

Nineteenth Century Churches of South Nashville Thematic Resources
 Architectural and Historic Properties Inventory Form

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>Elm Street Methodist Church</u>	STATUS	Open to public: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>X</u> <u>Restricted</u>
	Common name: <u>N/A</u>		Visible from road: <u>Yes</u> <u>X</u> <u>No</u>
	Address: <u>616 Fifth Avenue South</u> <u>Nashville, Tennessee</u>		Occupied: <u>Yes</u> <u>X</u> <u>No</u>
	Owner's name: <u>ECS, Inc.</u>		Present use: <u>Work in progress</u>
	Owner's address: <u>614 Fifth Avenue South</u> <u>Nashville, Tennessee</u>		Current condition: <u>Deteriorated</u>
	Classification: <u>Building</u>		Alterations: <u>steeple destroyed by fire in 1925; facade doors raised, rose window of entranceway removed, porch and**</u>
	Tax map reference: <u>93-14-466</u>		Site features: <u>building sits on a corner lot; brick sidewalk on south side.</u>
	Acreage: <u>.27 acres</u>		
UTM reference: <u>16/520380/4000740</u> <u>Nashville West, TN</u>			
HISTORY	Date of construction: <u>1871</u>	SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>See Nomination Form</u>
	Architect/builder: <u>unknown</u>		
	Original or previous owners: <u>N/A</u>		
	Original use: <u>Church</u>		Form prepared by: <u>Shain Dennison</u>
	Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u> Secondary <u>Religious</u> Other <u>N/A</u>		Title: <u>Architectural Historian</u> Organization: <u>Metro Historical Commission</u> <u>Nashville</u> Date: <u>11/83</u>
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Italianate-style Elm Street Methodist Church is a two-story gabled-roofed rectangular brick church building. A gabled entrance pavilion centered on the facade is flanked by square stair towers. The round-arched entranceway, with double-leaf doors and lighted transom, is centered on the pavilion beneath a tripartite round-arched window grouping. All window and door hoods and the roof cornices are pressed and formed tin. windows, except for the rectangular first-(or basement) story windows on the side elevations, are round-arched. The interior was substantially refinished after 1925 fire damage; the large Gothic arch of the raised choir and pulpit, the cross-beamed ceiling, and the plan of the building remain from the 1925 refinishing. The building is being sensitively renovated (in accordance with the Secretary's Standards) for use as offices.</p>		
SIGNIFICANCE	<p>Elm Street Methodist Church is architecturally significant as the only standing example of an Italianate-style church building in Nashville. Despite the loss of its tower in a 1925 fire, the building's hooded, arched windows and doors and its wide overhangs with classical cornices impart the strong flavor of the Italianate style. Elm Street was at one time an important Methodist church in Nashville. Formed in 1867 by the combination of two Methodist congregations dating to the 1830s, Elm Street was the second largest Methodist church in Nashville during South Nashville's heyday with over 1200 members. Declining membership eventually led to its disbandment in 1971.</p>		

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

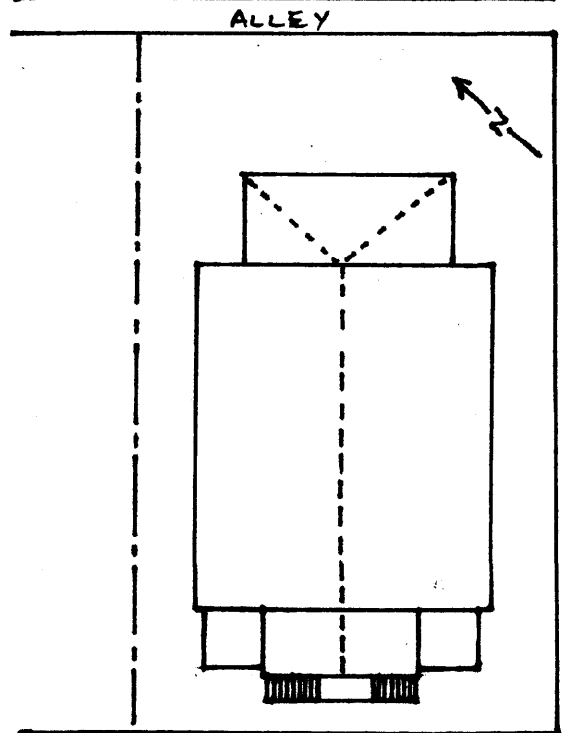
Photographer: John Compton
Date: November 1983
Negatives on file: Metro Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee
Photographer facing: N; W: and NW
Photograph number 7-9 of 27 .

CONTINUATION

**stair towers added in early twentieth century; stained glass windows and modillions removed in 1970s.

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow

Not drawn to scale



FIFTH AVENUE, SOUTH