

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 First Presbyterian Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 114 West Main Street ^{N/A} not for publication

city or town Lincolnton ^{N/A} vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lincoln code 109 zip code 28092

3. 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.)

William S. Price / SHPD 12-21-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

<p>I hereby certify that the property is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Signature of the Keeper</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Date of Action</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Lincoln County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historically and Architecturally Significant Churches
and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton, NC

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Cast stone

roof Slate

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Lincoln County, North Carolina
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.)

- 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1917-1918

Significant Dates

1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 or 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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

First Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Lincoln County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7
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4	7	6	5	4	0
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3	9	2	5	1	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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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 Davyd Foard Hood

organization _____ date 30 June 1994

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-4331

city or town Vale state N.C. zip code 28168

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's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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.)

name First Presbyterian Church, Ms. Janet Leissner, Clerk of the Session

street & number 114 West Main Street telephone 704/735-8671

city or town Lincolnton state N.C. zip code 28092

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 listings. 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 20503.

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Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 1First Presbyterian Church
Architectural Description

The First Presbyterian Church, a substantial well-preserved Late Gothic Revival style religious facility, comprises two brick buildings erected in the twentieth century which are connected by an open brick arcade. The church itself, erected in 1917-1918, stands in the north corner of the junction of West Main and Government Streets: its principal facade faces southeast. Immediately behind (northwest of) the church is the educational building/fellowship hall which was erected in 1956-1957: it is a rectangular building standing in the east corner of the junction of Government and Sycamore Streets. The church and its attendant educational building are built close on the sidewalks which carry along West Main, Government, and Sycamore Streets; there are evergreen shrub plantings around the foundation of the church. The church property includes the open, tree-shaded lawn to the northeast of the church which is used as a grassy playground for the church day school. A remodeled, noncontributing brick outbuilding survives here and is a reminder of the earlier residential use of this property. The First Presbyterian Church stands in the first block of West Main Street, in a mixed-use neighborhood between a residential neighborhood to the west and the Lincoln County Court House and the main business district to the east.

The sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church is basically a rectangular building, covered with a front-gable slate roof, with projecting towers at the corners of its front (southeast) elevation and shallow gable-front ells projecting from the northwest ends of its side elevations. The principal carriers of the Gothic Revival style are the shallow, cement-capped buttresses, which mark the bays of the church and rise at the corners of its towers and ells, and the lancet-arch window openings and the broader arches of the belfry and the front arcade. The church is built of dark red brick laid up in common bond. Cast stone and poured cement are used to enframe and enhance door and window openings, the tops of the buttresses, and to mark the water table which carries around the building at the top of the basement. The front (southeast) two-thirds of the building contains the sanctuary: the rear of the building, featuring two-story elevations on an exposed basement level, originally housed Sunday school rooms and church offices.

The facade of the church, facing southeast, is a distinguished symmetrical composition featuring a gable-front block recessed between the pair of matching towers which anchor its front corners. A three-part arcade carries between the towers, in front of the main block, and serves as an entrance porch for the vestibules set in the base of the towers. At each end of the arcade there are double-leaf partially-glazed doors opening onto the vestibules. On the back wall of the arcade a trio of stained glass windows, symmetrically placed behind the arcade openings, illuminate the sanctuary. Above the arcade, in the center

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of the gable front, is a larger trio of lancet-arched openings which also illuminate the sanctuary. The towers themselves have a somewhat modernistic look, owing to the restrained, linear character of the Gothic-styled detailing and the angular positioning of the buttresses. The bases of the towers have small paired window openings on their two outer faces which illuminate the vestibules. The cornerstone is positioned below the paired windows on the front face of the south tower. The tall shafts of the towers have broad slightly projecting panels. The four sides of the tops of the towers have two-part openings, inside the curve of an arch, which are fitted with louvers indicating their function as belfries.

The southwest side elevation, facing on Government Street, has two parts. The section immediately north of the tower is two bays wide and is fitted with large, almost overscaled, lancet-arched stained glass windows. These were reused from the 1891-1892 church. Here, at the point where the shallow ell abuts the sanctuary wall, there is a tall flight of steps rising to a double-leaf door opening onto the west vestibule of the sanctuary. It has a pent hood, and centered above it in the southeast face of the ell, there is a circular stained glass window which also appears to be reused from the late nineteenth century church. The southwest face of the gable-front ell has a three-part division on the basement and two upper stories. On the basement level there is a double-leaf door in the southernmost bay. Otherwise, each bay on the three levels is fitted with a conventional, original window. The windows on the second story have arch-headed openings; however, the windows have flat heads. There is a circular ventilator in the upper center of the gable end.

