

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dodson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Goddard United Methodist Church, Site #SB0795

2. Location

street & number 1922 Dodson Avenue  not for publication

city or town Fort Smith  vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Sebastian code 131 zip code 72901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  
 does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally   
statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Cathy Natta*  
Signature of certifying official

11/17/05  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

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 the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do Not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	3	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / religious facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS /

Late Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Composition Shingle

other Stone

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (pgs. 1 thru 6)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1930

Significant Dates

1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Haralson & Nelson – Architect, Ft. Smith

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (pgs. 1 thru 3)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography – SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (pgs. 1 & 2)  
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	371683	3915009
2			

	Zone	Easting	Northing
3			
4			

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.)

**Boundary Justification** (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Galen Hunter, Architect/Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 10/04/05

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9787

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Goddard United Methodist Church

street & number 1922 Dodson Avenue telephone 479-785-1415

city or town Fort Smith state Arkansas zip code 72901

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section   7   Page   1  

---

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION - INTRODUCTION**

Goddard Memorial Methodist Church is a multi-story structure, located at the corner of Jenny Lind Road and Dodson Avenue, that offers a good example of Late Gothic Revival from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival architectural style. The original sanctuary building is rectangular in plan with a tower/ belfry at the southeast corner, designed by Haralson & Nelson, architects in Ft. Smith, with original drawings dated June 18, 1930. Builder is unknown, but it is established the sanctuary was constructed in 1930, having a full basement with brick walls and extensive cut stone accents. The use of materials on the façades is expressive of the interior spaces of the church.

**ELABORATION OF DESCRIPTION**

The entry façade, facing Dodson Ave. on the north, rises over 45 ft. above first floor that is set an additional 4 ft.± above sidewalk adjoining Dodson Ave. The façade has stone, decorative buttresses framing the entry doors leading into the narthex, as well as the stained glass windows directly above. The stone buttresses are made to appear more massive by flanking brick walls with battlements on top. Short wings (for stairs), on east and west side of this façade, each 2-story brick, having stained glass, rectangular windows trimmed with cut-stone, and brick buttress with cut-stone cap at outside corners. This north façade has added interest by two stone buttress that project out from brick gable wall, starting at the top, where stone voussoirs, shaped as the hoodmold of an obtuse-angle arch span the stained glass windows. These buttresses divide this north façade into three coupled stained glass windows, located above 3 pair of wood doors. The buttresses step out in three segments, with the topmost segment ascending into a lance-shaped spire, while the bottom segment is denoted by a gablet feature.

The entry doors in pairs are wood stile done in early English style, each having stained glass lights in diamond-hatch pattern. Above each stone-framed door is stained glass transom light, with wood trefoil patterns, all under a segmental stone arch. Between the arched entry doors and the coupled stained glass windows is a in cut-stone surface that slopes outward spanning between window surface and hoodmold arch over each pair of entry doors. Each coupled window, divided by two horizontal mullions and the topmost stain-glass segment, just under the stone arch, has the appearance of flamboyant tracery, done in wood. At the roof line, the brick gable is capped in stone with a kneeler at the gable springer.

The exterior stone buttresses express the sanctuary's interior configuration having a nave and nave arcade/aisle, featuring similar segmental stone arches. The incredible detailed, artistic drawings for this building show the high regard to faithfully render the architectural style both on exterior and interior. The east façade features the buttressed brick stair wing that flanks the north entry, then 60 ft.± of the nave 2-story wall, and the highly ornamented, buttressed tower rising 82 ft. from first floor, at southeast corner. Also, along this façade, below the stone belt course at first floor line are the basement windows and basement entry, located at base of the tower.

