

1623

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: First United Methodist Church

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Northwest corner of Prince and Clifton Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Conway

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Faulkner code: AR 045 zip code: 72032

3. Classification

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

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

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. Byford
Signature of certifying official

10-12-92
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

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~entered in the~~
National Register

- 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): _____

Guy M. Sapsley 4/20/92

for Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility

Current: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick roof Ceramic Tile/Asphalt
walls Brick other Wood pediment and columns
Stained glass

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

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1913 _____

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Kramer, George W.

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

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The First United Methodist Church is two-and-one-half stories in height with a raised basement, of brick masonry construction, and designed in the Classical Revival style. Though some of the anterooms to the rear of the sanctuary have suffered some interior alterations, the sanctuary itself is remarkably well-preserved, as is the entire exterior of the building. It is in very good condition.

Elaboration

The First United Methodist Church is two-and-one-half stories in height with a raised basement, of brick masonry construction, and designed in the Classical Revival style. Its plan is completely symmetrical, with the axis running between the central entrance on the eastern or front elevation and the center of the western or rear wall. The sanctuary is designed in a two-aisle plan, with three separate, elliptical pew sections facing the raised rostrum at the western end of the room. A series of anterooms fill the hipped-roof section to the west of the sanctuary on both floors. A total of four brick chimneys rise through the flat roof that surrounds the hipped-roof section, with three rising near the western elevation and another interior chimney rising through the roof near the eastern end of the rear section, just south of the hipped roof. The flat roof sections are covered with a built-up/tar roof, with the gable and dome sections covered with ceramic tile. The walls are constructed of a light-brown brick, and the building rests upon a continuous brick foundation.

The eastern or front elevation is dominated by the full-height, Classical entrance portico, composed of six Ionic columns supporting a dentillated full pediment. The pediment is ornamented with a single, central oculus window, and the walls beneath the pediment are fenestrated with five symmetrically-placed stained glass windows on the second floor and three double-leaf entrances on the first floor flanked by a single stained-glass window placed to either side. The western elevation opposite is much more simple, as it is fenestrated on both floors and the raised basement by eight symmetrically-placed one-over-one, clear glass wood sash windows on each level. Two small chimneys rise through the flat roof directly above, the raised hipped roof section is fenestrated with a band of small windows that run around all of its elevations.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. Each is broken into two principal sections: the sanctuary and entrance vestibule section to the east and the anteroom section to the west. The eastern section is dominated by the end of the cross-gable near the intersection with the anteroom section. It is lighted by three stained-glass pair windows placed symmetrically

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

within the gable end on the first floor and three large single stained-glass windows placed directly above on the second floor, with a single central oculus window in the center of the crowning pediment. The wall to the east is accessed by a single basement entrance at its eastern end and fenestrated by a single window placed to the west on the first floor, while two small, square windows light the second story. The anteroom section to the west is accessed via a single double-leaf entrance placed at its eastern end and fenestrated with four pair of one-over-one stained glass windows on each floor to the west, with clear one-over-one windows lighting the basement below. Two fixed stained-glass windows light the wall directly above the entrance. The recessed wall section at the western end is fenestrated by a single one-over-one stained-glass window on the first floor and a smaller pair of identical sash windows on the second floor. A single tall chimney rises through the roof near the eastern end of the southern elevation of this section, while a larger square chimney rises through the roof at the junction of the walls of the recessed rear bay on the northern elevation.

The significant exterior details of note are various. Of particular note are the overtly Classical details that abound throughout. The pedimented entrance portico with its Ionic columns, the pedimented entrances on the eastern, northern and southern elevations, and the round dome that draws the eye upward from every view are the most obvious manifestations of this influence. However, the rich stained-glass windows are also of particular note, especially when viewed from within, as is the band of clear arched windows that fenestrate the drum of the dome. The red ceramic tile roof reinforces the overwhelming Classical character, and the louvered metal lantern completes the entire composition.

The interior is in remarkably good condition, and the sanctuary in particular. The cavernous auditorium is dominated by the domed ceiling above. The choir loft and organ rises behind the rostrum, with the organ pipes set into a magnificent arch that draws the eye of the viewer. The loft and rostrum areas are finished in rich stained wood, as are the stairways that lead to the stained wood balconies that wrap around the sides and rear. The stained-glass windows throughout lend the interior a rich, golden light.

As noted earlier, the anterooms behind the sanctuary have been altered somewhat, but some of the original classrooms remain. However, this constitutes virtually all the alterations of note within the building.

