

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JASPER, ALABAMA

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1800, 3rd Avenue not for publication
city, town Jasper vicinity of _____ congressional district 4th
state Alabama code 35501 county Walker code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Jasper, Alabama (Trustees)
street & number 1800 3rd Avenue
city, town Jasper vicinity of _____ state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Judge's office, Walker County Courthouse,
Jasper, Alabama. Also Tax Assessor's Office.
street & number _____
city, town Jasper state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records (NOTE) State of Alabama awarded Award of Merit by
Alabama Historical Commission on February 29, 1976 for recognition of sub-
stantial achievement in renovation and preservation of an historic

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Present building erected beginning in 1914 and dedicated free of debt on November 3, 1921. Building exterior is white Georgia marble. Full raised basement floor, main floor and a second floor off west balcony of sanctuary. Attic area contains two large rooms. Frame is wooden and steel. Doric pilasters on north and east porches. Porches supported by four solid marble Ionic columns rising two stories in height. Three sets of wooden Cross and Bible wooden doors on each porch. Entablature has plain cornice, unornamented frieze, as is architrave, except for circles at each cornering. Porch floors are tiled with small hexagonal tile. 14 steps of marble lead up to porches. A small stained glass window is over each set of double doors. North side has 9 bays; east side 6 bays, west side 3 bays and south side 8 bays. Roof is red tile with cupola approximately 12 ft. tall in peak of roof. One marble chimney from kitchen area in northwest corner. There is a north entrance at the rear of the sanctuary and an east entrance at the right of the pulpit looking out toward the congregation. Doors described above. Trim around doors is plain marble with keystone. Pediment for each entrance is white marble with plain trim centered by a circle of pink marble. Assuming north is the main entrance, there are 6 large two story tall arched stained glass windows on that side of the church. As stated the porch has 3 small stained glass windows over the 3 doors. Also 2 small stained glass windows in the vestibule area at each end of same. East side of church has 2 large two story arched stained glass windows and 2 basement entrances with double doors, half glass. A church office door on this side is reached by marble steps and has a marble railing around its flat roof. On the back, or south side, of the church there are Cross and Bible double doors entering flat into the basement. Also there are marble steps with iron railing and one landing leading up to an entry with half wood and half glass doors.

On the basement level the windows are wood frame 6 over 6 panes double hung. There are 8 on north side, 5 on west side, 7 on south side. South side of main floor has 6 one pane stained glass windows and two large stained glass windows. These have been commented on.

West side shows three one pane stained glass windows on main floor and three on the second story. The windows depict Bible characters, stories, or scenes and are memorials as shown thereon. One is unusual as having John Wesley portrayed on it and is reputed to be one of a very few in the country showing him.

The building is in excellent condition, having been repaired, renovated and some floor plan changes made following a disastrous tornado which struck Jasper at about 8 P. M. on April 3, 1974. No significant changes were made in the sanctuary area, however. (See architect's drawing attached which shows complete details). Since that time a slight exterior change was made on the south side to cover installation of elevator. It is of white marble and is in complete conformation with the building. The architects hired after the tornado simply revamped the basement floor plan, the rooms off the sanctuary on the main floor and the rooms off the west balcony to be more efficiently used.

The sanctuary is two stories tall crowned with a ome 34 ft. in diameter, 9 ft. high and 105 ft. in circumference, containing more than 30,000 pieces of glass. A balcony is on the east, north and west sides of the sanctuary. Woodwork is dark mahogany as are benches. Area will seat approximately 400.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- 1983	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Throughout practically the entire history of the white man's settlement of Walker County, the Methodist church has played a part. It is the oldest church in Jasper, Alabama. Actual formal organization of the Methodist Church was had on June 14, 1833, although Methodists had been holding meetings prior thereto. About 1858 or 1859 a frame building was erected on the site of the present building, which was burned on March 27, 1865 by Union soldiers. About 1869 the Methodists and Masons joined in erecting another building, 32 ft. by 42 ft. on the site. In 1888 a new brick building was begun. It had a tall steeple. Additional property bordering that already held was bought. In 1912 Rev. J. L. Morris started a move to build a new church, and actual work was begun under the Rev. W. W. Scott about 1914. Lycurgus Breckinridge Musgrove, a onetime financier of national note, contributed \$2.00 for \$1.00 raised and is said to have given about \$130,000.00. He also donated the dome in honor of his mother, which dome cost about \$10,000.00. World War I interfered with the construction but the building was finally completed and dedicated free of debt on November 3, 1921.

The Alabama political dynasty of Bankhead was a prime mover in the church as now existing. The first Senator, John Hollis Bankhead, was buried from this church in March, 1920. His son, the Honorable William Brockman Bankhead, Speaker of the House of Representatives and veteran Congressman, was buried from this church, the service being held on September 17, 1940. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt attended the service. He entered the north door on the arm of his aide. A wooden ramp was built up over the steps so his car could drive up flush with the door. Other distinguished persons in attendance were Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, Madame Perkins, Secretary of Labor. A plaque showing where the President sat is on Row 3 of the center section of seats. Senator John Hollis Bankhead, II was a member of this church. His funeral was conducted from it on June 14, 1946. Many prominent Washington politicians attended it, including Senator Claud Pepper. Speaker Bankhead left a stand and flag used by him in the Congress while he was speaker of the House of Representatives. Two marble pedestals were given from the late Senator John H. Bankhead, II's home. The church has played a prominent part in the entire history of Walker County. It has had an incalculable influence on the progress of the county in its near 150 years of formal existence, plus being the church of a notable Alabama political family. It continues to exist in impeccable condition as a leading light in the community. In addition its architecture is unusual, outstanding, and quite beautiful. Many people come to view it and are awed by its loveliness.

9. Major Bibliographical References

None. Miscellaneous information in church files.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 0.44 Acres

Quadrangle name Jasper

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	7	4	2	6	9	3	7	4	3	5	6	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 18 (except the south 4') and lots 18 through 21, of Block 191 in the City Map of Jasper, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 38, in the Probate Judge's Office of Walker County, Alabama. Section 16, Township 14 South, Range 7 West.
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. J. K. Taggart, Jr., Historian, First United Methodist Church

Sponsored organization by Walker County Heritage Association, Jasper, AL.

date January 18, 1983

street & number 1800 3rd Avenue (church)
1490 7th Avenue (Mrs. T.)

telephone 387-2111
384-6443

city or town Jasper

state Alabama 35501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For HCBS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

date _____



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T 14 S

1 400 000
FEET

BOLDO 4 MI.
CULLMAN 41 MI.

UNION CHAPEL 4.2 MI.
BIRMINGHAM 44 MI.

(CORDOVA)
3551 / SW

22
50

56



