

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 21 1984**

date entered **JUN 21 1984**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First United Methodist Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 703 Lee Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of

state Louisiana code 22 county Lafayette Parish code 055

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name First United Methodist Church

street & number 703 Lee Avenue 318-233-3811

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of state LA 70501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lafayette Parish Courthouse

street & number 221 W. Main Street P.O. Box 2009

city, town Lafayette state LA 70502

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state Louisiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First United Methodist Church (1924) is a buff brick, neo-classical, auditorium style church located on Lee Avenue near the Lafayette central business district. Despite a sizable rear addition, the church retains its National Register eligibility.

The church is raised a full story above grade on a high basement. The front portion of the building is articulated with a two story, five bay facade and an Ionic pedimented portico. This front portion serves essentially as a narthex providing access and circulation for the auditorium space behind. The auditorium features a paneled balcony, a patterned beam ceiling, and rows of two story round head stained glass windows. The space culminates in a large vaulted chancel with a decoratively paneled platform. Behind the auditorium is a range of classrooms and offices.

The exterior of the building culminates in a full entablature and a parapet. The walls of the auditorium and the facade are accented with colossal brick pilasters. The front portion of the church features the building's most elaborate classical articulation. In addition to the aforementioned portico, the lower story fenestration is accented with ear-molded frames and segmental and triangular pediments. The upper story fenestration also features ear-molded frames, but with keystones rather than pediments. The tympanum of the portico features a central oculus.

To the rear of the church is a c. 1950 two-story brick office wing. This wing is small in stature compared to the church and is not visible from the main frontal view of the building. Hence, in our opinion, the wing is not detrimental to the church's architectural integrity.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924 **Builder/Architect** Builder: First United Methodist Church

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C Architect: J, A, Baylor
Contractors: Knapp and East

The First United Methodist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century architectural heritage of Lafayette Parish.

The Lafayette Parish Historical Sites Inventory has identified some 149 late nineteenth-early twentieth century structures in the parish. We feel that although this figure is certainly low, the inventory undoubtedly includes the parish's most important period buildings. Taken among this group, the First Methodist Church is important because of its impressive neo-classical styling. Most of the parish's other period buildings are innocuous commercial structures, frame Victorian houses, or bungalows. First Methodist is one of relatively few classically styled buildings in the parish. Moreover, it is one of only three known buildings which feature colossal pedimented porticos. Of these three, it is the only one with a full five bay facade and the only one with ornamental fenestration surrounds. It is therefore one of the parish's most pretentious and most high style period buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Sites Inventory, Lafayette Parish, Section II. Prepared by the Lafayette Regional Planning Commission for the Lafayette Council of Governments, June, 1977. 1924 cornerstone.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 2/3 of an acre

Quadrangle name Lafayette, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification The precise boundaries of the nominated area are shown on the enclosed scale plat map of the property. The northern & western boundaries follow property lines. The eastern and southern boundaries cut closely around the church in order to exclude adjacent modern buildings and a modern parking lot.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY CITY OF LAFAYETTE

name/title National Register Staff

organization LA State Historic Preservation Office date March 1984

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone 342-6682 (504)

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

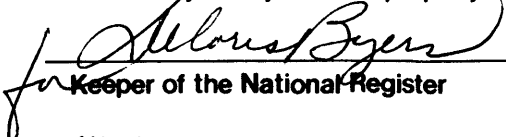
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer Robert B. DeBlieux date May 14, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


for Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 6/21/84

Attest: date

Chief of Registration