

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR LISTED

JUL 09 1997

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: First Christian Church

Other Name/Site Number: LN 0116

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2. Location

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Street & Number: NW corner of 2nd and Depot Streets

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Lonoke

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Lonoke Code: AR 085 Zip Code: 72086

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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

Christina K. Sator _____ 5-30-97
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 : VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: N/A

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

CRAFTSMAN
TUDOR REVIVAL

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASPHALT
walls WEATHERBOARD other N/A
STUCCO

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Constructed in 1916, the First Christian Church of Lonoke is a two-story, Craftsman-style building with a belfry. The exterior is differentiated by weatherboard on the first floor and stucco on the second floor. The front elevation includes half-timber detailing and a Tudor Revival-style entrance. The interior is virtually unaltered and features stained wood pews, an impressive pair of Tuscan columns, and quatrefoil detailing on two doors to either side of the pulpit. Located at the northwest corner of 2nd and Depot Streets in downtown Lonoke, the First Christian Church is in good condition and has suffered only the loss of the steeple.

Elaboration

The First Christian Church is an essentially rectangular-plan, two-story frame building constructed in 1916 in the Craftsman style with Tudor Revival-style influences. Resting upon a continuous brick foundation, the exterior walls are covered by weatherboard and stucco, with the former on the first level of the church. All of the various types of wood windows survive in their original state. The complex gable-on-hip roof is covered with composition shingles and features wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. Unlike most Craftsman-style rafter tails, however, these are cut flush with the eave and are not visible horizontally. Although the bulk of

The building is covered by the hipped portion of the roof, it is broken by three gabled dormers, two "m"-shaped cross gables, and the separate hipped-roof bell tower section with a cross gable and an elaborate gabled belfry. Particularly noteworthy are the two unusual "m"-shaped cross gables. On the front, or southern elevation, the "m" is created by three identical side-by-side gables which surmount the three twelve-over-twelve windows on the upper story. Nearly the same decorative composition of eave and windows is repeated on the western elevation. The primary difference between the two elevations is the more pronounced "m" shape formed by the compressed unbroken gable forms on the western eave.

The hipped-roof bell tower section at the southeast corner of the church features a prominent battered wall just above the foundation along its two full elevations (south and east) and partial western and northern walls. The short sloping wall is clad with metal shingles painted brown to match the first-story weatherboard. This tower culminates with a belfry composed of four projecting gable roofs, each with two curved brackets flanking a narrow wood-louvered vent, and an octagonal base for the steeple. The steeple was removed due to water leakage into the building.

The front, or southern, elevation contains a gabled entrance porch in the center of the bell tower section at the eastern end of the facade. The porch is accessed by seven concrete steps with sloping side walls. Two square wood columns with simple bases and capitals support the roof, which is decorated with false half-timbering and stucco in the gable end, two false projecting beams with curved brackets attached to the columns, and a combination pendant and finial. The main entrance into the church is located under the porch and consists of a Tudor-arched, double-leaf door constructed of hardwood planks with prominent iron strap hinges.

Above each slope of the porch roof is a pair of windows, a short three-over-three window adjacent to the slope and tall six-over-six window to the outside. A single diamond-patterned sash, twelve-over-twelve window is positioned directly above the peak of porch gable and is protected by a small cross gable supported by curved brackets.

Fenestration for the remainder of the southern elevation consists of three twelve-over-twelve, double-hung windows that are located directly below the aforementioned windows underneath the "m" shaped eave detail of the south elevation.

The western elevation is fenestrated by ten nine-over-nine, double-hung windows on the first story. The middle five windows light the sanctuary and contain an additional nine-pane transom window above the regular nine-over-nine window sash. The upper, stucco-covered story contains three, nine-over-nine, double-hung windows under the "m" shaped eave. Also present on this elevation is a gabled dormer without sidewalls that houses a triangular-shaped, wood-louvered attic vent (a matching dormer is found on the eastern elevation).

The rear, or northern, elevation consists of a one-story hipped-roof section

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with two pairs of six-over-six, double-hung windows at either end with a smaller window in the center.

The eastern wall of the rear one-story section contains a single-leaf entry accessed by wood steps and a nine-over-nine window. The middle, sanctuary, section of the eastern elevation is fenestrated by five, nine-over-nine, double-hung windows each topped with another nine-light sash as seen on the western elevation. The projecting bell tower bay at the southern end of the elevation contains a single nine-over-nine window near the southern corner and two, nine-over-nine, double-hung windows on the second story.

The interior is virtually unaltered and features a central hall extending the length of the building with a raised chancel at the north end of the building. The sanctuary contains stained wood pews on either side of the aisle. The baptistery, which is located directly to the right of the pulpit, has a twin set of stairs that lead down into the font. On the north wall behind the pulpit are two tall doors decorated with quatrefoils carved into the upper-most panel.

At the southern end, a wood staircase leads up to the choir loft that projects out over the sanctuary and is supported by two stained wood Tuscan columns. The doors to the choir loft have the original brass hardware as do all the doors in the church.

Modern alterations are slight and consist of the addition of central heating and air conditioning, and the placement of a small carpet in front of the pulpit. With the exception of some water damage on the ceiling and walls, the church interior is in excellent condition.

There are no outbuildings associated with the church.

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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: 1916

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Charles E. Hamm, Sr., Builder
Frank Goodbar, Builder

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

Summary

Designed and built by Charles E. Hamm, Sr. and Frank Goodbar, and built in 1916, the First Christian Church of Lonoke is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance, as an outstanding example of a Craftsman-style church with some Tudor Revival style features, and as the best representative of this type in Lonoke County.

Historical Background

According to an early history of the church compiled by Mrs. John Munnerlyn, several attempts to organize the First Christian Church in Lonoke failed in 1898, 1901, and in 1903 due primarily to lack of funds for construction of a church. This obstacle was eventually surmounted with generous donations from members and the generosity of people in Hazen, Carlisle, Little Rock and

elsewhere. Mrs. Bransford, a founding member of the church, put some of her jewelry up as collateral in order that the First Christian Church might be completed. Finally some twenty people led by Pastor Gyerna signed the charter for the church in 1913. The church was completed in November 1916 by Charles E. Hamm, Sr. and Frank Goodbar.

At the time of construction, the town of Lonoke, which was founded in 1869 and incorporated in 1872, contained a population of approximately 1700. According to Dallas T. Herndon, the growing town could boast of "waterworks, electric light, two newspapers, a rice mill, a flour mill, an ice and cold storage plant" and served as "the banking and trading point for a large part of the county."

Architectural Significance

Although the loss of the church steeple is lamentable, the First Christian Church has survived the past eighty years with remarkable integrity. Along with its distinctive, signature "m"-shaped eaves, the church contains a plethora of Craftsman-style elements, including battered walls, exposed rafter tails, and decorative brackets, in addition to subtle Tudor Revival-style accents, seen largely in the front entrance and false half-timbering. As such, the First Christian Church is an outstanding example of a Craftsman-style church and is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best representative of this type and style in Lonoke County.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information Supplied by Margaret Campbell, Trustee, December 1996.

Dougan, Michael B. *Arkansas Odyssey*. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1994, p 139-141, 303.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Centennial History of Arkansas*. Volume I. Chicago-Little Rock: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

Munnerlyn, Mrs. John. "An Early History of First Christian Church," 1987.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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- 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:

- 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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Acreage of Property: less than one

JTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>600540</u>	<u>3849600</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 1 and 2, Block 11 of Lonoke.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic church and all of the property historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 12/09/96

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

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