

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell
Other names/site number Tazewell United Methodist Church
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 1702 Main Street
City or town: Tazewell State: Tennessee (TN) County: Claiborne
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip: 37879

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: **Date**

Title: **State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

 Signature of the Keeper

 Date of Action

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)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

RELIGION/Church-Related Residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

RELIGION/Church-Related Residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

STONE/Limestone; WOOD; ASPHALT; STUCCO;
CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS/Vinyl

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell faces east towards Main Street approximately one to two blocks south of the commercial downtown core in Tazewell, Claiborne County, Tennessee. The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell was constructed on Main Street between 1908 and 1912, and received a rear addition in 1951. The church is an asymmetrical, rough-cut, irregular course limestone masonry building with an irregular plan, featuring the one-story, wing-and-gable original sanctuary to the east and the 1951 one-story, rectangular rear addition to the west. The church is located on an approximately half-acre lot and rests on a continuous stone foundation. The original church building features Gothic Revival details, including a three-story bell tower, pointed arch fenestration, lancet windows, and decorative limestone lintels, keystones, and sills. The 1951 concrete block rear addition was adorned sympathetically, featuring a faux stone pattern, stone sills, and faux stone lintels with keystones. The original portion of the church building and the rear addition retain a substantial amount of integrity in terms of location, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling.

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The property also includes the church parsonage, completed in 1918, a contributing resource located approximately 25 feet north of the church building. The one-story parsonage is also a rough-cut, irregular course limestone masonry building, featuring modest Bungalow details, including a low-pitched front-gable roof and a partial-width front porch sheltered by a gable-roof supported by tapered square columns set on limestone piers extending to grade. Two non-contributing resources, a shed and a play structure, were both installed adjacent to the parsonage circa 2000-2003.

Site Features and Setting

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell, presently referred to as the Tazewell United Methodist Church, is located in Tazewell, a small city in Claiborne County with an estimated population of 2,348 as of 2025. The church is approximately 0.1 mi, or one to two blocks, south of Tazewell's downtown core. The church and parsonage are predominantly surrounded by mid- and late-twentieth century commercial and public development to the west, north, and east; a hospital was constructed to the southwest circa 2007. Notably, the circa 1800 Graham-Kivette House (NRHP-listed May 29, 1975) is located approximately 180 feet south of the church and the circa 1819 Claiborne County Jail (NRHP-listed March 21, 2007) is located approximately 400 feet east of the church; both of these NRHP-listed resources also feature limestone masonry construction. The Claiborne County Courthouse is located approximately 0.13 miles north of the church.

The church's 0.48-acre lot occupies approximately one half of a city block. The church and parsonage buildings dominate the parcel, with flat, grassy lawns circumventing the perimeter. A sidewalk travels approximately east to west between the church building and parsonage and decorative plantings and gardening beds abut the exterior of each building. A wooden picket fence and a chain-link fence enclose the parsonage's northern side yard and rear (west) yard, respectively. A shed (circa 2000, non-contributing building) and play structure (circa 2000, non-contributing structure) are located within these fenced areas.

The church and parsonage façades face east towards Main Street, and the parcel is bounded by Old Knoxville Road to the south and Eppes Street to the west. A parcel occupied by a circa 1961 brick building currently housing the Tazewell Post Office is located adjacent to the church parcel to the north of the parsonage. A sidewalk is located along both Main Street and Old Knoxville Road, between the roadways and the church and parsonage buildings. Limestone steps flanked by metal railing provide access to the church's primary entry; a single concrete step provides access to the parsonage's front porch.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell, ca. 1912 – Contributing Building

The one-story church building features an asymmetrical façade that is oriented toward Main Street on the east, with the south elevation facing Old Knoxville Road, the west elevation facing Eppes Street, and the north elevation facing the church parsonage. The 1951 gable-roof rear addition is located on the west elevation, toward Eppes Street. The original sanctuary building rests on a continuous stone foundation while the rear concrete block addition rests on a concrete block foundation. The exterior walls of the original sanctuary building are rough-cut limestone, featuring an irregular course. The exterior walls of the rear addition are parged and feature a faux stone pattern intended to mimic the limestone course of the original building. The original sanctuary building is sheltered by a front-gable roof, featuring a centered gable along the north elevation and a hipped roof extension to the south. The three-story bell tower is sheltered by a belcast pyramidal roof. The rear addition is sheltered by a gable roof with a hipped roof extension characterized by a low-pitch to the north. The roof of the entire building is clad in asphalt shingles. The

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majority of the windows on the original portion of the church building contain one-light fixed wood sashes in various sizes and shapes, many of which feature a pointed arch and others are circular or rectangular with transom; most windows are set behind aluminum-clad exterior storm windows. The windows feature limestone lintels with keystones, limestone sills, and the original stained glass, which was restored circa 1991. The entries feature pointed arch transoms; one original entry has been infilled with glass blocks. Windows on the addition contain replacement one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl sashes and feature stone stills as well as faux limestone lintels with faux keystones, mimicking the original church building.

Exterior

Façade (East Elevation)

The façade (east elevation) features four bays, with the southernmost (left) bay located on the bell tower. A square-shaped bell tower with a belcast pyramidal roof clad in asphalt shingles projects from the southeast corner, set between the front-gable roof to the east and the hipped roof to the south. The bell tower projects slightly from the façade. The façade extends south beyond the bell tower, where it is set back to the west elevation of the bell tower. The belcast pyramidal roof features a pointed wood spire displaying a decorative sphere near its terminus. Two diminutive arched windows, paired vertically, pierce the second story of the bell tower, containing fixed six-light fixed wood sashes and featuring arched limestone lintels and limestone sills. Arched openings pierce the third story of the bell tower on each elevation, all of which feature limestone lintels with keystones, limestone sills, and pedestrian-scale wood railings. The south elevation of the bell tower is also pierced on the first story by an original entry displaying a stained-glass transom and limestone lintel with keystone; the entry was infilled with glass blocks circa 1956. The original uppermost limestone stair to this entry was retained and currently provides a limestone sill. The second story of the bell tower's south elevation is pierced by a lancet window containing a three-light fixed wood sash and featuring a limestone lintel with keystone and limestone sill.

The bell tower is pierced by a single-leaf entry featuring an original stained-glass transom and limestone lintel with keystone. The original door was replaced circa 1956 with a flush wood door flanked by sidelights comprised of glass blocks and a one-light rectangular transom. The entry opens onto a limestone deck accessed by limestone stairs featuring metal railings. North (right) of the entry, three pointed arch windows pierce the façade, the central of which is tripartite and set behind a five-light aluminum-clad storm window. The second story is pierced by a wood vent with a lattice design, featuring a limestone lintel and limestone sill.

South Elevation

The south elevation features ten bays, the westernmost six of which are located on the circa 1951 addition and the easternmost four bays on the original church building. The westernmost five bays on the circa 1951 addition are pierced by windows; the easternmost bay of the addition is comprised of the hyphen sheltered by a side-gable roof, creating a recessed entry accessing a double-leaf entry filled with a pair of two-panel vinyl doors each featuring one light with faux muntins. The entry features a faux limestone lintel and keystone. The recessed bay exposes the southern portion of the east elevation of the addition which features one bay pierced by a window.

The recessed bay also exposes the southern portion of the west elevation of the original church building, which is comprised of three bays, each pierced by a window. The west elevation of the original church

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building features a gable-roof portion to the north, mirroring that of the façade, and a hipped roof southwest corner. The northernmost pointed arch window is obscured by the circa 1951 addition. The southernmost window is filled with a fixed one-light wood sash and transom, both featuring stained-glass, and displays a limestone lintel with keystone and limestone sill.

The south elevation of the original church buildings features four bays; the easternmost bay is comprised of the bell tower, described above. The south elevation is dominated by a slightly projecting central mass sheltered by a hipped roof featuring a gabled wall dormer. The westernmost two bays are located on the hipped roof southwest corner and are pierced by a single-leaf entry (left/west) and a window (right/east). The entry is filled with a flush wood door, features a limestone lintel with keystone, and opens onto a set of limestone stairs with a metal railing. The window is filled with a fixed one-light wood sash and transom, both featuring stained-glass, and displays a limestone lintel with keystone and limestone sill. The bay within the central mass is pierced by a pointed arch tripartite window set behind a five-light aluminum-clad storm window. A circular window filled with a fixed one-light wood sash pierces the south elevation within the wall dormer just above the tripartite window.

West Elevation

The west (rear) elevation is comprised of the gable-roof circa 1951 addition and a hipped roof extension attached to the north elevation of the addition. Both sections feature two bays each for a total of four bays. Three bays are filled with windows, and the second bay from the north is pierced by a single-leaf entry filled with a two-panel, one light, vinyl door with faux muntins. This entry is sheltered by a quarter round aluminum awning and opens onto a concrete porch at grade. A vinyl louvered opening pierces the gablefield. A raised cross also adorns the gablefield. Two wood and metal benches are set onto a concrete pad near the northwest corner of the rear elevation.

North Elevation

The north elevation features eleven bays, the easternmost four of which are located on the original church building while the westernmost seven of which are located on the circa 1951 addition. The north elevation of the original church building is characterized by a central cross gable flanked by shed roof projections. The easternmost bay is pierced by a pointed arch window, to its west, the eastern shed roof projection is pierced by a window filled with a two-over-two-light double-hung wood sash and featuring a limestone lintel with keystone and a limestone sill. Beneath the central cross gable, the north elevation is pierced by a circular window filled with a fixed wood sash and featuring a limestone lintel with keystone. The northern shed roof projection is pierced by an arched window filled with a fixed wood sash and featuring a limestone lintel with keystone, a limestone sill, and stained glass.

The circa 1951 addition abuts the western shed roof projection and is characterized by a slightly lower roofline. The easternmost bay of the addition is pierced by a single-leaf entry filled with a two-panel vinyl door featuring one light and a faux limestone lintel and keystone. The entry opens onto a poured concrete deck accessed by concrete stairs featuring a metal railing. The hipped roof portion of the addition then extends north from the north elevation, exposing the east elevation of the addition, which features two bays. The western bay is pierced by a window, and the eastern bay is pierced by a single-leaf entry filled with a wood, x-panel door featuring one light with faux muntins creating a diamond pattern. The entry features faux limestone lintel and keystone and opens onto a poured concrete porch at grade. This entry provides the only access to a small basement containing HVAC and other equipment.

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The north elevation of the hipped roof portion of the circa 1951 addition features six bays, each pierced by a window. The second and third easternmost windows are smaller than any other window on the addition.

Interior

The church's interior is comprised of the original building's footprint, which remains intact, and the 1951 addition affixed to the northwest corner. Fenestration modifications were made during the construction of the addition, and other minor modifications were made at unknown dates. The original section features a narthex within the bell tower, the church's nave, and two storage rooms flanking the recessed pulpit. The interior entries are filled with the original five-panel wood doors featuring stained glass transoms unless otherwise noted. Windows are recessed and feature a wood panel reveal. An original window was converted into an entry leading into the 1951 rear addition. The addition features a hallway oriented east-to-west that provides access to office space, classrooms, restrooms, and a kitchen. A partial basement is located under the northeast corner of the addition, containing HVAC and other equipment. The small equipment room is accessed by a wood staircase and features a poured concrete floor and exposed concrete block walls.

First Floor

The primary entry on the façade opens into the narthex, a small space providing access to the bell pull. The space features an original metal and glass chandelier. The west wall is pierced by a single-leaf entry leading to the nave. The south wall was originally pierced by an exterior single-leaf entry infilled with glass blocks circa 1956; the original, pointed-arch stained-glass transom remains. The north wall is pierced by a single-leaf entry that once led to the nave but is no longer in use. The narthex features plaster walls, a tile floor, tile baseboards, and a drop ceiling with fiber board tiles.

