

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
First Presbyterian Church
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Northeast corner of Ann and Bow streets
CITY, TOWN
Fayetteville
STATE
North Carolina
VICINITY OF
5th
COUNTY
Cumberland
CODE
37
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th
CODE
051

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Clerk of Session, First Presbyterian Church
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Fayetteville
VICINITY OF
North Carolina
STATE
North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Cumberland County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Fayetteville
STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE
1937
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

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

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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.² 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.³ 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.
2. "An Historical Sketch Dedicated to the Glory of God," Calvin Bible Class, 1969. Brochure on file in Survey and Planning Branch; also, sanctuary photograph by Frances Benjamin Johnston, ca. 1935, Frances Benjamin Johnston Photographic Collection Library of Congress--LCJ7-NC No. 2315.
3. Condit, Carl W. American Building. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1969, p. 58.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1816, 1832 BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. J. Davis (truss system)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church, a dignified two-story brick church of Federal and Neo-Federal design, is the home of the oldest organized congregation in Fayetteville, an eighteenth century Scottish settlement. The building is a monument of nineteenth century building technology, for it contains the only known extant wooden truss roof of the type patented by Ithiel Town in 1820, in North Carolina. The truss system, which survives in excellent condition, was designed especially for the First Presbyterian Church by A. J. Davis after Town's patent, and was installed during the 1832 rebuilding of the original 1816 building, which burned in 1831.

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!!!"¹ 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 entries² 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

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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 through³ 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.
2. Henry A. Rowland, 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), p. 34; also Davis' Daybook, Vol. I, in the Davis Collection, New York Public Library, cited in letter from John Sanders to Crawford MacKethan, 1974, in the First Presbyterian Church archives, Fayetteville, North Carolina.
3. "An Historical Sketch Dedicated to the Glory of God," by the Calvin Bible Class, 1969. A First Presbyterian Church brochure on file in the Survey and Planning Unit.

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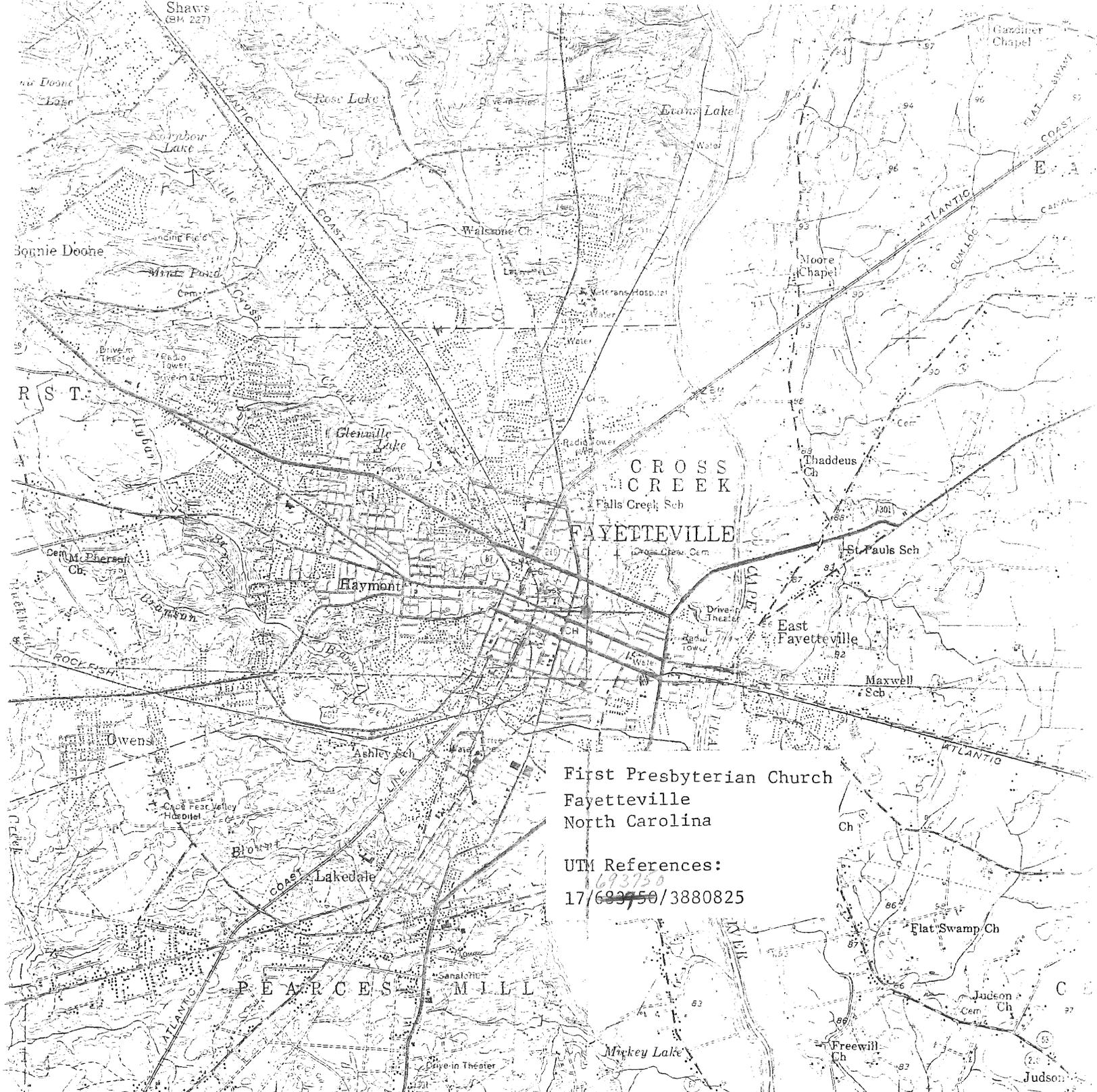
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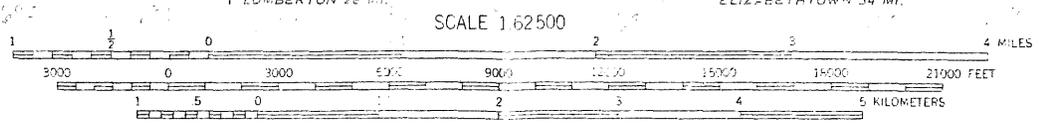
- Cumberland County Records, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Church Records).
- Cumberland County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Church Records).
- Davis, A. J. Collection. Print Room, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Met.
24.66.741.
- Davis Collection. New York Public Library. Davis Day Book, Vol. I.
- First Presbyterian Church Archives, Fayetteville, North Carolina: Barge Drawing, 1822.
- Johnston, Frances Benjamin, Photographic Collection. Library of Congress, LCJ7-NC,
No. 2315. Interior photograph of First Presbyterian Church, ca. 1935.
- Oates, John A. The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear. Raleigh: Litho
Industries, Incorporated, 1972, second edition.
- 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.

Shaws
(SH 227)



First Presbyterian Church
Fayetteville
North Carolina

UTM References:
17 693750 / 3880825

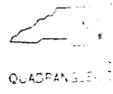


CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

33°50'
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH

APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1957

THIS MAP COMPLEIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE

