

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**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 PropertyHistoric name: Marion First United Methodist Church

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 624 South Adams StreetCity or town: Marion State: IN County: GrantNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x 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 x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

xA ____B xC ____D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
DateIndiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

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 or 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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
STUCCO
roof: STONE: slate
other: STONE: limestone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Marion's First United Methodist Church was completed in 1923 and designed in the Tudor or English Gothic style by prominent Chicago architect, Nelson Max Dunning. The L-planned brick building, taking a prominent position on the city's near south side, has features of both Gothic and Tudor styles in its stone trim, stucco and half-timbering. The expressive details of its English-inspired leaded and stained art glass windows and carved stonework are impressive features of the building.

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Narrative Description

Site

Marion's First United Methodist Church occupies the southeast quarter of a city block three blocks directly south of the Grant County Courthouse in downtown Marion. The large city library is in the block west of the church block and the former site of the Methodist Church, razed after this building was constructed, is directly west of the church site on the west side of the alley. That site is now occupied by a former Firestone Station (seen in the left corner of photo 05). A large parking lot is south of the church site and a mix of residential and commercial compose the area to the east and south.

The site is bounded by concrete sidewalks on Adams Street, which the church fronts, and 7th Street (a brick street), where a secondary entrance to the building is located (photo 01). The church is a large L-plan with its north and west walls fronting alleys (photos 04-05), and a large green lawn with minimal landscaping on the southeast corner of the site (photos 01-02). While not perfectly an L-plan (the back wing extends slightly north), the building will be generally described as such. The lawn is raised and features a tall concrete curb along the sidewalk. A modern brick and stone church sign is in the southeast corner of the lawn and faces southeast (photo 01). A landscape bed is located between the sidewalk and front entry on Adams Street. A canvas awning supported by metal poles stretches from the building, over the entry steps, to the street curb at this location (photo 03). Two side entries are located on the north façade; the east entry was added to facilitate a concrete handicap ramp. The west entry has a concrete sidewalk and curb against the alley (photo 04).

Exterior

The brown-colored brick church has limestone trim and a balanced composition with the narthex and nave in the east-facing, three-story wing of the L-plan and offices and classrooms in the south-facing, four-story wing of the L-plan (photo 01). The narthex is also referenced interchangeably with lobby or entry to the nave and the nave is also referenced interchangeably with sanctuary in this document. An entry/bell tower is located on the inside corner of the two wings (photo 02). A modern, one-story addition that features a three-story elevator tower is in front of the entry/bell tower and extends to the south (left side of photo 02). The building has a tall limestone base (part of a raised fellowship hall) and stone beltcourse at the top of the second story. The building features Gothic-arched stained and leaded art glass windows with stone sills and brick arches throughout most of the nave/narthex wing and entry/bell tower. The classroom and office wing features mostly 16/16 modern windows that mimic the original 16/16 leaded and stained art glass windows, with stone sills and brick lintels. The building has a gabled roof covered with slates. The nave and narthex feature gabled parapets (photo 03) while the classroom/office wing features stucco and half-timbering in its gable walls (photo 05). A square cupola with slates on its walls and a low-pitched hipped roof, covered with metal, is located at

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the junction of the two wings. The cupola has metal louvers on each wall. This is seen near the middle of photo 01.

The wings will be described separately, by their facades.

The nave/narthex wing extends east/west on the north side of the site (right side of photo 01). It fronts Adams Street with the main entrance to the church (photo 03). The front façade has a symmetrical composition, flanked by tall buttresses, beyond which are stair towers on each corner that break the overall symmetry of the front façade. A three-story entry bay projects in the center of the façade. It features a raised entry flanked by brick buttresses capped with stone. The entry is composed of a pair of modern metal and glass doors above which is a stone spandrel carved with FIRST METHODIST CHURCH which is flanked by carved panels. The second story of the entry bay features a wide Tudor arched window, stone, composed of six art glass sashes. The third story of the entry bay is trimmed with stone at the top and bottom and features a row of five Gothic arched art glass windows. The windows have stone surrounds with a carved panel in the bottom and stylized stone columns between the windows. A carved stone panel is in the lower corners of the row of windows and centered in the gable of the entry bay. The bay has a gabled parapet capped with stone. Flanking the projecting bay are two-story Gothic arched art glass windows divided by a panel of brick between the first and second stories. The upper sash features a stone sill and brick arch. The panel is composed of vertical rows of stretcher brick. This portion of the façade features a tall gabled parapet capped with stone and surmounted by a stone cross.

The stair towers that flank the front façade are described as part of the façade because they function as part of the narthex. The towers are semi-octagonal. Both towers feature small art glass windows in the cutaway walls in the raised stone base. Both towers feature art glass windows in each wall of the mid-level between the first and second stories. The windows have stone sills and Gothic arches composed of brick with recessed, blind arch panels. The towers' third stories differ. The north tower (right side of photo 03) features art glass windows in each wall with stone sills (part of the beltcourse) and stone lintels that are part of a stone cornice at the top of the walls. The north tower (left side of photo 03 and shown in photo 07) features a low-pitched hipped roof with bronze fascia and gutters. The south tower's third story is more elaborate and features Gothic-arched art glass windows in each wall. They are flanked by narrow brick pilasters capped with tall, stylized stone caps that feature a recessed panel with Gothic arch and gable top. A large stone belfry base, tapered inward, tops the tower. The base supports an octagonal belfry composed of pressed metal walls with ogee-arched louvered openings in each wall. The belfry is crowned with a steeply pitched hipped roof covered with pressed metal.

The north and south facades of the nave are very similar to each other. The facades are divided into five bays by two-story, stepped buttresses with stone caps on the first and second stories. A shed roof over side-aisles tops the second story and the facades step in to the side walls of the nave's third story (forming a clerestory). These walls are also divided into five bays by brick pilasters. The south wall (photo 01) has three wide bays flanked by narrow bays in contrast to the north wall's four wide bays with a narrow bay at the east end (photo 04). The wide bays feature windows with rows of three Gothic arched art glass sashes topped by lintel of soldier brick in the

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first story and Tudor arched art glass windows divided into three sashes in the second story. The windows have stone sills and brick hoods. A panel composed of stacked courses of stretcher brick is between the first and second story windows. The third story's bays feature pairs of art glass windows set into half-timbering and stucco between brick pilasters. The two narrow bays on the south façade feature a short art glass window in the first story and Gothic arched art glass window in the second story. The north façade's narrow bay features a modern metal and glass entry door (accessed by a ramp) in the first story and a Gothic arched art glass window in the second story.

The classroom/office wing of the church is fronted on its first story by a modern lobby addition which will be described first (bottom of photos 01-02, left side). The one-story addition features a stone base and brick walls that match the church. It has a pair of entry doors and transom in the east half of its south wall and three broad Gothic arched windows, all metal, in its east wall. The northernmost window is in a bay that projects. The addition features a stuccoed cornice and flat roof. A three-story elevator tower rises from the back of the addition. It is brick with corner pilasters and a stone entablature near the top. It features a brick parapet capped with stone. A Gothic arched panel is centered in the second story of the tower's east and south walls.

The remaining portion of the classroom/office wing's east façade features a bay topped with a gabled dormer south of the elevator tower and the entry/bell tower north of the elevator tower. This is seen on the left side of photo 02. The bay projects slightly and features three 16/16 modern windows with stone sills in the first and second stories (the north window on the first story is covered by the addition). On the first and second stories, the bay is flanked by brick quoins and the windows are divided by brick pilasters. The third story is trimmed at the bottom by a stone beltcourse and features three 16/16 modern windows. The fourth story features a gabled through-cornice dormer with stucco and half timbering and three 16/16 modern windows.

The entry/bell tower (best seen in the left side of photo 02) features corner buttresses that step in to form pilasters in the tall belfry. The first story is mostly covered by the addition except for a stone Tudor arch that rises above the addition and is the transom for the tower entry. The transom is composed of art glass sashes. The second story features two small Gothic arched art glass windows with stone sills and arches. A carved stone panel is between the windows and forms the base of a brick pilaster that continues up the façade to the parapet. The third story features two art glass windows with stone sills and stone hoods that compose a portion of a beltcourse around the top of the third story. A tall belfry stage tops the tower and features two large louvers in each of the four walls. The louvers have Gothic arched surrounds with stone tracery at the top of the openings. The tower features a brick parapet capped with stone with small gablets over corner pilasters and a stepped center stone over the tower's center pilasters. The center pilasters feature tall, stylized capitals with recessed Gothic arched panels topped with gablets.

A narrow section of the classroom wing's east façade juts north from the nave (right side of photo 04). It features a steel entry door and side-lite (no glass) on the first story. It has a multi-lite, Tudor arched transom. The second and third stories feature 8/8 modern windows with stone

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sills. A blind Tudor arch tops the third story window. A panel of vertically stacked stretcher brick is between the windows.

The south façade of the classroom/office wing (best seen on the right side of photo 05) features brick buttresses that flank the first and second stories. A bay is centered on the façade and is flanked by brick quoins and features four 16/16 modern windows in the first and second story. The windows have stone sills and brick lintels. Narrow pilasters of brick divide the windows and a panel composed of vertically stacked stretcher brick is between the first and second stories. The third story is trimmed at the bottom by stone. The third and fourth stories feature a wide bay composed of stucco and half-timbering centered on the façade. The bay continues up to form the gable wall. Each story of the bay has four 16/16 modern windows.

The north façade of the classroom/office wing (best seen on the extreme right of photo 04 and extreme left of photo 06) features a few locations in the first and second stories where windows have been filled in with brick. A small 1/1 modern window is east of center in the first story. A 1/1 modern window is in the west end of the first story. A 16/16 modern window is east of center in the second story and a 1/1 modern window is centered in the second story. The third and fourth stories feature a wide bay composed of stucco and half-timbering centered on the façade. The bay continues up to form the gable wall. Each story of the bay has three 16/16 modern windows. A 16/16 modern window is also in the west end of the third story.

The west façade fronts the alley, but because of its expansive width and height has a dominating presence on Washington Street as well (photos 05-06). The façade is less detailed and features simple rows of mostly 16/16 modern windows with stone sills and brick lintels. The first story features fourteen 16/16 windows and one smaller 8/8 modern window in its north half. The second story features eleven 16/16 windows and a pair of smaller 8/8 windows in its north half. A projecting three-sided oriel bay with cutaway corners is in the north end of the second story and is part of the former pastor's study (left side of photo 06). The bay is covered with vinyl siding and features three 12/12 modern windows on its front wall and 8/8 modern windows in its cutaway corner walls. The bay has a simple flat roof. A steel door is south of the bay and leads to a metal fire escape that leads up to the third and fourth stories.

The third story is trimmed at the bottom by a stone beltcourse. The third story has fourteen 16/16 windows. Three of these windows are part of a bay that extends into the fourth story and features stucco, half-timbering, and a gabled dormer in the south half of the façade. One of the 16/16 windows is adjacent to a steel door and is part of a bay that extends into the fourth story and features stucco, half-timbering, and a gabled dormer in the north half of the façade. The door accesses the fire escape. The fourth story features the stucco and half-timber through-cornice dormers mentioned in the third story. These flank a large chimney. Each dormer features three 16/16 windows. The north dormer also features a steel door that accesses the fire escape. A third dormer is in the south end of the façade. It also features stucco and half-timbering and two 16/16 windows that flank a chimney in the front wall of the dormer. A tall chimney also rises from the north end of the façade.

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Interior

The interior of the building reflects the general division of nave/narthex wing and classroom/office wing. The one-story modern addition functions as a lobby between the two wings and provides access through a modern elevator to most of the stories. Modern carpets are throughout much of the building except for wood floors that are exposed between aisles under pews in the nave and balcony (photos 18, 22). A few locations, like the youth room and kitchen, feature vinyl floor tiles (photo 30). Older bathrooms on the second story feature mosaic tiled floors. The walls throughout are plastered with simple baseboards. Ceilings are a combination of plaster and acoustic tiles. Apart from the nave and staircases, most of the trim and doors throughout the building are painted. The doors are mostly two-panel wood doors.

A large fellowship hall (photo 11) is under the nave in a raised level and is accessed from stair towers on the corners of the narthex and through the lobby addition. It has a stage centered in its east end and a kitchen with painted wood cabinets in the northwest corner. Rows of metal columns with Doric capitals support the nave above. A full basement is under the classroom/office wing and contains the mechanical systems in the north half and two classrooms added in 1964 in the south half (photo 13).

The first story of the nave/narthex wing features the main street entry of the church (photo 08) with stair towers (photo 09) connecting the corners of the narthex to the main entry to the nave and down to the fellowship hall. An older elevator from a previous remodeling campaign in 1960 is south of the main entry and accesses the fellowship hall and main lobby to the nave (photos 14-15). The second story features the nave/sanctuary and narthex lobby. The broad, curving back wall of the nave features four entries into the nave from the narthex lobby (photos 14, 19). A raised altar, or stage, is in the west end of the nave (photos 16, 21) and features sacristies flanking the altar (photo 23). Wood balconies containing organ pipes are in the north and south walls of the altar. The nave's third story balcony covers a portion of seating in the nave and extends east into the narthex. It has a north/south aisle and tiered seating to each side (photos 21-22). The nave has wooden hammer beam scissor truss construction and broad arched openings between the side aisles and the center of the nave (photo 21). The nave has three sections of pews for seating divided by four aisles.

The first story of the classroom/office wing features offices and nurseries (photo 10) off a central corridor in the south half of the wing. The north end is the upper part of the fellowship hall's kitchen. A suite of offices that includes the pastor's study, work room, office reception, and secretary's office compose an area originally designed as a small chapel in the south end of the first story. The second story features a large parlor in its south end (over the former chapel, photo 27). A fireplace is in its west wall. A corridor (photo 25) leads north with a library and choir room on the west side and elevator and stair tower on the east side (photo 24). The north half of the second story features several small offices and toilet rooms on the west side of the corridor. A large walk-in safe is off one of the offices. The former pastor's study, with fireplace, is in the northwest corner of the second story (photo 26). The east side of the corridor is the back of the altar. A staircase off the northeast corner connects each story and leads to an entry off the alley.

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The third story of the classroom/office wing features a corridor with a total of eight classrooms off either side of the south half and west side of the north half of the wing. Photos 28-29 demonstrate typical organization of each floor and classroom spaces. Organ chamber rooms are off the east side of the north half of the wing. The fourth story features a large youth room in its north half (photo 30) and a large classroom in its south end (photo 31). A smaller classroom is off the west side of a short, connecting corridor between the two large rooms. Storage rooms are tucked under the eaves while classrooms take advantage of gabled walls with windows. The stair tower features a door that leads up a narrow wood staircase to the belfry where the original cast bell is located (photo 32).

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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.)

- ☒ 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923-1964

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Dunning, Nelson Max

Danner, E. L.

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1923 when construction on the building was completed for the congregation of Marion's First Methodist Church. The period ends in 1964 when growth of the congregation prompted additional Sunday School classrooms to be constructed in the building's basement. While other remodeling projects were carried out in the church after this date, they less embodied expansion of facilities but rather focused on building upgrades and refurbishments.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Consideration A is made due to the building's rich architecture, a blend of 20th Century Gothic Revival with Tudor features by a noted Chicago architect. This and its prominent position in the city make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Marion First United Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C using architecture as the area of significance. The building's expansive design in the Late Gothic Revival style includes Tudor Revival influence. The building reflects prescribed design by religious denominations in the early 20th century. The building's architect, N. Max Dunning of Chicago, was likely referred to the congregation by the Methodist denomination's regional architect in Chicago. The design of the Marion church demonstrates a pushback against the Akron model and embrace of earlier precedents. The building has an exquisite nave featuring open trusswork and balconies and has had very little alteration over the building's 100-year history.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Construction on Marion's First United Methodist Church was completed in 1923 after the congregation out-grew its older building west of the present church. In 1919, the Methodist Episcopal denomination developed regional Bureaus of Architecture for guidance and design for congregations who were constructing new buildings. The Marion congregation fell under the Chicago regional bureau and received their design from Chicago architect N. Max Dunning, likely referred to the congregation by Frank Dillard, the first architect of the Chicago office when the bureaus were introduced in 1919. The building's cornerstone was laid in 1922 and the church was completed in December 1923. Marion First United Methodist Church is an unusual melding

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of the traditional 20th century Gothic style for religious architecture with what the architect refers to as the English type, inferred here as Tudor Gothic (photos 01-07).

Understanding the influence of the Methodist Design Bureau is important in context with the design of First Methodist in Marion. Frank G. Dillard (1881-1949), who first guided the bureau, was countering the more commonly-accepted Akron Plan for church design. Dillard wrote articles and gave lectures about a more appropriate approach to church architecture in Post-WWI America. This was at a time when congregations in many denominations were going through a building craze. Dillard favored the more traditional approach of narthex, nave, transept, and chancel with classrooms at the back rather than off the sanctuary with dividing walls like the Akron Plan. Dillard's recommended approach is clearly present in the organization of Marion's First Methodist Church.

In 1921, through the Methodist Episcopal denomination, Frank Dillard issued an illustrated bulletin named "Better Rural Churches" in the hope that when church communities plan for new buildings, they take into consideration future growth over immediate resources. The publication included three designs by Dillard. One was the conversion of a one-room church in Lakeville, Ohio into a community hall and addition of a sanctuary and entry tower. Another was for a large church in Cimmaron, New Mexico designed in the Mission Style. The third design was a recommended prototype design for a small church with a large, front gable, side entry towers, and transept/bays all in the Tudor Revival style. Architectural services were offered through the publication from both the denomination's Chicago and Philadelphia offices, but only if an architect was unavailable in the community and the project was under \$20,000 in construction costs. The cost of the Marion church was in excess of \$230,000.

Dillard provided a five-page dissertation on proper church building design in a 1922 publication on church architecture. He describes situations in which congregations fall into the use of the Akron Plan or "some other scheme that is utterly inadequate" for its needs.¹ He co-wrote an article for *The Architectural Forum* with Elmo Cameron Lowe (of Lowe & Bollenbacher, architects in Chicago) in April 1924 titled "The Small Church". The article calls on better architectural design of churches and describes the previous period of church building and design a "period of artistic depression".² The article goes into specific recommendations on design including stone-trim on brick edifices, dark interiors, and open trusses. Illustrations and photographs of the Tudor Gothic style Methodist Episcopal Church in Whiting, Indiana (designed by Lowe & Bollenbacher) are included in the article.

Nelson Max Dunning (1873-1945), the architect for Marion First Methodist, was a native of Kenosha, Wisconsin and studied architecture at the University of Wisconsin before completing apprenticeships for Solon Beman and Joseph Llewellyn in Chicago during the 1890s. Dunning won a traveling scholarship from the Chicago Architectural Sketch Club in 1900 and then returned in 1903 to open his own office. Dunning is best known in the city for designing the American Book Company Building (1912), Lakeshore Athletic Club (1924), and the American

¹ Dillard, Frank.

² Lowe & Dillard

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Furniture Mart Block (1924-1926). He designed other large commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings, as well as churches.³ Dunning, in partnership with E. E. Roberts, designed First Baptist Church of Oak Park, Illinois (1921), which has strikingly similar features, particularly its towers, to the Marion church. Whether he was recommended to the Marion congregation for the design of their new building by Dillard is unclear. Dunning's designs included buildings constructed in the Neoclassical and Tudor Gothic styles, the latter of which is expressed in the American Furniture Mart Block's impressively tall tower. Elmer L. Danner (1865-1934), a Kokomo-based general contractor, was given the contract for construction of the First United Methodist Church in Marion. Danner was previously associated with Edward Moore under the name Moore & Danner and received contracts to build federal post offices throughout the midwest and large public buildings in central Indiana.⁴

The Gothic Revival style's roots in American architecture extend back to the middle part of the 1800s and became popular in Midwestern towns by the 1850s. The style was popularized in house design and pattern books produced during this time. The pattern books gave hints for other building types. A.J. Davis' *Rural Residences* (1837) included a design for a Gothic Revival "Village Church" as well as Gothic Revival houses. A religious revival in Britain in the early 19th century renewed interest in church construction and in the English Gothic style. In religious architecture, Gothic Revival reached full expression in the United States. While Gothic Revival remained a popular choice with American congregations, toward the end of the century, architects were moving away from generic Gothic and the more recent Romanesque Revival. However, interest in Tudor Gothic Revival was capturing attention. Collegiate Gothic, inspired by Tudor Gothic architecture, took hold at places like Bryn Maur (Pembroke Hall, Stewardson & Cope, 1894). New churches by Medievalist Ralph Adams Cram helped set the trend. For example, All Saints, Ashmont, Dorchester, Massachusetts, 1893, was a purely English-inspired Gothic church.

The Marion First United Methodist Church is a large and exceptional example of the use of English or Tudor-inspired design in the Gothic style. The building plan, shaped like an L, allows the nave and narthex to read separately from the wing that contains offices and classrooms. This gives an overall impression of the more informal courtyard planning of English village churches that allows a terraced lawn to take a prominent position at the corner of the block (photo 01). The church features an asymmetrical but balanced design on the front façade of the narthex, with a taller bell tower on the south corner (photo 03). The main entry/bell tower is on the inside corner of the L-plan as opposed to a grand entry tower into the narthex (middle of photo 02). The building also features bays of broad, Tudor arched windows, trimmed with stone, and carved stone panels (photos 01-04). The most obvious features related to Tudor design on the exterior are the building's gables and gabled dormers which feature half-timbering and stucco (photos 01, 05-06). The windows of the main tower and the nave and narthex are composed of leaded art glass, some stained, with use of tracery in Gothic-inspired foil designs (best seen in photos 14-22). The windows were fabricated and provided by the Linden Company of Chicago, who also fabricated a number of windows for Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings. The church roof is

³Sylvester, Jeanne. *N. Max Dunning, FAIA Chicago Architect: His Life and Work*

⁴ "Elmer L. Danner Dies Suddenly Tuesday Night" *Kokomo Tribune* 24 Oct 1934. Pg. 1. Cols. 2-3

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covered in weathered green slate tiles (this is best seen in the close-up photo of the narthex tower, photo 07).

