

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 Property

Historic name: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

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

N/A

### 2. Location

Street & number: 118 North Union Street

City or town: Delphi State: Indiana County: Carroll

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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

<p><i>Matthew K. Zall deputy SHPO</i></p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p><u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p><u>7/24/2015</u></p> <p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival/Collegiate Gothic  
LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: STONE: Slate

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The building is located on the southeast corner of South Union Street and Monroe Streets. An alley and parking lot is on the building's south side; an alley is on the building's west side. The east and north sides have sidewalks and tree lawns. The Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church is a combination of three wings, each constructed in a different year. The most prominent is the church sanctuary/auditorium and two-story education wing with basement. The church sanctuary/auditorium was constructed in 1869 with alterations in 1884, 1897, and 1926. The education wing was constructed in 1926. The brick and limestone trimmed church sanctuary/auditorium was constructed in the Gothic Revival style. A massive bell tower is on its northeast corner. The education wing was constructed in the Collegiate Gothic style; alterations to the auditorium in the same year were made in the same style. A parsonage is located on the east side of the church building. It is two stories tall and was constructed in the Second Empire style in 1897. It is also composed of brick with limestone trim. Encapsulated between the

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parsonage and church is the chancel of the church when it was renovated in 1897. The old chancel is accessed through the pastor's study in the parsonage.

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## Narrative Description

The street grid in Delphi is angled and the streets run northwest/southeast and northeast/southwest. For purposes of this nomination, the directional references for northeast shall be east, southeast shall be south, southwest shall be west, and northwest shall be north. The building fronts Union Street and faces northeast; however the wall is described as the east wall of the building.

The Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in the Gothic Revival style when it was built in 1869. The original building footprint is essentially intact in the current church building, as is the general composition of the auditorium walls. Certain changes to the church building were made in 1926 when the education wing was added to the west side of the church. These changes include a relocation of the front entry from the east wall of the tower to a newly-constructed vestibule at street level on the front gable. Other changes included "modernizing" the brick details of the building from corbels and more elaborate buttresses to simpler lines of the Late Gothic and Collegiate Gothic Revival style. The most significant changes were the reorientation of the nave and chancel from the south wall of the church to the west wall, new art glass windows, and re-facing the church building with brick to match the education wing.

The church was remodeled when the parsonage was constructed on the east side of the building in 1897. The congregation contracted with Frank Wolever, an architect from Lafayette, for the design. The Late Gothic Revival style was used in the new design, though elements of the Second Empire style are also present in the parsonage. The most notable elements of the Second Empire style include the mansard roof and its dormers on the front of the parsonage (see photo 0002). The dormers have metal surrounds with steeply-pitched gables and pinnacles. The central bay's wall dormer has a Gothic-arched window with wood tracery and pinnacles that match those of the church's bell tower. An unfortunate loss to the architectural integrity of the parsonage is the removal of a three-sided window bay in the front wall's south bay and a pressed metal frieze at the eave line.

In 1926 the Methodist congregation constructed a parish hall or education wing on the back (west side) of the church building (photos 0001, 0004). W. R. Dunkin and Sons of Flora was the contractor on the project. The wing was constructed in the Collegiate Gothic style. The most notable features on the wing include gabled parapets on its north and south walls and a crenellated entry tower on the east side of its north wall. In an effort to modernize and likely unify the appearance of the entire building, changes were made to the church as noted previously. Due to the church's original Gothic features, the modernization allowed for the preservation of most of the building's pointed-arch window openings, buttresses, and steeply-pitched roofline. Other early features were lost including roundels, an open belfry, and patterned brickwork on the walls. The wider windows in the north wall of the nave are from the alteration while the narrower windows in the nave and on the front of the building are the original window

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configuration. One notable location where the change from 1869 to 1926 is obvious is the large window in the balcony level of the front wall (see photo 0003). The upper part of the window has wood tracery with pointed-arch tops and a roundel. The lower part of the window was once divided into two windows that were a continuation of the pointed-arch tops. The window was divided into three windows with metal tracery during the 1926 alteration.

#### EXTERIOR (photographs 0001-0004)

The Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the southeast corner of Union and Monroe Streets, northeast of the historic courthouse district. The building is composed of three sections constructed in different years. The most prominent section is the church and education wing nearest the intersection of the two streets (photos 0003-0004). It is constructed in the Late Gothic Revival and Collegiate Gothic styles and is composed of brick and limestone trim. A parsonage was constructed in 1897; it is located on the east side of the building (photo 0002). It was built in the Second Empire style and is composed of brick and stone trim. A former chancel of the church building is encapsulated between the church building and parsonage (photo 0010). It was built in 1897 and is accessed from the pastor's study in the parsonage. The sections that compose the building shall be described separately.

The church (1869, with alterations in 1884, 1897, and 1926) and education wing (1926) are composed of red-colored brick with limestone trim. The church building has a foundation composed of buff-colored stone capped with a limestone drip stone. The building has stepped buttresses on its corners and on the side walls of the nave. The church has a metal cornice at the top of its walls. The cornice has heavy half-round bead in the center. The steeply-pitched roof of the nave is covered with asphalt shingles but was originally covered with slate. The church has wood windows with Gothic arches composed of bricks and stone sills. The windows are composed of art glass.

The front elevation (photo 03) consists of the gabled sanctuary with the three-quarter free standing square tower at the north corner. The center of the gabled sanctuary portion is a bay that projects forward from foundation to eaves. Centered in the projecting bay is a one story foyer that itself projects forward several feet. It houses the main entrance and has a gabled parapet with stone coping with stone cross at the apex. The two wooden front doors with pointed arch transom are centered in the foyer. A pointed arch of header brick holds the doorway; this arch is recessed a brick's width inside a flush pointed arch of header brick. The stained glass of the transom has decorative motifs and dark bands lettered "Methodist Episcopal / \* Church \*."

Single, tall, narrow lancet arches flank the foyer on the first story and rise above the sill height of the center window. These have stone sills and header brick pointed arches. The windows are stained glass that depicts architectural motifs (columns and scalloped arches). A large pointed arch window with header brick arch is centered in the upper level of the center projecting bay. It has a stone sill, and a large, rectangular lower section. A transom bar divides the upper part of the pointed arch, which has wood tracery dividing it into two pointed arches and an oculus. The stained glass is executed in geometric patterns, mainly crosses.

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The main gable roof has a metal cornice divided into sections by a half-round bead. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

The three-story bell tower is located on the church's northeast corner (photo 0003). The tower has diagonal set stepped buttresses on its corners. The buttresses have pinnacles composed of brick at the top of the tower's walls. Each pinnacle has a small metal roof composed of pedimented cross gables. The tower's four walls have gables at their tops between the pinnacles. The gables have a metal cornice. The tower's broached steeple is octagonal and is covered with slate. Approximately half-way up the steeple is a short wall with a row of metal louvers with small ornamented gables. The steeple is topped with a metal cross. The tower has a tall window on the first floor's north wall and a short window on the first floor's east wall. The tower's third floor belfry has Gothic-arched louvered openings in its east, west, and north walls. Its south wall has a small access door for the roof.

The north wall of the church's nave is divided into five bays by buttresses (photo 0004). The first and fourth bays (from the east side) are identical. They have a small glass and wood window in the foundation wall and a tall lancet Gothic-arched window with header brick arch and stone sill in the first floor wall. The fourth bay's foundation window is covered with wood. The second and third bays (from the east side) are also identical. They have a coal chute with metal door in the foundation wall and a wide Gothic-arched window with soldier brick arches and stone sills in the first floor wall. Each window is divided into nine panels of glass by wood tracery. The fifth bay (from the east side) has a small wood and glass window in its foundation wall and a 1/1 window with a stone sill in its first and second floors. The windows are composed of art glass. They are located in the choir loft entrance on the first floor and organ room on the second floor. The south wall of the nave is partially covered by the parsonage. Its fifth bay (from the east side) is similar to the north wall. It has two 1/1 windows with stone sills. The first floor's window has a segmented arch. A stepped buttress is between the fourth and fifth bays. The fourth bay has a tall Gothic-arched window on its first floor. A wide chimney is located on the east side of the bay against the west side of the buttress separating the fourth and third bays. The remaining bays are covered by the parsonage. A short section of the west angled wall of the old chancel is visible; it extends from the nave wall to the west wall of the parsonage.

The education wing is located on the back (west) wall of the church (photos 0001, 0004). It is two stories tall with a basement. The wing has a gabled roof with stepped gabled parapets on its north and south walls. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The education wing has 1/1 windows with stone sills. The first and second floor windows are composed of art glass. The north wall (photo 0004) has a two-story entry tower with a crenellated parapet. The tower is located on the east side of the north wall. The entry is centered in the tower and has a set of concrete steps. The tower has a wide full-round arched entry that is recessed. The arch is formed of a course of soldier brick and outer course of header brick. It has a pair of wood doors with panels and narrow slit windows. The tympanum above the doors is filled with brick in a basket weave pattern. The tower's second floor front wall has a pair of 1/1 windows with transoms. A thin stone belt with course of soldier brick is located at the top of the tower's second floor. The north wall of the wing has two 1/1 windows in the basement and a row of

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three windows on the first floor and second floors. A small narrow window that is divided into three panes of glass is centered in the gable wall. The gable wall and the crenellated parapet have stone caps.

The west wall of the wing is divided into six bays (see right side of photo 0004). The first and third bays from the north side are identical. They have a 1/1 window in the basement and a pair of 1/1 windows in the first and second floors. The second bay has a wide chimney that extends through the eaves. The fourth, fifth, and sixth bays are identical. They have a 1/1 window in the basement and two 1/1 windows on the first and second floors. The south wall of the wing has two pairs of windows in its basement and three windows in its first and second floors (see photo 0001). A narrow chimney is located on the west edge of the middle windows. A two-story stairwell extension is located on the east side of the south wall of the wing. It has a 1/1 window on the mid-landing level of the staircase. The stairwell's roof is nearly flat. The gabled parapet and parapet wall of the extension have a stone cap. The wing has an east wall that extends out from the church and faces the back of the parsonage. The wing's east wall has a wood door on its south side. The door has four panels in its lower half and a window divided into nine panes of glass in its upper half. A small window divided into three panes of glass is north of the door. A 1/1 window is located on the second floor's north side.

The parsonage that was constructed in 1897 was built in a combination of Second Empire and Late Gothic Revival styles. It is two stories tall and is located on the east side of the church. The front wall gives the appearance of a one-and-a-half story wing, but south elevation's brick walls rise a full two stories. The building's foundation is composed of buff-colored stone with a limestone drip stone. Its walls are brick with stone trim. The brick of the front wall matches those of the church; the remaining walls are composed of orange-colored bricks. The windows are mostly recently-installed 1/1 metal windows with rusticated stone sills and lintels.

The front wall of the parsonage faces east (photo 0002). It has a tall mansard roof covering its second floor. The mansard is covered with slate. The front wall is divided into three bays. The center bay is narrower than the other two bays; it has a cross gable making it two-stories tall. The center cross gable has stepped pilasters on its front corners and a gabled parapet. The pilasters extend above the eave and are capped by cross-gabled metal pinnacles. A pair of impressive wood doors is centered in the first floor. A window composed of three 1/1 Gothic-arched windows divided by wood tracery is centered in the second floor of the center cross gable. The south bay has a pilaster on its south side. It has a stone corbel at the top of its first floor that supports stone coping for the south wall's parapet. The south bay has a window composed of three 1/1 windows centered in its first floor wall. A band of metal siding is at the top of the first floor. A dormer with a metal surround is centered in the second floor. The metal surround has pilasters and a steeply-pitched gable with small pinnacles on its front corners. The dormer has casement windows composed of small diamond-shaped lites in its top half and two lites in its lower half. The window has a Gothic-arched transom.

The north bay has a window composed of three wood and glass casement windows centered in its first floor. The windows are located in the pastor's study; the study is a one-story extension of the parsonage to the east. The south wall of the study has a doorway that is filled in with



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wood. A dormer with a metal surround is centered on the second floor. It is identical to the one in the south bay except that its window has been removed and the opening is covered with wood. A wood porch is in front of the center bay. It has tripled wood posts at each corner and modillions that support its eaves. The top of the wall between the posts is arched. The porch roof is hipped and is covered with asphalt shingles. A set of concrete steps is located on the front wall of the porch. A wheelchair ramp is located on the south wall of the porch.

The south wall of the parsonage is divided into three bays (far right side of photo 0001). The east bay is the widest and contains a wide chimney on its west side. The chimney is stepped and has stone trim. Windows on this side of the parsonage have stone sills and lintels. The east bay has a window on its first and second floors and a round vent in its attic wall. The middle bay has the same window and vent configuration as the east bay. The west bay has the same window configuration as the middle bay, but does not have a round vent in its attic wall. The top of the south wall has a stepped parapet wall with stone coping. A wood door with a window in its upper half is located in the south side of the west wall of the parsonage. The remaining west wall of the parsonage has a one-story extension with a hipped roof (see photo 0001). The west wall's second floor is covered with vinyl and has a small 1/1 window. The extension's roof extends to the south to create a small porch. The porch roof is supported by three wood posts on its south wall. The extension's south wall has a doorway that is filled in with wood. The extension's west wall has four 1/1 windows with segmented arches.

#### INTERIOR (photographs 0005-0020)

The interior of the building shall be described in its sections denoted in the exterior description: church and education wing, parsonage, and 1897 chancel. Generally the building has wood floors throughout, though most are covered with carpets. The building has plaster walls and ceilings, original wood doors, and original casings around its doors and windows.

The church is oriented with its nave facing west (photo 0013). The chancel has slightly angled walls and a recessed back wall on the west side of the nave. The narthex is separated from the nave by a wall composed of wood and glass doors on the east side of the nave (photo 0014). The narthex is entered from the street by a set of steps enclosed in a vestibule centered in the east wall of the narthex (photo 0011). The narthex is divided into a wide lobby centered immediately off the vestibule, a small room with a toilet room and narrow staircase on its south side, and a small room with an open staircase on its north side. The open staircase is located in the bell tower (photo 0012). The stairs leading from the vestibule to the lobby and the stairs on the south side of the narthex are covered with rubber. The stairs in the bell tower are wood. Wood balustrades and newel posts surround the vestibule and tower staircases. The north and south staircases lead to the balcony level.

The nave is a tall two-story space with a vaulted ceiling (ceiling that follows the rake of the roofline) in its center (photos 0013-0014). The nave has a balcony that overlooks it above the narthex. There is a wide center aisle and two side aisles that divide the seating area, which has wood pews with padded seats. The ceiling has a flat coffered bulkhead area above the side aisles

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and a center vault oriented east/west. The ceiling is divided into bays by carved hammer beam truss work. The trusses are positioned in line with the buttresses on the outside of the building. The lower part of the truss is composed of a wall post, the hammer-beam, and the hammer-brace. The spandrel created in this space is filled with carved tracery in a quatre-foil design. The wall post rests on a large carved corbel with an acorn finial. The ends of the hammer-beam also have large carved finials with small acorns. The collar-braces form the upper part of the truss and the ceiling vault. The braces have carved panels above their collar ties and in the space created above their bents. The nave ceiling is plaster and is trimmed with large wood and plaster crown moldings. Wood moldings are around the windows and doors. The moldings and trusses are dark brown. The nave has Gothic metal and glass chandeliers and pendant lights.

The balcony is steeply stepped and has additional theater-style seating (photo 0014). The balcony wall overlooking the nave is composed of beaded-boards with a wood cap. A metal pipe handrail is on top of the wall. The chancel (photo 0013) has a platform with risers and tall wood wainscoting on its walls. The front of the platform has a low screen wall composed of wood. The back wall of the chancel is recessed beneath a tall Gothic arch cased in wood moldings. A small niche framed with a wood Gothic arch is located in each of the chancel's angled side walls. A large wood screen is located in the upper part of the angled side walls. The pipes for the organ are located behind these screens. The back chancel wall has a plaster Gothic arch on rounded corbels. The arch frames a Gothic-arched art glass window with a depiction of Christ. A wide surround of wood panels frames the window. A pair of paneled wood doors is located in the west wall of the nave, south of the chancel. A single paneled wood door is located in the west wall of the nave, north of the chancel. The latter door is the choir door. Besides the doors that lead to the narthex, one other door is located in the nave. It is located in the nave's southeast corner and leads to the pastor's study in the parsonage. It is a paneled wood door with a Gothic arch.

The education wing can be accessed from the nave by either door in the west wall of the nave. The wing has street level entrances on its north and south sides. The main entrance is on the north side of the wing (seen in photo 0019). The south entrance is located in the east wall of the wing; it faces the back wall of the parsonage. The wing has three floors: the basement (partially above grade), first floor, and second floor. The basement contains a large kitchen (photo 0016), fellowship hall (photo 0015), and bathrooms. It also provides access to the basement beneath the nave. The other two floors have classrooms. Each floor has a main corridor on their east sides (photos 0019-0020). The corridor connects to a wide open staircase in the entry tower (photos 0019-0020) and a narrower staircase on the south side of the wing. The classrooms are accessed on the west side of the corridor. A few smaller rooms are located on the east side of the corridor to each side of the chancel area in the church. Photographs 0017 and 0018 show typical features of the classrooms.

The wing has simple wood baseboards and casings and five-panel wood doors. The main staircase has simple square wood posts that compose the balustrade and large wood newels. The ceilings in the wing are suspended acoustic tiles. A choir robe closet with five-panel doors is located on the first floor off the corridor (left side of photo 0019). The basement's fellowship hall has original wood cabinetry in its southeast corner (left side of photo 0015). A long pass-

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thru counter is located between the kitchen and the fellowship hall's south wall. The pass-thru has original wood double-hung four/four-panel shutters (right side of photo 0015). A simple fireplace composed of brick with a wood mantel is located in the northwest corner of the fellowship hall, on its west wall. A pair of original light sconces is above the fireplace. The hall can be divided into two rooms by a modern accordion-style door. The hall's kitchen has extensive c. 1950 wood cabinetry with laminate countertops. A South Bend stove is located on the south wall of the kitchen. See photo 0016 for kitchen features.

The parsonage is two stories tall with a single-story extension on its back (west) side. A pair of wood doors with three panels in their bottom halves and a window and panel in their top halves is centered in the east wall of the parsonage. They lead to a foyer with an open staircase in the middle-front part of the house (photo 0005). The staircase's balustrade is composed of thin square posts and newel posts. The landing at the top of the stairs is curved and overlooks the foyer (photo 0008). A parlor is located on the south side of the foyer and the pastor's study is located on the north side of the foyer. The parlor has pocket doors on its north and west walls. A fireplace composed of glazed tiles and a wood mantel is located in an angled wall in the southwest corner of the room. The mantel has a mirror on its back wall that is framed by pairs of wood columns. These features can be viewed through the pocket doors shown in photo 0005.

A kitchen is located off the west wall of the parlor. It has built-in wood cabinetry that forms a butler's pantry in its northwest corner (photo 0007). Modern wood cabinetry is located in the west wall south of the butler's pantry. A small hallway with a built-in wood bench is located off the west wall of the foyer. The hallway has full-round arched doorways leading into it (right side of photo 0005). A longer hallway is located off the west side of the small hallway. Its walls are covered with modern wood paneling. The hallway leads to a bathroom and two offices in the one-story extension on the west side of the parsonage. A second staircase to the upstairs is located north of this hallway. The 1897 chancel is located to the north of the staircase. The pastor's study was expanded to the east in the 1926 alteration. It has a fireplace composed of glazed tiles and a wood mantel on its west wall. The mantel's back wall has a mirror. Built-in wood cabinetry and bookshelves from the 1926 alteration are located in the north wall of the study (photo 0006). A narrow door and two wood steps are located in the wall south of the fireplace. They lead to the 1897 chancel. A Gothic-arched doorway in the north wall of the study leads to the nave (photo 0006).

The second floor of the parsonage has a wide landing that overlooks the foyer in the middle-front of the house (photo 0008). The prominent feature of the landing is the Gothic-arched window with wood tracery in its east wall. A bedroom is located off the north side of the landing. Two bedrooms were combined to form one large room off the south side of the landing (photo 0009). This large room has modern wood paneling covering its walls. Closets are tucked into the center wall dormer off each of the bedrooms north and south of the landing. A bathroom, closet, and hallway are located off the west side of the landing. The hallway leads to the top of the second staircase. The second floor has five-panel wood doors and short transom windows, wood baseboards, and wood casings.

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The 1897 chancel area is accessed from the west wall of the pastor's study. It has angled side walls on its east and west sides. Its back wall (south) originally had wood wainscoting and pipes for the pipe organ. The room's north wall was closed in with fire block. Rounded plaster columns are located on the corners of the angled walls. The column capitals support sprung arches that form a groin vaulted ceiling over the room. The ceiling is partially composed of glass lites that form a band of windows back-lit from an earlier skylight. The angled walls have stenciling and a pressed metal frieze. See photo 0010 for features in this space.

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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

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**Period of Significance**

1869 -1926

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**Significant Dates**

1897

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**Significant Person (last name, first name)**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder (last name, first name)**

Wolever, Frank

W. R. Dunkin and Son

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**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1869 when the original footprint and basic composition of the church auditorium was constructed. Though receiving alterations in 1884 and 1897, the year of original construction is used as the beginning of the period of significance. The period ends in 1926 when the church auditorium received its last substantial alteration and the education wing was constructed. 1897 is considered a significant date due to the construction of the parsonage in that year.

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### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The building was constructed for religious purposes and was owned by the Methodist congregation of Delphi until recently. It is now owned by a private non-profit organization, the Delphi Preservation Society, and not a religious organization. The building is being nominated as a locally outstanding example of Gothic Revival architecture.

**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 Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its architectural significance. The building is an impressive example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century building constructed for religious purposes in the Late Gothic Revival style. The building includes an attached late 19<sup>th</sup> century parsonage and 20<sup>th</sup> century education wing constructed in complimentary styles. Few public buildings of this size and architectural style were constructed in Delphi and Carroll County.

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

### ARCHITECTURE

The Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1869 in the Gothic Revival style. While changes and an education wing were added in 1926 in the Collegiate Gothic style, the original building footprint is essentially intact. The most significant change was the reorientation of the nave and chancel from the south wall of the church to the west wall.

The church was remodeled when the parsonage was constructed on the east side of the building in 1897. The Late Gothic Revival style was used in the new design, though elements of the Second Empire style are also present in the parsonage. The most notable elements of the Second Empire style include the mansard roof and its dormers with Gothic-arched windows on the front of the parsonage (see photo 0002).

Regardless of the changes, the building, as a complex layering of religious use between 1869 and 1926, has impressive architectural detail and integrity on a large scale. The church and education wing have had virtually no changes since the 1926 alteration. The nave has impressive hammer beam trusses and wood paneling that date to the period. The art glass windows are also intact, including a back-lit art glass window in the rear wall of the chancel. The education wing's three floors are divided into classroom and fellowship hall spaces. The arrangement of these rooms is largely intact from the original design. The fellowship hall is located on the

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basement level and has a c. 1950 kitchen, 1926 wood cabinets and doors, and a fireplace also from the original design. See photographs 0015-0016 for features in the fellowship hall and kitchen. The wing also has its original art glass windows, wood doors, and choir robe closets.

The congregation modified the parsonage in 1975, including the removal of a bay window on the first floor, removal of some partition walls on the second floor, and the replacement of historic windows. The pastor's study was also expanded to the east in the 1926 alteration, which reduced the size of the wood porch on the front of the parsonage. Though the parsonage has been altered, much of the building's character-defining features remain. These include the slate-covered mansard roof, dormers, and the impressive woodwork inside. Interior features include the wood and tile fireplaces in the parlor and pastor's study, paneled pocket doors, open wood stairway with curved landing on the second floor, wood pantry cabinet, and arched doorways. See photographs 0002, 0005-0008 for these features.

An interesting feature of the building is the extant chancel that dates to the 1897 church alteration (see photo 0010). When the parsonage was constructed on the east side of the church, it wrapped the chancel of the church on its exterior walls. An arched doorway was created between the north wall of the pastor's study and the church's south wall immediately east of the original chancel. During the 1926 alteration the nave was reoriented to face west and the 1897 chancel was blocked in with fire block. At this time a narrow doorway was created in the west wall of the pastor's study into the original chancel. The original chancel has two angled walls and a back wall (south wall) that once had wood panels and the pipes for an organ against it. Features that are extant in the original chancel are plaster columns with capitals from which groin vaults sprung to form its ceiling, glass panels that form a sky-lit ceiling above the chancel, a pressed metal frieze, and stenciling on its walls.

There are a number of examples of the early Gothic Revival style in Delphi and Carroll County, dating from the 1850s into the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Due to early prosperity in the area, in large part from the opening of the Wabash & Erie Canal, the Gothic Revival style was a logical choice for a growing middle and upper class.

The style had been popularized in house design books in the middle part of the 1800s and became popular in Midwestern towns by the 1850s. A handful of houses in Carroll County exhibit Gothic Revival touches, probably derived from pattern books, such as tracery bargeboards or pointed arch windows in the gable end. Some, like the Dewey-Lathrope House in Delphi, have high-style Gothic elements, even if they are essentially vernacular houses. 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 19<sup>th</sup> century renewed interest in church construction and in the English Gothic style. In American religious architecture, Gothic Revival reached full expression in the United States. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, located at 207 N. Washington Street in Delphi, was designed in the style when it was constructed in 1860. The Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church also turned to the style when it constructed its building in 1869. The First Baptist Church of Delphi (103 S. Indiana Street) was also constructed using the style in 1892. Of a similar scale to the Methodist church is the First Presbyterian Church of Delphi (320 East



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Main Street), which was constructed in the Late Gothic Revival style in 1910. The building has two crenellated towers on its front gable wall.

Most of the other examples of the Gothic Revival style in Carroll County, as applied to churches, are smaller-scaled, gable-front rural churches constructed between about 1875 and 1916. The buildings typically feature facades with side towers, steeply-pitched roofs, and simple pointed-arch windows. One Late Gothic Revival style church is located in Burlington; the Church of the Brethren was constructed in 1946.

The Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church turned to the Collegiate Gothic style when it constructed its education wing in 1926. The style was so-named due to its prevalent use on educational buildings on college campuses in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The design of the education wing then influenced the alteration of the existing church building during the same period. Examples of the Collegiate Gothic style in Carroll County are far fewer. The best and only other known example of this style in the county is the Monroe Township School located in Flora. The building was constructed in 1934 and features a tall entry tower centered on the facade next to a cross gable.

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### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

Delphi was first settled in 1824 by Henry Robinson and his family. The land was purchased through the United States Land Office in Crawfordsville, Indiana. The town was platted in 1833, and it was incorporated as a city in 1866. The City of Delphi is framed by the Wabash River and Deer Creek. This access to water and the development of the Wabash & Erie Canal aided in the growth and development of the town by allowing for simplified travel and trade. Before the town itself was established, a number of itinerant ministers provided for the spiritual needs of the settlers. As settlement increased, an itinerant minister, Reverend Henry P. Buell, organized the Delphi Society. The Delphi Society was a small group formed in order to have a more organized religious experience. Reverend Buell traveled to Delphi to preach to the Delphi Society approximately once every four weeks. In the earliest days the society met in a log cabin across the street from the current church building. The cabin was also used as a schoolhouse and for Carroll County Circuit Court sessions before permanent buildings could be built for to serve those purposes.

In the nineteenth century, Methodist churches were organized in a way that a new church could be established in any location in which few people were located under what was known as the circuit rider system. These individuals gathered under a local leader, and an itinerant minister would meet with them periodically. This system was typically associated with Methodism and worked well for remote settlements like the Delphi Society. The Delphi Society was established to meet the everyday spiritual needs of the people of Delphi. Various itinerant ministers, such as Reverend Buell, would meet with them monthly to reinforce Methodist teachings.

As the town of Delphi became more populated, a permanent house of worship was needed. In 1837, four years after the settlement of the town, a lot was secured on which to build a

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permanent house of worship. The Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1840 on the lot which is the same lot on which the current building is located. The building was a simple frame gable-front church. A gable-front one-and-a-half story parsonage was constructed south of the church at about the same time. The building constructed in 1840 served the needs of the church until it was demolished in 1868. A new church building was completed on the lot in 1869, three years after the incorporation of Delphi. Alterations on the sanctuary occurred in 1884. In 1897, it was determined that a new parsonage and alterations to the church were needed. The existing parsonage was constructed and the orientation of the nave was changed so congregants faced south instead of west when a new chancel was constructed with the parsonage. The main entrance was changed from the center of the front gable to the east wall of the tower. The congregation changed the orientation of the nave again in 1926 from the south to the west when the church was remodeled again during the construction of the education wing. The main entrance was returned to the center of the façade. The parsonage was no longer used by the pastor when a house was built in the community in 1961. It continued to serve as offices for the church.

It is important to note that the church played an important role for Delphi during devastating national events. Perhaps the most significant example of this occurred when the Conference of Methodist Churches of Northern Indiana met in the church in 1864, in the midst of the Civil War. During the conference the Union flag flew above the church. Every day messages of loyalty, patriotism, and anti-slavery were preached from the lawn. A memorial service was held in the church after the death of President McKinley from an assassin's bullet in September of 1901. The church was also known to assist in the community during other national events such as World Wars I and II, and the Great Depression. High school commencement services were also held from time to time in the auditorium. The building's new owner, Delphi Preservation Society, uses the building and auditorium for weddings, programs, and other public events.

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Name of Property

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Carroll County, Indiana Historic Sites and Structure Inventory. Indiana Landmarks, 2011.

History of Carroll County, Indiana. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1882.

Odell, John C., History of Carroll County, Indiana. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen & Co., 1916.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Delphi, Indiana: 1886, 1893, 1900, 1906, 1912, 1929.

Wood, Charles, *History of the Methodist Church, Delphi, Indiana, 1826-1976.*

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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):** 015-162-32186

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** Less than one acre

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Use the UTM system

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 527595 | Northing: 4493065 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

Lots 96 and 97 of the City of Delphi compose the property being nominated.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historical beginnings of the Methodist church in Delphi are traced to these lots from the time they were purchased in 1837 by the organization to the time the current building configuration was completed in 1926. The building, and all its sections completed between 1869 and 1926, is located on these lots.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner  
organization: Delphi Preservation Society/PIP  
street & number: 12954 6<sup>th</sup> Road  
city or town: Plymouth state: Indiana zip code: 46563  
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com  
telephone: 574-936-0613  
date: December 6, 2013

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### 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: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 28, 2013

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

Looking northeast at back of building. 0001

1 of 20.

Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: August 20, 2013

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

Looking west at front of parsonage. 0002

2 of 20.

Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 28, 2013

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

Looking west at front of church. 0003

3 of 20.

Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 28, 2013

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

Looking southeast from Monroe Street at north side of building. 0004

4 of 20.

Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

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Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Parsonage foyer, looking southwest. 0005

5 of 20.

Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Pastor's study looking north toward nave. 0006

6 of 20.

Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Parsonage kitchen, looking west. 0007

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Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church  
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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Upstairs landing in parsonage, looking east. 0008

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Second floor bedrooms of parsonage converted to classrooms, looking east. 0009

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

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Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

1897 Chancel, looking east. 0010

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Church vestibule, looking east from narthex. 0011

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Bell tower/balcony open stairwell, looking up toward northeast. 0012

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Nave looking west toward chancel from balcony. 0013

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Nave, looking northeast toward balcony from platform. 0014

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

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Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Fellowship hall looking south toward kitchen. 0015

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Kitchen, looking southwest. 0016

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Southwest classroom on first floor of education wing, looking southwest. 0017

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Northwest classroom on first floor of education wing, looking northwest. 0018

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Main corridor of education wing's first floor, looking north. 0019

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Name of Property: Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Delphi

County: Carroll State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Delphi Methodist Episcopal Church  
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Date Photographed: November 21, 2013

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

Main corridor of education wing's second floor looking north toward main stairs. 0020

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**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.