Morris (d. 1921), practiced predominantly in and around the city of Atlanta at the turn of the century. Their work is well documented in the Southern Architect and Building News, and was mostly residential. However, there are several churches, banks, and commercial buildings to their credit. Among the churches they built are the Second Methodist Church in Newnan, the Carrollton M.E. Church, the Central American Church in Atlanta, and the Sunday School building for the Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

In addition to the portico with Corinthian columns and a pediment with dentils and modillions, the church has its original stained-glass windows, pews, wainscoting, panel and pocket doors, coffered ceilings and wall panels, brass hardware and composite order pilasters. The building remained unaltered until 1956 when minor redecorating changes were made and auxiliary buildings were built to the east of the church.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Historic Property Information Form; First Presbyterian Church, Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia," prepared by Nancy Tinker, on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Half Acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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2	8	2	9	4	0
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3	4	1	3	2	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The church is situated on a lot less than one acre in size on the northeast corner of the Magnolia and Patterson Streets intersection, and includes just the historic church and immediate grounds. Non-historic auxiliary buildings are not included. See enclosed map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary of the nominated property includes just the historic church and immediate grounds. Non-historic auxiliary buildings are not included.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Wilson-Martin, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Sect./Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources July 6, 1987

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city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30334

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

Parentetical Paragraphs on the possible social history significance of the First Presbyterian Church.

The church contributes to the social history of Valdosta because of its association with its members, some of whom, included James O. Varnedoe and Judge J.G. Cranford, both of whom served as mayor of Valdosta in the late 19th century. James O. Varnedoe was mayor from 1877-1878 and was a veteran of the Spanish American War. From 1895-1897, Judge J.G. Cranford served as mayor of Valdosta and attended the First Presbyterian Church. In 1927, his wife, Mrs. J.G. Cranford and James Lomax, a local black educator, organized a biracial Daily Vacation Bible School at this church. Rev. James L. Lomax (1898-1976) was an important civic, religious, fraternal and educational leader in the black community. He served as principal of the Magnolia Street School and later the Dasher High School from 1923 to 1967 inclusive. He also served for 34 years as pastor of Macedonia First Baptist Church in Valdosta.

The Vacation Bible School became an annual event, grew in size, and helped to establish stable race relations in the city. At present we do not have enough information on the development of biracial Bible Schools in Georgia to adequately compare the significance of this study group in Valdosta with others in the state. It appears, however, that the development of biracial Bible Schools is fairly unusual.

In the 1940s the First Presbyterian became a springboard for the creation of three new Presbyterian chapels in Valdosta. These were organized in 1943, 1945, and 1946. Then in 1952, another chapel was established by several families of the First Presbyterian. The church's civic and community activities continue to the present.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia

North: ↑

Scale: 0'-----23.6'

The Historic Property is the "Original Building" and immediate grounds.

Bounded by heavy black line. **—————**

Date: 1985

————— MAGNOLIA STREET —————

————— PATTERSON ST —————