Windows set in a one-story brick wall provide illumination for the nave arcade/aisle; each window is rectangular, stained glass, and the opening trimmed in cut-stone with quoin pattern. The composition shingle roof over this slopes up to the second story portion of the nave wall, with 5 sets of stained glass clerestory-windows, each divided by 2 vertical mullions; each window set has a stone gothic arch, similar to north façade. The arches spring from stone kneelers at tope of brick buttresses that divide the nave's east wall. A stone cap occurs at a step back in buttress, above the first story nave arcade's roof. Each clerestory window set flanked

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

by the buttress are set in a brick wall, having the jamb trimmed by a quoin pattern of cut-stone. These windows, divided by a horizontal mullion, have the upper portion with a similar appearance of flamboyant tracery, done in wood on north façade.

At the south end of this east façade is a 6-story tower, whose corners feature highly decorated style brick buttresses. The top of the tower's wall has a decorative motif of a brick embattlement with a single crenel. The corner buttresses ascend another 8 ft., each topped with a stone octagonal "lantern-shaped" spire and finial. Beneath the embattlement on each face to this tower is a 2-story tall stained glass window under a stone gothic arch. Each window, divided by one vertical mullion and three horizontal mullions, has its upper portion under the stone arch with similar appearance of those on front façade, including a flamboyant-style tracery pattern. The hoodmold of the obtuse angle arch spanning each of the stained glass windows springs from two cut-stone buttressed forms that project out from tower's brick wall. The buttresses flanking each of four 2-story tall windows are highly decorative in style and rises above the embattlements, topped with "lancet-shaped" finial. These buttresses extend down a cut-stone belt course, which form the sill of the tall windows, as well as serving as the head of a pair of small, narrow rectangular stained glass windows, trimmed with a stone quoin pattern. These buttresses step out at each tall window's mid-point where a gablet marks the transition. Beneath each of these buttresses is a brick pilaster mass extending down to a ledge table of cut stone, making first floor line and top of basement wall. The brick pilaster is about 1/3 the width of each of the eight brick corner buttresses; however, the decorative stone accents of both corner and window balusters occur where there are cut-stone belt courses in the tower's brick wall. The overall effect with this combination of balusters provides a strong vertical emphasis.

At the east face of the tower, between the brick pilasters that align with jamb of the 2-story windows (some 33 ft. above) is the cut-stone hoodmold of an obtuse-angle arch of same style above the front entry doors, including the wood door and transom. This provides south entry to the sanctuary, and there is an exterior stair, having brick wall with cut-stone banister cap, descending about 8 ft. to finish grade, alongside Jenny Lind Road. Beneath this brick wall for a landing at the south entry is a lower-level arched opening, having a recessed door to the sanctuary basement. An exterior stair descends about 3½ ft. from finish grade to the basement entry under a segmental stone arch. This arch is comprised of cut-stone voussoirs springing from cut-stone jambs having a quoin pattern.

The tower projects out 10½ ft. from the east façade of the nave arcade. The lower portion of the north and east face of the tower feature narrow, rectangular, stained-glass windows, lined by cut stone in a quoin pattern. At the first floor, east face of the tower is an arched entry, framed in cut-stone jambs and voussoir; currently a deep-red canvas awning reflects the arch opening, and projects in a semi-circular shape to provide shelter at the pair of wood doors. Additionally, at each side of entry, is a octagonal lantern light fixture located at springing line of arch. On the tower's north face, first floor is one typical narrow window opening. At the second floor level, each tower face has one such window opening at "right" corner, while the third floor has one at "left" corner. The tower's "third level" occurs just above eave of nave roof, where a belt-course of cut-stone occurs, also becoming the sill for the paired windows beneath the 2-story tall windows. At this course, there is a cut stone decorative "crest" inset feature to the brick corner buttresses, for each face of the tower. Another belt course occurs above this, that marks the sill height of the tall windows; at mid height to these windows, where the gablet is set on the flanking cut-stone buttresses, there is at this corresponding level a cut-stone kneeler set into each brick corner buttress. The topmost, cut-stone belt course in the tower occurs at the springing line of the arch spanning the tall windows. A cut-stone kneeler is set in the brick corner buttresses, and from there a bas-relief cut-stone rib, set in brick, ascends as a spire with a finial whose height comes to the base of the stone octagonal "lantern-shaped" spire and finial.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section   7   Page   3  

