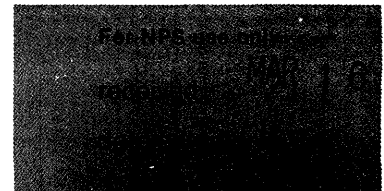


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 450 Randolph Avenue not for publication

city, town Elkins vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state West Virginia code 54 county Randolph code 083

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Trustees of Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church

street & number 450 Randolph Avenue

city, town Elkins vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Randolph County Courthouse

street & number Randolph Avenue

city, town Elkins state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Davis Memorial is a medieval-revival church built of a local granular conglomerate consisting of large, transparent quartz crystals bound in clay or silica. This beige stone is somewhat weathered, but is generally sound. The building consists of nave, its roof divided into fourteen-foot bays and spanned by wood trusses, an engaged tower, and a secondary, gable-roofed structure located perpendicular to the nave at the rear of the church property. The structure has two porches. The building was originally built in 1894 and 1895 after designs prepared by the Baltimore architect Charles E. Cassell. In 1921 an Akron plan Sunday School building was added to the north by Clarence L. Harding of Washington D.C. The style of the original structure was Gothic Revival complicated by Romanesque and eclectic influences, and the addition of 1921 was designed so as to be consonant with the original style and finish. The original church furniture was replaced in 1975.

One architecturally interesting feature of the building is the west window, five panels arranged in a unified composition. These either are the work of the Tiffany Studio or were built under Tiffany's influence. They, and especially the central window in this five-part composition, are plated and were composed of an unusually wide variety of glass types and colors.

The major changes in the building since 1921 have been the replacing of the pews and chancel furniture and the restoration of the tile roof in 1983.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1894-1895/1921      **Builder/Architect** Charles E. Cassell/Clarence L. Harding, Architects.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Architecturally, Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church belongs to the last phase of the nineteenth-century Gothic Revival, although the building also displays some influence of the Romanesque Revival. The church is not obviously related to the ecclesiastical Gothic of the pre-1865 period, but is, like most of the architecture of the nineties, eclectic to some degree. Despite such stylistic ambiguities, the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church is, with the Randolph County Courthouse, probably one of the finest medieval-revival buildings in the Potomac Highlands.

The social and religious importance of the building derives from its status as the parish church of of the culturally dominant Presbyterians, and as the memorial gift of Henry G. and Thomas B. Davis, wealthy New Yorkers interested in the development of Elkins and resident in the town during summer months. In late-eighteenth-century Virginia, Presbyterianism was the quasi-established faith of a prosperous majority, descended for the most part from the Scotch-Irish who had immigrated to the Valley beginning about 1745. The architectural quality, placement within the town--at the intersection of the main thoroughfare and the road that led to the Davis house (Graceland) and the Elkins house (Halliehurst)--and relatively expensive finishes and appointments of the church building image the cultural status of the congregation.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Board of Trade of Elkins, West Virginia. Elkins, West Virginia, November, Nineteen Six. Morgantown, West Virginia: Acme Publishing Company, 1906; rpt. Elkins, West Virginia: Randolph County Historical Society, 1975. P. 30.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/3 acre  
 Quadrangle name Elkins, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A	<u>1 7</u>	<u>5 99 9 0 0</u>	<u>4 30 9 14 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The church stands on a plot located in the southeast intersection of Randolph Avenue and Sycamore Street. Lot No. 44, measuring 140' by 100' by 90' by 70' by 125'; Assessor's map, Randolph Co., sheet no. 13, Elkins, WV,

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries June, 1963

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

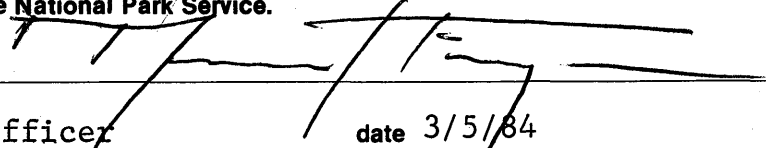
name/title James Patrick  
 organization Knight, Cain, Patrick date 11/15/83  
 street & number 213 Kerens Avenue telephone 304-636-3081  
 city or town Elkins, WV 26241 state West Virginia

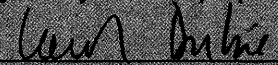
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/5/84

For NPS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 date 4/20/1984  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration