

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: First Presbyterian Church

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: SW Corner of Vandervoort and N. Fifth Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: DeQueen

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Sevier

code: AR 133

zip code: 71832

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Cathryn A. Slater 10-14-94  
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
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

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**5. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.	<u>Edson H. Beall</u>	<u>12.1.94</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.	Entered in the National Register	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Joe \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic: <u>Religion</u>	Sub: <u>Religious Facility</u>
_____	_____
Current : <u>Religion</u>	Sub: <u>Religious Facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====  
**7. Description**  
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Architectural Classification:

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

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Stone, Brick roof Asphalt  
walls Weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1898 - 1922

Significant Dates: c. 1909

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

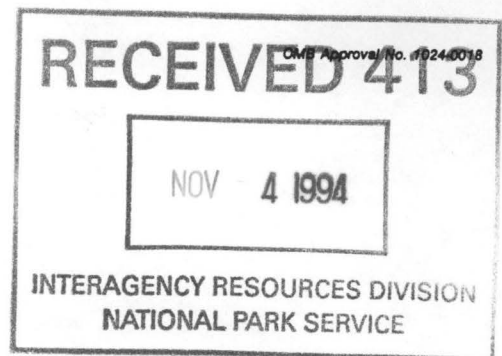
Architect/Builder: Dollarhide, Simon E.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Summary**

Constructed in 1898, the First Presbyterian Church is a one-and-a-half story, Gothic Revival-style Church with a 1922 rear addition. Located at the southwest corner of Vandervoort and North Fifth Street in DeQueen, the church features a corner tower, large Gothic windows, and decorative wood shingles in the gable ends.

**Elaboration**

Constructed in 1898, the First Presbyterian Church is a one-and-a-half story, wood-frame church of an irregular plan and covered by a composition-shingled, multi-gabled roof. Although originally constructed upon stone piers, the foundation was gradually filled in with stone and brick, and the 1922 addition was built with a continuous brick foundation. The frame walls are clad with white-painted, drop-type novelty siding. There are no extant chimneys.

The church is entered through a Gothic-arched, single-leaf entrance on both the north and east elevations of the tower. Both doors are wood panelled with a three-pane transom in the form of lancet. These two entrances are shielded by separate shed roofs, which were added in 1922. Both have exposed rafters and are supported by two triangular knee braces. Originally, the tower supported a much taller bell tower and steeple; however, by 1909 the steeple was gone, and it is suspected that it was damaged severely during a storm. Currently, the tower, which projects no higher than the main gable roofline, is capped by a composition-shingled pyramid roof.

The eastern elevation features a large gable end that is fenestrated by a central tripartite Gothic window that is flanked by a single one-over-one Gothic window on each side (all Gothic windows have textured glass, except where replaced, and a triangular arch, while the doors have lancet arches). The tripartite window is composed of three equally sized one-over-one, double-hung (upper sash is currently inoperable) windows each with a triangular pointed-arch transom in addition to three diamond-pane tracery windows in the remaining space within the arch. The gable end is decorated with alternating bands of regular coursed, fishscale, and hexagonal-shaped wood shingles. Although originally multi-colored, the shingles are now painted white. The gable end is also ornamented with two decorative brackets in a trefoil design.

Similar brackets adorn the smaller cross gable on the southern elevation. This elevation is composed of a one-over-one Gothic window to the east, a lancet-shaped entrance (wood panelled door without transom), a three-sided bay projection in the center of the gable end, and another



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one-over-one Gothic window below the western juncture of the cross-gable roof. The bay window contains a one-over-one Gothic window on both of the side elevations and is covered by a three-sided, composition-shingled roof that ascends to a point below a diamond-pane window in the gable end. Although covering a smaller area, the decorative wood shingle pattern is identical to the eastern elevation gable end.

The remainder of the southern elevation is composed of the 1922 addition to the west. A single-leaf entrance under a bracketed shed roof is placed at the eastern end of the addition, and four small one-over-one, double-hung windows fenestrate the wall to the west. Six shorter one-over-one windows are found in the long shed roof dormer above.

The rear, or western addition is likewise unornamented with the exception of two trefoil brackets that were removed from the original western gable end. This elevation is fenestrated by four one-over-one windows (one at the southern end, a pair in the middle, and a much smaller window at the northern end) on the first story and four one-over-one windows on the second story (same pattern; identical sized windows). Above these windows is a triangular-shaped, four-pane attic window that is executed in textured glass.

The first story of the northern elevation of the addition has two small one-over-one windows, with the eastern of the two placed below the eave to illuminate the stairwell. A bracketed, shed roof covers a double-leaf entrance to the east, and an original one-over-one Gothic window is positioned near the intersection with the projecting gable to the north. The shed-roof dormer on this elevation is of identical size to its southern counterpart but contains only five one-over-one windows.

