

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

10001000



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name First Methodist Episcopal Church, South

other names/site number First Methodist Church of Atlanta; Atlanta First United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 360 Peachtree Street, N.W.

not for publication

city or town Atlanta

vicinity

state Georgia

code GA

county Fulton

code 121

zip code 30308

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Rudyard Coates
Signature of certifying official/Title

10-19-10
Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

For Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12.7.2010
Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone: granite
Brick

walls: Stone: granite
Brick

Stone: limestone

roof: Slate imitation

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other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The church is located in downtown Atlanta on Peachtree Street, the city's historic main thoroughfare. The front façade faces east onto Peachtree Street towards the north section of Atlanta's central business district. This large 1903 church is built of Stone Mountain granite in the Gothic Revival style. The granite blocks are roughly hewn and of varying sizes. The roof is a non-historic slate imitation product. The main façade has two square towers, of unequal height, the taller of which is a bell tower. Three arched entryways are located on this façade--one central entry and one in each of the towers. The recessed wood doors have heavy strap hinges. The diversity of the Gothic style is reflected in the pointed-arch entryways, arched stained-glass windows, blind arcade above the central entryway, lancet windows, quatrefoils, pinnacles, and wall buttresses. Tiffany & Co. made two of the 16 stained-glass windows on the main level. The Mayer & Co. of Munich, Germany and the Von Gerichten Art Glass Co. of Columbus, Ohio made the rest of the windows. The interior has a spacious sanctuary with a semi-circular pew arrangement and gallery. The gallery is reached through stairs at either end of the vestibule. The gallery is located over the vestibule and extends to the pulpit wall on either side. In addition to the four original brass chandeliers, a central skylight and stained-glass windows provide light. A two-room brick annex, constructed in 1925, is located on the north side of the sanctuary. A two-story education building, completed in 1950, is located at the back of the sanctuary. This building houses classrooms, offices, and meeting rooms. A third-floor gymnasium was added to it in 1961.

Narrative Description

NOTE: The following physical description was written by Carol Colly, church historian, and edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. The original documentation from Ms. Colly is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South is a Gothic Revival-style church, designed by Willis F. Denny. The main facade of this 1903 church faces east onto Peachtree Street. Constructed of roughly hewn stone of varying sizes, the building creates a massive appearance. The front façade contains two square towers. The taller of the two, on the southeast corner, is the bell tower. Both towers have corner pinnacles and battlements. Each tower has a tall, pointed-arch recessed entry with a pointed-arch, double wooden door. The doors have six heavy, metal hinges. The door surrounds and quatrefoil panel above each door are wood. Arched stained-glass windows above the quatrefoil panel finish out the recessed entry. Granite steps and metal handrails lead to the entry doors (photographs 1, 3-6).

The central entry to the sanctuary consists of double wooden doors with wood side panels and stained-glass windows above the doors, all set in a granite pointed-arch hood molding supported by three Corinthian columns on each side. The stained-glass windows above the entry have the dates 1848 and 1903 on either side signifying the date of the first church building for the congregation and the date of this building. Six heavy, metal hinges are on the wooden doors. Granite steps with two metal handrails provide access to the central entry doors. Located above the central entry are four recessed pointed arches supported by

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Corinthian columns. Above that is a large stained-glass window set within a larger pointed arch. The window contains a central cross and quatrefoil emblems. One small round opening is centrally located above this large, recessed entry. A single pinnacle tops the gable roof on this façade (photographs 1, 3-6). In 2007 the roof on the sanctuary was replaced with an imitation slate product. This was to replace multiple asbestos and asphalt shingle roofs that had replaced the original slate roof at unknown dates. The product used in 2007 was selected to match the appearance of the original slate roof as much as possible.

The south elevation of the sanctuary has a large window bay with buttresses, which rises above the roofline and is capped by a triangular pediment and pinnacles. The bay contains stained-glass windows that mimic the windows above the central entry on the east façade. Three smaller bays contain recessed pointed arches with the same windows. A band of wood quatrefoil panels extends through all of the bays (photographs 2, 8). Further west along this elevation is an entry door that is reminiscent of the other arched entries. The concrete ramp was added in the 1970s (photograph 9).

The westernmost portion of the south elevation is constructed of the same roughly hewn stone and the watercourse continues along this section, which helps to visually tie this portion of the building to the front (photograph 10). A parapet caps this section (photograph 11). The window openings are rectangular. This portion of the building was reconfigured in 1948 as part of the Centennial Building construction project. The sanctuary was originally designed as an Akron plan, with a semicircular projection that housed offices and classrooms. In 1948 the semicircular projection was removed in order to construct an educational building, the Centennial Building.

The north elevation of the sanctuary mirrors the south elevation (photographs 13 and 14). The windowsills on all elevations of the sanctuary are granite. All of the exterior doors are original to the sanctuary.

Interior

A large vestibule is located inside the Peachtree Street entry. In 1959 an entry alcove was built inside the central entrance doors from Peachtree Street to the sanctuary to block sunlight and airflow. Four memorial stained-glass windows representing the four Gospel writers are in the alcove wall that faces the sanctuary (photographs 29-32).

Stairs to the balcony are located at both ends of the vestibule. Arches and quatrefoils motifs are repeated in the doors to the sanctuary (photographs 29-30).

The large sanctuary contains pews in a semi-circular arrangement with two central aisles. The pews face a central, rounded platform that contains the pulpit and, in a slightly elevated position, the pipe organ and choir loft. The platform was reconfigured in 2007. The paneling in the chancel area was replaced in 2007, but was made to match the original paneling. The pulpit is original to the sanctuary. It is carved with acanthus leaves, trefoils, and quatrefoils. The curved, oak pews are original to the sanctuary. The end of each pew is carved with arches and flowing stylized leaves. In 2007 two rows of pews were removed from the front of the sanctuary. The kneeling rail was dismantled and reused to construct the new rail. The original choir loft and a 1955 organ that included a false organ pipe facade were removed. An organ console storage chamber with hydraulic lift was constructed in the basement with a new expanded stage and choir area above. A new organ was fabricated and installed by A. C. Schlueter and Co. utilizing a combination of new components and older pipes from the 1885 organ that was located in the 1870 church building. An antiphonal organ section was installed in the rear of the balcony. As constructed, the new organ console can be removed from the stage when not needed (photographs 20-22).

The interior walls are plastered. Dark wood wainscoting and wood trim provide contrast to the lighter walls. The dark oak wainscoting around the side walls of the sanctuary has its original finish (photograph 27).

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Wooden supports for the balcony are carved with quatrefoil motifs. A decorative finial hangs on the bottom of the balcony at each support bracket (photograph 28). The carving on the front of the balcony matches the wainscoting (photograph 25). The balcony can be accessed from both sides of the vestibule. Part of the wood floor is uncovered on the balcony. The rest of the floors are covered with carpet. Access to the bell tower is by an open stairwell located on the balcony.

The ceiling has massive Gothic arches that spring from carved pilasters with gilded wood capitals (photographs 22 and 25). The support arches for the center dome of the sanctuary feature an open design of trefoils. All of these arches were originally natural oak, but were painted to match the color of the walls of the sanctuary (photographs 23, 24, and 26). A rose window in the center of the ceiling is accented by a square of beams and rafters. In 1925 a layer of hair felt (an insulation fabric similar to fiberglass) covered with artist's canvas was applied to the ceiling area of the sanctuary to improve the acoustics in the building. The area of the central dome was the only part of the ceiling not covered. This material is still in place.

Interior lighting is provided by four metal chandeliers, which are original to the sanctuary. Each of these hangs from the ceiling by a combination of eighteen metal chains. Each fixture has five lights covered with white glass globes. The outer ring of each chandelier features an open design of quatrefoils and trefoils. In 2007 the chandeliers were connected to a winch system for ease of maintenance (photographs 20-24). Other lighting is provided by metal sconces, which are original to the sanctuary. They are located along the perimeter walls on the first floor and balcony levels. The sconces on the first floor have five arms and fleur-de-lis and leaf motifs. The balcony level sconces have three arms and similar motifs. There are six sconces on each level (photographs 25, 26, and 28).

The stained-glass windows in the sanctuary are from several glassmakers. All of the windows were made for the building (photographs 24-27). The sixteen windows on the main floor of the sanctuary are all memorial windows that depict scenes or people from the Gospels. The one exception is the "Rock of Ages" window on the north wall. This window shows a woman clinging to the cross in a storm. Fourteen of the windows were made by Mayer & Co. of Munich, Germany. Most of Mayer & Co.'s records were lost in World War II, but two of the sanctuary windows are documented in the records that survived, including "Christ Blessing the Children" and "The Ascension." The two remaining windows, "St. John" and "St. Paul," are attributed to Tiffany & Co. These windows are not signed, but experts from a Virginia stained-glass company, Lynchburg Stained Glass, believe that Tiffany & Co. manufactured them. These windows are located on the north wall.

The seventeen windows on the balcony level are all by Mayer & Co. Two of the windows are signed. The main windows are all flowers and plants of the Holy Land. The windows on the south wall are memorial windows, whereas the windows on the north wall are not. The center four windows on both walls have arches that reach to the ceiling. In both of these arches the glass is framed with two quatrefoils and a cross at the top. On the south wall the stained-glass in the quatrefoils represents the "Alpha" and "Omega." The north wall quatrefoils are representations of the "Rose of Sharon." The four windows below the quatrefoils in each arch are triangular in shape and represent stylized pomegranates on stalks with leaves. In the balcony facing the chancel area is an arched window that matches the arched part of the north wall window.

The rose window in the dome is by Von Gerichten Art Glass Company of Columbus, Ohio. This company also manufactured the windows in the stairwells on the north and south sides of the church. Additionally, they fabricated the panels over the main front doors on Peachtree Street (east), the panel over the entrance door from Porter Place (south), and the panels over the doors from the stairwells to the balcony.

On December 18, 1977, following the morning service, an angry visitor threw rocks and bricks through 27 of the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. Five of the windows were badly damaged. Winterich & Associates of Cleveland, Ohio, restored the windows. Plexiglas was placed on the outside of all of the stained-glass windows after that to protect against future damage from outside. In 2007 Lynchburg Stained Glass repaired and cleaned many of the windows that had deteriorated since their installation in 1903.

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The doors in the stairwells from the two towers to the balcony, from the narthex to the main floor, and from the old pastor's office and Porter Place entrance are also original. All of the doors are carved wood and have the original metal hardware. The back plates on the main doors have a motif reflecting the arches in the doorways topped with a representation of the finials on the roof of the building. The doorknobs have a pattern of trefoils on them. The carved designs on the doors vary. Some have arches with trefoils and others have quatrefoils carved on the panels (photograph 31).

Some of the original chairs are still in use. Two are used in the chancel area, one in the archives room, and two others are stored in a conference room next to the sanctuary for use when extra seating is needed in the chancel area. The cushions on all of the chairs are handmade needlepoint copies of five of the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary and date to 1987. The chairs are decorated with carved acanthus leaves, quatrefoils, and trefoils and match the pulpit and original altar table. The finials on the three larger chairs are copies of the finials on the roof of the sanctuary building (photograph 22).

Annex Building

A two-room Sunday school annex building, constructed in 1925, is located on the north side of the church (photographs 15-16). Plans to construct a one-story annex building were approved in May 1925. The building has a granite foundation and walls. It was constructed so that additional stories could be added in the future if needed. Originally, it had three classrooms when it opened in October 1925. In 1941 the center classroom was removed and the other two rooms enlarged. In 1944 the congregation made plans to build a new Sunday school building and demolish the annex, however due to financial problems that did not happen.

Part of the west end of the annex was demolished in 1948 and a new red brick wall that matched the Centennial Building was constructed on that elevation. The windows on the west elevation were also changed at that time. The building is currently used for storage. The annex is a contributing building.

Centennial Building

The Centennial Building, located west of the sanctuary and now referred to as the Education Building, consisted of two floors, with a basement boiler room, when it was completed in 1950. The building has two wings and a central section. The south wing is faced with Indiana limestone, while the north wing and central section are faced with red brick (photographs 11, 15-17). The Centennial Building was officially dedicated on December 27, 1953.

The south elevation of the Centennial Building contains a centrally located door with symmetrically placed windows on either side. Windows on the top two floors are similarly spaced. Windows on this building are casement windows with hood molding and concrete sills and surrounds (photograph 11). Some of the windows on the first floor have been replaced with aluminum windows in order to comply with current city code for daycare usage.

On the west elevation the building abuts the parking lot and an open arched entry leads to a small plaza area on this side of the building. A small stone and brick wall protects pedestrians from the adjacent parking lot. Entry to this building on the west elevation is through a pointed-arch entry door (photographs 18 and 19). The brick portion of this building has casement windows, but in the center portion there is no hood molding on the lower two floors. In 1961 a third floor was added to both wings and the central section of the existing Centennial Building. This additional floor contains classrooms, a gymnasium, and a small kitchen. The building became known as the Education Building at this time (photographs 37-39, and 41). The interior is utilitarian with concrete block walls and carpet on the floor. Windows on the gymnasium level are much taller than the lower floors and have hood molding (photograph 17).

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In 2002 an elevator was added to the Centennial Building. The elevator shaft was added to the back of the north wing and faced with red brick to match the previous construction. The elevator serves all three floors of the building (photograph 17). The Centennial Building is a contributing building.

Landscape

Due to its downtown setting in a major urban center, landscaping is minimal. The church abuts the sidewalk on the east and south elevations. Parking lots and other buildings surround the church. The style of the church is in contrast to the mostly modern buildings that surround it. There are two historic buildings, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Imperial Hotel, located across the street from this church (photograph 44).

One large tree in a small grass lawn shades the east façade of the sanctuary. Two large decorative concrete planters were added on either side of the central entrance (Peachtree Street side) to the sanctuary in 1993. These planters were given in honor of the Henry Grady Sunday School Class and its members and teachers. There is a memorial plaque for the planters on the inside of the main doors. A large granite and concrete sign was placed in the front of the property at Peachtree Street and Ivan Allen Boulevard in the 1990s. The sign has "First United Methodist Church 1847" engraved on both sides (photograph 7).

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1903 - 1950

Significant Dates

1903 – Sanctuary constructed

1925 – Annex constructed

1948-1950 – Centennial Building constructed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Denny, Willis F. (architect)

Cooper, Bond & Cooper (architect)

Donaldson & Pearson (builders)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance dates from the construction of the sanctuary in 1903 to 1950, the date of the Centennial Building.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South meets Criteria Consideration A because it is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, South is significant at the local level in architecture as an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style in the Atlanta metro-area. Designed by a leading Atlanta architect, Willis F. Denny, the church was constructed in 1903 on land that the congregation purchased just north of the downtown Atlanta business district.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The church is significant in architecture as an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style. The diversity of the Gothic style is reflected in the pointed-arch entryways, arched stained-glass windows, blind arcade above the central entryway, lancet windows, quatrefoils, pinnacles, and wall buttresses. Interior features include pews, doors, sconces, and chandeliers with trefoil and quatrefoil motifs and a Gothic-arched ceiling. The architect, Willis F. Denny, was a leading architect in Atlanta before his untimely death in 1905. In addition to this church, which many consider to be his finest, Denny designed several other ecclesiastical buildings in Atlanta including Saint Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church on Peachtree Street and the Inman Park Methodist Church. His commercial designs include apartment buildings, hotels, and the Jefferson County Courthouse among others. Many Atlanta residences, including Rhodes Hall on Peachtree Street and the Victor Kriegshaber House on Moreland Avenue, were also designed by Denny. Cooper, Bond & Cooper, an Atlanta architectural firm formed in 1945, designed the 1950 addition. Cooper, Bond & Cooper designed many buildings on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, as well as many commercial buildings in Atlanta.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following historic context was written by Carol Colly, church historian, and edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. The original documentation from Ms. Colly is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Methodists were among the first to build a house of worship within the city limits of Atlanta. They built a small frame church on Peachtree Street at Luckie Street in 1848, the year that Atlanta incorporated as a city. After the Civil War, the congregation built their second church on Houston Street in 1870. As Atlanta began its push northward in the early 20th century, the congregation purchased property a few blocks north of their Houston Street location and hired noted Atlanta architect Willis F. Denny to design their new church. The builders were Donaldson & Pearson. The congregation is considered the "Mother Church" of Methodism for Atlanta and was instrumental in helping start other Methodist churches in the area.

First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, today known as Atlanta First United Methodist Church, was founded in 1847 and met in a small log building at the center of what was to become the city of Atlanta. The building was known as the Union Sabbath School and was used by all of the Christian denominations on weekends and during the week it was used as a school. In 1848 the Methodists raised \$700.00 and built their own

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church building, Wesley Chapel, on a lot surrounded by Peachtree, Pryor, and Houston streets near the Union Sabbath School. In 1850 the Wesley Chapel congregation purchased a bell and built an adjacent tower to house the bell. When the Civil War began, most churches gave their bells to be melted down for the war effort. The city fathers of Atlanta requested that Wesley Chapel retain its bell since it was the most centrally located church in the city. The bell was used to notify the public in case of emergencies such as fire, call the children to school, and for many other uses. In September of 1864 the bell was rung to alert the citizens of Atlanta that General William Sherman and the Union Army were on the outskirts of the city. Wesley Chapel and its bell survived the bombardment and burning of Atlanta. The members of the church repaired the building and continued to use it after the war.

By 1870 following Atlanta's rapid growth at the end of the Civil War, the congregation of Wesley Chapel had outgrown their small building. In that year construction began on a new building on church property located next to Wesley Chapel, where the Candler Building stands today. When the cornerstone was laid on September 1, 1870, the name of the church was officially changed to the First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Atlanta. The new structure had a spire of 180 feet with two pinnacles of 90 feet on either side. The bell from Wesley Chapel was moved to the bell tower in the new church and in 1885 an organ was given to the church. Wesley Chapel was demolished soon after the congregation moved to the new building in 1871.

In 1879 the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was held at the church. During this meeting the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was formed, a group that still exists today as the United Methodist Women. The church membership continued to grow along with the post-Civil War growth of the city of Atlanta.

In 1902 the church had again outgrown its building and increased traffic on Peachtree and Houston streets created a noise problem during the summer months when the church windows had to be open. Property was purchased from Samuel H. Venable at 360 Peachtree Street. Bishop Warren Candler opposed moving the church to this location north of downtown since it was not in the downtown business district, but in a residential area. The church leaders went against the bishop's opposition and began plans for the church building. Native Georgian Willis F. Denny was chosen as the architect to design the building and Donaldson & Pearson Company was hired to do the construction. Denny designed a Gothic Revival-style building that is faced with Stone Mountain granite.

The cornerstone was laid on April 18, 1903 and the congregation moved into the building on December 1 of that same year. The 1850 bell and the 1885 organ from the prior church buildings were placed into the new building.

The sanctuary was originally designed as an Akron plan, with a semicircular projection that housed offices and classrooms. The Akron plan features a large open space or rotunda that is surrounded by classrooms that open onto the rotunda space by means of folding doors or shutters. The size and shape could be adapted to fit the size of the congregation. The Akron plan developed in the 19th century in response to the country's growing educational movement. With the growth of public education by the mid-19th century, Sunday school consisted primarily of religious instruction. The design was named for the city of Akron, Ohio, where the plan was first used in a Methodist church in the 1860s. Today some of these plans still exist in churches, but most have been modified to accommodate today's needs.

Many of Atlanta's leading citizens called this congregation their home and many of the stained-glass windows were dedicated in their honor. The congregation continued to grow for the first quarter of the twentieth century but started to decline with the Great Depression and growth of suburbs in the 1930s. Closing the church and combining it with Peachtree Road Methodist Church was considered in 1938 to form a new church in the Buckhead area of Atlanta. This move was approved at the quarterly conferences of both churches. Bishop

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Arthur J. Moore opposed the proposed move, and the plan was dismissed. In December of 1940, Bishop Moore sent C. Pierce Harris to be the new pastor at Atlanta First. The congregation immediately began to grow. Most of the new members were young people attracted by the sermons of Dr. Harris and the music of Rev. Harry Armstrong, the music director. Dr. Harris' night services became a favorite for this age group and grew even more popular with the end of World War II. During his tenure the physical plant of the church was expanded and the Centennial Building constructed. The church membership continued to grow through the ministry of Dr. Harris (1940-1965) and the early years of his successor, Dr. Robert V. Ozment.

By the 1970s the phenomenon of "urban flight" had caused a steady decline in the membership of the church. This decline continued through the next three pastors and the night service was discontinued. In 2007 Dr. Jim Ellison was assigned to the church and since that time there has been a slow but steady growth in the membership. On March 2, 2008 the night service was reinstated in the guise of a contemporary service. This service is geared to the young adults that are beginning to move back into the downtown Atlanta area into the new residential buildings that are being constructed in this area of the city.

Atlanta First has been called the "Mother Church of Methodism in Atlanta" because of its history. Other Methodist churches in the city including Trinity (1853), Evan's Chapel (1852), Payne's Chapel (1855), St. Paul's (1868), Merritts Avenue, now St. Mark's (1876), Park Street (1882), Grace Church (1883), and Asbury Church (1886) grew out of this congregation. The congregation has been involved in a variety of local social welfare and outreach missions throughout its history. It continues that tradition today.

In 1939 Atlanta First became the First Methodist Church of Atlanta. In 1968 the name was changed to Atlanta First United Methodist Church. These name changes reflect changes in the Methodist Church of the United States.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Colly, Steven, Ed. *The Memorial Stained Glass Windows of Atlanta First United Methodist Church*. Atlanta, GA: Atlanta First United Methodist Church, 2006.

Forsyth, William H. and Jeanette Watters. *A History of The First Methodist Church of Atlanta, Georgia 1847-1989*. Atlanta, GA: Baker Printing Co., 1989.

Glenn, Rev. W. F. *Membership Manual Directory and History of the First M. E. Church, South, Atlanta, Georgia 1887*. [Atlanta, GA]: First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1887.

King, Mary Allen. "History of First Methodist Church, Atlanta Georgia." Unpublished paper in the archives of Atlanta First United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA, 1952.

Mitchell, Peggy. "First Methodist Started in a Log Cabin." *The Atlanta (GA) Journal*, July 15, 1923.

Ogletree, David and Helen Upchurch. *The Memorial Windows of Atlanta's First Methodist Church*. Atlanta, GA: Atlanta First Methodist Church, 1978.

Rice, Frank P. "The First Church of Atlanta." *History of Atlanta and Its Pioneers*. The Pioneer Citizens' Society, 1902.

"Stained Glass Window Dedication." *The First Methodist Messenger* (May 22, 1959).

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Willis, Ken. "Windows are Smashed in Downtown Church." *The Atlanta (GA) Constitution*, December 19, 1977.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>742,062</u>	<u>3,739,098</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Speno

organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of October 2010
Natural Resources date

street & number 254 Washington Street, Ground Level telephone 404-651-5911

city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30334

e-mail lynn.speno@dnr.state.ga.us

First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Name of Property

Fulton, Georgia
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: First Methodist Episcopal Church, South

City or Vicinity: Atlanta

County: Fulton State: Georgia

Photographer: James R. Lockhart

Date Photographed: October 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Main or east façade of building; photographer facing west.
2. South elevation of building; photographer facing northwest.
3. Main or east façade of building; photographer facing west.
4. Main or east façade of building; photographer facing west.
5. Main or east of building; photographer facing southwest.
6. Main or east of building; photographer facing southwest.
7. Main or east of building; photographer facing southwest.
8. South elevation of building; photographer facing north.
9. South elevation of building, close-up of door; photographer facing north.
10. South elevation of building; photographer facing northwest.
11. South elevation of building; photographer facing northeast.
12. Main or east façade of building; photographer facing west.
13. North elevation of building; photographer facing southwest.
14. North elevation of building; photographer facing southwest.
15. Annex and Centennial Building; photographer facing southwest.
16. North elevation of building, annex, and Centennial Building; photographer facing south.
17. Rear or west elevation of building; photographer facing east.
18. Centennial Building; photographer facing north.
19. Centennial Building; photographer facing east.
20. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing west.