The interior of the building also provides evidence of Tudor Gothic design, mostly in the narthex and nave. Of particular note are the massive, exposed open trusses of the nave in a type of hammerbeam construction (photos 18, 21). The contrast of these unpainted, dark beams with bright plaster walls of the nave is distinctively English. The style is further defined in the nave by the use of side aisles separated from the main portion of the nave by wide Tudor arched openings (photo 17). The back wall of the nave has an unusual, broad curve that is then repeated in the design of wood pews (photo 19). The back wall is composed almost entirely of art glass sashes and pairs of doors into the narthex with oval windows. The doors feature ironwork and are covered with heavy metalwork. The handrails of the stair towers also incorporate foil designs between pickets (photos 20, 24). Interior windows throughout most of the classroom/office wing feature leaded glass panes in wood doors and sashes (photo 28). While most of the exterior art glass windows in the wing were replaced by modern 16/16 windows, they follow the same lite configuration and opening sizes of the original windows. Other notable interior features include the large fellowship hall's stage in its east wall (left side of photo 11) and the two fireplaces that are located in the former pastor's study and parlor in the classroom/office wing (photos 26-27).

The city of Marion experienced significant growth in the last decades of the 19th century into the first decade of the 20th century due to the development of the natural gas-fueled industry in Grant County. The economic resulted in the construction of several large public buildings, one of the first being the Grant County Courthouse built in 1881-1883, and one of the last, the public library, was constructed in 1902 and was designed by Richards, McCarty & Bulford (architectural firm responsible for Marion's First Presbyterian Church). Both government-funded buildings used the Neoclassical style, but religious buildings of similar scale to First Methodist turned to the Gothic Revival style.

First Presbyterian Church in Marion (1904) is early for the use of the English Gothic style but is also a large, and early example of the Akron Plan. First Presbyterian probably best compares to First Methodist due to its scale and is important to note because of its use of the English Gothic style. Other churches include the Episcopalian congregation's Gothic Revival house of worship, Gethsemane Episcopal (111 E. 9th Street), built in 1890. The limestone building features a cruciform plan with a corner tower. St. Paul's Catholic Church (915 S. Branson Street) was built 1895-1897 in a high version of the Late Gothic style. The brick building's front facade features tall twin towers and a steeply pitched front gable. Before the turn of the century, the federal government built a new chapel at the National Military Home located in Marion. The smaller-scaled brick building was built in 1899 with a cruciform plan but split into two sanctuaries for separate Catholic and Protestant use. The last large Gothic Revival church constructed in Marion prior to First Methodist was the First Friends Church (1501 S. Adams) built in a modern version of the style in 1914. The large brick building features crenelated parapets and is trimmed with limestone. Except for the chapel at the National Military Home, the other churches mentioned previously are within a few blocks of First Methodist Church near the downtown historic commercial district.

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Most of the other examples of the Gothic Revival style in Grant County, as applied to churches, are smaller-scaled, gable-front rural churches constructed between about 1894-1910. Twelve examples of Gothic Revival churches are scattered throughout the county in small towns and rural township locations. The buildings typically feature facades with steeply pitched roofs and simple pointed-arch windows. Many are brick with corner entry towers, and a few have crenelated parapets on the towers.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

History of Marion's First United Methodist Church

The history of Marion's First United Methodist Church extends back to the founder of Marion, Martin Boots, who came to the region in 1826 and built a mill and cabin. In 1827, he hired a miller surnamed Broderick to operate the mill. The miller's wife was named Mary and was the first practicing Methodist in the village that would become Marion. In 1828, Boots moved his family to the area. His wife and daughter were also Methodists. By 1832, there were about ten practicing Methodists in the new settlement which justified the establishment of a mission under the Madison Methodist circuit. This fell under the auspices of missionary B. W. Sweet in 1833. Between 1836 and 1838, membership had grown to about fourteen and services were held briefly in a small frame building that was never completed and subsequently burned. Services were then held at the county courthouse and Robert Burns was considered the church's first minister. The Methodist denomination in Indiana grew from south to north, following the general population growth of the state. Methodist circuits were developed to provide missionary ministers to multiple fledgling congregations throughout much of the state during the first half of the 19th century. Then, as congregations grew, full-time pastors were assigned to churches that had been part of these circuits.

As Marion grew, so did its Methodist congregation. By the mid-1840s, the church numbered about one hundred members and a small brick church was constructed on 5th Street between Washington and Boots Streets, about two blocks northwest of the present building. The gable-front building featured a corner entry tower. Ancil Beach was the congregation's second minister and led the congregation during this time. In the 1870s, Marion physician Dr. William Lomax and his wife donated two lots on the northeast corner of Washington and 7th Streets for construction of a new building. A parsonage was constructed first in 1876 on the north lot, then a campaign to construct a new church building began in 1882 on the south lot. Services continued to be held at the 5th Street building until 1883 when the congregation moved into the lower level of the new building. The building was completed in 1886 and dedicated that fall by Bishop Thomas Bowan, D. D. The impressive, Gothic style brick edifice featured a large central gable with entry flanked by nearly identical corner towers, the south corner tower having a much taller and more steeply pitched spire. The composition of the old church façade in comparison to the present church façade should be noted since a similar front-gabled entry is flanked by nearly identical towers, except that the south tower is taller and octagonal above the third story.

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While the building located at the Washington Street site was remodeled and enlarged in 1900, a demand still existed for a facility to accommodate the growing Methodist congregation. Not only was the congregation growing, but the church also needed rooms for its growing Sunday School and youth programs. Two lots were purchased east of the Washington Street building; one lot contained the former home of Dr. Lomax who donated the Washington Street site. Plans for a new church that could seat a thousand people in the sanctuary and a graded Sunday School that accommodated 2000 students were drawn up by Chicago architect, N. Max Dunning.

A groundbreaking was held in June 1922, and the cornerstone was laid on October 22, 1922, overseen by the church's pastor, Earl M. Ellsworth. The building was completed at a cost of \$236,000 in December 1923. At the time the building was dedicated on December 16, 1923, the church had a membership of 1600 and average Sunday School attendance was 700. The weekend of the dedication included a Friday night organ recital, the new organ being a product of M. P. Moller of Hagerstown, Maryland. A community service was held following the regular Sunday service on December 16, followed by a Sunday evening service. Programs continued through the week with an organ recital on Monday, former pastor's night on Tuesday, Sunday School night on Wednesday, men's night on Thursday, and women's night on Friday. Dedicatory services concluded the following Sunday with a Vesper service in the afternoon and Christmas music at a Sunday evening service that included the church's young people.

A significant amount of the church's growth can be attributed to the discovery and drilling for gas and establishment of gas-related factories in Marion during the first decades of the 20th century. The city's population, due to the creation of factories, also exploded during that time and a number of families associated with the industry attended First Methodist in Marion. Despite exhaustion of the gas supply and subsequent closure of some factories, First Methodist continued to grow into the 1930s. In 1932, the congregation celebrated their centennial, being officially organized in 1832. The celebration services were held from February 21-29, 1932. Reflections on the history of the church were provided through a pageant performed at the church. At its centennial, the church had a membership of 1735 and Sunday School attendance of over 500.