The northern gable projects from below the roofline of the cross gable, which features a diamond-pane window below the peak, and consequently is smaller than the cross gable to the south. Two one-over-one Gothic windows fenestrate the western wall of this projection, while the north-facing gable end is configured similar to the eastern gable end with a central tripartite window, but is without the flanking windows. Likewise, the gable end features the three types of wood shingles. The short section of northern wall is punctuated by a one-over-one Gothic window adjacent to the intersection with the tower wall, and a identical window is positioned in the corresponding north wall of the east elevation gable end.

The interior is largely original and features beaded-board vaulted ceilings and curved oak pews. The pulpit is placed in the bay projection of the southern elevation with the pews fanning outward into the northern and eastern gable ends. A large, roll-up wood wall separates the sanctuary from the addition, which houses a fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms. The only

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significant alteration is the covering of the wainscoting with modern wood panelling.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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**Summary**

The First Presbyterian Church is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Gothic Revival-style church in DeQueen.

**Elaboration**

Arthur Stilwell and E. L. Martin began work on what would become the 800-mile Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad (later the Kansas City Southern) in the late 1880s, opening a more direct route from the grain-growing midwest to the shipping lanes on the Gulf of Mexico. By the early 1890s, Stilwell and Martin had acquired smaller lines in and around Texarkana, Fort Smith, and the Indian Territory, and work proceeded apace to link all of the lines into a major route. Unfortunately, outbreaks of malaria and other diseases among the railroad workers plagued the fledgling line, and the Panic of 1893 finally dried up investment capital nationwide and halted construction on the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf into receivership.

Undaunted, Stilwell decided to seek European capital to finance the remainder of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf. In Holland, Stilwell met with Jan De Goiejen, a coffee wholesaler he had met several years previous, and solicited his support in helping to finance the troubled line. DeGoiejen was successful in raising \$3,000,000 in European capital, enabling the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf to build fully one-third of the total new railroad mileage in the United States in 1893. In appreciation, Stilwell asked the Dutchman to select several points along the railroad line, one to be named in DeGoiejen's honor, another in honor of his wife, Mena, and a third in honor of his mother's maiden name, Janssen. In a visit to Sevier County with Stilwell, DeGoiejen personally selected the site of the town to bear his name at an existing community in a fertile valley between the Cossatot and Rolling Fork rivers known as Calamity. Overnight, a boomtown of tents and hastily-constructed wooden buildings grew up on the site of the new town, including a saloon, a general mercantile store, a meat market, a blacksmith shop, and the De Horse hotel, a log cabin with a frame addition and a crude mud and straw chimney propped up by a sapling at one end. A post office was established in May, 1897, with William Meredith as postmaster. Because the investor's Dutch name was difficult to pronounce, the phonetic spelling "DeQueen" was substituted for the new town. Soon after the selection of the Calamity site, surveyors began plotting the new town and it was announced that lots would be available for sale on April 26, 1897. The town was incorporated on June 3, 1897, and less than two months after the sale of the first lots, the new community was flourishing, and within nine months after its founding DeQueen's population had exceeded 1,500.

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The arrival of the railroad had a profound impact on the economic development of DeQueen and Sevier County. A telephone exchange was established in DeQueen in 1900, a water system was completed in 1909, and a sewer system was established in 1912, although the city's streets would not be paved until 1930. A one-story frame schoolhouse was erected soon after the town was established, but was replaced by a brick structure in 1903; a high school was established in 1910. Although the new community virtually burned to the ground in 1899, the booming economy and the enthusiasm of the populace resulted in a rapid rebuilding. A mayor/alderman form of government was established, and although the city treasury was initially dependent on revenues garnered through saloon licensing, in 1899 the city council began levying a five mill city tax. With direct transportation links to Kansas City, Port Arthur, and all points in between, the county's agricultural products had access to a much greater market than had been the case previously. The importance of the Kansas City Southern line attracted other railroad developers to DeQueen and Sevier County, such as the Dierks Lumber and Coal Company, based in Kansas City, which incorporated the DeQueen & Eastern Railroad Company in September, 1900.

By 1905, DeQueen was prepared to challenge Lockesburg for the county seat. A Sevier County quorum court appropriation of \$25,000 for a new courthouse in Lockesburg aroused considerable controversy among a number of DeQueen businessmen, who offered to build a \$10,000 courthouse at no cost to the taxpayers if the county seat was moved to DeQueen. Lockesburg countered with an offer to donate \$5,000 for the repair of the existing courthouse. An election to decide the issue was scheduled for March, 1905, charges of bribery and fraud were leveled against both factions, and tensions ran high between the citizens of Lockesburg and DeQueen. DeQueen won the election by 150 votes; however, the disgruntled Lockesburg faction maintained sufficient votes in the quorum court to prevent the county from adding anything to the \$10,000 DeQueen had promised for the construction of the new courthouse. The contract for the two-story brick courthouse was awarded to J. T. McClenahan and John and Fred DeGroot for \$9,500, and the county officials and county records were moved into the new building on its completion in January, 1906.

