

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 01 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Other name/site number: Site No. 735

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 200 North Fulton

Not for publication: N/A

City/town: Wharton

State: TX *County:* Wharton

Code: 481 *Zip Code:* 77488

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property: *Contributing Noncontributing*

<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<i>buildings</i>
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<i>sites</i>
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<i>structures</i>
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<i>objects</i>

<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	<i>Total</i>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Justin J. Russell
Signature of certifying official

27 Jan. 1993
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the
National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Delous Byer
Signature of the Keeper

3/18/93
Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current: RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials: foundation Concrete
 walls Brick
 roof Asphalt
 other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

 x See continuation sheet.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1927

Significant Dates: 1927

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

 x See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, S.
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Description:

The Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is a 2-story Classical Revival style building facing west on North Fulton Street. It rests on a raised basement of load-bearing masonry construction with brick veneer. A brick parapet above the cornice obscures the hipped roof covered in asphalt shingles. The principal facade features a 3-bay pedimented portico supported by wooden colossal fluted Corinthian columns and accessed by wide steps leading from the street level.

The Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is a 2-story Classical Revival style building facing west on North Fulton Street. The building is in a transitional area between the central business district and residential neighborhoods on the north. Low scale vegetation surrounds the foundation and church complex.

The Church rests on a raised basement of load-bearing masonry construction with brick veneer. A brick parapet above the cornice obscures the hipped roof covered in asphalt shingles. The 5-bay principal (west) facade features a 3-bay pedimented portico supported by wooden colossal fluted Corinthian columns and accessed by wide steps leading from the street level. Double wooden doors occupy the center bay; single wooden doors are in the second and third bays. 1/1 wooden double hung windows with leaded art glass panels, separated by wood paneled spandrels between the first and second levels, denote the first and fifth bays and second floor of the center bays. The pediment of the gabled portico is detailed with a louvered roundel surrounded by festooned applique and continuous denticulated molding along both the horizontal and raking cornice.

The north and south 4-bay facades are highlighted with large round-arch windows in the first three bays and 1/1 windows similar to those on the principal facade in the fourth bay. All are filled with leaded art glass.

Paired and single wooden 8/2 windows illuminate the raised basement and are found on all facades.

A 1-story classroom addition was added to the church building ca. 1940. It is covered with a gable roof and is largely compatible with the main building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, S.
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Statement of Significance:

The Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, (1927) is an excellent example of Classical Revival architecture and the finest example of ecclesiastical architecture in Wharton. In spite of an addition on the north facade, the building retains its integrity. It is nominated under Criterion C for architecture and is associated with the context: *Community Development in Wharton, Texas, 1875-1942.*

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, acquired this site in 1887 for the construction of a frame sanctuary. In 1909 a hurricane destroyed the original church. A new concrete block building with art glass windows replaced it in 1910. This building included a sanctuary, auditorium, classrooms, and office. In 1925 this church building burned. The current building was then constructed in 1927 (Williams 1964:182).

The congregation of the Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, remained in the 1927 building until 1972 when it was conveyed to the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. The new congregation continues to worship in the building.

The Old First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, building is a noteworthy example of Classical Revival architecture and the finest ecclesiastical building in Wharton. It is also one of a few remaining brick churches dating from before 1942. The building retains its integrity to a high degree.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See bibliography of historic context statement.

x See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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:

x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 14 781820 3245940 B — — — —
 C D

C _____ *D* _____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: E. Hawes Addition East, Lot 3

Boundary Justification: The property includes all areas historically associated with the building.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Dwayne Jones, Preservation Planner, THC staff)

Name/Title: Ed Galloway and Ralph Newlan

Organization: Hardy-Heck-Moore

Date: July 1989

January 1992

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande

Telephone: 512-478-8014

City or Town: Austin

State: TX Zip: 78705

2/1/97

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Wharton MRA

TEXAS

Wharton County

Date Listed

COVER Substantive Review

3/18/93

1. Abovitz, Leon, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **DOE/OWNER COLLECTION**

3/18/93 **Determined R11**

2. Banker, Willie, Jr., House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

3. Bernstein, Moses, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

4. Bolton--Outlar House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

5. Colorado River Bridge ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

6. Croom, Wiley J., House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Substantive Review**

3/18/93

7. Dannon, F. F., House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Substantive Review**

3/18/93

8. Davidson, Dr. Green, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

9. Davis, Ben and Mary, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

10. Elkins, Nettie, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Substantive Review**

3/18/93

11. Elliott, E. Clyde and Mary, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

12. First Methodist Episcopal Church South, Old ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

13. Garrett, Henry B., House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Substantive Review**

3/18/93

14. Garrett, John A. and Sophie, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

15. Gifford, George C. and Annie, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

16. Hamilton, Joseph Andrew, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

17. Harrison, Gerard A., House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

18. Harrison--Dennis House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Substantive Review**

3/18/93

19. Hawes, Edwin, House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

20. Hawes, Edwin, Jr., House ~~Substantive Review~~ **Entered in the National Register**

3/18/93

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: First Methodist Episcopal Church South, Old

MULTIPLE NAME: Wharton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Wharton

DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/16/93
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/04/93 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/18/93
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000097

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/18/93 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



ABOVITZ, LEON, HOUSE
SITE NO. 817
WHARTON, TEXAS
14 OF 39

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500657