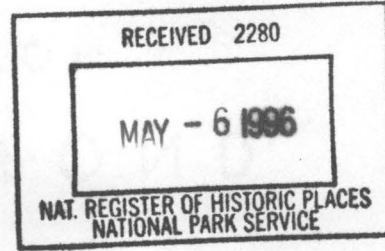


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

historic name: First Methodist Church

other name/site number: LA0023

=====

2. Location

street & number: NW Corner of Chestnut and 4th Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Lewisville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Lafayette code: AR 073 zip code: 71845

=====

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	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: Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945

=====
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. Slater _____ 4-15-96
Signature of certifying official 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 _____ G. R. [Signature] 6/20/96
_____ 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): _____

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 STONE roof Asphalt
 walls BRICK other Brick chimneys

Describe present and historic physical appearance. See continuation sheet.

Summary

Located at the northwest corner of Chestnut and 4th Streets in Lewisville, the First Methodist Church is a single-story, brick masonry church building with a two-story anteroom addition.

Elaboration

Located at the northwest corner of Chestnut and 4th Streets in Lewisville, the First Methodist Church is a single-story, brick masonry church building with a two-story anteroom addition. Its irregular plan (known as an Akron plan, named for the development in Akron, Ohio of the floor plan where the sanctuary is built with the pulpit platform in a corner of a square room and the Sunday School rooms and other ancillary spaces are "wrapped" around the sanctuary) is composed of a single-story section that wraps around the eastern and southern sides of the taller sanctuary section within, with the later anteroom section to the north or rear. Two narrow brick flues vent the interior at the northern end of the original section. The built-up tar roof and brick walls rest upon a continuous stone foundation.

The southern and eastern elevations are the principal elevations facing the intersecting streets that run past this corner lot. These facades meet at the building's southeastern corner, where three stone arches indicate the recessed corner entrance within. The stained glass windows to either side along the first story walls -- and in the upper wall sections of the sanctuary behind -- are all square-headed. A raised brick parapet caps all the walls on these elevations.

The brick addition on the rear steps down from east to west and is also capped with a raised brick parapet. It is fenestrated with later two-over-two windows and is otherwise unornamented.

The interior is in very good condition. The sanctuary retains most of its original detail, including the stained oak window and door trim, and the auditorium floor that descends toward the pulpit and choir.

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

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1913-1945 _____

Significant Dates: 1913 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Witt, Siebert & Co.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
___ See continuation sheet.

Summary

The First Methodist Church is associated with the historic context *Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945* by virtue of its direct associations with growth experienced in Lewisville as a result of the arrival of one of the railroads that played an influential role in the growth and development of Lafayette County.

Elaboration

Designed by the Texarkana architectural firm of Witt, Siebert & Co. in a restrained interpretation of the Classical Revival style, the First Methodist Church was constructed in 1913 for one of the larger religious congregations in the growing lumber town of Lewisville. For this reason the First Methodist Church is associated with the historic context *Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945* by virtue of its direct associations with growth experienced in Lewisville as a result of the arrival of one of the railroads that played an influential role in the growth and development of Lafayette County. It is thus significant under Criterion A as one of the few surviving church buildings in Lafayette County constructed during the boom in the timber industry brought on by the arrival of the railroad years before; it is

also significant under Criterion C as the best surviving example of a Classical Revival church building in Lewisville.

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

See Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945, Section H.

___ 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:

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

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

Table with 5 columns: UTM References, Zone Easting, Northing, Zone Easting, Northing. Rows A, B, C, D with numerical values and blank lines.

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the western edge of Chestnut Street with the northern edge of 4th Street, proceed westerly on said edge for a distance of approximately 150 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with 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 building's northern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line to its intersection with the western edge of Chestnut Street; thence proceed southerly to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically-associated with this resource that is known to retain its integrity.

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

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/29/96
Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 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
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000639

Date Listed: 6/20/96

First Methodist Church
Property Name

Lafayette
County

AR
State

Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Sal R. Fusjin
x _____
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/96
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Criteria Consideration:

The building is a religious property that derives its primary significance from architectural and historical themes unrelated to its religious associations (Community Development, Architecture). The property therefore meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A. [The justification of criteria considerations should be an explicit part of the nomination documentation. 16A-pp.44-46]

This information was confirmed with the Arkansas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Methodist Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Lafayette

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/21/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/06/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/20/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000639

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 _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The First Methodist Church is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture and Community Planning and Development. The impressive classical-revival building is a good representative example of the first substantial wave of "community building" and civic development that followed completion of local rail access to Lewisville and the subsequent establishment of a thriving local lumber industry. Based on a comprehensive survey of the community, the building reflects the best visual evidence of the large-scale community building programs and cultural/civic development efforts that occurred in town in the wake of turn-of-the-century railroad expansion. The property reflects the typical pattern of growth of commercial, industrial, and cultural amenities, which arose in response to the expanding economic vitality of railroad communities in the region. Architecturally, the building is a good representative example of Classical Revival-influenced ecclesiastical design.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIGNAN DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 6/20/96

