

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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OCT - 2 2015

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

Nat. Register of Historic Places

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 any 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 FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

other names/site number First United Methodist Church FMSF#TA 112

2. Location

street & number 302 North Jefferson Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Perry N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Taylor code 123 zip code 32347

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.)

Alissa Gladstone 9/29/15  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or 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  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Janet Helms

Date of Action

10-19-2015

**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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**

(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: church \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: church \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mission Revival \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STUCCO \_\_\_\_\_

walls STUCCO \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

roof ASPHALT \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**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

**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):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1917

**Significant Dates**

1917

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Kramer, George, and Sons

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	2 5 1 2 4 4	3 3 3 4 7 8 7
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September 2015

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

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.)

name First United Methodist Church of Perry; attn: Rev. James Taylor

street & number 302 North Jefferson Street telephone 850-584-3028

city or town Perry state Florida zip code 32348-0487

**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 amend 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.

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CHURCH, SOUTH, PERRY, TAYLOR  
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is located at 302 North Jefferson Street, Perry, in Taylor County, Florida. First United Methodist Church of Perry is the church's current name. Built in 1917, the church was designed by architect George Kramer of New York City. Kramer designed 2,219 churches and Sunday schools in the United States, and was one the country's most prominent church architects. The church has a Spanish Mission Revival Style with stucco exterior, arched windows, sculpted parapets, stained glass windows, and a square entry tower at the juncture of the west and south facades with squared timber brackets in the tower. The complex roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles, and there is a basement. The historic church abuts a 1977 church building via a flat roof to the walkway on the east between the two buildings.

**SETTING**

The City of Perry is laid out in an orthogonal street grid. The church fronts onto Jefferson Street, a major north/south thoroughfare that passes the Taylor County Courthouse two blocks to the south. The courthouse block signifies the center of the city, and commercial uses line the blocks at the center and southbound. Residential areas lay to the east and west of the central axis. Residences are set-back from sidewalks and green lawns and mature trees are throughout the city. Residences are on the blocks to the west, north, and east of the church. The church property is landscaped with grass, scrubs around the west and south elevations, and two palm trees ornament the south elevation (Photo #1). A one-story modern building adjacent to the church was built in 1977 for church offices, assembly, and class rooms. It occupies the lot to the east. A parking lot serving the church occupies the north half of the block.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The one and two-story church is built with two-brick thick walls, and it has a basement with concrete walls. The exterior walls are painted an off-white color. The complex gable, hip, and clipped-gable roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles (Photo #2). The stained glass windows are set in wood frames. A long enclosed hallway separates the historic church

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building and a 1977 church annex on the east elevation. Glass doors are at either end of the hall at the basement level, and a flat ceiling/roof butts against the east elevation at the church's floor level. An incline gives access to a basement level door.

**Exterior**

The west façade fronts onto Jefferson Street, and has three main areas: a two-story engaged entry tower on the south corner, a sculpted parapet center section with three large windows, and a clipped-gable north section with three windows and a single door (Photo #3). The square tower has open arched entries with drip molds on the west and south sides that access the concrete porch which has nine concentric concrete steps (Photo #4). There is a belt-course at the second and third story height, and small, single, rectangular stained glass windows in the second story on the west and south sides. On each side of the tower are arched openings at the third story, and a pyramidal roof. Exposed rafter ends are within the eaves, and large timber brackets are at each corner of the eaves. At the northwest corner of the tower is the cornerstone which reads "First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1917" (Photo #5). The central portion of the elevation has a symmetrical sculpted parapet with a small arched window with leaded glass centered in it (Photo #3). A belt course is at the second story, and three large windows with stained glass are centered in the first story. The center window is arched and the flanking windows are shorter and rectangular. Shrubbery obscures the small square windows set in the basement walls. The north portion of the elevation has a clipped gable end of the two-story roof with exposed rafter ends at the center eave, and large square timber supports at each corner of the roof ridges (Photo #6). Centered in the second story is a group of three rectangular stained glass windows, and a small window is set beside them to the south. Three arched windows containing stained glass are in the first story, and a fourth arched blind-window with drip molding over a basement door. A recessed entry with two doors and transom is located at the juncture of the central and northern parts of the elevation. A gable roof supported by two square timbers shelters the porch. Six concrete steps rise to the porch. To the north of the steps and beneath the blind-window are narrow double doors that step down giving access to the basement.

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The south elevation is a prominent elevation fronting onto East Bay Street (Photo #7). With the entry tower at the southwest corner it too has a sculpted parapet and large three window arrangement identical to the west façade's central section.