The nave features carpeted floors at a slight pitch and simple plaster walls featuring a chair railing and beadboard wainscoting. The ceiling was lowered to allow for heating and air ductwork installation and is currently clad with fiber board tiles, but the original tongue-and-groove ceiling remains above. A structural beam oriented east-to-west divides the nave between the cathedral ceiling to the north and the flat ceiling to the south, corresponding to the roof line. Grooved wall panels clad the beam to the ceiling, and a single column supports the beam. Six original metal and glass hanging chandeliers and three hanging ceiling fans are suspended from the ceiling. The northernmost window along the west wall is no longer visible on the exterior due to the rear elevation, but the stained glass remains. The nave is filled with the original wood pews, all of which face the pulpit.

The pulpit is centrally located along the north wall, is delineated by a short wood railing around the perimeter and is accessed by a single stair. A recessed arched alcove is centrally located within the pulpit and highlights the round window along the north elevation. Two single-leaf entries without transoms flank the alcove and lead to storage rooms. East of the pulpit, the raised floor continues at a diagonal, supporting the choir loft in the northeast corner. West of the pulpit, an original pointed arched stained-glass window was converted into a single-leaf entry featuring a wood panel reveal. This entry leads into the 1951 rear addition. The upper arched portion of the original window was retained as a transom while the lower portion was embedded into the wood door as a half-light.

Once within the rear addition, the original exterior limestone walls surround the entry to the nave at the east end of the addition's hallway. Unless otherwise noted, the addition features linoleum tile flooring, a fiber

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board tile ceiling, and exposed, painted, concrete block walls. Entries feature plain wood trim and are filled with either two-panel wood doors or three-light, three-panel wood doors.

The hallway travels east-to-west and is flanked to the north and south by entries to office and classroom spaces, as well as restrooms and storage. A large classroom occupies the majority of the southern portion of the addition. A full-width opening is centrally located in the room and features wood framing and a retractable dividing wall. The west wall features a partial-width opening filled with four original hollow-core doors that open to reveal a raised stage; when closed, the stage can be used as an independent room. An entry pierces the west wall to the right (north) of the four doors, providing access to a small kitchen. The kitchen features wood cabinetry, an exterior entry piercing the west wall, and an entry to the stage room piercing the south wall. The stage room is accessed by three stairs and features carpeting.

The northern portion of the addition contains six rooms. Moving east to west these are storage room, two restrooms, the pastor's study, and two classrooms. The storage room, office, and classrooms feature carpeting.

Parsonage, ca. 1918 – Contributing Building

The one-story rectangular plan residential building features an asymmetrical façade that is oriented east toward Main Street, with its south elevation facing the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell, its west elevation facing Eppes Street, and its north elevation facing an unrelated parcel and building. A portion of the west (rear) elevation was enclosed at an unknown date, and a partial-width, gable-roof, open-air carport was constructed along the west (rear) elevation, presumably shortly thereafter. The parsonage rests on a continuous stone foundation while the rear concrete block enclosure rests on a concrete block foundation. The parsonage is sheltered by a front-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and featuring partial-height cross gables. The majority of the exterior walls of the parsonage building are rough-cut limestone, featuring an irregular course; all gablefields are clad with vinyl siding. Windows are filled with one-over-one-light, double-hung vinyl sashes; some windows feature limestone sills and lintels.

Exterior

Façade (East Elevation)

The façade (east elevation) features three bays. A centrally located single-leaf entry pierces the façade, features a transom, and is filled with an original one-light wood door set behind an aluminum storm door. The entry opens onto a partial-width, gable-roof porch supported by squared tapered wood columns set on stone piers that extend to grade. The porch gablefield is clad with vinyl siding and vinyl siding extends around the porch perimeter between the top of the columns and the gablefield or roofline. The porch features a poured concrete deck accessed by a single concrete stair. Windows located on either side of the entry are flanked by inoperable vinyl shutters. An opening filled with a vinyl louver pierces the gablefield of the primary mass.

South Elevation

The south elevation features three bays, each pierced by a window, the westernmost of which is located on the concrete block enclosed rear porch. The easternmost bay is centrally located and characterized by a projection at the partial-height cross-gable.

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West Elevation

The west (rear) elevation is asymmetrical and features three bays, the southernmost two of which are comprised of an original rear porch that was enclosed with concrete block at an unknown date. The northernmost bay is located within the original limestone exterior and pierced by a window. A small concrete block addition extends from the rear elevation, in between the northernmost bay and the central bay. The central bay contains a single-leaf entry filled with a three-light wood door set behind an aluminum storm door. The southernmost bay is pierced by a paired window. A gable-roof, open-air carport supported by metal posts extends from the rear elevation and features a gablefield clad with vertical board wood siding. An opening pierces the gablefield of the primary mass and is infilled with wood and an aluminum louvered vent.

North Elevation

The north elevation features four bays. The second bay is located on the partial-height cross-gable. All four bays are pierced by windows.

Interior

The parsonage's interior features the original footprint and an enclosed rear (west) porch. The original section features a living room, dining room, three bedrooms, a kitchen, a restroom, and storage spaces. The original exterior entry off the kitchen now leads to the enclosed porch. Unless otherwise noted, the parsonage features laminate faux wood flooring, a drop ceiling containing acoustical ceiling tiles, and gypsum board walls. Entries feature original two-panel wood doors, many featuring transoms.

First Floor

The primary entry on the façade opens into the living room. A wide opening pierces the west wall leading to the dining room. The west wall of the dining room is pierced by an entry featuring a transom accessing the kitchen. Right of the opening to the dining room, a single-leaf entry featuring a transom leads into a hallway.

The north wall of the living room is pierced by a single-leaf entry featuring a transom leading into a bedroom. The west wall of the bedroom is pierced by two entries leading to closet space. An infilled fireplace with mantel is also located on the west wall.

The hallway leading from the living room provides access to a second bedroom, a bathroom, a third bedroom, and the kitchen. The first entry on the north (right) side of the hallway accesses the second bedroom. The east wall of the second bedroom is pierced by a single-leaf entry accessing closet space shared with the first bedroom. An infilled fireplace with mantel is located on the east wall, matching the fireplace in the first bedroom on the shared wall. The second entry on the north (right) side of the hallway leads to the restroom. The hallway turns to the north (right) at the west end and an entry pierces the west wall of the hallway on the ell accessing the third bedroom. The south wall of the third bedroom is pierced by an entry accessing a closet.

The only entry on the left side of the hallway, opposite the restroom, leads to the kitchen. The east wall of the kitchen is pierced by an entry featuring a transom accessing the dining room. Kitchen cabinetry occupies the south and west walls, framing the window piercing the south wall. The north wall of the kitchen is pierced by an entry accessing a pantry featuring built in shelves. The west wall of the kitchen is pierced by

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an entry filled with a half-light wood door featuring a transom accessing the enclosed porch and laundry room.

The enclosed porch and laundry room features the original exposed limestone, that has been painted, along the north and east walls. The west and south walls are comprised of exposed, painted, concrete block. The west wall is pierced by the rear exterior entry leading to the carport.

Storage Shed, ca. 2000 – Non-contributing Building

A prefabricated gambrel-roof storage shed is located immediately north of the parsonage's north elevation. The shed is oriented west and its exterior walls are sheathed with OSB. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and the façade is pierced by a double-leaf entry filled with wood doors. A window pierces the rear (east) elevation and is filled with a two-panel sliding window. A opening filled with a metal louvered vent pierces the façade above the entry. The shed is non-contributing due to insufficient age and a lack of association with the property's architectural significance.

Playground, ca. 2000 – Non-contributing Structure

A wooden play structure is located approximately 20 feet northwest of the parsonage and features a chain link fence perimeter. The play structure is non-contributing due to insufficient age and a lack of association with the property's architectural significance.

Integrity

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell retains a high level of integrity. The church remains at its original location on Main Street, approximately one to two blocks south of the commercial downtown core in Tazewell. The setting has changed since the Period of Significance due to surrounding commercial and public development, as well as modifications to infrastructure, such as the diversion of thru traffic from Main Street to the new four-lane North Broad Street (State Highway 33) upon completion circa 1962. The church and parsonage property also includes modern, non-contributing resources, such as the storage shed and play structure; these changes to the church property are minor. The changed setting has not impaired the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell's ability to convey its architectural significance, as the church retains its integrity of materials, design, and workmanship, evidenced by the retention of character-defining features, including the original limestone exterior, bell tower, and the original pointed arch window fenestration including their original wood frames, stained glass lights, limestone lintels with keystones, and limestone sills. While the 1951 concrete block rear addition has been altered, including the replacement of windows and doors, it retains the original stone sills. Furthermore, the parged exterior received a faux stone pattern mimicking that of the original church building limestone exterior, creating a more sympathetic aesthetic. The overall building footprint achieved at the addition's completion in 1951 remains unaltered. The church has received non-historic interior renovations, but these changes did not impact the physical characteristics contributing to the Gothic Revival style, and therefore do not significantly affect the overall integrity. Thus, the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell also retains its integrity of association and feeling due to the remaining, prominent, and historic, character-defining features and materials, and is representative of its origins in the early twentieth century.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage also retains a high level of integrity as outlined above in regards to location and setting. The parsonage retains integrity of materials, design, and workmanship, evidenced by the retention of character-defining features, including the original limestone

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exterior and Bungalow-style features, such as the tapered columns and limestone piers supporting the front porch. While alterations have been made, including the replacement of windows and the enclosure and carport addition on the rear (west) elevation, these changes do not significantly affect the overall integrity. Thus, the parsonage also retains its integrity of association and feeling due to its character-defining features and materials. The limestone exterior is particularly notable due to the similarity to the neighboring Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell, creating a cohesive religious property representative of its origins in the early twentieth century.

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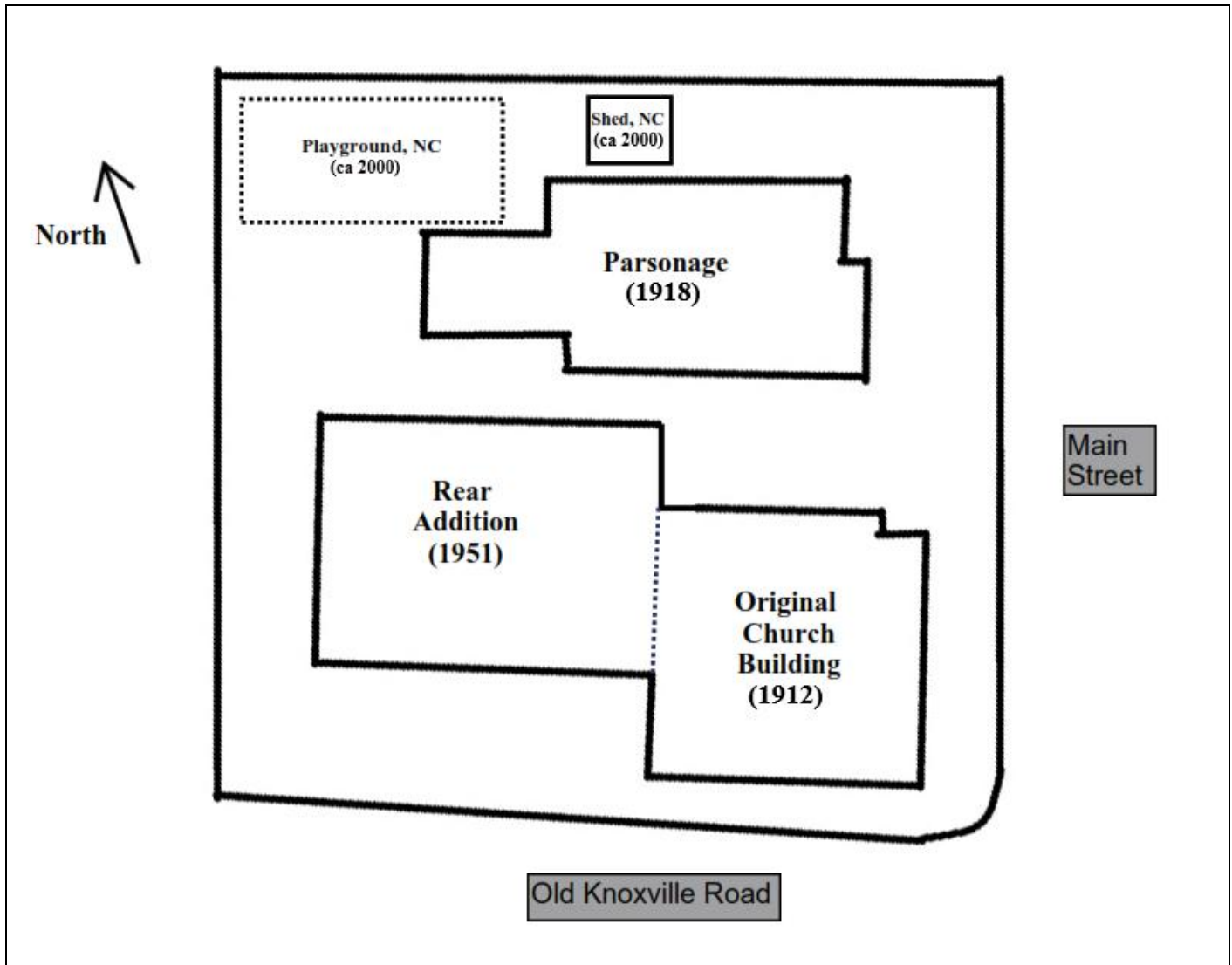


Figure 1. Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell site plan, showing the original church building, the rear addition, the parsonage, and the locations of noncontributing resources.