First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Name of Property

Fulton, Georgia
County and State

21. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing west.
22. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing west.
23. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing northeast.
24. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing east.
25. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing north.
26. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing south from balcony.
27. Interior sanctuary - close-up of stained-glass window; photographer facing south.
28. Interior sanctuary; photographer facing northeast.
29. Interior vestibule looking towards staircase and sanctuary; photographer facing west.
30. Interior vestibule staircase and bell pull; photographer facing up.
31. Interior entry door from vestibule to exterior; photographer facing east.
32. Interior vestibule; photographer facing north.
33. Interior side entry hall; photographer facing east.
34. Interior hallway between sanctuary and Centennial Building; photographer facing west.
35. Interior Centennial Building; photographer facing southeast.
36. Interior from connector to Centennial Building; photographer facing northwest.
37. Interior Centennial Building - gymnasium; photographer facing west.
38. Interior Centennial Building - office; photographer facing east.
39. Interior Centennial Building - hallway; photographer facing east.
40. Interior Centennial Building - staircase; photographer facing east.
41. Interior Centennial Building - library; photographer facing east.
42. North elevation of sanctuary and south elevation of annex; photographer facing east.
43. West elevation of sanctuary and north elevation of Centennial Building - junction of two buildings; photographer facing southeast.
44. Peachtree Street; photographer facing south.

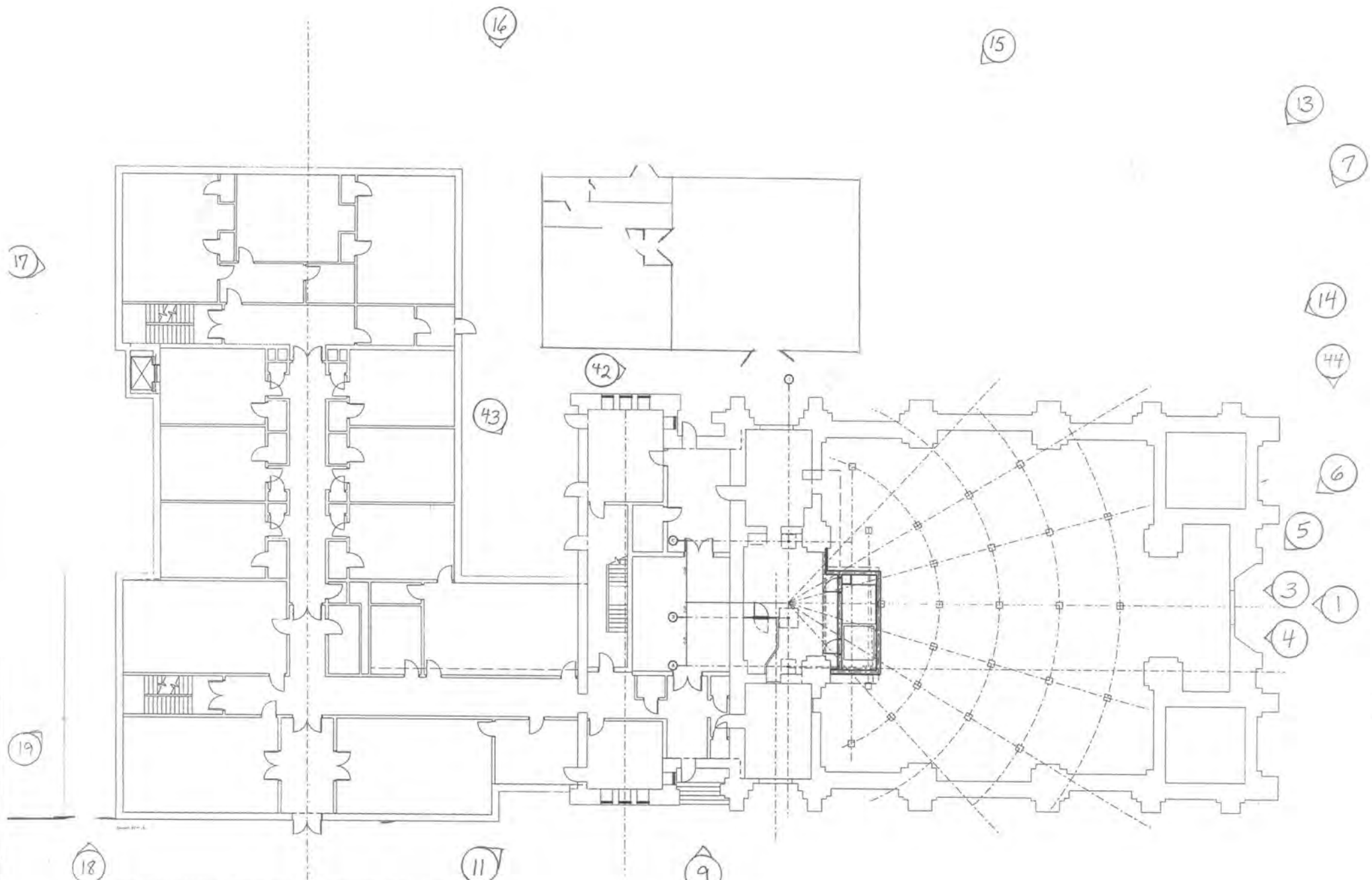
Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Atlanta First United Methodist Church
street & number 360 Peachtree Street telephone 404-524-6614
city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30308

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



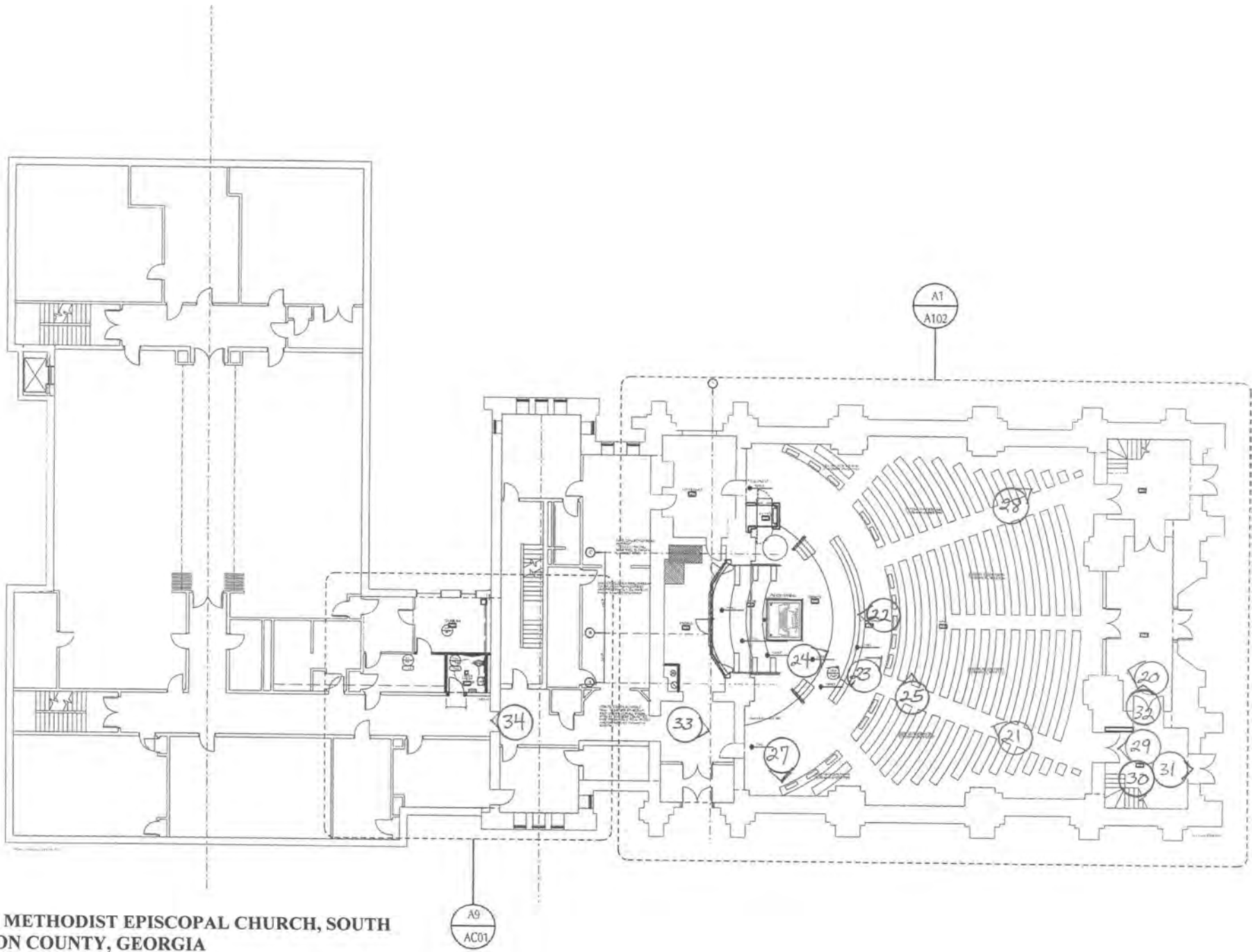
**FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
 FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
 EXTERIOR PHOTO KEY**

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: Not to Scale

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: (1) →

(2)
(12)



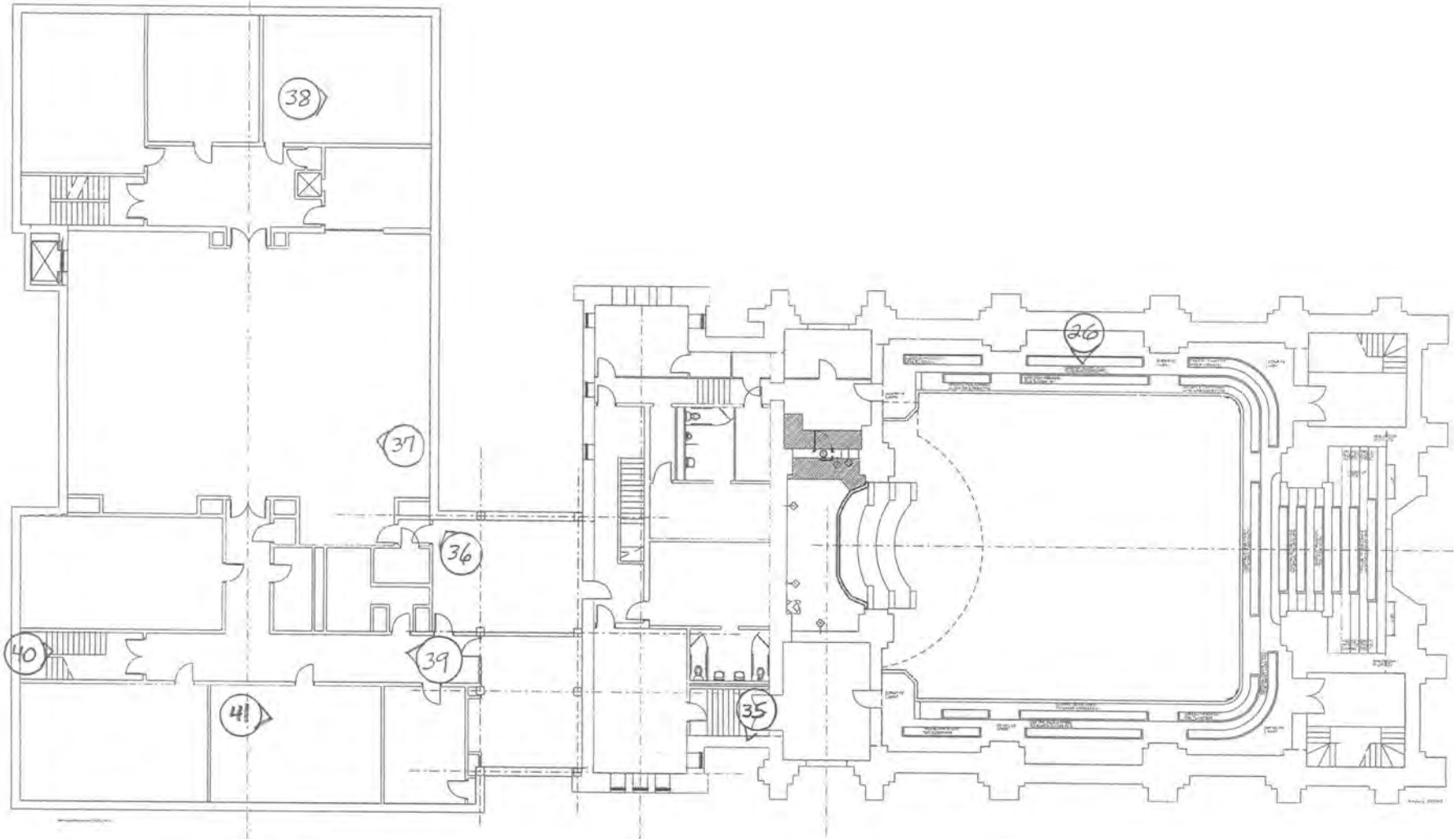
**FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
 FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: Not to Scale

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW:





**FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
 FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SANCTUARY BALCONY
 THIRD FLOOR EDUCATION BUILDING**

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: Not to Scale

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: (1) →

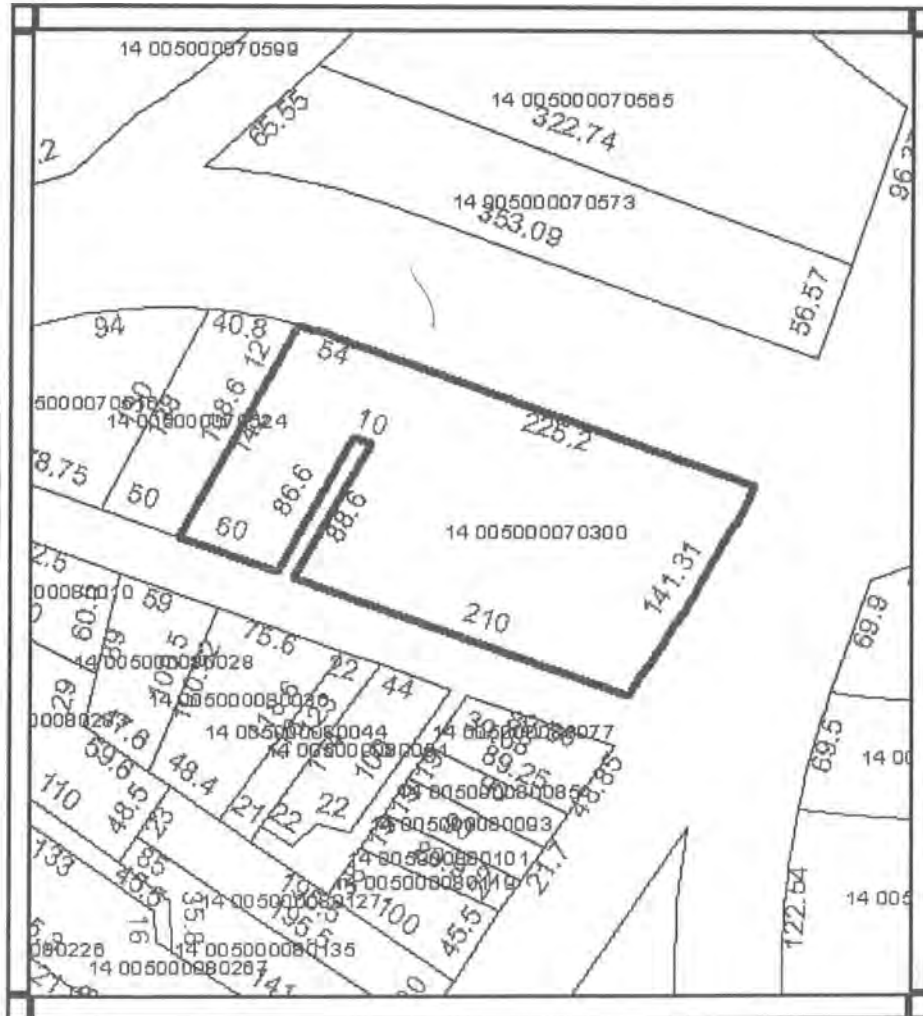
**FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/PLAT MAP**

National Register Boundary: **—————**

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: 1 inch = 111 feet

SOURCE: FULTON COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR



GIS Data
Last GIS Data Update: 9-Aug-2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Fulton

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/22/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/07/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/07/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001000

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 12-7-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

