				4093
United States Department of t National Park Service	he Interior			RECEIVED 2280
National Register	of Historic Pla	ices Registra	ation Form	EFL 2 2 MIN
This form is for use in nominating or Complete the National Register of His applicable." For functions, architectural	toric Places Registration Form	If any item does not a	pply to the property being	documented, enter "N/A" for "not
1. Name of Property		the second second		
Historic name Prest	oyterian Church, U.S.	.A.		
Other names/site number	Water Street Churc		r Street Abbey	
Name of related multiple property listing	N/A			
	(Remove "N/A" if	property is part o	f a multiple proper	ty listing and add name)
2. Location				
A. J. A. A. 200	200 Water Store t			
Street & Number: City or town: Lewis	300 Water Street	tate: TN	County:	Marshall
Not For Publication:	N/A Vicinity:	N/A		p: 37091
	19/2	N/A		
3. State/Federal Agency	Certification			
I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> standards for registering prop requirements set forth in 36 C In my opinion, the property <u>property</u> be considered signif	erties in the National Ro CFR Part 60. <u>X</u> meets does n icant at the following lo <b>national</b>	egister of Historic F ot meet the Nationa	Places and meets the Il Register Criteria. 1 ce:	
Candre	the Chan-		.54	12.210
Signature of certifyi			(0/8	Date
	Preservation Officer, T	ennessee Historical		
	cy/bureau or Tribal G	A DESCRIPTION OF A DESC		
In my opinion, the property	/ meets does no	ot meet the National	Register criteria.	
Signature of Commo	enting Official:		Da	te
Title:		State of	f Federal agency/bu	reau or Tribal Government

Marshall County, TN County and State

RECEIVED

2230

Presbyterian	Church,	U.S.A.
--------------	---------	--------

Name of Property

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

#### 5. Classification

# **Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

$\mathbf{P}$	rivate	
	irvate	

Public - Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

**Category of Property** 

11.27.2019

Date of Action

(Check only o	one box.)
Building(s)	x
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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

# 6. Function or Use

# **Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions) Religion/Religious Facility **Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) Work in Progress

7. Description

# **Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Gothic Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property:

Stone/Limestone; Brick; Metal/Tin; Glass

# **Narrative Description**

Located on a corner lot a few blocks northwest of the public square in Lewisburg, Tennessee, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A is an excellent local example of an Akron Plan church with Late Gothic Revival stylistic elements. Significant exterior features include projecting gable ends, a crenellated three-story bell tower with arch motifs, a two-story corner tower, a steeply pitched pressed tin pyramidal with deck roof, flashed glass windows, and general asymmetrical appearance. Significant interior features include the Akron Plan layout, rolled doors, and woodwork throughout. The church retains integrity.

## **Setting and Site Features**

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Water Street and North Third Avenue in Lewisburg, Tennessee, a community of about 11,300 people. The immediate surrounding neighborhood is primarily residential with early 20<sup>th</sup> century single-family homes to the north, west, and south. There is a low-density commercial area immediately to the east and further to the south. Lewisburg's public square and commercial district is located a few blocks to the southeast. The church is the only resource on the property and fills the majority of the lot. A short stone wall, two courses high, runs the length of the property's north side. A large tree is located at the southeast corner, and a few small trees are elsewhere on the periphery of the lot.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

# **Building Summary**

The church is primarily of stretcher bond red brick construction, resting on a coursed stone foundation with a limestone water table. The building is topped by a steeply pitched pyramidal with deck roof clad in original fish scale pattern pressed tin shingles with ridge caps. Center gable sections projecting on the east, south and west elevations contain windows. The church sits atop a full stone basement containing church school classrooms. Due to a sloping landscape, the basement is primarily visible on the east and north (rear) elevations. Windows are currently covered by plywood but are extant unless otherwise noted. There are three brick chimneys.

## Facade

The facade faces south towards Water Street. The main block is a three bay front, and the single bay entry/bell tower is located at the southeast corner. Besides the tower, the defining feature of the facade is the projecting center gable section; it has a steep gabled roof line topped with stone coping and corbeled steps. There are three rectangular flashed stained glass windows with limestone sills and lintels in the center bay. Within the gable is a circular window bordered by two courses of radiating brick headers. A date stone stating "1910" is centered beneath the circular window, noting the church's construction date. The bays to either side of the projecting gable each feature a single rectangular flashed stained glass window, also with stone sills and lintels. Deep molded zinc gutters extend to the sides of the projecting gable, giving the appearance of a pronounced entablature.