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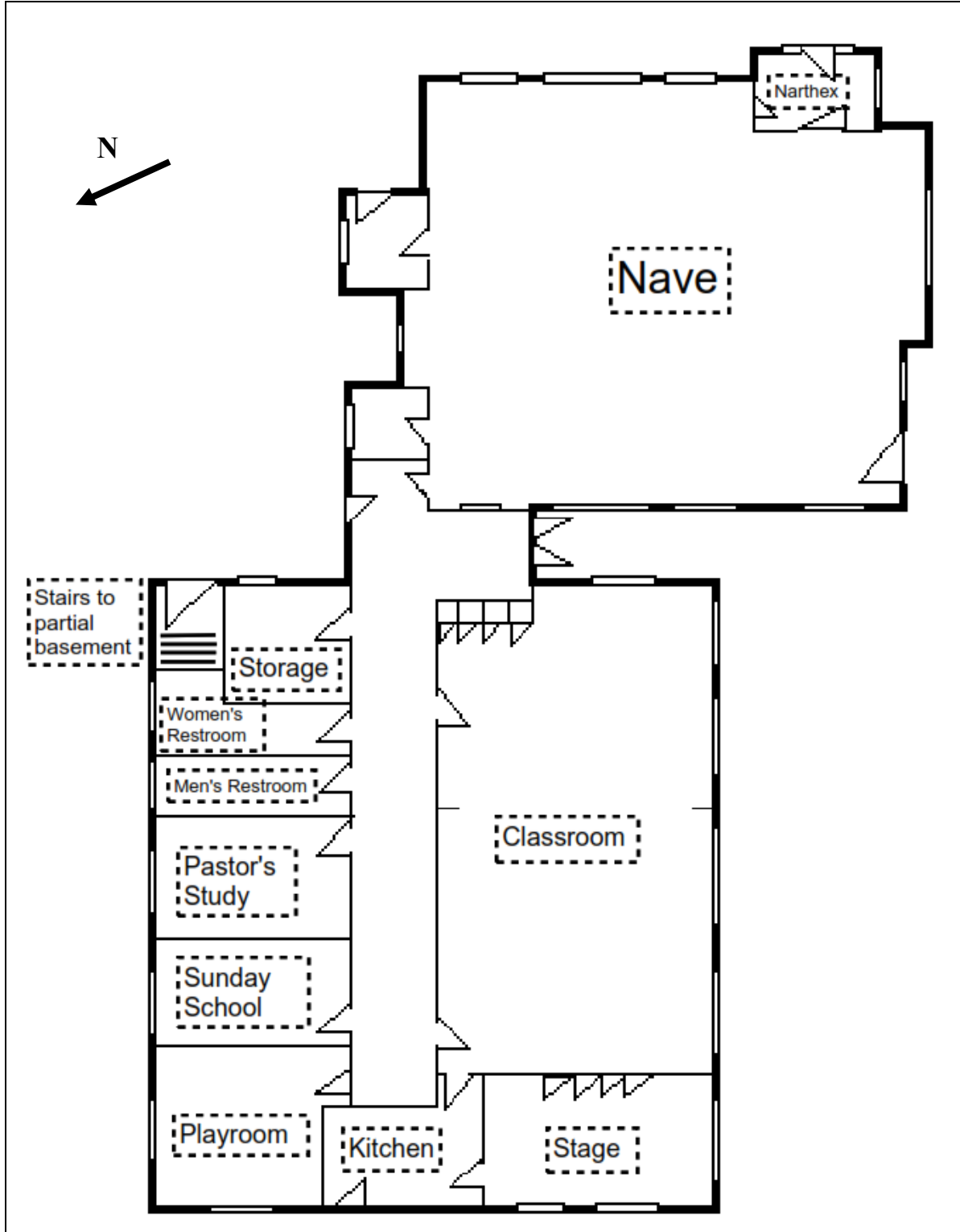


Figure 2. Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell floor plan, showing the first (main) floor of the original 1912 church building and the 1951 rear addition. (Not to scale).

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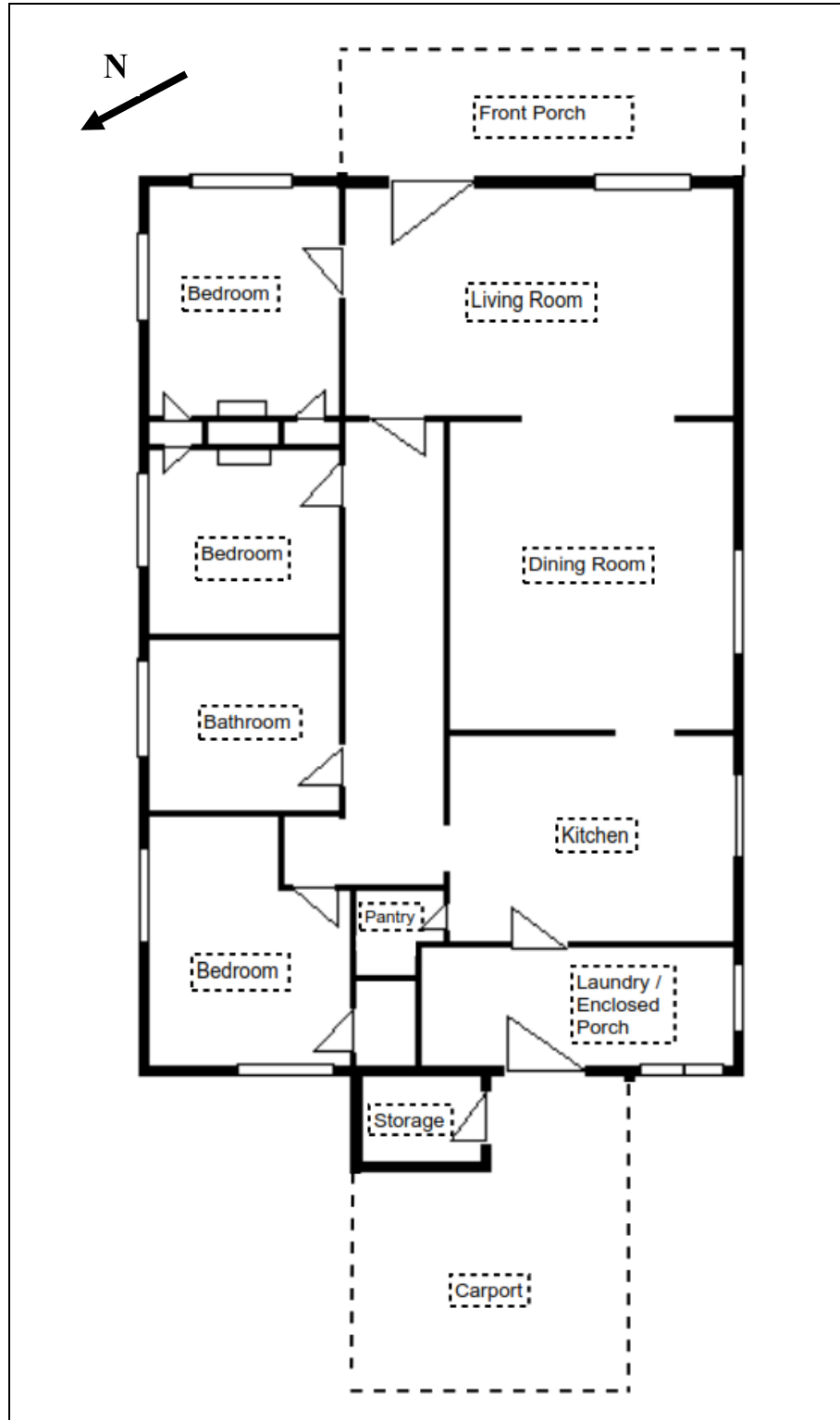


Figure 3. The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage floor plan, showing the first (main) floor of the 1918 residence. (Not to scale).

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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.
- 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:

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1908-1951

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kinzer, J.C. (Reverend): Architect/Designer;

James A. Walker: Contractor;

Edward Johannes Brown: Contractor (roof)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell, constructed between 1908 and 1912, and located at 1702 Main Street in Tazewell, Tennessee, is locally significant under Criterion C for embodying characteristics of the Late Gothic Revival style prevalent among religious facility construction in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As a religious property, the church meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A due to its architectural significance. The original portion of the church building is a rough-cut, irregular course limestone masonry building and features a three-story bell tower on the façade, pointed arch fenestration, lancet windows, and decorative limestone lintels, keystones, and sills. The 1951 rear addition features sympathetic adornments, including stone sills and a faux stone parged exterior, mimicking characteristics of the original church building, including faux stone lintels and keystones. The Period of Significance is 1908-1951. These years correspond with the beginning date of construction of the original church building as seen on the cornerstone and the completion date of the rear addition. The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell, presently referred to as the Tazewell United Methodist Church, retains a substantial amount of integrity and therefore the building continues to communicate its architectural significance as an important local example of the Late Gothic Revival Style as applied to religious buildings.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Brief History of Tazewell

As settlers migrated west through the Cumberland Gap in the late eighteenth century, many settled in the area that would become Claiborne County, where the pass enters Tennessee from the north (Kentucky/Virginia). Claiborne County was formed from portions of Hawkins and Grainger Counties in 1801. The first meeting of the Claiborne County Court took place at the home of John Owens on December 7th that year. At that time, European-American settler John Hunt, Sr., who became the first county sheriff, lived at the site that would later be known as Tazewell. County Commissioners selected Tazewell as the seat of justice in 1804, and the second term of court was held at Hunt's home. The first Claiborne County courthouse was constructed near Hunt's home that same year. The U.S. Postal Service established the first post office at Tazewell soon after, by 1806.¹

Hunt's home also served as a venue for church services prior to the construction of a dedicated religious facility. One of Tazewell's founders, William Graham, an Irish merchant that constructed and lived in the the Graham-Kivette House, built the first church in Tazewell circa 1815. All denominations utilized this church building for worship for the first several years, though Graham was Presbyterian.² It would be decades before the various sects constructed their own houses of worship, as was common in rural East Tennessee in the early nineteenth century.