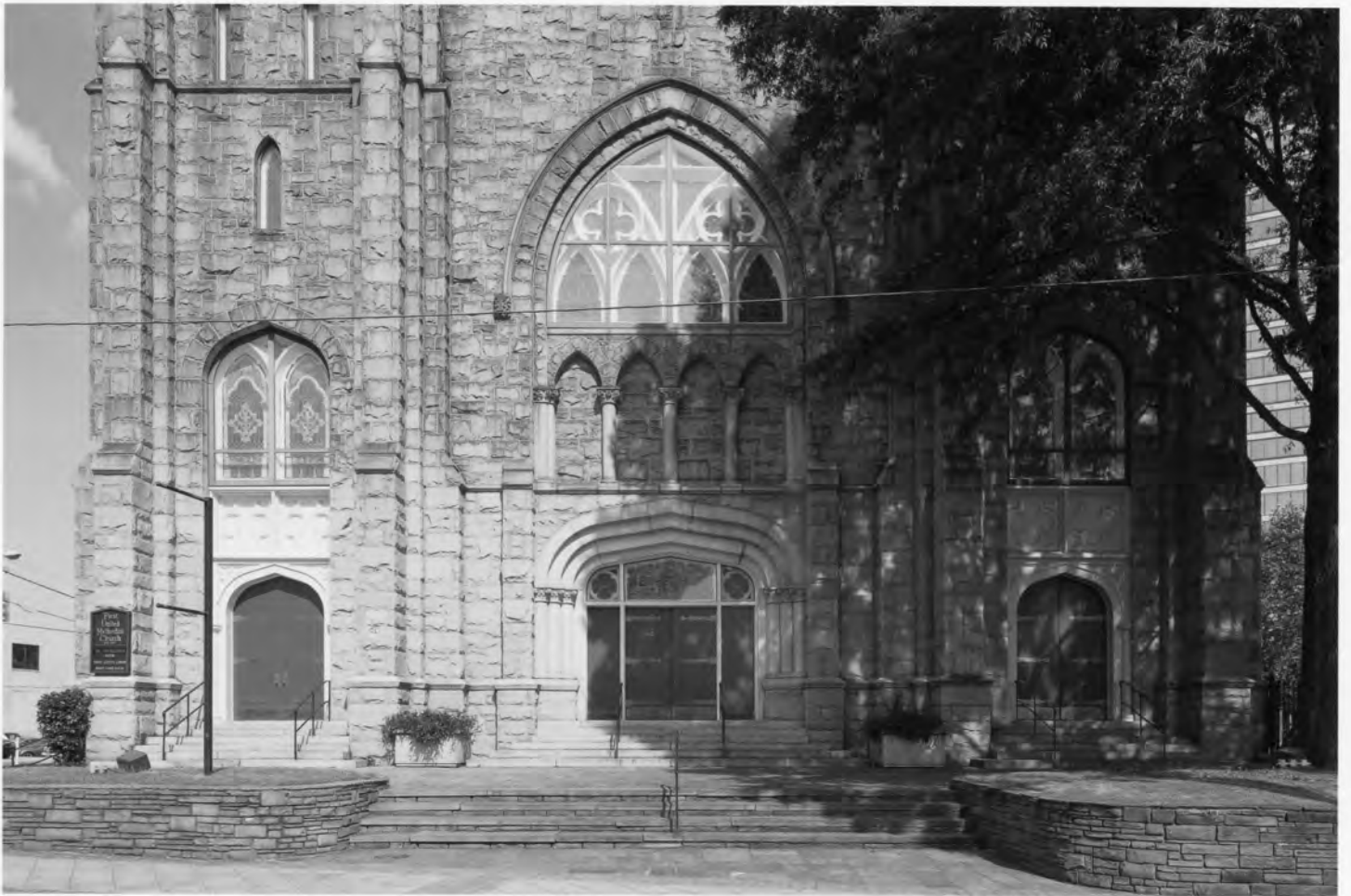
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



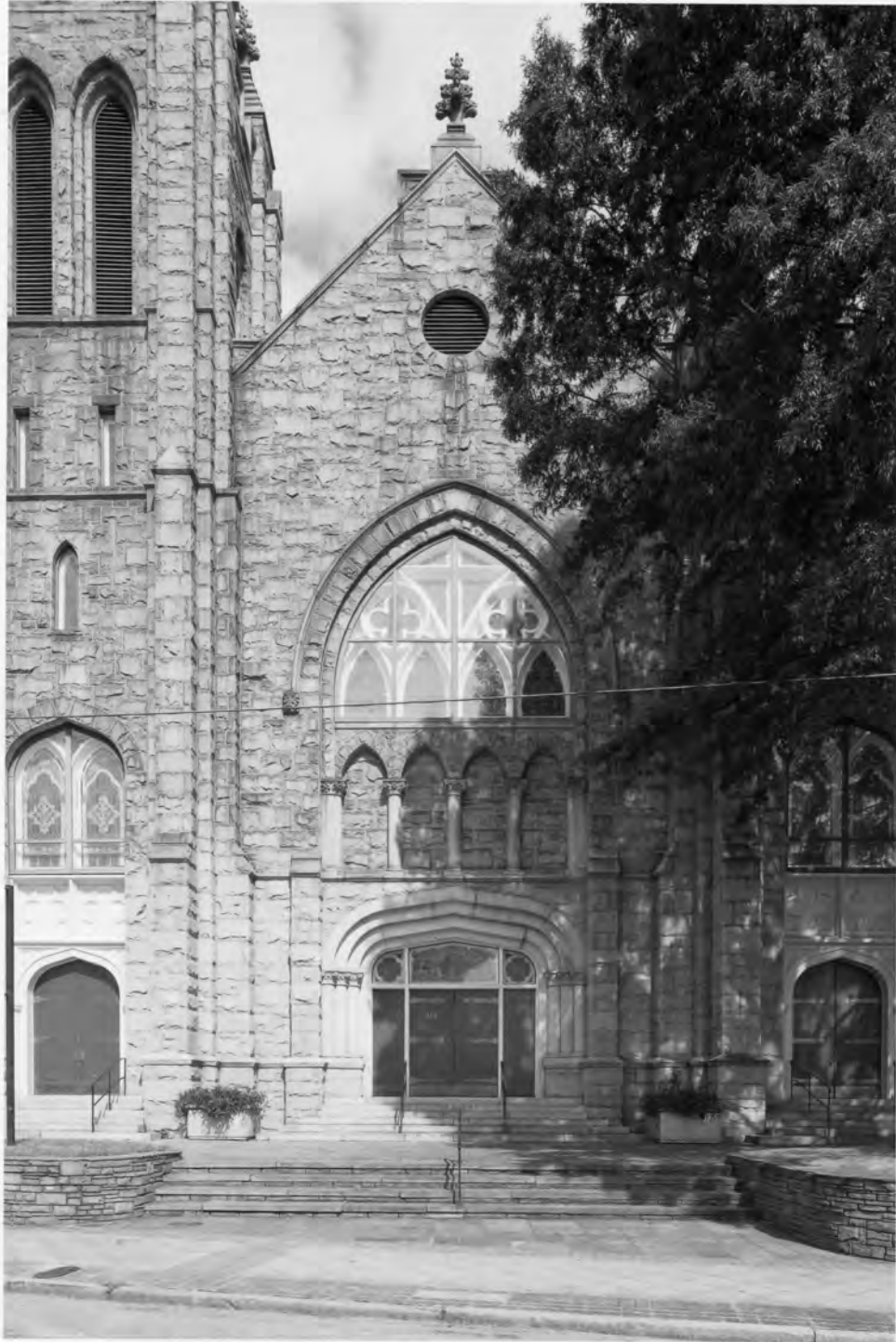
First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 1 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 2 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 3 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 4 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 5 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 6 of 44



