

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: Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church

Other names/site number: Fortville First United Methodist Church, Gateway Community Church of Fortville

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 125 East Staat Street

City or town: Fortville State: IN County: Hancock

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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:

A ___ B X C ___ D

<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
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 EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: BRICK

roof: CONCRETE

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

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1901 in Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana, is an outstanding example of Gothic Revival church architecture that retains a significant amount of historic integrity. Located on the northwest side of East Staat Street between North Main and School Streets in a well-established residential neighborhood, the cross-gabled structure features two towers of similar design situated in the ell's formed by the intersecting gables. In 1962, a two-story addition was built off the northwest façade. The church exhibits distinguishing characteristics of the Gothic Revival style including pointed-arch windows, brick construction, window tracery, pointed-arch doorways, buttresses, and towers with pinnacles. Limestone is used in places as additional architectural accent.

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Narrative Description

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1901,¹ is an outstanding example of Gothic Revival church architecture that retains a significant amount of historic integrity. Constructed of red brick with limestone accents, the church is located approximately half a block northeast of Fortville's historic and current commercial corridor. It occupies the east corner of the block bounded by East Staat Street, Veterans Court (previously School Street), East Church Street, and Main Street. At the time the church was constructed, the neighborhood was well-established as residential with small narrow lots. A house had previously existed on the church site and an older structure used as the Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church was just to the northwest on the same block. Presently, East Staat Street is a relatively quiet residential street. Immediately next to the church on all sides is a strip of grass along with the occasional plantings of flowers and shrubs. When leafed out, two tall trees virtually obscure the southeast façade. Along the grass is a sidewalk on the southwest, southeast, northeast sides, followed by parking lots on the southwest, northwest, and northeast sides. Across Veterans Court to the northeast is Landmark Park where the public school once stood,² and directly across Staats Street is a mortuary with a large parking lot to the northeast.

Exterior

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church is a cross-gabled structure with bell tower in the east ell, smaller tower in the west ell, and two-story addition, built in 1962,³ off the northwest façade. The main gable section housing the sanctuary is oriented southeast to northwest on the lot with the cross gable oriented southwest to northeast and positioned toward the northwestern end of the main section. The original building and the addition are constructed of red brick in a running bond pattern. Rusticated limestone units form a tall foundation for the original building with the top row projecting slightly and acting as a water table. Simple concrete masonry units support the addition with only one row being visible above ground. Other overall details include limestone accents and a brownish-gray interlocking, concrete tile roof on the original structure that mimics the look of slate. Copper panels cover the tower roofs and copper caps the short tower pinnacles. The building addition has a flat rubber roof.⁴ Window styles on the building include pointed-arch; one-over one, double-hung constructed of wood; aluminum-framed awning; and fixed. The windows of the original church structure have limestone sills and most contain stained or leaded glass. Some windows also have limestone lintels. The stepped-up profile, wood cornice is painted white.

¹ "Fortville's New Church," *Indianapolis News*, 24 March 1902, 5.

² *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana* (Sanborn Map Company, 1895), 1, https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn02335_001/ (accessed 19 September 2022).

³ Dr. Leon L. Nichol森, ed., "History of the Fortville First United Methodist Church," prepared for History Sunday, 4 May 1980; Addendum by Maurice Shoults, 12 September 1987; 6.

⁴ Alex Yovanovich, Gateway Community Church Trustee, e-mail to Jill Downs, 26 September 2022, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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The front gable of the church (photo 1), facing southeast toward East Staat Street, contains a pointed-arch, louvered opening with rusticated limestone sill at attic level. Three courses of brick headers outline the arch. Below this is a centered, rectangular, slightly projecting bay. Spanning the width of the bay across the top are three projecting courses of stretcher bricks, and square brick piers capped with limestone extend from the bay's corners to above the roofline. Centered in the bay is a large, pointed-arch, stained-glass window accented with wood tracery painted white. Illuminating the balcony and narthex areas of the church, the window is further accented by four courses of brick headers outlining the arch and by a rusticated limestone sill. On either side of the window, at about midway, a brick soldier course of alternating flush and recessed units sandwiched between two stretcher courses spans the width of the façade. Centered at the basement level are three, one-over one, double-hung windows.

The northeast side of the original structure contains three bays (photos 1 and 2). In the first bay, toward the east end, a through-the-cornice gabled dormer contains a pointed-arch, double-hung, stained-glass window with rusticated limestone sill. It is embellished with modest tracery and its arch is outlined by two courses of brick headers. Visually separating the first and second stories, a brick soldier course of alternating flush and recessed units sandwiched between two stretcher courses spans the width of the bay. Centered in the bay at the first story level, and in line with the gable window, is a window of similar design except it is slightly taller and its arch is outlined by three courses of brick headers. Below this window at basement level is a small, one-over-one, double-hung window.

The second bay contains a square bell tower with brick buttresses, situated within the ell formed by the cross gables, that extends approximately one story beyond the height of the main church structure. The tower is topped with a simple copper cross and its corners are detailed with short, copper-covered pinnacles. The cornice is accented by three projecting courses of stretcher bricks. At the uppermost level on the southeast, northeast and northwest sides is a large, pointed-arch, double lancet, louvered opening with rusticated limestone sill. Three courses of header bricks outline the arch. The second story level on the southeast and northeast sides contains a stained-glass, double-hung window with rusticated limestone sills and headers. The lower light of the northeast window is fitted with a ventilation hood. Visually separating the first and second stories, a brick soldier course of alternating flush and recessed units sandwiched between two stretcher courses spans the width of the southeast and northeast facades and is accented with limestone at the buttress corners. This same brick detail extends around to the northwest side of the tower for a short distance before the façade intersects with the northeast-southwest gable of the church. Within the first story of the tower's southeast facade is a tall, pointed-arch doorway. The arch itself is outlined by three courses of brick headers, and inset and immediately surrounding the opening is a course of brick headers. Within the arch are stained glass panels highlighted with modest wooden tracery and the lower part of the transom area is infilled with a wood panel. Metal-framed, glass doors provide entry to the church. At the east corner of the tower just above the foundation is the limestone cornerstone that reads "METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH JULY 25, 1901" on the southeast and northeast facades. Just outside the doors is a concrete landing and a set of concrete stairs with concrete block foundation and metal

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railing that leads to the sidewalk level. These stairs replaced the original marble steps.⁵ At the first story level of the northeast façade is a pointed-arch, stained glass window with rusticated limestone sill. It is accented with wooden tracery and its arch is outlined by four rows of header bricks. Centered within the foundation is a small, one-over-one, double-hung window. The third bay, the northeast gable end, is inset slightly from the bell tower and is virtually identical to the southeast gable except that there are three, one-over-one, double-hung windows evenly spaced at basement level.

