



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130  
PHONE: 832-6621

AUG 27 1984

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ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE  
Nomination Form

COUNTY Coffee

NAME: Present First United Methodist Church Historic Enterprise Methodist Church

LOCATION: Street and Number 217 South Main Street

Town (Give directions if rural) Enterprise, Ala.

\*A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM\*

CATEGORY: Building (x) Structure ( ) Object ( ) Site ( ) District ( )

USE: Present Place of worship Historic Place of worship

OWNERSHIP: Public ( ) Private (x)

Owner's Name First United Methodist Church

Mailing Address P.O. Box 1515

Enterprise, Ala, 36330

INTEGRITY: Original Site (x) Moved ( ) When? \_\_\_\_\_

From where? \_\_\_\_\_ (Give details in significance.)

CONDITIONS: Excellent (x) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Ruins ( )

THREATS: No (x) Yes ( ) By What? \_\_\_\_\_

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered ( ) Underway ( ) Completed ( ) Not planned (x)

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land ( ) Woodland ( ) Scattered buildings ( )  
High building density ( ) Commercial (x) Industrial ( )  
Residential (x) Rural ( )

Acreage 2

For all categories other than a district and object give a site plan with a North arrow.  
Show related buildings.

For a district give a verbal boundary description and attach a sketch map of the district.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Why is this landmark significant? (x) associated with events, persons, or movements  
Local (x) State ( ) National ( )  
( ) a good example of a type or style of structure  
( ) other

Explain: (Briefly state why the above is true)

See attached statement.

Date of Construction or Period of major importance. 1903 - 1904

Architect or Builder (Give name and biographies, if known) Lamar Fleming was the builder. He was the son of Benjamin Watson and Idora Fleming. His grandfather was John Alexander Fleming, a charter member of the church. Lamar studied abroad, returned home and built churches, schools and Give a complete but concise history of the Landmark. Include information on important other people and events associated with the landmark. (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY) large building

See attached history.

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:  
Coffee Grounds by Fred S. Watson, c/o 1970  
Church records Deed (copy attached)  
History of Enterprise First United Methodist Church

DESCRIPTION: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LANDMARK MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

Complete as directed below for each category.

BUILDING:

Number of stories 2 Foundation cement Basement N/A

Wall Material: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)  
(clapboard, brick, stone, wood shingle, board and batton, stucco over wood or brick, metal, logs)

Stucco over brick

Structural System: (If known)

Wood frame ( ) Load-bearing masonry (x) Iron or Steel ( )

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Roof Type: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination) Combination

Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate) Fiberglass

Roof Trim: (Cornices, bargeboard, brackets, etc.) Cornices

Porches: Front (type and description) N/A

Rear (type and description) N/A

Side (type and description) One side porch on second floor to Sunday School room of addition.

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) Large double door, facing west, on Chancey Street side of building.

Other entrances (location, description) Side entrance on Chancey Street and also side entrance on north side of sanctuary. Other entrances also available to additions to church.

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade

Wood face with stained glass windows - Total of 20

Types and number per floor for sides and rear

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.

Wainscoting on all sides. Plasterwork with no unusual features.

Other: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other features of the structure and its surroundings.

Administrative offices, Sunday school rooms, Fellowship Hall have all been added to original structure. See photos.

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions if possible.

THIS IS NOT REQUIRED!

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the object. (See examples)
- SITE: On a separate sheet of paper give the present description of the site and how the site is believed to have looked during its period of importance.
- DISTRICT: On a separate sheet of paper give a general description of the district. Also needed is a numbered list of the structures in the district corresponding to the sketch map. This listing should include a name for the structure, a date of construction, a brief description, a statement of why the structure is significant, if it is.

**\*A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM\***

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

Photographs: Black and white, glossy finish, 5 x 7, or 8 x 10, is preferred.

FORM PREPARED BY

Name Roy Shoffner Date May 11, 1984  
Address 406 Doster Street Telephone 347-8887  
Town Enterprise, Ala., 36330  
Organization Enterprise Ledger Phone 347-9533

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP \_\_\_\_\_

U. T. M. Reference                                      
                                 Zone      Easting      Northing

Thematic Category \_\_\_\_\_

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

AUG 27 1984

CONDENSED HISTORY OF FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH \* ENTERPRISE

RECEIVED

The present structure used by Enterprise First United Methodist Church as its sanctuary is the third building erected for its worship services.

Methodists living in and around the small village to become known as Enterprise first began meeting in Alberson's schoolhouse (about one mile east of the present church). This was in 1883.

That same year, during summer months, services were held under a brush arbor at Main and East Lee streets. As colder weather approached, Enterprise Mission or Charnichael's Chapel became a reality and members prepared to erect a new church building. Thirteen members organized the new church and all thirteen, including women, participated in the erection of the original building. The building was placed on a lot provided by John Henry Carmichael (founder of Enterprise) on the east side of Main Street near the city cemetery.

As membership grew, it became necessary to have a larger meeting place. In 1893, using a lot on the west side of Main Street, a 35x50 foot building was erected for \$600.

Enterprise's population continued to grow, business expanded, and industry began to come into the fledgling town, especially after the railroad arrived. A larger church building was needed again. The church bought a lot on Main Street at Chancey Street from Monroe Chancey for \$600. Construction started on the new building on August 1, 1903 and the first sermon was preached on September 4, 1904. Members met at the frame structure on North Main and 'paraded' down Main Street to their new church 'home.' The masonry building cost \$10,000. This is the building proposed to be added to the Registry.

