

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 United Methodist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 201 East Main Street N/A not for publication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. King SHPO 10-21-94
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

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

First United Methodist 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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, North Carolina

**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)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

First United Methodist 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

117	47168110	31921521210
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

4

Zone	Easting	Northing

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 11 July 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 United Methodist Church
Mr. Randolph Sorrell, Chairman

street & number Board of Trustees
201 East Main Street telephone 704/735-7489

city or town Lincolnton state N.C. zip code 29082

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.

First United Methodist 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1919-1920

1936

Significant Dates

1919

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carlton, C. W., architect

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 1First United Methodist Church
Architectural Description

The First United Methodist Church, one of the principal architectural landmarks in Lincolnton, is a handsome well-preserved Classical Revival-style building comprised of three major blocks erected in 1919-1920, 1936, and 1956-1957. The earliest building, the great dome-covered sanctuary standing at the north corner of East Main and North Academy Streets, was the first fully realized Classical Revival-style church in the county seat. Its elevations are enlivened with a program of Classical motives crafted of wood, cement, stucco, and brick. Erected on a high basement and built of a warm ochre-colored brick laid up in a common bond with rose-tinted mortar, the building is dominated by a pantheon-like vestibule which addresses the junction of the two streets. The arc of its circular form is repeated in the impressive staircase which rises from the public sidewalk up to the two-story portico which serves as a porch for worshippers. Flanking this central feature are gable-front blocks, two stories in height on a high basement, whose Main and Academy Street elevations are marked by two-story pilasters. In 1936 the yellow brick elevations and Classical Revival detailing of the main church were repeated in the design of the two-story Sunday School Annex erected to the northwest of the original building. Its principal, gable-front elevation faces onto North Academy Street and replicates the three-bay division of its earlier model. The buildings are connected by a two-story ell. In 1956, a larger two-story-on-basement educational building, repeating the yellow brick of the two earlier blocks and finished with a restrained classical program of ornament and composition, was erected on the rear, Sycamore Street, part of the church property. It is connected to the Sunday School Annex by a covered walkway.

The First United Methodist Church is located in a commercial streetscape made up of mostly two-story brick turn-of-the-century and later buildings. The 1919-1920 and 1936 blocks stand close to the sidewalks with shallow set-backs and simple foundation plantings. The 1956-1957 education building is offset to the northeast from the earlier blocks: the open area in front of it, being the east corner of North Academy and Sycamore Streets, is planted as a mixed shrub bed.

The design of the original church, dominated by its dome-covered entrance pavilion, features symmetrically organized elevations facing onto East Main Street and North Academy Streets. Because of the position of the pantheon-like element, at the junction of the two streets, the church does not have a front elevation in a conventional sense. Instead, from a visual and compositional point of view, the central-dome-covered pavilion and the flanking gable-front bays function as the "facade" of the church. A tall classical entablature visually and physically links the three elements. The building stands on a high basement which is sheathed with cement stucco with a scratched finish. A

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quarter-circle flight of cement steps rises from the sidewalk up to the two-story entrance portico. The three exposed faces of the pantheon, behind the portico, are fitted with double leaf doors with transoms on the first story and arch-headed three-part windows on the second level. The portico is supported by fluted columns with free acanthus-leaf capitals which rise to the entablature. Above the entablature, the dome rises from a two-level crown. The lower level is brick and features paired windows with angular tracery in bays marked by pilaster-like piers. A continuous blind frieze band, repeating the pier divisions, carries around the top of the pantheon in the fashion of a balustraded parapet. The dome, covered with asphalt shingles as is the entire building, rises above this parapet.

The pedimented gable-front blocks which flank the pantheon and face onto East Main and North Academy Streets, are essentially three stories in height and three bays wide. They are linked to the pantheon by shallow offsets which feature street-level entrances into the basement protected by later gable-roof hoods. The basement and first story windows have rectangular frames while those on the second story have arched heads. The first and second story openings are fitted with stained glass windows. The bays on these gable fronts are marked by brick pilasters with free acanthus-leaf capitals. The side elevations of these gable-front blocks are fitted with trios of tall stained glass windows which illuminate the modified Akron-plan sanctuary. A shallow two-bay hip-roof ell extends to the northeast from the East Main Street block: it has a double-leaf entrance which opens into a stairhall from which church members enter the classrooms on the two levels behind (north of) the sanctuary. The pendant ell on the North Academy Street block has a three-bay elevation facing Academy Street. Here a door opens into a hallway which connects with the sanctuary and the original pastor's study in the ell.

The Sunday school annex, rectangular in plan and replicating the form, design, materials, and detailing of the North Academy Street gable-front block, stands at the northwest end of the Academy Street ell. The one-story porch on the ell also protects an entrance into the Sunday school annex. The annex has a pedimented three-bay facade on North Academy Street with a shallow, center-bay porch opening into the Men's Bible Class which occupies most of the first story. The annex's southeast and northwest side elevations are symmetrically arranged with paired sash windows on the first story and six-over-six sash windows on the second story. The rear, northeast elevation of the annex, unseen by passersby, is laid up in red brick and has a three-part division with five windows per story.

The educational building, designed by Marsh & Hawkins and constructed in 1956-1957, is a rectangular two-story building covered by a flat parapet roof. It rises above a basement story which is exposed by a grade change on its long Sycamore Street (northwest) elevation. In the symmetrical design of its

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elevations, the use of yellow brick, and the repetition of arch-headed windows in key positions, the building stands as a sympathetic companion to the earlier blocks. A one-story gable-roof walkway, supported by paired Classical square-in-plan columns, connects the Sunday school annex and the educational building. The principal North Academy Street elevation has a tall (two-story) arch-headed window, set between brick piers, which illuminates a stairwell. On the opposite northeast rear elevation there is a like three-level arch-headed window which illuminates the rear stairwell. Like arch-headed windows enframe the three levels of symmetrical fenestration on the long northwest Sycamore Street elevation. The opposite southeast elevation of the educational building is twelve bays wide. The windows contain six-over-six double-hung sash.

Except for minor, inconsequential changes, the interior design, the finishes, and the appointments of the 1919-1920, the 1936, and the 1956-1957 blocks of the First United Methodist Church survive intact and well-preserved. As is typical of church construction in general, there is an apparent diminution in the quality of the finishes and appointments from the original building to the plain, more utilitarian character of the 1950s educational building. In each instance the design, finishes, and furnishings of the three successive blocks is typical of their period of construction.

The original 1919-1920 building was designed to accommodate the programs and functions of a prosperous small town congregation of the 1910s. The basement of the original church block contains the social hall and adjoining kitchen. They are simply finished with plaster walls and tile floors. The greater part of the building, visible as two levels from the public sidewalks, contains the large and handsomely finished sanctuary. The first story of the church also contains the ladies parlor, behind (north) of the chancel, and the pastor's study and adjacent washroom. The stairhall, in the ell visible from East Main Street, rises to the second story of the church which has a tier of Sunday school rooms which, in plan, are located above the ladies parlor and pastor's study. The finishes of the parlor, study, and classrooms include original wood or carpeted floors, and plaster walls. The door and window surrounds feature plain boards with rounded edges and molded lintels. The ladies parlor includes a fireplace with a molded oak mantel.

The theater-plan sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church is the most handsome public assembly space in the town of Lincolnton. While the architectural fabric of all of the town's churches survives intact, the special glory of this sanctuary is the fact that the original or near-original colors, the stained oak woodwork of the space, and its furnishings have been preserved. A critical element of the interior decoration is the program of stained glass windows which imbue the great chamber with principal hues of ochre, gold, mauve, and green. In short, the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church most closely represents the character and appearance of a 1910s Classical Revival style church interior.

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First United Methodist Church
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

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The trio of doors under the portico open into a vestibule which, in turn, has a main double-leaf door opening into the sanctuary. Smaller doors open from the vestibule into stairhalls on either side which rise to the balcony level of the church or, in turn, descend to the basement social hall. The sanctuary is laid out on a double-aisle plan with three tiers of curved oak pews which face north and address the chancel. The chancel, elevated on a series of levels, is dominated by a broad semicircular arch which enframes the choir. The organ screen forms the back of the choir and, in turn, the back of the chancel. A wainscot railing carries across the front of the choir and behind the pulpit. The walls of the sanctuary, like the exterior of the church, are marked by a series of pilasters which rise to, but stop short of, the molded dentil cornice. The rhythm of arch-headed windows likewise enhances the classical program of interior design. The balcony level of the sanctuary features seating in the spaces formed by the gable-front blocks and in the area over the vestibule. The original design of the church featured a classroom in the dome-level of the building, accessible from the stairwell on the North Academy Street side of the church. It is circular in shape and illuminated by the windows in the crown of the dome. It passed into disuse and now contains portions of the mechanical system for heating and air-conditioning.

