

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

 SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
 INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Conway Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Conway Methodist Church, 1898 and 1910
Sanctuaries

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: First United Methodist Church

LOCATION: Fifth Avenue

CLASSIFICATION: Buildings

OWNER: First United Methodist Church
1001 Fifth Avenue
Conway, S.C.

DESCRIPTION

There are three extant sanctuaries of the First United Methodist Church in Conway; the two earlier buildings are included in the nomination for the Conway Multiple Resource Area.(1) The three churches occupy one city block along Fifth Avenue between Main and Laurel Streets. The 1898 sanctuary is located at the site of a ca. 1845 sanctuary; it is the oldest of the three extant buildings which have housed this congregation. Adjacent to this sanctuary is a 1910 Mission Revival style building, and adjacent to that sanctuary is the present one, built in 1961.

The 1898 sanctuary is a one-story, brick, cruciform, cross-gable-roofed, Gothic-influenced building. It is laid in Flemish bond and features Tudor arched stained-glass lancet windows with lozenges at the northeast, southwest, and southeast elevations. The northwest elevation features a circular one-over-one sash, rectangular window with lancet-motif stained-glass. There are single entrances which flank the projecting bay of the northeast elevation. The eaves have exposed

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rafters and purlin ends. The interior has plastered walls (with recent sheet paneling in the sanctuary) and beaded-board ceilings.

The 1910 Mission Revival style building is a large one-story, front-gabled roof, stuccoed building. Two square bell-towers (the tower at the left of the facade is the taller of the two) with shaped parapets and corner posts frame the entrance bay. Both towers feature staggered, rectangular, one-over-one sash, stained panels and blind and louvered panels with key-blocks and drip moulds. The entrance bay is composed of a double-leaf door, which is framed by posts which rise above the shed roof into the shaped parapet. Small rectangular stained panels fill the space between these posts and the bell towers. Above the entrance parapet is a round-headed, recessed blind-arch. The side elevations have tall three-part round-headed windows recessed slightly between vertical bay divisions. The lower portion of each window is a one-over-one stained-glass panel. The center section is a recessed wooden panel with three round-arched recessed decorative elements. The top section is a single stained-glass panel with a round-arched head. There are knee-brackets supporting the overhanging eaves. The interior is a meeting-hall plan; giant pilasters reflect the bay divisions of the stained-glass windows. The altar and all pews have been removed.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture/Local History

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

These two sanctuaries are locally significant for their architectural styles. They also illustrate a period of rapid growth in the history of Conway, as the congregation which erected the small sanctuary of 1898 felt the need to erect a much larger one only twelve years later.

The older sanctuary was built in four months and was dedicated on 21 October 1898, and an observer at the dedication wrote that the new building was "a thing of beauty." The building was valued at \$3500 soon after it was dedicated.(2) The population of the county grew dramatically from 1900 to 1910, and the congregation grew as well; according to one account, the congregation and Sunday School classes rapidly outgrew the building.(3) Since the 1910 sanctuary was erected this building has housed several Sunday School classes as well as the "Hut Bible Class," which has been meeting here since 1938.(4)

The 1910 sanctuary was designed by Joseph Leitner, an architect from Wilmington, North Carolina, and was built by Henry P. Little, a Conway builder and contractor whose house is also included in the nomination for the Conway Multiple Resource Area (see individual inventory form). This building was dedicated in October 1910 and was valued at \$13,000; its seating capacity was estimated at 500. When the fourth sanctuary was built in 1961 this building was converted for use into a fellowship hall.(5)

Though the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places

state that churches will not ordinarily be considered for the National Register, Exception A states that "a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance" may be considered. The two Conway Methodist Church sanctuaries are exceptions to the criteria because of their architectural significance and their illustration of a period of significant growth in the development of Conway.

ACREAGE: .5 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Horry County Tax Map # 137-2, section 5, parcel 1, drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the 1898 and 1910 sanctuaries and their immediate settings and the church cemetery.

QUAD NAME: Conway

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/680620/3745580

NOTES

1) The proper name of the church at the time of these two sanctuaries was the Conway Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but it was popularly known as the Conway Methodist Church and these sanctuaries are nominated by that less cumbersome name.

2) A.J. Stokes, "Up the Waccamaw to Conway - A Church Dedication," Southern Christian Advocate (Nashville: The Methodist Episcopal Church, South), 10 November 1898, p. 5; Minutes of the One Hundred and Thirteenth Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Held in Greenwood, S.C., December 7-12, 1898 (n.p., E.O. Watson and S.H. Zimmerman, 1899), p. 62.

3) Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910: Abstract of the Census: Statistics of Population, Agriculture, Manufactures, and Mining for the United States, the States, and Principal Cities with Supplement for South Carolina Containing Statistics for the State, Counties, Cities, and Other Divisions (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1913), p. 594; Evan Norton, "Methodism in Horry County" Southern Christian Advocate (Nashville: Methodist Episcopal Church, South), 2 November 1911, p. 3.

4) A. Carl Sessions, "First United Methodist Church of Conway, South Carolina," unpublished typescript, ca. 1971-1975, in Historical Marker Files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

5) Sessions.