## **Southeast Tower**

The corner tower at the southeast corner of the façade is three stories in height; the first and second levels contain an entrance foyer and the third houses a bell. The first floor features a double-leaf entry with fivepanel wooden doors set beneath a shallow pointed arch defined by projecting and radiating molded brick. This arch features a flashed glass fanlight, partially broken. The entry door is reached by a flight of seven broad stone steps leading to the stone door sill; the steps are bordered on either side with a simple cast iron pipe rail. The second floor of the tower features only narrow slit windows with small stone lintels and sills (on the façade and east elevations only). The third floor, housing the bell, has the same appearance on all four elevations. Centered on each elevation is a wood louvered window under a shallow pointed brick arches. The tower is topped by low pedimented and crenelated parapets topped with stone coping. The parapet on the north elevation has crumbled.

## West Elevation

The west elevation has a projecting center gable with one rectangular flashed glass window with stone lintels and sills, as well as an identical window on the south side of the projecting section. To the south of the gable is another window. To the north of the gable end is the original hall and classroom wing. This wing has a different brick bonding pattern (common bond), and the brick is a slightly different color. The west elevation of the wing is in poor condition with brick collapsing at the roofline, above which is a short brick flue. There are two rectangular flashed glass windows matching the others on the first level. This section projects beyond the west elevation of the main church section, and on the south wall of the projection is a five-panel single-leaf door which opens to a concrete sidewalk that runs alongside the west elevation.

#### **North Elevation**

At the rear of the church on the north elevation is the wing housing a church hall upstairs and classrooms below. The east side is recessed from the east elevation behind the small tower, and has a single 15/15 double-hung sash flashed glass window on the first level, and a fixed two-light window below. The long

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.Marshall County, TNName of PropertyCounty and State

north side has six rectangular 15/15 double hung sash flashed glass windows with stone lintels and sills evenly spaced; below them are six smaller two-light fixed windows into the basement. A tall brick chimney extends from the wing's roof.

## **East Elevation**

The east elevation faces Third Street. The coursed stone foundation and basement are visible due to the downward slope of the landscape along Third Street. Within the basement is a single-leaf five panel wooden door and double hung wooden windows. There are three double-hung stained glass windows centered on the first level below the gable. A circular window is centered in the gable. The gable is in poor condition, with most of the brick cladding having collapsed. At the southeast corner is the three-story bell tower with windows as previously described. The small one-story tower at the northeast has 12/12 double-hung wood sash windows on the east and north elevations. Its roof is obscured by a low pedimented and crenelated parapet.

#### Interior

The main access to the church is through the southeast tower entry which contains a small foyer. Doors open west to the sanctuary and north into the side narthex; these were topped originally by shallow brick arches with two rows of radiating brick; at some point, flat steel lintel beams were installed, apparently to prevent the arches from weakening. Only the door to the sanctuary survives; it is a wooden door with two panels beneath a large rectangular plain glass pane. The tower walls were plastered originally, though much has fallen away from the walls.

The main sanctuary features vaulted ceiling sections springing from the corners and the gable ends, converging together at the center where they culminate in a false dome beneath the building's high roof; the sanctuary is oriented diagonally facing the raised chancel in the northwest corner. Curved and faux grained wooden pews in three tiers (six at center, four to the north, three to the east) face the chancel. Behind the raised chancel is a small sacristy. Extending to the south from it is a rectangular baptistery with a small pool for baptisms set beneath a wooden hatch; it is separated from the sanctuary by an elaborate turned rail with three ornate newel posts. On the opposite wall, the narthex extends along the east wall providing room for additional seating. The wood floor has partially collapsed in the narthex. The entire sanctuary, as well as other sections of the church, features narrow pine floors and tall dark-stained wooden baseboards. Walls are plastered, though as in the tower, the plaster is missing from many sections exposing brick on the exterior walls and wood lath on the interior walls.

On the north side of the sanctuary, two wooden steps lead up to the church hall section which can be closed off from the sanctuary by roll-up wooden doors. Another roll-up door, on the west wall of the hall, allows the hall to be divided into one large and one smaller space; or opened up as a large single rooms for meetings of the church session, church dinners, or other events. A door from the west section of the hall opens to a staircase leading to the basement. The basement, located only below the north section of the building, is divided into three small classrooms, two restrooms, and an unfinished open storage room. There is a capped well at the southeast corner of the basement, within the storage room.

