

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Manchester Methodist Episcopal Church South, Old

and/or common Manchester United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 129 Woods Mill Road

not for publication

city, town Manchester

vicinity of 2nd District - Robert A. Young

state Missouri

code 029

county St. Louis

code 189

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

Board of Trustee

name Manchester United Methodist Church

street & number 129 Woods Mill Road

city, town Manchester

vicinity of

state Missouri 63011

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds - St. Louis County

street & number 7900 Forsyth Avenue

city, town Clayton

state Missouri 63105

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1935

☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington 1st Street and Independence Avenue

state D.C. 20000

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Continuation sheet MANCHESTER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH
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General Conference Survey of United Methodist Church
Unknown
Methodist Church Records
Central College
Fayette, Mo. 39069

x State

Daughters of the American Revolution Survey
1970
Regent - Margaret Blatz
11314 Conway Road
Fontanec, Mo. 63131

x State

St. Louis Parks and Recreation Survey
1970
St. Louis Park Board
7900 Forsyth
Clayton, Mo. 63105

x County

Survey of the History of St. Louis
1911
St. Louis City Library
St. Louis, Mo. 63100

x County

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Nestled behind several large trees but situated near the intersection of Manchester Road and Woods Mill Road is the original chapel of the Manchester United Methodist Church built in 1856. Since the building fronts on Woods Mill Road, it hides from immediate view the addition of the educational building and church offices built in 1964-65 and the sanctuary built in 1968.

What appears to the casual observer as a nice little country church is in actuality one large structure that illustrates the growth of this area from rural St. Louis County to present suburbia.

The most important portion historically and architecturally of this complex is the original Greek Revival chapel structure which was started in 1856. The foundation of limestone is two (2) feet thick and opens to the south at ground level. The upper portion of the structure is made of brick laid in the common bond pattern. The overall measurement of the rectangular building is thirty-six (36) feet wide and fifty-four (54) feet in length. The ceiling is eighteen (18) feet in height. There are four triple hung sash windows on the north and south facades divided by muntins into eight over eight over twelve panes. In the east facade there is an oval window in the gable end which is surrounded by stone with four keystones.

The gable roof with eave returns is topped on the east with an octagonal cupola with metal cap and finial. In its original state there were two entrances on the east, one for men and one for women. The southern entrance has been closed and replaced with a double wide window. A porch was added prior to 1913. The roof is supported by paired doric columns and the central steps are accentuated with a curved pediment.

Immediately to the west of the chapel is a two story, twelve room educational building which was completed in 1964-65. The architect for this modern brick structure was Lester Black of St. Louis. The gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles. The windows are double hung sash in the classroom portion. On the west side of this structure is the two story church office complex. This section is also laid in common bond brick but the roof is flat and covered with asphalt. The windows are double hung six over six pane.

In 1968 the cornerstone was laid for the present two story brick sanctuary. The architect for this "contemporary colonial" structure was P. J. Hoener and Associates and the builder was Ward Construction Company. The hip roof ending in a finial is covered with asbestos shingles with dentils at the eave line. The windows are double hung six over six pane in the north and south facades. A string band of smooth stones separate the main sanctuary floor from the lower level.

Adjacent to the church property and the north is a cemetery maintained by the church. Among the notables buried there is John Ball, a frontiersman for St. Louis County and early community leader. Over the years many other community leaders were laid to rest in the cemetery of the church which they attended.

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The interior of the original chapel appears in its original state with little alteration during the past one hundred and twenty-six years. The furnishings have been updated but changes in the chapel structure work has been restoration oriented. The notable changes would be the removal of chimneys from the north and south roof lines and the opening of doorways on the south facade at the basement level.

The property contains no other exterior buildings, but the majority of the ground surrounding the structure is covered with asphalt to provide parking facilities for cars.

¹St. Louis Globe-Democrat, June 30-July 1, 1973, page 13A.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1856

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Manchester United Methodist church is significant as the first church to be established in the western area of present day St. Louis County. Historically it has served the community for over one hundred and eighty four years and from the present location for nearly one hundred and fifty years. Not only has the presence of the congregation had a profound effect upon the development of the community, but the 1856 chapel building has been a landmark on Woods Mill Road for one hundred and twenty-six years. It is an important landmark to St. Louis County.

Previous to the erection of the first Methodist Church edifice on the site, Manchester had been one of the preaching places on the St. Louis Circuit, however, there was no church building. Just when the first Methodist services were held we have not been able to discover. However, from the reminiscences of one of the pioneer preachers, Rev. Samuel G. Patterson, we find the following:

"In the fall of 1837 I received my fourth appointment in the Missouri Conference, which was St. Louis Circuit, St. Louis Conference, Silas Comfort Presiding Elder. On reaching my circuit I adopted a plan which worked well for myself, as well as for the circuit. Learning from the "plan" of the Circuit, who were the stewards, I drove to the house of one of them, R. Clayton, and told him I was the Circuit Preacher, and wished to place my family in charge of the Stewards, to be provided for, as they deemed best my work would require all my time, so I would have no time to look after the wants of my family."

Because of the poor roads and also the slow means of travel, which was horseback or by means of such buggies as they had at that time, with the large territory the circuit preacher had to cover, it was sometimes three months between his visits to his family. Rivers were forded on horseback or by the crude ferries of that day, there being no bridges.

But to continue Rev. Patterson's reminiscences:

"The St. Louis Circuit embraced the county of St. Louis, except the city, and a part of an adjacent county. My preaching places were Manchester, Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, Fee Fee Chapel, Coldwater Church, Union School house, Gravois meeting house (in Franklin County near Labadie), Columbia Bottom, Conway Schoolhouse, Laban Landon's, Widow Hamilton's and others. There were quite a number of schoolhouses and union meeting houses on the circuit, therefore, but few appointments were at private houses; but there was not a Methodist Meeting house in the bounds of the Circuit. The union churches were little better than barns, and were frequently a source of contention and trouble, and, so far as my experience goes, very little good came of them, from the fact that they belonged to anybody, everybody,

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and nobody. I confess I am not much of a union man on that subject.

The Presiding Elder resided in Manchester, which afforded me an opportunity to be often with him and frequently with his family.

At one of the Quarterly meetings held at Manchester, we protracted the meeting some ten days, assisted by John Glanville and John Monroe, resulting in much good to the membership, conversions, and accessions to the church, and the building in the town of the first Methodist Meeting House on St. Louis Circuit."

Mention is made in this reminiscence of the fact that his family was boarded in the home of Mark Sappington and the Circuit Preacher was paid a quarterly allowance of \$216. A parsonage was erected in the summer of 1838 in the Gravois settlement on ground given by Richard Sappington.

Thus we have an authentic account of the building of the first Methodist Church in St. Louis County.

When in 1844, the Methodist Church divided and the M. E. Church, South was established, St. Louis Circuit went with the southern branch and in 1850, Manchester Circuit was formed. At that time the Circuit was made up of the following preaching places: Manchester, Harbison's, Brown's, Presbyterian Church, Glanville's Gravois, Oak Hill, Sappington, Des Peres, and in 1854, Long's School House, Allenton, Hamilton Creek, Wild Horse Creek, Fenton, and Ballwin were added. However, the Circuit Preacher had a "local" preacher, who assisted him in covering this large field of labor.

In 1859 a new church, the present building, (now known as the Chapel) was so near completion that Sunday School was held in the basement in March and the building was finished that year at a cost of \$6,389.00. Rev. J.R. Bennett was Presiding Elder and Wesley Browning, Pastor. The Trustees were E. Berry, Wm. D. Bacon, and Levi De Foe.

From 1850 to the present over fifty-six ministers have served as pastor of the Manchester Church. It is worth special mention that during the Civil War, Manchester was able to hold regular services with regular ministers, which was not the case in many of the Southern Methodist Churches in Missouri.

The Centennial Celebration in 1937 consisted of preaching at 10:30 a.m., by Rev. Arthur Mather of St. Louis, a basket dinner, and at 2:00 p.m. a "Reminiscence Service" in which many told of their memories in connection with the church. Letters from former pastors and members of the church were read.

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Records of the Quarterly conferences from 1851 to the present time are in possession of the Official Board of the Manchester Church and furnish some very interesting items. During the years 1851-69, among the names of the members of the Board of Stewards, the following appear: S. A. Hall, Enoch Berry, Wm. Brock, Joseph Patterson, Samuel Rudeer, P. Tippet, Leve De Foe, Dr. Barbee, Samuel T. Van Dover, Thomas Mason, Kenneth Shotwell, J.F. Bunberry and many others.

