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 an 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 Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South other names/site number Site #LO0272, First United Methodist Church
2. Location
street & number 355 North Broadway
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this I 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property I meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide is locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program State or Federal agency and bureau does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.) In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)
State or Federal ageocy and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the 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:)

Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South	Logan County, Arkansas			
Name of Property	County and State			
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)			
	Contributing Noncontributing buildings sites structures objects			
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	1 Total Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION/religious facility	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION/religious facility			
4				
and the second s				
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 TH AND EARLY 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Late Gothic Revival	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation STONE walls BRICK			
	roof ASBESTOS			
	other			

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

Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South	Logan County, Arkansas		
Name of Property	County and State		
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.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) LOCAL		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE		
■ 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.	Period of Significance		
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.)	Significant Dates 1910-1911		
Property is: A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.			
☐ B. removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)		
 □ C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance. □ D a cemetery. 	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)		
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.			
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder		
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.			
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)			
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one o	r 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	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: First United Methodist Church		
Record #			

Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South	County and State			
Name of Property	County as	nc State		
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Less than one				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
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			See continuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary Description				
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification				
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Jeanne Andrews, edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Reg	ister & S	urvey Coord	linator	
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program		date	February 22, 2011	
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street		telephone	(501) 324-9787	
city or town Little Rock	state	AR	zip code 722	201
			·	
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'	e locatio	n		
A 03G3 map (7.3 of 13 minute series) indicating the property	S IOCALIO	Li		
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large	acreage o	or numerous	resources.	
Photographs				
r notograpus				
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 SHPO or FPO.)				
manne Elime Harland Marshadine Charach				
name First United Methodist Church			talambana (470)	K75 2011
street & number PO Box 507		A.D.		675-2811
city or town Booneville	state	AR_	zip code72	927

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 listing. 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.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

The First United Methodist Church, located at 355 North Broadway in Booneville, Logan County, Arkansas, was built in 1910-1911. The building is Gothic Revival style with a raised brick and stone basement level and the main sanctuary level above. There is a square bell tower facing east over the main entrance doors. All exterior windows are wood framed and original to the building. The windows in the sanctuary are stained glass with an especially beautiful triple stained glass window facing east at the front of the building. The building's walls are brick and the main part of the building is topped by a gable roof covered in asbestos shingles.

ELABORATION

The First United Methodist Church, which was built in 1910-1911, is located at 355 North Broadway. This location is one block north of the intersection of Highways 23 and 10, which are the main thoroughfares in Booneville and the intersection in the heart of Booneville's business district. First United Methodist Church is situated across the street from the South Logan County Courthouse (NR-listed on March 8, 1997) and within one block of two other buildings on the National Historic Register. Those buildings are the Farmers and Merchants Bank/Masonic Lodge (NR-listed on November 9, 1993) at 288 N. Broadway and the Bank of Booneville Building (NR-listed on April 26, 1978) at #1 West Main Street.

The building is faced with red brick and built on a raised basement level, constructed of field stone. Most of the exterior walls are constructed of multiple brick wythes bonded together with rowlocks at every seventh course. Wall thickness at the basement level is 12" and 8" or 9" at the main sanctuary level. The sanctuary level is above the basement level and contains two balconies, one on the north and south sides. There are two entries to the building, the main entrance on the southeast corner and another on the northeast corner. A square bell tower rises above the southeast entrance.

The gable roof is covered in asbestos shingles. The shingles are most likely not original to the building and were probably installed in the 1940s. Windows in the sanctuary are stained glass and are in the original wood frames. Windows in the basement level are clear glass in the original wood frames.