The interior of the Sunday school annex also features wood floors and painted plaster walls. Most of the first story is given over to the rectangular assembly room of the Men's Bible Class which has white walls, dark stained woodwork, and permanent auditorium seating. A hallway separates the chamber from the choir room in the remaining, rear part of the first story. There is a staircase here which rises to the classrooms on the second story of this block and a hall which, in turn, connects to the original block of the church.

The interior of the educational building has a different floor plan on each level; however, the general finish is the same on all three stories. The floors are covered with either tile or carpet and the walls are painted plaster: the ceilings are plaster or celotex. The stairwells in the southwest and northeast ends of the building connect all three stories. The basement level contains classrooms, a lounge area, a large room for the church girl scout troop, an office, storage closets, and mechanical systems rooms. The first story features a series of classrooms, the church office, the pastor's study, and restrooms arranged along a corridor which runs on a northeast/southwest axis. The second story of the educational building is divided into two suites of classrooms which comprise a main assembly space with five adjoining classrooms per suite. Between the two assembly rooms, which are accessible from the stairways, are restrooms.

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First United Methodist Church
Narrative Statement of Significance

SUMMARY

The First United Methodist Church, a religious facility comprising three major, connected blocks erected in 1919-1920, 1936, and 1956-1957, is a well-preserved and handsome Classical Revival-style building in the town of Lincolnton. The 1919-1920 building, the third church erected by a congregation founded in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, was built to plans believed to have been originally prepared by architect C. W. Carlton for the Methodist congregation in Lenoir. The Lincolnton church, laid up in ochre-colored brick in rose-tinted mortar, is a more handsomely-finished building than its prototype. The sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church survives remarkably intact and it is the most impressive and beautiful twentieth-century public assembly space in Lincolnton. With a growing membership and expanded programs, the church was pressed to make two additions to the church plant in 1936 and 1956-1957. These buildings repeated the form, materials, and stylistic finish of the 1919-1920 church and, linked together, they represent the most distinguished religious complex in the county seat. The First United Methodist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the area of architecture, as defined by 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 under Property Type II.

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Historical Background

The organization of a Methodist congregation in the town of Lincolnton occurred in a manner similar to that which described the organization of Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Baptist churches in the county seat. In each case, itinerant ministers or missionaries, assigned by their denomination to the western Piedmont, preached in Lincolnton in the union/Old White Church and drew together the nucleus of citizens who would eventually organize individual congregations. One of the earliest and most prominent of the traveling Methodist ministers was Daniel Asbury (1762-1825) who preached in that part of Lincoln County that became Catawba County (in 1842) and in 1789 organized Rehobeth Church there. The Rev. Mr. Asbury led the effort to construct a log church for the congregation in 1790, and he remained the spiritual leader of Methodism in the area just west of the Catawba River until his death in 1825. The question of when Reverend Asbury first held services in Lincolnton cannot be answered at this time.¹

According to church tradition, 1816 is the year in which a Methodist congregation was organized in Lincolnton. The body was first known as Bethel Church at Lincolnton and the congregation underwent a series of name changes until it adopted the name First Methodist Church and later First United Methodist Church. The leading figure in the organization of the Lincolnton church is acknowledged to be Michael Schenck (1771-1849), a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who came to Lincoln County about 1790. Through his connections in Pennsylvania, he became a prominent and successful merchant in the fledgling county seat, and in 1801 he was married to Barbara Warlick (d. 1815), the daughter of the pioneer Lincoln County settler Daniel Warlick. Schenck was also one of the first of an important generation of industrialists who brought prosperity to early-nineteenth century Lincoln County. About 1813, Schenck built a cotton mill just east of Lincolnton which is said to have been the first cotton mill south of the Potomac River. In 1819, Schenck, in partnership with John Hoke and Dr. James Bivings, erected a second mill, on the South Fork of the Catawba River, to the south of Lincolnton. The mills prospered and so did Michael Schenck and his family.

Whether a church was actually established in Lincolnton in 1816 remains to be confirmed; however, there was a Methodist church in Lincolnton by the mid-1820s. In 1874, Schenck's grandson, North Carolina Supreme Court Justice David Schenck, wrote in a memoir that his grandfather, a Menonite, found the Methodist church more congenial than the Lutheran church.

Dr. James Bivings and my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Eliza Bevens and Mrs. Cobb, grandmother of John L. Cobb (who is now my son-in-law) and Joseph Morris and wife, were about the first Methodists in Lincoln. Elizabeth McDaniel and my mother, then Susan Rebecca Bevens, joined that

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church together August the 1st, 1824. Michael Schenck joined in 1826. Rev. Josiah Freeman was the preacher in charge in 1824. Michael Schenck and Dr. Bivings each gave fifty dollars to erect the first Methodist church in Lincolnton in 1822-23 which stood where the present brick church is now located.

There is also an element of mystery concerning the acquisition of the property in south Lincolnton, bounded by South Aspen, Government, and West Congress Streets, where the congregation erected its first and second houses of worship. The deed for the property has not been located. According to church tradition and Schenck's memoir, the first church was erected about 1822. The first known regular minister to the congregation was the Reverend James Hill who died on 20 March 1828. He is the first known person to have been buried in the Methodist churchyard that survives today as the Methodist Church Cemetery. The Lincolnton Methodist congregation was clearly in possession of the property by that time.

The fortunes of the church, like those of Mr. Schenck, prospered through the 1830s and 1840s, and, in the 1850s, discussion arose concerning the construction of a new church building. Work on a new brick church for the congregation is said to have begun on 27 March 1856 and to have been completed in 1862. That church was a rectangular brick building, three bays wide by four bays deep. The extent to which the antebellum church was ornamented with Gothic Revival detailing is difficult to assess at this time. According to church tradition the three-stage tower on the front elevation, the principal carrier of the Gothic Revival style, was not built until 1896. That church building was demolished, without photographic documentation, in 1963.

From 1862 until the 1910s, the brick church, flanked by the graves of its former members, served the Methodist congregation in Lincolnton which was successively called Bethel Church, Trinity Church, and the Lincolnton Methodist Church. By 1915, the congregation had grown to such an extent that the need for a larger building became obvious. In that year a committee was appointed to proceed with plans for a new church. According to church tradition the committee was charged with the responsibility to obtain a new site for the new church. Apparently, the decision had been made to abandon the South Aspen Street site for one of more prominence.

On 4 November 1916, the trustees of the church acquired a large lot bounded by East Main, North Academy, and Sycamore Streets and the Carolina and Northwest Railroad tracks. Constituting about three-quarters of the north side of the 200 block of East Main Street, the property had been the home of the McBee family since the 1810s. Vardry Alexander McBee (1818-1904), one of the founding members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, had been born in the family house here and he lived his entire life at this location. In 1906, his widow sold the ancestral seat to W. A. Rudisill: it was Rudisill, and his wife, who sold the

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First United Methodist Church
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

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tract to the Methodist church trustees in 1915. The purchase price for this prime real estate was \$9,000. A year later, on 30 October 1916, the trustees sold the eastern half of the tract to H. A. Jonas for the sum of \$5,600. On 1 March 1917, the church trustees acquired a narrow lot in this block from J. Ed Kale and his wife. Through these transactions the church consolidated its principal real estate holding on East Main Street. It was here that the congregation would erect its new building, and this land remains the church property to the present.

With a new site in hand, the Lincolnton Methodist Church waited for two years before it began the construction of the new church. In 1919 the Reverend D. M. Litaker came to Lincolnton as minister to the congregation: the church was built during his pastorate (1919-1921). His previous post had been in Lenoir where he oversaw the construction of a new sanctuary for the Lenoir Methodist Church. That church, designed by C. W. Carlton, was erected in 1917 by Moser, Bumgarner, & Lowrance, contractors of Hickory, North Carolina. The building committee of the Lincolnton Methodist Church decided to adopt Carlton's plan for the Lenoir Church. Construction began on the new Lincolnton church on 15 September 1919. The First Methodist Church was dedicated, free of debt, in 1924. According to church tradition, the sale of the nineteenth century church and its immediate acreage for \$3,500 on 20 July 1923 made this ceremony possible. The church retained stewardship and ownership of the burying ground adjoining the church.

Although the congregation's grand Classical Revival-style church contained some Sunday school rooms, hardly a decade had passed before the need for additional facilities became pressing. In 1936, the congregation determined to make an addition to the church plant. A two-story block, called the Sunday School Annex, was constructed immediately north of the main sanctuary under the supervision of B. J. Ramseur, chairman of the building committee. The yellow brick and classical detailing of the annex replicated the symmetrical elevations of the 1919 church. The principal space was an assembly room on the first story for the Men's Bible Class: it had its own entrance on Academy Street.

The growth in membership and programs which encouraged the construction of the Sunday School Annex in 1936 continued in the 1940s and early 1950s. By 1954 the membership totaled some 804 persons, and the need for larger facilities again pressed the leadership of the church toward new construction. That year a building committee was appointed, with Dr. Thomas Morton as chairman, and authorized to proceed with obtaining plans for the new facility. The architectural and engineering firm of Marsh & Hawkins of Charlotte was hired to prepare plans for the educational building. The contract for the building was let in the summer of 1956 and the building was completed and occupied on 4 August 1957. It, too, replicated the use of yellow brick and a classical vocabulary in its design. In 1968, the national Methodist Church merged with

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First United Methodist Church
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the Evangelical United Brethern Church to form the United Methodist Church. The name of the Lincolnton church was changed subsequentially to the First United Methodist Church.

Footnote

1. The primary source on the history of the First United Methodist Church in Lincolnton is the typescript history of the church prepared by Mrs. Frank Hull Crowell in 1963. Mrs. Crowell subsequently updated the manuscript; however, it was never published. A copy was made available to the author. Ms. Genoise H. Davidson, historian of the First Methodist Church in Lenoir, provided a copy of the newspaper article, published in the Lenoir News Topic in September 1941, which outlined the history of the Lenoir church and identified C. W. Carlton as the architect of that building. The Avondale United Methodist Church in Rutherford County, the Methodist Church in Murphy, North Carolina, and a now lost Methodist Church in Cherryville, North Carolina, all appear to have been built from the plan which C. W. Carlton prepared for the Lenoir church.

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First United Methodist Church
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Crowell, Mrs. Frank H., "Historical Sketch of the First United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, North Carolina," unpublished typescript manuscript prepared in 1963. A copy exists in the office of the First United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Lenoir News Topic, Lenoir, North Carolina. Special issue in September 1941.

Lincoln County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Lincoln County Court House, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Lincoln County News, Lincolnton, North Carolina. 15 September 1919.

Plans and Specifications for an Educational Building for the First Methodist Church, Lincolnton, North Carolina. Marsh & Hawkins, Architects & Engineers, Charlotte, North Carolina. April 25 and June 4, 1956. Copies exist in the office of the First United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Schenck, David. Historical Sketch of the Schenck and Bevans Families. Greensboro, North Carolina: Thomas, Reece & Co., 1884.

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

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First United Methodist Church
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is parcel #5435 on Lincoln County Tax Map 3623-16-84.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries enclosing this property comprised the acreage acquired in 1915 as the church site minus that part of the acreage sold in 1916. This residual tract was the site on which the church was built in 1919-1920 and which continues to be the site and setting of the church plant.

