

REFNUM 96000930

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

8/22/96

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 N/A

2. Location

street & number 52 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town London vicinity

state Ohio code OH county Madison code 097 zip code 43140

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.)

Babbar Power ^{Dept. Head} Planning, Inv. & Reg. 7-17-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office - OHSHP0
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

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): _____

Name of Property

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.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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)

Gothic/High Victorian Gothic

Jacobethan Revival (parsonage)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls sandstone

brick

roof asphalt

other wood

glass

Narrative Description

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

see continuation sheets, pages 1 through 4

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.
[X] 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:

- [X] 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):

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1893-1946

Significant Dates

1894

1915-Parsonage built

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Crapsey & Brown, Architect

A.A. Fletcher & Co., Builder

Parsonage architect unknown

See continuation sheets, pages 1-2

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
[X] Other

Name of repository:

First United Methodist Church
London, OH 43140

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1, 7	2 9, 0 5, 2, 0	4, 4 1, 7 9, 0, 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Tim Wilson, Building/Property Supervisor *Office Mr. Wilson

organization First United Methodist Church date March 15, 1996

street & number 52 North Main Street telephone (614) 852-5934*

city or town London state Ohio zip code 43140

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 The United Methodist Church, Springfield District Office

street & number 2100 East High Street-Suite 101 telephone (513) 325-9231

city or town Springfield state Ohio zip code 45505

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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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

First United Methodist Church, located at 52 North Main Street in London, Ohio is an excellent example of Akron Plan construction. The main building was constructed in 1893-1894 and features Lake Superior red sandstone and Amherst stone trimmed windows. An educational wing was added to the building in 1962. The wing was constructed at the rear of the building and aesthetically complementary the original building. The nominated property includes a Jacobethan Revival style parsonage built in 1915 on the north side of the church. The church is situated on the northeast corner of North Main and Fourth Streets. It stands directly across from the historic Madison County Courthouse, which is listed on the National Register. The church was designed by Charles Crapsey, of the Cincinnati Architectural firm of Crapsey & Brown. Mr. Crapsey achieved a reputation throughout the Midwest for his picturesque churches. The church exemplifies High Victorian Gothic architecture, and is unique in comparison to other churches in the community.

Exterior Description

First United Methodist Church has retained its architectural integrity, with no changes to the roofline, windows or north, west, and east walls (see photographs 1, 2 & 3). The south wall has been altered to accommodate the installation of an elevator for handicapped and older members (see photographs 4 & 4a). As will be noted in photograph 5, this new entrance, in the south wall, was constructed to duplicate the existing double door entrance. The stone for the new entrance was purchased from the same stone quarry company used when the building was constructed in 1893-1894. This new entrance was designed to be aesthetically and historically complementary to the building.

The original slate roof was replaced in 1957 with the second roof consisting of asphalt shingles. The third roof was installed in 1987, again with asphalt shingles. The main roof features a steep, Victorian, gabled roofline (see photographs 6 & 7). The southeast side of the roof is a large semi-circle. The roof is topped with a cupola that contains 16 windows to allow natural light to illuminate the skylight in the sanctuary (see photograph 8). Ornamental decorations, fabricated from metal, compliment the roof in various locations and are original (see photographs 9 & 10).

The small, slate shingled turret located at one of the two Main Street entrances is original from 1893-1894 (see photograph 11).

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The tower is original from 1893-1894 and has not been altered in any way (see photograph 12). The original painted, double door entrance, at the base of the tower, was replaced in 1957 with solid walnut doors. These doors were hand made by a church member with walnut wood from the church farm (see photograph 13).

The steeple atop the tower was altered in 1957 to the present design. At this time, the original parapet ornamentation was removed as well as the slate roof. In 1987, when a new asphalt shingle roof was installed over the entire building, the slate was replaced on the steeple, returning the steeple more nearly to the original design. *The congregation is anticipating a complete restoration of the tower and steeple within the next 5 years* (see photograph 14).

The three, massive, stained glass windows are of Victorian design. Two of the windows were manufactured by the Artistic Glass company of Cincinnati, Ohio, while the third window was designed and installed by C.E. Lamb of New York. Protective storm windows were placed over the windows in 1963.

In 1962, a three story, brick, educational wing was added to the rear of the building. This building was constructed with brick that matched the existing building, as close as possible. The building is located on the northeast side, and is aesthetically complementary to the existing building. The only visible outside areas of the building are the north side, that faces a residence and the east side which faces the parking lot (see photographs 15, 16 & 17).

Interior Description

The interior of sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church consists of high vaulted ceiling, supported by solid oak beams (see photographs 18, 19 & 20). One unusual feature is the original support rods that are placed through the room at mid-level. These rods tie the walls together and proceed upward through the oak beams into the attic and fasten at the top of the skylight area (see photographs 21 & 22).

The sanctuary features the original solid oak wainscoting and the leaded glass doors at all three entrances (see photograph 23).

A unique feature of the building is the original moving partition wall that separates the sanctuary and chapel (see photographs 24 & 25). This partition wall can be raised or lowered very easily. It

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is hung on balanced wire cables and is made with steel lath and plaster. When in the upward position, the partition is entirely out of the way and at sufficient height that all persons in the chapel can see into the sanctuary.

The altar table, pulpit, lectern, chairs and altar rail are from 1949 and were given in memory of a church member (see photographs 26, 27, 28 & 29).

The church Organ was manufactured by the Johnson & Son firm of Westfield, Massachusetts. All pipes are original from 1893-1894, except 6 ranks which were added to enhance the sound of the organ in 1988. The mechanical action was changed in 1958 to electropneumatic action. The organ features 2,467 pipes and 23 ranks (see photographs 30, 31 & 32).

The stained glass skylight in the top of the room is original from 1893-1894 and was manufactured by the Artistic Glass Company of Cincinnati, Ohio (see photograph 33).

The three, massive, stained glass windows are original to the building, and are described below:

Window #1: The "Angel of Advent" window was given to the church in memory of a church member. The window features the Angel of Advent in a garden of flowers with wings outspread as bringing a message of light and peace. The upper part of the window contains various emblems in rich color. The window was made and placed in position by C.E. Lamb of New York (see photograph 34).

Window #2: The "Ark of the Covenant" window was given to the church in memory of a church member. The central design is the ark of the Covenant on which are resting the tables of stone. Above are an anchor and other handsome figures. The "Ark of the Covenant" window was designed and installed by the Artistic Glass Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. (see photograph 35).

Window #3: The "Shepherd Boy" window was given to the church and designed by the donor. In the center a log cabin representing the early pioneer homes of the father of the donor and a beautiful figure of David, the Shepherd Boy, with crook in hand, guarding the sheep near by. The natural scenery depicted here includes a mountain in the distance and the waters of the Jordan river. In the top of the window, is the sea of Gallilee over the surface of whose

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water is a representation of a sailing vessel. This window was, as well, manufactured and installed by the Artistic Glass Company of Cincinnati, Ohio (see photograph 36).

The central cross, on the elevated chancel, was added during the 1957 remodeling. This cross replaced the vintage organ facade. The curtains, and green carpeting were added during the 1976 remodeling (see photograph 37).

The theatre style seats are the second set installed. The original seats were removed, due to age and lack of parts. The building has always been equipped with theatre style seats (see photograph 38).

Special Note:

In March of 1996, the congregation launched a Capital Improvements Plan, to completely RESTORE the sanctuary to the original 1893-1894 design. This plan includes removing the green carpeting, cross and curtains. A new pipe organ facade will be installed that will reproduce the major design components of the original. Carpeting, which is being custom weaved, to closely match the original pattern, will be installed in the aisles and chancel area. The beautiful hardwood floors, will be restored in the room. This restoration is anticipated to be completed by August, 1996.

The parlor features two exquisite windows, with the theme "Look Up, Lift Up", complete with the seal and emblem of the Epworth League (see photograph 39).