The wide rear elevation of the church is also three levels in height, and it has a generally symmetrical pattern of fenestration on each level indicating the classrooms and offices which occupy the tier of spaces at the rear (northwest) of the sanctuary. The church's northeast elevation is more complicated, but, generally, it is divided into three parts. The "third" immediately adjacent to the tower is fitted with a large lancet-arched window, similar to the two on the opposite southwest elevation, which contains stained glass. The center "third" projects and is blind except for a door at ground level, opening onto a service stair, and two small windows above. (This section mostly houses the mechanical equipment for the church organ.) The rear "third" of the elevation has a four-bay division on each of its three levels: the window openings in the basement and the first story have arched-heads.

Given the symmetrical design of the church facade and the generally symmetrical arrangement of bays on the side elevations of the sanctuary block, the sanctuary interior might be expected to have a symmetrical plan. That expectation does not hold true. Instead, the interior is a modified Akron-plan with a theater-style sanctuary and adjoining space for extra seating or Sunday school: it is finished with traditional woodwork. The main sanctuary space is

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essentially square in plan and designed on a north/south axis, which is off axis with the front elevation. On paper and in plan there is a certain symmetry to the floor plan of the sanctuary which does not hold valid in the three dimensional where no two of the four interior elevations are alike. The two front (south and east) vestibules and the west vestibule open into a sanctuary fitted with three tiers of original curved pews which are positioned to address the chancel in the true north corner of the space. Unlike the other chancels of Lincolnton churches, there is little architectural development of the Presbyterian chancel. It has a blind rear wall on which is mounted a wood Cross of Iona. The choir and organ console are positioned to the east of the chancel and behind them (in the projecting center "third" of the northeast elevation) are the organ pipes and mechanical fittings. Nearly the entire northwest wall of the sanctuary is given over to a broad opening. Behind it is a rectangular two-level (Sunday school) alcove which has a fourth tier of curved oak pews; they are the ancillary seating of this version of the Akron plan. It is now unclear whether there were originally doors or screens which could separate this space from the sanctuary. Along the three outer sides of the alcove are rooms occupied by the library, the minister's office, the ladies parlor, and the church office; the last three-named rooms open off the alcove while the library opens off the west vestibule.

In the west vestibule there is a traditionally finished staircase with flights of steps descending to the basement level and to the second story. On the second story, there is a rank of classrooms which carry around the perimeter of the upper level of the sanctuary alcove; they are accessible by way of a balcony-like passage which carries around the top of the alcove, on three sides. The finish of rooms as well as those on the first story is traditional and original to the 1917-1918 construction period of the church. Originally, the principal space in the basement was a social hall and there was a small kitchen adjoining it. When the educational building/fellowship hall was completed, the former social hall came to be used as a choir rehearsal room. The kitchen and some secondary spaces came to be used primarily for storage.

A door in the northwest wall of the basement opens onto the brick passage, covered with a flat parapet roof, which connects to the educational building/fellowship hall. It was designed by Harold Eugene Wagoner in 1956 and constructed in 1956-1957. It is a one-story brick building on a partial basement with modest references to the Gothic Revival styling of the main church. The building is laid up in a red brick which is sympathetic to the color of the brick on the 1918 church; it has cast stone dressings. On the exterior it is designed to appear as two gable-roof blocks, set perpendicular to each other with their long sides along Sycamore and Government Streets connected by a flat parapet-roof hyphen. There is a metal spire rising from the roof of the fellowship hall. The two blocks have principal entrances, in cast stone surrounds, which face onto Sycamore and Government Streets. The fenestration,

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single and grouped metal windows, is generally symmetrically disposed on the building's elevations.

On the southeast elevation there is an inset loggia, supported by brick piers, which opens onto a poured cement walk which continues around the building and connects with the covered passage to the church.

