

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

574

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arlington Methodist Episcopal Church, South
other names/site number Arlington United Methodist Church

2. Location

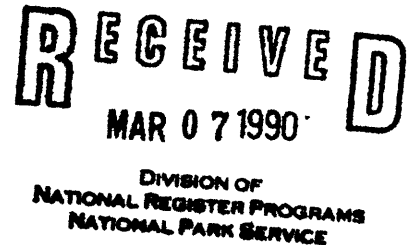
street & number Pioneer Road at Dogwood Drive
city, town Arlington (N/A) vicinity of
county Calhoun code GA 037
state Georgia code GA zip code 31713

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal



Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

2/28/90
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

**Entered in the
National Register**

- entered in the National Register Helene Byer 4/5/90
- determined eligible for the National Register _____
- determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- removed from the National Register _____
- other, explain: _____
- see continuation sheet _____

for _____
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

ROMANESQUE REVIVAL

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	asphalt
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Arlington Methodist Church is a red brick church built in the Romanesque Revival Style with two front towers of different sizes. The taller includes the main entrance into the sanctuary which is on a diagonal axis. Adjacent to the sanctuary is an "overflow", or reception area, with several smaller Sunday school rooms off it in the Akron Plan arrangement. This room is separated from the main sanctuary by original moveable panel doors. The sanctuary retains its original pews, art glass windows, and its octagonal, exposed-beam ceiling with pointed cross-vaults and tongue-and-groove paneling. The church rests on a city lot in the downtown area of Arlington, a small, southwest Georgia community, which is the largest city in the county. It is adjacent to a residential area, a block from the railroad and a block from the downtown commercial area. The other two modern church buildings, the original parsonage (c. 1957), now an educational building, and the fellowship hall (c. 1965), are off the nominated property. There have been very few changes to the main church building.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1908-1909

Significant Dates:

1908-1909

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

T. Firth Lockwood, Sr. of Columbus, Ga.

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Arlington Methodist Church, built in 1908, is significant in architecture as a good example of a turn-of-the-century use of the Romanesque Revival style for a church in a small, south Georgia town, especially after the style had been used extensively around the country in the late 19th century. The church is a very intact example of a major church in a small town and has had remarkably very few changes during its eighty years of occupancy. It remains the oldest church structure in the city of Arlington and is thus a true historic community landmark. The church's heavy, compact massing on the exterior, asymmetrical front towers, brick masonry construction, very simple detailing, round-arched window and door openings with brick "label" or drip moldings, diminutive or vestigial buttresses on the towers and original interior hammerbeam ceiling with exposed trusses as well as varnished tongue-and-groove paneling are important elements of this style. The church also is a significant example of the use of the Akron plan which transformed the historic Romanesque Revival church into a more modern one by providing access to a variety of smaller rooms as needed, adding a much more functional arrangement to this highly-traditional floorplan. The church is also significant as a work of T. Firth Lockwood, Sr. (1868-1920) of Columbus, Georgia, an architect noted for his churches, libraries, courthouses, schools and residences in southwest Georgia.

National Register Criteria

The Arlington Methodist Church meets National Register Criterion C, "distinctive characteristics of a type, period...or ...the work of a master" because it is a fine example of the adaptation in a small South Georgia town of the Romanesque Revival Style of architecture. This was one of the architectural styles which were most associated with churches both in Europe and the United States and thus this church was designed to "look" like a church should. There was no radical departure from what a congregation should expect. This church embodies the heavy massing on the exterior and the heavy use of wood beams in the ceiling on the interior, both of which are major elements of this style. The church is also the work of a well-known architect, T. Firth Lockwood, Sr., who had already established himself as a major regional architect. He had designed other major churches, such as the First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, and his reputation no doubt preceded him. His versatility and training allowed him to design the

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type of church the congregation wanted, whatever the style might be, or to offer to them any of several current, workable designs.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The church meets criteria consideration A because of its architectural significance as a community landmark in Arlington, since it is the city's oldest surviving historic church building, having been in continuous use for over eighty years. It is also represents one of two major faiths in the city, the other being the Baptists, and remains the only Methodist church building or congregation in town.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1908: Date of construction and completion.

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Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Arlington, Georgia, a prosperous southwest Georgia community, lies in Calhoun County. The entire area was not opened for official white settlement until the 1820s, but Calhoun County itself was not organized until 1853.

Arlington, chartered as a town in 1873, was incorporated as a city in 1880-1881, and served briefly as the county seat until 1929. At about the same time the town of Arlington was being chartered (1873) the Arlington Methodist Episcopal Church, South was chartered. The men who founded the church were some of the founders of the community. One married the daughter of the town's founder, J. E. Pepper. These men, J. B. Bostwick, W. A. Beckham, Ben and Chip Boynton, and J. B. Rawls were all early settlers and founders of the church.

The first services were held monthly in a small schoolhouse on the site of the present Oak Grove Cemetery. There Mrs. J. B. Bostwick started the first Sunday School for the congregation.

In 1876 the young congregation built its first church, a white wooden structure, at another location. This building survives elsewhere in town and is used as a house. After the congregation grew, they decided they needed a larger, more substantial structure at a different location.

During the ministry of Rev. W. E. Arnold the new church, the nominated property, was completed in 1908 at its present location. The building committee, as recorded on the cornerstone in 1908, consisted of: J. S. Cowart, Chairman; C. W. Sirmons; W. E. Bostwick; W. E. Saunders, and J. B. Lofton. H. A. Granger was the contractor and T. Firth Lockwood, Sr., of Columbus, Georgia, was the architect.

While the architect's name does not appear on the cornerstone, it was discovered by interviewing one of the older church members, who said the architect also built a few houses in town during the same period.

The church was completed in time to hold services there on Sunday, October 11, 1908. The first wedding recorded as having taken place in the new church was that of Mr. and Mrs. O. Powell on February 17, 1909. The church was formally dedicated on November 16, 1913 after all the building debts were paid.

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The church continued in the role of being the only Methodist church in the community with no doubt a large percentage of the town's citizenry being members. Most south Georgia communities had large numbers of Methodists and Baptists, with only small numbers of citizens belonging to other congregations.

This church's official name changed in 1939 when several branches of Methodism merged and the "Episcopal" term was dropped. In 1968 the name was further changed when Methodism adopted the term "United" as part of its official name and this church became the Arlington United Methodist Church.

A new Hammond organ was installed in 1947 but has since been replaced. The two auxiliary buildings, which are off the nominated property, but which serve this church were added in 1957 when the minister moved into a new brick parsonage which is still used adjacent to the church. In 1964-67 the Fellowship Hall was begun and it is still in use.

The sanctuary was reroofed in 1976-1977 and major restoration work on the exterior woodwork was also undertaken. In 1978 the sanctuary received new painting, a new carpet, new upholstery for the pulpit furniture, and new choir seats.

The church, the oldest church building still in use in the city, remains active as the only Methodist church in a town of 1,572 people (1980 census).

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mays, Susan Mason, wife of the minister, research submitted November 21, 1988 with floor plan; and subsequent telephone interviews.

McCook, Tom. "Noted Facts and History of the Arlington United Methodist Church, " 1979, copy submitted to file.

Historic photograph found in Minutes of the South Georgia Conference 1909, p. 36. Located at Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () 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:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 716000 Northing 3480320

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is just the city lot upon which the church sits and is marked on the enclosed map. The lot measures 100' by 65'. The adjacent auxiliary buildings are not on the nominated parcel.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the city lot upon which the original church was built and which has always been associated with this church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** February 19, 1990.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