The southwest façade (photos 3 and 4) of the original building is very similar to that of the northeast façade with the following exceptions. Visible at the basement level of the gable end, four evenly spaced openings have been infilled with materials to closely match the existing foundation. The tower, situated within the east ell, is only two-stories tall and has an entrance, added in 1986⁶ and protected by a red fabric awning, at basement level. A metal door with glass window in the upper half provides entry to the church.

In 1962, ground was broken for the 58 feet by 40 feet, two-story addition built off the northwest façade of the original church structure. In order to do so, six small stained-glass windows had to be removed.⁷ Constructed of red brick in a running bond pattern, the addition sits on a foundation of concrete masonry units with only one row being visible above ground. The addition is largely rectangular in shape except for two small wings off the southeast and southwest corners that house stairwells. A band of white aluminum, encompassing the gutter system, runs along the roof line.

The northeast (photos 1 and 2) and southwest (photos 3 and 4) facades, consisting of two bays, are virtually identical in design. The first bay, containing the stairwell wings, extends northeast and southwest beyond the facade of the original structure. The southeast façade of both wings contains an aluminum and glass curtain wall with a centered set of metal-framed, glass doors. The doors of the northeast wing (photo 1) are at ground level while those of the southwest wing (photo 3) are accessed by a set of concrete stairs with metal railing. The northeast and southwest facades of the wings are composed entirely of brick with no openings, and the northwest facades contain an aluminum and glass curtain wall with a wide, opaque spandrel panel placed approximately midway across the façade.

The southeastern half of the addition's second bays contain two aluminum and glass curtain walls, with awning windows and a wide, opaque spandrel panel between floors, separated by a section of brick wall. The remaining half of the bay is brick wall with no openings. The northwestern façade (photos 2 and 4) is composed of four, aluminum and glass curtain wall sections with awning windows and a wide, opaque spandrel panel between floors. Three sets of vertical, opaque spandrel panels separate the curtain walls.

⁵ Nichol森 and Shoults, 5.

⁶ Nichol森 and Shoults, Addendum.

⁷ Nichol森 and Shoults, Appendix B, 2. The removed windows were salvaged and used in building a new window for a shadow box in a basement floor room of the church.

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Interior

Each of the southeast entrances within each tower open into a vestibule containing a narrow, carpeted, mostly open staircase leading to the U-shaped balcony (photo 5). At the top of each balcony staircase is a door for access to each tower space. The carpeted balcony encompasses three rows of wooden pews stained a medium brown shade, and along the front of the balcony is a wooden railing consisting of alternating sections of open areas and solid wood panels between two bands of wood.

On the main floor, each vestibule leads to the U-shaped narthex (photo 5), directly below the balcony. Within the south corner is an elevator shaft added 1986.⁸ Visually separating the narthex from the sanctuary is a low, U-shaped wall composed of closely-spaced, vertical wood members and darker, narrow wood panels. In the middle of the wall is an opening to the main aisle of the sanctuary simply detailed with white painted walls and ceiling and red carpeting. Several rows of wooden pews, with red cushions, flank the center aisle. Additional rows of pews are set within the transept areas (photo 6), and a flattened pointed-arch ceiling visually separates the nave from the transepts (photo 5). Stepped up from the general seating area, the altar area (photo 7) has gray carpeting and is encircled by a wooden communion rail composed of regularly-spaced, square balusters. At the point of the top step, a flattened, pointed-arch ceiling defines the apse space with a curved wooden screen along the back and side walls. On either side of the altar, accessed from behind the screen, are two office spaces.

Southwest of the altar, on the northwest sanctuary wall, is a doorway that opens into the 1962 addition. With a main hallway running southwest to northeast, the first floor of the addition encompasses a large, centralized open area flanked by a classroom and two offices on the northeast and two classrooms, a closet, and bathrooms on the southwest (photo 8). Direct outside access to both floors of the addition is by a set of stairs within each of the addition's southeast entrances.

Taking these stairs down to the basement, the 1962 addition features concrete block walls, vinyl composition tile flooring, and a dropped ceiling. Utilizing most of the area toward the northwest side, and spanning the entire width from northeast to southwest, is the large, open fellowship hall known as "Friendship Hall."⁹ Across from Friendship Hall along the southeast side is a kitchen, storage areas, and short hallway (photo 9) to the original basement space. The area below the sanctuary is arranged with a large, central open space flanked by classroom spaces on the northeast and southwest sides (photos 10 and 11). At the east corner of the open space, a narrow hallway leads northeast to the stairs to the first-floor vestibule. Just inside the hallway entrance, on the northwest side, are two small bathrooms. Along the southeast wall of the open space, below the narthex, are two classrooms, the elevator shaft, and an open area that leads to the basement entrance on the southwest side.

⁸ Nichol森 and Shoults, Addendum.

⁹ Nichol森 and Shoults, 7.

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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

1901-1962

Significant Dates

1901, 1962

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Jeckel, Philip F.

Marsh and Guinn

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church begins in 1901, at the time of construction, and ends in 1962, the year the glass curtain wall addition was completed.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The church is owned by Fortville First United Methodist Church. Accounting for the guidelines laid out in National Register Bulletin 15, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," the property is still eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as it is eligible for Criteria C in the area of significance for 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.)