The north elevation shows the side of the clipped gable portion of roof which contains a dormer with ventilators (Photo #8). Three rectangular windows with stained glass are in the first-story of the north wall. Small square windows at the basement level are obscured by shrubbery. At the northeast corner of the church is a pyramidal roofed open shelter. At the ground level of the extension are three arched openings on the three elevations giving a sheltered entrance to a metal door elevator access. The extension and elevator were installed in 2000.

The east elevation is obscured by the placement of the church extension built in 1977. Five windows in the south half of the elevation serve the sanctuary, and four windows in the north half of the elevation serve offices and classrooms. All windows have stained glass. Two basement level doors original to the church are still in use and are accessed by the hallway between the historic church and the 1977 building (Photo #9).

**Interior**

The interior is arranged to express the Akron Plan which placed the Sunday school adjacent to the main sanctuary which was configured as an auditorium plan, with seating close to the pulpit, and a tapered floor for better viewing.

Entering at the southwest corner of the church, the canted main double doors have stained glass and stained glass transoms (Photo #10). A short narthex opens to the right and left into the square sanctuary. At the northeast corner of the square room is a curved dais with an altar centered on it, a pulpit, and short curved communion railings with kneeling cushions (Photo #11). From the dais radiate four aisles (two along the walls) which divide the sanctuary into three areas filled with curved pews (Photo #12). The center area has longer pews than the side areas have shorter pews. The floor of the sanctuary slopes downward from the rear toward the altar. The curved dais, curved seating, and sloped floor configuration was known as "auditorium" seating, intended to provide easier

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listening and viewing of the minister by the congregation. In the east wall are three square stained glass windows, and in the west and south walls are large stained glass windows with ornamental sides, and figural pairs of central windows (Photos #13 & 14). The broad coffered ceiling is an indication of the specially engineered wooden rafters needed to span the space (Photo #15).

In the north wall of the sanctuary is a broad opening to what was the Sunday school, with seating and a series of square windows set high in the north wall (Photo #16). The room is raised one step up with a low railing across much of the opening, and a lectern is present behind the railing. This room fulfilled the Akron Plan of situating the Sunday school adjacent to the sanctuary. Doors in the northeast corner of his room give access to the choir room where robes and music is kept, and a handicap entrance from the elevator. A stairway in this northeast corner gives access to the basement level. A door in the northwest corner of the room gives access to the church secretary's office (Photo #17). A door in the southwest corner of the room gives access to a hall that can lead to the west side entrance, south access to the sanctuary, and access the pastors' office to the north. A stairway in this hall gives access to the basement, and maintenance access to the attic and roof rafters above. The pastor's office is in the northwest corner of the church with three stained glass windows in the west wall, and one in the north wall (Photo #18).

The basement has access doors near the southeast corner, the east elevation near the northeast corner, and stairs by the west side door. The center of the basement is a large, open, multipurpose room (Photo #19). Around this central space are rooms around the perimeter, mostly classrooms. A mechanical room is near the southeast corner (Photo #20), bathrooms and a library are against the west wall, and a kitchen is near the northeast corner (Photo #21). There is a display case with historic church documents and materials (Photo #22).

**ALTERATIONS**

The most prominent alteration was the installation of an elevator and exterior sheltered entrance on the northeast corner, to provide handicap access in 2000. The Sunday school space beside the sanctuary had the folding doors removed in 1978, and the choir now uses





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**SUMMARY**

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Perry, Florida, is nominated to the National Register of for local significance under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Art. Built in 1917, and designed by the eminent church architect George W. Kramer who designed 2,217 churches, the church is an exceptional example of what Kramer called a “combination” church design. It brought together the Akron Plan for Sunday school gatherings adjacent to auditorium seating with a slanted floor for the sanctuary. The figural stained glass windows are excellent examples of the work of the Empire Glass and Decoration Company in Atlanta, and of the glass painters’ trade.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

*Mission Revival Style*

Mission Revival Style architecture was popular in the United States from the 1890s until 1920, in areas where Spanish Colonial construction had occurred such as the Southwest and Florida. The most common identifying features include dominant parapets on the main roof or porch; red-tile roof with wide, open eaves. The porch is supported by massive, often square piers or columns, and the use of arches and arcades. The most common was surface is stucco. About half of the buildings have symmetrical facades. Most have prominent single-story porches, and few are precise copies of Colonial buildings. There is little surface ornament except for the occasional decorative tile or stone carving.<sup>1</sup>

*Auditorium Plan and Akron Plan Interior*

The Congregational Society in New York City, in 1836, built the Broadway Tabernacle, the first church interior in the United States with an auditorium layout. In an effort to seat as many people as possible close to the minister and his sermon, a curved dais (raised platform) with the pulpit in the center was designed. Pews and balconies at the rear were

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<sup>1</sup> Virginia and Lee McAllister, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986, 409,410.

