

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: First Methodist Church

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Harrison

DATE RECEIVED: 04/03/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 05/17/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80004133

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT ___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECEIVED

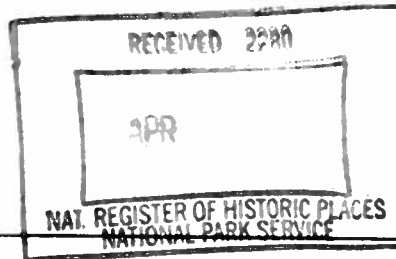
RECOM./CRITERIA *Accept*
REVIEWER *John Beall* DISCIPLINE *History*
TELEPHONE _____ DATE *5-17-06*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: First Methodist Church (level of significance and period of significance increase)
OTHER NAME / SITE NUMBER: First United Methodist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 300 East Houston Street

CITY OR TOWN: Marshall

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Harrison

CODE: 203

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

ZIP CODE: 75670

1. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (☒ 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (☒ meets) (☐ does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (☒ nationally) (☒ statewide) (☐ locally). (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

3-22-06
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet

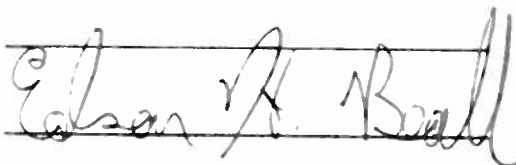
☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☒ other (explain): additional Documentation Addressed



5-17-06

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 1

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: NA

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: RELIGION: religious facility; EDUCATION: school

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: RELIGION: religious facility; EDUCATION: school; RECREATION: sports facility

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION BRICK, CONCRETE
WALLS STUCCO, BRICK
ROOF ASPHALT
OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☒ **A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Politics/Government, Military, Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1860-1949

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1861, c.1901, 1927, 1949

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Pope, Alexander (mason); Smalley, Billington (carpenter)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-5 through 8-12).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-13 through 9-14).

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 # TEX-122 (1936)**
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: *First United Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas*

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Unchanged from original nomination

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Charles D. Reedstrom, with assistance from Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION: Chairman, Trustee Committee

DATE: March 20, 2006

STREET & NUMBER: 300 East Houston Street

TELEPHONE: 903-938-0489

CITY OR TOWN: Marshall

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 75670

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: First United Methodist Church (Rev. Joel D. McMahon III, Senior Pastor)

STREET & NUMBER: 300 East Houston Street

TELEPHONE: 903-938-6622

CITY OR TOWN: Marshall

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 75670

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

The purpose of this nomination amendment is to change the level of significance of the First United Methodist Church - originally listed in the National Register in 1980 at an unspecified level - to the national level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Military and Government, and to the state level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. This amendment places the church within the national context of Confederate politics during the Civil War 1861-1865, when the building served as location of three Trans-Mississippi conferences that addressed problems of western Confederate states, and as the legislative hall for the exiled government of the State of Missouri. The First United Methodist Church is one of the few examples of monumentally-scaled Greek Revival church antebellum architecture in Texas. As a major building in a strategically-crucial Confederate city, the building served as the site of several important Civil War events that had significant impact on the United States. In addition, the sanctuary has served more than seven generations in its primary function. The period of significance is also increased to 1860-1949, in order to acknowledge the significance of additions made to the building through the late 1940s.

Records of the First Methodist Church of Marshall, Texas, show that this church has been known by five different names since it was organized in 1839: Methodist Episcopal Church South of Marshall, Texas; First Methodist Episcopal Church South of Marshall, Texas; First Methodist Church of Marshall Texas; First United Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas; First United Methodist Church - Marshall.

Statewide Significance of the First Methodist Church (Criterion C, Architecture)

The historic First United Methodist Church in Marshall, Texas, built in 1860-1861 just preceding the Civil War, is a large rectangular brick Greek Revival style building. The front elevation is highlighted by the five-bay nave, plain stucco cornice, and tetra style front (north) portico, of monumentally-scaled square and tapered columns. This structure was originally surmounted by a large square spire topped by a pyramidal roof. The spire contained a large brass bell. The site, which was composed of lots 1 and 6 of Block 9, was acquired April 6, 1860, from Thomas and Mary Bennett for \$500.¹ On the same day, the trustees exchanged with Mr. & Mrs. William M. Johnson an east portion of Lots 6 and 7 for the west 25 feet of lot 2. This provided a frontage of 85 feet on East Houston Street.²

On March 10, 1860, the congregation decided to build the new church.³ Construction commenced with the awarding of contracts on July 6, 1860, to Mr. Alexander Pope and Mr. Bullington Smalley. Mr. Pope was awarded one contract for the foundation and walls of the building and a second contract for the construction of the four columns in the front portico. Mr. Smalley was awarded the contract for the woodwork. The contractors agreed to accept subscriber's notes in

¹ Deed records. In the church safe are two hand written deeds dated 1860. These cover the site of the sanctuary and are very precisely written in long hand. They are recorded in Volume 5, Page 533 and Volume 5 page 538 in Harrison County records. Deeds for each of the additions are also in the safe. All real estate transactions are recorded in seven abstracts which carry church real estate transactions thru 1956. See bibliography for deed inventory.

² "First Methodist Church," draft National Register nomination prepared by Max Lale (December 26, 1978), Page 1. On file with the Texas Historical Commission.

³ Centennial Edition, *First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas - 1845-1945* - The booklet was prepared for special centennial services and is part of the archives in the library of the First United Methodist Church. The Centennial Committee was composed of S. E. Wood, Jr. Chairman, Roy Marcom, Treasurer, P.O. Beard, C.M. Beckett, M.G. Blalock, Richard Blalock, E. N. Dennard, H. V. Grimes, and George A. Sullivan.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

settlement for the work and materials and the notes were secured by liens on the property.⁴ Mr. Pope was an able lawyer in Marshall and Mr. Bullington was a successful farmer. Both men were members of the church. The building was completed approximately sixteen months later.⁵

Although the construction of the building experienced many difficulties, the completion of the original building was an amazing feat. It was built with red bricks that were hand-formed at a location close to the construction site and the bricks were sun-dried. The bricks were made by slaves and were composed of Marshall red clay. A total of 352,404 bricks were used in the walls of the church. Approximately 60,000 additional bricks were used in four large, square and tapered columns in the front elevation. The motif of four large, square and tapered columns has been preserved in each of the additions that have been made to the sanctuary over the 145 years that it has been in use.⁶

Mr. Pope, who was responsible for the brick work, was paid \$12 per thousand for bricks made and laid in the walls of the church and \$16 per thousand for bricks used in the large square columns. The 40-foot tapered columns sit on larger square bases. After the foundation and brick work on the four walls was nearly completed, a severe storm hit Marshall and the west wall collapsed. The trustees agreed to reimburse A. Pope the damages in the sum of \$822.00 to reclaim the bricks and rebuild the wall.⁷ Upon completion, the total cost of the new sanctuary building was \$14,294.30.⁸

Litigation marred the first years of the church's new sanctuary and the contractors were paid seven years after the building was completed. By the time the structure was completed, the country was nearly paralyzed by the devastation wrought by the Civil War, and the subscribers were unable to meet their pledges for the new sanctuary. Pope was owed \$2,199.34 and Smalley was owed \$3,551.18. Smalley sold his claim to George D. Rogers on February 8, 1868, and Pope and Rogers entered suit against the trustees during the June 1868 term of the District Court of Harrison County to recover the debt. The District Court ruled that the sanctuary be sold to meet the debt of \$6,942.80 owed to the contractors (there was no explanation of the difference of \$1,192.28). Execution of the judgment was delayed for eighteen months during which time, in spite of the post-war period, the debt was paid in full.⁹

The load-bearing walls of the church are extremely thick. The fact that the sun-dried bricks could not withstand weather, as kiln-dried bricks could, necessitated coating the exterior with hard-faced stucco. Consequently, the brick building was coated with stucco to withstand the weathering process when alterations were made in 1927.¹⁰ The original structure was approximately 100 feet long, 45 feet wide and 25 feet high from floor to ceiling. Also included was a balcony that was provided for the slaves who attended services with their owners, and early church records indicate the race of each member. Inside were two large pot-bellied wood-burning stoves to provide heating during cold weather. All construction was accomplished by mule and manual labor, and is a visible memorial to the craft abilities of the workforce that existed during the Civil War period.¹¹

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *History of the First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas* by Ernest Bergland, Jr., The Demmer Co., Inc., Marshall, Texas. Page 4.

⁶ Ibid. Page 5

⁷ 1978 National Register draft, Page 2

⁸ *History of the First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas*. Page 5.

⁹ Minutes of Harrison County District Court, Book 1, Pages 240-241, 1868.

¹⁰ Alton Allen Family File of documents, photographs, and other historical artifacts.

¹¹ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

The *Marshall News Messenger*, October 22, 1961, in its reprint during the centennial of the Civil War noted that it was "one of the largest and handsomest edifices in Eastern Texas." Not everyone agreed, however, as the *Marshall Texas Republican* determined that the new building was in:

HORRID TASTE – the building committee of the new M. E. Church, when they sanctioned the massive, ill-shaped, unsightly pillars that are now in progress of construction for that church, must have come to the conclusion that four or five large brick chimneys in front of a building would add to its harmony of proportion. These pillars will stand for many a year, and as long as they remain, will present an enduring monument to the architectural taste of our worthy friends.¹²

In 1882 the balcony was removed and the ceiling over the nave arched and frescoed. A pressed metal ceiling and gas chandeliers were installed. Ten vertical iron supports were added to the brick walls to provide additional stable support for the massive roof structure. These, along with the original brick walls, provide the basic vertical support for the roof over the sanctuary. The roof was and is supported by huge, hand-hewn oak beams. These are still in place and fill the attic above the sanctuary.¹³

The first pipe organ was installed in 1899. It was purchased for \$2,500 which was raised as the result of a fund-raising campaign under the direction of Rev. A. J. Weeks. Also as the result of the fund-raising campaign in 1899, the sanctuary basement was remodeled. Brick pillars that had supported the ground floor portion of the building were replaced by iron columns. A partition wall was removed, enlarging the available space for offices, library, committee rooms, and a ladies parlor. A number of windows were also opened in the basement walls.¹⁴

Evolution of the Building through the 20th Century

Between 1901 and 1903, eleven stained-glass windows were installed. The focus window was eight feet wide and fourteen feet tall. This was installed in the south wall behind the pulpit and the choir loft. The other ten were five feet wide and fourteen feet tall and were installed five in the east wall and five in the west wall. This provided one in each of the nave bays. The original cost for the stained glass windows was \$7,000. They are now priceless and protected with an exterior plastic shield.¹⁵

The focus window honors Dr. E. M. Marvin. Dr. Marvin, a Confederate chaplain, was appointed pastor in May 1864, and later became bishop. In 1865, Mrs. Marvin wrote of her husband and the town of Marshall:

At that time the population was about three or four thousand. Our church, a good brick edifice, was the best in the place. The membership numbered about two hundred and the congregation was the largest in the city. The Federal soldiers attended his church and visited him at the parsonage; and at times he

¹² *Marshall News Messenger*, May 4, 1861, reprinted October 22, 1961.

