

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 22 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 16 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fourth Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 318 West St. Catherine St.
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF 3 & 4
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111

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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
STREET & NUMBER 318 West St. Catherine
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF Kentucky STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 517 West Jefferson
CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE 40202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fourth Avenue ~~United~~ Methodist Church is located on the southeast corner of Fourth and St. Catherine Streets. The church sits on the edge of the Old Louisville Residential District (February, 1975) and was excluded from the district because of the commercial intrusion in the southern section of the block. The church is a handsome stone ashlar structure in the Gothic Revival style, which is complimentary in style to many Old Louisville structures.

The facade of the church is divided into three sections. The central section protrudes to allow room for the narthex. The section is flanked by two corner towers. The first floor has a single arched portal with a Gothic door jamb. The original opening has been enclosed with a glass door. The entry is reached by a flight of stone steps. The portal is flanked on either side by a pair of arched stained-glass windows, which are articulated by engaged columns. A smooth stone band divides this floor from the second story and serves as a continuous verticle division for the facade. The section above the portal is almost completely filled with a large pointed arched stained-glass window divided into three sections by stone pilasters. Above the window is a band of lanceted blind arches. An elaborate gable tops the section and rises from between the corner towers. The gable is decorated with open work and pinacles.

To the north of central section is a belfry. The belfry has the same horizontal divisions as the central section of the facade. The corners of the belfry are emphasized by buttresses, which rise to the band of lanceted blind arches. The arches continue around the belfry from the center section. The lower floor is pierced by two small rectangular windows and above these are a single pointed arched window with stained-glass and tracery. The upper section of the belfry rises above the gable. Each face of the belfry tower is pierced by two elaborate pointed arched window of rich tracery influenced by the English Decorated style. The corner towers have carved panels and are capped by gothic pinacles. The tower is topped by a decorated stone band and a crenelated parapet.

The south section of the facade consists of only two stories. The first floor has a handsome double wood doorway, reached by a flight of stone steps. The door has large wrought iron hinges in the Gothic style. The doorway is capped by an extended stone doorhood in an ogee arch. Above the entry is a double rectangular window with a square-headed lintel. This section is topped by a crenelated parapet and hip roof is visible above.

The sides of the church are marked by a rich variety of stained-glass windows and gable transepts with rose windows. The steeply pitched roof of the nave is most visible from the side. The entry to the main chapel is reached through the narthex. The narthex has stone walls and four rectangular stained-glass panels. The doors to the sanctuary are on either end of the narthex.

The santucary is a three-aisled nave. Three sections of galleries wrap around the sides and west end of the room. The rich mahogany pews are in a semi-circular arrangement, an influence of the Akron plan. The entire room has a mahogany wainscoting with a lanceted arch motif. This same motif is used for the gallery rail.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-1902 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dodd and Cobb

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fourth Avenue Church is an exceptional example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. The church was begun in 1888 and the current facade and sanctuary was designed in 1900 and completed in 1902. The church was the design of Dodd and Cobb, one of Louisville's leading architectural firms at the turn of the century.

The Fourth Avenue Church congregation was founded in 1878 from the membership of the Walnut Street Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Chestnut Street Episcopal Church. The group purchased a lot at the corner of Third and St. Catherine, where the Walnut Street Baptist Church now stands. They sold the lot a few months later and purchased the present site at Fourth and St. Catherine for \$10,000. A \$40,000 chapel was built on the site in 1888. This area was incorporated into the 1902 church and serves today as the social parlor. The new sanctuary and facade cost nearly \$100,000.

The Fourth Avenue Church was designed by Dodd and Cobb. Dodd was the architect and Cobb was the engineer. William J. Dodd came to Louisville in 1884, from Chicago where he had worked for William Jenny and S.S. Beeman on the town of Pullman. His first partner was Mason Maury. The firm of Maury and Dodd was responsible for the design of many homes in Old Louisville, especially on Fourth Street and the St. James area. They also designed the Louisville Trust Building, Fifth and Market Sts., St Paul's Church, Fourth and Magnolia, and the Fourth Avenue Baptist Church. The firm was dissolved in 1895 and Dodd became partners with Arthur Cobb. Dodd had turned away from the Richardsonian Romanesque styles during the end of his partnership with Maury. In 1893, he had been responsible for the design of the Kentucky Exposition Building for the Great Columbia Exposition in Chicago. The building was an elaborate and ornate structure utilizing classical motifs. The Columbia Exposition itself became known as the "Great White City" and was the major influence in the return to classical styles in the country in the 1890's through the beginning of the first World War took its name. This was the style in which Dodd worked primarily from 1893 until he left Louisville in 1913. Dodd and Cobb designed the Masonic Theatre (destroyed), the Atherton residence, the Grabfelder residence and the Presbyterian Seminary. Their last major commercial building in Louisville, the Atherton Building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut is currently threatened with demolition. In 1905 Dodd joined in a partnership with Kenneth McDonald, a well-known local and regional architect. The firm of McDonald and Dodd produced some of Louisville's finest buildings--the YMCA, the Weissinger Gaulbert Apartments, Adath Israel Temple, First Christian Church (Fourth and Breckenridge), Stewart's Dry Goods Building, the Tyler Hotel (now the Milner), and both the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fourth Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. Architectural plans, 1900. Located at Ryan, Cooke and Zeurn, Architects. Louisville Kentucky.

Dodd and Cobb. "Fourth Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church." Chicago Architectural Club. XIII, 1900. p. 42

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville West Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 6,0,8 | 5,6,0 | 4,2 | 3,2 | 6,3,0

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Louisville Block 29-K Lot 90. The site extends from a point at the southeast corner of Fourth and St. Catherine Streets 150 south along Fourth Street thence 130 feet east to a point at the alley thence 150 north along the alley to St.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marty Poynter Hedgepeth, Director Research

March 21, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

502-587-3501

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky 40202

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

Edward W. Melton

TITLE

DATE 5-15-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ann H. Gannon
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-16-79

ATTEST: *Ann H. Gannon*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7/11/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Fourth Avenue United
Methodist Church

ITEM NUMBER

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The east end of the sanctuary contains a large pointed arch. Behind the arch is an apse which contains both a raised presbytery and the organ loft and pipes. This area is richly decorated in wood panels with gothic motifs. A semi-circular area in front of the presbytery houses the altar and baptismal font. It is slightly raised and divided from the nave by a wood balustrade.

The two most striking features of the interior are the stained-glass windows and the vaulted ceiling supported by hammerbeam roof of mahogany.

The stained glass is richly varied with rose windows in the transepts. Rectangular windows illuminate the side aisles. Many of these are memorial windows and are decorated by the figures of Christ, St. Paul, John the Evangelist and personifications of Faith, Hope and Charity. The large arched windows, which consist of three panels, pierce a large part of the second floor of the west wall. These panels have rich tracery and contain motifs of the Star of David and the Tree of Jesse.

A hallway and a vestry divide this sanctuary from the chapel built in 1880. This room no longer contains pews or the presbytery. It does retain three arched stained-glass panels on the east wall, a handsome gallery and a timbered vaulted ceiling.

A Sunday school addition was made to the rear of the church in 1922.

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Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

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Caperton Mansion (Rio Vista, destroyed) and the Louis Seelbach mansion on Alta Vista. The firm was dissolved in 1913 and Dodd moved to Los Angeles. He practiced with William Richards until his death in 1930. Dodd can be considered one of the most important architects in Louisville and the southeast region of the United States from 1890 to 1913.

Dodd designed several other structures in a refined Gothic Revival style. With Mason Maury he designed St. Pauls Church (Old Louisville, National Register February, 1975), one of Louisville's most beautiful churches. Between 1903-1907, he also designed the Collegiate Gothic Presbyterian Seminary (National Register, March, 1975) which is a complex of elegant and architecturally refined structures which appear as one unit around a court yard.

The congregation of the Fourth Avenue Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. The congregation has played an active role in the Old Louisville neighborhood and the church is the site of numerous neighborhood meetings.

The architecture of the church designed by Dodd and Cobb, is among the finest structures in the Gothic Revival style in Louisville. The church is an important anchor of the Old Louisville neighborhood, both visually and a protective buffer between the residential district and the encroaching commercial development close by.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

"Fourth Avenue Methodist Church."