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Designed by Philip F. Jeckel and built in 1901, the church is an outstanding example of Gothic Revival style. Retaining a good level of original architectural integrity, it features elements associated with the Gothic Revival style including pointed-arch windows and doorways, brick construction, window tracery, buttresses, and towers with pinnacles. In 1962, the congregation added a purely Modern addition characterized by its flat roof and glass curtain wall exterior.

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

Fortville Methodist Episcopal is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C. Designed by architect Philip F. Jeckel and built in 1901,¹⁰ it features Gothic Revival-style elements and retains a good level of architectural integrity. For the small rural town of Fortville, the church is quite ornate.

¹⁰ "Fortville's New Church."

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Religious buildings built in the Gothic style first appeared in Europe and were prevalent between 1190 and 1400. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, a revival of interest in religion in England resulted in church construction and restoration. Gothic was the natural style choice for Britons during this period, but it wasn't until the early 1800's that the first Gothic Revival churches appeared in America. A major identifying feature of the style is the use of pointed-arched windows which allows for more window space for light infiltration and for stained glass applications. Other architectural details include primarily stone or brick construction, the use of interior ribbed vaults (simulated in plaster), buttresses, tracery, pointed-arched doorways, pinnacles, and towers with crenellated parapets. In addition to style, churches can also be distinguished by type such as those with a central tower, twin towers, or a single asymmetrical tower.¹¹

In the 1840s, Andrew Jackson Downing popularized Gothic Revival architecture for the design of rural country houses as the style was compatible with the natural landscape.¹² Later that decade, he asserted that the style was appropriate for rural country churches for the same reason.¹³ By the mid-to-late nineteenth-century, many small, folk-style churches were built across the country utilizing simple Gothic elements.¹⁴

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church is an excellent and ornate example of a rural country church that exhibits characteristics primarily associated with the Gothic Revival style including pointed-arch windows and doorways, brick construction, window tracery, buttresses, and towers with pinnacles. It features two towers symmetrically placed within the front-facing ends of the cross-gabled structure. According to a survey of historic sites and structures in Hancock County, the church is the oldest extant church in Vernon Township, and is the only one of Gothic Revival style. It is rated as "outstanding."¹⁵

By 1916, Vernon Township had nine churches accommodating Baptist, United Brethren, Methodist Episcopal, Christian, and Roman Catholic denominations.¹⁶ Along with Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church, only three other churches from that time period are extant. All are in Fortville. Built in 1901, the Christian Church at 10 West Church Street is of brick construction in the Romanesque Revival style. It currently functions as the Ten West Center for the Arts. Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church, at 9654 North Fortville Pike, is a wood-framed, vernacular structure built in 1903. St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 523 South Merrill Street, is a brick,

¹¹ Jeffery Howe, *Houses of Worship: An Identification Guide to the History and Styles of American Religious Architecture* (San Diego, CA: Thunder Bay Press, 2003), 156, 157, 160, 161, 166, 167, 175, 177, 182.

¹² Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 200.

¹³ Phoebe B. Stanton, Peter Collins, Henry-Russell Hitchcock, William H. Jordy, Nikolaus Pevsner, eds., *The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste 1840-1856* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968), 312, 313.

¹⁴ Howe, 186.

¹⁵ Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, *Hancock County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory* (Indianapolis, IN: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1983), 12-17.

¹⁶ George J. Richman, B.L., *History of Hancock County Indiana: Its people, industries and institutions* (Greenfield, IN: Wm. Mitchell Printing Co., 1916), 789-794, 807-810.

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Romanesque Revival structure built in 1916.¹⁷ Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church is clearly a unique church by comparison.

In its layout, the church exhibits some characteristics of the Akron Plan. Lewis Miller, along with Walter Blythe and Jacob Snyder, first proposed the idea of an auditorium-like sanctuary that facilitated Sunday school lessons. The idea was adopted for a church in Akron, Ohio, in 1866-1870, and became a popular choice for Protestant congregations until the 1920s.^{18, 19} In a period source, Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church is described as having a main “auditorium,”²⁰ although Sunday school rooms that would typically adjoin the sanctuary appear to have never existed.

Architect Philip F. Jeckel was based in Anderson, Indiana, when he drew up the plans for Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church.²¹ Born in Germany in 1871, he immigrated to the United States in 1881.²² Among the structures reported to have been designed by him were Kirkwood Hall (as Parker and Jeckel) on the campus of Indiana University,²³ Anderson High School,²⁴ a school in Bedford, Indiana,²⁵ the power house of the Union Traction Company in Anderson, Indiana,²⁶ the Carnegie library²⁷ and the Improved Order of Red Men building in Elwood, Indiana,²⁸ and the IOOF Lodge in Greensburg, Indiana.²⁹

¹⁷ Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 12, 17.

¹⁸ Angelique Bamberg, “Architecture Around Us,” *Western Pennsylvania History* (Summer 2019): 10-11, <https://journals.psu.edu/wph/article/view/62950/61950> (accessed 24 March 2024).

¹⁹ Cleveland Historical Society, “The Akron Plan,” <https://clevelandhistorical.org/index.php/files/show/9836> (accessed 24 March 2024).

²⁰ “Fortville’s New Church.”

²¹ Ibid.

²² “United States Census, 1900,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9MM-726> : 14 January 2022), Phillip Jeckel, 1900.

²³ J. Terry Clapacs, Susan Moke, Dina Kellems, and Carrie Schwier, *Indiana University Bloomington: America’s Legacy Campus*, new edition (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2021), <https://books.google.com/books?id=yY0mAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA309&lpg=PA309&dq=%22parker+and+jeckel%22+indiana&source=bl&ots=aHmwOOjKjI&sig=ACfU3U1QAGXWKeBeQfhvvgigIFJ1MAMtA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKFwjwstms3dH6AhXVIIkEHWQsDsAQ6AF6BAGfEAM#v=onepage&q=%22parker%20and%20jeckel%20indiana&f=false> (accessed 8 October 2022), 29.

²⁴ Indiana Department of Public Instruction, *State of Indiana Nineteenth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction* (Indianapolis, IN: William B. Burford, 1898), 226, <https://books.google.com/books?id=RLygAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA226&lpg=PA226&dq=philip+f+jeckel+architect&source=bl&ots=yapu8V1UqK&sig=ACfU3U2jrPLt60wgsGI97BmHLURoGE7ksw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKFwjwPT60Kv6AhVShYkEHWiQAd0Q6AF6BAGfEAM#v=onepage&q=philip%20f%20jeckel%20architect&f=false> (accessed 8 October 2022).

²⁵ “Notice to Contractors,” *Bedford (IN) Weekly Mail*, 24 March 1899, 2.

²⁶ Henry C. Meyer, *The Engineering Record, Building Record and the Sanitary Engineer*, vol. 43 (New York, NY: 1901), 497, https://books.google.com/books?id=Bd0vAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA497&lpg=PA497&dq=%22Phillip+F.+Jeckel%22+architect&source=bl&ots=vUnqwxAl88&sig=ACfU3U0eG16-ct6R2JD1r_diHmC65rXQA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKFwivq4q_0NH6AhUEIX0KHQWIAAYEQ6AF6BAGfEAM#v=onepage&q=%22Phillip%20F.%20Jeckel%22%20architect&f=false (accessed 8 October 2022)

²⁷ “Contract for Elwood Library,” *Indianapolis News*, 23 September 1902, 3.

²⁸ “Red Men Will Build,” *Muncie (Indiana) Star Press*, 10 June 1906, 3.

²⁹ “The New I.O.O.F. Home,” *Indianapolis News*, 29 March 1899, 2.

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The 1962 Modern style addition contrasts with the original church but also reflects its time. Church congregations were growing rapidly in the post-war years, and many congregations were embracing Modernism for their additions and new churches. The addition shows many key characteristics of public facility design from the period. In particular, the designer's use of curtain wall systems and a flat roof probably made the addition one of the most starkly Modern buildings in town, at least for a time.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Fortville, Indiana, is a small town located in Vernon Township in Hancock County slightly northeast of the central part of the state. It is approximately 13 miles northwest of Greenfield, the county seat.

Hancock County, first settled in 1818, was cleaved from Madison County and organized in 1828. It was named for John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. At the time, the area was mostly flat wilderness, populated by Native Americans. Deer, bears, panthers, rattlesnakes, wolves, and other assorted wild animals were common. There were few white inhabitants. In 1836, a portion of the north part of Buckcreek Township in Hancock County became Vernon Township, though the first land entry in Vernon Township occurred in 1826. Fortville, originally called "Walpole" in honor of Thomas D. Walpole, was laid out by Cephus Fort in 1849 and was composed of 41 lots.³⁰ That same year, the first business, a general store, was established, and a railroad through the town was completed in 1852. In 1865, the town was incorporated and the name changed to "Fortville." Its population was 240.³¹ By 1900, just before the current Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church was built, Fortville's population was 1,006.³²

The seeds of Methodism started in Oxford, England, in 1729, by brothers Charles and John Wesley. The movement grew to the point where it split with the Church of England and spread to the United States.³³ In 1784, the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in Baltimore, Maryland, by John Wesley, Thomas Coke, and Francis Asbury.³⁴ As the religion grew, divisions occurred and new churches were founded including the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South. In 1939, these churches reunited with the Methodist

³⁰ J.H. Binford, *History of Hancock County, Indiana: from its earliest settlement by the "pale face," in 1818, down to 1882, illustrated with views, maps, charts, plats, portraits, sketches and diagrams*, 1st ed. (Greenfield, IN: King & Binford, 1882), 25-27, 33, 311, and 313.

³¹ Richman, 799.

³² STATS Indiana, "Indiana City/Town Census Counts, 1900 to 2020," https://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/PopTotals/historic_counts_cities.asp (accessed 15 September 2022).

³³ United Methodist Church, "A (brief) history of the people of the United Methodist Church," <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/a-brief-history-of-the-people-of-the-united-methodist-church> (accessed 10 October 2022).

³⁴ United Methodist Church, "Glossary: Christmas Conference," <https://www.umc.org/en/content/glossary-christmas-conference> (accessed 10 October 2022).

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Episcopal Church to form the Methodist Church.³⁵ In 1968, the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church.³⁶

The origins of the Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church trace to the early 1840s when a small group of Methodist settlers began worshipping in various buildings in Hamilton County, northwest of Fortville. The first dedicated church building, a log structure called Staat's Chapel, was built in 1847 about one-and-a-half miles northwest of Fortville. In 1856, a revival meeting held in Peter Staat's log barn in Fortville led to the formation of the Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation met in various places until 1859 when a frame church was built. In the early 1890s, discussions began about the need to build a new church.³⁷ Eventually, Architect Philip F. Jeckel of Anderson, Indiana, was selected to draw up the plans, and the building contract was awarded to Marsh and Guinn, also of Anderson. On March 18, 1901, ground was broken for the current church structure, and on July 25, 1901, the cornerstone was laid to great fanfare. The church was formally dedicated on March 23, 1902.³⁸

In 1902, the church membership was 200, and by 1922, had grown to 505. In 1947, the church was redecorated and speakers were added to the belfry. In 1954, another redecorating occurred, new lights were installed, and the building was rewired. With the congregation still growing, the church broke ground in 1962 for a 58 feet by 40 feet, two-story education, fellowship hall, and kitchen addition. In 1977, the sanctuary was remodeled and the following year, the tower roofs were restored to their original appearance. In 1986, an elevator and basement level entrance were added and new exterior stairways were built.³⁹

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church became Fortville First United Methodist Church following the formation of the United Methodist Church in 1968.⁴⁰ In 2019, Sunrise United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, merged with Fortville First United Methodist Church to form Gateway Community Church of Fortville. The congregation worships in the 1901 structure built as the Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church.