¹³ 1978 National Register draft, Page 3.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

preached for them at their barracks.” In the 1866 General Conference of the church which was held in New Orleans, Dr. Marvin was elected to the position of bishop on the first ballot. This was only the second such election of a southern clergyman from west of the Mississippi River. After the conference adjourned, Bishop Marvin returned to Marshall and completed his pastoral term at First Methodist, thus presenting “the singular instance of a bishop reporting his work as pastor to a Quarterly Conference.”¹⁶

The Marvin window, a gift to the church from Rafe R. Ramsey, portrays Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is a magnificent example of stained glass art and bears the legend “Not my will, but thine, be done.” The other windows were given by the church or church organizations. Four smaller round windows were given by individuals. Two of these are four feet in diameter and two are five feet in diameter. Two were placed in the east wall and two were placed in the west wall.¹⁷

The first major addition to the 1861 structure was the addition of an educational building at the south end of the church in 1927. The building remained basically as it was originally for sixty-five years with a minimum of alterations with the exception of the removal of the spire and the removal of the gallery. During this renovation, the Marvin window was relocated from the south wall to the north wall where it replaced the center door. One set of doors remained on both sides of the focus window. The Marvin window was moved a second time when the sanctuary was enlarged in 1949 and the narthex added. A new wall was added between the two center columns and the Marvin Window was located at the very front of the church. The narthex was formed by closing the space between the two center columns at the front of the church. The two door openings at each side of the front elevation door openings were closed and new entrances were made to the east and west walls of the narthex. Curved stairways replaced the original straight steps. The interior was expanded twenty-two feet by opening the original south wall and moving the choir loft into an area that had been Sunday school classrooms. The remodeling also included new ceilings, woodwork, and fixtures. Four smaller round stained glass windows were added in 1950: two in the north wall and one each in the east and west walls of the structure. The proportions of the original rectangular auditorium space remained as it has been preserved with all of the alterations that have been made since 1861.¹⁸

The original square spire was removed for safety reasons in 1909, and was replaced with a cupola which rests on a twenty-three foot square platform with a dentilled molded cornice and wrought iron railing. The cupola is composed of six bays formed by eight octagonal columns with simple capitals that are approximately twenty feet high. These are topped with a bell shaped metal roof and a large Latin cross.¹⁹ The cupola is high-lighted at night by flood lights which were added after electricity was brought into the church complex.

In 1911 the church installed its first pipe organ.²⁰ In 1945 it was replaced by a new pipe organ that was built by Henry Willis III, a noted organ builder for the Wicks Company. This instrument is the largest of the remaining five that are still in use in the United States.

¹⁶ *History of the First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas.* Page 16

¹⁷ *History of the First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas.* Page 21

¹⁸ 1978 National Register draft, Page 4.

¹⁹ Master Preservation Plan for First United Methodist Church. The Board of Trustees authorized the preparation of a Master Plan for the First United Methodist Church in its meeting of December 2, 2004.

²⁰ First United Methodist Library, paper entitled “Facts (Known or Little Known)”

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

The 1927 classroom addition runs perpendicular to the original structure at the south end. The addition is a gable-roofed masonry structure with the roof ridge running perpendicular to the ridge of the original church. The gable end (west) facade is composed of five bays scaled to maintain the continuity of the original facade. Each bay contains a 12-light window in each story. A second major expansion occurred in 1949 with the addition of a new wing to the east containing additional classrooms, a kitchen and dining room, and a gymnasium. The addition formed a U-shaped courtyard on the east side of the church. An arched arcade defined the north side of the court. The north court was configured as a playground. Stucco was applied to the original sun-dried bricks and the addition was made of kiln-fired red bricks.²¹

In 1958 the interior of the sanctuary was enlarged and remodeled. The main auditorium was lengthened 22 feet by recessing the choir loft into an alcove in the addition of 1927 and adding a balcony at the north end of the sanctuary. The ceiling was raised and arched with new lighting. Walnut wainscoting was installed throughout. The 1958 addition included the chapel, offices, parlor, classrooms, and mechanical functions contained in a gable roofed building with two gable ended wings projecting southward. A tower with cupola separates the 1927 addition from the 1958 addition and defines the west entrance to the building complex. The cupola that was added over the portico dominates the entire edifice and anchors the church's primary axis to the main entrance. The fenestration is similar to that of the 1949 addition.²²

In 1997 the last addition was added to the church complex. This includes preschool classrooms, a new and several small offices. The south court was designed as a playground for the Day School. Although the complex has undergone many changes, the impact of its all important north facade remains close to what the original must have been. The additions are all sensitive to the original and sited so that they do not intrude on the primary facade. The church is still a carefully-maintained landmark, and in 2004, the congregation initiated a comprehensive plan to preserve the landmark for future generations.

National Significance of the First Methodist Church (Criterion A, Military and Government)

Marshall was one of the most strategic centers in the Confederacy, and was referred to as the administrative capital of the Trans-Mississippi area. As the historic sanctuary was completed in 1861 – just prior to the Civil War – and because its membership was dedicated to the southern cause, the new church building was destined to be involved in the drama and conflict of the war years. The building was available for many uses as the center of activities of the Confederacy west of the Mississippi River. The convenient location made it a focal point for political activities during this period, including the three conferences relating to the Trans-Mississippi organization,²³ the relocation of the Missouri state government to Marshall and its use of the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church to hold its legislative sessions,²⁴ and the occupation of the building by the Confederate quartermaster and commissary departments.²⁵

²¹ 1978 National Register draft, Page 4.

²² *Centennial Edition First Methodist Church, 1845–1945*.

²³ *Ibid*.

²⁴ Little, Carol Morris. *Historic Harrison County as Preserved Through Official Texas Historical Markers*.

²⁵ Heartsill Family File, Harrison County Museum Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Harrison County is adjacent to Caddo Parish, Louisiana. The county was marked off in 1839 by the congress of the Republic of Texas. Two years later, a local land owner, Peter Whetstone offered land for a courthouse, a church, and a school if the town would be designated as the county seat of Harrison County. Marshall was named in honor of Chief Justice John Marshall. Marshall became the county seat in 1842. The county was incorporated by the congress of the Republic of Texas legislature in 1844, and in 1850 the county was enlarged to an area of one square mile. The courthouse on the town square is located in the center of the county, and the First Methodist Church is located one block east of the square.²⁶ In April 1845, Marshall became the first town in Texas to have a telegraph.²⁷ By 1860 Marshall was one of the largest and wealthiest towns in East Texas, with a population was estimated at 2,000. The town also boasted an outstanding group of lawyers and political leaders, including the first and last governors of Confederate Texas, Edward Clark and Pendleton Murrah.²⁸

The Trans-Mississippi Conferences²⁹

The Confederacy was composed of eleven states, with the capitol in Richmond, Virginia. Four of the Confederate states were west of the Mississippi River: Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri, and were organized as the Trans-Mississippi Department (or simply "Trans-Mississippi"). Three significant Trans-Mississippi conferences were held in the First United Methodist Church.

In July 1862, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, suggested to Texas Governor Francis R. Lubbock, that he should call a conference to address wartime problems of the Confederate States west of the Mississippi. Governors Lubbock and Clairborne F. Jackson of Missouri attended the conference (Governors Rector of Arkansas and Moore of Louisiana, endorsed the meeting but did not attend), and the resulting plans included the formal establishment of the Trans-Mississippi Department with a commanding general, the inclusion in the department of a branch of the Confederate Treasury, and the sending of arms and ammunition to Confederate forces west of the Mississippi as they could be made available. At the time of the conference, the Confederate Ordnance and Commissary departments also utilized the basement of First United Methodist Church (as well as the Odd Fellows Hall in Marshall) for storage of arms and ammunition, as well as commissary supplies, hats, gloves, boots, harness and saddles. All of the supplies that were housed in the basement of the First Methodist Church were manufactured in Harrison county. The Ordnance Department was managed by Major Alexander, Chief Officer of the Confederate Army.³⁰

The second conference took place in August 1863, after the Union army captured Vicksburg and had taken command over the entire length of the Mississippi. This action cut the Confederacy in half, isolating Arkansas, Texas, the portion of Louisiana west of the Mississippi River, the Confederate Indian Territory (the southern half of Oklahoma), and portions of southern Missouri that were under control of the Confederacy. General Edmund Kirby Smith, Commander Confederate

²⁶ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "HARRISON COUNTY," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/HH/hch8.html> (accessed March 20, 2006).

²⁷ Plaque of location of first telegraph office mounted on North Washington Street, Marshall, Texas just off the city square.

²⁸ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "MARSHALL, TX," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/hem1.html> (accessed March 20, 2006).

²⁹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "MARSHALL CONFERENCES," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/nhm1.html> (accessed March 20, 2006).

³⁰ Alton Allen Family File of documents, photographs, and other historical artifacts.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Department of the Trans-Mississippi, called the governors, supreme court justices, and other leaders from each western state to Marshall to discuss the crisis. The conference began on August 15, 1863, with Governor Lubbock elected chairman on August 17th. Pendleton Murrah, Governor-elect Texas, Senator William S. Oldham, and Confederate Special Agent Guy M. Bryan were also in attendance. The attendees formed committees med for foreign relations, finance, protection of homes and property, and sources for additional armaments. Missouri Lieutenant Governor Thomas C. Reynolds gave an optimistic report on the region's military strength, and each committee made recommendations that were endorsed by the full convention. These recommendations included establishing county committees to report disloyalty, and the placement of General Smith in charge of all cotton transactions in order to control cotton speculation and to aid the economy, a change that reflected the decentralization of the Richmond-based government. The conference strongly endorsed developing diplomatic relations with French and Mexican leaders located in Mexico.

The third and final Trans-Mississippi conference was held in May 1865, and was precipitated by the surrender of all Confederate land forces east of the Mississippi and the dissolution of the Richmond government. Union authorities asked Smith to surrender on the same terms that Ulysses S. Grant had given to Robert E. Lee, but the southern commander refused. Smith then called for a conference of governors, as he felt that he needed some form of civil authority. Between May 9 and 11, the conference members produced a plan for surrender that was unrealistically favorable to the Confederacy, and which was firmly rejected by the Union. An impasse in peace negotiations followed, but with members of his army deserting in droves, the departmental commander directed that the Union terms be met. During the spring of 1865, the army of the Trans-Mississippi Department disintegrated, and Marshall was occupied by United States troops on June 17. During reconstruction Marshall became the regional base for occupying forces, and served as a home for a Freedmen's Bureau office.³¹

Capital of Missouri Relocated to Marshall

The capital of Missouri moved to Marshall, Texas during the Civil War, from November 1863 until June 1865.³² As the war progressed in Missouri, the Confederate Missouri state government moved farther and farther south, and approximately 300 members of the Confederate Missouri government, moved into exile in Marshall.³³ Many wealthy Missouri citizens had already moved to Marshall with slaves and other possessions. When Governor Clairborne Jackson reached Marshall, he decided that it was a good location for his government in exile, and rented the home of Judge Asa Willie (then residing in Austin as a member of the Texas supreme court), for executive offices. The one-story frame Willie house at 108 East Crocket Street (approximately three blocks from the First Methodist Church) served as the Missouri state government headquarters, while legislative sessions were held in the church. Governor Jackson died before he could return to Marshall and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds assumed the office of governor. The Great Seal of the State of Missouri and official papers were brought to Marshall. The relocation of the Confederate Missouri government to Texas was an added incentive for Union General Banks to take Marshall, but the Union forces were defeated at Mansfield, Louisiana in April 1864.

³¹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "MARSHALL, TX," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/hem1.html> (accessed March 20, 2006).

³² *Marshall, Texas, Capital of Missouri*, by Archie P. McDonald, PhD, web site 11-2- 2005.

