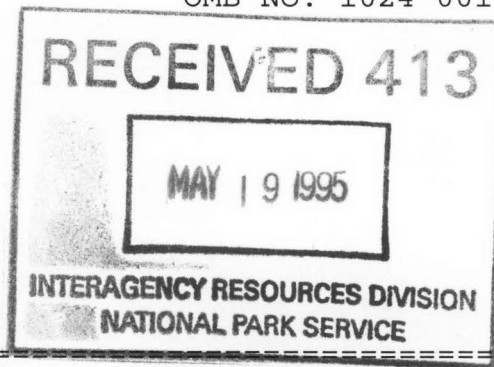


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Other Name/Site Number: First United Methodist Church / LO 0088

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 205 North Elm Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Paris

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Logan

Code: AR 083

Zip Code: 72855

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3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn H. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

5-8-95  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

=====

**5. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Elson H. Beall

Entered in the  
National Register

6/20/95

for Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====

## 6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Religion Sub: Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : Religion Sub: Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====

## 7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Late Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asbestos  
walls Brick other Limestone  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

### Summary

Located at 205 North Elm Street in Paris, the First United Methodist Church (known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South when built) is a two-story red brick church with a full basement that was constructed from 1917 to 1925 on an essentially rectangular plan measuring 93 feet by 50 feet. The church is covered by a parapeted gable roof and features three buttressed and castellated towers. Although a 1958 education building is partially attached at the rear of the church, it is considered noncontributing to the nomination.

### Elaboration

Located at 205 North Elm Street in Paris, the First United Methodist Church (known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South when built) is a two-story red brick church with a full basement on an essentially rectangular plan measuring 93 feet by 50 feet. The church is covered by a parapeted gable roof that is clad with diamond-patterned asbestos shingles and features three buttressed and castellated towers. Although the cornerstone on one of the buttresses of the bell tower indicates a construction date of 1920, the church was actually built over a nearly eight year span from 1917 to 1925. The adjacent education building was constructed in 1958 and, though partially attached to the rear of the church, is considered noncontributing to the nomination.

The front, or western, elevation consists of the gable end of the sanctuary flanked by the bell tower to the north and a shorter tower to the south. A

group of three stained-glass lancet windows define the gable end. The center lancet window is larger and is divided into two windows with a double lancet and oculus tracery pattern within the spandrel. A narrow, rectangular louvered vent, dignified by a limestone sill and lintel, is placed near the peak, which is decorated with applied limestone crossbracing and pendant. A large brick stoop extends the length of the facade and ascends in either direction from the center to the northern and southern towers. Both towers contain double-leaf wood doors underneath a stained-glass lancet arch with a tracery design similar to that of the center window. All of the lancet arches feature brick stretchers and headers and limestone sills, imposts, and keystones. The upper level of the southern tower is fenestrated by a group of three narrow rectangular windows just below the elaborate brick and limestone-capped battlements. The bell tower to the north has a single, yet taller, rectangular window on the same level and is further distinguished by its higher upper level, which is separated by a limestone belt course. This level is denoted by three semi-circular arched openings on all four elevations just below the castellated parapet.

The northern elevation of the church is also anchored by a tower at each end. The aforementioned bell tower is fenestrated on this elevation by two small basement windows, three larger windows on the first story, an oculus window, and a taller window comparable to its front elevation counterpart. The side gable of this elevation is divided into three bays that are defined by buttresses and shaped parapets. Originally each bay contained a pair of basement windows below the belt course; however, the westernmost basement windows have been filled with brick with the limestone lintel remaining. Each bay contains a fat lancet window that is divided into two windows with a spandrel tracery design similar to that of the center window on the front elevation. The eastern tower has two basement windows, a group of three first-story windows, and a single upper window of the same size.

The rear, or eastern, elevation is relatively unadorned. This elevation of the tower contains a single narrow window on two levels in addition to the usual buttresses, belt courses, and battlements. The center of this elevation contains a hipped roof section that projects just below an oculus window near the peak of the gable end. This section is fenestrated by two basement windows and a single first-story window.

On the southern elevation, the side gable is essentially identical to that of the northern elevation. A wing of the 1958 education building is attached to the extreme eastern end of the elevation, while the western end is anchored by the aforementioned entrance tower. The tower is fenestrated on this elevation by a pair of basement windows, a single window on the first story, and three shorter windows near the castellated parapet.