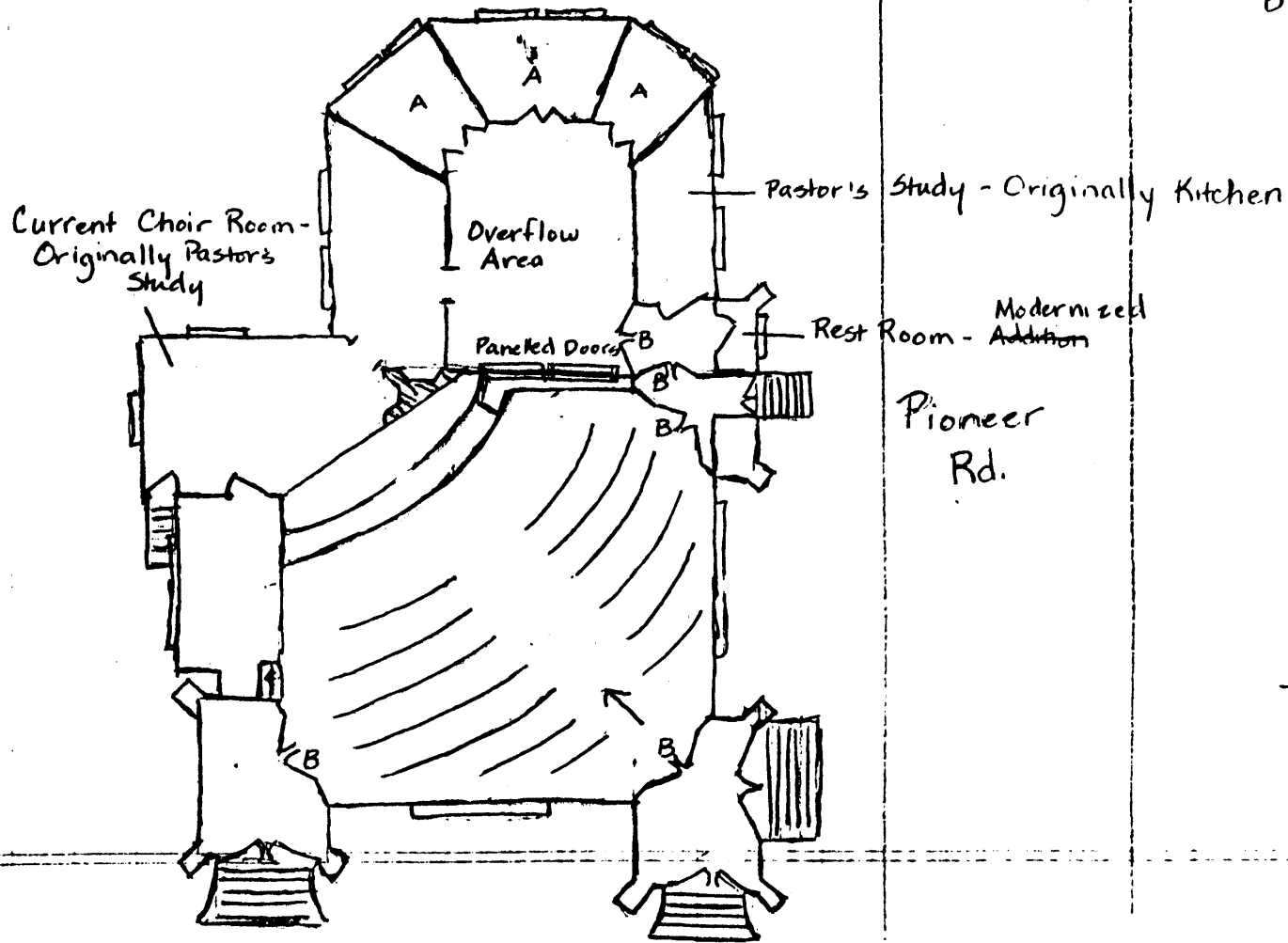
Section 10

Name of Property: Arlington Methodist Episcopal Church, South
City or Vicinity: Arlington
County: Calhoun
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June, 1989

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 9: Front facade (Dogwood Avenue side). Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 9: Front and north facades. Photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 9: Detail of windows on south facade. Photographer facing north.
- 4 of 9: Rear (west) and south facades. Photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 9: Sanctuary looking toward altar. Photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 9: Sanctuary looking toward entrance door. Photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 9: Sanctuary, ceiling detail.
- 8 of 9: Overflow area. Photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 9: Pastor's study (original kitchen). Photographer facing south.

Floor Plan
 Arlington Methodist Episcopal
 Church, South
 Arlington, Calhoun County, Georgia
 Scale: Not to scale
 Source: Drawn by Susan Mason Mays
 Date: 1988
 Key: The room usages are marked
 directly on the plan



A - Sunday School Rooms

B - Swinging Doors

3-2 Dogwood Ave.

Tax Map/Site Plan
 Arlington Methodist Episcopal
 Church, South
 Arlington, Calhoun County, Georgia
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 Source: Calhoun County Tax
 Assessors Office

Date: 1988

Key: The nominated property is located
 on parcels 65, 66 and 67 and is
 outlined by a heavy black line. The
 church is all that occupies this parcel
 which is 65' by 100'