³³ Harrison County Old Courthouse Museum exhibit of the move of Confederate Missouri to Marshall, Texas prepared by Max B. Cole, a noted Texan artist.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Summary

The small city of Marshall, Texas, with a population of approximately 2,000 at the beginning of the Civil War era, was an active center for the Trans-Mississippi Department from 1863 thru 1865. This was due in part to its strategic location in northeast Texas and its access to telegraph connections. The First Methodist Church served as the Confederate focal point of Marshall because it was the only structure west of the Red River that could accommodate large numbers of persons in meetings of the Trans-Mississippi Department and the legislative sessions of the Confederate State of Missouri in exile. In addition, it played a significant role in its use as a supply depot for the Confederate Army and in the role of informing local citizens of Civil War activities. As a pivotal location for official Confederate activities during the Civil War, the building merits listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 13

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Bibliography

Deeds in the possession of First Methodist Church, catalogued as follows:

- A. Jno B. Carter Abstractor – Peter Whetstone OTS, Block 9 parts of Lots 5,6,7. & 8, June 20, 1820. Houston Ice & Brewing Co.
- B. No. 12247 – Harrison County Abstract Co. – Lot 1 Block 10 OTC. T. A. Johnston.
- C. No. 13216 – Harrison County Abstract Co. – Part of Block 9. S. E. Wood, Jr.
- D. No. 756 – Field & Young Abstractor – Part of Block 9. S. E. Wood, Jr.
- E. No. 9724 – Moseley Abstract Co. – Lots 1 & 2 and Parts of Lots 3 & 5. All of Block 9. Old Town Site October 1949.
- F. No. 16862 – Moseley Abstract Co. – Block 9. April 1956.
- G. No. 18743 Supplement – Moseley Abstract Co. – Lots 1 and 2, Part of Lots 3,5, & 6, all of Block 9.

Ashcraft, Allan Coleman. "Texas, 1860-1866: The Lone Star State in the Civil War" (Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1960).

Bergland, Ernest, Jr. *History of the First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas*. The Demmer Co., Inc., Marshall, Texas.

Campbell, Randolph B. *A Southern Community in Crisis: Harrison County, Texas, 1850-1880* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1983).

"Facts (Known or Little Known)," part of the archives in the library of the First United Methodist Church, author unknown, June 1987.

"First Methodist Church." Application for National Register of Historic Places prepared by Max Lale and dated December 26, 1978. On file with the Texas Historical Commission.

First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas - 1845-1945 Centennial Edition. Prepared for special centennial services and is part of the archives in the library of the First United Methodist Church. The Centennial Committee was composed of S. E. Wood, Jr. Chairman, Roy Marcom, Treasurer, P.O. Beard, C.M. Beckett, M.G. Blalock, Richard Blalock, E. N. Dennard, H. V. Grimes, and George A. Sullivan.

First United Methodist Church Master Preservation Plan, 2005.

Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. "HARRISON COUNTY,"
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/HH/hch8.html> (accessed March 20, 2006).

Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. "MARSHALL CONFERENCES,"
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/nhml.html> (accessed March 20, 2006).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 14

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. "MARSHALL, TX,"

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/MM/hem1.html> (accessed March 20, 2006).

Heartsill Family File, Archives, Harrison County Museum

Holladay, Florence Elizabeth. "The Powers of the Commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, 1863-1865," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 21 (January, April 1918).

Kerby, Robert L. *Kirby Smith's Confederacy: The Trans-Mississippi South, 1863-1865* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1972).

Lentz, Sallie M., "Highlights of Early Harrison County," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 61 (October 1957). Johnson Roney II, Marshall, Texas: 1860-1865 (M.A. thesis, Baylor University, 1967).

Little, Carol Morris. *Historic Harrison County as Preserved Through Official Texas Historical Markers* (nd).

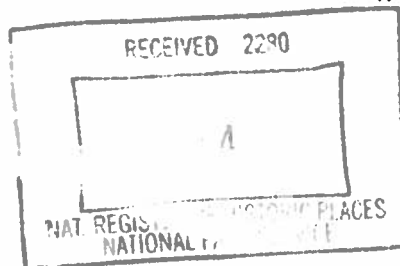
Lubbock, Francis Richard. *Six Decades in Texas* (Austin: Ben C. Jones, 1900; rpt., Austin: Pemberton, 1968).

Minutes of Harrison County District Court, Book I, Pages 240-241, 1868

Parks, Joseph Howard. *General Edmund Kirby Smith, C.S.A.* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1954).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section Photo Page 15

First Methodist Church (level of significance increase)
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo Log

First Methodist Church
300 East Houston Street
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas
Photographed December 2005 by Charles D. Reedstrom
Negatives on file with the Texas Historical Commission

Photo 1

North elevation, 1860 sanctuary
Camera facing south

Photo 2

North elevation showing 1949 Beard Hall and the arched breezeway connecting with the sanctuary
Camera facing south-southeast

Photo 3

Northeast oblique
Camera facing southwest

Photo 4

West side of the building complex showing 1927 education building, 1949 tower entrance, and 1958 addition.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 5

Southeast oblique showing 1958 classroom and chapel wing.
Camera facing northeast







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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 8 1980

date entered JUL 16 1980

1. Name

historic First Methodist Church

and/or common First United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 300 East Houston St.

not for publication

city, town Marshall

vicinity of

congressional district 1

state Texas

code 048

county Harrison

code 203

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both
Public Acquisition
☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☐ yes: restricted
☒ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☐ private residence
☒ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name First United Methodist Church

street & number 300 East Houston

city, town Marshall

vicinity of

state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harrison County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Marshall

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (See Continuation Sheet)

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date

federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local ☐

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First United Methodist Church is a rectangular stuccoed brick Greek Revival style building with five bay nave, plain stuccoed cornice, and tetrastyle front (north) portico of monumentally scaled square columns. The portico is surmounted by a large colonnaded octagonal cupola added in 1949 to replace the original belfry. Large stained glass windows were placed in the nave bays in 1901 and in 1949 the most important window was removed from the south wall and installed between the central two columns of the portico forming a vestibule. The interior has been expanded and remodeled, with new ceilings, woodwork, and fixtures. However, the proportions of the original rectangular auditorium space have been preserved. Major additions to the south end of the structure to house educational and administrative functions occurred in 1927, 1949, and 1958 using materials, scale, and massing sympathetic to the character of the original fabric.

Construction of the church commenced with the awarding of the contract July 6, 1860. The bricks were fired locally, probably on the site, by slave labor. The building was substantially complete by October, 1861.

In 1882 a balcony originally intended for use by slaves was removed and the ceiling over the nave was arched and frescoed. In 1899 a pressed metal ceiling and chandeliers were installed, and structural improvements made to the foundations replacing brick piers with metal columns. Eleven stained glass windows costing \$7,000 were installed between 1901 and 1903, one in each of the nave bays with a major 8' x 14' windows implanted in the choir (south) wall. An original square spire topped by a pyramidal roof was removed for safety reasons in 1909.

In 1927 a \$40,000 classroom addition was attached to the south end of the church. The addition is a gable roofed masonry structure with the roof ridge running perpendicular to the ridge of the church. The gable end (west) facade is composed of five bays scaled to maintain the continuity of the original facade. Each bay contains a 12 light window in each story.

A second major expansion occurred in 1949 with the addition of a new wing to the east containing classrooms and a gymnasium. The addition formed a U-shaped courtyard with the original church, an arched arcade defining the south side of the court. The interior of the sanctuary was enlarged and remodeled at that time, the main auditorium was lengthened 22 feet by recessing the choir south into an alcove and adding a balcony at the north end. The ceiling was raised and arched with new lighting; walnut wainscoting was installed throughout.

The cupola added at this time over the portico dominates the entire edifice and anchors the church's primary axis to the main entrance. It rests on a square platform with a dentilled molded cornice and wrought iron railing. Eight octagonal columns with simple capitals support the cupola, which is topped by a bell shaped metal roof and a large Latin cross.

The church attained its present form with a four story, U-shaped addition to the south end in 1958. The addition included a chapel, offices, parlor, classrooms, and mechanical functions contained in a gable roofed building with two gable ended wings projecting southward. A tower with cupola separates the 1927 addition from the 1958 addition and defines the west entrance to the building complex. The south facade contains a major entrance with an arched portico. Like the rest of the structure, this section is roofed with composition shingles. The fenestration is similar to that of the 1949 addition.

Although First Methodist has undergone many changes, the impact of its all important north facade remains close to what the original must have been. The additions are all sensitive to the original and sited so that they do not intrude on this main facade.

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1860-61

Builder/Architect

Alexander Pope, masonry

Billington Smalley, carpentry

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Methodist Church is one of the few examples of monumentally scaled Greek Revival church architecture in Texas. As a major public building in a strategically crucial Confederate city, it was the site of several important Civil War events, including the organization of the Trans-Mississippi Department. Having served its original function since construction, the church is still a carefully maintained landmark.

Organized prior to 1845, the church held its meetings in a schoolhouse until 1853, when it moved to a converted building. The present site was acquired in 1860 and the building completed in 1861. The style chosen reflects the popularity and persistence of Greek Revival forms in mid-nineteenth century Texas. Litigation marred the church's first years; because the war disrupted the local economy, the contractors were unpaid until 1868.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis convened in 1862 a series of annual conferences of governors from the Trans-Mississippi states. The first conference, to discuss organization, defense, and administration of this critical area was held at First Methodist. A large audience gathered to hear Texas' Governor Lubbock, Missouri's Governor Jackson, and the representatives from Arkansas and Louisiana.

Besides the residence of Missouri's government in exile, Marshall became headquarters for Trans-Mississippi Department logistics, and First Methodist was included as part of the complex. Confederate supplies were stored in the basement. A bell for the belfry was secured during the war by stealing one from Federal troops nearby. Many of the regions' church bells had been confiscated for the production of Federal armament, so two local men felt no compunction in retrieving one for their church. The bell remained in the belfry until World War I when it was sold to the government, again for military use.

The pastor of the church at the conclusion of the Civil War was a popular Army chaplain, Enoch Mather Marvin, who had been assigned to Price's Division. In 1866 the General Conference of the Methodist Church meeting in New Orleans elected Marvin bishop, a noteworthy honor for a Southern clergyman from west of the Mississippi River.

Throughout its existence, the Marshall church has been a focal point for community and regional events both religious and secular. The townspeople still regard it highly for its beautiful architecture and close association with local history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marshall News Messenger, November 10, 1963 and other issues.
Ernest Berglund Jr., History of the First Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas, 1964.
Max S. Lale, monograph, on file at Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, December 16, 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**
Quadrangle name Marshall East **UTM NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UMT References

A 1 5 3 7 1 8 2 0 3 6 1 0 4 3 0
Zone Easting Northing
C
E
G

B
Zone Easting Northing
D
F
H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 and 2, 6, and 7, and parts (a strip 29' wide) of Lots 3, 5 and 8, Block 9, Original Townsite of Marshall. This boundary includes the original structure and its additions, all of which are compatible.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Wm. Keeton Turner, Research Assistant
name/title Lissa Anderson, Director of Survey and Nominations

organization Texas Historical Commission date April 22, 1980
street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone 512-475-3094
city or town Austin state Texas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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

