NAME

HISTORIC
First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON
Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Northeast corner of Ann and Bow streets

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville

STATE North Carolina

CATEGORY DISTRICT

TYPE X-BUILDING(S)

_ STRUCTURE

_SITE

_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP __PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

_BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS X OCCUPIED

_ UNOCCUPIED

_WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE _AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Clerk of Session, First Presbyterian Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville

STATE North Carolina

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville

STATE North Carolina

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1937

X FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington

STATE D. C.
The First Presbyterian Church, sited on a knoll above Cross Creek at the northeast corner of Bow and Ann streets in the center of Fayetteville, was constructed in 1832, incorporating parts of the brick walls of an earlier (1816) church that burned in 1831. The two-story gabled brick building, five bays wide and five wider bays deep, rests on a coursed sandstone foundation and is laid in Flemish bond. The chancel, portico, steeple and most of the interior woodwork are later additions and replacements. The building's most significant feature is the wooden lattice truss roof especially designed for the church in 1832 by A. J. Davis after his partner Ithiel Town's famous patented truss.

The main (west) facade has first-story entrances in the second and fourth bays, which are original to the 1832 rebuilding. Each entrance is a round-headed opening, outlined by alternating soldiers and headers, containing a double door, each leaf with five vertically aligned flat panels outlined with heavy applied molding, surmounted by a delicate fanlight with radiating wooden muntins. The paneling is repeated in the deep reveals and intrados of the arch. Separating the door and fanlight is a molded cornice which continues across the reveals. A molded architrave frames the opening. The remaining main facade bays contain large windows, each with twenty-four panes surmounted by a flat arch, with a molded surround, a replacement brick sill, and louvered blinds. The original five-bay length of the north and south side elevations contain identical windows alternating with brick pilasters. The walls contain numerous cast iron tie rod heads of two types: round heads and four-pronged pinwheel shaped heads, perhaps added during the 1832 rebuilding to reinforce the fire-damaged walls. The rear three-bay chancel extension is compatible with the original block, but lacks pilasters.

Dominating the main facade is a hexastyle portico designed by Hobart Upjohn in 1922, with square Tuscan posts that support a pediment whose flush-sheathed tympanum features a central louvered oculus with four keystones accenting the architrave. The heavy molded cornice around the tympanum also continues around the building; mutule and guttae ornament adorns the cornice soffit around the main block, but not in the tympanum.

The steeple, the most striking exterior feature of the church, was also designed by Hobart Upjohn in 1922, and rises in four distinct stages. The first is a heavy square brick base, each face pierced by a narrow vertical opening. The second stage is octagonal and is adorned on the four main faces by a blind oculus surmounted by a pendant garland. The corner faces are rounded out in a chamfered effect. Freestanding urns accent the four corners. The third stage, also octagonal, is an open colonnaded belfry supported by slender Corinthian columns, with a low metal railing around the base. The steeple is crowned by a delicately splayed octagonal spire sheathed with tin, with a simple weathervane. Interestingly, the steeple is similar to the steeple of the 1816 church as it appears in the only known view of the original building, a drawing made in 1822 by Caroline Barge, now in the church archives. Perhaps Upjohn based his design on the earlier steeple.

The interior was remodeled in 1960, and most of the original interior trim has been replaced. The plan consists of a front cross-hall, or vestibule, two stories high, and a large sanctuary with galleries around three sides and a recessed chancel on the rear. The vestibule fabric, with a stair in each corner ascending to the second floor, dates.
from the 1960 remodeling. The three-tier crystal chandeliers with glass globes which hang in the vestibule are whale oil lamps, now electrified, which were purchased in 1831 and used in the sanctuary for many years. The only original features remaining in the sanctuary are the doors which open from the upper vestibule into the galleries and the galleries themselves. The doors are similar to the main front doors, but are one panel taller, and retain their original hardware, including box locks and latches. The well-proportioned classical galleries consist of Tuscan columns on high pedestals which support an academic Doric frieze with triglyphs and metopes, a molded cornice, a flat-paneled balustrade and a molded handrail. The heavy modillion cornice was probably added by Upjohn. The plaster ceiling, suspended from the slightly arched roof trusses, is coved.

The trusses are visible only in the attic, reached via the belfry stair in the center upper vestibule. The trusses, which are intact and in excellent condition, are constructed of heavy sawn timber in an arrangement of diagonal top and bottom chords and vertical end posts with a sixty-foot span. The trusses exhibit the unique feature of Town's patent: the absence of intermediate posts, the web being constructed of intersecting diagonals, joined with wooden pegs, in a tight lattice pattern. The chancel, added in 1960, is adorned with elaborate classical ornament.

The church is flanked on the rear and south side by twentieth century structures. The church parlor abuts the rear bays of the south wall, and a Sunday school room and office wing extends behind the church.

1. Archives of the First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina.
Fayetteville was settled in the second half of the eighteenth century, predominantly by Highland Scots, and the first church congregation, organized in 1800, was, appropriately, Presbyterian. The first official service was the administration of the Lord's Supper on September 6, 1801. By 1809 the congregation had begun plans for a church building, and on April 21, 1816 "The corner-stone was then laid by Mr. Reuben Loring, the principal architect of the building... The deed for the lot... whereon the new Brick Church is now erecting..." purchased of John Dickson for $1,500.00 was not made until March 15, 1817. The only known representation of this building, a drawing executed by Caroline Barge in 1822, shows a two-story brick building of Federal character with two round-arched entrances in the gable end, dominated by a four-stage steeple with classical detail.

The "Great Fire" of May 29, 1831, destroyed this building. "Our town was visited with a most awful and unparalleled calamity... a fire... consumed nearly the whole of our town, including our church and Session House!!" lamented the secretary of the church minutes. A fund-raising journey to the North, led by the energetic pastor, Henry A. Rowland, Jr., produced $7,146 56¢ toward rebuilding the church.

Robert Donaldson, a Fayetteville native, benefactor of the First Presbyterian Church, and New York banker, was a patron and close friend of A. J. Davis. Donaldson presumably made the plight of the church known to Davis, for drawings for a new church were furnished gratuitously by the nationally-known architectural firm of Town and Davis. Two entries in the Day Book which A. J. Davis kept from 1827 to 1853 record his work on these plans. Several of the drawings survive in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The drawing of the roof truss, shown in elevation, is labeled "Truss for a roof. N. C. Fayetteville Church. Designed by A. J. Davis on the principle of I. Town's." The Town truss, in general use from 1820-ca. 1840, was the first wooden truss to be free of arch action and to exert only a vertical load upon its supports, and was particularly useful in bridge building. The firm's drawings for the remainder of the church must have been reconstruction designs, for the church, rebuilt within the charred brick walls, closely resembles the Barge.
drawing of the original building. Wright and Wooster were the contractors, and the building was rededicated on August 12, 1832. The original steeple bell was damaged in the fire and its replacement, which is still in use, bears the following Latin inscription:

I perished in the flames the 29th of May 1831. I arose from the ashes through the generosity of friends in the Second Presbyterian Church in Troy, New York.

By 1887 the steeple had deteriorated, and a new, larger spire, designed by T. A. Klutz, was erected. This spire was replaced and the portico added by Hobart Upjohn, grandson of noted Gothic Revival architect Richard Upjohn, in 1922. A chancel was added and the sanctuary and vestibule refurbished in 1960. The First Presbyterian Church is one of Fayetteville's most cherished historic landmarks.

1. Minutes of the First Presbyterian Church, 1826-1832. Housed in the church archives, p. 121.


Cumberland County Records, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Church Records).
Cumberland County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Church Records).
First Presbyterian Church Archives, Fayetteville, North Carolina: Barge Drawing, 1822.
Rowland, Henry A. The Real Glory of a Church: A Dedication Sermon Preached in Fayetteville . . . at the opening of the Presbyterian Church . . . Rebuilt and Dedicated August 12th, 1832. New York: J. Leavitt and J. P. Haven, 1832.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1,7 68137500 38808250
B
C
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/TITLE
Research and architectural description by Ruth Little-Stokes, survey specialist
ORGANIZATION
Division of Archives and History
STREET & NUMBER
109 East Jones Street
CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh
STATE
North Carolina

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
DATE
6 November 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
First Presbyterian Church
Fayetteville
North Carolina

UTM References:
17/603750/3880825

SCALE 1:62500

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST