

CLARENDON MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA
MONROE COUNTY

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number CL-12
Clarendon Methodist-
Property Name Episcopal Church South
Address 121 Third
City Clarendon, AR
Significant Date/s 1912

Owner Clarendon United Methodist Church
Address 121 Third
Clarendon, AR 72029

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Clarendon Methodist-Episcopal Church South was designed in 1912 by John Gaisford of Memphis. Gaisford specialized in building churches for the Methodist - Episcopal Church South from 1905-1918 in different parts of the south. Most of his buildings also featured the same Classical Revival style used in the Clarendon Church. The large brick structure features a prominent two-story sanctuary mass surrounded by one-story classroom spaces. The large sanctuary mass has a clay tile roof of four intersecting gables, upon which rests a large dome which is crowned with a decorative spire. The building's main entry is at the east gable and features an elaborately decorative form supported by two large Ionic columns which rest upon a flight of steps. The gabled form's pediment area has a large semi-circular stained glass window with decorative concrete mouldings at the eave point. The landing at the top of the steps is decorative terrazzo. The double wood entry doors have stained glass panels with stained glass side lights. The north, south, and west walls all contain three bays, a central two-story gabled mass flanked by one-story masses.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1912 Clarendon Methodist-Episcopal Church South is one of the most impressive structures and one of the oldest churches in the town. The Clarendon Methodist Church was organized in 1845 at Shady Grove Campground two miles east of Clarendon. They moved into town during the 1850's, and held services at various locations. Their first building in Clarendon was built on Second Street in 1885. This building burned in 1911, and the present lot was purchased on Third Street from Parker C. Ewan in 1912. The present church was completed later in 1912 using two local contractors named Graham and Boyles. The architect was John Gaisford from Memphis. Gaisford was an English immigrant who arrived in America in 1901, and worked out of Memphis from 1905 until his death in 1918. In 1911, Gaisford published a book for the Methodist - Episcopal Church South entitled How to Build the Church. In the book, Gaisford emphasized the Classical Revival style. He used this same style to design Methodist Churches throughout the South, as well as the Mississippi County Courthouse in Osceola, Arkansas in 1912. The interior of the church was damaged in the 1927 flood, but the exterior remains intact and largely unaltered.

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Property Name Clarendon Methodist-Episcopal Church South

Verbal Boundary Description: Ewans Addition Lots 7, 8, 9 Block F

Acreage: less than one

Quadrangle Name: Clarendon, Ark.

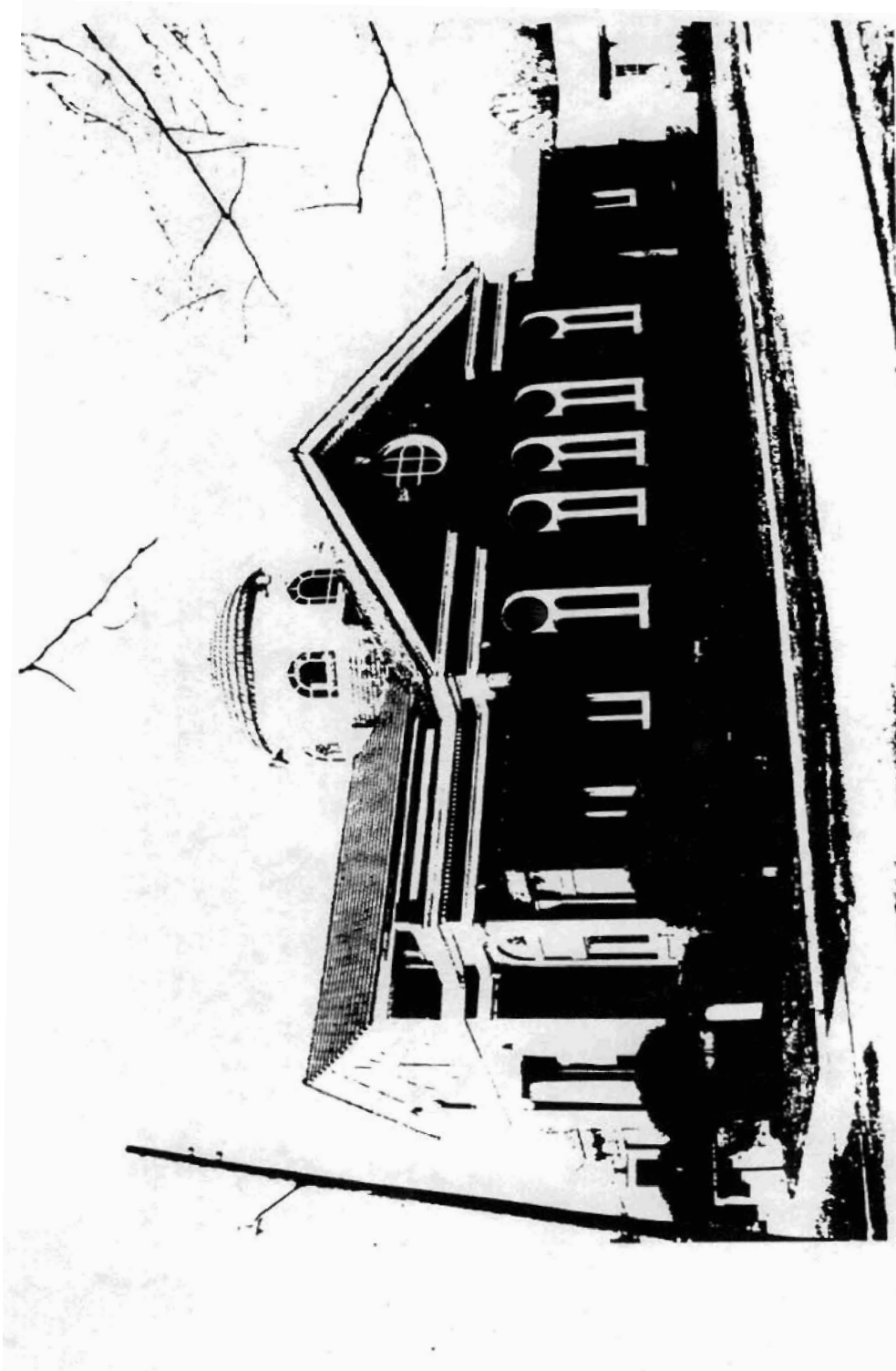
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone: 15

Easting: 654160

Northing: 3840660



CL-12 Clarendon Methodist-Episcopal Church South

121 Third Street
HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CLARENDON
Jeff Lewellen, photographer
Negatives at AHPP