¹ The Goodspeed Publishing Co., *History of Tennessee: Containing Historical and Biographical Sketches of Thirty East Tennessee Counties* (Greenville, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1991 [Reprint]), 847-849; Andra Kowalczyk, "Claiborne County Jail," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2006:8-3; "Post Offices, Tennessee, Claiborne County," Postal History (search results), accessed December 23, 2025, www.postalhistory.com/postoffices.asp?task=display&state=TN&county=Claiborne&searchtext=&pagenum=4.

² The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 849-850; Kowalczyk, 8-3.

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Tazewell expanded through the nineteenth century prior to the Civil War. While there were no major battles fought in Claiborne County, both sides strategically sought to occupy the county and Cumberland Gap, resulting in several skirmishes. A devastating fire of unconfirmed origin tore through Tazewell on November 11, 1862, destroying almost every building in town, including the courthouse and other public buildings.³ Notably, the Graham-Kivette House and the 1819 Claiborne County Jail, both of limestone masonry construction, survived the fire.

Claiborne County grew rapidly after the War and into the twentieth century due to the development of mining and logging opportunities in the region. When construction of the Knoxville, Cumberland Gap and Louisville Railroad commenced in the 1880s, the rail line bypassed the Town of Tazewell, which led to the formation of New Tazewell in 1890, approximately two miles west of Tazewell.⁴ In 1889, a journalist with Knoxville's *The Evening Sentinel* traveled on the new railway and commented "the most important station between Knoxville and 'the Gap,' is Tazewell" but that "fears are entertained by some that the railroad is just close enough to the town to kill it."⁵ Between the 1862 fire, the new railway's location away from town, and complications with road planning and construction in the early twentieth century, Tazewell's growth began to plateau by the early twentieth century.

History of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell

Methodism gained traction early on in Claiborne County. According to his journal, Bishop Asbury, one of the first two bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States often credited with the growth of Methodism across the frontier, stopped at "Hunt's, at Claibornes court-house" in 1803, likely referring to Hunt's home.⁶ Methodism quickly eclipsed other established religious sections in Claiborne County, with many followers of earlier denominations abandoning their churches to join the Methodists.⁷ The Holston Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church organized in 1824, including portions of East Tennessee, western North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina.⁸

Courthouse records indicate that Jacob Shultz transferred approximately four acres to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in June of 1825. Though records differ, some local historians believe the Methodists completed their first church building shortly thereafter and that the Methodist Church operated the first church bell to sound in Tazewell. This wood frame church was dismantled and relocated to another location to make way for a second Methodist Church of brick construction, built at the site between 1844 and

³ John J. Kivett, "Claiborne County," Tennessee Encyclopedia, Tennessee Historical Society, October 8, 2017 (updated March 1, 2018), accessed December 23, 2025, <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/clai-borne-county/>; Kowalczyk, 8-5.

⁴ Edgar A. Holt, *Tennessee County History Series: Claiborne County* (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1981), 72-75; Kivett, "Claiborne County."

⁵ H. B., "Ridin' on the Rail," *The Evening Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), October 2, 1889, 5.

⁶ Francis Asbury (Rev.), *The Journal of the Rev. Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church* (New York: N. Bangs and T. Mason, 1821), 118, accessed online at Google Books, December 23, 2025, https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Journal_of_the_Rev_Francis_Asbury_Bi/EF8zAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1.

⁷ Claiborne County Historical Society, *The People's History of Claiborne County Tennessee, 1801-1988* (Salem, WV: Don Mills, Inc., 1988), 33-34; Holt, 31.

⁸ Roy L. Howard, "Holston Conference," Tennessee Encyclopedia, accessed December 29, 2025, <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/holston-conference/>; Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, "Bicentennial: 200 Years Holston," accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.holston.org/bicentennial>.

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1846. A violent storm in about 1862 later destroyed the brick church, after which, the Methodists held worship at the Presbyterian Church.⁹ Oral histories reference a fire destroying the Methodist church building in the 1890s, suggesting that the circa 1846 brick church was reconstructed after the 1862 storm, though formal records are lacking. It is unclear from available records for how many years the Methodists worshipped in the Presbyterian Church between using the brick church building and the completion of the new sanctuary in 1912, or if there was an alternate worship location during this interim.¹⁰

Methodism continued to grow in popularity in the region throughout the early-to-mid-nineteenth century, evidenced by the construction of additional Methodist churches. By 1831, the Holston Conference established a Tazewell Circuit within the Knoxville District, which included the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. A single pastor served all the churches within the circuit; pastors were often reappointed to a different circuit each year. The year after its formation the Tazewell Circuit churches claimed 452 members; these numbers would ebb and flow over the decades, and Holston reorganized the Tazewell Circuit numerous times accordingly.¹¹

During this time of growth in East Tennessee, the Methodist Episcopal Church faced a congregation increasingly divided over the issue of slavery, as well as other topics. In 1845, the church formally split, forming the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, North. The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, which includes Tazewell and northeast Tennessee, voted to join the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. During the Civil War, the Holston Conference barred union-sympathizing members. Nearly a century after splitting, the Methodist Church, South and North, returned to a single entity in 1939; in 1968 the Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the desegregated United Methodist Church.¹²

By the turn of the century, the Tazewell Methodists were ready for a new sanctuary. A. J. Francisco and his wife, Sara E. Francisco, sold two lots to the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell in August of 1906 for \$750, with possession of the property to be formalized no later than July 1, 1907. The church representatives mentioned within the formal deed included: Elbert Essary, Sneed Essary, E. J. Brown, and W. G. Parkey.¹³

Reverend J. C. Kinzer (also seen Kinser) served as a pastor to the Tazewell Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, off and on between approximately 1906 and 1910. Kinzer purchased a farm near Tazewell circa 1907 and became a permanent resident, spending much of his life in Tazewell. Kinzer continued to serve as a circuit preacher for his entire career, but the Methodist Episcopal Church South at

⁹ Claiborne County Historical Society, 33-34; Vola, Wayne, and Jeff Noah, *All Our Churches of Claiborne Co. Tennessee* (Clarksville, TN: Jostens, 1986), 131.

¹⁰ Jennifer Belcher, Will Cantrell, Robert Combs, and Tyler Purtlebaugh, *The History of Tazewell United Methodist Church, Tazewell, Tennessee: 1803-2000* (Emory, VA: Emory and Henry College, 2000), 10; also see "Notes from Discussion with Delbert and Margaret England," 15 Feb 2000, 1, included as an attachment to Belcher et al.

¹¹ Belcher, et al, *The History of Tazewell United Methodist Church*, 5-17.

¹² The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 849-850; Claiborne County Historical Society, 34; Holston, "Bicentennial."

¹³ Claiborne County, Tennessee, Deed Book 20: 583-584, August 28, 1906.

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Tazewell received special attention from the Reverend, as Kinzer also served as the architect and designer of the Tazewell church building.¹⁴

The cornerstone suggests construction of the church building began in 1908. Newspapers mentioned plans for the construction of a new Methodist Episcopal Church at Tazewell as early as August 1908, referencing a presumed cost of \$3,000 and identifying the contractor as James Walker (abbreviated to Jas. Walker).¹⁵ An October 1909 newspaper mentioned E. J. Brown, owner of a local tin shop and a Tazewell church trustee, would install the church's tin roof.¹⁶ That same year, newspapers referenced a Jas. A. Walker's stone masonry work in Tazewell, possibly referencing the same James Walker involved with the church's construction.¹⁷ The limestone used in construction of the church, as well as the limestone used in masonry construction throughout town, was most likely quarried locally; however, research was unable to confirm this information.

Newspapers alluded to a lengthy construction time. As circuit preachers were frequently relocated, construction progress may have slowed when Reverend Kinzer changed circuits. Shortly after his reappointment to the Tazewell Circuit in March of 1910, a newspaper article referenced Kinzer traveling to Knoxville "in the interest of the Methodist church at Tazewell" as well as a visitor to Tazewell meeting with Kinzer regarding the church flooring.¹⁸ Upon Kinzer's death in 1928, newspapers credited him for the construction of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell: "He later made his home at Tazewell, Tenn., where he constructed the largest church there and one of the most magnificent in this section of the state during his stay."¹⁹ Kinzer was interned at the Tazewell Methodist Cemetery, which had been established circa 1826 adjacent to the frame church building (and later the circa 1846 brick church building), at a site on Church Street approximately 0.2 mi (1,000 feet) north of the current church building.²⁰

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell was dedicated on Sunday, June 30, 1912. Bishop John Carlisle Kilgo of Durham, North Carolina, traveled to Tazewell to perform the dedication. Reverend Kinzer offered to escort out of town guests from the train station to the dedication ceremony and entertain them during their visit. Journalists at that time highlighted the completion of the "handsome stone edifice."²¹ After the event, one journalist stated: "Sunday was a great day for the Southern Methodist church in Tazewell. The

¹⁴ "Tazewell," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), March 19, 1910; Noah et al, 131; Claiborne County Historical Society, 33-34; "Kinzer Funeral Conducted This Morning At Home," *Kingsport Times* (Kingsport, Tennessee), March 30, 1928, 3.

¹⁵ "Claiborne School Rally," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), August 29, 1908, 3.

¹⁶ "Tazewell," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), October 23, 1909, 8; "Personal Points," *The Daily Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), April 5, 1888, 4.

¹⁷ "Tazewell," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), December 18, 1909.

¹⁸ "Tazewell" *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), May 28, 1910.

¹⁹ "Rev J.C. Kinzer Dies Suddenly at Home Here; Burial Plans Incomplete," *Kingsport Times* (Kingsport, Tennessee), March 29, 1928, 3.

²⁰ "Kinzer Funeral Conducted This Morning at Home, Internment Takes Place at Tazewell, Tenn., Former Home of Minister Who Died Suddenly Here," *Kingsport Times* (Kingsport, Tennessee), March 30, 1928, 3.

²¹ "Bishop Will Dedicate Tazewell's New Church," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), June 14, 1912; "Dedication by Bishop Kilgo," *Morristown Gazette* (Morristown, Tennessee), June 19, 1912.

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fine stone church so long in progress, costing several thousand dollars, was dedicated by Bishop Jno. C. Kilgo of Durham, N.C. People from all parts of the county were in attendance.”²²

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell established a Woman’s Missionary Society by February of 1916, who sought among other things to raise funding for a salary to fund a dedicated pastor to the “old and new Tazewell,” referencing the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell and a station at New Tazewell. At that time, the pastors serving the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell attended to all nine churches on the Tazewell circuit.²³ That October, Tazewell received their first dedicated pastor, Reverend Keener W. Cox, presumed to provide services at New Tazewell as well, once confirmed. The remaining Tazewell Circuit churches formed a new circuit.²⁴

The Tazewell Methodists were eager to provide for their new dedicated pastor. Construction of the parsonage was well underway by November 1917, just a year after their dedicated appointment. By that time, Reverend Cox had moved to New Tazewell and the new minister, Reverend William Monroe Patty (also seen Pattie), would become the first to occupy the parsonage. The Reverend and his wife resided in the parsonage by May 1918.²⁵

By the 1940s, the Tazewell Methodist Church required additional space. According to oral histories, prior to the construction of the rear addition, curtains were used in the sanctuary to separate out Sunday School classes.²⁶ At the 1947 Homecoming Day event in November, the church officially began fundraising for the expansion referred to as the Church School and Community Building. Reverend Gunnar Teilmann led the fundraising effort, and a model of the proposed building was on display at the event.²⁷ The rear addition was later referred to as the Church School Building. The church hosted an open house to celebrate its completion in July 1951.²⁸

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell served as a gathering place for various events over the decades, including the funerals of notable locals. The death of the State G.O.P. Chairman William Ishman Davis, Sr., for example, brought politicians from across the state to the church in February 1928.²⁹ Additional events at the church included a Lincoln Memorial University Choir event in 1947, the Methodist

²² “Tazewell Methodists Dedicate New Church,” *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), July 2, 1912.