Front/East Façade

The front façade of the building faces east with two entrances to the sanctuary. The main entrance has double doors and sits beneath the bell tower on the southeast side. The second entrance to the sanctuary is on the northeast side and has only a single door. Both entrances have stained-glass window transoms, a two-part one over the north entrance and a tripartite one over the south entrance. To the right of the north entrance is a small lancet-shaped stained-glass window. (All of the windows on the front façade have stone sills and large stone lintels.) Engaged buttresses are located at the northeast and southeast corners of the building. Steps leading up to the entrances are facing north and south. Above the south entrance is a cross-shaped stone that reads: "M. E./CHURCH/SOUTH/1910." In addition, to the left of the south entrance is the cornerstone which reads within a shield: "ERECTED/BISHOP E.R. HENDRIX/F.S.H. JOHNSTON P.E./F.E.

Booneville Methodist Episcopal Chu	rch South
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DODSON, P.C./BLDG. COM./H.S. TRAYLOR/G.J. MURPHEY/W.T. ROBERTS/C.S. GREENWAY/R.M. HARVEY." On either side of the shield, the stone reads "19" and "10."

In between the entrances, the façade is dominated by a large, three-sided bay on the basement and main sanctuary levels. The door to the basement area is on the southeast side of the bay while the other basement levels of the bay are fenestrated with double-hung stained-glass windows. The main sanctuary level of the bay is fenestrated by three tripartite stained glass windows. The top of the bay also has stone crenellation.

The balcony level of the façade is fenestrated by six small, lancet-shaped, leaded-glass windows with diamond-shaped panes. Four of the windows are grouped over the façade's central bay, and the remaining two windows are located above the façade's entrances. The gable peak is also fenestrated by two small, lancet-shaped, leaded-glass windows with diamond-shaped panes. Louvers cover the openings at the top of the bell tower, and the top of the tower is also crowned by brick and stone crenellation.

Side/North Façade

The north façade of the building consists of three levels, the basement level, sanctuary level, and balcony level. There are two rows of stained-glass windows on the north side with the five large, two-part, lancet windows below and five small, two-part, lancet windows above. One triple stained-glass window graces the northeast corner at the sanctuary level with a single small, lancet-shaped, leaded-glass window with diamond-shaped panes above it. Five clear-glass, double-hung, eight-over-eight, rectangular windows are at the basement level. These windows provide light into the side aisle area of the sanctuary and this part of the building has a flat roof with a crenellated parapet.

Towards the rear of the north façade, it recesses at the chancel area. This plane of the façade is fenestrated by a large two-part, lancet window like those in the rest of the sanctuary level.

Rear/West Façade

The rear façade of the church has an entry directly to the basement level towards the south end of the façade. This entry has a step down of three steps into the basement area. There are also steps leading up to the sanctuary area from the outside of the building at the southwest corner. At the sanctuary level of the façade, signs can be seen where there was once a large window but has now been bricked in. To the right of this space, a small three-sided bay projects from the façade. On the northwest side of the bay, it is fenestrated by a double-hung window with diamond-shaped leaded-glass panes. The west facing part of the bay is fenestrated by a pair of double-hung window with diamond-shaped leaded-glass panes. The southwest part of the bay is covered by a small metal addition that covers some of the entrance steps.

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A single small, two-part, lancet window is located to the left of the space where the large window was. The only other fenestration on the façade is a pair of small rectangular, leaded-glass windows with diamond-shaped panes near the gable peak.

Side/South Façade

The south façade of the building also consists of three levels, the basement level, sanctuary level, and balcony level. There are two rows of stained-glass windows on the south side with the five large, two-part, lancet windows below and five small, two-part, lancet windows above. One triple stained-glass window graces the southeast corner at the sanctuary level of the tower with a single small, lancet-shaped, leaded-glass window with diamond-shaped panes above it. The top of the tower is louvered as on the front façade. Five clear-glass, double-hung, eight-over-eight, rectangular windows are at the basement level. These windows provide light into the side aisle area of the sanctuary and this part of the building has a flat roof with a crenellated parapet.

Towards the rear of the north façade, it recesses at the chancel area. This plane of the façade is covered by the small metal addition that shelters a lift that was installed to allow handicapped access at this entrance and the door has been altered for handicapped access to the sanctuary level of the church.

