

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

LITTLE ROCK MAIN STREET MULTIPLE
RESOURCE AREA, LITTLE ROCK, PULASKI COUNTYSurvey Number LR0079Owner First Presbyterian ChurchProperty Name First Presbyterian ChurchAddress 123 East 8th Street

Original Name _____

Little Rock, AR 72201Location 123 East 8th StreetConstruction Date 1921

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The First Presbyterian Church is an impressive example of ecclesiastical architecture inspired by English Gothic cathedrals. This 1921 structure has a Latin cross plan and is constructed of yellow mat brick with stone and terra cotta detailing. A very high nave with lower buttressed aisles allows for bands of arched stain glass windows which provide illumination to the interior. The sanctuary's stain glass windows are widely regarded to be among the finest in the city. These arched windows, as well as all of the building's entrances, are emphasized by terra cotta hood molding. The imposing 8th Street facade features an elevated entrance. A deeply recessed ordered arch surrounds the narthex stain glass window. A highly ornamented terra cotta quoins and battlemented parapets. Large stain glass arched windows light the east and west transepts and the transepts' parapets have terra cotta coping.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Organized in 1828, the First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock is the oldest Presbyterian Church in the state. The present building at 8th and Scott Streets is the fourth facility constructed by the congregation. Having outgrown the previous building at 5th and Scott Streets, the church purchased this property and erected, in 1914, a new Sunday School building which was designed by architect Charles Thompson. Six years later construction began on the sanctuary which had been designed by a young architect and former Thompson assistant, John Parks Almand, to complement the earlier classroom building. Almand went on the design some of Arkansas' most handsome 20th Century churches.

Verbal Boundary Description Lots 10, 11, 12, Block 9, Original CityAcreage Less than oneQuadrangle Name Little Rock, ArkansasQuadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone 15Easting 566760Northing 3844330NOV 1 1986
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