Another skylight, that is located in the building, was recently re-discovered and completely restored. Closed and covered for over 40 years, this skylight was sealed with a dropped ceiling and forgotten. The window was manufactured by the Artistic Glass Company of Cincinnati (see photograph 40)

All other rooms in the main church building are equipped with colorful stained glass windows. Each of these windows were manufactured by the Artistic Glass Company of Cincinnati, Ohio (see photographs 41, 42 & 43).

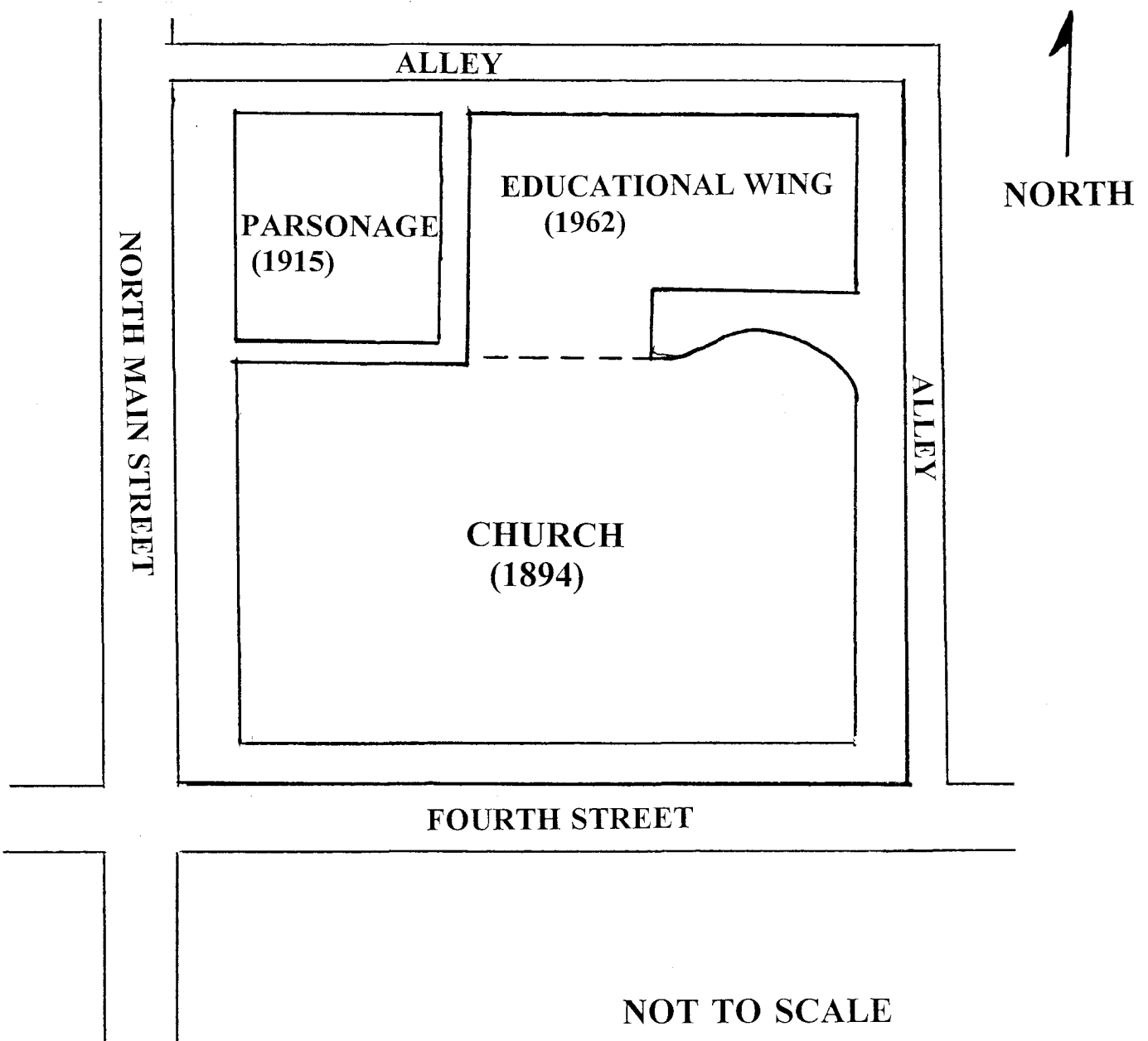
In conclusion, most of the alterations to the church occurred during 1957 through 1962, but do not detract from the architectural integrity of the building. The only exception is the tasteful conversion of the old gallery area into classrooms. These alterations to the building have enhanced its use for the present congregation of today and in the future.

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MADISON COUNTY, OHIO



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First United Methodist Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent local example of High Victorian Gothic architecture. This style was popular among church architects in Ohio from ca. 1870 through 1895. Common elements included polychromatic wall materials, complex gabled roofs, lancet or pointed arched windows, dormers and towers, and the use of masonry as the primary construction material. The church parsonage, built in 1915 in the Jacobethan Revival style is located north of the church and is included within the boundaries of the nominated property.

Constructed in 1893-1894 by the Cincinnati architectural firm of Crapsey & Brown and built by the Cincinnati contracting firm of A.A. Fletcher & Company, the church is one of two late nineteenth century structures in London, Ohio still being used for its original purpose. The church was consecrated on November 18, 1894.

The church possesses architectural features which are representative of the Gothic/High Victorian Gothic style. These consist of the original Lake Superior red sandstone walls and Amherst stone trimmed windows, a steep, Victorian, gabled roofline, tower and steeple. The interior of the church contains high vaulted ceilings, supported by solid oak beams, original support rods, and oak wainscoting. The pipe organ was manufactured by the Johnson & Son firm of Westfield, Massachusetts and contains 2,467 pipes and 23 ranks.

Charles Crapsey (1840-1909) was a native and resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. During his career he completed over 60 religious buildings in Ohio. He began his career in 1865 as an architect in the office of James Keys Wilson. Among the notable projects associated with this firm was the Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati (National Historic Landmark). Crapsey founded his own architectural firm in 1875. In its early years the firm was known for residential commissions in the greater Cincinnati and Maysville, Kentucky area.

Crapsey joined in a partnership with William R. Brown in the 1880s. Beginning in 1884 the firm became noted for its church designs which often used rough faced limestone and employed elements of Gothic, Romanesque, Queen Anne and Shingle styles. Some of Crapsey's notable churches in Cincinnati include Mount Auburn Baptist (1884), Clifton Methodist Episcopal (1892), Ninth Street Baptist Tabernacle (c. 1890 demolished), First English Lutheran (1894), and Pleasant Ridge Methodist (1908). By the 1890s Crapsey

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and Brown were in demand throughout Ohio, Kentucky and the Midwest resulting in church commissions in Columbus, Xenia, Hamilton, Franklin, Washington Court House, Kenton, Mechanicsburg, Waynesville, Fostoria and London.

Crapsey was a leading proponent of the Akron Plan, which originated in Akron, Ohio during the 1870s. The Akron Plan was an innovative design widely used by Protestant churches between c. 1869-1920. It was conceived by Lewis Miller, superintendent of Akron, Ohio school system and Jacob Snyder a local architect. In an Akron Plan church, alcove classrooms at the back of a roughly semicircular auditorium could be closed off from the sanctuary by sliding or folding doors. The partitions could be opened when large crowds were expected at services. The Akron Plan offered flexibility, comfort, and good sight lines.

First United Methodist Church is one of two religious buildings in the City of London designed in the Gothic/High Victorian Gothic style. Furthermore, the use of sandstone as a primary construction material is unique in comparison with other churches built in the community during the nineteenth century. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, built in 1888, can be compared, slightly (windows, doorways, etc.), but is built in the Transept design versus the Akron design of First United Methodist.