²³ “Efficiency Conference At Church in Tazewell,” *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), February 21, 1916, 7.

²⁴ “Bishop Atkins Shakes ‘Em Up,” *The Journal and Tribune* (Knoxville, Tennessee), October 9, 1916, 5.

²⁵ “Reception as Bridal Honor,” *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), November 17, 1917, 10; “Tazewell,” *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), May 18, 1918, 10.

²⁶ See Belcher, et al, *The History of Tazewell United Methodist Church*, included attachment: “Notes from Discussion with Delbert and Margaret England,” February 15, 2000, 3.

²⁷ Gunnar Teilmann, “Methodist Church Homecoming,” *Hancock County News* (Sneedville, Tennessee), November 28, 1947, 7.

²⁸ “Methodist to Hold Open House Sunday,” *Hancock County News* (Sneedville, Tennessee), July 4, 1951, 1.

²⁹ Sherlock Hope, “Friends Jam Tazewell Church at Davis Rites,” *The Knoxville Journal* (Knoxville, Tennessee), February 13, 1928, 10.

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Quarterly Conference in July 1953, and the 1963 American Dairy Association of Tennessee Dairy Foods Recipe Contest, among others.³⁰

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell is currently referred to as the Tazewell United Methodist Church. The church interior was modified for the rear addition between 1947 and 1951. Also in the 1950s, the southern primary entrance was infilled with glass blocks and the stairs were removed, leaving the east entrance as the sole primary entrance to the sanctuary for congregants (see Figures 4 and 5). Upon the completion of the rear addition, the exterior was parged; the faux stone pattern was added later, some time between 2003 and 2008 (see Figures 6 and 7). At an unknown date, likely mid-twentieth century, the sanctuary ceiling was lowered to accommodate the installation of modern utilities, primarily heating and air conditioning. Other modern developments include the addition of a playground behind the parsonage as well as a prefabricated shed along its side (north) elevation. The original stained-glass windows were lovingly restored in 2016.

Architectural Significance

Stylized religious buildings in rural Tennessee were uncommon in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century as the state's population remained primarily decentralized and rural, especially in East Tennessee. Religious groups improvised, often gathering in people's home for worship. As dedicated religious facilities were constructed, small and simple meetinghouses frequently fulfilled the needs of the congregations in numerous villages throughout the countryside and generally the first completed church building in a community would serve all denominations until additional church buildings were constructed, as was the case in Tazewell. The Gothic Revival Style became a popular choice for church buildings in Tennessee beginning about 1840 and peaking after the Civil War. As high-style architecture proliferated in Middle Tennessee and later in the larger cities of East Tennessee, such as Knoxville and Chattanooga, the Gothic Revival style influence spread into the rural areas and interpretations appeared in growing towns like Tazewell.³¹

The United States' populace began shifting to the southeast region in the mid-1800s, including to Tennessee. Tazewell witnessed substantial development prior to the Civil War, but the devastating 1862 fire destroyed a large number of the buildings that symbolized this early-to-mid-century growth. With growing mining and lumber operations in the region, the county continued to prosper; however, when the new railway bypassed Tazewell in the 1880s, much of the development at that time concentrated near the new rail station, at present-day New Tazewell, rather than in "old" Tazewell. As the earlier Methodist church buildings were lost, a new worship venue was required to fulfill the needs of the established residents. The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell building thus serves as a tangible symbol of the increasing popularity of Methodism in the region during the nineteenth century, when the church gathered its devoted following, rather than a substantial period of development in Tazewell during the early twentieth century.

³⁰ "Methodist to Hold Quarterly Conference," *Hancock County News* (Sneedville, Tennessee), July 9, 1953, 4; "Big Crowd Heard LMU Choir Sunday," *Hancock County News* (Sneedville, Tennessee), May 2, 1947, 1; "Farm News about the 4-H and other Extension Work from the County Agents," *Hancock County News* (Sneedville, Tennessee), May 23, 1963, 4.

³¹ Carroll Van West, *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes: A Traveler's Guide* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995), 78; James Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1897* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981), 105-112.

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In the years following the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell's completion, newspapers described "the handsome new stone edifice"³² as "the largest church [in Tazewell] and one of the most magnificent in this section of the state."³³ Upon completion of the 1918 parsonage, newspapers lauded it as "the pretty new Methodist parsonage."³⁴ The 1912 church demonstrates a Late Gothic Revival style common with religious architectural trends of the early twentieth century, while the parsonage embodies the Bungalow style common with residential architectural trends of the early twentieth century. Gothic Revival church buildings often express verticality through sharply pitched roofs, towers, turrets, and spires, as well as through tall arched fenestration patterns, drawing the eyes upward toward the heavens.³⁵ These elements are evidenced on the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell with the three-story bell tower, spire, pointed arched fenestration, and lancet windows.

The Tazewell church, constructed between 1908 and 1912, is a later example of Gothic Revival style church buildings. One of the first Gothic Revival style church buildings in an urban setting in East Tennessee was the St. John's Episcopal Church of Knoxville, completed in 1846 (original building no longer extant). This was soon followed by the St. James Episcopal Church completed in the more rural setting of Greeneville, an influential town and one of the first established in the state, by 1850 (Greene County, contributing to the Greeneville Historic District, NRHP-listed May 3, 1974).³⁶ The Gothic Revival style remained prevalent in urban religious architecture into the twentieth-century, evidenced by the circa 1913 St. John's Lutheran Church in Knoxville, constructed of random-coursed Indiana sandstone.³⁷

In Tazewell, three brick churches were constructed in the 1840s: the circa 1846 Methodist church, as discussed above, and the circa 1840 Tazewell Presbyterian Church and the circa 1845 Tazewell Baptist Church. The Tazewell Presbyterian Church was lost to fire in 1958, but historical descriptions, drawings, and archival photographs suggest the church displayed the Gothic Revival style through pointed arch fenestration and a central tower and steeple (see Figure 8).³⁸ The Tazewell Baptist Church was originally located outside of town, but around the year 1900 the church raised funds to relocate their church to the downtown area.³⁹ Today, two churches are located in downtown Tazewell: the Tazewell United Methodist Church, the subject of this nomination, and the Tazewell Baptist Church, located approximately 0.16 miles north of the Tazewell United Methodist Church. The Tazewell Baptist Church is of brick masonry construction with a limestone foundation. Local historians believe the Baptists deconstructed the circa 1845 church building and reused the

³² "Dedication by Bishop Kilgo," *The Morristown Gazette* (Morristown, Tennessee), June 19, 1912, 3.

³³ "Rev J.C. Kinzer Dies Suddenly at Home Here; Burial Plans Incomplete," *Kingsport Times* (Kingsport, Tennessee), March 29, 1928, 3.

³⁴ "Tazewell," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), May 18, 1918, 10.

³⁵ West, *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes*, 78.

³⁶ West, *Tennessee's Historic Landscapes*. 78; Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee*, 105-112, 145.

³⁷ Valerie A. Anderson and Robin L. Krawitz, "St. John's Lutheran Church," National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, 1984.

³⁸ "Historic Church At Tazewell Burns," *The Greeneville Sun* (Greeneville, Tennessee), March 6, 1958, 1; Joseph Payne, "Old Presbyterian Church and the Arch," Joe Payne's Webworks Incorporated, accessed January 2, 2026,

<https://joepayne.org/presby/presby.html>.

³⁹ "Tazewell," *Knoxville Sentinel* (Knoxville, Tennessee), January 4, 1900, 6.

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bricks in the construction of the downtown church building. The current Tazewell Baptist Church lacks much ornamentation but features an imposing hexagonal bell tower of limestone construction, perhaps hinting at a limited influence from the Gothic Revival style in its design (see Figure 9).

Looking regionally, the circa 1890 Methodist Episcopal Church South at Cumberland Gap, approximately 11 miles northwest of Tazewell, displays Gothic Revival architectural designs (Claiborne County, contributing to the Cumberland Gap Historic District, NRHP-listed January 22, 1990). Presently known as the Olde Church Event Center, the frame church building features pointed arch fenestration and a three-story bell tower (see Figure 10). The pointed arch fenestration patterns and other stylized features of the wood clad church, however, are modest by comparison to the striking limestone construction displaying Gothic Revival influences at Tazewell. This lack of comparable Gothic Revival religious architecture in the Tazewell community and greater region further emphasizes the local and regional architectural importance of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell.

Though further afield, several additional extant churches exemplify the Gothic Revival architectural influence that became popular throughout rural East Tennessee in the late nineteenth century, many of which were constructed in the decades before and shortly after the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Some of these churches which are currently listed on the NRHP include Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church (circa 1871, Jefferson County, NRHP-listed November 6, 2024), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Loudon (circa 1882, Loudon County, NRHP-listed April 15, 1982), New Market Presbyterian Church (circa 1885, Jefferson County, NRHP-listed July 1, 1998), Bethlehem Methodist Church (circa 1886, Blount County, NRHP-listed July 25, 1989), First Presbyterian Church of Sweetwater (circa 1887, Monroe County, NRHP-listed July 25, 2001), and the Shults Grove Methodist Church (circa 1914, Sevier County, NRHP-listed November 22, 2016).

While the rural churches in East Tennessee featuring Gothic Revival characteristics are typically wood frame buildings, the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell is of masonry construction. Other masonry Gothic Revival Style influenced churches in rural East Tennessee include the Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church and the New Market Presbyterian Church, both located in Jefferson County, and the First Presbyterian Church of Sweetwater, located in Monroe County. These three churches, however, are comprised of brick, unlike the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell which is of stone construction. Examples of East Tennessee rural churches featuring both Gothic Revival influences and stone masonry construction include the circa 1937 Tuckaleechee Methodist Church (Blount County) and the circa 1920 Bewley's Chapel (Greene County); neither of these are presently listed on the NRHP.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage is of stone masonry construction to complement the neighboring church building, creating a cohesive aesthetic for the property. It displays modest Bungalow influences through the low-pitched front-gable roof and the tapered square wood columns set on limestone piers, supporting the partial-width front porch. The parsonage lacks many of the decorative embellishments considered a distinctive feature of the Bungalow style, such as exposed rafter tails, exposed roof beams, and triangular knee braces. The Bungalow style proliferated nationwide in the early twentieth century and the modest characteristics displayed by the Methodist parsonage are minimal. As such, the

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parsonage’s architectural significance as a contributing building to the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell property lies more in its limestone construction than in the modest Bungalow styling.

Notably, there are several other buildings of limestone masonry construction in the town of Tazewell, including two listed on the NRHP: the circa 1810 Graham-Kivett House (NRHP-listed May 29, 1975) and the circa 1819 Claiborne County Jail (NRHP-listed March 21, 2007). Additionally, the Hughes Law Office (circa 1894, 1746 Main Street) and an octagonal house located at 1802 Eppes Street are of limestone construction, among others. The Tazewell Baptist Church also features a limestone bell tower, as mentioned above. In Claiborne County generally, additional NRHP-listed resources featuring limestone construction include Lincoln Memorial University’s circa 1917 Grant-Lee Hall in Harrogate (NRHP-listed December 8, 1978) and the circa 1800 McClain-Ellison House in Speedwell (NRHP-listed June 10, 1975).

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Figure 4. Archival photograph likely taken between 1912 and 1918 showing a family posing in front of the south and east elevations of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Claiborne County Historical Society and County Heritage, Inc., *The People's History of Claiborne County Tennessee, 1801-2005, Volume II* (Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2005), 20.

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Figure 5. Circa 1915-1916 archival photograph showing a “Tom Thumb wedding,” or a children’s play demonstrating a mock wedding ceremony, as the children exit from the south entry to the sanctuary. Photograph courtesy of Joseph Payne.

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Figure 6. Circa 1955 archival photograph, showing the rear addition shortly after construction at left and center, and the west elevation of the original church building. Photograph courtesy of Joseph Payne.

