

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **NOV 28 1975**
DATE ENTERED **MAY 13 1976**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 ~~AND/OR COMMON~~ Madison Street Methodist Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 319 Madison Street
CITY, TOWN: Clarksville
STATE: Tennessee
VICINITY OF: _____
COUNTY: Montgomery
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth
CODE: 47
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: _____
CODE: 125

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Madison Street Methodist Church
STREET & NUMBER: 319 Madison Street
CITY, TOWN: Clarksville
STATE: Tennessee
VICINITY OF: _____

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER: 129 North Second Street
CITY, TOWN: Clarksville
STATE: Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: _____
DATE: _____
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____
CITY, TOWN: _____ STATE: _____
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL: _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

This building is one of the largest and most consistently well-detailed Gothic churches in the area. Aside from recent cleaning and sandblasting, which was handled in a restrained and professional manner, it remains in its original condition and design. An educational wing has been added to the west side of the rear, but being in a compatible spirit with the original design, does not detract from the appearance. Indeed, the landscaped area at this side greatly enhances the siting of the structure.

Particularly noteworthy is the quality of cut stone work in the detailing of the windows and entrances, where Gothic precedents have been faithfully and lavishly simulated. The delicate, tracery-like patterns of stone and its grey color contrast nicely with the dark-hued brick, considerably lightening what might otherwise be the somber countenance of the facade. The corbeling and other forms of texturizing exhibited in the brick of the facade also serve to enhance its dignity and character. The facade is not the only imposing aspect of the building. Its two asymmetrical spires are a major point of interest in the town's low skyline. The imposing mass of the east and north walls climbing steeply up Hiter Street from rear to front make for an impressive sight.

The Gothic theme is reflected in the detailing of the interior. Both the apse and the roof trusses are adaptations of Gothic arches. The massing of the organ pipes is also supportive of the general Gothic theme. Several other features, though not of Gothic precedence are nonetheless noteworthy. The original gas lighting fixtures, which have been electrified, drop symmetrically from either side of the roof truss bases. The woodwork, including the beams, pews and ceiling, is consistently dark and frequently embellished with detail throughout but contrasts nicely with the plain white plaster walls. Also important is the highly unusual polygonal projecting balcony at the rear of the sanctuary, through whose arched opening the rose window projects its multi-colored light.

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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" 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

1880s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Strictly architectural significance is derived from the building's monumental scale and thoroughness of Gothic detailing. It occupies a position of major importance on the Clarksville skyline, and is among the largest churches of its type and period in Tennessee.

The scale and quality of this architectural work is however, representative of something equally as important as its own self-evident esthetic virtues. Unlike much of the post-Civil War South in the 1880s and 90s, Clarksville was enjoying a time of prosperity. This prosperity was based on Clarksville's position as the center of a thriving agricultural region encompassing portions of Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. Additionally the presence of small but diversified wholesale, commercial, and manufacturing enterprises, bolstered the general economy. The result was a large and reasonably cultured middle class, which held in esteem the then-popular virtues of learning hard work, gentility and reverence. Though by no means the only such pocket of prosperity in the late 19th century South, it is made unique by Clarksville's small size. This was at a time when the city's population did not exceed 15,000. The sort of economic conditions just described were more generally to be found in cities whose population exceeded 50,000. Yet this church, and its neighbor, the First Presbyterian Church, though built in the 1880s in Clarksville, were the equal or better of churches built in such larger cities as Nashville and Memphis. They reflect the tremendous pride in their church, their community and their accomplishment held by the citizens of that time. It is a fortunate coincidence that such a worthy structure should retain a congregation which apparently has never faltered in this pride. The excellent condition of the building today is a testament to this fact.

Aside from architectural and cultural considerations, the structural system of the building is also of interest. The massive roof trusses are actually made of iron and have been boxed in to simulate wood. An 1880s history of the city indicates they were fabricated by the Pittsburg Bridge Company.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Titus, William P.,
Picturesque Clarksville--Past and Present, (Clarksville, 1887).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	4,6,8,1,1,0	4,0,4,2,1,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Warterfield, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

Architect-Engineer Associates, Inc.

DATE

12/31/75

STREET & NUMBER

Belle Meade Office Park

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

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

Herbert L. Hagen

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

11/25/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lawrence L. Brown
Charles A. ...