## Integrity

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. has a good level of integrity, despite the fact that it has been neglected for many years. The church retains its integrity of location and setting as it has always been at the northwest corner of Water Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, set within a residential neighborhood at the edge of Lewisburg's

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

commercial district. The church's materials have deteriorated over time, but they generally retain a good level of integrity in materials, design, and workmanship. The church retains the majority of its original architectural features, with minimal loss from deterioration, such as the loss of plaster in the interior. Its architecturally significant features conveying its Late Gothic Revival style and Akron Plan interior have been retained, including multiple roof gables, the steeply pitched pressed tin pyramidal with deck roof, two towers with pedimented crenelated parapets, arch motifs, flashed stained glass windows, interior woodwork, and flexible division of space in the sanctuary and hall spaces through the use of rolled wood doors. Taken together, these features allow the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. to have intact integrity of feeling and association, as well as overall integrity.

## Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

# Marshall County, TN 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.)

А	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.

XC	Property embodies the distinctive
11	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**

X

(Mark "x" in all the	boxes that apply.)
Property is:	

ł	Owned by a religious	institution	or used f	or
	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.less than 50 years old or achievingG significance within the past 50 years.

## **Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Period of Significance** 

1910

## **Significant Dates**

1910

# **Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

## **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

# Architect/Builder

Unknown

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Marshall County, TN County and State

# Name of Property

## **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., completed in 1910, is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent representation of the Akron Plan and Late Gothic Revival Style in Lewisburg, Tennessee. Defining architectural elements include the asymmetrical appearance with multiple projecting gables, a steeply pitched pyramidal with deck pressed tin roof, three-story bell tower, a smaller two-story tower, flashed glass windows, arches, corbelling, crenellations, and interior Akron Plan layout utilizing roll-down doors to easily create separate rooms or expand the sanctuary as necessary. The church meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A as it was historically built by a religious organization and used for religious purposes, but its significance is derived from its architectural features. The Period of Significance is 1910, the year of construction.

## **Narrative Statement of Significance**

## History of the Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. in Lewisburg

Marshall County, Tennessee was established in 1836 by an act of the Tennessee General Assembly. To create the county, land was taken from parts of Giles, Bedford, Lincoln and Maury Counties. The county was named for U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall of Virginia. Abner Houston donated land for the county seat, named Lewisburg, in honor of Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Fame. Lewis died in adjacent Lewis County.<sup>1</sup>

The pioneers of Marshall County were of the Presbyterian faith and their first church, Bethbirei, located in Lewisburg. It was organized on June 1, 1810 by Rev. Samuel Findley. In 1827, the Bethbirei congregation started the Rock Creek Sunday School.<sup>2</sup> Other Presbyterian churches sprang from the Bethbirei congregation as members established new churches closer to their homes. The included the churches at Round Hill, Mt. Bethel, Cornersville, and Piedmont.

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were several Presbyteries in Marshall County: the Old School; the New School; U.S.A; U.S.; Cumberland; and Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Their separate doctrines stemmed from conflicts over such issues as whether slavery was a sin. In 1828 D.D. Little, complier of the *History of the Columbia Presbytery*, remarked that Middle Tennessee "suffers more from the overlapping of the Presbyterian Churches than any other section of the United States."<sup>3</sup>

As the Civil War loomed, the rift between presbyteries subsided. During the war, church services were intermittent because of the lack of money and ministers. After the war, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church united to create The Presbyterian Church in the United States, which was a separate assembly from the U.S.A. or northern branch. Other Presbyterian Churches began to be created in Marshall County during the years of Reconstruction. Some of them included those in Chapel Hill and Petersburg. As

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Carroll Van West, "Marshall County." *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture*. Available at: http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Goodspeed Histories of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford, & Marshall Counties of Tennessee, 2nd ed., "Marshall County", Woodward & Stinson, 1971, 901.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Marshall County Historical Society, Inc., 1986, 53-56.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.	Marshall County, TN
Name of Property	County and State

more people moved from the rural areas to the county seat of Lewisburg, the church attendance shifted and many Cumberland Presbyterian churches were created throughout the county.<sup>4</sup>

In 1906, the U.S.A and the Cumberland Church presbyteries ratified a proposed "Plan of Union." Members of the local Lewisburg church made an effort to perpetuate the Cumberland Church rather than abide by the action of the Presbyterian General Assembly. However, others members felt compelled to honor the action of the General Assembly, leading to a division among members.<sup>5</sup> In response to the "Plan of Union," Reverend E.L. Orr, whose family was instrumental in the Presbyterian Church in Marshall County from its beginning, decided to build a new church. Until that could be accomplished, his congregation, known as the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., met in the Lewisburg Cumberland Presbyterian Church building.

