

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7 (and 8)

Page 28

NAME: First United Methodist Church

LOCATION: 322 Lamar St.
Paris, Lamar County, Texas

OWNER: First United Methodist Church, Attn:
322 Lamar St.
Paris, Texas 75460

ARCHITECT: Vanslyke and Woodruff BUILDER: Unknown

INTERIOR CRAFTSMAN: Unknown

SPECIFIC DATES: 1922 (construction)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: Acreage of nominated property: less than one acre
UTM reference: 15/263625/3727100
Verbal boundary description: Block 25 of original donation,
Block 184, Lots 1, 2, 3.

DESCRIPTION:

Dominating a corner lot near the central business district of Paris, Texas, the First United Methodist Church is one of the most prominent architectural elements in the city. This massive, rectangular form rises three full stories above a full basement with a domed octagonal clerestory projecting above. It is a steel frame structure with veneer of Indiana Granite and a clay tile roof. The architectural style of the building features elements inspired by the Mediterranean and Classic Revival style in an unusual juxtaposition. The church is reminiscent of Palladio's Villa Rotunda in massing. The Classical Revival influence predominates, and is recalled by the smooth, scored ashlar facades, Palladian windows, pedimented porticoes and pavilions with Corinthian pilasters and columns, and by the arched openings with columns and keystones. The boldly projecting clerestory and red-tile roof, as well as the frieze detailing, suggest a Mediterranean influence.

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Inside the building, the sanctuary is housed beneath the clerestory and repeats its octagonal shape. The two-story space is dominated by a large octagonal dome, the center of which features a stained-glass inset. The dome is supported by a structure of piers rising two stories. The piers are connected with segmental-arch spandrels. Seating sections are incorporated within the reveals of this structure.

The Classical Revival theme is carried to the interior with three-dimensional molding. The arched piers and the segments of the dome are accentuated with a molding of bound acanthus leaves, while crests and swags are applied to the piers and walls. Decorative interior painting is selectively applied to enhance the impressive space. A Classical composition of wrapped garland and rinceaux bearing a religious icon is painted on each side of the dome, above the line where it meets the spandrel. Simple stencil works of stylized foliage outline the panels of the dome, and at the place where the panels abut the spandrel, an intricate composition with lilies of Art Nouveau inspiration can be seen. The large, arched windows and the frieze area of the balcony walls are outlined with a broken-line stencil that features crests with a cross motif.

The building is in excellent condition, having recently undergone extensive repairs and restoration.

SIGNIFICANCE:

First United Methodist Church in Paris provides an unusual example in Texas of a Protestant church with decorative painting. Additionally, it is a substantial architectural landmark in Paris, and its handsome design is strongly influenced by the architecture of Palladian villas.

Reverend James Graham, minister and teacher, organized the First Methodist church in 1843. Services were conducted in a school building until 1853, when the first church structure was built. By 1888 the congregation, having outgrown this building, constructed a new edifice at Houston and 20th streets and took a new name: Centenary Methodist Church. Around this same time, another Paris congregation was organized, the Lamar Avenue Methodist Church.

A devastating fire occurred in the town of Paris on March 22, 1916, destroying large sections of buildings. Though both the Lamar Avenue and Centenary churches were spared, the fire provided impetus for the two congregations to decide, in 1918, to consolidate and become known as the First Methodist Church. In November of that year the groups first worshipped together, and services were held in the high school building while a new church was under construction. The Fort Worth architectural firm of Vanslyke and Woodruff was commissioned to design the new structure, noted on plans as "First Methodist Episcopal Church South, Paris". Gatherings began to be held in the basement by 1922, and the main auditorium was completed in 1924.

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Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Churches with Decorative Interior Painting Thematic Resources
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

2. Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Queen of Peace

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

3. Church of the Guardian Angel

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

4. Church of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

5. First Baptist Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

6. First United Methodist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 6/21/83

Attest

7. Nativity of Mary, Blessed Virgin Catholic Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

8. Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

9. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

10. St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/21/83

Attest

11/1/83
Memorandum
Listed 12/11/76

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

First United Methodist Church (Churches with
Decorative Interior Painting TR)
Lamar County
TEXAS

Working No. MAY 9 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 6/9/83 - 6/23/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/21/83
 RETURN
 REJECT

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal
- Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Federal Agency: _____

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept - C
Reviewer Gardner
Discipline Historian
Date 6/21/83
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition:		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates - when was the decorative painting work executed? 1922 also?
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



First United Methodist Church
Churches in Texas with Decorative Interior

Painting

Paris, Lamar County, Texas

James Steely

March, 1981

Texas Historical Commission,

Austin, Texas

Exterior, viewed from Lamar Street

Photo #53 of 98



First United Methodist Church
Churches in Texas with Decorative Interior
Painting
Paris, Lamar County, Texas
James Steely
March, 1981
Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas
Interior, view toward altar

Photo #54 of 98



First United Methodist Church
Churches in Texas with Decorative Interior
Painting
Paris, Lamar County, Texas
James Steely
March, 1981
Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas
Interior, dome

Photo #55 of 98



First United Methodist Church
Churches in Texas with Decorative
Interior Painting
Paris, Lamar County, Texas
James Steely
March, 1981
Texas Historical Commission,
Austin, Texas
Interior, window and wall detail

Photo #56 of 98



First United Methodist Church
Churches in Texas with Decorative
Interior Painting
Paris, Lamar County, Texas
James Steely
March, 1981
Texas Historical Commission,
Austin, Texas
Interior, dome detail

Photo #57 of 98



First United Methodist Church
Churches in Texas with Decorative
Interior Painting

Paris, Lamar County, Texas

James Steely

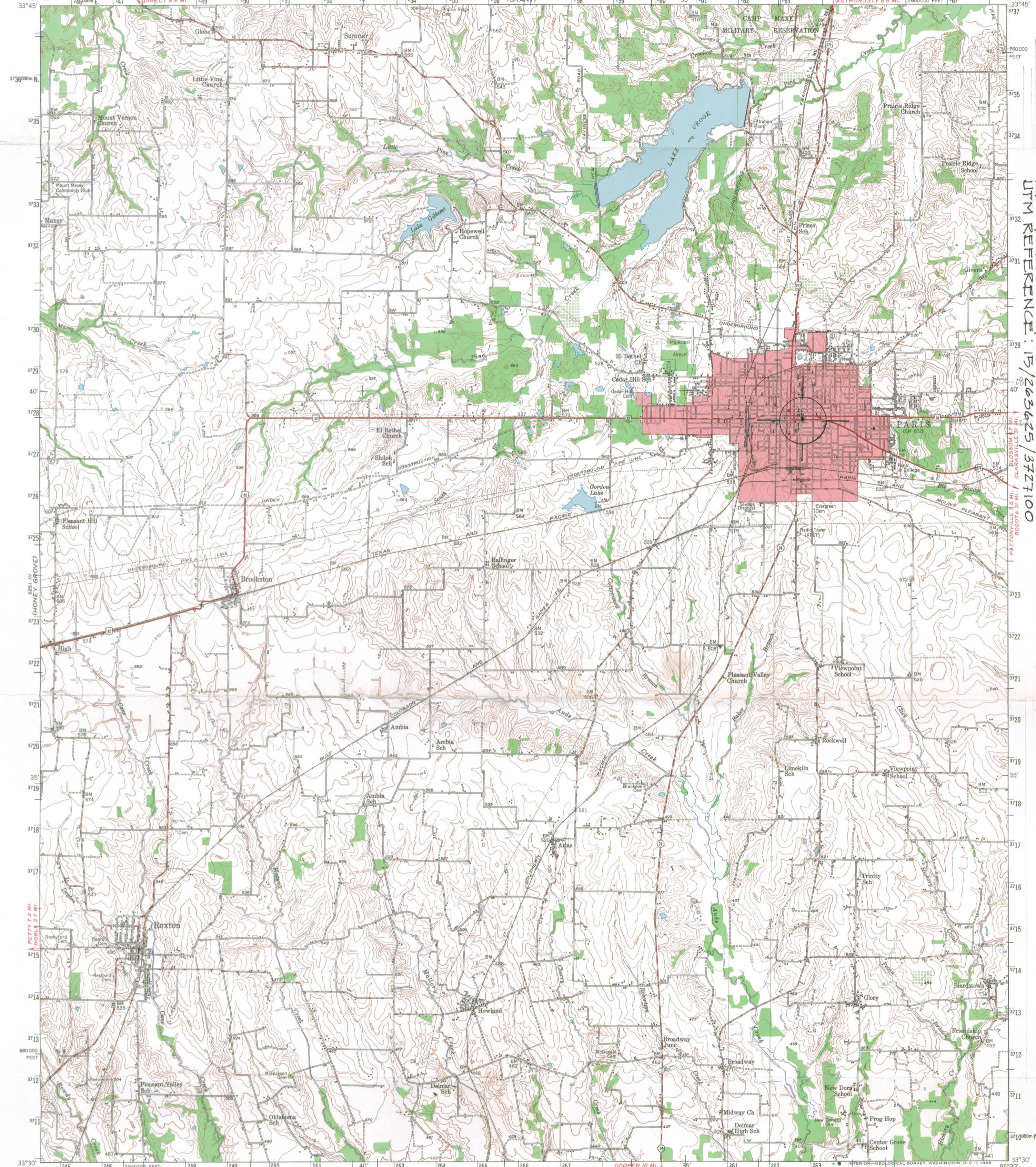
March, 1981

Texas Historical Commission,

Austin, Texas

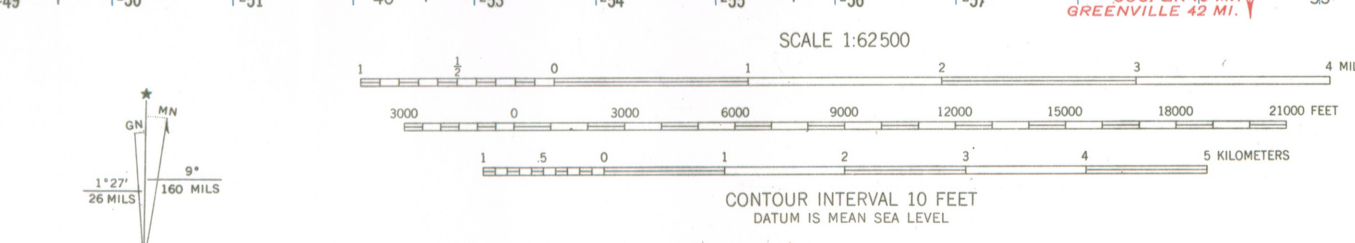
Interior, detail of painting at base
of dome

Photo #58 of 98



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 THIRD ST. AT LAMAR AND CLARKSVILLE STS.
 PARIS, LAMAR CO. TEXAS
 UTM REFERENCE: 15/263625/3727100

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS and SCS
 Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods,
 and by plane-table surveys 1947-1948
 Aerial photographs taken 1940-1941. Field check, 1947-1948
 Transverse Mercator projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
 north central zone
 Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 15, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS DRY WEATHER ROADS
 Heavy-duty ———— 4 LANE LANE Improved dirt ————
 Medium-duty ———— 4 LANE LANE Unimproved dirt ————
 Loose-surface, graded, or narrow hard-surface - - - - -
 U. S. Route State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PARIS, TEX.
 N3330-W9530/15
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