DATE

5/13/76

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5.12.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

IDENTIFICATION	STATUS	SOURCES
Historic name: <u>Methodist Episcopal Church South</u> Common name: <u>Madison Street Methodist Church</u> Address: <u>319 Madison Street</u> <u>Clarksville, Tennessee</u> Owner's name: <u>Madison Street Methodist Church</u> Owner's address: <u>same as above</u> Classification: <u>Building</u> Tax map reference: <u>66K, Parcel A16</u> Acreage: <u>1.5 acres</u> UTM reference: <u>Z 16 E468110</u> <u>N4042120</u>	Open to public: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>Restricted</u> <u>X</u> Visible from road: <u>Yes</u> <u>X</u> <u>No</u> Occupied: <u>Yes</u> <u>X</u> <u>No</u> Present use: <u>Church</u> Current condition: <u>Excellent</u> Alterations: <u>Sandblasted about 1976, 20th</u> <u>century educational wing added to west</u> <u>side of building's rear</u> Site features: <u>The building is located on</u> <u>the corner lot at Madison and Hitler</u> <u>Streets</u>	Bibliographical data: <u>Titus, William P.</u> <u>Picturesque Clarksville -- Past and</u> <u>Present, Clarksville, 1887.</u> <u>Beach, Ursula S. Along the Warioto,</u> <u>Nashville: McQuiddy Press, 1964</u> Form prepared by: <u>Shain T. Dennison</u> Title: <u>Historic Preservation Specialist</u> Organization: <u>Mid-Cumberland Council of</u> <u>Governments</u> Date: <u>11/24/80</u>
HISTORY	Date of construction: <u>1882</u> Architect/builder: <u>C. G. Roseplanter,</u> <u>Architect</u> Original or previous owners: <u>Built by the</u> <u>Methodist Congregation (their third and</u> <u>last building)</u> Original use: <u>Church</u> Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u> Secondary <u>Religion</u> Other <u>Engineering</u>	<p>The Madison Street Methodist Church is a large brick building of the Victorian Gothic style which features on either side of its broad gable facade two imposing towers with tall spires, the one on the left measuring 145 feet and the other 120 feet in height. The dark brick is ornamented by contrasting grey cut stone at the windows and entrances, where Gothic elements have been faithfully simulated. The facade is particularly ornate, giving a delicate feeling of verticality with a two story Gothic pointed arch located in the center which contains a smaller pointed arch entrance above which is a rose window.</p>
DESCRIPTION	<p>In Clarksville, the Methodists organized in the early 19th century, worshipping for several years in private residences until they built the first brick church erected in the city in 1832 at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets. They occupied this building until 1841 when they sold it to the Cumberland Presbyterians and built in the same year another church at the corner of Fifth and Franklin Streets, which no longer stands. They worshipped in this building until 1883 when they sold it again to the Presbyterians and built in 1882 the Madison Street Methodist Church. This</p>	
SIGNIFICANCE		

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

Photographer: Al Raby

Date: November, 1980

Negatives on file: Mid-Cumberland Council of Governments, Nashville

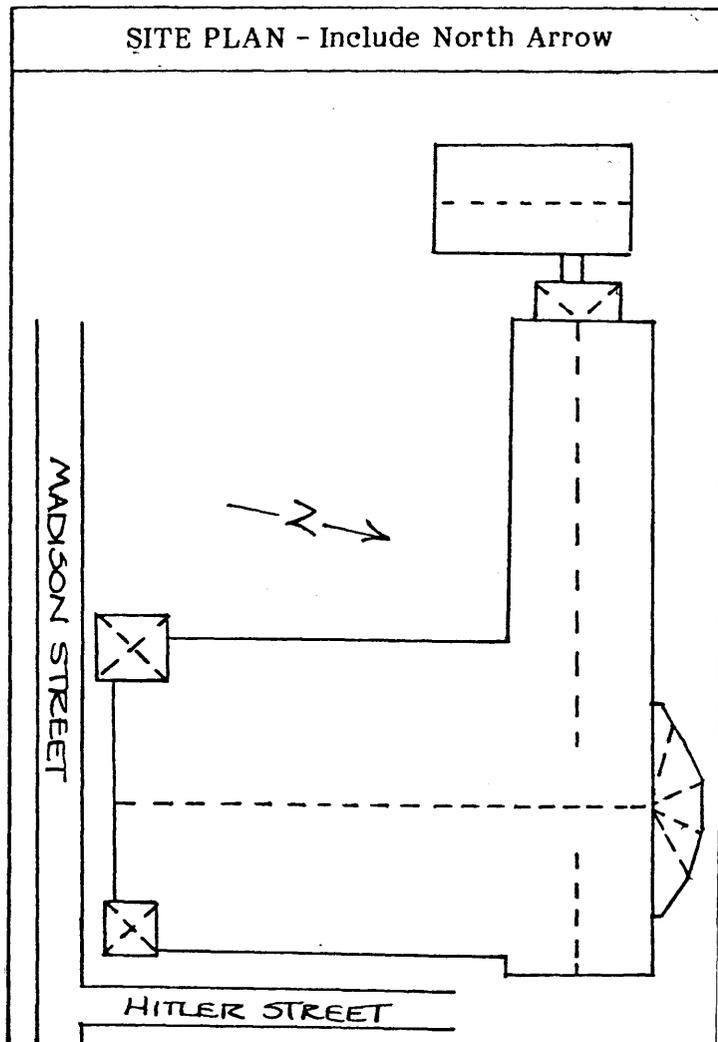
Photographer facing: N; NW

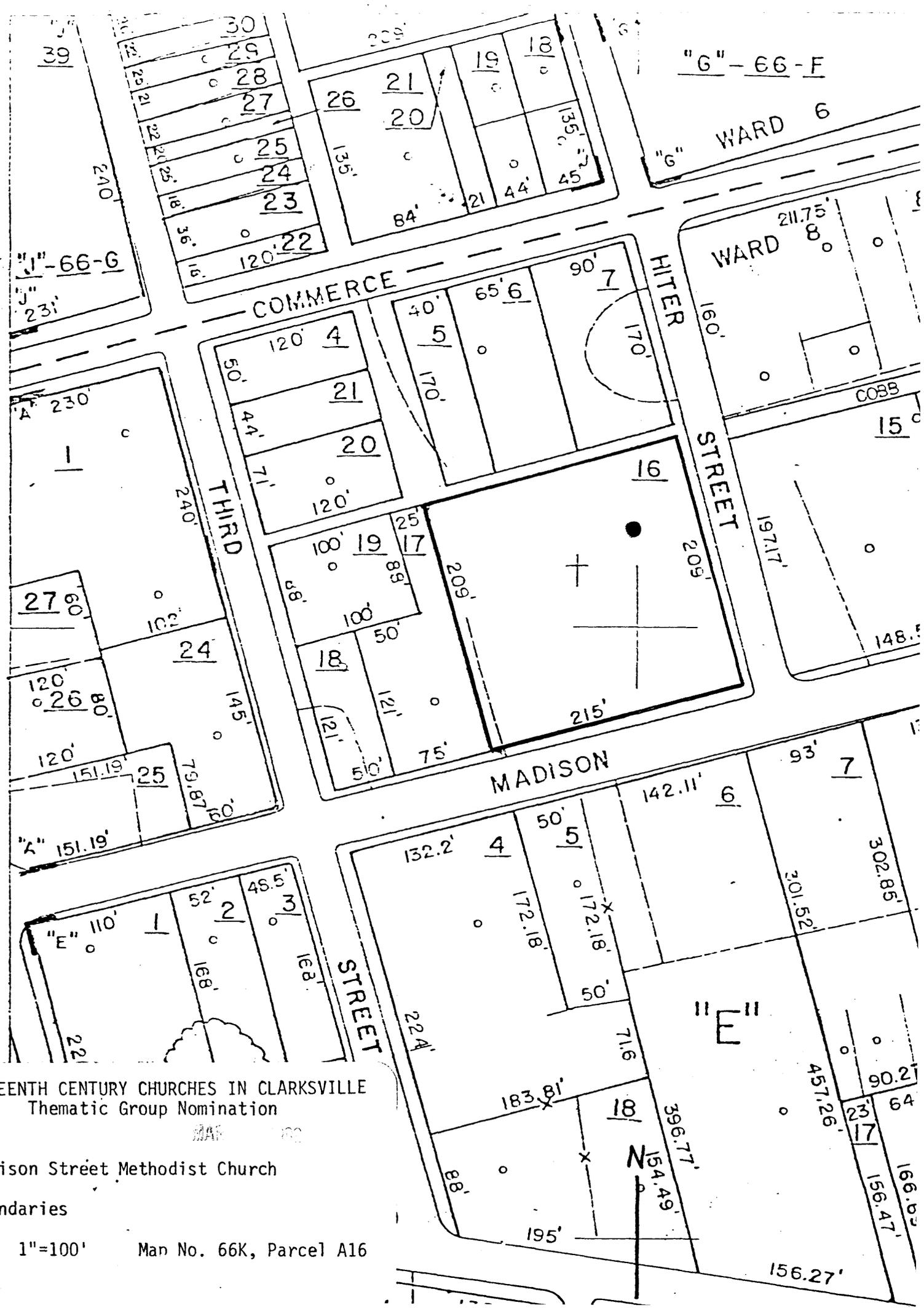
Photograph number 20-21 of 21 .

CONTINUATION

building gained listing in the National Register in 1976, as an excellent example of Victorian Gothic ecclesiastical architecture. Monumental in scale and thorough in Victorian Gothic detailing, the church occupies a prominent position on the city's skyline and is among the largest of its type and period in Tennessee. Also noteworthy is the building's structural system with its massive iron roof trusses which were fabricated by the Pittsburgh Bridge Company.

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow





NINETEENTH CENTURY CHURCHES IN CLARKSVILLE
Thematic Group Nomination

MAP 100

● Madison Street Methodist Church

= Boundaries

Scale: 1"=100'

Map No. 66K, Parcel A16