In 1909, the Presbyterian U.S.A. Church purchased a corner lot at Water Street and 3rd Avenue to build a new church. The purchase of land and construction of the church required subscriptions from various members and a small sum from the Tennessee Presbyterian General Assembly. On February 4th, 1910, Reverend Orr wrote a letter to his fiancée that a commission had been appointed to distribute Assembly Funds to various churches throughout Tennessee. <sup>6</sup> Three days later, Reverend Orr wrote that the Lewisburg church would receive \$3,000 of the \$75,000 towards a new building. <sup>7</sup>

Plans for the new building commenced quickly with Reverend Orr at the forefront of the project. In correspondence, he referenced drawing up plans and sending suggestions to an unnamed architect in St. Louis as well as visiting the newly erected churches within the region, indicating that he likely used local architectural trends as inspiration. Though it is likely that the unnamed architect used Orr's design and suggestions as a starting point, it is currently unknown how much of Orr's design was incorporated into the final design. Local contractors engaged in the bidding process in the summer of 1910.<sup>8</sup> By the end of November of 1910 the interior of the building was almost complete (see Figure 1). The Lewisburg Tribune announced on Friday, January 13, 1911, that the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. would conduct



Figure 1: Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., under Construction in 1910. Source of Photo Unknown

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Marshall County Historical Society, Inc., 1986, 53-56.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid, 57.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Reverend Elbert Leach Orr to Edna Elizabeth Stewart, 4 February 1910, *Orr Family Papers*, Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, TN, Microfilm Reel 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Reverend Elbert Leach Orr to Edna Elizabeth Stewart, 7 February 1910, *Orr Family Papers*, Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, TN, Microfilm Reel 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Orr Family Papers, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN, Microfilm Reel 1.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Name of Property

its first worship service in the new building on Sunday morning and evening.<sup>9</sup>

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A disbanded in early 1939. At first the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A rented their building to the Water Street Church of Christ, which had previously been meeting in A.G. Jean's Store on the square. On June 21, 1939, the land and church building were deeded to the Water Street Church of Christ. <sup>10</sup> They paid \$5,000 for the property.<sup>11</sup> The Water Street Church of Christ held services there until they sold the property in June 1967. Three local owners held the property for the next 40 years, though various groups used the church for short periods of time throughout those decades. In December 2007, it was sold to Thomas & Patty Lane of Nashville. They plan to rehabilitate the building to become an event venue and performing arts center.

Marshall County, TN County and State



Figure 2: Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., ca. 1970. Photo Courtesy of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

# **Architectural Significance and Context**

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is an excellent representation of the Late Gothic Revival style and Akron Plan of church buildings that were built around the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Gothic Revival style was an especially popular design for ecclesiastical buildings beginning in the early-to-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>12</sup> Characteristics of the Gothic Revival style include asymmetry, crossed gables, steeply pitched roofs, wall dormers, pointed arched windows, crenellations, and drip or hood moldings. The 1910 Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. represents a late, vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Its features conveying the Gothic Revival style include its steeply pitched roof, multiple gables, arches and crenellations on the towers, and general asymmetrical appearance.

Several churches in Lewisburg were built using the Gothic Revival style around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, indicating its popularity in the community. Extant examples besides the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. include the Church Street Church of Christ built in 1885; First Methodist Church built in 1899; First Cumberland Presbyterian Church built in 1899; and First Presbyterian Church built in 1904. The only other extant Lewisburg church built around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was First Baptist Church, which was built in 1924 in the Classical Revival style, indicating the declining popularity of the Gothic Revival style for ecclesiastical buildings in Lewisburg.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "USA Presbyterian First Service," *The Lewisburg Tribune*, 13 January 1911.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Marshall County Deed Book A, 4, Marshall County Register of Deeds.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> History of Water Street & Westvue Church of Christ, Vertical File, Marshall County Historical Society, Lewisburg, TN, 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Mark Gelernter, A History of American Architecture: Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2001): 143-151.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Name of Property

The Church Street Church of Christ, located at 305 W Church Street one block south of Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., utilizes such Gothic Revival features as pointed arch stained glass windows and a pointed arch transom above the centered main entry (see Figure 3). The church has single tower with brick corbels and wood brackets at the roofline. The tower is topped by a steeply pitched pyramidal with deck roof, similar to the main roof of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Pointed arched dormers and louvered openings on each elevation of the tower roof reference typical Gothic Revival features. Unlike Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and other Gothic Revival churches in Lewisburg, the Church Street Church of Christ has a symmetrical appearance with a centered main entry and additions on either side of the original church section.

