

NR LISTED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 04 1996

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Other Name/Site Number: DR 0264

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 115 S. Main Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Monticello

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR

County: Drew

Code: AR 043

Zip Code: 71655

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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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 A. Slatu _____ 2-21-96
Signature of certifying official 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

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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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Religion Sub: Religious Facility
Commerce Specialty Store

Current : Commerce Sub: Professional

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Gothic

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asbestos
walls Shingle other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Erected in 1906, St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 115 South Main Street in Monticello is a small one-and-a-half story Gothic Revival-style church that is constructed upon a continuous stone foundation in a Latin cross plan. The church was altered extensively in 1938 when it was sold for use as a radio and small appliance repair shop; however, a 1994 restoration reclaimed the basic integrity of the original church form.

Elaboration

Erected in 1906, St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 115 South Main Street in Monticello is a small one-and-a-half story Gothic Revival-style church that is constructed upon a continuous stone foundation in a Latin cross plan. The wood-frame walls are clad with red-painted wood shingles, trimmed with cream-painted fascia boards and window casings, and covered by a cross gable roof sheathed with green asbestos slate. There are no extant chimneys, although a historic photograph reveals a chimney on the north slope of the roof.

The front, or western, elevation consists of a single-leaf entrance to the south with a gable-roof porch supported by four wood posts. The porch was added during the 1994 restoration and features a gable end with jigsaw cutouts that reflect the Gothic Revival detailing of the gabled wall dormer in the center of front elevation. The porch roof is covered with green-painted wood shingles. To the north of the entrance are two lancet windows that feature a stationary lower pane and a stained-glass outlined arch. The dominant feature of the front elevation is the central gable end wall dormer

that contains jigsaw Gothic Revival style detailing including a pointed quatrefoil design in the peak.

Both side elevations are similarly composed. The nave section each contains two lancet windows, which, interestingly, are not symmetrically arranged. The cross gable ends each contain a one-over-one wood window on the first story and a nine-over-one wood window on the second story.

The rear elevation consists of a shed-roof room originally containing the sacristy and storage space that is fenestrated by two one-over-one wood windows. A shed-roof porch and entrance is located on the northern side of rear section.

The interior retains the original wood flooring and the beaded-board vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. The chancel area was converted into a second room with a mezzanine level in 1938. This room has a raised, vinyl-covered floor and three, three-pane stationary wood windows to either side of the central door.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church was originally distinguished by a castellated tower attached to the southwest corner of the structure. It is not known when or why the tower was removed. Most of the alterations occurred in 1938 when Victor Borchardt acquired the church and drastically altered the structure to accommodate his radio and small appliance repair business. The two lancet windows on the front facade were removed and the area enlarged to create a plate-glass display window. The gabled entrance porch was removed and a metal canopy installed across the entire front elevation. Likewise, the lancet windows on the side elevations were removed and replaced with metal-frame, rectangular windows. As previously noted, the interior was altered by the addition of a second room in the space formerly occupied by the chancel with an enclosed mezzanine level above. Nine-over-one, double-hung windows were also installed in the cross gable ends to light the second story. The turned balustrade of the staircase may have been taken from the former altar rail. A kitchen and bathroom were also added to the rear of the church.

Gloria and Joe Wright purchased the former church building in December 1993, and initiated a restoration of the structure. After the front canopy was removed, the lancet windows were recreated by local craftpersons, Sherry and Jeff Lednický, from a stained-glass arch from one of the original windows. The original arch was later framed and centered in the rectangular stationary mezzanine window overlooking the nave. As there were no detailed pictures of the original front gabled entrance porch, a new porch approximating the dimensions of the original was designed by Cindy Davis to mimic the Gothic Revival-style ornamentation in the front gabled wall dormer. The modern front door was replaced with one from the original Presbyterian Church in Monticello. To further brighten the exterior appearance, the Wrights selected red paint for the shingled walls to contrast with the green asbestos roof slates.

The interior restoration consisted of cleaning and repainting the original wood floors, wainscoting, and vaulted ceiling beams. Sheetrock was added to the upper walls, and pilasters with recessed lighting within the capitals were added between the lancet windows on each side elevation. Otherwise, the basic 1938 room arrangement was retained.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

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. 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: 1906 - 1938

Significant Dates: 1906, 1938

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

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Monticello is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as an unusual example of a shingle-clad, Gothic Revival-style church.