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curved as well. Isles between the pews radiated from the pulpit. This permitted more people to be seated in front of and beside the minister.<sup>2</sup> In 1849, Henry Ward Beecher's Congregational Plymouth Church was built just this way at his request. In time the floor was tapered from the pulpit to the rear so more people could see and acoustics were improved.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Perry, has an interior spatial plan known as the Akron plan that was first used in 1870, at the First Methodist Episcopal church of Akron, Ohio, where it got its name. Reflecting a national movement toward child education, the Methodist denomination was at the forefront of the Sunday school movement. Sunday school rooms were positioned adjacent to the main sanctuary that were often in the auditorium form with curved pews. Sliding or folding door would open and close between the two spaces. This was so the children and adults could participate in the same opening and closing of the worship service. During the service the children would receive instruction adjusted to their age group.<sup>3</sup>

**George W. Kramer (1848-1938)**

The architect for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Perry was George Washington Kramer. Kramer was born in Ashland, Ohio, in 1848. He married Harriet Estelle Blackman in 1870. In 1873 he started his work in architecture. He went Akron, Ohio in 1879 and joined the partnership of (Frank O.) Weary, (Jacob) Snyder, and (David G.) Wilcox, and when Snyder left the firm in 1885, it became Weary and Kramer. In 1894, the Kramers moved to East Orange, New Jersey, and set up an office in New York City. In New York he worked with B.H. Simonson for a year, and then C.C. Hamilton until 1898. In 1912, his son George Lee Kramer joined him to form Kramer and Son, Architects, until 1924. He was a founder of the Western Association of Architects which merged into the American Institute of Architects where he became a fellow. He specialized in church and Sunday school designs, building 2,219 of them. In New Jersey he built 45 alone. He published three books; in 1897, The What, How, and Why of Church Building; in 1910, The Twentieth Century Church, Part One, and in 1914, Common Sense in Church

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<sup>2</sup> Robert Jaeger, "The Auditorium and Akron Plans," Cornell University, Master's Thesis, May, 1984, 53-54.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid; 141-147.

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Building: A Series of Six Addresses Prepared for Delivery at the Church Efficiency Congress, Davenport, Iowa, November 17-23, 1913. A special collection of his and his wife's papers are at the New Jersey Historical Society. Many of his churches have National Register and local historic designations.<sup>4</sup>

The Akron Plan was conceived by Lewis Miller, and inventor, and the superintendent of the Sunday school for the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio. Miller with architect Walter Bluthe, and Jacob Snyder worked out the plans for the new church that was begun in 1866, and the Sunday school section was completed in 1870. Kramer worked closely with Snyder when he started work in Akron. Attempting to refine the Akron Plan, Kramer became the specialist in church design within the firm. Upon his move to New York that was virtually all he designed. His work is located across the United States and overseas. In addition to the more than 2,200 churches he executed governmental, institutional, industrial, commercial and domestic buildings.

“The lion's share of the credit due for the popularization and promulgation of the Akron Plan belongs....to the architect George Washington Kramer,” writes Robert Jaeger.<sup>5</sup> Kramer's ideas regarding protestant church design from the 1890s through the 1910s was highly influential. He was mentioned in nearly every book and periodical about church and Sunday school design. He produced a catalog of church designs and plans at affordable prices for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.<sup>6</sup>

In his first book The What, How and Why of Church Building, on the prologue page xii he spoke that for the modern church to manage not only the worship service, but other church functions as well required new forms. He referred to the “*combination*”<sup>7</sup> church principally to describe the inclusion of the Sunday school with main sanctuary for adult worship. Kramer took little credit for the new church form, but described on page 218 how the idea of the combination was Lewis Miller's, worked out with Jacob Snyder, and

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<sup>4</sup> James Terry White, *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 1899, “Kramer, George Washington,” p.331; <http://books.google.com> (access October 16, 2014).

<sup>5</sup> Robert Jaeger, “The Auditorium and Akron Plans,” Cornell University, Master's Thesis, May, 1984, 165.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 165-169.

<sup>7</sup> George W. Kramer, “The What, How and Why of Church Building,” New York: 1897, xii.

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that it was an original, modern concept that transformed church design. The initial Akron Plan placed the Sunday school in a balcony overlooking the sanctuary. Kramer's designs placed the Sunday school beside the sanctuary which minimized the sense of separation of the two, with sliding doors or wooden folding screens to separate and dampen the sound.