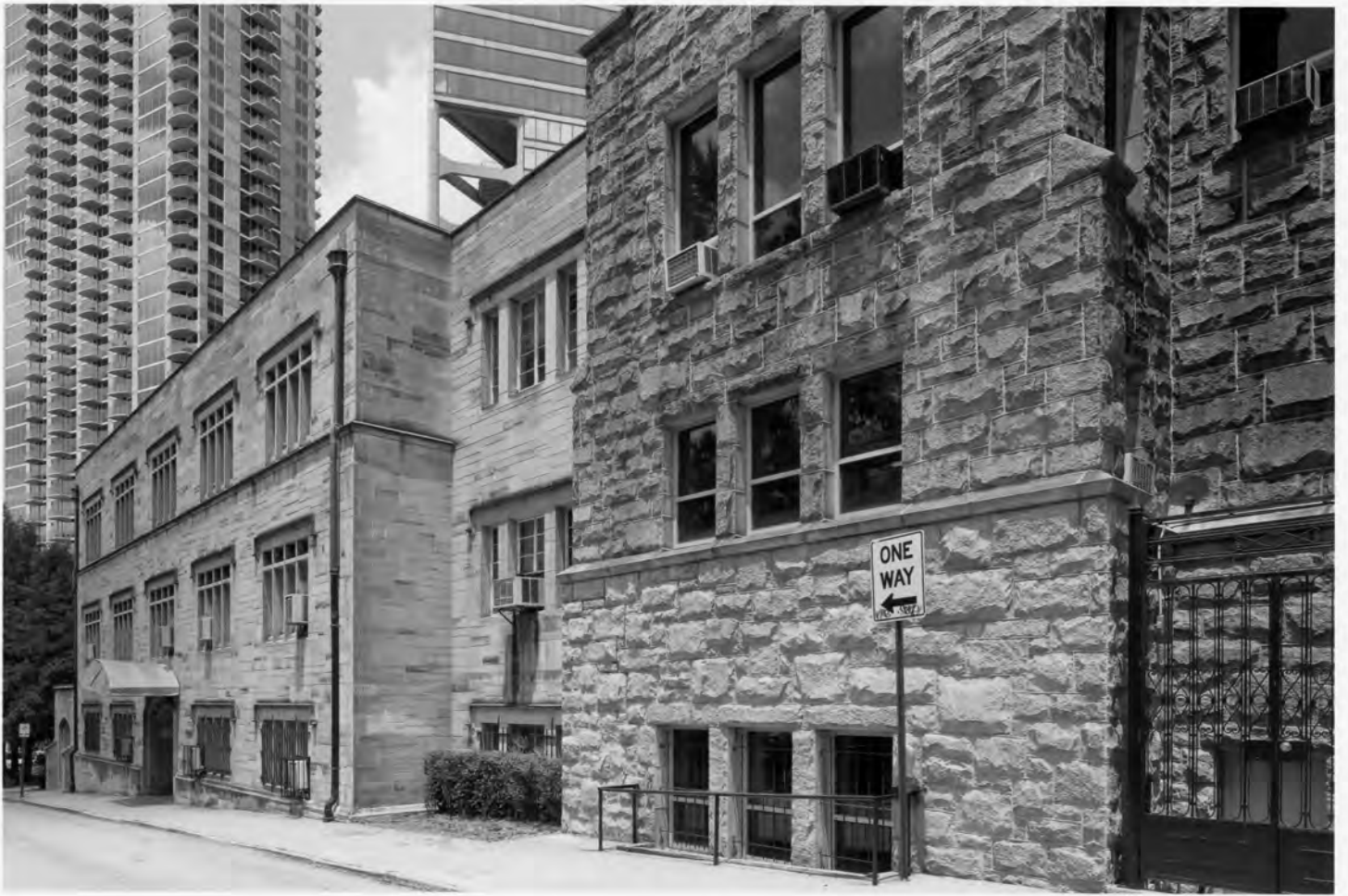
First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 7 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 8 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 9 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 10 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 11 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 12 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 13 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 14 of 44



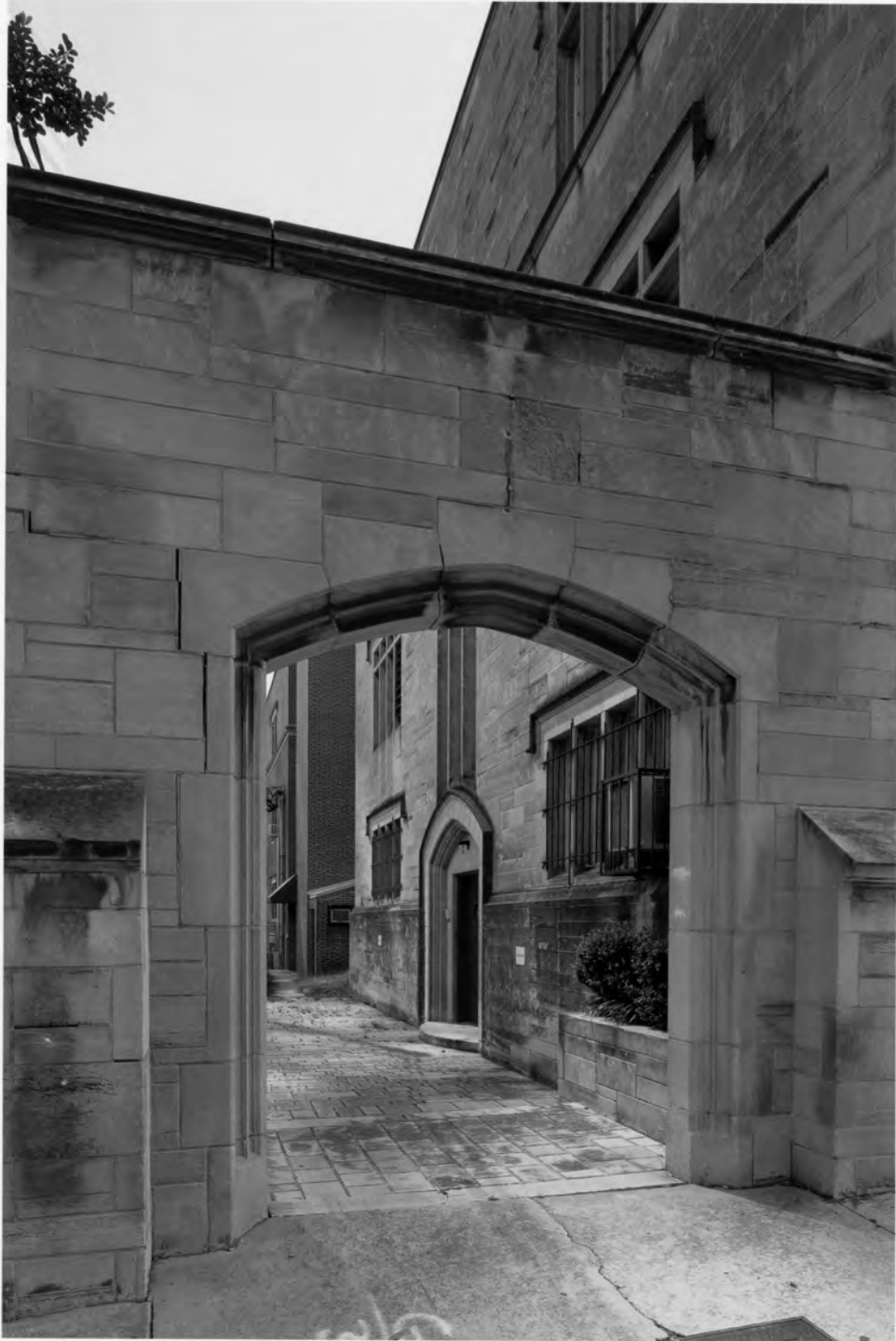
First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 15 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 16 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 17 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 18 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 19 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 20 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 21 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 22 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 23 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 24 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 25 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 26 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 27 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 28 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 29 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 30 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 31 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 32 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 33 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 34 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 35 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 36 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 37 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 38 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 39 of 44