The interior contains approximately 10,500 square feet (ground floor and basement 5250 feet each) not counting the second floor rooms and the balcony. It is a rather straightforward design with an exposed-beam vaulted ceiling and a chancel with a lancet-shaped opening separating it from the sanctuary.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1917 - 1925

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

### Summary

The First United Methodist Church, known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South when constructed, is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Collegiate Gothic-styled building in Paris.

### Elaboration

The First United Methodist Church is the fourth church to be constructed by the Methodist congregation in Paris. There is some dispute as to when the congregation was first organized in Paris. According to the Arkansas Annual Conference minutes, the first pastor assigned to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Paris was Hastings Puckett in 1874. An earlier date is suggested by Mrs. Lydia Jane Wolf, "one of the charter members," who wrote in a letter to the Paris Methodist Church on Jan. 1, 1936 which stated that "[t]he church has its 65th Anniversary this coming February" - placing the date of origin at 1871. Another account suggesting an earlier founding date is given by professor W. S. Morgan, an early church member and long time superintendent of the Paris Public Schools. He wrote in 1942 that "Reverend



Ambrose Williams, pastor of Roseville, had under his charge the little group of Methodists in Paris, seven of them in number, when the church started in Paris." Apparently, Williams served as part time pastor before the congregation was formally recognized by the Arkansas Annual Conference.

At first, the congregation met in the county courthouse, which was constructed in 1874. Property containing an existing two-story frame building was deeded to the Methodists on September 28, 1878 by Robert D. Waddill "in consideration of \$1.00 and the good will I have for the Methodist Episcopal Church South." R. D. Waddill was a central figure in the development, naming (1874) and incorporation (1879) of the town of Paris and assisted in the effort to designate the new town as the first county seat for Sarber (later named Logan) County. He was solid supporter of the Methodist church until his death in 1934. The Methodists shared this first church building with the Masonic fraternity, which used the upper floor for their meetings.

In 1882, the first building burned, and the congregation had to worship in the Allen School until a new church could be erected. During this time, they planned for a building that would be exclusively their own. On May 18, 1885, a deed of partition was executed by the trustees of the church and the Masonic fraternity, giving the north half of the block to the Methodist Church and the south half to the Masons. While the second church was also of frame construction and only one story in height, it was presumably a great deal more imposing than its predecessor due to its Gothic Revival windows and bell tower.

Only sixteen years after the burning of the first church, this church, too, was destroyed by fire in 1898. The congregation, however, remained undaunted and embarked almost immediately on their third church. The new brick church was similar in massing to the previous building, but was styled more in the Romanesque Revival vein. The cornerstone was laid on May 3, 1899, and a June 1900 report in the church records stated, "We are at last occupying our new church at Paris which is about completed." During the interval, the congregation worshipped at the First Christian Church a few blocks away. In 1901, the church obtained the south lot of Block 2 of the Waddill Addition from the Masons and celebrated this acquisition by purchasing a new bell.

Over the next ten years the Methodist Episcopal Church South grew in numbers and service. The new church garnered the privilege of hosting the Arkansas Annual Conference in 1906, the only such event to be held in Paris. Tragedy struck once more, however, and in 1917 the church burned yet again. A church member at that time, Emma Bennett Wiggins, lived across the street from the church and described the fire:

On March 10, 1917 at noon the telephone rang at the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Bennett. Their son Joe answered the phone, and the telephone operator who was calling said, "Joe, your house is on fire," Joe's answer was, "You're kidding." Finally the operator insisted Joe go outside and see for himself. Seeing that the roof of the three-story frame structure was in flames, he ran back in the house to spread the news. The Bennett home was across the street, just north of the Methodist church, which stood on the same location as the present church. Paris had no way of fighting fires except for a volunteer bucket brigade. So the Church [sic] caught fire and burned to the ground with the Bennett residence.

The loss of the third church was particularly devastating to the congregation, and the present structure proved difficult to complete. The fourth church was designed to provide more space than the third church through the addition of a full basement. By the time the basement was completed, the hardships accompanying the Great War had overburdened the church and construction ceased for the next few years due to limited funds and scarce materials. The basement was used for some church activities, but services were also held at the courthouse and the theater. Finally, the new building was completed, almost eight full years later, in 1925. The formal dedication was held in 1928 and attended by Bishop Boaz.

This church was designed to house a pipe organ; however, one had not been installed initially. Spearheaded by the Woman's Society of Christian Service, funds were raised by providing a meeting place and luncheon every Tuesday during World War II for the Kiwanis Club. The long awaited organ, a Wicks model, was installed in 1948.

