



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC St. Mark's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

	Third and El	m Street	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
	Hope	VICINITY OF	Fourth	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	Arkansas	05	Hempstead	057
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CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
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STRUCTURE	вотн	-WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	X_RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

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DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On May 10, 1904, the cornerstone of St. Mark's Episcopal Church was laid. The building was completed in the Spring of 1905 at a cost of \$3,500. St. Mark's Church is a modified T-shaped structure with a gabled vestibule on the north side of the facade. The exterior is covered in hardboard siding having a plain frieze. The structure rests on a brick foundation. The roof has approximately a sixteen-twelve pitch and is covered with wood shingles.

A large Gothic window marks the facade of the Church. This window features four narrow, tall panes of stained glass, each having its own Gothic-arch top, below a variety of stained glass panels in diamond, triangular and hexagonal shapes. All of the stained glass windows in the Church are reputed to have been designed by Tiffany.

The gabled vestibule contains heavy double-entry doors. These Gothic-shaped doors feature small squares of stained glass in the upper one-third section. A small stained glass window is found on the north elevation of the vestibule.

The north and south elevations of the main body of the church feature three windows each. These windows are of richly colored stained glass with Gothic-style pointed heads over double-hung sash. The window located in the vestibule and the six larger windows on the north and south wings of the church continue in the Gothic style. These windows also are of stained glass but are of a different pattern than the six on the north and south elevations of the main body of the Church.

On the east elevation of St. Mark's Church is a gabled projection which contains the apse. A delicate Gothic-shaped, stained glass window with tracery forms the focal point of the apse. Very slender Gothic stained glass windows, located on the north and south wings of the Church, flank the apse.

The interior of St. Mark's Church is almost totally of oak construction. The walls and the ceiling are of narrow-plank oak, with exposed ceiling beams. Rows of oak pews flank the nave, along with the three stained glass windows on each side.

The chancel contains the massive pipe organ which was installed in 1915. The entire north wall of the chancel is utilized for the organ. On the south wall of the chancel hangs an elaborate tapestry which once hung in a Church in Italy.

The focal and functional center of St. Mark's interior is the apse. It is marked by a Gothic stained glass window with tracery which forms one large Gothic arch flanked by two smaller ones and separated at the top by triangular shaped panels. An elaborate gold-leaf tabernacle topped by a cross decorated with amethysts rests beneath the window. The sanctuary Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

light is of crimson stained glass. Both the tabernacle and the sanctuary light came from Europe.

The only alteration which has been made to St. Mark's Church is the removal of a rose window, which was on the facade above the large stained glass window. The rose window was destroyed by a storm a few years ago and was not replaced. The original clapboard exterior has recently been covered with hardboard siding. Otherwise the Church remains in its original condition.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Hope rests on a corner lot on Hope's busiest street. Its age, its simple Gothic touches and its excellent condition combine to make St. Mark's Church an important historical landmark.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of St. Mark The Evangelist in Hope, Arkansas, is one of the most significant historical structures within the city. Architecturally, St. Mark's Church is an excellent example of simple Gothic architecture. The Church was completed in 1905 at a cost of \$3,500 and, with the exception of the removal of a small rose window on the facade, remains totally unaltered. Beautiful Gothic stained glass windows are the dominate feature of the Church. These windows are reputed to have been designed by Tiffany. The interior of St. Mark's Church is exceptionally beautiful. The interior is almost entirely of fine-grained oak, which has retained its original appearance due to careful upkeep. The history of the Church is enmeshed within the history of Hope, for the development of the Church and the town run parallel. St. Mark's Episcopal Church has been one of the most important religious institutions in Hope.

On May 6, 1878, Bishop Henry Niles Pierce, Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Arkansas entered in his diary, "The little handful of churchmen here have secured a lot and have several hundred dollars raised towards building a church. Work is to begin forthworth."

In 1877 the Bishop had appointed a committee "to secure subscriptions for a Church." Two years later on April 20, 1879, Bishop Pierce held the first service of St. Mark's Church in Hope. It was not until September 7, 1880, that the congregation was organized as a parish and a vestry elected. The Church survived a difficult beginning, including the destruction of its building in 1882 by a storm. In 1887 St. Mark's was officially added to the list of Episcopal parishes and missions in Arkansas.

Following the official acceptance of the Church in 1887 came a period of rapid growth. By 1893 the Church had a membership of 78 persons and owned the building used for its services. The same year, the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist was consecrated by Bishop Pierce.

Records indicate that in 1903 the property occupied by St. Mark's had been sold to Bishop Fitzgerald, Roman Catholic Bishop of Little Rock, for \$1,000. This transaction took place on July 7, 1902. The present St. Mark's Church building was started in the Summer of 1903. On May 10, 1904, the cornerstone was laid, and the building was completed in the Spring of 1905. During this time the Reverend John W. Sykes was parish priest. It was not until March 28, 1909, that the Church was consecrated by Bishop William Montgomery Brown. (Hev 10-74) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Form No. 10-300a,

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Two projects undertaken by the members of the church in its early years are indicative of the vitality of the church that was so important to the City of Hope. In 1915 an elaborate pipe organ was installed in the church, and by 1917 the church had finished paying for it. Another project consisted of establishing a library in the sacristy of the church. A variety of books, magazines and papers on many subjects were collected between 1915 and 1918. Since there was no public library in Hope at the time, the Church made the reading materials publically available.

In 1947, due to dwindling numbers and diminishing programs, St. Mark's requested at the Diocesan Convention that its status be changed from that of parish to organized mission. The convention voted the change and St. Mark's is still listed in Diocesan records as a mission despite the fact that within the past few years there has been a surge of growth and energy in the church.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Green, Mrs. George M. Personal interview at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Hope, Arkansas, November 5, 1975.

Shiver, Harry, ed. <u>A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas</u>. Hope, Arkansas: Centennial Commission, 1975.

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ORGANIZATION			DATE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

NAME

HISTORIC

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

E LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HOPE

......VICINITY OF

COUNTY Hempstead

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MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

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REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- **1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES**
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- **3. UTM REFERENCES**

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