³⁵ United Methodist Church, "A (brief) history of the people of The United Methodist Church."

³⁶ United Methodist Church, "Formation of The United Methodist Church"

(<https://www.umc.org/en/content/formation-of-the-united-methodist-church>) accessed 10 October 2022.

³⁷ Nichol森 and Shoults, 1-2, 4.

³⁸ "Fortville's New Church."

³⁹ Nichol森 and Shoults, 5-7, Addendum.

⁴⁰ United Methodist Church, "Formation of The United Methodist Church."

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Hancock County, IN
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church
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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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Hancock County, IN
County and State

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 598330 | Northing: 4421140 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

SD NW and Staats Addition, Lot 3, Lot 4 and Lot 23, also Lot 30 Block 13 in Staats Addition, all located in the Town of Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana. The above lots are recorded as quitclaim deeds, files No. OT22-16069 and OT22-16070.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary description encompasses the contributing resource, Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church, of this nomination. This is the property associated with the resource during the period of significance.

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Hancock County, IN
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jill Downs
organization: on behalf of Gateway Community Church of Fortville
street & number: 1202 Elmwood Avenue
city or town: Fort Wayne state: IN zip code: 46805
e-mail: jdowns1908@gmail.com
telephone: (260) 437-1192
date: March 26, 2024

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.)

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Hancock County, IN
County and State

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: Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Fortville

County: Hancock

State: IN

Photographer: Jill Downs

Date Photographed: September 16, 2022

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

- 1 of 11. Northeast and southeast facades, looking north.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0001)
- 2 of 11. Northeast and northwest facades, looking south.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0002)
- 3 of 11. Southeast and southwest facades, looking north.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0003)
- 4 of 11. Northeast and southwest facades, south.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0004)
- 5 of 11. Balcony, narthex and sanctuary, looking southeast.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0005)
- 6 of 11. Southwest transept, looking west.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0006)
- 7 of 11. Sanctuary and altar, looking northwest.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0007)

Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church

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- 8 of 11. First floor classrooms, looking northwest
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0008)
- 9 of 11. Friendship Hall and kitchen, looking east.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0009)
- 10 of 11. Basement classrooms, looking southeast.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0010)
- 11 of 11. Basement classrooms, looking northwest.
(IN_HancockCounty_FortvilleMethodistEpiscopalChurch_0011)

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.

Cloudy. And Easter only six days away. Everything that you want your boy to wear is waiting here—if you're undecided here's the place to go. Think Over. Every suit here is new and in good taste or it would not be here. Have you seen our Children's Department since its resurrection from the fire? It's filled with attractiveness.

HIBBEN, HOLLWEG & CO. IMPORTERS, JOBBERS, DRY GOODS and NOTIONS

The decided advantage of an easily available stock of Seasonable Merchandise, complete in every Department, sold at Wholesale Exclusively, and to a Thorough Knowledge of the requirements of this market We add a personal endeavor to please. Mail orders solicited.

Physicians' Outfits. Emergency Kits, Medicine Cases, Instrument Sets, Operating Gowns and Caps, Hospital Bedspreads, Posters, with Stipules, and all other suitable articles.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. WASHINGTON, March 23.—The World's Sugar Production and Consumption, 1890-1900, is the title of a monograph just issued by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics.

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EA'S CREW IN NEW YORK

SURVIVORS OF THE SPANISH SHIP REACH THE METROPOLIS.

All Saved but the Dog and Cat—Terrible Suffering on the Coast of North Carolina.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Captain W. Garry, of the Spanish steamer Ea, and his crew of twenty-seven men were brought to this port to-day by the Old Dominion line. His ship, with a broken back, lies on a sand spit some nine miles south by east from Cape Lookout light, on the North Carolina coast.

WORLD'S SUGAR OUTPUT MARVELOUS INCREASE IN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

Both Are Far Outstripping Growth of Population—Proportions of Beet and Cane Sugar.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. WASHINGTON, March 23.—The World's Sugar Production and Consumption, 1890-1900, is the title of a monograph just issued by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics.

Waeland's Passengers Arrive.

PHILADELPHIA, March 23.—The passengers who were rescued from the steamer Waeland, which sunk off Holyhead, England, on March 6, arrived here late tonight.

SHIP BURNED AT SEA.

Oil Steamer Major Barrett Destroyed Off North Carolina Coast.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 23.—The unknown steamer reported afloat yesterday by the crew of the Oregon Inlet life-saving station in North Carolina to-day was identified as the Major Barrett.

TO SEE KITCHENER.

(CONCLUDED FROM FIRST PAGE.) China, saying she is treated by the powers as though she were incompetent to defend her own interests.

SNOW AND COLD IN EUROPE.

Even Sunny Spain Is in the Grasp of the Frost King.

ODESSA, March 23.—After abnormally mild weather, the frost has now closed to navigate all the rivers of southern Russia, including the Dnieper and the Dniestr.

BERNE, Switzerland, March 23.—Traffic here has been greatly interrupted by the heavy snowfalls.

Stagnation and Distrust Continue to Rule at Berlin.

BERLIN, March 23.—During the past week the stagnation on the Bourse grew more pronounced; no department showed any life, and transactions continued to shrink in volume.

Declines a Flattering Offer.

LExINGTON, Ky., March 23.—Dean Baker P. Lee, of the Church Cathedral to-day announced his declination of the call to Grace Church, Chicago.

Large Purchase of Mills.

MONTRÉAL, March 23.—Charles R. Hosmer, of this city and F. V. Thompson, of Winnipeg, have purchased the extensive milling business of the W. W. Ogilvie Milling Company.

Messed Her Husband, Killed Herself.

PITTSBURGH, March 23.—Mrs. Birly Ashbaugh, of this city, was killed by a shot from a revolver at her husband this evening.

London Exchange Very Dull.

LONDON, March 23.—The movement of the past week on the Stock Exchange is hardly worth recording. Money was scarce and there is a prospect of its becoming scarcer with the approaching quarterly statement day.

FORTVILLE'S NEW CHURCH

BEAUTIFUL STRUCTURE DEDICATED YESTERDAY BY THE METHODISTS.

History of the Congregation Coupled with the History of the Town—Church and Pastor.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. FORTVILLE, Ind., March 23.—The new Methodist church of Fortville, work on which was begun on March 18, 1901, and which has just been completed, was dedicated with impressive ceremonies this morning.

Revolt Promised in Macedonia.

LONDON, March 23.—Cabling from Vienna, the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says it is officially reported that M. Sarafoff, the chief of the Macedonian committee, is in communication with the Armenian revolutionary committee for the purpose of arranging a general uprising in Macedonia.

GORKI'S ELECTION ANNULLED.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 23.—It has been officially announced here that the election of Maxim Gorki to be an honorary member of the Academy of Science has been annulled.

American Pastor for Christ Church.

LONDON, March 23.—The Rev. E. B. Meyer, pastor of Christ Church, Westminster Bridge road, has informed his congregation that negotiations have been opened to obtain the temporary services of a Christian pastor during the coming autumn and winter.

FORTVILLE'S NEW METHODIST CHURCH.

The new Methodist church of Fortville, Ind., was dedicated yesterday by the Rev. E. B. Meyer, pastor of Christ Church, Westminster Bridge road, London.

Higher Cab Fares.

Rates for funerals will be increased. It is said.

Concrete Work Unleashed.

Organizer John Blue, of Central Labor Union, has just returned from a week's business trip to Chicago.

Cigar Makers' Union.

The Cigar Makers' Union will hold a special meeting Thursday night to be addressed by George French, international organizer of the union.

Summary of the Items of Principal Interest in the Issue of March 23.

Jerome Fidell, the Italian vice consul at Kansas City, died of heart disease, aged fifty-eight.

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THE PARIS COMMUNE.

Socialist Labor Party Celebrates Anniversary in Germania Hall.

The thirty-first anniversary of the commune of Paris was celebrated by the Socialist party of Marion county in Germania Hall last night with a programme of speeches, music and a dance.

Higher Cab Fares.

Rates for funerals will be increased. It is said.

Concrete Work Unleashed.

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All Humors

Are impure matters which the skin, liver, kidneys and other organs can not take care of without help, there is such an accumulation of them.

They litter the whole system. Pimples, boils, eczema and other eruptions, loss of appetite, that tired feeling, bilious turns, fits of indigestion, dull headaches and many other troubles are due to them.

Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills

Remove all humors, overcome all their effects, strengthen, tone and invigorate the whole system.

"I had salt rheum on my hands so that I could not work. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla and it drove out the humor. I continued its use till the sores disappeared." Mrs. Iza O. Brown, Rumford Falls, Me.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.

RAILROAD TIME CARD.

Table with columns for City, Ticket Office, No. 1 East Washington St., and various rates for different routes and services.

CIN. HAM. & DAYTON RY.

Table showing rates for Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway.

IND. AND LOUIS RY.

Table showing rates for Indianapolis and Louisville Railway.

LAKE ERIE & WESTERN R. R.

Table showing rates for Lake Erie and Western Railway.

INDIANA, DECATUR & WESTERN RY.

Table showing rates for Indiana, Decatur and Western Railway.

Pennsylvania Lines

Table showing rates for Pennsylvania Lines.

INTERURBAN TIME CARD.

Table showing rates for various interurban lines including Union Traction Co. and others.

TRANSIT COMPANY.

Passenger Cars—Leave Georgia and Meridian streets. First car at 8 a. m. and hourly thereafter until 10 p. m.

INDIANAPOLIS, GREENWOOD & FRANKLIN R. R. CO.

Passenger cars leave Pennsylvania and Washington streets at 8 a. m. and hourly thereafter until 10 p. m.

Indianapolis.

The movement to provide free bathtubs for the city's poor is taking shape.

The breakfast dinner at the Columbia Club was enjoyed by over one hundred members.

The National Guard will hold its camp of instruction at the fair grounds from May 12 to 20.

Eighty-one candidates have filed itemized statements of their expenses, which aggregate \$18,744.62.

In Memory of George Kothe. The various societies connected with the German Home last night held a meeting in memory of George Kothe.

Brazil school teacher has been asked to resign, having been accused of trying to kiss one of his female pupils.

The labor demonstration at Terre Haute was not so large as was expected. The meeting was held at the Germania Hall.

An Elkhart man has gone to Alaska to investigate some mining claims near Mount St. Elias.

GETTING TOGETHER.

Methodists, North and South, to Unite in Many Lines of Work.

BALTIMORE, March 23.—As a result of the meeting here of a joint commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Episcopal Church and the Northern Church will be urged to adopt at its next meeting a plan for federation in several branches of work.

The pastor, the Rev. G. H. Myers, is a native of this city. He is a graduate of Syracuse University and Boston University, School of Theology. He served in the military service during the active ministry. His three years' pastorate of the Fortville church has been marked by large accessions to the membership, as well as by the erection of the new house of worship.

The earliest Methodist history of this community is unwritten and forgotten. Those who moved here in the forties found a class worshipping in a log building called Staats Church, situated one and one-half miles north of town. The location of this old church is now known as the Fort Cemetery. Fortville was founded in 1853, the year the railroad came through.

In 1856 a revival was held by the Rev. L. W. Monson in a barn belonging to Peter Staat. Several were converted. These, with the membership of Staat's Chapel, organized themselves into the Fortville Methodist Episcopal Church. There were thirty-eight members in the class. The congregation worshipped successively in Staat's barn, a log cabin, the left of the Noel building and in John Hudson's grocery. Each movement emphasized the need of the new church which was built in 1860. The Rev. Eli Ham-

mel was pastor. The house was completed in 1860. It was dedicated by Bishop Thomas Bowman.

The pastors, with their terms of service, were: 1860, L. W. Monson and Milton Wayman; 1861, J. S. McCarty; 1862, 1863, 1864, Wm. Anderson; 1865, Benjamin Smith; 1866, M. A. Peague; 1867, 1868, W. E. McCarty; 1869, J. W. Lowery; 1870, 1871, S. T. Stout; 1872, J. J. Carr; 1873, E. E. Freeman and J. S. McCarty; 1874, S. A. Gerard; 1875, D. D. Powell; 1876, 1877, A. C. Rogers; 1878, S. Bicknell; 1879, 1880, G. P. Fritts; 1881, 1882, J. H. Slack; 1883, 1884, F. M. Lacey; 1885, G. A. Myers.

J. S. McCarty by noble self-sacrifice carried the church through its greatest financial struggle. Notable revivals were held during the pastorate of J. S. McCarty, A. S. Rogers, J. H. Slack and G. H. Myers. In 1889 the church building was enlarged and other repairs made. I. S. Bicknell was then pastor. The parsonage was built in 1897. F. M. Lacey being the pastor. The church to-day has a membership of 257 members and forty-eight probationers. The church building is historically important because in it were held all the war meetings of this section. Here the boys in blue enlisted and were mustered in. Here the Home Guard held their meetings, and here was held the grand welcoming of the veterans.

A meeting of the membership was called by the pastor on Dec. 15, 1900, to consider the advisability of undertaking a new church erecting the new building at the time, and after a thorough discussion the motion to build was carried by a large majority. In response to this sentiment the trustees drafted a subscription paper. Philip F. Jeckel, of Anderson, was selected as architect. His plans were perfected and on April 29, 1901, the contract was awarded to Messrs. Marsh & Quinn, of Anderson. Ground was broken on March 15, 1901. The first stone was laid on May 31. Much interest was manifested in the cornerstone laying on July 25. The stones were all closed.

The following organizations, led by the Fortville Ladies Aid Society, the Ladies of the Church, Ladies A. O. U. W. E. O. P. and Red Men Lodge, the Rev. W. D. Parr, D. D., was the orator. The pastor, the Rev. G. H. Myers, managed the finances and laid the stone. The new church is a stone and brick structure, with a seating capacity of 800. It cost \$14,000. Every seat in the house is in full and direct view of the pulpit. The interior is well finished and there are nine rooms, with a gallery to the main auditorium; four stairways and two vestibules. In the basement are a thoroughly equipped kitchen and dining room. The windows are fine specimens of art glass. Many critics pronounce the G. A. R. memorial window one of the finest in the country. W. H. Peters, of Fortville, was the interior decorator. The finish is very artistic.

The board of trustees consists of J. W. Ray, president; W. R. Raab, secretary; J. A. Gardner, D. C. E. Cochran, Mrs. Clara Smith, D. P. Blackburn. These also were the building committee.

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J. S. McCarty by noble self-sacrifice carried the church through its greatest financial struggle. Notable revivals were held during the pastorate of J. S. McCarty, A. S. Rogers, J. H. Slack and G. H. Myers. In 1889 the church building was enlarged and other repairs made. I. S. Bicknell was then pastor. The parsonage was built in 1897. F. M. Lacey being the pastor. The church to-day has a membership of 257 members and forty-eight probationers. The church building is historically important because in it were held all the war meetings of this section. Here the boys in blue enlisted and were mustered in. Here the Home Guard held their meetings, and here was held the grand welcoming of the veterans.

A meeting of the membership was called by the pastor on Dec. 15, 1900, to consider the advisability of undertaking a new church erecting the new building at the time, and after a thorough discussion the motion to build was carried by a large majority. In response to this sentiment the trustees drafted a subscription paper. Philip F. Jeckel, of Anderson, was selected as architect. His plans were perfected and on April 29, 1901, the contract was awarded to Messrs. Marsh & Quinn, of Anderson. Ground was broken on March 15, 1901. The first stone was laid on May 31. Much interest was manifested in the cornerstone laying on July 25. The stones were all closed.