There are no extant associated outbuildings; a modern educational wing to the north is connected to the historic structure only by a covered, open walkway, and therefore is excluded from this nomination.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The First United Methodist Church, was designed in 1913 by the architect George W. Kramer of New York City, New York. Remarkably well-preserved, it stands as the most erudite, elaborate and physically-impressive expression of the Classical Revival style in the city of Conway. It is thus eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

Elaboration

In 1913, Conway, Arkansas was a bustling community of over 4,000 residents that owed its prosperity to its' status as both the site of three separate colleges (Hendrix College, Central College and James Business College) and an important regional commercial hub, particularly for cotton. In fact, the fertility of the alluvial Arkansas River valley soil surrounding the city and its location on the Missouri-Pacific Railroad running between Little Rock and Fort Smith combined to make Conway one of the most active commercial and transportation centers in the state. By this year, Conway could boast of several active and growing churches, a water works costing nearly \$100,000 and a light plant worth \$40,000 (both owned by the city), a \$25,000 railroad passenger station, 40 miles of graded streets, 30 miles of concrete sidewalks, five miles of concrete paved streets, three banks, three large wholesale houses, a cotton compress, a cotton-seed oil mill, cotton shipments running as high as 25,000 bales per year, a daily newspaper, several active parochial schools, and trade that extended for over 50 miles in some directions.

The Methodist congregation (known at the time as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) in Conway was formed just after the town was incorporated in 1871. Their first two church buildings were small and of frame construction, befitting both the relatively small size of the local congregation and their meager resources. However, the dramatic growth of the town -- and of the congregation -- required the construction of a new edifice in 1898. By 1913, just fifteen years later, even this building proved to be inadequate, and thus it was demolished for the construction of the current structure.

Well-known nationally as a church architect, the New York City architect George W. Kramer drew his inspiration from the same sources that so dramatically influenced such contemporaries as McKim, Mead and White, Carrere and Hastings, and George W. Post: the architecture of Imperial Rome. The wave of popularity enjoyed by the Classical Revival style after its national introduction at the Worlds Columbian Exposition in Chicago of 1893 carried the day for the next

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

several decades, effectively ending the Victorian era -- during which American architects designed in a broad spectrum of concurrently-popular styles (e.g., French Second Empire, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne Revival, Gothic Revival, etc.). The influential power of this style was enormous, as the Classical Revival remained the style of choice for larger public and institutional buildings well into the early twentieth century, including such building types as banks, churches, schools, and such various governmental buildings as post offices, general office buildings and libraries. Large, growing congregations frequently selected this idiom for their ambitious new church edifices for the same reasons as most other architectural clients, both private and public: they embraced its permanence, stability, and truly classic stasis, hoping that their building would thus project a public image reflective of their aspirations for their congregation and its faith.

The First United Methodist Church in Conway, though constructed nearly 80 years ago during the height of the popularity of the Classical Revival style, remains the finest example of this architectural style locally. Its magnificent Classical portico, supported by its six tall Ionic columns, presents a truly impressive facade toward its principal approach along Prince Street from the east. The round dome and lantern, rising above the intersecting gable roof, create a handsome juxtaposition to the squares, rectangles and triangles of the pediments and wall spaces below. The overall composition, with its weight, symmetry and stasis, distinguishes the First United Methodist Church as not only the finest example of this style within the city of Conway but one of the most sophisticated, cohesive and ultimately successful designs in this architectural idiom in the entire state. A greater level of significance will have to wait for a more complete, statewide survey of such designs, but the First United Methodist Church in Conway certainly qualifies under Criterion C with local significance for the quality and importance of its architecture.

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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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>550540</u>	<u>3883220</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the western edge of Clifton Street with a perpendicular line formed by the northern edge of Prince Street, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 150 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the original building's northern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of Clifton Street; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 150 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Faulkner Facts and Fiddlings, Vol. IV, No. 2, July, 1962.

Information provided by Mr. Joel Cooper, Chairman, Records and History Committee, First United Methodist Church, Conway, Arkansas.

Log Cabin Democrat, October 1, 1913; November 1, 1915.

Western Methodist, December 2, 1915.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: October 12, 1992

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, 15th Floor 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 NAME: First United Methodist Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Faulkner

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/03/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/19/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/06/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001623

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 11/20/92 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
 UTM's 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
United
Methodist
Church

STOP

First United Methodist Church

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

JULY, 1992

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

JULY, 1992

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



First United Methodist Church
JULY'S YOUTH SUNDAY
OPENING NEW DOORS
REY. PATRICK

First United Methodist Church
302 E. ...

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
JULY, 1992

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
JULY, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
SANCTUARY DETAIL



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
JULY, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
SANCTUARY DETAIL