Interior

The interior of the building is dominated by the sanctuary on the upper level and the basement level has the secondary space that was once used as classrooms. The upper level is about nine feet above street level. The interior floor plan is symmetrical with two entry foyers on the northeast and southeast corners of the building. The sanctuary includes raised platforms on each side (north and south) of the main floor area, seating at the rear (east) of the sanctuary, and balconies on each side. The main floor of the sanctuary is sloped to improve visibility for the congregation. The chancel is located on the west side of the sanctuary. Interior walls are plastered and painted. All of the original dark wood trim is still in place and has not been altered. Originally all the ceiling surfaces were covered with pressed metal. This metal is still in place although now covered with acoustic ceiling panels. Original pressed tin is still visible on the ceiling areas below the balconies.

Integrity

The First United Methodist Church remains a focal point of Booneville with its bell tower visible for several blocks. Since its construction in 1910-1911 the Methodist congregation has continued to worship in this building. The largest change to the interior of the building occurred in 1924 when the balconies were added to the sanctuary to expand seating capacity. Although they originally had stepped floors to allow greater visibility, the floors were leveled in 1977. On the exterior of the building, the largest change was the reorientation of the front steps in 1969. Originally, the steps were oriented east from the entrance, descending directly towards Broadway. In 1969, the steps were rebuilt and reoriented north and south. This

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allowed more space on the sidewalk in front of the church. Even so, the rest of the building remains remarkably unchanged from when it was built in 1910-1911.

Booneville	e Methodist	Episcopal	Church	South

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SUMMARY

The Methodist Church in Booneville was organized in July 1868 as the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South. There were various locations prior to this church being built in 1910-1911 at the present location at 355 North Broadway. The current building was built in the late Gothic Revival style, a style that was extremely popular throughout the first part of the twentieth century. The Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South, with its masonry construction, lancet windows, steeply-pitched roof, buttresses at the front corners, and crenellation on some parts of the roofline, is a classic example of the style, and the best ecclesiastical example in Booneville. As such, the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South 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 style. Since the building is still owned by the church and in use for weekly services, it is also being nominated under Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties.

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

The Methodist Church in Booneville was organized in July 1868 as the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South. According to stories handed down through the years, the organizational meeting took place in a log school house that sat on a bluff on the east bank of Booneville Creek. Francis M. Moore, a circuit riding minister assigned to the Grand Prairie Church, conducted the meeting. Around 25 charter members attended the meeting.

Although Booneville had been settled around 1830 and a post office had been established there in 1837, a Methodist church had not been organized during those years. Spiritual needs of Methodists in the area were met by circuit riders who visited the community from time to time, by camp meetings that were occasionally held in the summer months, and by meetings held in homes.

In 1868, Frances M. Moore was appointed to serve the Booneville Mission and in 1870 he was appointed pastor. During these years, a two-story church was built facing west on Walnut Street about one block north of Magazine Street. (Magazine Street was the main business area of Booneville at that time, and is located five blocks south of Main Street today.) Following the common practice of the day, the church occupied the first floor and the Masonic Lodge occupied the upper floor. All denominations attended Sunday school each week and a worship service was held once a month.

At the time the Methodist Church was organized, southern Logan County, including Booneville, was a part of Scott County. The population of Booneville numbered around 300. In 1871, a new county called Sarber County was formed from parts of Scott, Franklin, Johnson, and Yell counties. In 1875 the county was renamed Logan County. Booneville was in that part of Scott County that was included in the new county. The future looked very promising for the community. For the most part, the town had recovered from the

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Civil War. New residents were moving into the area every day. Growth and prosperity seemed inevitable, which ultimately led to the incorporation of Booneville on May 17, 1878.