The interior of the educational building/fellowship hall contains four large classrooms on the main level and a large fellowship hall with an elevated stage and an adjoining kitchen. The halls and classrooms are simply finished with VAT tile floors and painted cement block walls. The principal refinements of building are reserved for the fellowship hall which has a tall wood-sheathed gable-form ceiling with exposed laminated beams. The two gable ends of the room have exposed brick walls. In the basement there are three simply-finished rooms with poured cement floors. The largest of the three was used for mechanical equipment.

Outbuilding
1800s
Non-Contributing

This rectangular brick building, covered with a gable roof, stands to the northeast of the church. It appears to have been a domestic outbuilding for the now destroyed Ramsour-Phifer-Abernathy House which stood on this part of the church property. The building has been remodeled and fitted with three large overhead garage doors on the southwest elevation. It is used for storage by the church.

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First Presbyterian Church
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The First Presbyterian Church, erected in 1917-1918, is the third church building erected in Lincolnton by a congregation which dates to 1815. Organized as Emanuel's Presbyterian Church, the congregation was the third to be established in a community which then, in 1815, had only Lutheran and Reformed churches. From 1815 until 1839, the church held services in the union church built by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. In 1839, the congregation completed its first church on Water Street and renamed itself the Lincolnton Presbyterian Church. During the second half of the nineteenth century the fortunes of the Lincolnton Presbyterian Church rose during the long-term ministries of the Reverend Robert Newton Davis and the Reverend Robert Zenas Johnston. In the late 1880s the church determined to build a new sanctuary and in May 1890 its trustees acquired a portion of the former Phifer estate, a lot at the corner of West Main and Government Streets. Here they built a fashionable Gothic Revival style church in 1891-1892. The relocation from Water Street to Main Street began a trend which was followed, in turn, by the town's Reformed, Methodist, and Baptist churches. In 1916, the Lincolnton Presbyterian Church determined to build a new building on the site of their second church. The impressive Late Gothic Revival- style church, erected in 1917-1918, has a pair of twin towers flanking the gable-front facade. The well-finished and well-preserved church impressively represents one of several modes in which the Late Gothic Revival style was rendered across North Carolina in the opening decades of the twentieth century. The First Presbyterian Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the area of architecture as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historically and Architecturally Significant Churches and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton, North Carolina." The church is discussed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form as Property Type II.

Historical Background

The formal organization of a Presbyterian congregation in Lincolnton occurred in 1815 as a result of the missionary efforts of the Reverend Dr. Humphrey Hunter, one of the twelve founding ministers of the Presbytery of Concord in 1785. Hunter (1754-1827), a native of Ireland, had served as minister to Goshen and Unity churches in Lincoln County (now Gaston County) in the late 1790s and early 1800s. In the spring of 1815, Hunter came to Lincolnton under the auspices of the presbytery and held services in the union church erected by the two German-speaking congregations. Apparently, Hunter was able to engage the interest of members of the Reformed church which had been without a minister since the death of Andrew Loretz in 1812 as well as other residents of the town

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whose ancestry might have been Scotch-Irish rather than German. The formal petition of Emanuel's Presbyterian Church was accepted by the Presbytery of Concord at their meeting on 5 September 1815 in Salisbury. The Rev. Dr. Hunter served as pastor to the fledgling congregation until the Reverend Joseph E. Bell began his ministry in Lincolnton in 1821.

The official records of the church begin with the account of a meeting of the session of 14 February 1823. Bell remained pastor of Emanuel's Presbyterian Church until he was dismissed from the ministry in 1828. On 15 November 1828, Patrick Jones Sparrow, a native of Lincoln County, was installed as minister of Emanuel's Presbyterian Church; he remained at the Lincolnton church until 1833. In 1834 the Reverend Albertus Leander Watts began a ministry at Lincolnton which continued until 1840. From 1815 until 1839, the congregation held services in the union church which after 1830 was called the White Church.¹

It was during the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Watts that the Lincolnton Presbyterian congregation built its first church. On 11 April 1838, Paul Kistler conveyed to David Ramsour and James T. Alexander, "Trustees of the Presbyterian Church or congregation of the Village of Lincolnton," a part of lot #19 in the Southwest Square of Lincolnton for the sum of \$100. It was here, on a lot fronting on what is now West Water Street, that the Presbyterian congregation set about to erect its first church. That work was completed in summer, 1839, when the building was dedicated on the last Sunday in June. Meanwhile, in March 1839, the name of the congregation was changed from Emanuel's Presbyterian Church to Lincolnton Presbyterian Church.