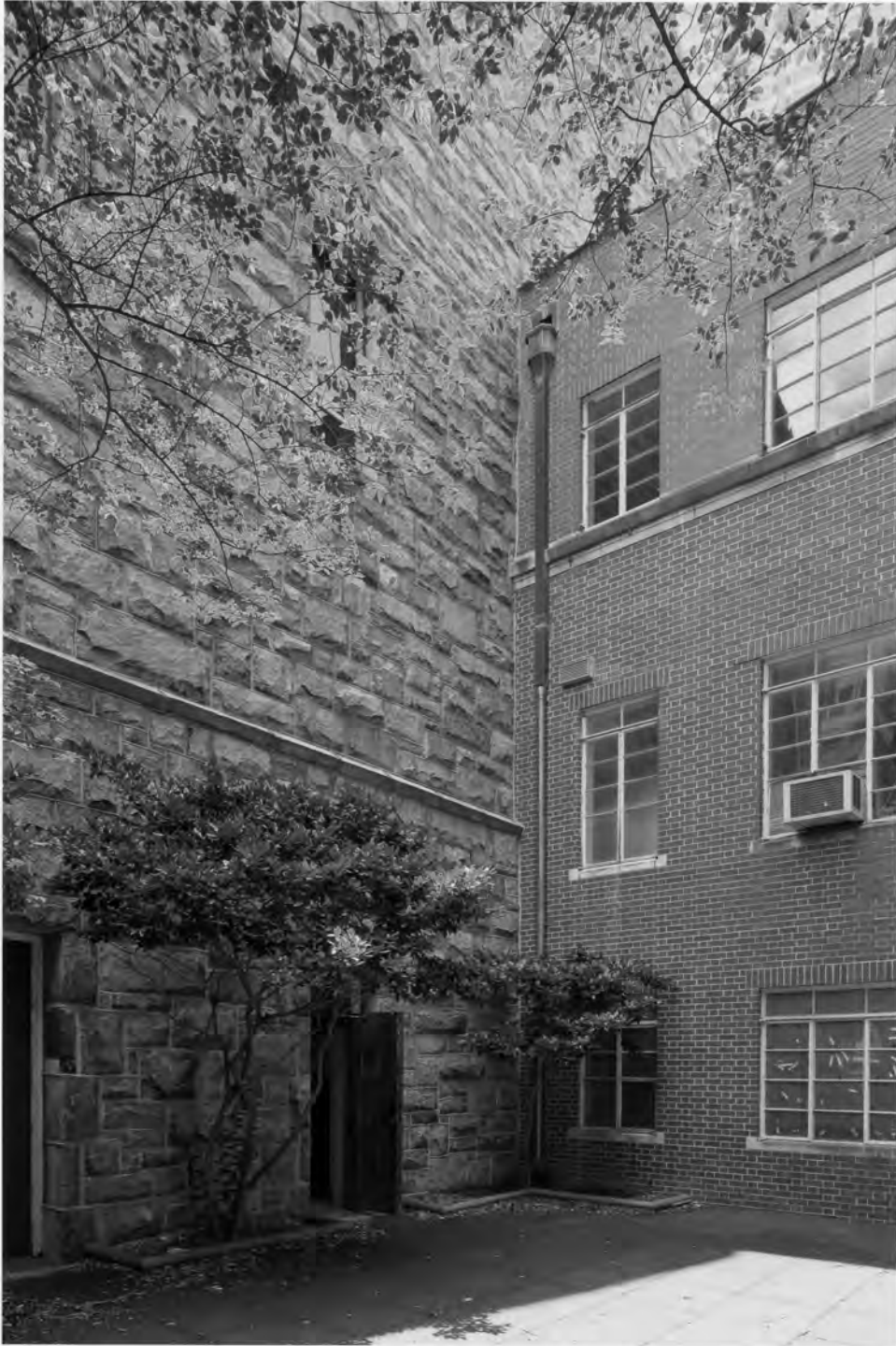
First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 40 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 41 of 44



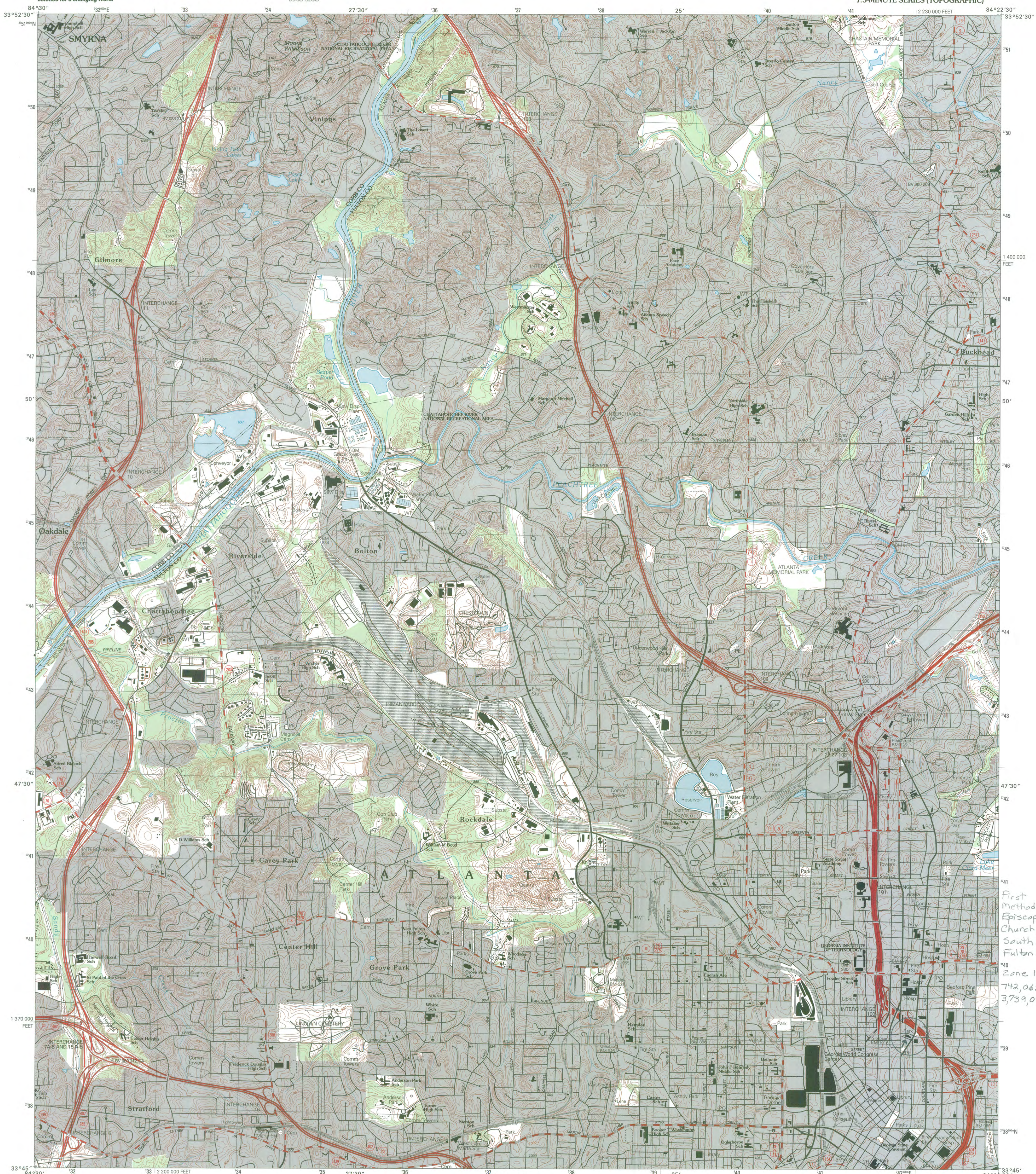
First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 42 of 44



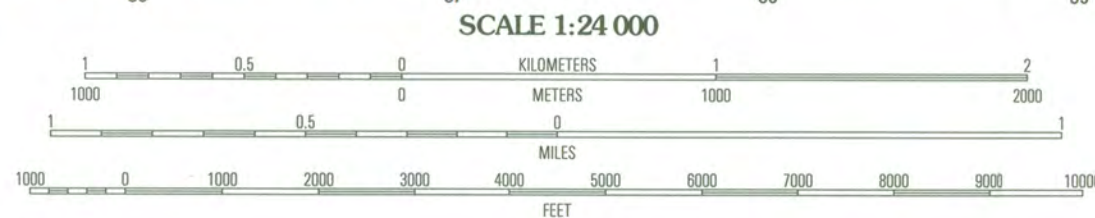
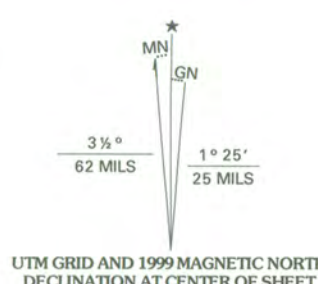
First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 43 of 44



First Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Fulton County, Georgia
Photograph 44 of 44



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Derived from imagery taken 1993 and other sources. Photospanned using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1991
Boundaries, other than corporate, verified 1999
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16
10 000-foot ticks: Georgia Coordinate System of 1983 (west zone)
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
State Route	

1	2	3	1 Marietta
			2 Sandy Springs
			3 Chamblee
4			4 Mableton
			5 Northeast Atlanta
			6 Ben Hill
			7 Southeast Atlanta
6	7	8	8 Southeast Atlanta

NORTHWEST ATLANTA, GA
1997
NIMA 4151 IV SW-SERIES V845

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

First Methodist
Episcopal Church,
South Co.
Zone 16
742,062
3,739,098





HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

CHRIS CLARK
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR



October 19, 2010

J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the following nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for your consideration:

First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Fulton County, Georgia

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gretchen Brock".

Gretchen Brock
National Register & Survey Program Manager
Historic Preservation Division

Enclosure