In Kansas City, Missouri in April 1939, the uniting conference was held for delegates from the Methodist Episcopal Church North, Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church to unite the three wings of the denomination to form what would be named the United Methodist Church in 1968. In August of that year, the church at Marion hosted the formation of the Northern Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church as part of carrying out the unification prescribed in Missouri. The Methodist church, first established in 1784, had split once in 1828 over the issue of lay representation in conferences (creating the Methodist Protestant Church). By 1845, the church split again over the issue of slavery to form the north and south branches. A bronze plaque was presented to the Marion church in May 1963 in honor of the role it played in unification in 1939. It was presented as the church again hosted the North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.⁵

⁵ Church clippings file/clipping from *Marion Indiana Leader-Tribune* 24 May 1963. Pg. 12

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By the 1950s and early 1960s, the church experienced additional growth spurred on by new factories locating in Marion, reminiscent of the gas boom era.⁶ It was during this time that several redecorating and remodeling campaigns occurred in the building. Frequent organ recitals were given in the sanctuary by noted New York-based organists, and a benefit concert was performed by the Chicago Pops Symphonette at the church in 1954 to raise funds for the Presnall Memorial Fund. An elevator was added in the lobby off the nave in 1960, and due to overcrowding in some classrooms, additional classrooms were added in the basement in 1964 and named the Leslie Wall Memorial Rooms. Additional changes were made to the altar area in 1968 that removed a raised choir loft and a new 48-rank pipe organ was installed by the E. H. Holloway Company. In an effort to provide better accessibility throughout the building, a new lobby and elevator were added off the classroom/office wing in the early 2000s.

⁶ First Methodist Church Through the Years 1832-1963, pg. 37

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Pages 1277-1279.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 053-384-37247

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 613542	Northing: 4490268
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning on the northwest corner of Adams and 7th Streets, face west and follow the north side of 7th Street to the east side of the north/south alley west of Adams Street. Turn north and follow the east side of the alley to the south side of the east/west alley north of 7th Street, then turn east and follow the south side of the alley to the west side of Adams Street. Turn south and follow the west side of Adams Street to the north side of 7th Street, or the place of beginning. These are lots 4 and 5 of block 30 of Turners Addition to the city of Marion.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the church and land the congregation of Marion First United Methodist Church have used since the building was completed in 1923.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: First United Methodist Church
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-936-0613
date: December 1, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
-

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Marion First United Methodist Church

City or Vicinity: Marion

County: Grant State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: October 4, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at building from intersection of Adams and 7th Streets

1 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at building from Adams Street

2 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at building from Adams Street

3 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at north façade of building from alley

4 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at back façade from 7th Street

5 of 32.

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at back façade from alley

6 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at narthex tower from fourth story

7 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at street entry to the narthex

8 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at south stair tower from narthex

9 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north in church nursery

10 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast in fellowship hall

11 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east in kitchen toward fellowship hall

12 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast in basement classroom

13 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north in narthex at main entry into the nave

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14 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north into north stair tower of narthex

15 of 32.

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

16 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in south side aisle of nave

17 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east in nave from altar

18 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at back of nave under balcony

19 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south into south stair tower of nave

20 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest into nave from balcony

21 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south across balcony toward stair tower

22 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking at cabinetry in sacristy

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23 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking up in entry/bell tower

24 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south in main corridor of second story

25 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest in former pastor's study toward fireplace and bay

26 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in parlor toward fireplace

27 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north from stair/elevator landing toward main corridor

28 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in third story classroom

29 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest in fourth story youth room

30 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west in fourth story classroom

31 of 32.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking at bell in church belfry, main entry/bell tower

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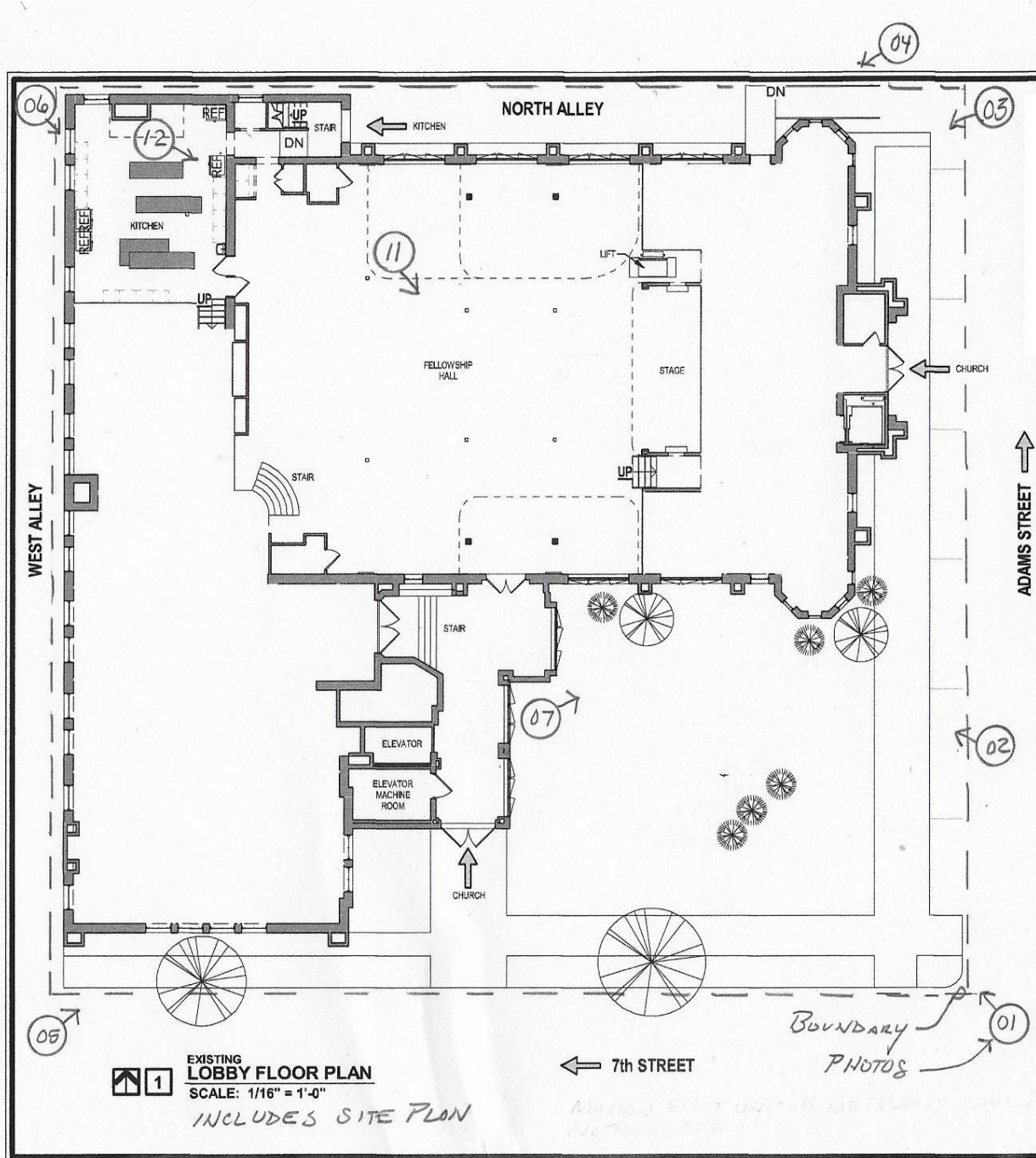
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Grant County, IN