The fortunes of the Lincolnton Presbyterian Church especially prospered in the second half of the nineteenth century under the pastorates of two distinguished ministers. The first of these men was the Reverend Robert Newton Davis (1818-1871), who came to the Lincolnton church in 1850 and served as its minister until his death of 24 April 1871. It was Davis's task, on 7 November 1864, to officiate at the funeral of Major General Stephen Dodson Ramseur (1837-1864), one of Lincolnton's most distinguished nineteenth-century citizens. In retrospect, it seems clear that Davis's service to the Lincolnton Presbyterian Church during the trying days of the Civil War and afterward greatly endeared him to the congregation. When he died unexpectedly at the age of fifty-two, his body was interred in the Water Street churchyard and a marble memorial table was placed in the church. In 1872, Davis was succeeded by the Reverend Robert Zenas Johnston (1834-1908), a native of Rowan County and a member of its prominent Third Creek Presbyterian Church community. Johnston began his half-time services to the Lincolnton church on 9 April 1872. He, too, remained as pastor of the church until his death in 1906. During this period he organized mission churches in Lincoln County and oversaw the construction of a new church on West Main Street for his growing congregation.

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Discussion concerning a new church building apparently began in the later 1880s. On 15 April 1890, Robert M. Roseman (1846-1935), S. D. Burgin, and James Alonzo Abernathy (1851-1936) were appointed a committee with the charge to obtain property for a new church and to erect the building. The three men moved quickly. On 28 May 1890, they acquired the lot in the north corner of West Main and Government Streets for \$1,000. It was a part of the estate of Col. John F. Phifer (d. 1886) whose handsome brick mansion stood further east on Main Street. According to church tradition, construction began on the new Gothic Revival style church in the spring of 1891. The congregation held its first service in the new church on 10 July 1892. The Lincolnton Presbyterian Church was the first of Lincolnton's churches to relocate to Main Street, and within the next three decades the Reformed, Methodist, and Baptist congregations would follow its example.

On 8-10 January 1897, the Lincolnton Presbyterian Church honored Robert Zenas Johnston on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his pastorate to the congregation with a series of ceremonies and special events. The church also did him the further honor of publishing a memorial pamphlet, The Quarter-Centennial of Rev. A. Z. Johnston's Pastorate of Lincolnton Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Mr. Johnston died on 24 April 1908, and he was buried beside his wife in the cemetery at Third Creek Church, Rowan County. During the last years of Johnston's life, his health apparently had failed somewhat, and in 1907, the church called the Reverend Dr. William Ramsour Minter as its pastor. Minter remained in charge of the Lincolnton church until 1915 when he was succeeded by the Reverend Dr. Willis Sherrard Wilson (1867-1941).

During the years around the turn of the century, the Presbyterian church membership had grown continuously and it had exceeded 200 members in 1911. The nineteenth century church is said to have comfortably seated 100 persons. In the mid-1910s, the congregation began serious discussions toward resolving the problem. A proposal to enlarge and remodel the Victorian Gothic Revival style church was soundly defeated in June 1916 and a committee was appointed to raise funds for a new building. It included: Robert M. Roseman, chairman; J. W. Mullen; R. S. Abernathy; P. M. Keever; Robert S. Reinhardt (1858-1925), owner of the Elm Grove Cotton Mill and the Reinhardt Building on Court Square; Edgar Love (d. 1920), another of the county's prominent textilists; and the minister. By the summer of 1917, the committee had \$20,000 in hand or in pledges. A building committee was appointed to proceed with the erection of a new church. It consisted of: Robert M. Roseman, R. F. Beal, James Alonzo Abernathy, Robert S. Reinhardt, J. W. Mullen, D. H. Shields, and Rev. Dr. Wilson who served as chairman.

The identity of the architect of the First Presbyterian Church--the congregation changed its name while the building was under construction--remains unknown. The contractor was Henry A. Kistler (1864-1928), a prominent local brick mason

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and builder, who had erected the Reinhardt Building and would later erect Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the Lincoln County Court House. It had been determined that the new church would be erected on the site of the nineteenth century church and demolition of the Victorian building began on 9 July 1917. The site was cleared and preparations for the new building began in mid August. The memorial cornerstone was laid on 16 September 1917. The building, dominated by the twin towers on its front elevation, was completed at a cost of \$25,000, and the first worship service was held on the last Sunday in March 1918. Symbolically, white marble memorial tablets honoring the congregation's great nineteenth century ministers--Robert Newton Davis and Robert Zenas Johnston--were placed in the east and west vestibules, respectively, at the base of the towers. The remains of Davis were disinterred and reburied beneath this church.