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

JULY, 1992

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

SANITARY DETAIL

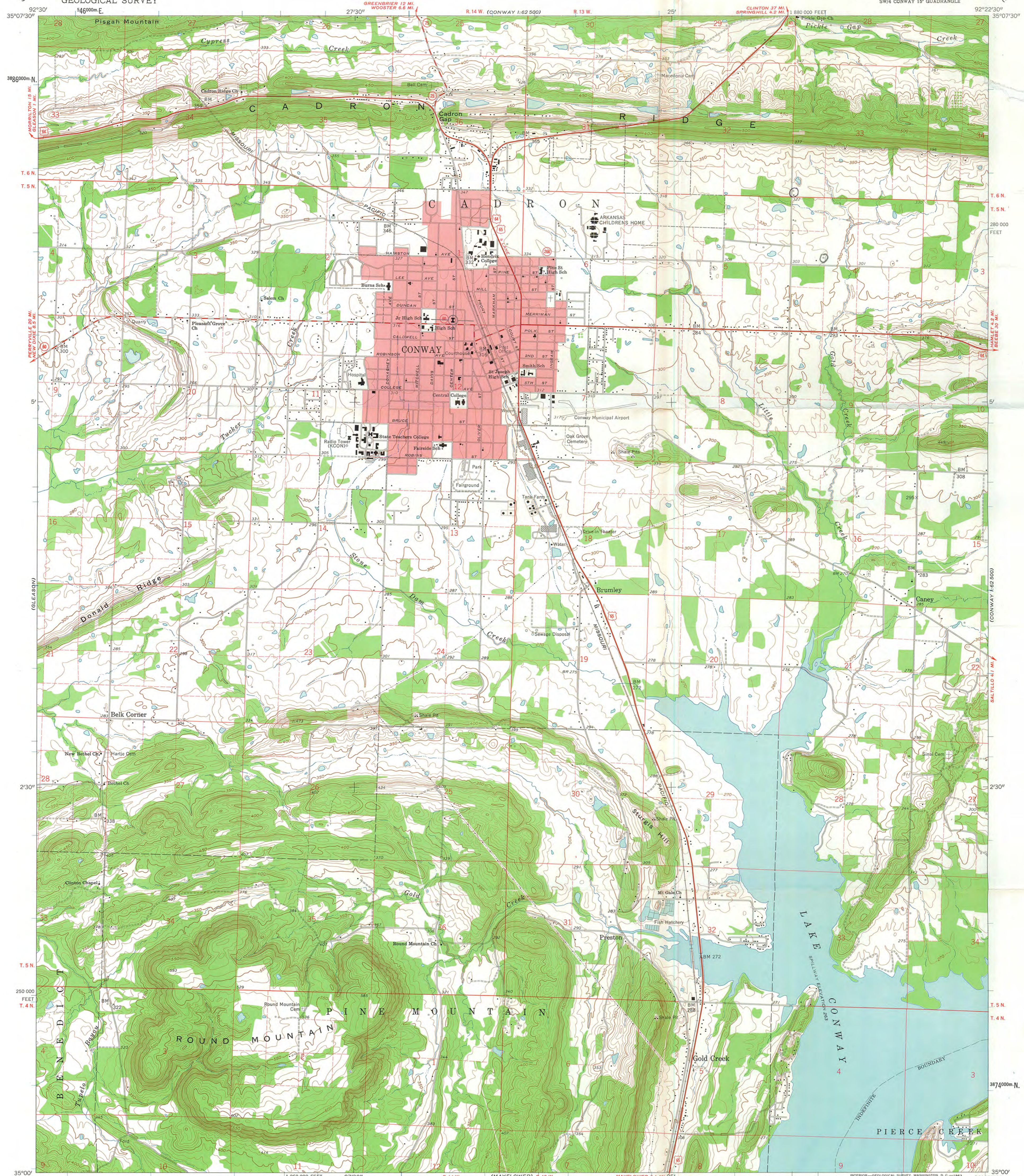


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
JULY, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
SANCTUARY DETAIL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONWAY, FAULKNER CO., ARKANSAS
15/550540/3883220

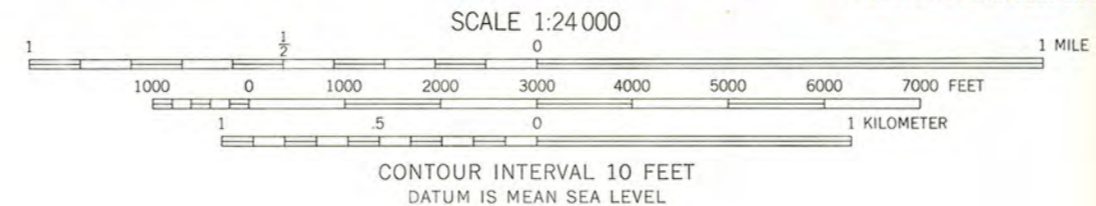
C250
CONWAY QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-FAULKNER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 CONWAY 15' QUADRANGLE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Arkansas Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1960-1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

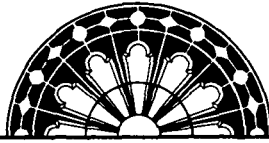
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1961



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
U.S. Route (red circle) State Route (white circle)

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CONWAY, ARK.
SW/4 CONWAY 15' QUADRANGLE
N3500-W9222.517.5
1961



RECEIVED

ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

OCT 22 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

October 13, 1992

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: First United Methodist Church
Conway, Faulkner County

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
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