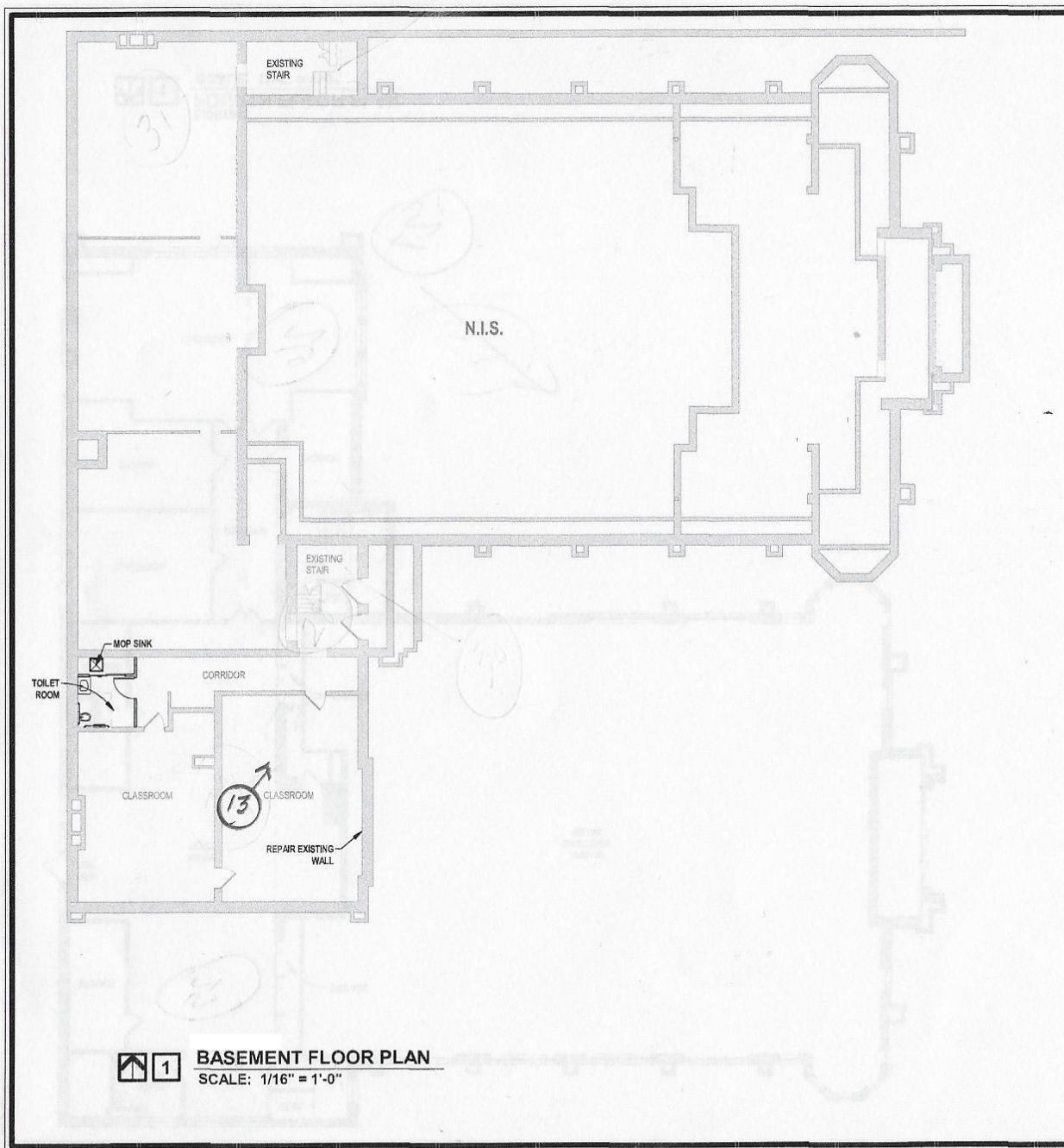
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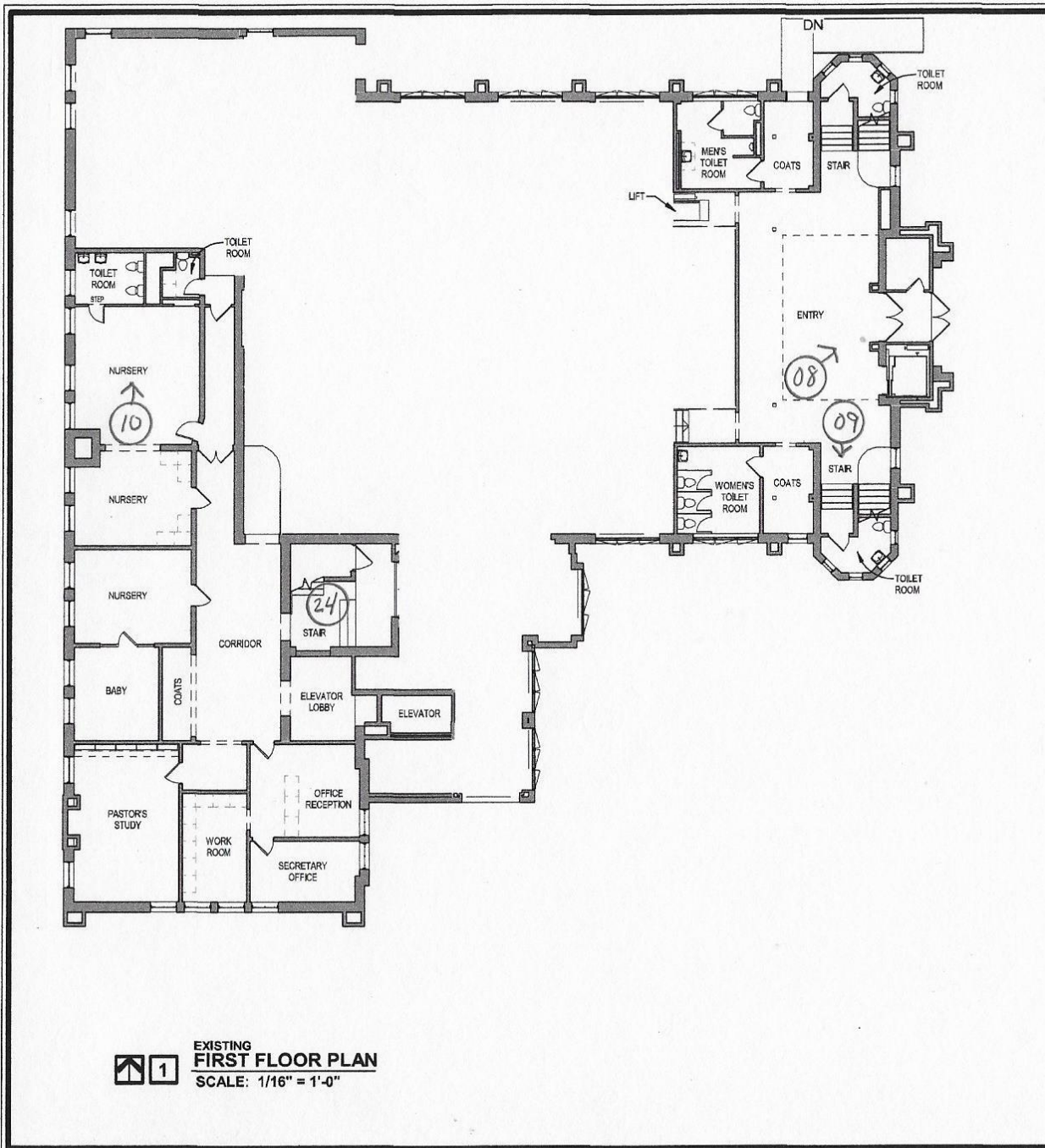
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



