

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



2

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Knoxville House of Faith

2. Location

street & number 416 Lovenia Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Tennessee code 047 county Knox code 093

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Knoxville House of Faith

street & number 416 Lovenia Avenue

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37917

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City and County Building

street & number 400 Main

city, town Knoxville state Tennessee 37902

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The former Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church is an ecclesiastical building fashioned in the late Gothic Revival Style. The structure, built in 1906, is ashlar stone with a clay tile roof. Two unequally tall square towers flank both the recessed entry and a large leaded stained glass Gothic window. The envelope is penetrated by a variety of openings, most notable, the pointed arch windows characteristic of Gothic architecture. The rectangular exterior building plan and the roof do not reveal the unique octagonal geometry of the interior assembly spaces. The interior and exterior of the structure, in excellent condition, remain virtually unaltered, the exception being the enclosure of an apse flanking the sanctuary to provide an entry from the side street.

The church occupies the corner of Lovenia, Luttrell and Deery Streets and faces north. The church is completely surrounded by the residential "4th and Gill" community several blocks north of downtown Knoxville. This old distinguished neighborhood of Queen Anne homes is currently experiencing revitalization.

The general architecture owes its character to ecclesiastical trends for Methodist Episcopal church buildings in the state during the period from 1850-1900. The architect is unknown; however, records reveal the pastor, the Reverend Frederick E. Ross, had considerable input in the design. The contractor, A. J. Cloyd, was also a member of the church building committee. The exterior construction material is Indiana limestone. The exposed foundation is three courses of rusticated stone which provides a base around the perimeter of the exterior for the smooth ashlar finish of the limestone walls. The structure has two floors above grade; the main assembly space and a balcony which adjoins classroom space. A basement contains the mechanical room, kitchen, assembly room, restrooms and classrooms. The roof form is a large hipped roof running north-south with cross gables on the east and west. The three elevations exposed to the streets each have two story gables with Gothic tracery windows complete with original leaded stained glass. The facade is symmetrical except for the unequally tall corner towers both terminating with battlements. The northwest corner tower is approximately four stories tall with lancet windows while the northeast corner tower is three stories with a single large tracery window. Both the towers' lower two floors have rectangular windows. The church is entered from a recessed, raised porch through a Tudor arch with label hood mold, adorned with a small cross. Over the arch is a large horizontal band of crenelles. The porch floor surface is green and white mosaic tile. Opposing entry doors open into entry vestibules at the base of each tower. Each entry door has a half light Gothic stained glass window. The west elevation facing Deery Street presents a two story high gable with a Gothic tracery window flanked by double lancet windows. A double door side entrance is provided at the base of a short tower. The south elevation is the unadorned "back side" of the building and borders an alley. The east elevation displays a number of rectangular windows to admit light into classrooms and other small spaces. A two story gable with a Gothic window similar to the windows on the west and north is the most striking feature of this elevation. Each of these three large Gothic windows is composed of a stacked series of lancet windows set within the large Gothic pointed arch frame.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

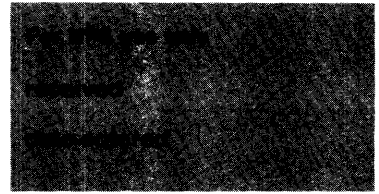
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All windows have hood molds with corbel stops. The leaded stained glass windows feature compositions of geometrical patterns in the small windows. Themes from the life of Christ dominate the large Gothic windows. The exterior is unaltered.