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



1ST METHODIST CHURCH
LEWISVILLE, LAFAYETTE Co., AR

PHOTO BY H. BARRY

8/95

NEG. ON FILE AT ANPP

VIEW FROM SOUTH

LA0023



1ST METHODIST CHURCH
LEWISVILLE, LAFAYETTE Co., AR

PHOTO BY H. BARRY

8/95

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST

LA 0023



1ST METHODIST CHURCH
LEWISVILLE, LAFAYETTE Co., AR

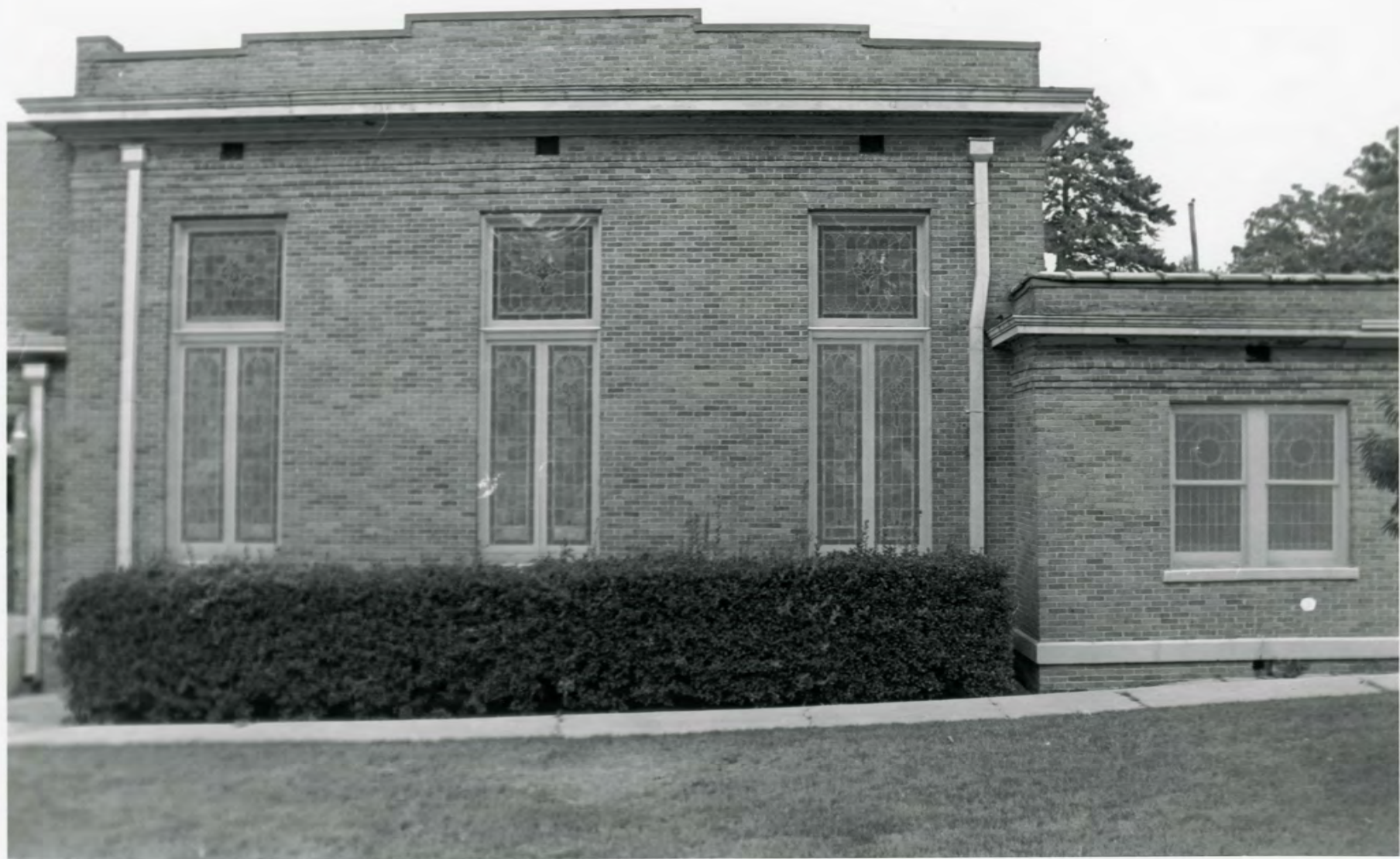
PHOTO BY H. BARRY

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NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SW

LA 0023



1ST METHODIST CHURCH
LEWISVILLE, LAFAYETTE Co., AR

PHOTO BY H. BARRY

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NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

EXTERIOR WALL DETAIL

LA 0023



1ST METHODIST CHURCH
LEWISVILLE, LAFAYETTE Co., AR

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INTERIOR DETAIL

LA0023



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INTERIOR DETAIL

LA0023



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INTERIOR DETAIL
LA0023



1ST METHODIST CHURCH
LEWISVILLE, LAFAYETTE Co., AR

PHOTO BY H. BARRY

8/95

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH

LA 0023

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500029