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Figure 7. Circa 1964 archival photograph, showing the rear addition at left and the original church building at right. Photograph courtesy of Joseph Payne.

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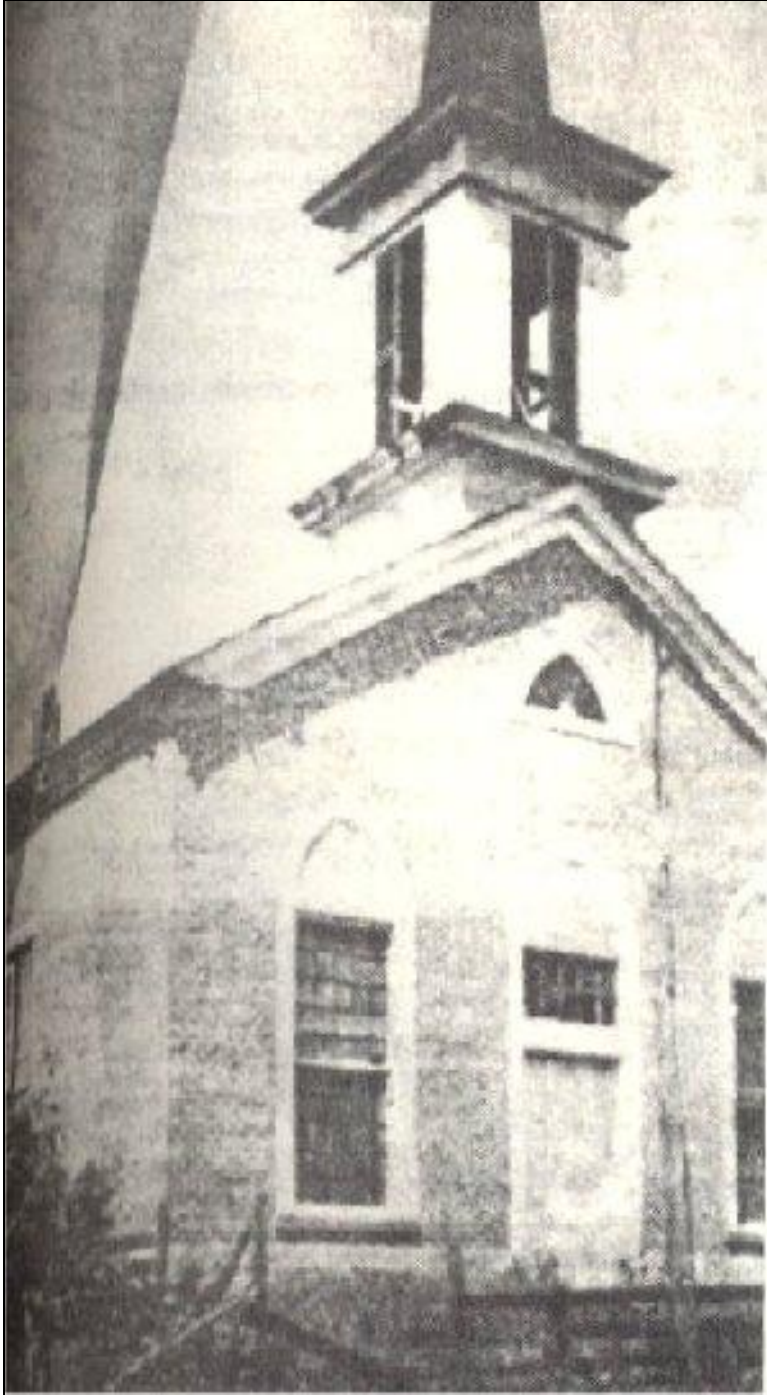


Figure 8. Undated archival photograph of the circa 1840 Tazewell Presbyterian Church, no longer extant.⁴¹

⁴¹ Claiborne County Historical Society and County Heritage, Inc., 19.

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Figure 9. The circa 1900 Tazewell Baptist Church, located at 1801 Main Street in Tazewell.

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Figure 10. The circa 1890 Methodist Episcopal Church South at Cumberland Gap, displaying Gothic Revival influences. Photograph courtesy of Chris Oelgoetz.

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Tazewell

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Methodist Episcopal Church South at
 Tazewell

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	X	State Historic Preservation Office	
previously listed in the National Register		Other State agency	
previously determined eligible by the National Register		Federal agency	
designated a National Historic Landmark		Local government	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #		University	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		Other	
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A			

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 0.47616 **USGS Quadrangle** Tazewell 154-NE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (These coordinates should correspond to the corners of the property boundary. Add additional coordinates if necessary. Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Northwest Corner: | Latitude: 36.452899° | Longitude: -83.570337° |
| 2. Northeast Corner: | Latitude: 36.452764° | Longitude: -83.569862° |
| 3. Southeast Corner: | Latitude: 36.452407° | Longitude: -83.570029° |
| 4. Southwest Corner: | Latitude: 36.452546° | Longitude: -83.570482° |

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries correspond to the current legal parcel boundary of Claiborne County Parcel 096A A 032.00. The Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parcel occupies approximately 0.47 acres, approximately half of one city block, bounded by Main Street to the east, Old Knoxville Road to the south, Eppes Street to the west, and an adjacent parcel (Claiborne County Parcel 096A A 031.00 [1710 Main Street, Tazewell, TN 37879]) to the north. The church property fronts Main Street. These boundaries are depicted on the enclosed Boundary Map below.

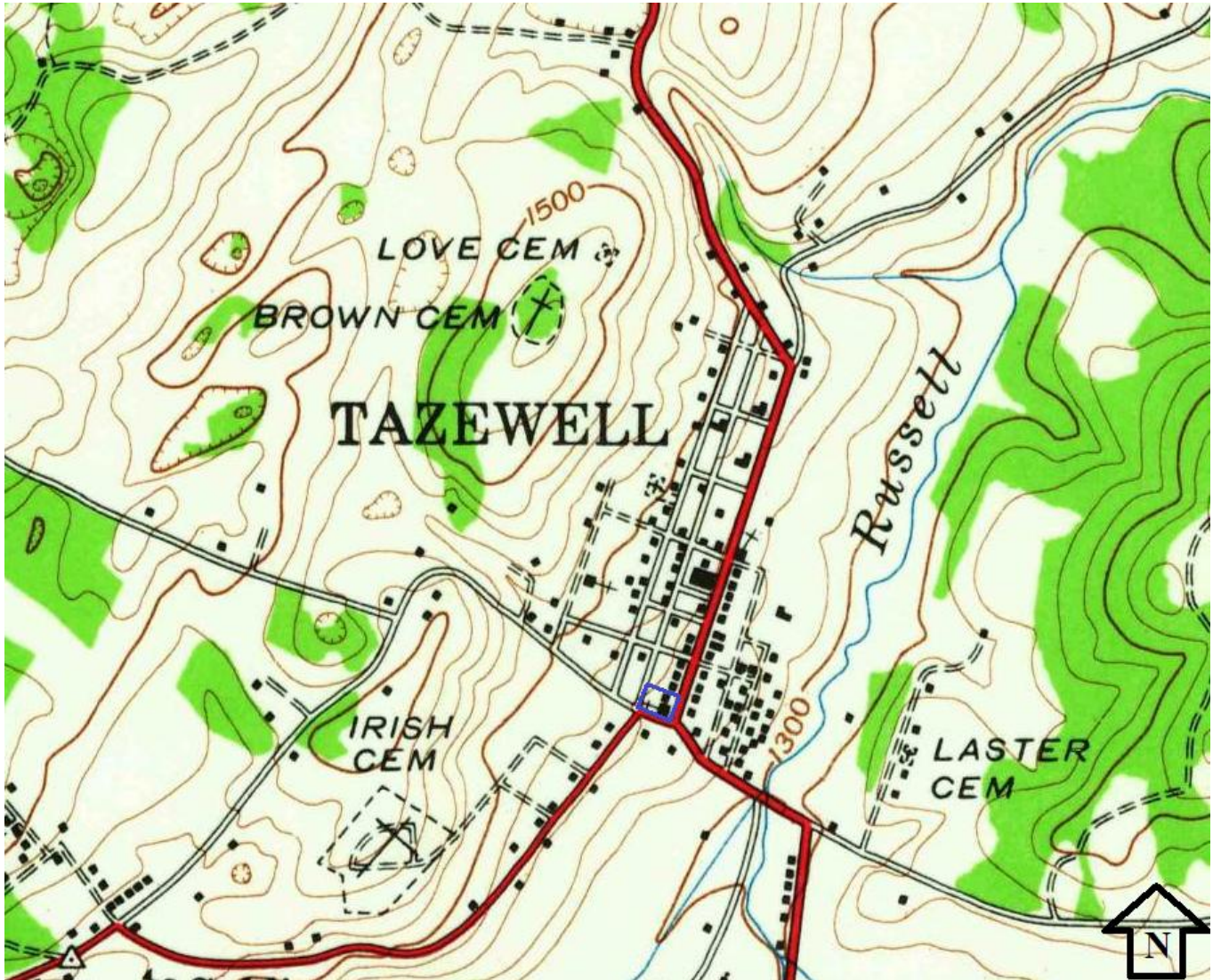
Boundary Justification

The selected boundary is appropriate to enclose the resources and land historically associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. The current parcel boundary occupies approximately half of one city block. In 1906, when the land was acquired by the church, the property consisted of two adjacent lots. The three bounding streets to the east, south, and west were defined by 1936 and have remained unchanged since that time.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
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USGS Topographic Map



Portion of USGS Tazewell Quadrangle (154-NE), Tennessee, 7.5-minute series topographic map, 1943, showing the location of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell property (presently the Tazewell United Methodist Church), indicated by a blue rectangle. North arrow included at bottom right.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
Tazewell
Name of Property

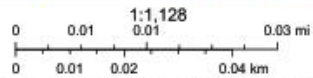
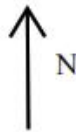
Claiborne County, TN
County and State

Boundary Map

Claiborne County - Parcel: 096A A 032.00



Date: September 10, 2024
County: Claiborne
Owner: CHURCH TAZEWELL METHODIST
Address: MAIN ST 1702
Parcel Number: 096A A 032.00
Deeded Acreage: 0
Calculated Acreage: 0
Date of TDOT Imagery: 2019
Date of Vexcel Imagery: 2023



Earl Community Maps Contributors, Tennessee STS GIS, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Earl, TomTom, Garmin, SateGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METU, NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Property Assessments (DPA), TDOT Aerial Surveys

The property lines are compiled from information maintained by your local county Assessor's office but are not conclusive evidence of property ownership in any court of law.

National Register Boundaries are shown by the blue shaded area.
Map provided by the State of Tennessee Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
Tazewell
Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

Name Sarah Anderson
Organization East Tennessee Development District
Street & Number P.O. Box 249 Date January 2026
City or Town Alcoa, TN Telephone (865) 273-6003 x114
E-mail sanderson@etdd.org State TN Zip Code 37701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints. Photos should be submitted separately in a JPEG or TIFF format. Do not embed these photographs into the form)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. can be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps. They can also be embedded in the Section 7 or 8 narratives)

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
Tazewell

Claiborne County, TN

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell
City or Vicinity: Tazewell
County: Claiborne County State: Tennessee
Photographer: Sarah Anderson
Date Photographed: June 4, 2024; February 5, 2025; January 15, 2026

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 49. Façade (east elevation) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing northwest.

2 of 49. Façade (east elevation) and south elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing northwest.

3 of 49. South elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing north.

4 of 49. South elevation of the original portion (1912) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing northeast.

5 of 49. West (rear) elevation of the original portion (1912) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photograph facing northeast.

6 of 49. Original portion (1912) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell at right and the rear addition (1951) at left, showing the recessed entry/hyphen at center. Photographer facing north.