The southeast corner of the masonry tower joins with a 3-story building, whose axis lies perpendicular to the nave and its east gable end facing Jenny Lind Road, included originally educational/office areas. This building actually is the oldest, built in 2 phases of 1922 and 1925; interior renovations of 1966 created uses for adult education, music suite, and meeting room with its own small kitchen. The same colored brick is used in this and the sanctuary building of 1930; however there is an entirely different genre of architectural style represented in the original education wing of the 1920's: reflective of the Modern Movement, a moderne style building having minimal elaboration in its fenestration, roof line, etc. This building's ground floor has exterior walls of cut-stone, and matches the sanctuary's basement walls exposed above grade; additionally, the education building's top of cut-stone wall aligns with top of the stone banister-cap at the landing of the sanctuary's "south entry" in the east façade of the tower. This alignment provides an appropriate appearance for bringing these two distinct buildings together. The north, east and south façades, fenestrations are such that they are regularly aligned and evenly spaced. Windows are metal, double-hung in style, with brick rowlock sills. The roof is of compositions shingle and has brick parapet gable ends at east and west walls with kneelers, topped by cut-stone coping. A belt course of cut-stone beneath the gable ends aligns with the roof gutter along the south wall. The brick parapet along the north façade projects from the southeast corner of the tower towards Jenny Lind Rd and aligns with cut-stone kneeler of gable end of this education/office building, and has similar stone coping. At the east façade first floor is a segmental stone arch over an entry, having English style wood doors with stained glass light, similar to front entry doors. At the southeast corner of this education wing is an exterior stairway and covered walkway that provides a connection to a detached 2-story brick, flat-roofed Education building, constructed in the 60's, which runs parallel with Jenny Lind, completing the length of the block from Dodson Avenue to 'L' Street.

The south façade of the original 1920's education building is common, with a plain 3-story fenestration, and metal gutter at roof-line. At its west end a, 2-story addition constructed in 1996 abuts, and a definite contrast of materials occurs, revealing original buff-colored brick against new buff-gray EIFS wall in stucco finish. This addition currently has areas for church offices, classrooms, multi-purpose room and kitchen, as well as a porte-cochere for ground level to handicap-entry. A one-story portion projects south from the 2-story addition, and it includes a "pedestrian" porte-cochere. There are two tone, horizontal bands of brick veneer for its one-story wall which alternate from buff at the base to 1 ft. wide bands of pewter gray at both sill and head heights of the windows. The fascia trim, set back some just above the top band of gray brick is of EIFS stucco finish, has triple, corbelled horizontal bas-relief bands at about 2/3<sup>rd</sup> point of fascia, providing a two-tone appearance and some elaboration of the flat, plain roof-line that's trimmed out in bronze finish metal coping. The addition's fenestration, clad in color to match cut-stone, has a single transom light above a pair of casement-style windows. The porte-cochere for this brick addition has EIFS finish and is comprised of a square area, turned 45° to the addition's south façade, with two semicircular arches at openings for pedestrian access to a handicap entry.

At the southwest corner of the 2-story 1996 addition, near where church offices are located, a single-story arcade constructed with an EIFS stucco finish extends both north towards the 3-story family life center and east towards the "pedestrian" porte-cochere. The arcade features semi-circular arches, above which is its parapet having triple, corbelled horizontal bas-relief bands, somewhat reminiscent of Art Deco style. At the center of each pilaster is a bronze-tone finish metal conductor and downspout, providing an added feature to the arcade's façade. At the southwest corner of this arcade (near Bluff Ave. and 'L' St.) the main porte-cochere projects both south and west; its construction with EIFS stucco finish includes three semi-circular arches that

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section   7   Page     4    

give drive-through access. Above each arch is a gable end with its gable roof of compositions shingles; thereby, four gable roofs intersect at the center of the square area of this structure. At the corners of the porte-cochere, at height of the arch apex are the triple, corbelled horizontal bas-relief bands which extend to a point that aligns with the arches jambs.