DeQueen continued to grow, and by 1936 boasted a population of 3,400, with more than 800 houses and structures, two and a half miles of paved streets, and 50 miles of concrete sidewalks within the city limits.

The Presbyterian presence in DeQueen originated in the late 1890's when Rev. John C. William, a church planting missionary of the old Ouachita Presbytery, began to organize a congregation in the DeQueen area. Urging the organization of the Presbyterian congregation was F. M. Smith, a banker who, with his wife and five young children, moved to DeQueen from Malvern. Smith published promotional material in church papers calling for Presbyterian families to settle in the

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new town. A congregation was organized in a private home on Rose Hill and by April of 1898, the lumber that was to be used in the construction of the church building was placed on Lot 12 of block 42 where the church would be built. Simon E. Dollarhide, who was responsible for the construction of the post office and the plank jail for the new town of DeQueen, was hired as the builder/contractor. In the summer of 1898 construction began on the First Presbyterian Church of DeQueen and although the building was not yet complete, the first Communion was held. The finished building was dedicated in December 1898.

While services were being held in the newly completed church building in 1899, church bells, including the bell of the First Presbyterian Church, and gunfire alerted the citizens of DeQueen to a fire which was spreading quickly through the town. A grease fire had gotten out of control in a downtown kitchen and the ensuing fire destroyed fifty-four buildings in De Queen, the majority of the town. The First Presbyterian Church of DeQueen, however, survived.

In 1906 the congregation incurred a dramatic surge in membership. A group of Cumberland Presbyterians, most of whom had moved to DeQueen from Locksburg, decided to join en mass the Presbyterian Church of United States(PCUS) and abandon the brick Cumberland Presbyterian Church that they had built in DeQueen. This added about eighty-five names to the original membership of the First Presbyterian Church of DeQueen. The combined DeQueen congregation planned to sell the white frame church and the brick church and build a larger church, but these plans were never realized.

Since inception, the First Presbyterian Church of DeQueen and its members have been involved in the growth and development of the town of DeQueen. In 1920, Mrs. G.W. Jurey, a pastor's widow, started a kindergarten class which grew into the town's first kindergarten; and in the 1970's the church was used by a group of Lutherans who were trying to form a congregation. The church and congregation have been active at the hospital, retirement lodge, and two nursing homes.

In 1976, the First Presbyterian Church received a Bicentennial plaque, which designated the structure as the oldest church in the county. Aside from age, the First Presbyterian Church is significant as the best example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture in DeQueen. It is notable for its corner tower (despite the loss of the steeple), the large Gothic windows, and the decorative wood shingles in the gable ends. For these reasons, the church is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>376060</u>	<u>3767150</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

   See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:    See continuation sheet.

Lot 12, Block 42 of April 1897 Town Plat; Section 30, Township 8 S, and Range 31 W.

Boundary Justification:    See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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**Bibliography**

Information submitted by Mary C. McCrory, April 1994.

"DeQueen Has a Birthday." *Arkansas Gazette*. April 26, 1942.

McCommas, Betty. *The History of Sevier County and Her People*. Dallas: Taylor Publishing, 1980.

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian  
Lynne Braddock, Special Projects Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/14/94

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Sevier

DATE RECEIVED: 11/04/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/15/94  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/01/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/19/94  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001419

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12.1.94 DATE Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zolher  
July 1994  
Negative on file at AAP  
View from the northeast





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zollner  
July 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the north





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zollner  
July 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the northwest





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zollner  
July 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the southwest





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zollner  
July 1994  
Negative on file at AH PP  
View from the southeast





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zollner  
July 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the east





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zolher  
July 1994  
Negative on file at ANPP  
View of Gothic window from  
the east





First Presbyterian Church

DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas

Photograph by Patrick Zollner

July 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of trefoil bracket from the north





First Presbyterian Church

DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas

Photograph by Patrick Zollner

July 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of tower entrance arch from  
the northeast





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas  
Photograph by Patrick Zolher  
July 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the northeast