The First United Methodist Church is locally significant under Criterion C as the best example in Paris of the Collegiate Gothic style, which was the last expression of the Gothic Revival style that was long popular in church design. This church exhibits all of the primary components of the style and is distinguished by having three castellated towers, an uncommon number for churches of this size and style in the smaller towns of Arkansas.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information submitted by Elizabeth Titsworth, September 1994 from the following sources:

Deeds/Abstract data, courtesy of Craven's Title and Abstract Company.

Dimensions/Measurements, courtesy of Logan County Insurance Co.

Files, First United Methodist Church of Paris, Rev. J. M. Rogers, Pastor.

Paris Centennial Committee. "First United Methodist Church 1874-75." 1975.

Titsworth, Elizabeth. *Paris One Hundred Years*. 1979.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X\_ State historic preservation office

\_ Other state agency

\_ Federal agency

\_ Local government

\_ University

\_ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

Acreage of Property: Approximately two

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>433680</u>	<u>3905680</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

All of Block 2 of the Robert D. Waddill Addition to the Town of Paris,  
Section 11, Township 7, Range 26 West.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic church and surrounding grounds as well as  
the noncontributing 1958 education building.

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: May 2, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Methodist Episcopal Church, South

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Logan

DATE RECEIVED: 5/19/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/01/95  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/17/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/03/95  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95000757

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 6/20/95 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Paris, Logan Co., Ark.  
Photo. by R. Baldwin

Jan., 1995

Neg. on file at AHPD

View of stained glass window  
from interior.





Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Paris, Logan Co., Ark.

Photo by R. Baldwin

Jan 1995

Neg. on file at AHPP

View of balcony from the  
east





Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Paris, Logan Co., Ark.

Photo by R. Baldwin

Jan. 1995

Neg. on file at AHPP

View from the northeast





Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Paris, Logan Co., Ark.

Photo by R. Baldwin

Jan. 1995

Neg. on file at AHPP

View from the north







Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Paris, Logan Co., Ark.

Photo by R. Baldwin

Jan. 1995

Neg. on file at AHPP

View from the east



Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Paris, Logan Co., Ark.

Photo by R. Baldwin

Jan. 1995

Neg. on file at AHPP

View from the southwest





Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Paris, Logan Co., Ark.

Photo. by R. Baldwin

Jan. 1995

Neg. on file at AHPP

View from the northwest





Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Paris, Logan Co., Ark  
Photo. by R. Baldwin

Jan. 1995

Neg. on file at AHPP

View from the west/southwest





Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Paris, Logan Co., Ark.