The present congregation maintains a day-care school, a daily school for the St. Louis Association for Retarded Children, seminars to inform the community of public issues, the West St. Louis County Office of the Clinical Association for Religious Education and Counseling, Inc., facilities for the Senior Adults and the Singles plus two ecumenical West County groups. Historically the church played a vital role in the development of the Manchester community and it continues to serve the community today.

In the early history of the church, Manchester was a one day stage coach ride from St. Louis on the road to Jefferson City, and the church still includes that memory in its annual financial drive: a mounty horseman rides up to the church after a Sunday service and holds a mail call to open the campaign.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri's history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Manchester United Methodist Church, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Religion."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Centennial Bulletin, November 28, 1937.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, June 30-July 1, 1973, page 13A.

Stuart, Frances R., The Mixed-Up House of Stuarts, no publisher.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 10

Quadrangle name Manchester

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 716900 4274530
Zone Easting Northing

C

E

G

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

F

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Commencing at a point approximately five hundred feet north of the northwest corner of the intersection of Woods Mill Road and Manchester Road at what is known as a tract of land in the Southwest quarter (1/4) of Section thirty-six (36), township

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1) Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor of History

organization Northwest Missouri State University

date August 3, 1982

street & number 306 Colden Hall

telephone (816) 582-7141 ext. 1289

city or town Maryville,

state Missouri 64468

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

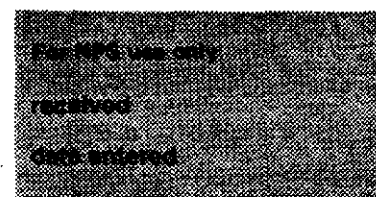
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forty-five (45) North, Range five (5) East in the Subdivision of the William Triplett Estate; thence west two-hundred eighty-one point eighty-eight (281.88) feet; thence north forty-six point seventy-five (46.75) feet; thence west two hundred forty-one point five (241.5) feet; thence north along the inside east curb line of Creve Coeur Street for two hundred seventy point seven (270.7) feet; thence east two hundred eighty-one point eight-eight (281.88) feet; thence north two hundred seventy-eight point eighty-four (278.84) feet; thence south five hundred thirty-nine point fifty-four (539.54) feet along the inside curb line on the west side of Woods Mill Road to the place of beginning.

A further legal description from the general warranty deeds describes the property as follows:

- Parcel 1: Part of Lot 21 of the Subdivision of William Triplett's Estate in Section 36, Township 45 North, Range 4 East, St. Louis County, Mo.
- Parcel 2: A tract of land in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 31, Township 45 North, Range 5 East.
- Parcel 3: Part of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 1 of Triplett's Addition to Manchester.
- Parcel 4: Part of Lot 20 of William Triplett's Estate in Section 36, Township 45 North, Range 4 East, St. Louis County, Mo.
- Parcel 5: Parts of Lots 20 and 21 of William Triplett's Estate in Section 36, Township 45 North, Range 4 East, St. Louis County, Mo.

7961 III NW
(CREVE COEUR)

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

716

141

4 MI TO MO 340

13 MI. TO U.S. 40 & 61 :717

90°30'

38°37'30"

(1954) Quadrangle
Photorevised 1968 &
1974

A. 15/716900/427430

1-010 000
FEET

Manchester

DES PERES 3.5 MI.
BRENTWOOD 8.9 MI.

T. 45 N.

T. 44 N.

354

37

1.5

W T 11.

TO N

22

1

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Manchester Methodist Episcopal Church**

City or Vicinity: **Manchester**

County: **St. Louis County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Tom Carneal**

Date

Photographed: **Nov. 1981**

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

- 1 of 16. NE
- 2 of 16. NE
- 3 of 16. E
- 4 of 16. SE
- 5 of 16. S
- 6 of 16. S
- 7 of 16. S
- 8 of 16. S
- 9 of 16. NW
- 10 of 16. N
- 11 of 16. Old Chapel Interior.
- 12 of 16. Old Chapel Window Interior.
- 13 of 16. Old Chapel Doorway Interior.
- 14 of 16. New Chapel Interior.
- 15 of 16. Reprint of 1913 Postcard
- 16 of 16. Cemetery – W.



MANCHESTER
• UNITED •
METHODIST CHURCH
1000 N. 10TH ST. - SUITE 100
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63104
TEL: 368-1000 - FAX: 368-1001





























