

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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 Elton United Methodist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 803 2nd Street N/A not for publication

city or town Elton N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Jefferson Davis code 053 zip code 79532

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.)

Gerri Hobdy August 30, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
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:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register 9/30/94

Elton United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jefferson Davis Parish, LA
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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

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)

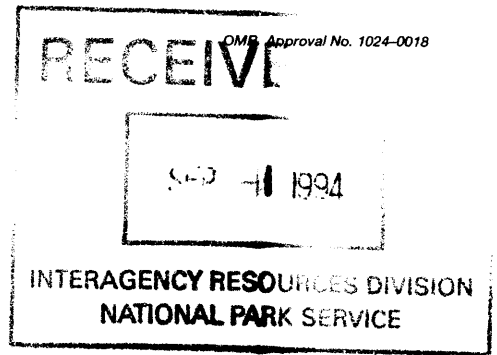
Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation bricks
walls weatherboard
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Elton United Methodist Church, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Elton United Methodist Church (1911) is a frame Gothic Revival church located on a corner lot in the small town of Elton. Despite a sizable addition, the church remains eligible for the Register as a rare example of the Gothic Revival style within Jefferson Davis Parish.

The church's plan is that of a rectangular worship space with a bell tower containing the entrance vestibule located at the front corner. Behind the bell tower are two rooms. The polygonal bay on the side of the church opposite the tower marks the location of the altar. (It is articulated in the manner of a apse, although it is on the long rather than short side of the church.)

The Elton Methodist Church features lancet windows with muntins forming a simple pattern in the manner of tracery. The front, rear and eastern elevations display a single window composed of two lancet windows inscribed within a larger lancet. Other noteworthy exterior features are gable end returns and the bell tower which has a square first stage, an octagonal second stage, and a flared spire. The interior features a vaulted ceiling and the church's original Gothic Revival curved pews.

The church has experienced the following alterations since construction:

(1) The walls have been covered with paneling and the ceilings with acoustical tiles. The original wainscotting survives in one of the rooms behind the bell tower.

(2) The roofline has been extended over the front door to provide some protection from the elements. The steps are concrete and have a wrought iron railing.

(3) In the 1950s or '60s the church acquired a large rambling frame addition to the rear.

Assessment of Integrity:

Of course, the most serious of the above is the addition. Although large, at least it is plain and sheathed in weatherboards. In short, it blends in as well as could be expected given its size. With the exception of one window where the attachment occurred, the church retains its original Gothic Revival styling and hence its National Register eligibility.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jesse Johnson, contractor

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): 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Elton United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jefferson Davis Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	5	2	9	5	8	0	3	3	7	1	7	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

 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 National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1994

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

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.)

The Board of Trustees of the Elton United Methodist Church
name Sue Tietje, Administrative Board Chairman

street & number 27398 Tietje Road telephone (318) 584-2309

city or town Elton state Louisiana zip code 70532

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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Elton United Methodist Church, Elton, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Elton United Methodist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare example of the Gothic Revival style within Jefferson Davis Parish.

Although its use is not entirely restricted to churches, the Gothic Revival style is most closely associated with religious architecture. The style's popularity is largely the result of a reform effort, known as the ecclesiological movement, which originated within the Anglican Church in the 1830s. By the 1840s it had reached the United States, where it was first spread through the Episcopal Church. Proponents of the movement believed the Middle Ages to have been an "Age of Faith" in which devout people built "good buildings." These "good buildings" (medieval Gothic churches) were by definition Christian and were considered the most appropriate models for church architecture. The movement's tenets eventually spread beyond the Episcopal Church to indirectly influence members of many Christian denominations. Thus, it is largely as a result of the ecclesiological movement that Gothic was seen as the appropriate style for churches for Victorians and later generations of Americans. This influence has lasted well into the twentieth century.

The vast majority of the surviving Gothic Revival churches in Louisiana date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and most of these are of the simple frame type exemplified by the Elton United Methodist Church. Historic photos show that there were once several Gothic Revival churches in Jennings, the parish seat and the only town of any size. However, today there are only two surviving examples of the style in the entire parish, and one of these has suffered a serious loss of integrity. As a rare surviving example of a popular national taste, the Elton Methodist Church is an important building within Jeff Davis Parish.

Historical Note

The construction of the Elton United Methodist Church is well documented in church records. Work began in 1910, with the last payment made to the contractor, Jesse Johnson, in March of 1911. The Quarterly Conference records of 1911 list Elton as a charge for the first time.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Elton United Methodist Church, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number $\frac{9}{10}$ Page $\frac{1}{1}$ and

Bibliography

Elton United Methodist Church Records.

Division of Historic Preservation staff knowledge of Jefferson Davis Parish.

Legal Property Description

Beginning at a point 70 feet south of the southeast corner of Block J in Aylesworth's addition to the town of Elton, LA, running west 100 feet, thence south 150 feet, thence east 100 feet, thence north 150 feet to the point of beginning containing a plat or parcel of land 100 by 150 feet.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land historically associated with the church.