State Historic Preservation Officer
title

April 23, 1980
date

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 7/6-80

Attest: Beth Groover

date 7/15/80

Chief of Registration

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

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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 8 1980

date entered JUL 16 1980

Continuation sheet

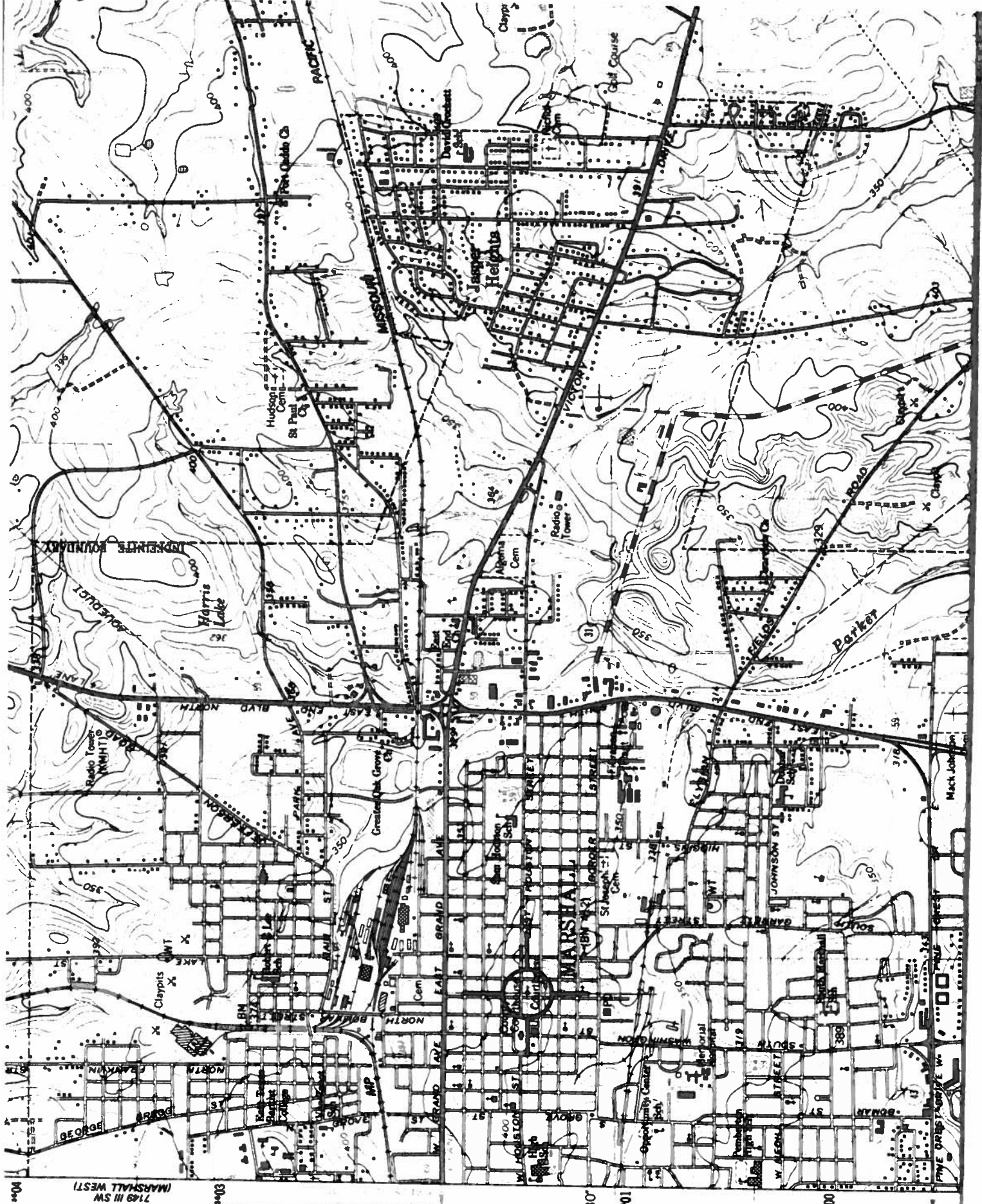
Item number 6

Page 1

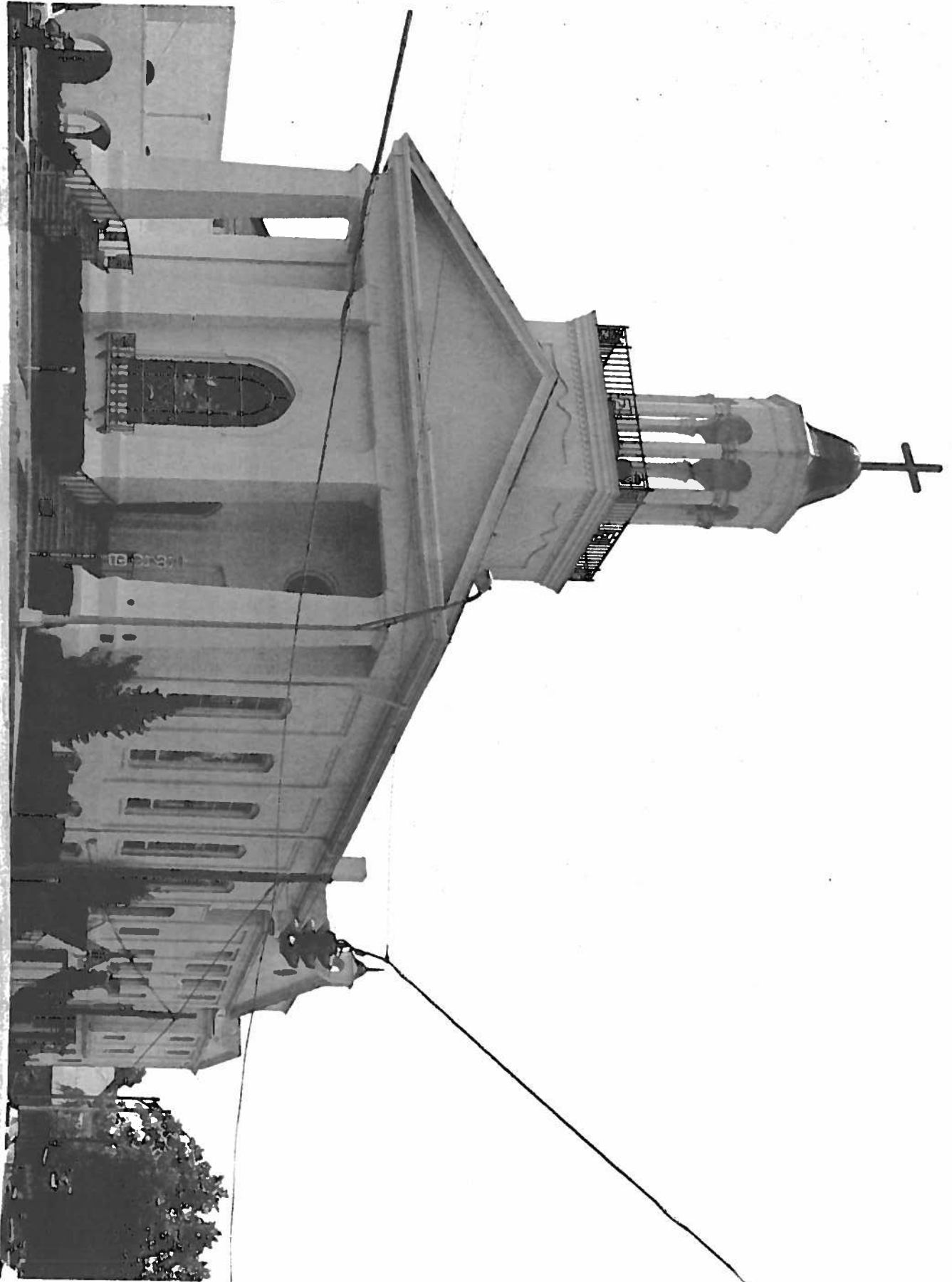
Historic American Buildings Survey
1936, 1977 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