Photo. by R. Baldwin

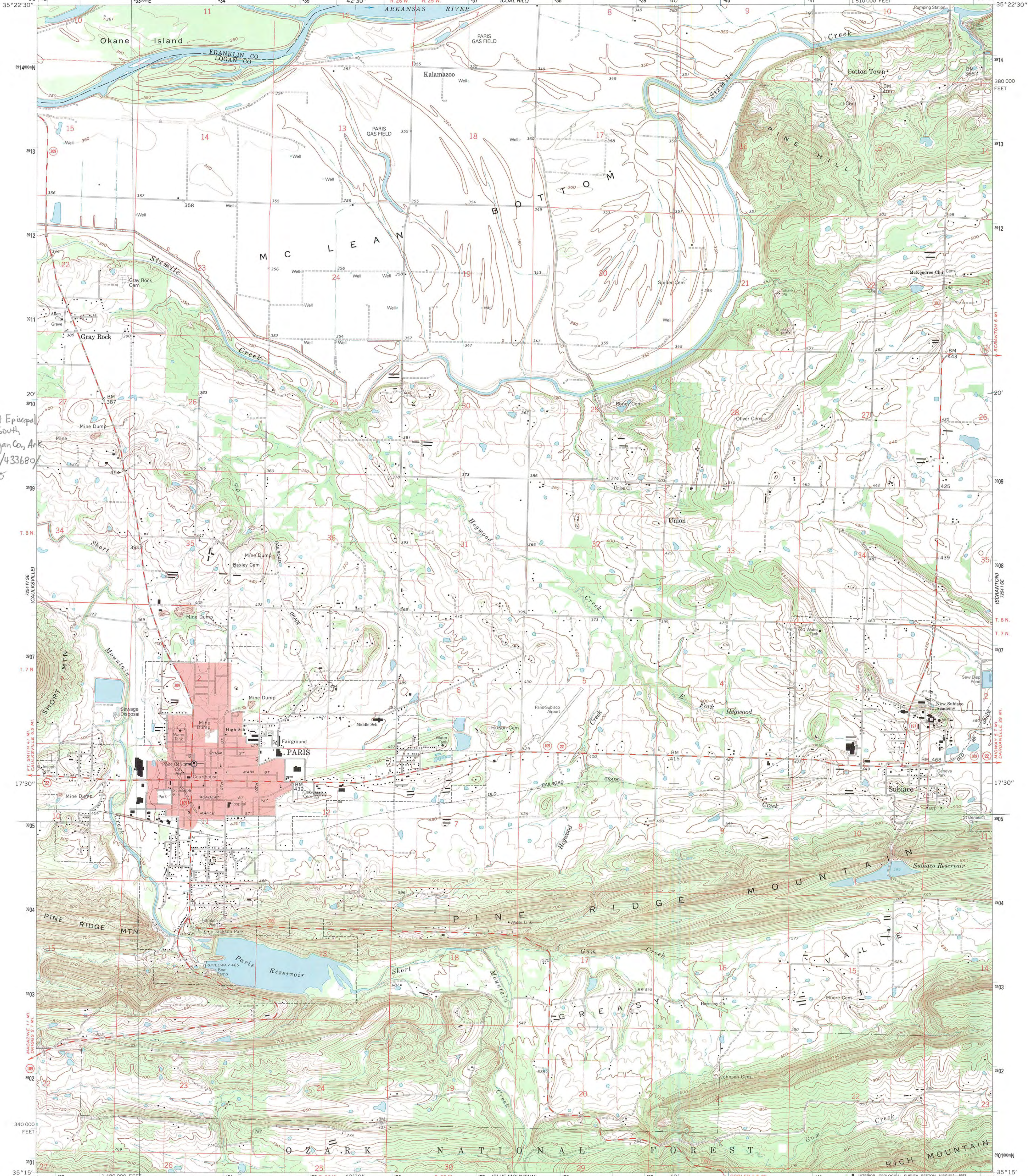
Jan. 1995

Neg. on file at ANPP

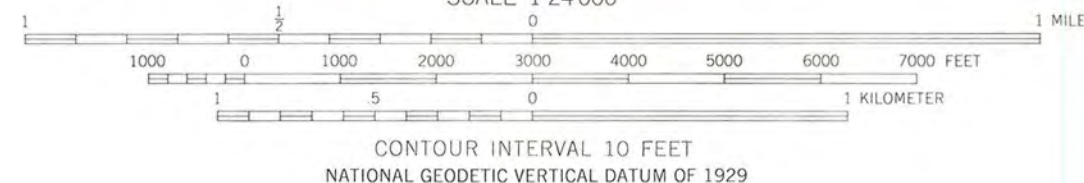
View of chancel from  
the west.



Methodist Episcopal  
Church, South,  
Paris, Logan Co., Ark.  
UTM: 15/433680  
3905675



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
in cooperation with State of Arkansas agencies  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1958. Field checked 1961. Revised from aerial photographs  
taken 1989-90. Field checked 1992. Map edited 1993  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate  
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue  
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks  
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute  
intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the  
National or State reservations shown on this map  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Unlabeled wells are gas wells  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

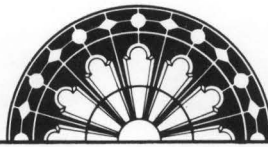
Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

PARIS, ARK.  
35093-C6-TF-024

1993

DMA 7254 1 SW-SERIES V884

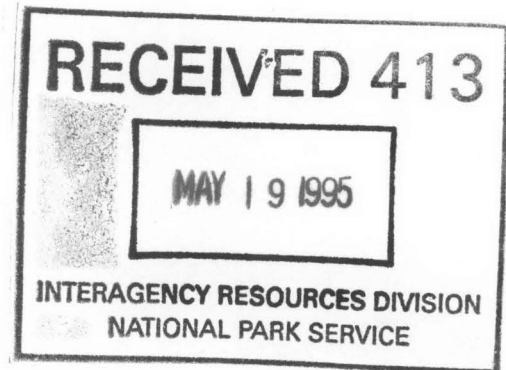




ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

May 12, 1995

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20002



RE: American Legion Post #121  
Paris, Logan County

Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Paris, Logan County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced properties. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