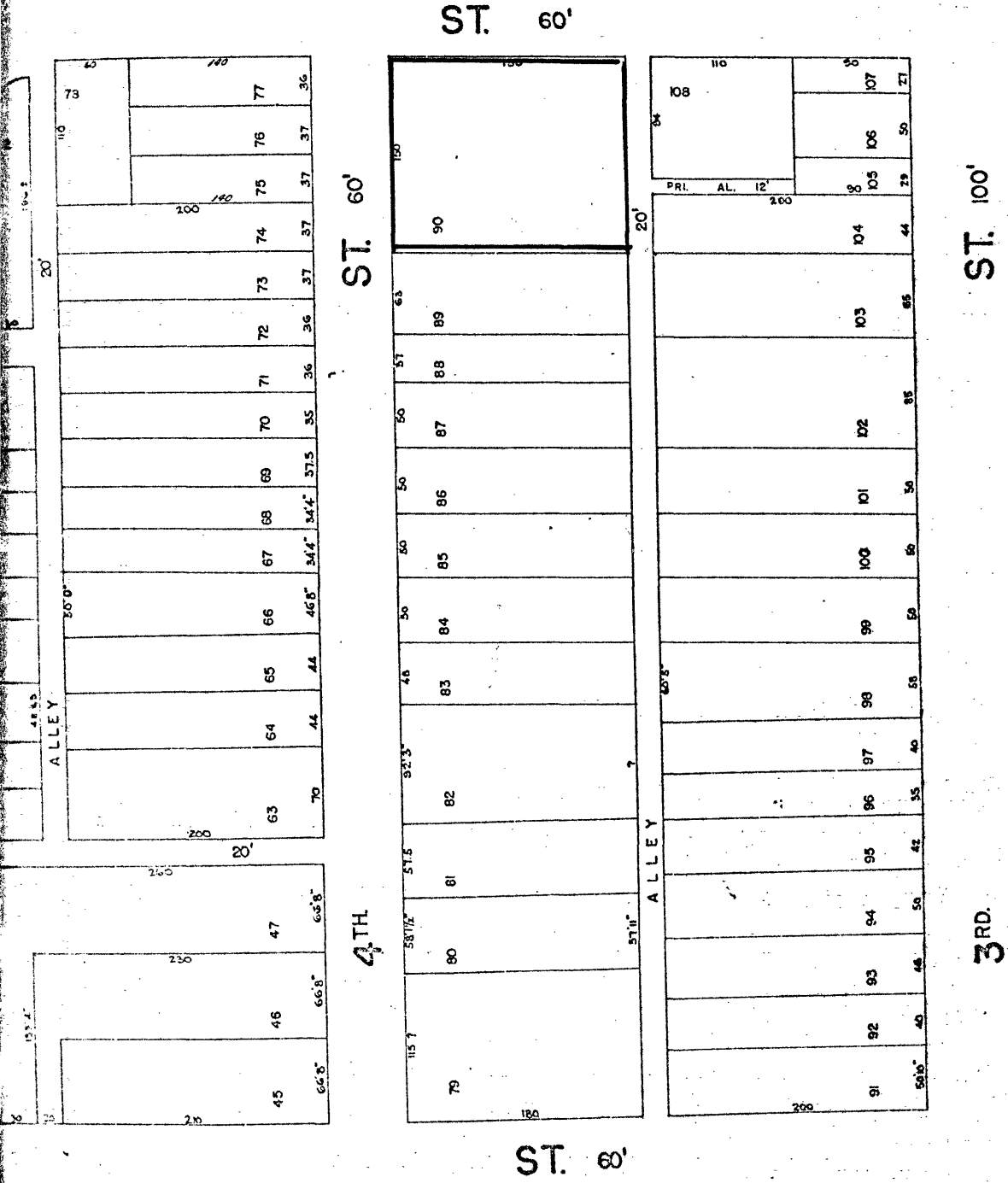
First Exhibition of the Louisville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 1912, p. 356.

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. "Old Louisville Preservation District Designation Report," 1974.

Historic Landmarks and Preservation District Commission. "Western Branch Library," 1975.

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Louisville: Anna Lee Morton, 1973.

Withey, Henry and Elsie Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects.
Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970.



Fourth Ave. Methodist Church
318 W. St. Catherine
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.
Map 2. Sandborn Real Estate
Map, 1972

JUL 16 1979

MAY 22 1979

Fourth Ave. Methodist Church
318 W. St. Catherine
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.
Map 3. Jefferson County
Real Estate Map

MAY 16 1979

MAY 22 1979