After Rev. Dr. Wilson departed First Presbyterian Church in January 1922, the church was served by a succession of ministers, including Rev. Wilson himself, who again ministered from 1929 until 1937. Of this group, perhaps the most important in the history of the congregation and its expanding role of outreach, youth ministry, and educational programs, was the Reverend Allen Crews McSween (b. 1915) who ministered to the congregation from 1946 until 1953. The broadened program of church activity initiated by McSween soon outpaced the facilities of the 1918 church and in the mid 1950s discussions began toward the erection of an educational building. In 1955-1956, an appointed building committee contracted with Harold Eugene Wagoner (b. 1905), a prominent church architect in Philadelphia, to design an educational building to house Sunday school rooms, a new social hall and kitchen, scout rooms, and related spaces. Wagoner's plans for the new facility are dated in March and July 1956: construction began on the building in June 1956 and it was completed in 1957.

Since that time the only significant change in the appearance of the church plant has been the creation of a playground and side yard to the east of the church. It is located on the site of the great mansion built in 1820 by David Ramsour, one of the first elders of the church (1823) and subsequently occupied by his daughter and her husband, Col. John F. Phifer, who was also an important supporter of the Presbyterian church in Lincolnton. After Phifer's death, the house had been the residence of James Alonzo Abernathy (1851-1936) who served on the committee which acquired the lot on West Main Street where the congregation built its second and third (this) church. The destruction of this great house, important in the history of Lincolnton for a century and a half, was one step in an unfortunate series of such destructions which has altered the appearance of the historic neighborhood in which First Presbyterian Church was built in 1917-1918.

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First Presbyterian Church
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

Footnote

1. The principal published sources of the history of First Presbyterian Church are A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Lincolnton, North Carolina, and the Synod history Confronted by Challenge, both of which are listed in the bibliography. The memorial publication honoring the pastorate of Robert Zenas Johnston is particularly helpful in understanding the later nineteenth century history of the congregation. While the 1917-1918 church was under construction, the design for the building was copied by the congregation of the First Reformed Church in Landis, Rowan County, which erected a virtual duplicate of the Lincolnton church in 1918-1919. The land for the Landis church was donated by C. A. Linn who, with his son O. L. Linn, was a member of the building committee. C. A. Linn's grandson, Carl Linn, who is the historian of the First United Church of Christ, Landis, provided an oral account of the events of 1918-1919 to this author. That church no longer stands.

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First Presbyterian Church
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

9. Bibliography

Barefoot, Daniel Wilson. A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Lincolnton, North Carolina. Lincolnton, North Carolina; the author, 1990.

Brown, Marvin. Our Enduring Past. Charlotte: Delmar Company, 1986.

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McGeachy, Neill Roderick. Confronted by Challenge: A History of the Presbytery of Concord. Charlotte: Delmar Company, 1985.

The Quarter-Centennial of Rev. R. Z. Johnston's Pastorate of Lincolnton Presbyterian Church. Lincolnton, North Carolina: Journal Printing Company, 1897.

Sherrill, William L. Annals of Lincoln County. Charlotte: Observer Printing House, 1937.

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Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is Parcel #7102 on Lincoln County Tax Map 3623-16-74.