Historic Sites Inventory
1972 State
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
1965 State
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
300 EAST HOUSTON STREET
MARSHALL, HARRISON CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE
15/371820/3610430



First Methodist Church
300 E. Houston
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photographer unknown, date of photo 1972.

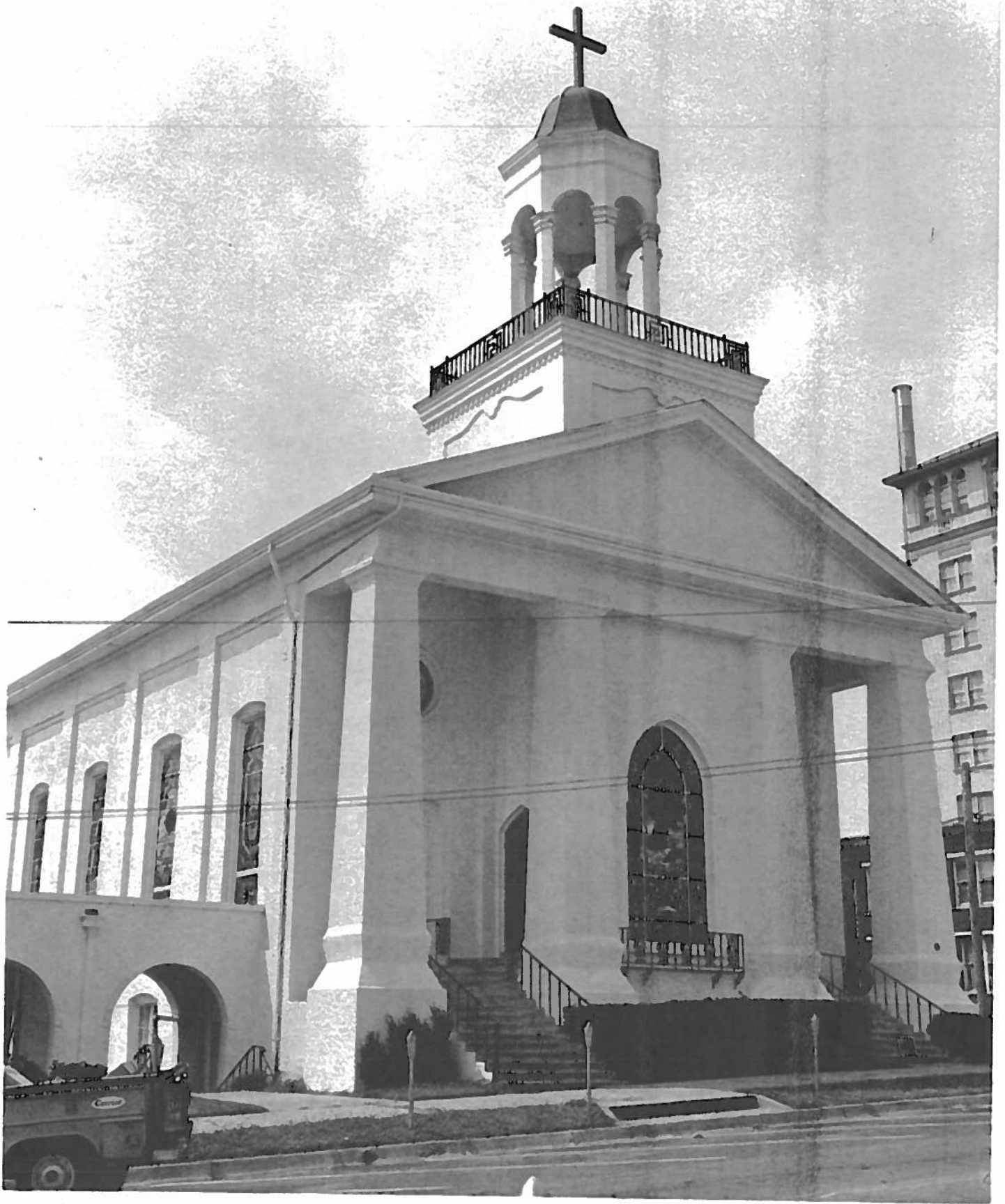
(still accurate)
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.

Photo 1 of 3.

MAY 8 1980

JUL 16 1980



First Methodist Church
300 E. Houston
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photographer unknown, date of photo 1972
(still accurate)
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 2 of 3.

JUL 16 1980

MAY 8 1980



First Methodist Church
300 E. Houston
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

photographer unknown, date of photo 1972
(still accurate)
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.

Photo 3 of 3.

JUL 16 1980

MAY 8 1980