The church's interior is virtually unaltered. The sanctuary's octagonal plan is defined by the base of eight Gothic arches springing from each haunch to an octagonal compression ring decorated with ornate Gothic woodwork. This compression ring serves as the foundation from which springs the crowning octagonal dome rising forty feet above the main floor. An apse opens from three segments of the octagonal sanctuary. The only alteration is the enclosure of one apse to form a vestibule for a side entry from Deery Street. Originally, the apse was linked to a lecture room by sliding doors to extend the sanctuary or enlarge the lecture room. A simple raised podium or pulpit is located in the southeast segment of the octagonal space below the large pipe organ. The podium rear wall is decorated with wainscoting and paneling with Gothic motifs and two engaged columns with foliated capitals. A handrail with turned balustrades separates the podium and the choir apse from the sanctuary. Unique original cast iron steam radiators are adorned with raised cherubs and foliage. The pews are original Gothic oak pews arranged in groupings on a sloped floor and balcony which radiate from the podium. Access to the balcony is by way of stairs in the east corner tower and a stair from the side entrance on Deery Street. None of the stairs are visible from the sanctuary or balcony. Altered finishes include several replaced light fixtures and carpet. The large pipe organ above the podium and adjacent to the choir apse is a 900 pipe reed organ with display pipes in gold leaf. The organ is an imposing element serving as a focal point for the sanctuary.

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

**Specific dates** 1908 **Builder/Architect** A. J. Cloud/Contractor

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

The Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church building is significant as an almost completely unaltered example of late Gothic Revival architecture in an ecclesiastical building constructed in the early 1900s. The elements are distinct and representative of the building type which became traditional for the Methodist Episcopal Church in Tennessee. The custom designed and built reed organ is unique in quality and size for this area. The characteristic features such as smooth masonry construction and quiet, although varied, detailing of the exterior combines with the octagonal interior space planning, domes, large pointed arch stained glass windows and pipe organ to create an exceptional example of late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture in Knoxville.

The Reverend Frederick E. Ross was pastor during the planning and design for the church and according to several accounts had considerable input on design of the facility. Groundbreaking for the building was held October 1, 1906, after a fund raiser from New York raised \$23,000 in cash. It was consecrated on March 29, 1908, by Bishop Luther B. Wilson. The total construction cost was \$37,500. The building committee was composed of the chairman, James A. Fowler, J. L. Deaver, W. M. French, W. W. Scarborough, E. N. DePue, W. C. Bradley, R. D. Whittle, and A. J. Cloyd, the contractor. Andrew Carnegie, the noted benefactor, donated \$1,200 toward the construction of the pipe organ. This gift was promoted by Congressman Nathan Hale. The organ was custom designed for Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church by Professor W. H. Donley of Indianapolis and built by M. T. Moller of Hagerstown, Maryland. Other gifts and memorials provided the leaded stained glass windows.

The Knoxville House of Faith currently worships regularly in the building. They have refurbished the interior throughout without disturbing any existing design. The flashing and guttering on the exterior are being repaired as required. The Knoxville House of Faith intends that this building be their home and are working diligently to restore it to full capacity as a worship and teaching facility--its original purpose.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

East Tennessee Historical Center Public Library, Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville, Tennessee.  
 History of Trinity M. E. Church, written by Lucy Hornsby Fowler, no date available.  
 Knoxville News Sentinel, March 28, 1908; April 2, 1938.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name KNOXVILLE

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	7	2	3	6	5	7	0	3	9	8	5	2	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church nomination are shown as the red line on accompanying survey map drawn by Batson & Himes Engineers of Knoxville, Tennessee. The boundaries run along Luttrell, Lovenia and Deery Streets, with an alley behind the

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Hatcher and Dan Brewer

organization Knoxville House of Faith date May 3, 1982

street & number Route 2, Box 73 telephone (615) 984-8114

city or town Louisville state Tennessee 37777

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

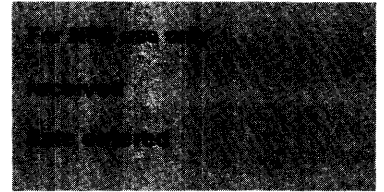
Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 7/23/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Melora Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>8/26/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**



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church between Deery and Luttrell Streets. These boundaries were chosen for the nomination since this is the total amount of property owned with the building itself.

The boundaries on Luttrell, Lovenia and Deery Streets have sidewalks around them. The measurements are 85.9 feet along Lovenia Street, 95.5 feet along Luttrell Street, 106 feet along Deery Street and the connecting alley is approximately 167.9 feet (see the accompanying survey map).