Elaboration

The earliest records of the Episcopal Church presence in Monticello date to 1863; however, the fledgling congregation grew slowly throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century. Church services were not held on a regular basis, and visiting priests are recorded to have used the grand Drew County Courthouse for their services in the 1870's. The 1897 Episcopal convention *Journal* indicates that regular missionary services be extended to Monticello, among other places.

The 1900 *Journal* reported that the Monticello congregation had saved \$200 toward the construction of a new church. The record also noted that "A

faithful woman, the daughter of Rev. Mr. Trimble, Sr. keeps up a regular Sunday school, which, besides doing the spiritual training that is everywhere so necessary to make good church members, has a fund of its own for church furniture."

In 1901, a preaching station under the name, St. Mary's, was established with Rev. Archdeacon Rhames as the minister. There were fifteen registered parishioners at this time. In the same year, a chapel and rectory were obtained and blessed by Bishop William Montgomery Brown, who traveled to Monticello for the occasion. Church membership grew to twenty-eight in 1902 and had outgrown the small chapel by the next year. As the search for a larger church site was underway, services were once again held in the county courthouse and in buildings belonging to other denominations.

A lot on South Main Street was donated to the congregation in May, 1905 by Judge H. W. Wells and his wife. The *Journal* for that year observed that the Monticello congregation, "through the generosity of a churchman have acquired a fine lot on the business street; they have in view enough money for a church, and will begin building in the fall; the plans show one of the prettiest little buildings in the diocese." Additional strips of land were purchased to augment the lot to 35 feet by 70 feet.

Following the construction of the beautiful and unusual Gothic Revival-style church, St. Mary's Episcopal Church enjoyed a quiet presence in Monticello under the successive guidance of the Reverends William Williamson, Ira Swanman, and James Sharrat. After Sharrat died in 1922, no permanent clergy was assigned to St. Mary's. Due to the decreasing number of Episcopalians in Monticello, the church building was sold to Victor Borchardt in 1938.

Borchardt used the building as a radio and small appliance repair business and greatly altered both the exterior and the interior of the former church during his ownership. In the early 1980's, Borchardt rented the building to Weston Goudy, who operated a pawn shop and bail bond business until December, 1993. After Borchardt's death, Joe and Gloria Wright purchased the dilapidated former church building and initiated the restoration of the building. Drew County Abstract & Title Company bought the structure from the Wrights in March, 1995, completed the restoration, and moved their business into the building.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is an unusual example of a shingle-clad, Gothic Revival-style church. Although this architectural style proved popular with Arkansas's religious institutions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, relatively few wood-frame examples survive. Many were simple single-room, weatherboard-covered structures that were essentially Plain Traditional in construction but with applied Gothic Revival-style ornamentation; however, St. Mary's Episcopal church, with its Latin Cross plan, shingled exterior walls, and decorative jigsaw wall dormer, is representative of a more sophisticated design. As such, it is best example of a wood-frame, Gothic Revival-style church in Monticello and is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Information submitted by C. C. Gibson, June, 1995.

Robertson, Linda. "The Episcopal Mission in Monticello." Drew County Historical Journal. 1991.

Robertson, Linda. "The Old St. Mary's Building Gets a Facelift." Drew County Historical Journal. 1994

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
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Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A 15 612180 3721330 B
C D

Verbal Boundary Description:

A parcel of land in Block 77 of the City of Monticello, Arkansas, bounded by a line beginning at the Southwest corner of said Block 77, thence run North 0 degrees 28 minutes 14 seconds West along the West boundary of said Block 77 a distance of 35 feet, thence run South 90 degrees East along a chain link fence therefound a distance of 64.3 feet to a fence corner, thence run in a

Southerly direction along a chain link fence therefound a distance 35 feet to the South boundary of said Block 77, thence run North 90 degrees West along said last-mentioned boundary a distance of 63.6 feet back to the point of beginning; and including the structure located thereon that was initially constructed and used for the St. Mary's Parish Episcopal Church in onticello.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: February 15, 1995

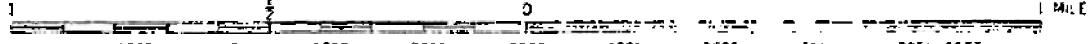
Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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



(MONTICELLO SOUTH)
7651 III SE

SCALE 1:24000



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Drew Co., Arkansas

TAN: 15/612180/8721330

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