The south façade of the two-story addition beyond has this same fenestration in its EIFS stucco finish walls as in the brick single story portion noted previously; the single transom light over a pair of casement-style windows is provided a bas-relief head-molding feature. The walls of buff tone EIFS have multiple intaglio of 3-inch horizontal bands at about 3 to 4 ft. intervals, with the parapet having bronze finish metal coping. Just below the coping is the topmost intaglio where, at regular intervals, it is punctuated by emergency overflow scuppers. About 3 ft. below another intaglio creates a horizontal band that runs just above the head-mold of second floor's fenestration. About 3 ft. below this band, another intaglio intersects about mid-point of window jambs; below the window sill level another intaglio generates the lower horizontal band. The roof flashing of the single-story portion concludes the exposed portion of the addition's 2-story.

The family life center, a three-story height 1996 construction with EIFS stucco finish, has the massive area of the west façade (facing Bluff Avenue) broken up by 4 pilasters of brick, two being at the corners; additionally there is a broad fascia having two horizontal, bas-relief bands. Where these bands intersect each pilaster there are decorative elements introduced. At the intersection of the bottom edge of the fascia (about second story level) the buff tone brick pilaster is capped by two soldier courses of pewter-gray brick, giving the appearance of a capital; directly above this the pilaster changes to EIFS material. At the height of the horizontal bas-relief concave-shaped band, an intaglio in circle-pattern occurs on the pilaster's stucco finish; above this another intaglio provides a pattern of a gothic arch on the pilaster, whose apex of which is just below the bronze finish of the parapet's metal coping. Just beneath the coping is a pewter-gray tone fascia in stucco finish, providing an 8" wide horizontal band intersecting with the gothic-arch pattern of each pilaster. On the 3 surfaces of each of these buff-tone brick pilasters are two horizontal bands: one at mid-point and one at base, created by a pewter-gray tone soldier-course brick. The bottom band corbels and is comprised of a soldier and rowlock course, yielding a "column base" appearance. At the wall line, this horizontal band carries through, providing an indication of floor line to the family life addition

The north façade of the family life center, facing Dodson Avenue, also features a 3-story height wall in EIFS stucco finish, but has a decorative treatment that differs somewhat from the west façade. The fascia and pilaster remain the same, including the pilaster's capital, and intaglio of circle and gothic arch patterns. However, the area of wall between pilasters and beneath the fascia is recessed about 1½ ft., thereby yielding the appearance of a square column at each pilaster. The buff-tone brick "columns" have same contrasting band treatment of west façade, including the bottom soldier-rowlock gray brick band that indicates where foundation wall ends.

The east façade of the family life center joins with the single story addition of kitchen/fellowship areas; where the 3-story façade is exposed, the division of the wall is treated like the west end, in regard to fascia and pilasters, with gray brick "capitals" and intaglio of circle and gothic-arch patterns. The mid-point band from the "column" (north facing) gray brick soldier course wraps the corner and abuts a fascia, aligning with its triple, corbelled horizontal, bas-relief band just beneath the bronze finish metal coping for the north façade single-story parapet wall. Between this fascia's coping and corbelled band, punctuating at regular intervals the buff tone stucco finish, are emergency overflow scuppers. Similar to the wall treatment of the south façade's single story portion, double-stacked soldier courses of gray brick contrast with buff tone brick, thereby creating horizontal bands at head and



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section   7   Page   5  

sill height of the fenestration. Just east of the family life addition the north façade to the addition (facing Dodson Ave.) has a segmental arch set in a short segment of a wall constructed with EIFS finish; at the springing line the jamb reflects features of the impost, abutment and plinth of a Romanesque arch. East of this portion of EIFS finish with arched opening for a recessed entry-way, the north façade includes brick veneer with the similar double-soldier-course bands of gray tone brick contrasting with buff tone brick. A clustered-window arrangement includes pairs of casement-style windows flanking 4 lights of fixed glazing which match the width of a leaf of the casement window; 8-inch wide vertical mullions of gray-tone EIFS finish divide the casement from fixed glazing segments. Above these window elements is an 8-inch wide horizontal mullion, above which is transom lights, each divided into equal glazing segments to correspond with the glazing segments below. A strong visual "cross" theme is thereby introduced into this façade. Above the upper band of gray tone brick is the continuous buff colored fascia having EIFS stucco finish, featuring the typical triple corbelled horizontal bas-relief banding and bronze finish metal coping at parapet.