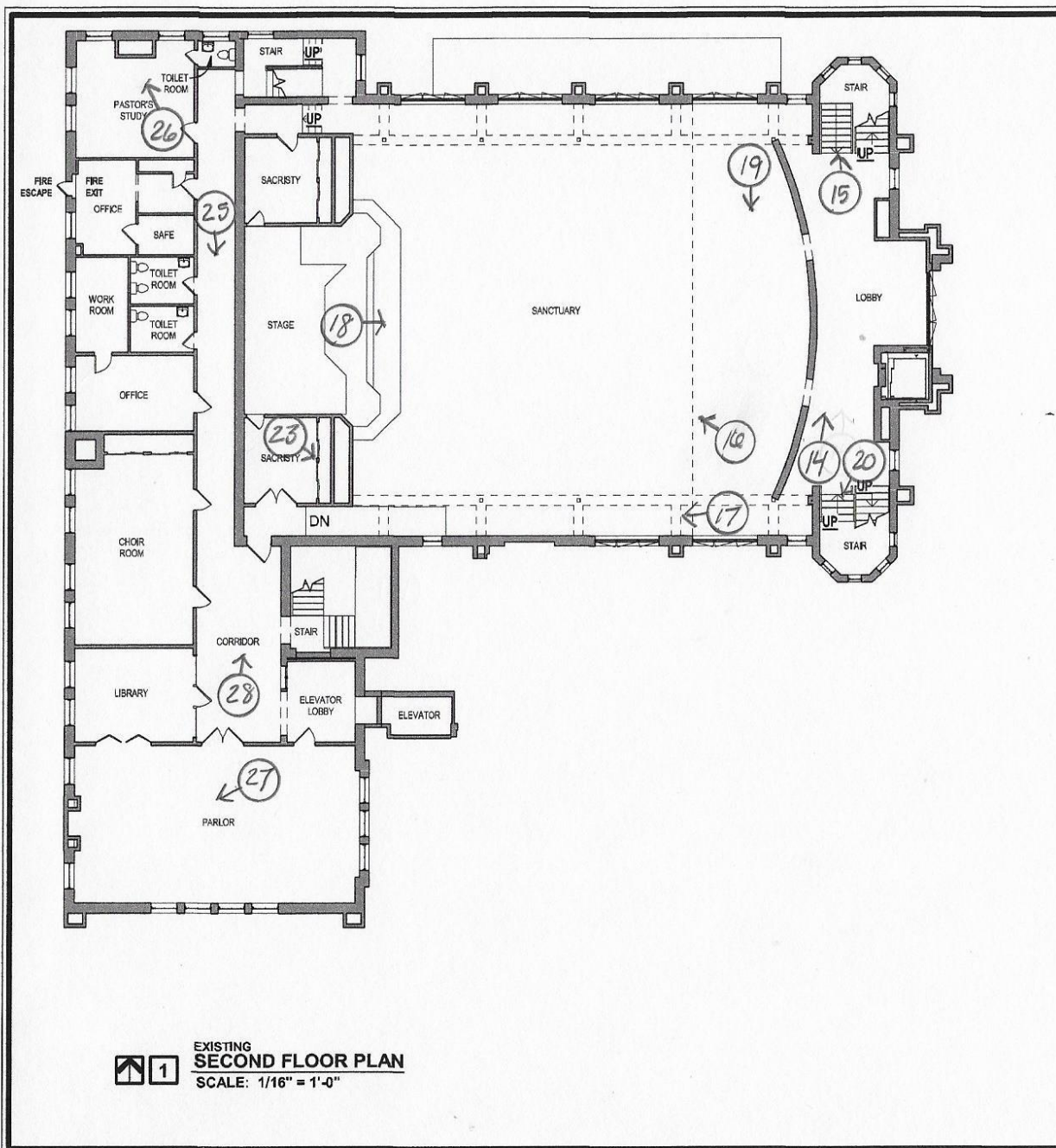
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National Register of Historic Places
 624 South Adams Street
 Marion, Grant County, IN