First Presbyterian Church  
DeQueen, Sevier Co., Arkansas

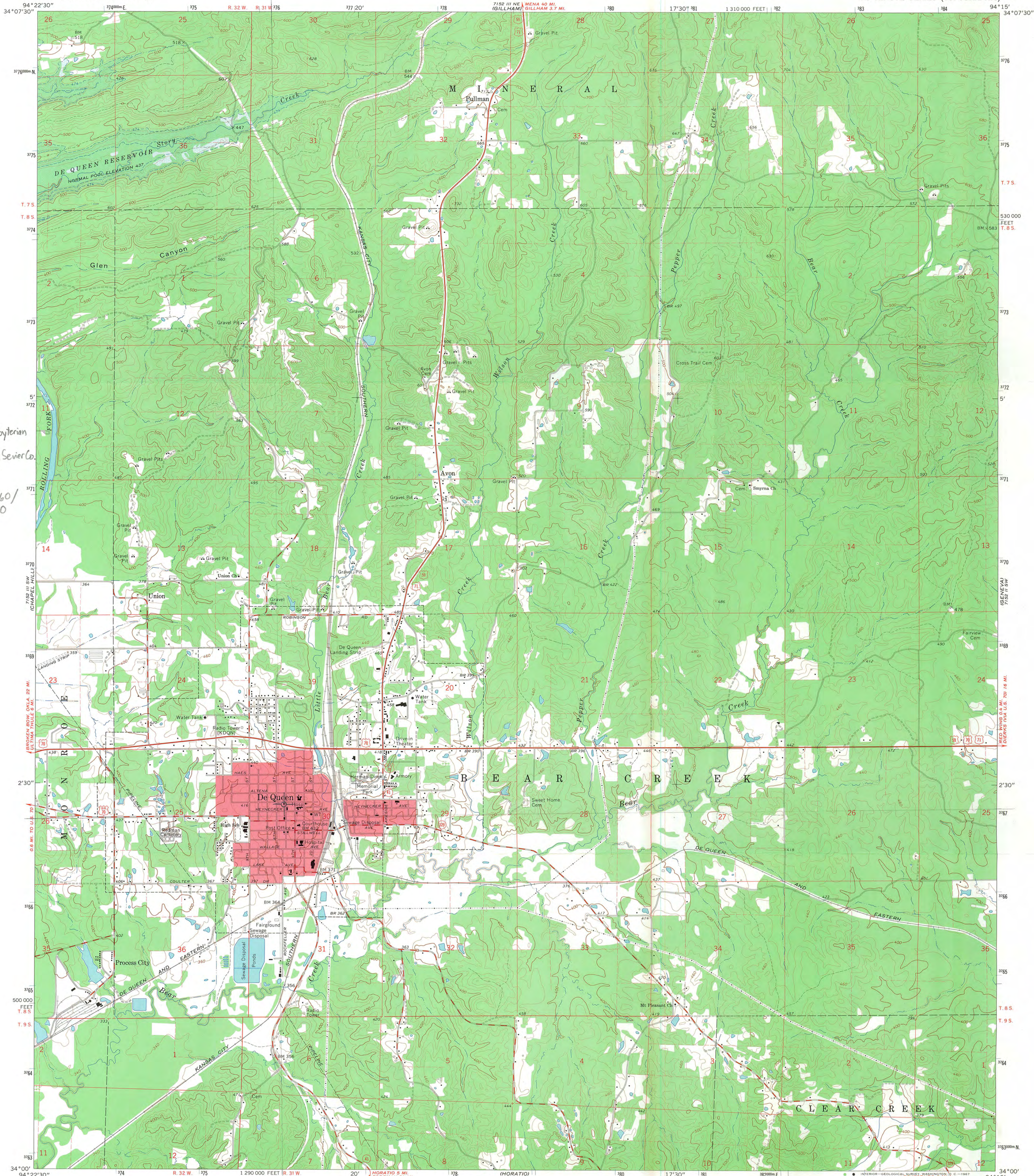
Photograph by Patrick Zolher

July 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of interior door from  
the north - door leads outside





First Presbyterian  
Church  
De Queen, Sevier Co.  
Arkansas

UTM:  
15/376060/  
3767150

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965-66  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Blue hatching indicates areas to be submerged by De Queen Reservoir  
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern  
are subject to controlled inundation  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1966 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

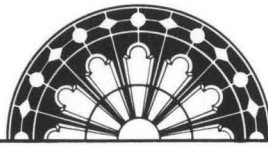
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

DE QUEEN, ARK.  
N3400—W9415/7.5

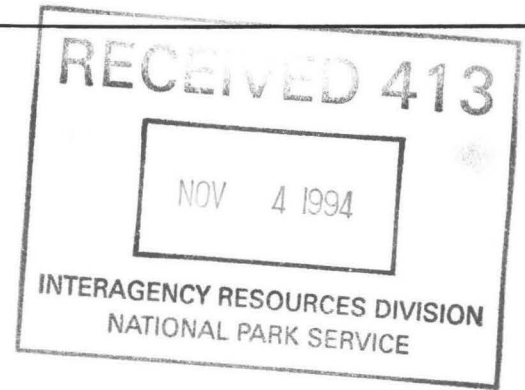
1966

AMS 7152 III SE—SERIES V884





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM



October 14, 1994

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: First Presbyterian Church

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:sdh

Enclosure