The east end of this single-story 1996-addition's north façade continues this 2-tone brick wall and EIFS finished fascia southward until it abuts with the 2-story north façade of the chapel addition. Here, where the east end of the façade abuts with the original 1930 Sanctuary building with Late Gothic Revival, there is a visible effort to blend materials and borrow architectural style elements from old to new. A stained glass window cluster is created in a gabled wall, having a buff-gray tone EIFS stucco finish; the fenestration is flanked by buff-tone brick pilasters, each with a capstone, and reflecting the gothic-buttressed forms of the 1930 building. The east pilaster adjoins and matches the original brick of 1930 sanctuary, while the west pilaster is located at the northwest corner of the chapel addition. The chapel addition's parapet wall aligns with the eave of the sanctuary roof, and is finished with a combination of EIFS and metal coping resemble the stone coping of the sanctuary building; its gable is centered over the window cluster, capped in similar fashion with EIFS and metal coping. Arranged somewhat in the style of a Palladian window, two broad vertical mullions separate flanking windows from the center's coupled windows, each divided into 3 stacked lights fixed glazing. At about second story height, a broad horizontal mullion divides the clustered window; above the flanking windows is a transom in the shape of a quarter circle. Above the center glazing is a circular window divided by vertical and horizontal mullions that align with the vertical mullion between the coupled window and with the top of the quarter circle transom lights; this circular window is subdivided in two by radial muntins. At the broad vertical and horizontal mullions, as well as along the jamb, head, and sill is a bas-relief surround-trim for all six window openings, including the quarter circle and circle windows.

The 2-story chapel addition of 1996 abuts with the west façade of the original sanctuary at a point opposite and corresponding to the southeast tower. The sanctuary west façade is quite similar, without any exposed cut-stone basement wall, to its east façade. Set in a one-story brick wall are windows for nave arcade/aisle, each of rectangular, stained-glass, and the opening is trimmed in cut-stone with quoin pattern. The composition shingle roof over this slopes up to the second story portion of the nave wall, with 5 sets of stained glass clerestory-windows, each divided by 2 vertical mullions; each window set has a stone gothic arch, similar to north façade. The arches spring from stone kneelers at top of brick buttresses that divide the nave's east wall. A stone cap occurs at a step back in the buttress, above the first story nave arcade's roof. Each clerestory window set flanked by the buttress are set in a brick wall, having the jamb trimmed by a quoin pattern of cut-stone. These windows, divided by a horizontal mullion, have the upper portion with a similar appearance of flamboyant tracery, done in wood on the north façade.

The original church structure sits amid a campus of five ancillary buildings that are attached to the original

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section   7   Page       6      

---

structure and three that are not. The 3-story building originally used for education/office areas, attached to the south end of the 1930 sanctuary building, predates it. The parking for those few cars of 1930 occurred alongside the nearby surrounding streets; now the church campus includes a significant parking lot area bounded by Jenny Lind, Bluff Ave., South 'L' and 'M' Streets. Additions added in 1960's and 1990's have filled the block bound by Dodson Ave. and South 'L' Street. The exterior façades of additions do not make attempt to replicate the rich architectural Late Gothic elements, save perhaps the 2-story façade of the Chapel addition. Nonetheless, use of matching color of brick, alignment of coping, and arched openings make their appearance harmonize with the façade of the sanctuary.

Aside from the additions of the church hall and adjacent multi-purpose center and church offices, the original 1930 structure remains in excellent condition.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section   8   Page   1  

---

**SUMMARY**

Originally built in 1930 to replace a wooden structure on the same site at corner of Dodson Avenue and Jenny Lind, this building was then known as Dodson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. The architect was Haralson & Nelson – AIA Architect of Ft. Smith, Arkansas; although the builder is unknown, the construction utilized native materials. By 1945 it was renamed Goddard Memorial Methodist Church, and now is known as Goddard United Methodist Church. The church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**, representing an excellent example of late Gothic Revival architectural style in its neighborhood of Fort Smith. Additionally, it is being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

**ELABORATION**

The original site, of what is known today as Goddard United Methodist Church, had a Gothic Revival wood-framed structure, constructed in 1908. The 39 charter members who established Dodson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church South on July 24, 1907, began with just a vacant lot with trees and grapevines. Many new homes at that time were being built on the south side of Ft. Smith, but on the two lots purchased they took advantage of the warm weather and shade from a brush arbor they constructed. As fall approached that year, they enclosed the arbor, creating a shed for the congregation of 44, covering the cracks with strips on the outside, and covering the inside with building paper, and carpeting the ground with sawdust ... ready for winter! By the next summer, with 95 members gathering, they took great care to build a white frame building for their religious facility, reflecting some of the Late Gothic Revival architectural style.

The congregation used this structure for 22 years at that location on Dodson Avenue, but then sold it and moved the structure to its present location at Central City on Arkansas Hwy. 22. Ft. Smith's history and growth had by 1930 dictated a strong preference for masonry construction, with such considerations for fire safety and durability against strong storms in this region. However, for a group of men who dreamed big, there was a strong desire for their church to provide a strong statement of faith and architectural beauty, and thereby fashioned a Gothic sanctuary in the style of no other church in Ft. Smith area. Those of that building committee of 1930 included such notables as T.L. Hunt, D.L. Ford, C.L. Barry, Luther Hopkins, Shelton Adair and J.F. Oglesby. Although the Great Depression era was hard upon those in this region and gave cause to hesitate about the cost, they chose not to eliminate any portion of that original design. Neither the tower nor any of the elaborate stained glass windows nor even the pipe organ was to be eliminated. Instead, the congregation took on great risk to faithfully usher into reality this rich example in religious building. There were many bake sales and dinners served from the basement kitchen of that new sanctuary building, in efforts to raise monies and struggle against the odds of meeting the debt payments.

The original masonry building on the corner of Dodson and Jenny Lind was constructed from a 10-drawing set dated June 18, 1930 developed by Haralson & Nelson – AIA Architect of Ft. Smith. Additionally this architectural firm provided some 84 pages total of specifications for the general contractor, plumbing and electric wiring specification, and heating specification with R.E. Williams listed as engineer. The 5 sheets of building elevations in the original drawing set demonstrate the very elaborate, artistic style of drafting, and indicate how much detailing it required to reveal the Late Gothic Revival architectural style. It is known that Haralson & Nelson were the predecessor to Haralson & Mott – AIA Architect, formed in 1936; also Haralson & Nelson were successors in 1919 to A. Klingensmith, a well-known architect in the Ft. Smith region at the turn of the century.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section   8   Page   2  

By 1930 Haralson & Nelson had their offices in rooms 407-09 of what was then know as Merchants National Bank Building (now called "Stephens Building," site of Ft. Smith city offices). Joesph J. Haralson was known by Eugene Staton (retired structural engineer, still living), as he worked from 1949 through about 1955 in the Haralson & Mott firm. "Joe," (Mr. Haralson's name-preference) was most appreciated by Mr. Staton as outgoing, gregarious, exuberant and personable, who maintained a positive outlook of the affairs of life. Furthermore, "Joe" was the type of person who developed and maintained good business contacts, took on meeting with clients and doing the job-site visits, yet was very careful with design quality. During the period of design of Dodson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Mr. Ralph Mott was employed by J.J. Haralson, and most likely did the production drawings for this project.

E. Chester Nelson was associated with Mr. Haralson from 1919 thru sometime before 1936; Mr. Nelson became an independent architect after that time, while Haralson & Mott began their association, moving their office location slightly (rooms 228-29) in Merchants National Bank Building. Mr. Ralph O. Mott continued with J.J. Haralson thru 1955; after "Joe's" death in 1955, Mr. Mott continued the firm Haralson & Mott until 1957 when he formed the association known as Mott, Mobley, Horstman. By 1959 Chester Nelson formed his association of E. Chester Nelson & Assoc., including James G. Cheyene, Jr. and Robert S. Laser architects, located in room 421 of Merchants National Bank Building. Other notable, historic buildings that Haralson & Nelson completed designs for included three at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville: Men's Gymnasium (completed 1937), Vol Walker Hall (completed 1935), and Chi Omega Chapter House (1941 addition). Other notable structures for this architectural firm would include the Johnson County Courthouse (constructed in 1935), Logan County Courthouse, South Judicial District (constructed in 1928-1929), and the Belle Point Masonic Lodge, located at North 11<sup>th</sup> St, Ft. Smith, Arkansas (completed in September 1929).

Dodson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church had its first service on June 1931, and has operated continuously as a religious facility. The excellent example Late Gothic Revival architectural style was built of traditional materials, having buff-colored brick and white cut-stone accents. Through the years the church has maintained the sanctuary building keeping its significant architectural integrity, for its appearance has changed very little from original structure, complete with its highly decorative detailing. Dodson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was renamed in Oct. 1945 to Goddard Memorial Methodist Church, in honor of Dr. O.E. Goddard. This pastor had been assigned to this congregation in 1937 facing a serious debt crisis including eminent foreclosure procedures. His leadership brought his personal wisdom and experience to this congregation in the throes of the Great Depression; his deeply held convictions on the spiritual approach to their debt problem and their willingness to follow brought forth a feeling that God performed a miracle. The debt was somehow refinanced, and little by little with inspiration from God and encouragement from Dr. Goddard, positive financial direction was regained. The final liquidation of the debt for the original sanctuary building was accomplished by October 1945.

The continued growth and expansion of Ft. Smith was reflected at Goddard Memorial, where additions were made to accommodate congregation size & needs, including in 1960 additions of the educational/children's building and fellowship hall; 1980 added a new children's building, and by 1995 began construction of family life center with office area, increased classroom area, and new chapel area. The original building retains the core use of what is now know as Goddard United Methodist Church, including the distinctive interior with its nave arcade with arches that reflect those of the exterior to the sanctuary (worship center). Its north, east and west façades provide the powerful perspective of this rich Late Gothic Revival architectural style. The original tower at the southeast corner exalts the building's religious and architectural significance, and makes a

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section   8   Page   3  

---

statement of its distinctiveness ... not a building to blend in with others or hide among them, this is a place to be located and identified easily! The 1930 building abuts on its south end with an even older building, from 1922-25, that included original classroom/office areas; it's architectural style appears to be in opposition to the sanctuary building, but there was effort to blend the brick veneer and the cut-stone tones, so as to create some sense of harmony. Likewise those later additions from 1960's, 80's and 1996 have not made any attempt to replicate the rich materials or elaborations of the 1930 building, but harmonize with it by use of tones and selections of exterior materials, and reflect some elements of elaboration from the original. Additions attached to the Sanctuary building appear to be a member of it, not disjointed or alienated elements to this example of Late Gothic Revival architecture.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Goddard United Methodist Church has grown in such a manner as to reflect the continued changes in history of cultural development in this "hub of the Southwest," Ft. Smith, Arkansas. The architectural integrity of this religious facility is significant, and provides a good example of a distinctive architectural style, with a near original appearance from 1930. Additionally, the architects were from the same community in which it was built, and the draftsmanship care created a rich design on paper that was faithfully reproduced thru brick, stone, stained glass, and other durable materials from this locale. This church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C**, as an excellent example of the Late Gothic Revival architectural style, and under **Criterion Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section   9   Page       1      