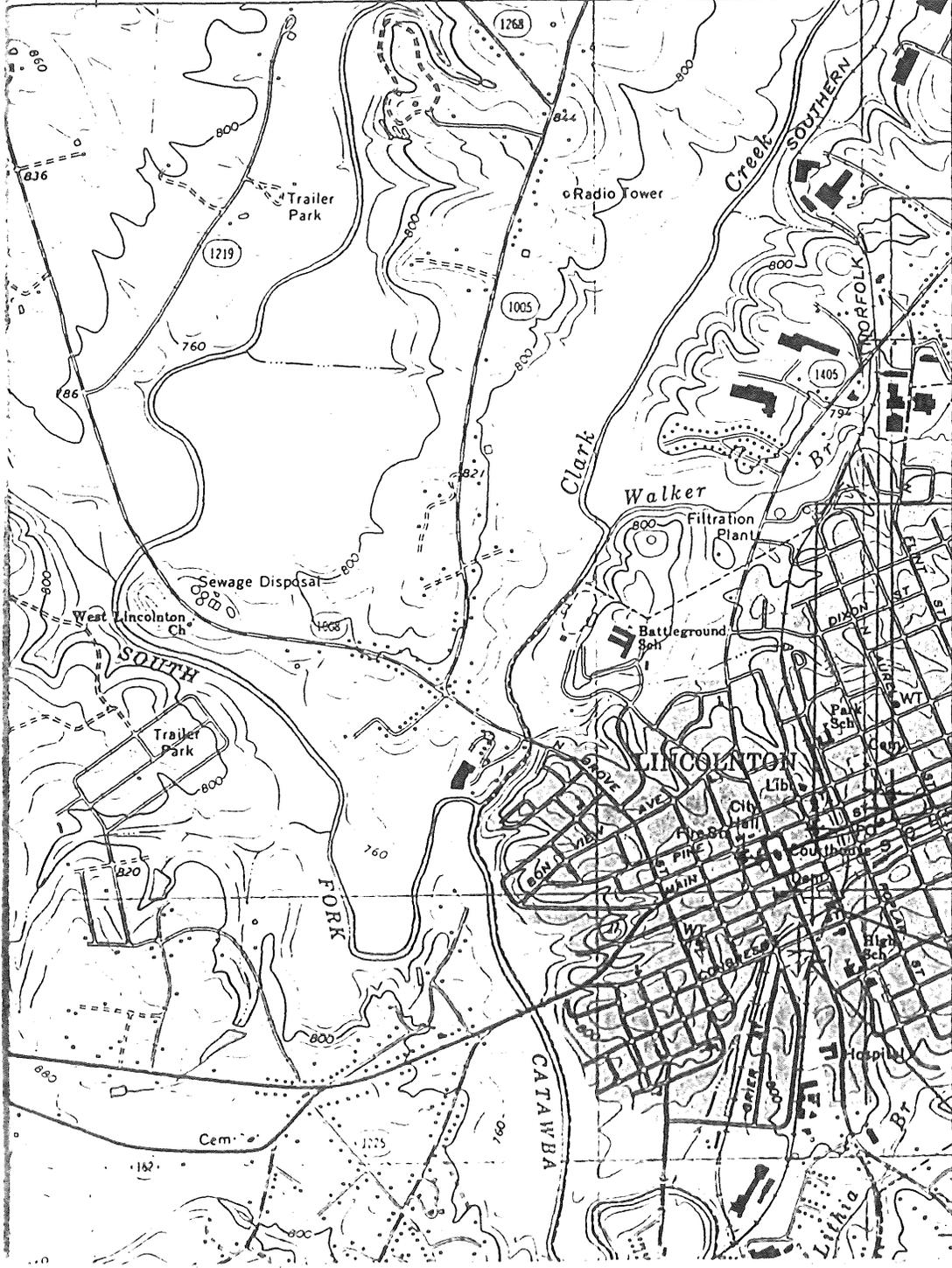
Boundary Justification

The boundaries enclosing this property comprise the acreage acquired in 1890 as the site of the congregation's second church and which is now the site of the present church and educational building. These boundaries include property purchased subsequent to 1890 which has been incorporated into the church holding and which serves as the grounds and setting of the church.

LINCOLNTON WEST QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 NE/4 LINCOLNTON 15' QUADRANGLE

475 II SW
 (MAIDEN)

474 1 320 000 FEET 475 476 477 81° 15' 35' 30"



- (former) First Baptist Church
 Easting 477100
 Northing 3925360
- Emmanuel United Church of Christ
 Easting 477040
 Northing 3925300
- First United Methodist Church
 Easting 476810
 Northing 3925220
- First Presbyterian Church
 Easting 476540
 Northing 3925120
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church
 Easting 476660
 Northing 3924980
- Old White Church Cemetery
 Easting 476800
 Northing 3924960
- Methodist Church Cemetery
 Easting 476750
 Northing 3924760

BOGER CITY 23 MI.
 CHARLOTTE 32 MI.

27° 30'