Just west of the Church Street Church of Christ is the First United Methodist Church (see Figure 4). The façade features a prominent front gable with steeply pitched roof, stepped corbels, and shallow pointed arch stained glass windows, similar to the features of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Also similar is the prominent corner tower housing the main entry and the bell tower. The main entry opening is topped by a pointed brick arch. Louvered openings on the tower are arched though not pointed. Crenellations along the top of the tower surround the steep spire. Like the Church Street Church of Christ, First Methodist Church also has several additions. The additions have not prevented the church from conveying its historic architectural features, but they have changed the overall scale and size of the building.

Figure 3: Church Street Church of Christ, Photo taken May 4, 2019.



Figure 4: First United Methodist Church, Photo taken May 4, 2019

Marshall County, TN County and State

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Name of Property Marshall County, TN County and State

Located one block northeast of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. at 402 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. is the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church (see Figure 5). Like other aforementioned churches, the façade is dominated by a steeply pitched front gable featuring corbelling and pointed arch windows. Also similar is the two-story tower housing a recessed main entry with pointed arched openings on the first level and pointed arched louvered openings on the second level. Windows on the other elevations utilize a mix of shallow arched and pointed arched openings. First Cumberland Presbyterian Church has multiple additions to the north and west, which have changed the church's overall size and scale, though do not significantly affect the church's ability to convey its decorative architectural features on the original section.

The First Presbyterian Church is located on the public square at 122 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., two blocks south of Presbyterian Church, U.S.A (see Figure 6). Like the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., the First Presbyterian Church is located on a corner lot with decorative features on two very visible elevations. The façade, facing east, is dominated by a front gable, though it is not as steeply pitched as other churches previously noted. The gable includes brick corbels and a centered tri-partite window topped by both pointed and round arches. Flanking this window are paired round arched stained glass windows. This fenestration pattern is also found on the church's secondary north elevation. Like Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., the First Presbyterian Church features two corner



Figure 5: First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Photo taken May 4, 2019



Figure 6: First Presbyterian Church, Photo taken May 4, 2019

towers. The taller three-story tower houses the main entry (with a pointed arched opening) and bell tower which includes crenellations, brick corbels, and rounded arched louvered openings. Also present on the

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.	Marshall County, TN
Name of Property	County and State

tower are oculus windows. The other tower is only two stories but has the same decorative features and houses a secondary entrance. Similar to other churches in Lewisburg, First Presbyterian Church has multiple additions, but they are designed in such a way as to be subordinate to the original church building, are not highly visible from the street, and therefore are less of an impact to the church's original design than those at the Church Street Church of Christ, First Methodist Church, or the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

While several churches in Lewisburg utilize elements of the Late Gothic Revival style, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is unique due to its usage of the Akron Plan. The Akron Plan was created in response to the popularization of religious education. In the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, many churches felt the responsibility to provide a basic education to children. This would be accomplished by providing Sunday School Service, which utilized both schoolwide exercises and specialized education of smaller groups by age level. While some churches built separate school buildings, most congregations did not have the financial means to construct separate buildings. Therefore, most attempted to accommodate education within the church building, but many had difficulties because most churches did not contain multiple small rooms that could be utilized as specialized classrooms.<sup>13</sup>

In response to the growing numbers of Sunday School attendees, philanthropist Lewis Miller and architects Walter Blythe and Jacob Snyder devised the Akron Plan at the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Akron, Ohio (constructed in 1866-67). Their plan utilized moveable doors and walls to break a large space into multiple, smaller rooms, which could then be used as classrooms. In most configurations of the Akron Plan, these areas would be on the sides of the main sanctuary space, though variations developed that limited those areas to one side. When more space was needed in the sanctuary, such as during church services, or when schoolwide exercises were conducted, the doors could be opened to the sanctuary, creating a single large space. The plan soon became popular nationwide. It remained popular until the 1920s, particularly among Protestant and Methodist Churches.<sup>14</sup>

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is an excellent example of a variation of the Akron Plan. On the north side of the sanctuary two wooden steps lead up to the church hall section which can be closed off from the sanctuary by roll-up wooden doors. Another roll-up door, on the west wall of the hall, allows the hall to be divided into one large and one smaller space; or opened up as a large single rooms for meetings of the church session, church dinners, or other events. When more space was needed in the sanctuary, all of the doors could be opened and moveable seating would be utilized in those areas. The basement of the church also features permanent classrooms, indicating that the church was designed to provide local education services in keeping with the original principles and intent of the Akron Plan. Within the local architectural context of Lewisburg, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is the only known Akron Plan church. It is an excellent representation of the plan's significant design characteristics, as well as one of Lewisburg's better examples of the Late Gothic Revival style.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Kenneth Rowe, *Redesigning Methodist Churches: Auditorium-style Sanctuaries and Akron Plan Sunday Schools in Romanesque Costume 1875-1925*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997), 127; Anne C. Loveland, and Otis B. Wheeler, *From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History*, (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2003), 67; Jeanne Halgren Kilde, *When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), 170-196.

## Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

## **Bibliography**

Gelernter, Mark. A History of American Architecture: Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2001.

History of Water Street & Westvue Church of Christ, Vertical File. Marshall County Historical Society.

Kilde, Jeanne Halgren. When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in 19th Century America. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Loveland, Anne C. and Otis B. Wheeler. *From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2003.

Marshall County Deed Book, Book A, Page 4. Marshall County Register of Deeds Office.

Marshall County, Tennessee: A Sesquicentennial History. Marshall County Historical Society, 1986.

Orr Family Papers. Location: XII-L-2-6; VI-A-4v. Microfilm Accession Number: 1600. Tennessee State Library & Archives.

Rowe, Kenneth. Redesigning Methodist Churches: Auditorium-style Sanctuaries and Akron Plan Sunday Schools in Romanesque Costume 1875-1925. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1997.

The Goodspeed Histories of Maury, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Bedford, & Marshall Counties of Tennessee. 2nd ed. Columbia, TN: Woodward & Stinson Printing, 1971.

"USA Presbyterian First Service," The Lewisburg Tribune, 13 January 1911.

West, Carroll Van. "Marshall County." Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture. Available at: http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

	Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
X	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	Х	State Historic Preservation Office	
	previously listed in the National Register	Х	Other State agency	
	previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency	
	designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government	
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University	
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Х	Other	
	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository: Tennessee State Library & Archives; Marshall County Historical Society		
Hist	oric Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ML-1585	5	· · · · · ·	

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Name of Property Marshall County, TN County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 USGS Quadrangle Lewisburg 65-NE

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates** Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 35.451271 Longitude:-86.790210

## Verbal Boundary Description

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. in Lewisburg, Tennessee is bounded on the east by 3rd Avenue North, on the south by Water Street, and on the west and north by private property lines. These boundaries correspond to the legal boundaries of Marshall County Parcel 064I F 016.00. These boundaries are depicted on the enclosed property tax map.

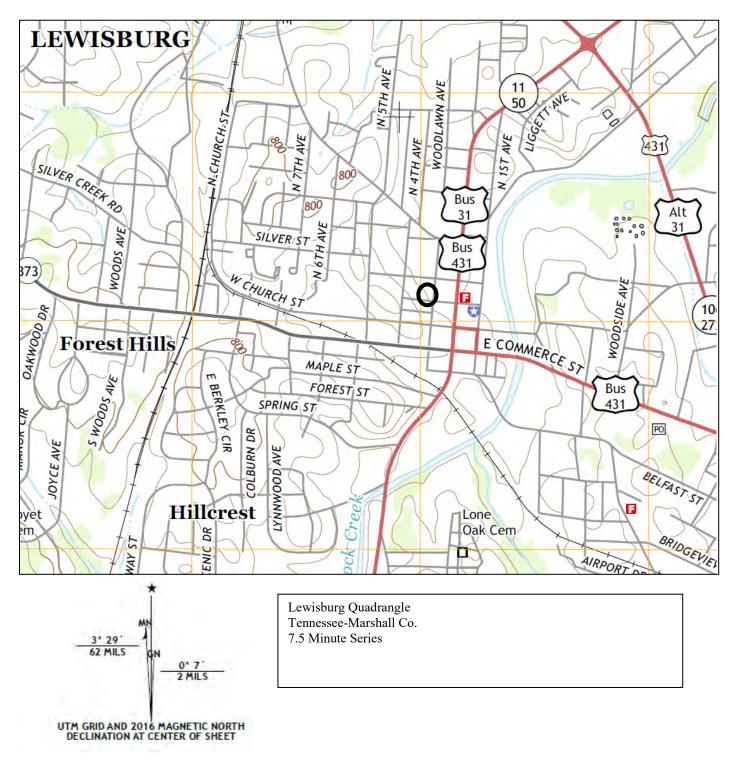
## **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. encompass the resources and land historically and currently associated with the church property.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

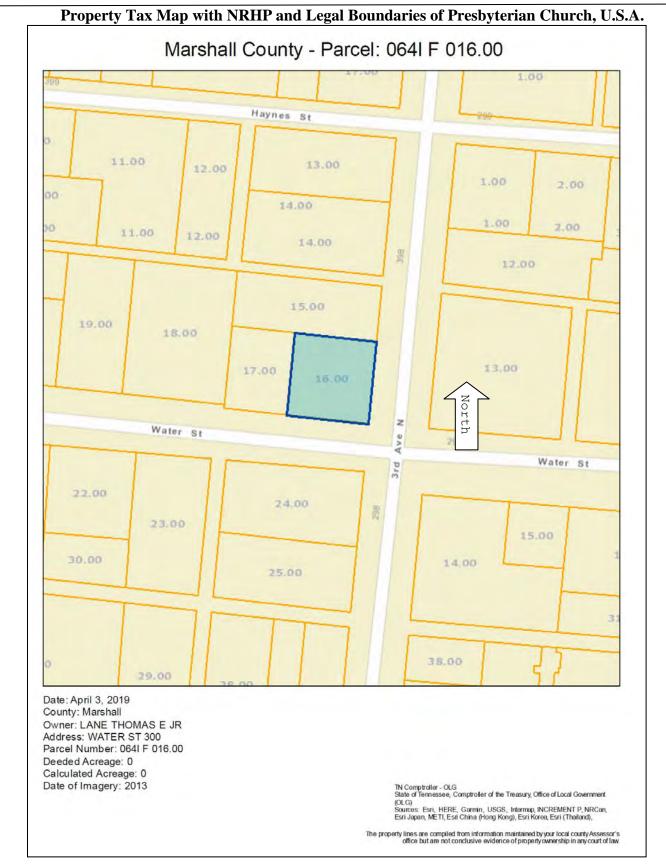


# USGS Topographic Map with Location of Presbyterian Church U.S.A. circled

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State



Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Name of Property Marshall County, TN County and State

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name	Sarah Elizabeth Hickman-McLeod; Rebecca Schmitt				
Organization	South Central Tennessee Development District; Tennessee Historical Commission				
Street & Number	101 Sam Watkins Blvd Date			April 2019	
City or Town	Mt. Pleasant	Telephone		931-379-2944	
E-mail	smcleod@sctdd.org	State	TN	Zip Code 37091	

## **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- Additional items: (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

# Photo Log

Name of Property: Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.City or Vicinity: LewisburgCounty: MarshallState: TennesseePhotographer: Brianne Huitt, Teresa Prober; Rebecca Schmitt, and Sarah Elizabeth Hickman- McLeodDate Photographed: Various, noted with each photo.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

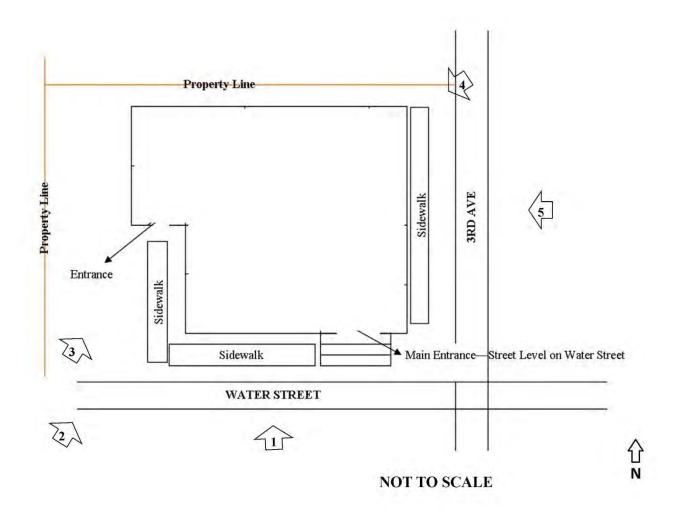
- 1 of 14 Façade. Photographer facing north. Photo taken October 13, 2008.
- 2 of 14 Oblique View of Facade and West Elevation, Photographer facing northeast. Photo taken October 13, 2008.
- 3 of 14 West Elevation, Photographer facing northeast. Photo taken October 13, 2008.
- 4 of 14 North Elevation, Photographer facing west. Photo taken April 6, 2018.
- 5 of 14 East Elevation, Photographer facing northwest. Photo taken October 13, 2008.
- 6 of 14 Interior view of sanctuary, Photographer facing northwest. Photo taken September 6, 2018.
- 7 of 14 Interior view of sanctuary, Photographer facing west. Photo taken September 6, 2018.
- 8 of 14 Interior view of sanctuary, Photographer facing east. Photo taken September 6, 2018.
- 9 of 14 Interior view of sanctuary showing the roll up wooden doors, Photographer facing north. Photo taken September 6, 2018.
- 10 of 14 Interior view from raised meeting space to the sanctuary, Photographer facing south. Photo taken April 6, 2018
- 11 of 14 Interior view of raised meeting space showing meeting room roll up wooden doors, Photographer facing west. Photo taken April 6, 2018
- 12 of 14 Interior view of the sanctuary from the sacristy, Photographer facing southeast. Photo taken September 22, 2011
- 13 of 14 Interior view of Basement, Photographer facing north. Photo taken August 25, 2014.
- 14 of 14 Interior view of Basement Hallway, Photographer facing west. Photo taken August 25, 2014.