**ART CONTEXT**

In the late 1870s, John La Farge conceived the idea of using opalescent glass as window material in leaded windows.<sup>8</sup> "Opalescent" is glass that is opaque to semi-opaque, and sometimes appears milky. In sheet form, it usually contains two or more colors and usually white. In February of 1880, La Farge received a patent for his innovation.<sup>9</sup> The glass gave the illusion of solidity and shading, and lent itself to depictions of representational subjects in stained glass windows. La Farge and Louis C. Tiffany popularized the use of this glass and after 1880 many designers adopted the material, and so was born what was dubbed the "American School" of stained glass.<sup>10</sup> The use of opalescent glass was in contrast to the traditional way of assembling a stained glass window with single-color sheets of glass that was transparent to translucent. The glass was painted upon to depict the subject matter and shading with special glass paint that was fired in kilns. Opalescent designers still relied on painted glass to depict faces, hands, and feet of people, and letters for inscriptions.

One of the largest stained glass window makers in the South were Empire Glass and Decoration Company at 156 Edgewood Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia.<sup>11</sup> The firm provided a huge number of churches in the southeast with opalescent stained glass windows and church furniture from 1889 until 1935.<sup>12</sup> Most windows were ornamental without figural

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<sup>8</sup> Royal Cortissoz, "John La Farge: A Memoir and a Study, (New York: Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1911), 187.

<sup>9</sup> James Baker, "An Old Timer," *The Ornamental Glass Bulletin*, (September 1918), 8,9.

<sup>10</sup> Roger Riordon, "American Stained Glass," *American Art Review*, (Boston: Dana Estes and Charles Lauriat, 1881), 7.

<sup>11</sup> *Empire Glass and Decoration Company*, (Brochure, installations in Southeast), (1929). Stained Glass Association of American, Historic Files, "Studio Catalogs."

<sup>12</sup> Robert O. Jones, *Biographical Index of American Historic Stained Glass Makers*, Raytown, Missouri: Stained Glass Association of America, 2002, 38.

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depictions, but being church windows, painted glass inscriptions were usual at the bottoms of the windows. Small painted medallions depicting symbols or small scenes, were often inserted in an ornamental window to provide distinction, and at an added expense. Full-figured designs of scenes from the life of Christ or events from the bible were the most expensive. Faces and folds of robes were painted on single color sheets of glass in the older traditional fashion, while backgrounds were rendered with opalescent glass. As is the case in most long-lived hand-craft shops, craftsmen and glass painters came and went as employees, and painted figure work varied in skill and techniques.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Perry, was designed by George W. Kramer, one of the nations' premier church architects, and advocate of what he called "combination" church design. Kramer's application of the Spanish Mission Revival Style to the exterior of the church integrated the architecture with the predominant Florida-look of contemporary construction during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The church is built with a stucco exterior, and symmetrical sculpted parapets on the main west and south elevations. Windows are arched as are the openings in an engaged three-story square entry tower/belfry at the southwest corner. The tower's pyramidal roof has square timber brackets at the eaves, and the timber brackets are repeated over a single door in the west elevation.

The combination of arranging the traditional sanctuary worship setting with Sunday school classes, and other assembly uses into a multi-use church design, was Kramer's specialty. The approach was especially popular in protestant church, and particularly popular with the Methodist denominations. The traditional sanctuary worship space is arranged in an "auditorium" plan. The main entry at the southwest corner is canted with two doors that open in to a short narthex with single doors to the east and north. The floor of this square room slants downward from the southwest entry to the northeast curved dais with altar and pulpit. Three sections of curved pews have side aisles and two aisles skirting the central group of pews. The width of the pews narrows as they approach the dais. The north wall of the opens to a large rectangular space with pews facing the sanctuary. The space is one-step up and a knee rail with balusters defines to two rooms. This is the "Akron Plan"

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aspect of the interior design, and where Sunday Schools were held. A sliding screen that could separate the two rooms has been removed.

Coinciding with the construction of the church in 1917, the Methodist Episcopal denomination was expanding their sense of social mission to be more inclusive of community services. To that end more encouragement was given to church design that allowed for multiple uses of interior space to provide “seven-day-a-week” programs.<sup>13</sup> It was suggested that a dedicated Sunday school room based on the Akron Plan was an impractical use of space.<sup>14</sup> Kramer’s “combination” planning was ahead of this criticism in that he had designed a fully functioning basement (an unusual feature in Florida) that doubled the serviceable space within the church’s given footprint. The basement contains classrooms, a kitchen, bathrooms, and a large general assembly room that furthered the accessibility of the church.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South retains integrity of workmanship and materials, both in the interior finishes and stained glass window installations. The architectural details and layout of the church speaks to its feeling and association with early Methodist church design, which experimented with how to best integrate the public and worship service. Although this building has maintained the same location for nearly one hundred years, its setting has been compromised by the addition of a paved asphalt parking lot to the north, and the adjacent 1977 church annex to the east, which is narrowly connected to the historic 1917 church building via a one-story hallway enclosed by glass doors. This hallway was engineered out of necessity to hide the extensive steel beams that buttress the east wall of the 1917 church. These beams were installed to prevent the further migration of structural elements. However, the 1977 annex does not overwhelm the original church building, as it maintains a lower profile and recedes on the diminishing slope of the land eastward. In its overall design, the 1917 church maintains most aspects of its design, including original exterior and interior finishes, and historic circulation patterns.