7 of 49. South and east elevations of the rear addition (1951) to the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing northwest.

8 of 49. West (rear) and south elevations of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing northeast.

9 of 49. West (rear) elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing southeast.

10 of 49. North and west (rear) elevations of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing southeast.

11 of 49. North and east elevations of the rear addition (1951) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing southwest.

12 of 49. North elevation of the original portion (1912) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing southeast.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
Tazewell

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13 of 49. North elevation of the original portion (1912) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell and east elevation of the rear addition (1951). Photographer facing southwest.

14 of 49. Façade (east elevation) and north elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell. Photographer facing southwest.

15 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the nave and pulpit at right. Photographer facing north.

16 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the nave and west wall windows. Photographer facing west.

17 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the nave and east wall windows. Photographer facing southeast.

18 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the narthex and infilled original entry at right. Photographer facing southeast.

19 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the entry to the rear addition from the nave. The original window was converted to a single-leaf entry, retaining the original stained glass as a light. Photographer facing north.

20 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the east end of the hallway in the rear addition, including the original exposed limestone exterior. Photographer facing southeast.

21 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the hallway in the rear addition. Photographer facing northwest.

22 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing entries to secondary spaces along the north side of the rear addition's hallway. Photographer facing north.

23 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the west end of the rear addition hallway. Photographer facing northwest.

24 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the west portion of the south classroom in the rear addition and the doors that open to reveal the stage. Photographer facing northwest.

25 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the east portion of the south classroom in the rear addition. Photographer facing southeast.

26 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the storage room in the rear addition. Photographer facing northeast.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
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27 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the pastor's study in the rear addition. Photographer facing north.

28 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the Sunday School room in the rear addition. Photographer facing northeast.

29 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the kitchen in the rear addition. Photographer facing northwest.

30 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the stage room in the rear addition. Photographer facing south.

31 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell showing the partial basement and equipment room. Photographer facing south.

32 of 49. Façade (east elevation) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage in the foreground and the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell in the background. Photographer facing southwest.

33 of 49. South elevation and façade (east elevation) of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage. Photographer facing northwest.

34 of 49. South elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage; a portion of the church's rear addition is seen at left. Photographer facing northwest.

35 of 49. West (rear) elevation and south elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage. Photographer facing northeast.

36 of 49. West (rear) elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage; the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell can be seen at right. The non-contributing play structure can be seen in the foreground at left. Photographer facing southeast.

37 of 49. North and west (rear) elevations of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage in the foreground at left; north and west (rear) elevations of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell in the background at right. The non-contributing shed and play structure can be seen in the foreground at left and center, respectively. Photographer facing southeast.

38 of 49. North elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage; the non-contributing shed can be seen in the foreground at center right. Photographer facing southwest.

39 of 49. Façade (east elevation) and north elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage; the non-contributing shed can be seen at right. Photographer facing southwest.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
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40 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the living room, including the opening to the dining room at left and the entry to the hallway at right. Photographer facing west.

41 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the living room. Photographer facing northeast.

42 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the front bedroom. Photographer facing west.

43 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the second bedroom. Photographer facing east.

44 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the bathroom. Photographer facing northeast.

45 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the third bedroom. Photographer facing southwest.

46 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the dining room. Photographer facing northwest.

47 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the kitchen. Photographer facing southwest.

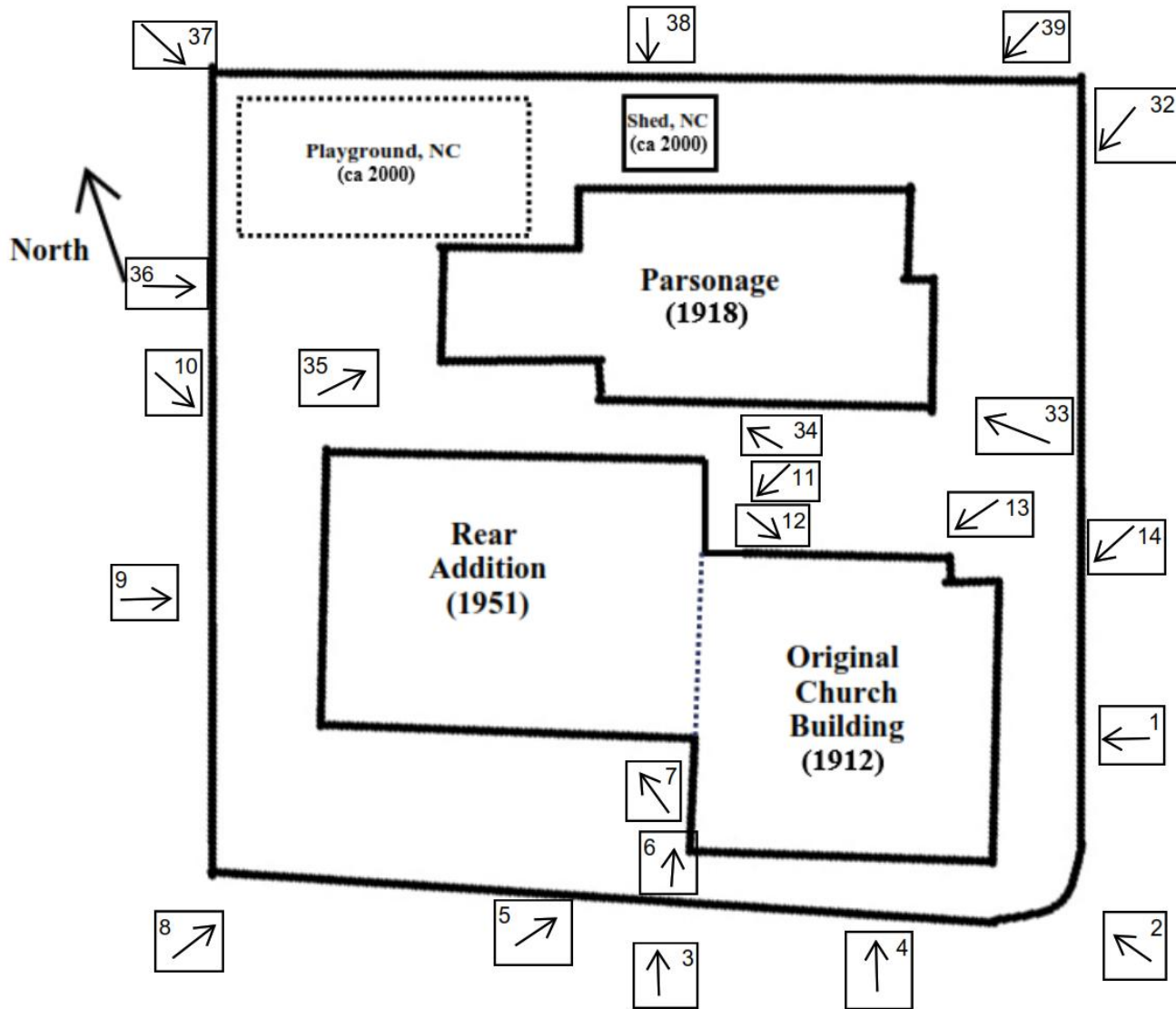
48 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the entry to the enclosed rear porch. Photographer facing northwest.

49 of 49. Interior photograph of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell parsonage showing the enclosed rear porch and laundry room. Photographer facing northwest.

Methodist Episcopal Church South at
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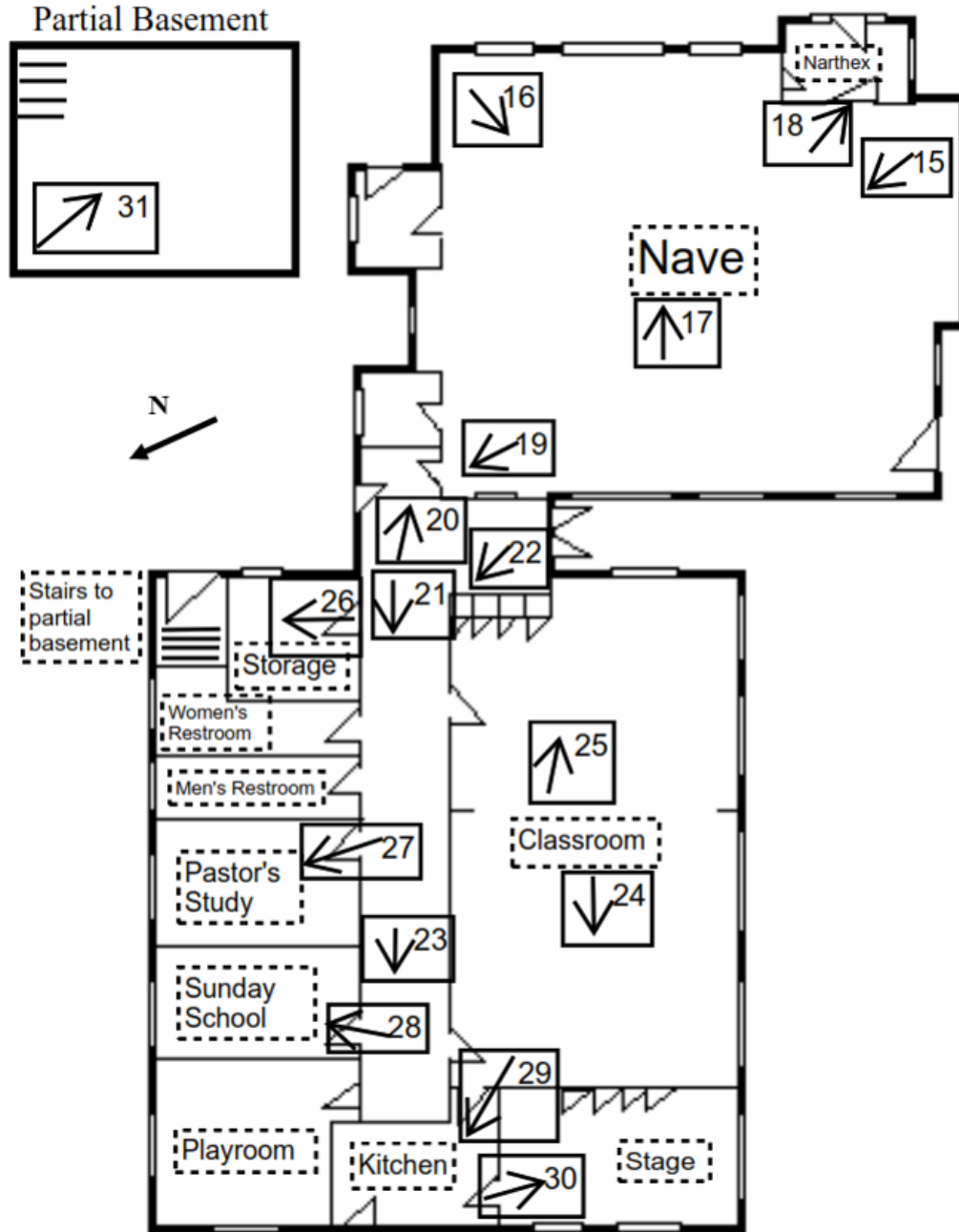
Site Plan with Photos Keyed