---

**Major Bibliographical References**

---

**Bibliography:**

- "About Goddard" No date. Viewed January 12, 2005 <http://www.goddardumc.org/about.html>
- Blumenson, John J. Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles & Terms, 1600-1945.  
Second edition. Pub. American Assoc. for State & Local History, 1985
- "First Methodist History". The Journal. Periodicals by Ft. Smith Historical Society. Editions 1977 on.  
Volume 1, No. 2. p. 81-82
- Fort Smith City Directory. Edition 1919-20. Fort Smith, AR: Calvert McBride Printing Co.  
"Harlson & Nelson" listing.
- Fort Smith City Directory. Editions 1921-22, 1925-26, 1928-29. Ft. Smith, AR: Calvert McBride Printing Co.  
"J.J. Haralson" listing
- Fort Smith City Directory. Edition 1930. Fort Smith, AR: Calvert McBride Printing Co.  
"Jos. J. (Johnnie) Haralson" listing.
- Fort Smith City Directory. Editions 1936, 1938. Fort Smith, AR: Calvert McBride Printing Co.  
"Haralson & Mott" listing.
- Fort Smith City Directory. Edition 1955. Fort Smith, AR: Calvert McBride Printing Co.  
"Haralson & Mott (R.O. Mott)" listing.
- Fort Smith City Directory. Edition 1957. Fort Smith, AR: Calvert McBride Printing Co.  
"Mott Mobley Horstman (R.O. Mott)" listing.
- "Goddard Time Line" pub. Goddard United Methodist, Ft. Smith, AR: Goddard UMC, 1996. 1pg.
- Harris, Cyril M. (editor). Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture. New York:  
Dover Publications, Inc., 1977
- The Journal. Periodicals by Ft. Smith Historical Society. Editions 1977 on. Volume 3, No.1. p. 5
- Patton, Fred J. History of Fort Smith: 1817-1992. Ft. Smith, AR: Fred Patton, 1992.  
p.227-231
- Poppeliers, John, Allen Chambers Jr, Nancy Schwartz. What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture.  
Pub. National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1983
- Staton, Eugene. Professional Engineer (retired). May 9 & May 20, 2005  
"Background on Haralson & Mott"
- Steel, Nancy (editor). Insight 2000: A Millennium Project of the Southwest Times Record. Ft. Smith, AR:  
Southwest Times Record, 1999. p. 115

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section   9   Page       2      

---

Wilcox, Ralph S. A Reference Guide to the Architectural Styles of Arkansas. Little Rock, AR:  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Winter, Frances. Goddard Remembered. Pub. Goddard United Methodist, Ft. Smith, AR: 1994  
p. 1-12

Winter, Frances. The Goddard Story. Pub. Goddard United Methodist, Ft. Smith, AR: 1999  
p. 1-5

Yardon, Julia Etter, Sue Cross, Randall Viguet. Reflections of Ft. Smith. Ft. Smith, AR:  
Ft. Smith Historical Press, 1976. p. 38-45

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section   10   Page       1      

---

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Lot One A (1-A) in Block Seven (7), Masons Addition of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

---

**Boundary Justification:**

These are the original boundaries as deeded to the Dodson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church .



**SOUTH FORT SMITH QUADRANGLE**  
**ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA**  
**7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)**  
**SW/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE**

7154 IV NE  
 (VAN BUREN)

IV NW  
 SMITH) R 27 E R 32 W FAYETTEVILLE 58 MI. VAN BUREN 5 MI. 371 25' 3 070 000 FEET (OKLA., NORTH) 1 MI. TO JUNC. U. S. 64 & 71 3 080 000 FEET (OKLA., SOUTH) 94° 22' 30"

35° 22' 30"  
 DODSON AVENUE MET  
 ODIST EPISCOPAL  
 3915 CHURCH  
 FORT SMITH, SEBAS  
 COUNTY, AR  
 760 000 FEET  
 (OKLA., SOUTH)  
 UTM;  
 15/371683/3915009



MASSARD 2 MI.

150 000 FEET  
 (OKLA., NORTH)

3913

9 MI. TO INTERSTATE 40  
 RUSSELLVILLE 65 MI.