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<sup>13</sup> Bureau of Architecture of the Methodist Episcopal Church, “Building the Seven-Day-A-Week Church,” Philadelphia: City Work and Church Extension, 1928, p.3.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p.6.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number        8        Page        7        **FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
SOUTH, PERRY, TAYLOR COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

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**ART SIGNIFICANCE**

The stained glass in First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Perry, was made by the Empire Glass and Decoration Company out of Atlanta. The firm, in business from 1889 until 1935, was a major supplier of stained glass and church furniture, and claimed over one-thousand churches plus other facilities, served by them in the Southeast. The windows in churches are mostly filled with ornamental opalescent leaded glass with conventional scrolling motifs. But, notable in the work is the high quality of the figural depictions in the central panels of the west and south sanctuary windows. The bible stories of 'Jesus and the rich man' and the 'woman at the well,' have figures expertly posed and expertly painted. The 'woman' and the 'rich man' have distinctive poses, and the robes on both are expertly painted, particularly the texturing and details of the rich-man's robe. All flesh tones have an under-layer of white, and are rendered in conventional brown paints which are then enhanced with additional colored enamels, requiring several kiln firings. Though much of Empire's glass work can be viewed as vernacular production goods, there were periods when quality artists were on staff who could elevate the results of their artistic commissions, and this is an excellent example of one.







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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number      10      Page      1      **METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
SOUTH, PERRY, TAYLOR COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

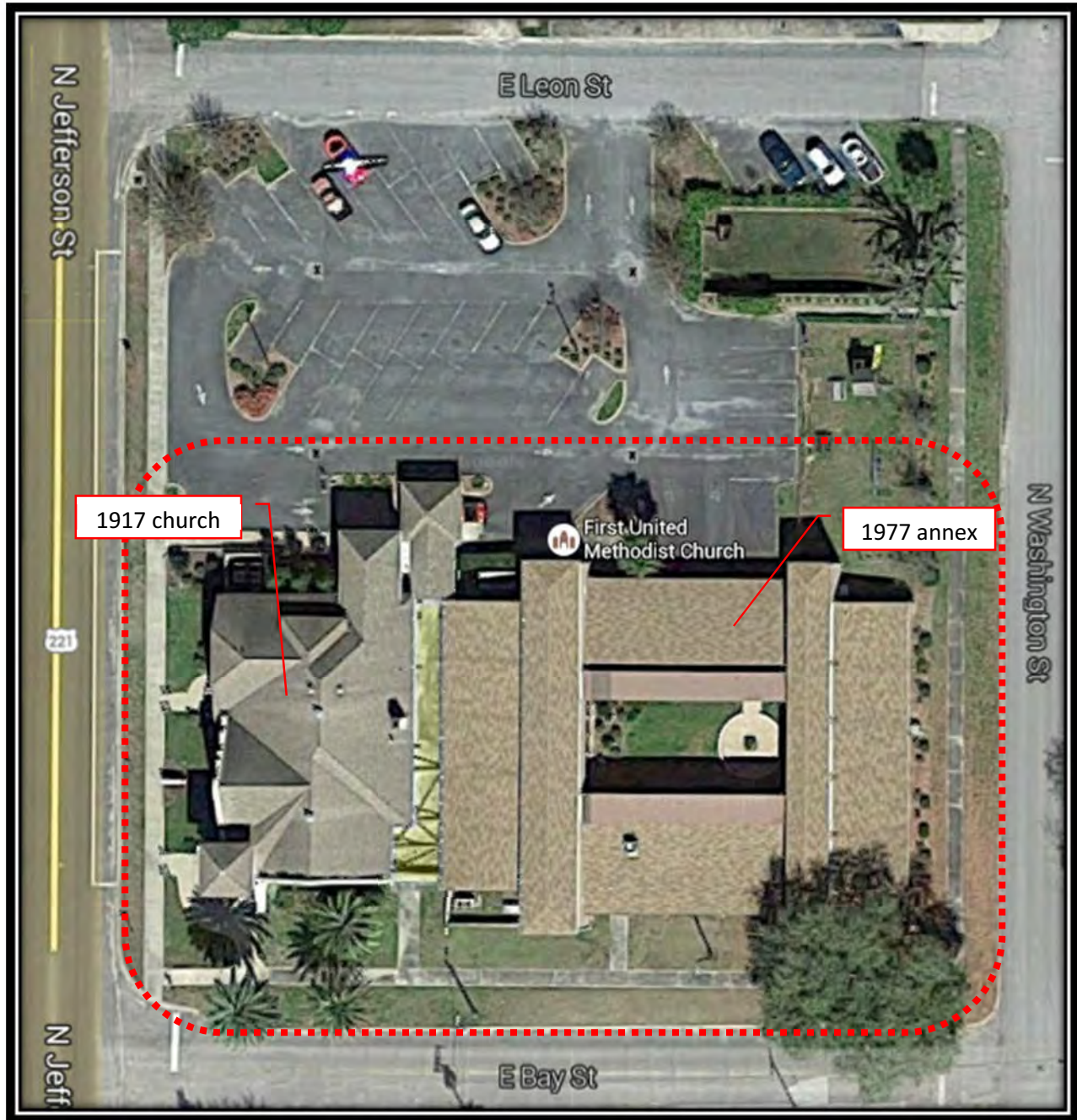
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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Original Town   All Block 9   OR 465-501  
1.23 acres  
Parcel # 03864-000

