

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 1 - 1983

date entered JUL 28 1983

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 202 S. Second Street N/A not for publication

city, town Pulaski N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Giles 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	N/A 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 Elders (Trustees) of First Presbyterian Church

street & number 202 S. Second Street

city, town Pulaski N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38478

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Giles County Courthouse

city, town Pulaski state Tennessee 38478

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Giles County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 701 Broadway

city, town Nashville state TN 37203

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Constructed in 1882, the First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski is a one-story, brick building in an imaginative Victorian Gothic design. The church is located in Pulaski (pop. 6,983) in the southern section of Middle Tennessee which borders Alabama. The front elevation of the church is distinguished by two towers at the corners of the building and by a gabled entrance porch. On the interior the building has a vaulted plaster ceiling, lancet windows with stained glass borders, long pews with spindle railings and a large pipe organ. The church is on a relatively flat site and is connected by an enclosed breezeway to a brick education building constructed in 1962-64.

The First Presbyterian Church is situated one block southwest of the Pulaski Courthouse Square and adjacent to one of the earliest and best preserved residential areas of the town. Facing east the building has little formal landscaping except for foundation plantings and a row of mature trees along S. Second Street.

The church is constructed of common bond brick and is rectangular in plan with a gable roof. The principal features of the front (east) facade are two tall, narrow towers, a gabled entrance porch with finials, and a small rose window. The north and south facades have tall, narrow lancet windows between which are raked buttresses. The original west facade is now covered by a two-story 1926 brick addition with nine over nine windows and a hip roof.

The interior of the church contains a central aisle nave with original wooden pews. Each long bench has a spindle railing across the back and end panels with a trefoil pattern. The pulpit and choir are on a low dais behind which is an 1895 pipe organ. The vaulted and ribbed plaster ceiling has acorn pendants and five original brass gasoliers which have been converted to electricity.

The gable-roofed education building is constructed of common bond brick and has flanking and corner buttresses. There is a large tripartite, pointed-arch window on the front (east) facade and a small steeple on the ridge of the roof. Completed in 1964, the education building is connected to the rear of the church's south elevation by an enclosed breezeway with pointed arches. There are no other buildings on the nominated property.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1882, 1926 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance as a very skillful and original Victorian Gothic design of the 1880's. The building illustrates the creative freedom of the late Victorian period in the architectural juxtaposing of various materials, textures, colors, and details. The First Presbyterian Church is the oldest congregation in Pulaski, having been established in 1828, and the present building is the town's second oldest church structure.

The church roll carries the names of many of the early settlers of Pulaski and most of the important early business and civic leaders. These include Major and Mrs. Samuel Rogers, Judge and Mrs. L.M. Bramlett, Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Ballentine, and Mrs. Keenon.

The first building constructed by the congregation was an 1829 joint venture with the Masons and the Cumberland Presbyterians. On the first floor of the now demolished two-story brick structure was a sanctuary for both Presbyterian groups and on the second floor was the Masonic meeting hall. The congregation began construction of their own individual church in 1853 and moved into the unfinished building in 1855. This brick structure was razed in 1882 to make room for the current church.

The architect of the present building is unknown although considerable research has been done to uncover the person's name. It is known that a deacon of the church, Caleb Osborn, was given complete management and supervision over the construction of the new church. Whether the plans were his work or were acquired from someone else remains a mystery.

Among the investive features of the church are the placing of the towers diagonally at the corners of the front (east) facade and the southeast tower's being a shorter and smaller scale version of the northeast tower. The front facade is given further architectural interes and variety by the gabled central entrance with its tall finials and a small rose window. The exterior texture and color are heightened by brick corbeling, stone coping, wooden finials, and stained glass. Significant interior details include the vaulted plaster ceiling, brass gasoliers, and elaborate pews and other skillful woodwork. The building is one of the most architecturally creative churches in Middle Tennessee for the 1880's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Pulaski

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 16 497000 3894800
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Butler
Lloyd Ostby, Coordinator of Field Services

organization Giles County Historical Society
Tennessee Historical Commission

date February 1983

street & number P.O. Box 693
701 Broadway

telephone N/A
615-742-6723

city or town Pulaski
Nashville

state Tennessee 38478
Tennessee 37203

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.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Haysen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 6/27/83

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

J. Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

entered in the
National Register

date 7/28/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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First Presbyterian Church

Continuation sheet of Pulaski

Item number 9

Page 1

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

"Articles of Agreement" a contract for building the church and the Masonic Hall,
10 March 1828, Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church,
Montreat, N.C.

Butler, Margaret. Sesquicentennial History of First Presbyterian Church. n.p., 1978.

Giles County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

"Centennial", Pulaski Citizen, 11 July 1928.

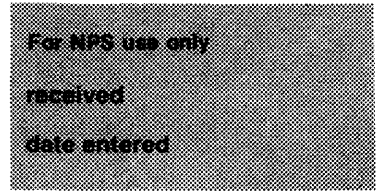
J.D. McCallum, manuscript notes in Historical Foundation

Minutes of Presbytery of West Tennessee

Record of the meeting of the Session of the Presbyterian Church, Pulaski.

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Continuation sheet First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski Item number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The nominated 170' x 175' lot is bounded on the north by Flower Street, the east by Second Street, and on the south and west by adjoining property lines. The boundaries include only the historic property associated with the church. There are no buildings on the property other than the church and the education building.



First Presbyterian Church
 202 S. Second Street
 Pulaski, Giles County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 100'

CITY OF PULASKI
 4.18 ACES

GILES COUNTY
 30

7-A

50'

2ND

STREET

3RD

NORTH

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

FLOWER

NORTH

COLLEGE

4TH

"C"

"E"5

"H"3

"H"10

27

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