Methodist Episcopal Church South at
Tazewell
Name of Property

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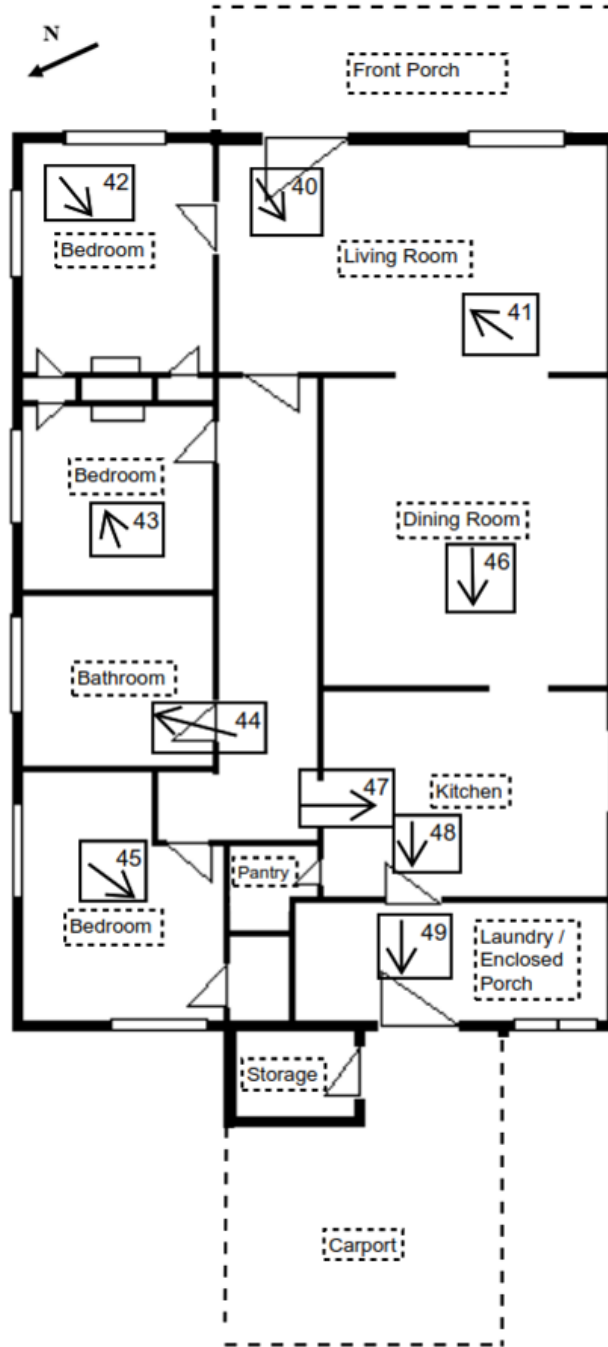
**Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell - First Floor Plan and Partial Basement
with Photos Keyed**



Methodist Episcopal Church South at
Tazewell
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Methodist Episcopal Church South at Tazewell Parsonage - First Floor Plan with Photos Keyed



Property Owner(s):

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name Church Tazewell Methodist & Parsonage (DBA: Tazewell United Methodist Church)
Street &
Number P.O. Box 321 Telephone (423) 686-3350
City or Town Tazewell State/Zip Tennessee / 37879

Additional contacts –

- Pastor Judy Keller
 - o 423-907-4523
 - o judykeller37@yahoo.com

- Barbara (Melissa) Smith
 - o 865-278-4449
 - o Bs819185@gmail.com
 - o 539 Fan Street, Tazewell, TN 37879

- Fred Dyer
 - o 757-817-6207
 - o Freddyer44@yahoo.com

- Katie DeFord
 - o 540-817-5458
 - o Katiedeford.tn@gmail.com

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AT TAZEWELL
TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AT TAZEWELL
TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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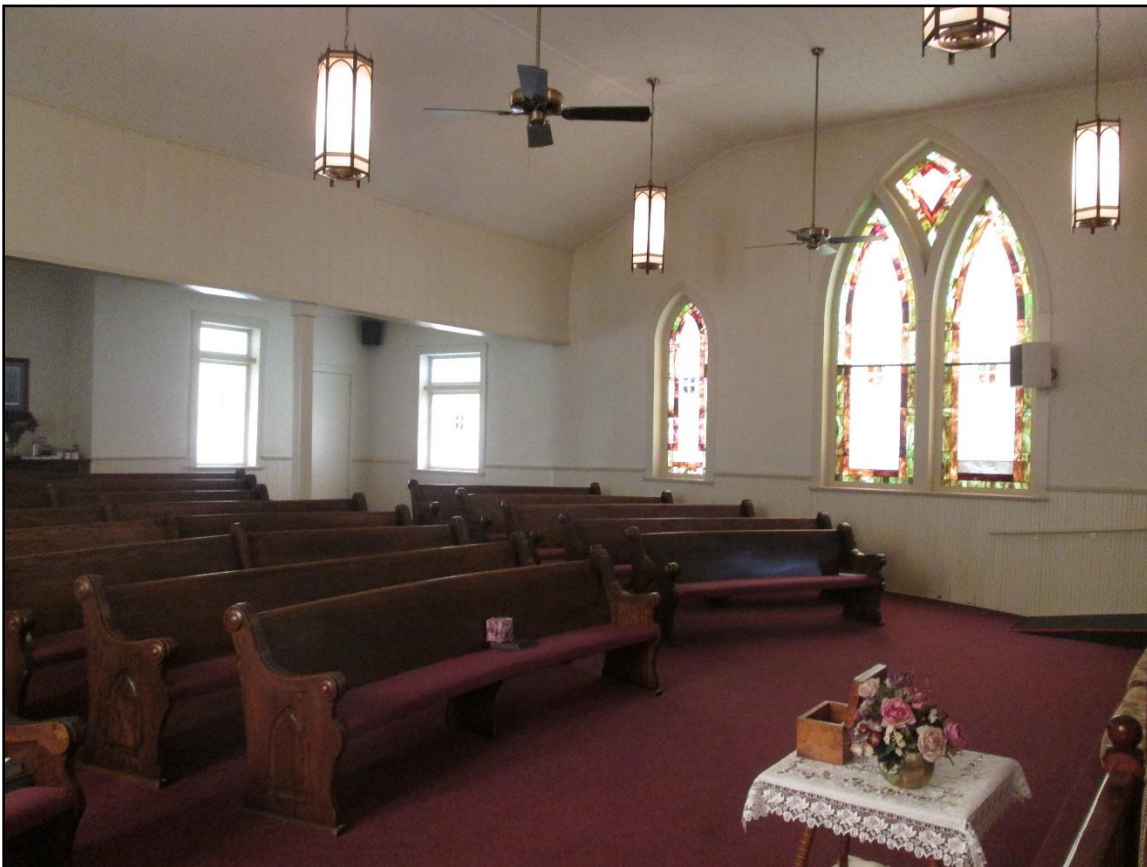


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TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AT TAZEWELL
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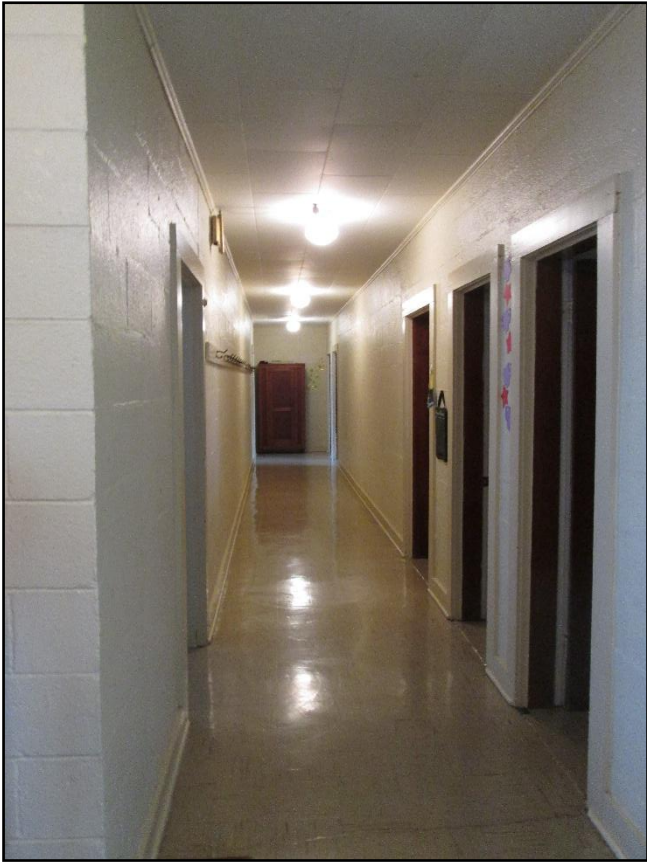


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**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AT TAZEWELL
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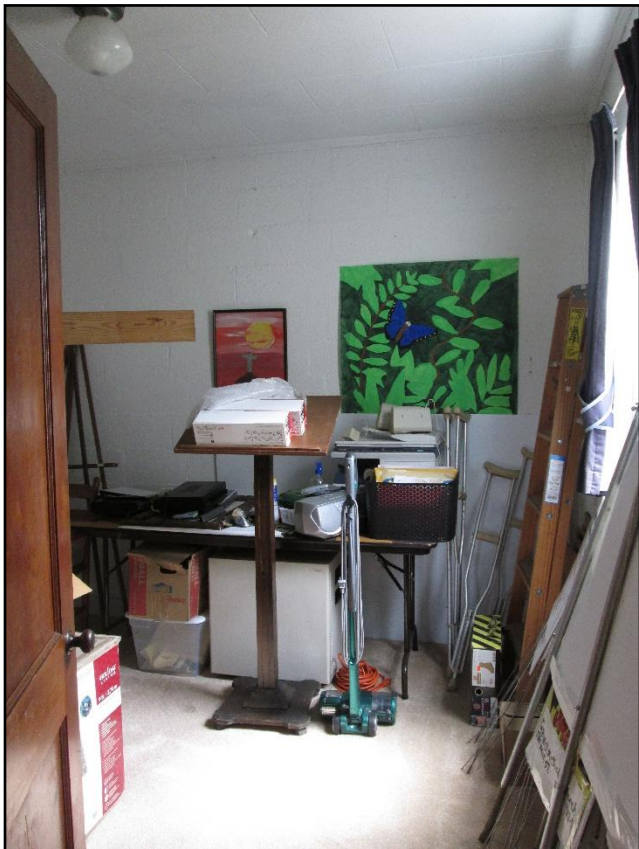


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TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AT TAZEWELL
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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AT TAZEWELL
TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



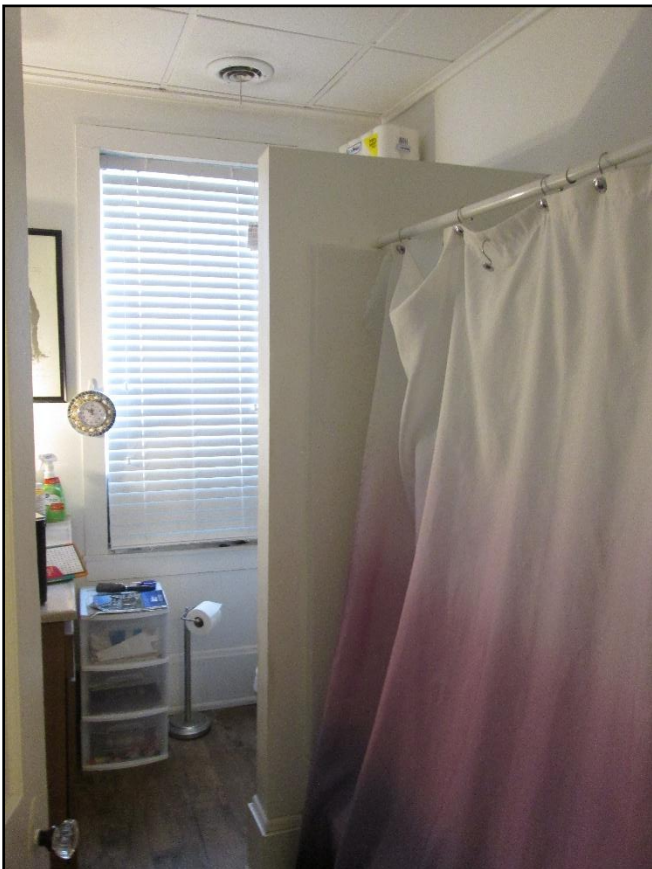
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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AT TAZEWELL
TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE



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TAZEWELL, CLAIBORNE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



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