A Historical Review of Previous Buildings of First United Methodist Church

The first Methodist Society in London was organized in 1813, two years after London was laid out (1811), so it has the honor of being the first church in the city.

This newly formed society conducted its worship in the log Court House and in cabins of early settlers. In 1819, the London Circuit was formed, having 24 preaching places throughout the county and surrounding areas.

In 1817, a deed to lot No. 112 was given by Patrick McLene, London's founder, to the Board of Trustees of the First Methodist Episcopal Church as a site for a church building, the consideration being \$11.00. The first building was a log house, erected in 1818 at the south-west corner of North Walnut and East Fifth Streets. Here the church worshipped for some 20 years.

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The growth of the society forced them to seek a larger place to worship. In 1840, the congregation moved to the south-west corner of South Oak and West Second Streets. The building erected here was a frame structure of about sixty feet square. By 1860, this building was no longer adequate. The building that replaced it was a brick structure forty by ninety feet in size. This new church which faced Oak Street, was a stately structure of Gothic Style. In 1866 a chapel was added. This structure faced Second Street and still stands today as a private residence.

In 1893, under the leadership of Rev. W.L. Slutz, the decision was made, *by a majority of one vote*, to build the present building at the corner of North Main and Fourth Streets. The cornerstone was laid on August 31, 1893. The building was dedicated by Bishop Issac Joyce on November 18, 1894. The cost of the building was \$44,575.94 and the membership of the church was 486. On the day of Dedication, members subscribed more than \$18,000.00 which completed payment for the building.

In 1915 a parsonage was built on the north side of the lot. It was designed in Jacobethan Revival style with rectangular multi-pane window sashes, masonry construction, steep wall gables, balustrades and stone trim. The Jacobethan style was popular in Ohio from ca. 1900-1935.

Today, 102 years later, First United Methodist Church continues its mission...*to serve as a structure, a beacon, a lighthouse*, for the worship of our Creator and the fulfillment of its members and friends lives.

From a local context, it is felt that First United Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent local example of Gothic/High Victorian Gothic architecture within the community of London, Ohio.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Dedication Article; London Times, November, 1894.

Original Records; First United Methodist Church, London, Ohio
Madison County Historical Society

Madison County records, Auditor's office; Madison County Courthouse

Gordon, Stephen C.; How To Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory.
Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1992.

Ohio Historical Church Records Survey; Works Progress
Administration Survey of State and Local Historical Records, Ohio
Historical Society Archives, 1936.

Sullebarger, Beth; "Charles Crapsey: Ohio Valley Ecclesiastical
Architect". Unpublished paper, Ohio Historic Preservation Office
files, 1991.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie; Biographical Dictionary of American
Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970.

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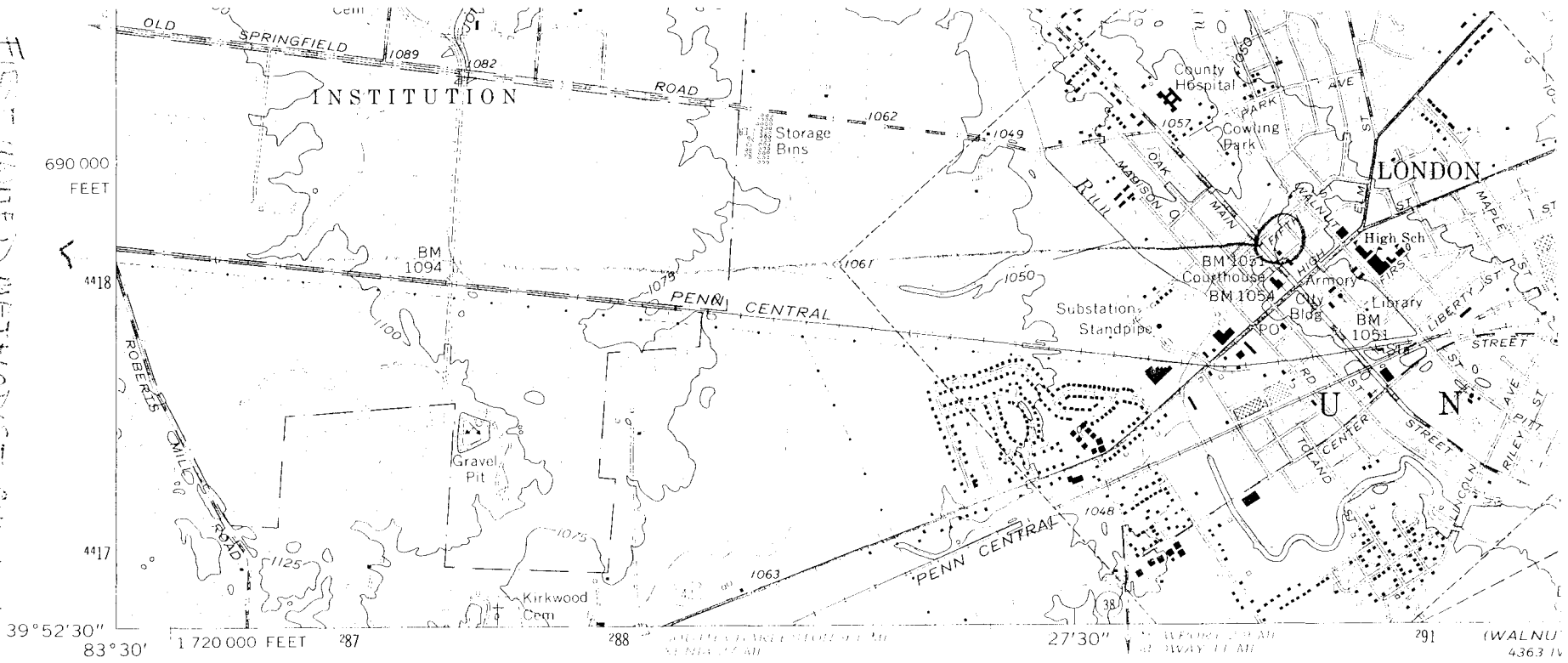
Section number 10 Page 1

LOT NUMBER & BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

First United Methodist Church is located on Lot #20 and falls in the boundaries of the original city plat.

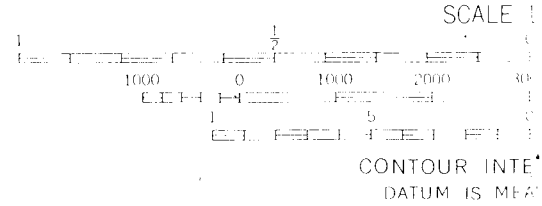
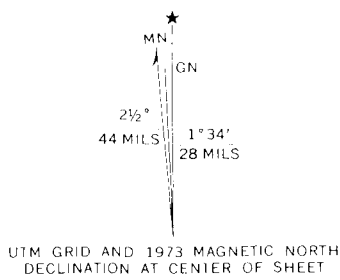
Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the church and parsonage.

17 290520 4417900
 UTM COORDINATES:
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 52 NORTH MAIN ST, LONDON OH



(FLORENCE)
 4263 1 SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1959 and 1960. Field checked 1961
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Entire area lies within the Virginia Military District
 Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1968 and 1973. This information not field checked
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
 FOR SALE BY U. S. G
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, C
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/297-2470
Fax: 297-2496



OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
SINCE 1885

November 4, 1996

First United Methodist Church
2100 E. High Street, Suite 101
Springfield, Ohio 45505

Re: First United Methodist Church, 52 North Main Street, London, Madison County, Ohio

Dear Madam/Sir:

This is to inform you that the above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (listed 8/22/96).

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information about the programs and services offered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

BAP/slw

Enclosure

xc: Sandra Davies, Regional Coordinator
David Eades, Mayor
Tim Wilson, Nomination Preparer
Senator Merle Grace Kearns
Representative Joseph Haines
Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: First United Methodist Church

County: Madison

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photographs

Photographs (copies)

USGS maps

USGS maps (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other _____