In 1923, an Austin pipe organ was installed and serves the congregation today.

The first annex was added in 1923 at a cost of \$20,000. Electric wiring was replaced in the building in 1927 and new lights were installed. Paving of Main Street was done in 1919. Later, Chancey Street was paved.

In 1940, a new heating system was installed.

Camp Rucker opened near Enterprise in 1942, to train troops for service in World War II. The Church ministry became involved in service to the troops and was influenced by the troops.

The second annex was added in 1949 and the sanctuary was remodeled at the same time for a cost of \$50,000.

In February 1950, the church board purchased the Weldon Thompson property just back of the church plant.

Air conditioning arrived for the auditorium and a few other areas of the church in the early 50s. And in March of 1954, still another annex was added to the church at a cost of \$37,932.

Having earlier assisted in establishing Southside Methodist Church, the church also assisted in an expansion to that church (now known as St. Paul Methodist Church) and in the organization of another - St. Luke Methodist Church.

The first woman to serve on the Board of Stewards was during the period 1952-57.

In January, 1956, Dr. C. Byrd Harbour, pastor at the time, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Earnest Hardy of Bramhall, Cheshire, England, for three months.

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In 1956, the complete church plant was air-conditioned. The board purchased the Owen property in March, 1959. The property was owned by Arnie Brown who agreed to sell for \$12,000. The board then gave the buildings on the property to the Johns Chapel AME Church for use in their building program.

A Fellowship Hall was erected on the Owens property in 1963. Also in 1963, improvements were made to the main buildings, such as outside painting, inside painting, refinished floors, paneled wainscoting in the auditorium, improved vestibules, rearranged choir area, and carpeted floors.

In 1965, Enterprise State Junior College was organized in the church building. The first classes were held in the church until the college campus could be built and made ready for students.

In 1966, the exterior was redecorated.

On March 27, 1969, a fire on the first floor of the sanctuary caused \$58,000 damage. It was thought to be caused by a wiring problem. The sanctuary was completely renovated. As a part of the renovation, 1970, the WSCS bought two matching chandeliers from Germany. One chandelier has 52 bulbs.

In 1979-80, the heat-cooling system was reworked. While the work was going on, fire broke out on a Sunday morning in an attic and around a light bulb. The building was evacuated and the fire was put out without water damage.

In August 1970, the remainder of the Thompson property was purchased for \$18,000.

In June, 1973, \$40,000 was authorized for the renovation of the church buildings. In early 1974, the board discussed painting, inside and outside, re-roofing, recovering the steeple with metal and adding a new cross, improving the front entrance by enlarging the porch and steps, new exterior doors, and handrails. When the work was completed, the cost was \$60,000.

Since 1974, the Schulmarich Carillon Bells toll daily for everyone to hear. The system was given by nieces and nephews in honor of Mrs. R.S. Boyd and in memory of Ridgeway Boyd.

In 1979, the heating and air-conditioning were reworked. The Vestibules were redecorated in 1983.

The estimated value of this church property - buildings and land - is now in excess of \$1 million.

Information for this brief history was obtained from:  
"A Century At Enterprise First Methodist" by the History and Records Committee of the Church.  
Depository of Archival and Historical Materials, Alabama-West Florida Conference, Montgomery, Ala.  
Quarterly Conference Records, Conference Journals, Minutes of Board Meetings.

## DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING

By Don Dowden  
Present Architect

Sited on the corner of South Main and Chancey Streets, the First United Methodist Church of Enterprise was founded in 1903. This gray stuccoed building is characteristic of the Gothic style. With its steeply pitched roof and gothic stained glass windows, it typifies Methodist churches of this period.

The congregation enters the church through the base of a large spire topped with a small cross. This gray metal element is visible throughout Enterprise.

The interior of the sanctuary is reminiscent of Tudor construction: stuccoed walls, large hewn beams, arched windows and brass chandeliers characterize the interior space. The windows are stained glass composition, geometric in nature but generally consisting of a four petaled flower. The exposed beam truss and deeply hewed wood panels offer a contrast to the soaring stuccoed walls. The very voluminous space shaped through sloping floors and high pitched ceilings which lend a vertical focus to the altar area.

Adjoining the church are educational facilities which repeat the stuccoed look to create a clustered effect.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
of  
Enterprise First United Methodist  
Church  
Enterprise, Ala.

The Enterprise First United Methodist Church has much historical significance to the City of Enterprise. It was the first church - The Mother Church - in that is today a city of almost 20,000 people. The Enterprise First Baptist Church was organized within the walls of the original Methodist Church building.

In the present building, erected in 1903, the church has provided for the needs of Enterprise through diversity and necessity. When the city school burned, it was the First Methodist Church that provided space for classes to continue. When Enterprise State Junior College organized, it was at First Methodist Church where ESJC held its first classes until buildings could be erected on the college site.

Throughout the history of Enterprise, Enterprise First United Methodist Church has been in the forefront spiritually, civically, and in most any way the occasion demanded. One of the oldest buildings in Enterprise, it has seen history made within its walls and deserves to be placed on the Alabama Registry and National Registry.

It is also a splendid example of Gothic architecture - one of the few examples in Enterprise - and deserves preservation and placement on the Registry for this reason. also.