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

4755 11 SW
 (MAIDEN)

474 1 320 000 FEET

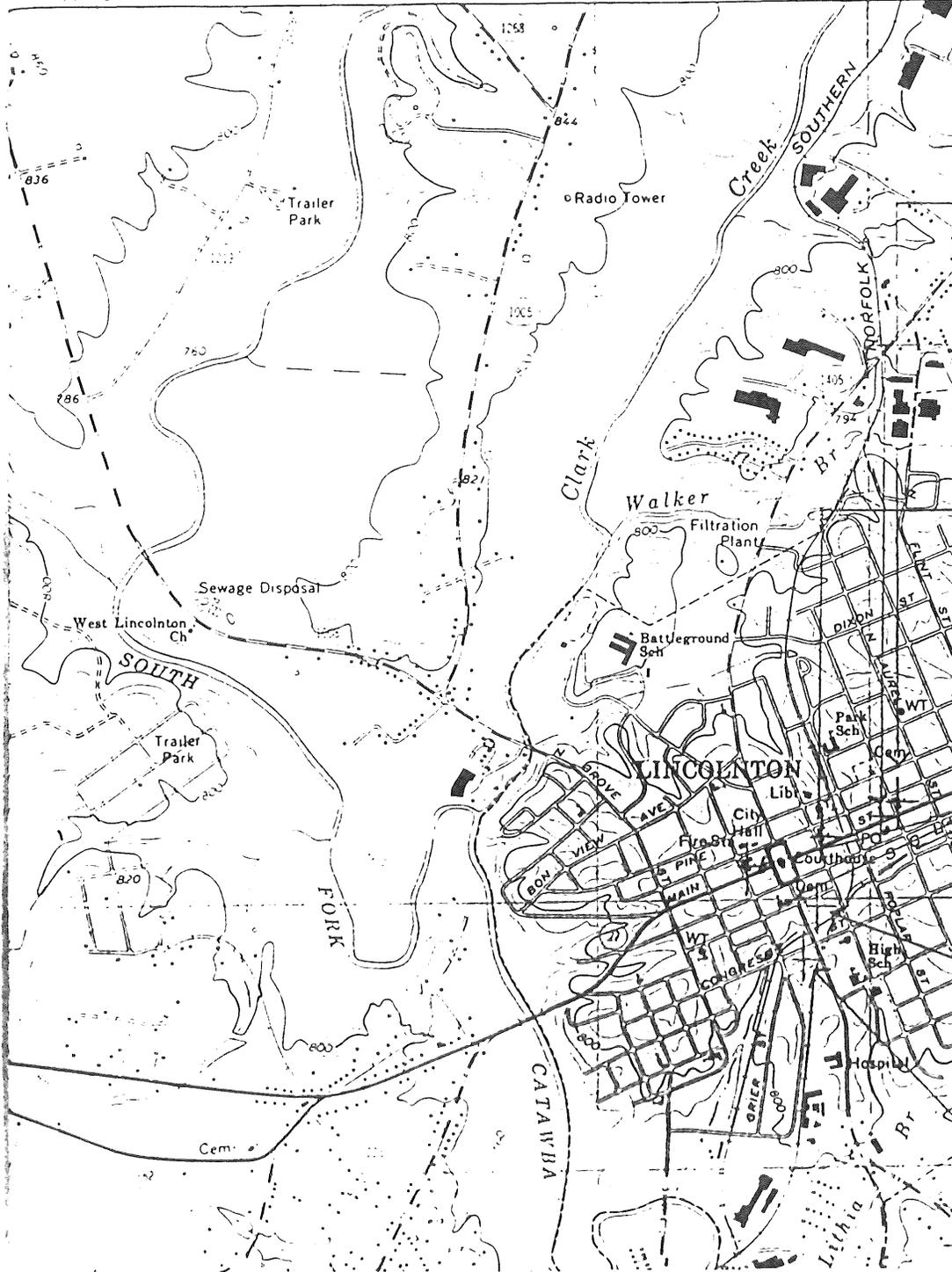
475

476

477

81° 15'

35° 30'



Former First
 Baptist Church
 Easting 477100
 Northing 3925360

Emmanuel United
 640 000
 FEET Church of Christ
 Easting: 477040
 Northing 3925300

First United Methodist Church
 Lincolnton, NC
 Lincoln County
 Lincolnton West Quad
 E/17/476810
 N/17/3925220

Emmanuel Church
 Lutheran Church
 Easting 476660
 Northing 3924980
 3925

Old White Church
 Cemetery
 Easting 476800
 Northing 3924960

Methodist Church
 Cemetery
 Easting 476750
 Northing 3924760
 27° 30'

