

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # 7
Shelby County

1. Name of Resource:
Simpsonville Methodist Church

2. Original Owner:
Simpsonville Methodist Church

3. Other Names:
United Methodist Church

4. Prehistoric Site x Building Object
Historic Site Structure Other

5. Location:
First Street, Simpsonville, KY

6. Owner's Name:
Simpsonville Methodist Church [P]

7. Owner's Address:
Simpsonville, KY 40067

8. Evaluation: National Register [N]

9. Recognition & Date:
Nat.Landmark _____ Local Landmark _____
Nat.Register _____ HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker _____ KY Inventory 8-15-80
KY Landmark Certificate

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:
District Name: []
Mult.Resource Area: Shelby County []
Thematic Name: []

12. Historical Theme:
Primary: Architecture [030]
Secondary: []
Other: []

13. Statement of Significance:
This property is significant under criterion C as the best example of the Victorian Gothic style as applied to religious structures in Shelby County in the late 19th century (1865-1900). Six brick church were identified from the period, and this is by far the most [C]

14. History:
Methodists in area served by circuit rider W. B. Kavanaugh from 1838-1840. First church built on this site in 1840 was brick with two front doors and the altar and pulpit between the doors at the front of the church. Pews were elevated. 32 members in 1842. Present structure built in 1876 at a cost of \$7500. 210 members from 1877-80. Known as Methodist Episcopal Church South at time of construction.

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person: Files, Shelby Co. Hist. Society.

16. Date:
Original Building 1876 [5]
Addition 1955 [2]

17. Style:
Victorian Gothic [41]

18. Architect/Builder:
Unknown

19. No. of Stories: 1 [1.0]

20. Original Floor Plan:
Nave [00]

21. Single Pile Double Pile N.A. x

22. Roof Form & Material: Original x
Gable, slate Not Original

23. Structural Material:
Brick [B]

24. Exterior Material:
Brick, 9-course common bond [B]

25. Foundation Material:
Stone, rough dressed [S]

26. Major Alterations: None
Moved/Rebuilt Other
x Additions

27. Special Features:
Polychrome slate roof

28. Outbuildings:
None [0]

29. Original Function:
Church/Religious [06A]

30. Present Use:
As above [06A]

31. Condition:
Excellent [E]

32. Endangered: Yes _____
No x

33. Attach Photos:
Roll: Photo Nos: No. of Slides:
11 6 - 11 1

34. Prepared by: C. Worsham

35. Organization: V, Shelby Co. Hist. Society

36. Date: March 1986

37. New Survey _____ Resurvey x

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38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Zone Easting Northing 39. G.I.S. Mod. []
 Quadrant: Simpsonville 16 644010 4231840 40. Coordi. Accuracy []

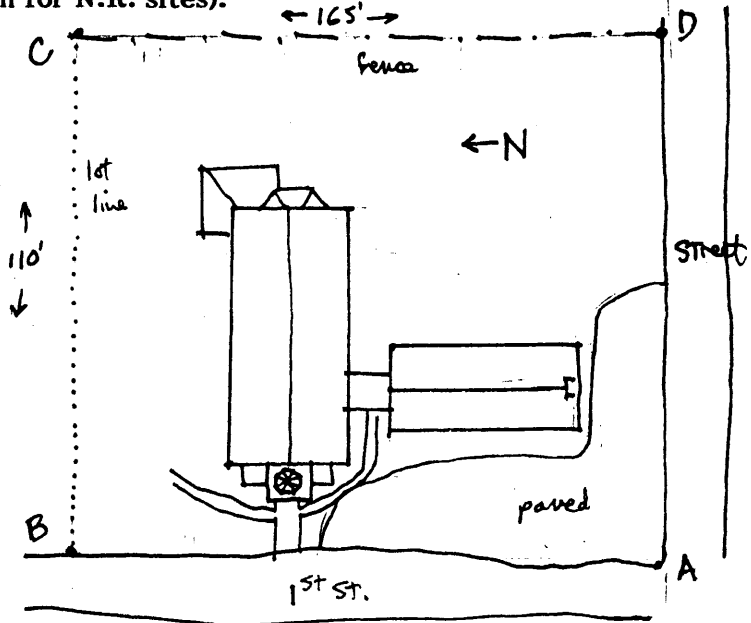
41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. ----- D. -----
 B. ----- E. -----
 C. ----- F. -----

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: lot 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: .41

44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):

Beginning at Point A, which is at the intersection of the east edge of First Street with the northern edge of a street defining the southern extent of the lot, north 165 feet along the east edge of First Street to lot line; east 110 feet along lot line to fence line at rear edge of lot; 165 feet south along fence line to the north edge of street; 110 feet west along edge of street to point of origin. Boundaries were chosen to incorporate the church and the lot it occupies.

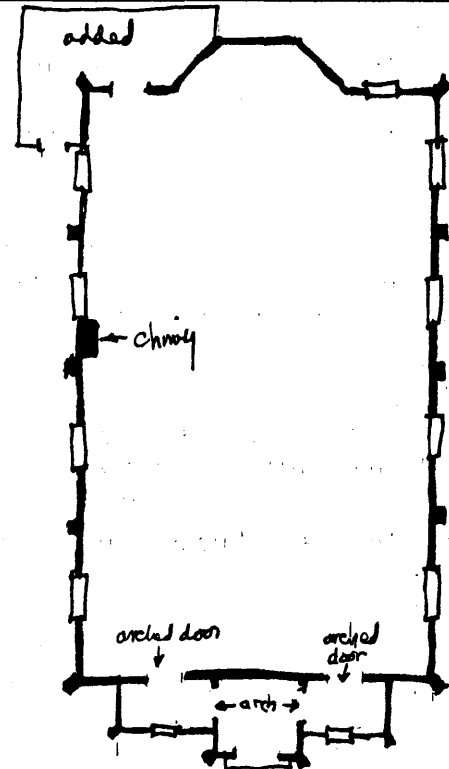


NOT TO SCALE

45. Description and House Plan:

Exterior:

1-story, brick Victorian Gothic 4-bay deep nave plan with central projecting square entry tower with low hipped roof and octagonal polychrome slate spire containing four pointed arch louvres. Tower flanked by shed-roofed (standing seam metal) blocks containing a single lancet window each and a gablet over each window. Side lancets are set in recessed panels divided by two-tiered buttress strips with stone caps. Lancets have brick drip molds. Corbel molds frame each side bay. Dentilled brick cornice. Projecting 3-sided apse on east wall. Tower has recessed panels and buttresses like those on sides of sanctuary. Central lancet window on tower has been bricked in. Small shed-roofed pastor's study added to northeast



13. Statement of Significance: (continued)

outstanding. Of note is the polychromatic slate roof and steeple (visible throughout the town), the central square entry tower with 1-story vestibule, the two-tiered buttress strips and lancet windows set in recessed corbelled panels, and the rear apse. The church is the most architecturally sophisticated structure of its type in the county. Interior intact and the building is well maintained. A 1955 addition connects with the church by means of a narrow passage thus allowing the church to maintain a quality of standing free from the new parish hall. Additions have not obscured the building form and detail

45. Description and House Plan: (continued)

corner at the rear of the church. A 1955 brick veneer gable-roofed parish hall is appended to the south of the church. Bands of polychrome roof slates are highlighted by chevron and diamond-shaped patterns.

Interior:

Pointed arches lead from entry tower to side vestibules. Interior largely intact. Original pews.

Outbuildings:

There are no outbuildings.

The nominated area contains one contributing building.