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

# Site Plan with Photos Keyed

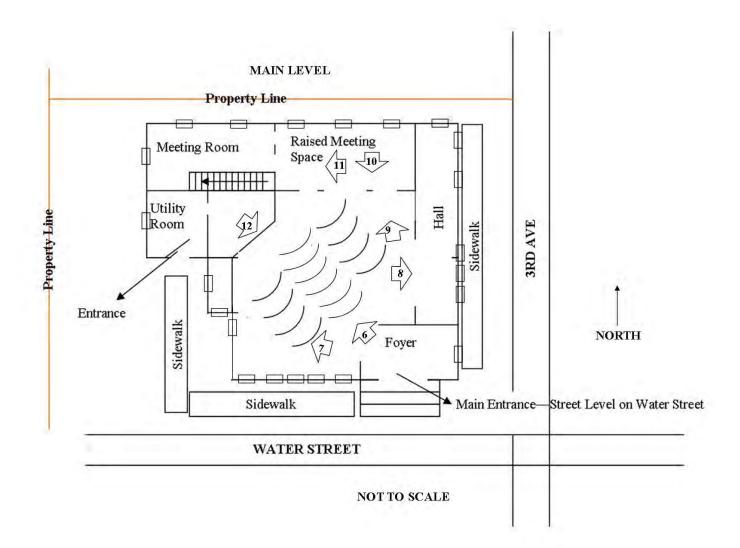


Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State

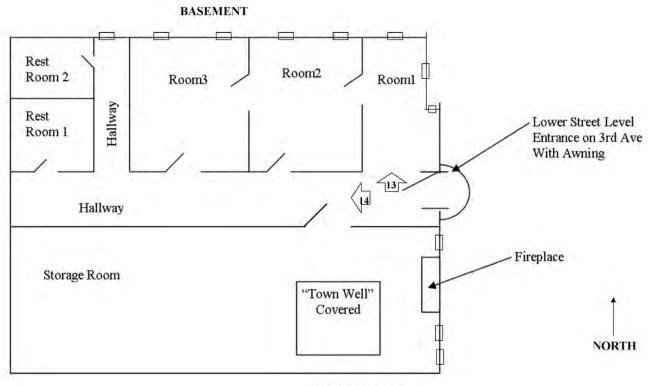
# Floor Plans with Photos Keyed



Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Name of Property

Marshall County, TN County and State



NOT TO SCALE





























#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination					
Property Name:	Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.					
Multiple Name:						
State & County:	TENNESSEE, Marshall					
Date Rece 10/15/20			Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 11/29/2019			
Reference number:	SG100004693					
Nominator:	SHPO					
Reason For Review	5					
Appea	L	X PDIL	Text/Data Issue			
SHPO	Request	Landscape	Photo			
Waiver Resubmission Other		National	Map/Boundary Period Less than 50 years			
		Mobile Resource				
		TCP				
		CLG				
X Accept	Return	Reject11/2	7/2019 Date			
Abstract/Summary Good example of late Gothic Revival that incorporated the Akron Plan Comments:						
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept / C					
Reviewer Jim Ga	bbert	Discipline	Historian			
Telephone (202)3	54-2275	Date				
DOCUMENTATION	see attached com	nents : No see attached SI	LR : No			

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

0.4	1	THI	5 57	×.	
1	1	XV	1	3	
15	12	12	主	20	1
3	AGR	ICU	TUP	EE :	
볦	1	- 02	M	B	1
15	10		act	15	/
	1	720	- 3	/	
		10	$\sim$		

RECEIVED 2280 461 4 4 Netl. Rep. of Million and American Netional Parit Symmetry

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE 2941 LEBANON PIKE NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214 OFFICE: (615) 532-1550 E-mail: <u>Claudette.Stager@tn.gov</u> (615) 770-1089

October 7, 2019

Dr. Julie Ernstein Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228 Washington, DC 20240

National Register Nomination

• Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Marshall County, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Ernstein:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Presbyterian Church*, *U.S.A.* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received no comments.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Rebecca Schmitt at (615) 770-1086 or <u>Rebecca.Schmitt@tn.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

mathe

Claudette Stager Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:rs

Enclosures(2)