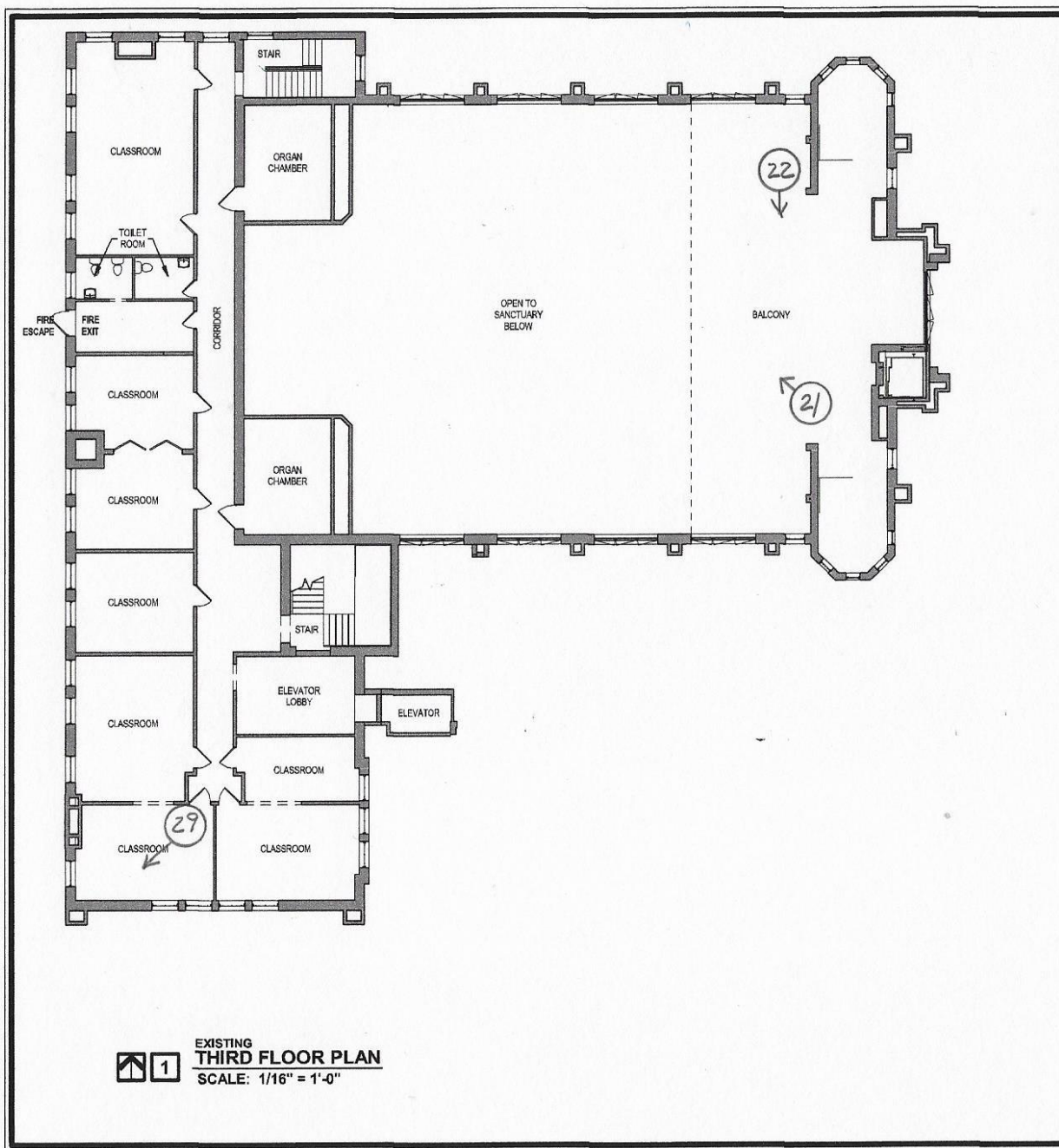
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National Register of Historic Places
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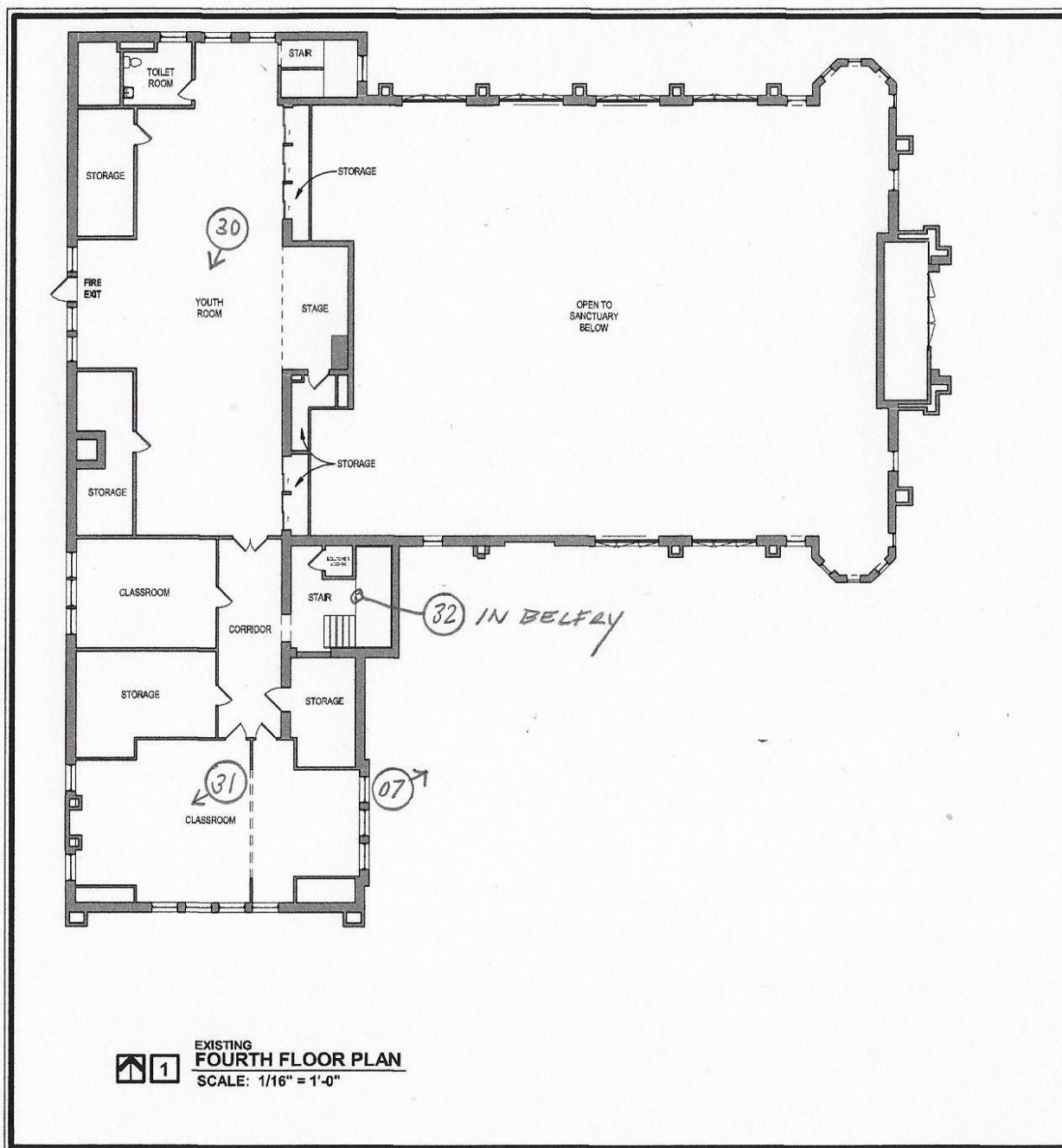
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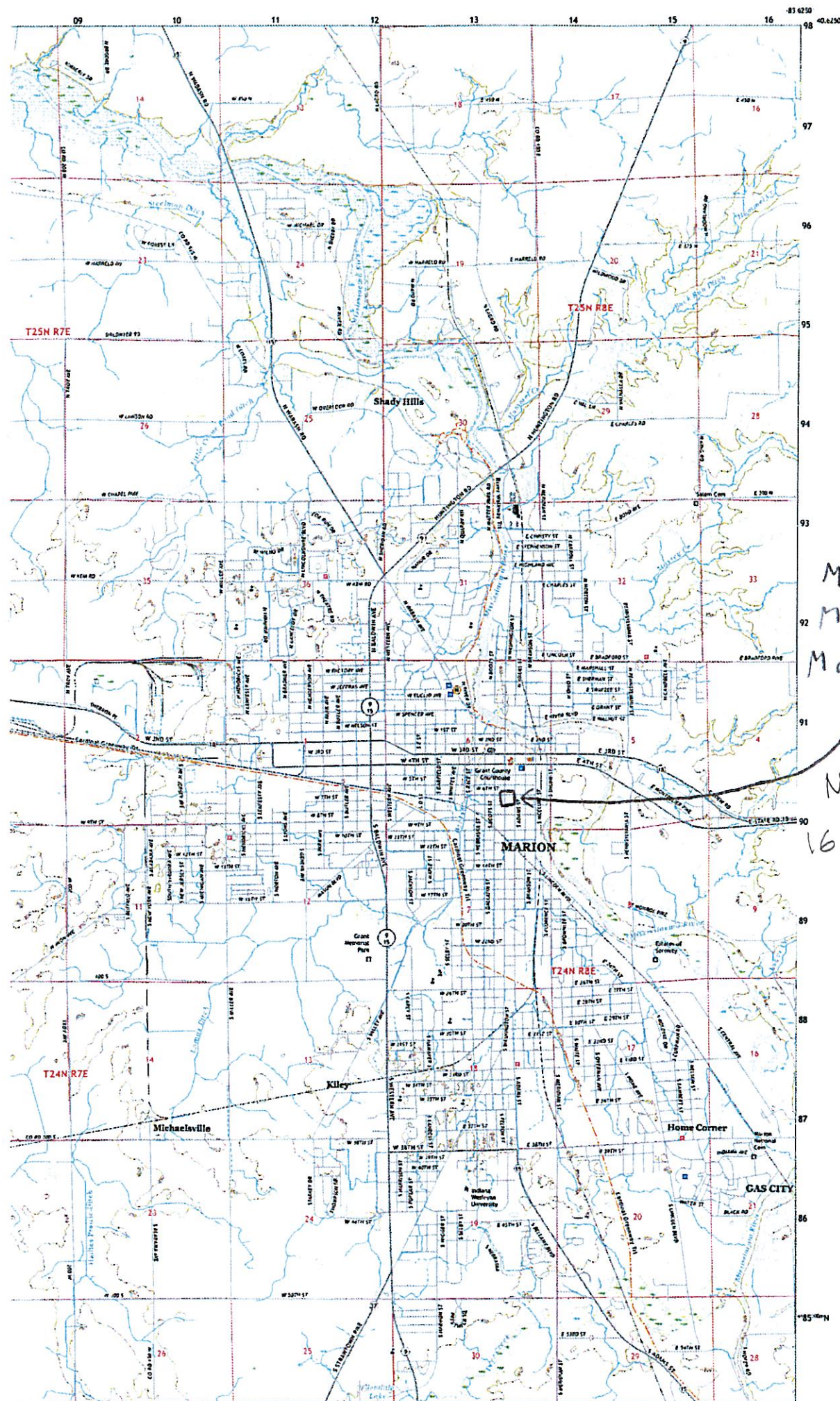
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Marion First United
Methodist Church
Marion, Grant Co. IN

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Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0001



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0003



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0004



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0005



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0007



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0011



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0014



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0018



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0021



Marion First United Methodist Church, Grant Co., IN, Photo 0026