

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED

JUN 20 1996

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

~~AHPP~~

1. Name of Property

historic name: First Methodist Church

other name/site number: LA0023

2. Location

street & number: NW Corner of Chestnut and 4th Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Lewisville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Lafayette code: AR 073 zip code: 71845

3. Classification

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: Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945

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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 Slater \_\_\_\_\_ 4-15-96 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Current: RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: Religious facility \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>STONE</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>BRICK</u>	other	<u>Brick chimneys</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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### Summary

Located at the northwest corner of Chestnut and 4th Streets in Lewisville, the First Methodist Church is a single-story, brick masonry church building with a two-story anteroom addition.

### Elaboration

Located at the northwest corner of Chestnut and 4th Streets in Lewisville, the First Methodist Church is a single-story, brick masonry church building with a two-story anteroom addition. Its irregular plan (known as an Akron plan, named for the development in Akron, Ohio of the floor plan where the sanctuary is built with the pulpit platform in a corner of a square room and the Sunday School rooms and other ancillary spaces are "wrapped" around the sanctuary) is composed of a single-story section that wraps around the eastern and southern sides of the taller sanctuary section within, with the later anteroom section to the north or rear. Two narrow brick flues vent the interior at the northern end of the original section. The built-up tar roof and brick walls rest upon a continuous stone foundation.

The southern and eastern elevations are the principal elevations facing the intersecting streets that run past this corner lot. These facades meet at the building's southeastern corner, where three stone arches indicate the recessed corner entrance within. The stained glass windows to either side along the first story walls -- and in the upper wall sections of the sanctuary behind -- are all square-headed. A raised brick parapet caps all the walls on these elevations.

The brick addition on the rear steps down from east to west and is also capped with a raised brick parapet. It is fenestrated with later two-over-two windows and is otherwise unornamented.

The interior is in very good condition. The sanctuary retains most of its original detail, including the stained oak window and door trim, and the auditorium floor that descends toward the pulpit and choir.

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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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: COMMUNITY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1913-1945 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: 1913 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Witt, Siebert & Co. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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**Summary**

The First Methodist Church is associated with the historic context *Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945* by virtue of its direct associations with growth experienced in Lewisville as a result of the arrival of one of the railroads that played an influential role in the growth and development of Lafayette County.

**Elaboration**

Designed by the Texarkana architectural firm of Witt, Siebert & Co. in a restrained interpretation of the Classical Revival style, the First Methodist Church was constructed in 1913 for one of the larger religious congregations in the growing lumber town of Lewisville. For this reason the First Methodist Church is associated with the historic context *Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945* by virtue of its direct associations with growth experienced in Lewisville as a result of the arrival of one of the railroads that played an influential role in the growth and development of Lafayette County. It is thus significant under Criterion A as one of the few surviving church buildings in Lafayette County constructed during the boom in the timber industry brought on by the arrival of the railroad years before; it is

also significant under Criterion C as the best surviving example of a Classical Revival church building in Lewisville.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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See Railroad Era Resources of Southwest Arkansas (Lafayette, Little River, Miller and Sevier Counties), 1870-1945, Section H.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

Table with 6 columns: UTM References, Zone Easting, Northing, Zone Easting, Northing. Rows A, B, C, D with numerical values and underlines.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the western edge of Chestnut Street with the northern edge of 4th Street, proceed westerly on said edge for a distance of approximately 150 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 150 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line to its intersection with the western edge of Chestnut Street; thence proceed southerly to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically-associated with this resource that is known to retain its integrity.

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian  
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/29/96  
Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880  
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

