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The National Register boundary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, encompasses the historic 1917 church and the attached 1977 non-contributing building, both connected via a covered walkway. The walkway was designed to hide the steel beams that provide structural support to the east wall of the 1917 church. This church elevation still retains fenestration patterns and original entry points that have not been compromised by the addition. Even though the 1977 one-story addition is large in size, its setback and placement on the parcel does not overwhelm the historic church, nor diminish its integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling or association. The National Register boundaries are defined by the city right-of-ways on the sidewalks to the west, south, and east, and the southern edge of the parking lot. The 1917 church remains on its original full city block but its setting has changed with the addition of a modern building to the east and parking lot to the north.



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH  
 Perry, Taylor County, Florida  
 Site Diagram

● ● ● ● ● ● NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

\*Yellow highlighted area between the 1917 church and the 1977 annex shows the thin covered hallway that connects the two buildings and hides the structural reinforcement.



Google earth



**FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH**  
**Perry, Taylor County Florida**  
**Locator Map**

**UTM Reference**  
**Zone 17 Easting 251244 Northing 3334787**

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number      Photo      Page      1      **FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH SOUTH, PERRY, TAYLOR  
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. First Methodist Episcopal Church, South (First United Methodist Church), 302 North Jefferson Street, Perry
2. Taylor County, Florida
3. Robert O. Jones
4. October, 2014
5. Main, west façade and south elevation
6. Photo #1 of 22

Items 1 – 5 are the same for the following photographs.

5. Roof, looking northwest
6. Photo #2 of 22
  
5. West façade, looking east
6. Photo #3 of 22
  
5. Corner entry tower, looking northeast
6. Photo #4 of 22
  
5. Cornerstone by main entrance, looking east
6. Photo #5 of 22
  
5. South portion of west façade, looking east
6. Photo #6 of 22
  
5. South elevation, looking north
6. Photo #7 of 22
  
5. North elevation with new elevator entry, looking east
6. Photo #8 of 22

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number	Photo	Page	2	<b>FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH, PERRY, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA</b>
	_____	_____		

- 
- 5. Walkway between church and 1977 building
  - 6. Photo #9 of 22
  
  - 5. Interior, main entrance and small narthex, looking south
  - 6. Photo #10 of 22
  
  - 5. Curved dais, altar and pulpit, looking northeast
  - 6. Photo #11 of 22
  
  - 5. Auditorium seating, looking northeast
  - 6. Photo #12 of 22
  
  - 5. West sanctuary wall central stained glass window, looking west
  - 6. Photo #13 of 22
  
  - 5. South sanctuary wall central stained glass window detail, looking south
  - 6. Photo #14 of 22
  
  - 5. Coffered ceiling, looking south
  - 6. Photo #15 of 22
  
  - 5. Opening into Sunday School room, looking north
  - 6. Photo #16 of 22
  
  - 5. Secretary's office, looking west
  - 6. Photo #17 of 22
  
  - 5. Pastor's office, looking north
  - 6. Photo #18 of 22
  
  - 5. Basement central room, looking north
  - 6. Photo #19 of 22

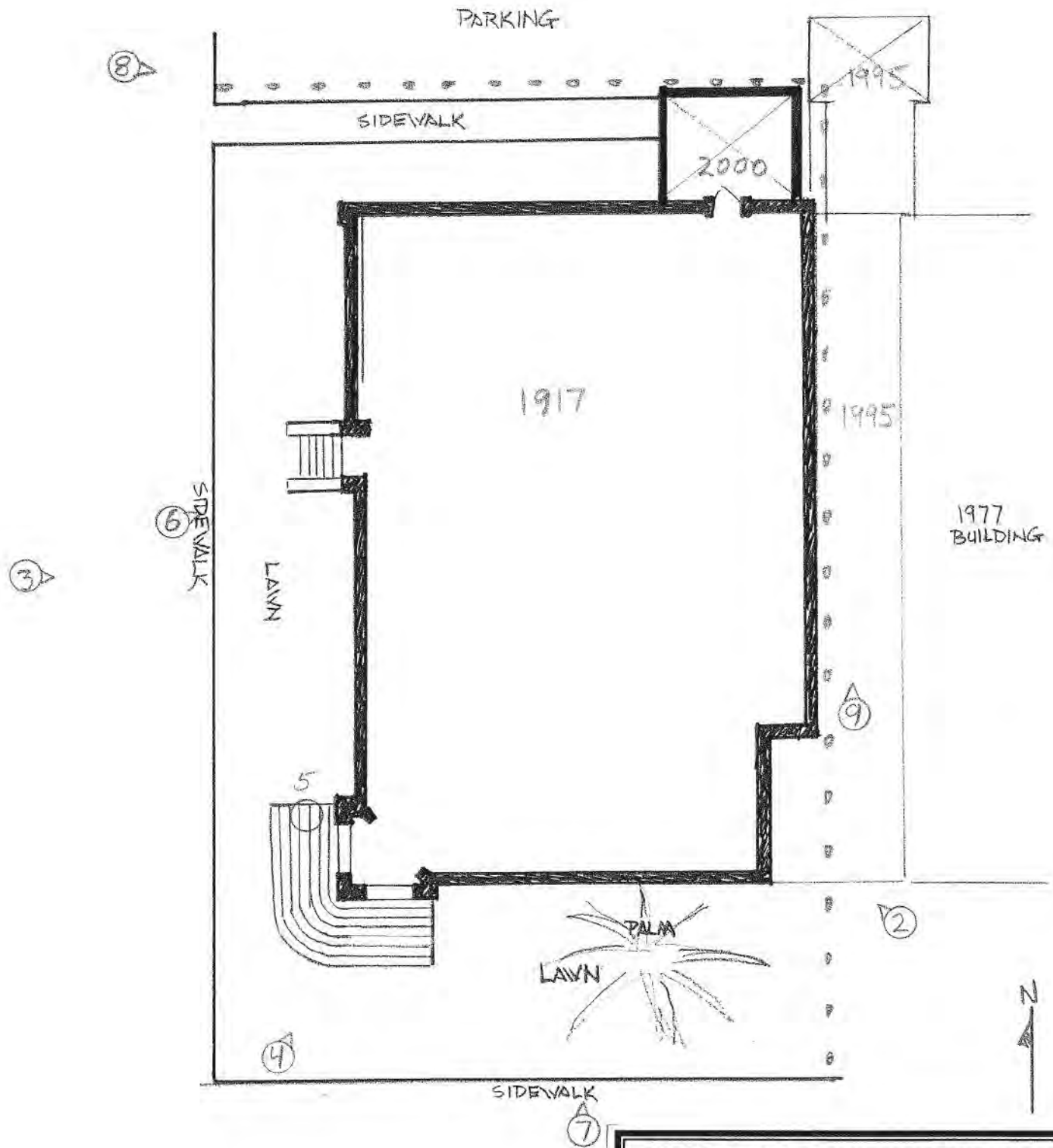
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number	Photo	Page	3	<b>FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH, PERRY, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA</b>
	_____	_____		

- 
- 5. Mechanical room, looking east
  - 6. Photo #20 of 22
  
  - 5. Kitchen, looking south
  - 6. Photo #21 of 22
  
  - 5. Church history display case, looking north
  - 6. Photo #22 of 22

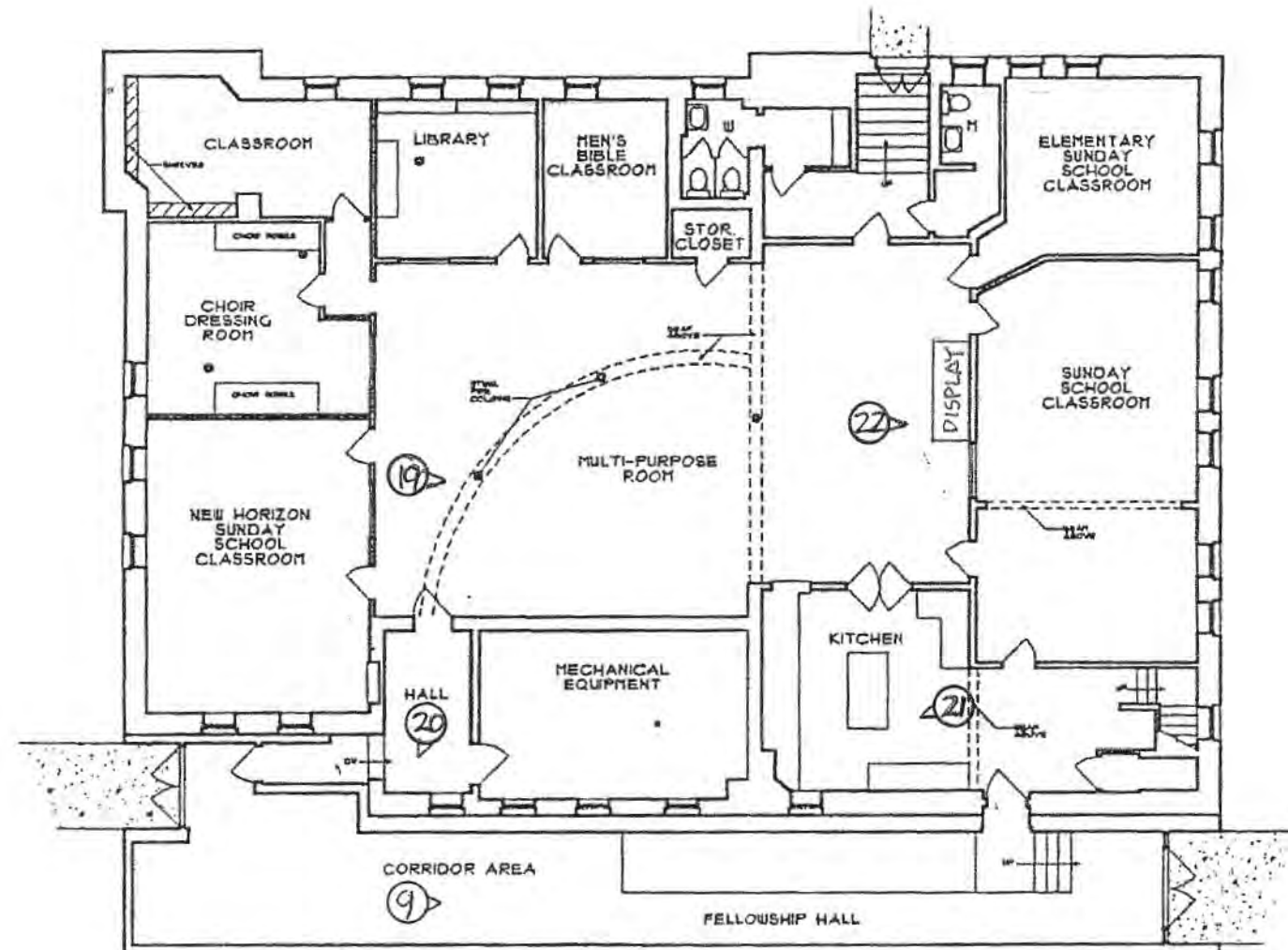




**FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH**  
 Perry, Taylor County, Florida

Contributing Resource & Photo Diagram





BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN  
4,125 SQ. FT. FLOOR AREA

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH  
Perry, Taylor County, Florida  
Basement Floor Plan & Photo Diagram



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

SPEED  
LIMIT  
30

For  
Methodist Church





FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

First Methodist Church



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST  
METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SOUTH  
1917









FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY First Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Taylor

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/17/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000210

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10-19-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Return Comments Addressed*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Gabbard

DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**RICK SCOTT**  
Governor

**KEN DETZNER**  
Secretary of State

March 13, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
Department of the Interior  
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **First Methodist Episcopal Church, South (FMSF #8TA112), in Taylor County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Desiree Estabrook  
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration  
Bureau of Historic Preservation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: First Methodist Episcopal Church, South

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Taylor

DATE RECEIVED: 3/27/15      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/20/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/15      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/12/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000210

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: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5-7-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*See attached Comments*

RECOM./CRITERIA Return  
REVIEWER [Signature]      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

## The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: First Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Taylor County, FL

Reference Number: 150000210

#### Reason for Return

This nomination is being returned for technical and substantive revision.

The boundary for the property is drawn through the building. Please refer to page 56 of the national Register Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*: "Select boundaries that encompass the entire resource, with historic and contemporary additions." Please provide a boundary description that includes the addition to the church.

The addition is not addressed in assessing integrity. Please provide a more explicit description of the addition and an assessment of how it impacts the church's ability to convey its architectural importance.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at <[James\\_Gabbert@nps.gov](mailto:James_Gabbert@nps.gov)>.

Sincerely,

Jim Gabbert, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
5/7/2015



RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 2 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT  
Governor

KEN DETZNER  
Secretary of State

September 29, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
Department of the Interior  
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **First Methodist Episcopal Church, South (FMSF #8TA0112), in Taylor County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Desiree Estabrook".

Desiree Estabrook  
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration  
Bureau of Historic Preservation



Division of Historical Resources  
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) flheritage.com  
*Promoting Florida's History and Culture* VivaFlorida.org