At the Conference in the fall of 1872, Rev. Moore again returned to the Booneville Methodist Church as pastor. At that conference it was proposed that an institution of higher education to be called the Fort Smith District High School be established at some location in the district. However, because of its limited financial resources, the district could provide little monetary support. The local community would have to provide the property and the building for the school. Funds for the operation of the school would be derived from tuition fees. Students would be recruited from other areas and would board with families in the town. The school promised to be a great financial as well as religious, educational, and cultural asset for the town.

Through the efforts of Rev. Moore, Booneville was chosen as the site for the Fort Smith District High School. No doubt, the choice was influenced by the fact that one of the Booneville church members, W.D. Sadler, who owned a large farm just north of town, offered to donate the land for the school. Others agreed to furnish the lumber and labor for the construction of the school building. In 1876, a large two-story building was completed to serve as both a school and a church. The grounds of the school covered four square blocks. The old church/lodge-hall building was then no longer used by the church.

Students came to Booneville from towns all over western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma to attend the school. They obtained room and board with families in town. Around 250 students attended the school at one point, a remarkable number when the population of the town was not more than 500. In addition to academic classes, Sunday school classes and worship services were held at the school.

Within a few years, similar schools were established in more and more towns in the area. With the establishment of these schools, attendance at the Fort Smith District High School dwindled and the school ceased to exist by 1890. When the school was dissolved, the Methodist congregation built a small, white, one-story church on Sharp Street near the junction of Magazine Street. The property of the Fort Smith District High School became property of the public schools.

In 1899 an event occurred that changed the character of the town. A railroad was built through Booneville on the north side of town. The commercial center of the town moved north of the railroad track. Brick buildings were constructed for business concerns and the town began to lose its frontier appearance. The character of Booneville was further changed in 1909 when a site just south of town was chosen for the location of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium (NR-listed October 5, 2006).

Because of the prosperity and growth in Booneville, the Methodist congregation decided in 1910 to build a new church atop a low rolling knoll on Broadway in the new part of the town. The elevated location directly across the street from the courthouse was a very prominent location in Booneville. Lots were purchased for

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S300 and construction began. In order to have a building befitting of its prominent location in town, the congregation decided on a building constructed in the Gothic Revival style of architecture. The church featured a large sanctuary with stained-glass windows, and the room's white walls and dark wood gave the room a distinctive appearance. The basement of the church provided space for Sunday school rooms.

The growth of the use of the Gothic Revival style for religious architecture had its roots in the mid-1800s when a feeling developed that believed that the use of pagan forms and styles, such as the Greek Revival, was inappropriate for churches. The use of the style was championed in the mid-nineteenth century by such American architects as James Renwick and Richard Upjohn. Upjohn, in particular, was a great promoter of the style, and designed approximately 150 churches in the style from Maine to Alabama and Wisconsin.

Throughout the late nineteenth century, the Gothic Revival remained a popular style for ecclesiastical architecture. The style remained popular through the first part of the twentieth century as well, especially given the drastic increase in money spent on church construction. Between 1900 and 1927, the amount of money spent annually on church construction increased from \$55 million to \$179 million. However, even though the style remained popular during the early 1900s, there was a change in the style. As Carol Rifkind writes in A Field Guide to American Architecture, "And while the temper of the times was volatile, flamboyant, and emotional, seen against the eccentricities of the Late Victorian years church architecture was nothing if not careful, correct, and sincere (p. 157)."

Probably the premier church architect of the early twentieth century, Ralph Adams Cram, expressed the thought that went into church architecture in the early 1900s when he wrote, "Build in stone or brick; plan with rigid simplicity; design both interior and exterior with reserve, formality, and self-control; have the mass simple, the composition equally so; imitate no form or detail of larger structures, but work for the dignity and reverence that are theirs. Above all, let the spirit be that of the unchanging Church, the form alone that of the present day" (Rifkind, p. 157).

As a result, when architects utilized the Gothic Revival in the early twentieth century, they mainly used the original Gothic style for inspiration and detailing rather than for building forms and plans. As Cram had said, "We must return for the fire of life to other centuries. We must return, but we may not remain" (Rifkind, p. 157). So it was with the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The building's architect, who is unknown, included detailing from the Gothic style, such as the lancet windows, buttresses at the front corners, and the bell tower, but did not utilize the traditional cross-shaped plan of a Gothic church. Rather, the plan is more of a modified rectangle, which allowed a sanctuary space that was more suitable for worship of the period — "the form alone that of the present day" as Cram suggested. In addition, as Cram also suggested, the architect used brick and stone, and designed an interior

Booneville Methodist E	piscopal Ch	urch South
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and exterior that were reserved and not as flamboyant as some of the nineteenth-century Gothic Revival style buildings.

The Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South was the most elaborate example of the style built in Booneville. Not only did this reflect the prominent site that the Methodists chose for their building, but it also reflected the growth of Booneville and its prosperity after the arrival of the railroad in 1899. The unprecedented prosperity allowed the congregation to expend an amount of money on their building that would not have been possible before.

Around 1948 the Methodists in the United States united into one church simply called the Methodist Church. As a result, the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South was renamed the Booneville Methodist Church. On April 23, 1968, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church combined to form the United Methodist Church. At that time, the Booneville church was again renamed and became the First United Methodist Church, the name that it is known by today.

Although some alterations have been made to the church, most notably the reconstruction and reorientation of the front steps in 1969, the building's appearance has remained much the same as it was when the church was built in 1910 -1911. Methodists have worshipped in this church for 100 years and recently had a centennial celebration. Because of its architecture and location, the church has been one of the most prominent landmarks in Booneville, a distinction that it retains today.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South building represents a great example of the late Gothic Revival style that was popular throughout the country in the first part of the 1900s. The form and detailing of the building reflect the thoughts and beliefs on church architecture that were prevalent throughout the period. As the twentieth century progressed, there was a shift in the execution of the Gothic Revival style from the flamboyant, exuberant leanings of the 1800s to a more restrained and reserved interpretation in the early 1900s.

As in many of the revival styles of the early twentieth century, the Gothic Revival borrowed detailing and design elements, which were applied to modern plans, rather than the historic forms and plans themselves. Cram expressed it differently when he said:

When a man finds himself confronting a narrow stream, with no bridge in sight, does he leap convulsively on the very brink and then project himself into space? ... No; he retraces his steps, gains his running start, and clears the obstacle at a bound. This is what we architects are doing when we fall back on

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the great past for our inspiration; this is what, specifically, the Gothicists are particularly doing. We are getting our running start, we are retracing our steps to the great Christian Middle Ages, not that there we may remain, but that we may achieve an adequate point of departure... (Roth, pp. 464-465)

Although the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South utilizes characteristic Gothic Revival detailing in its lancet windows, steeply-pitched roof, bell tower and buttresses at the front corners, all of which emphasize the verticality towards Heaven that was such a hallmark of the style, the details are applied to a strictly twentieth-century plan. Rather than the plethora of self-contained spaces found in Gothic churches of the Middle Ages (i.e., nave, crossing, transepts, chapels, choir, and sanctuary, among others), the plan has one large space on the main floor, the sanctuary.

As a reflection of the late Gothic Revival style in Booneville, the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South is the pinnacle. Located on a prominent site in downtown Booneville, the church has been a prominent landmark for a century. Because of its importance as the best representation of the late Gothic Revival style in Booneville, the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C for its architectural significance in Booneville. In addition, as the home of an active religious congregation, the building is also being nominated under Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northwest corner of Broadway and the alley between Main and Fourth streets, proceed northerly along the west side of Broadway for 100 feet, thence proceed westerly parallel to Fourth Street for 105 feet, thence proceed southerly parallel to Broadway for 100 feet, thence proceed easterly parallel to Fourth street for 105 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the Booneville Methodist Episcopal Church South.