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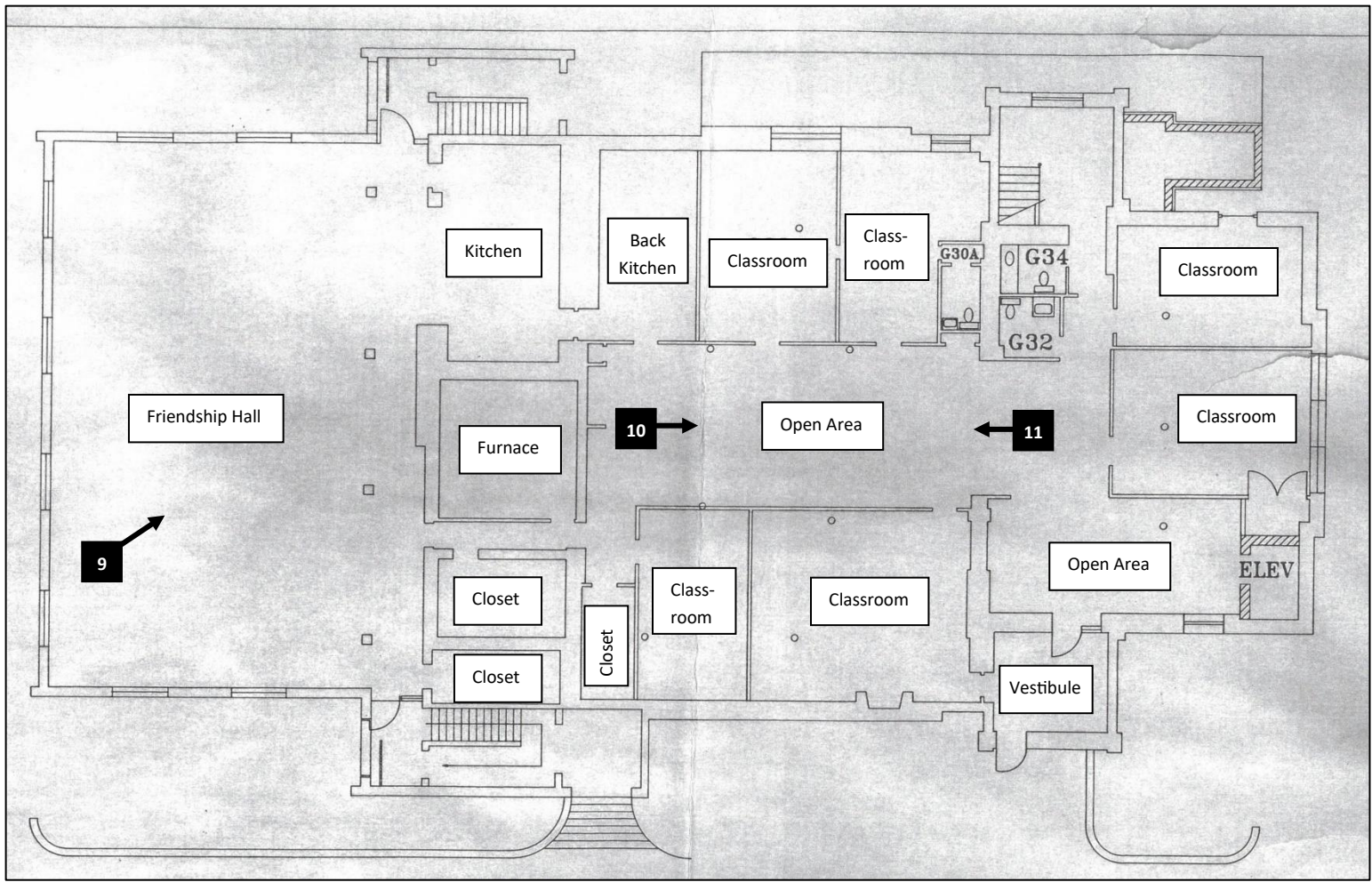
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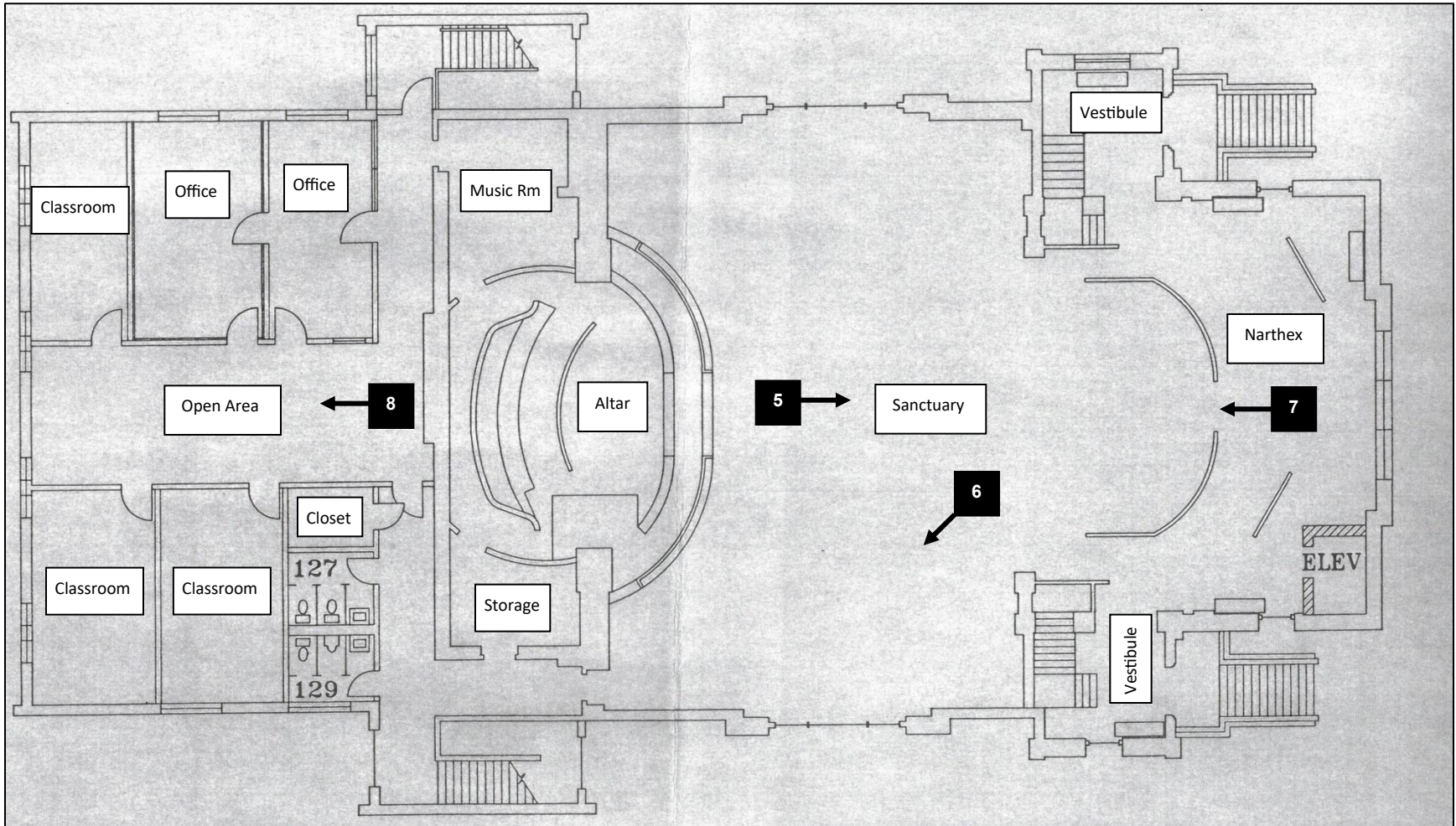
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 Fortville, Hancock County, Indiana
 Basement Floor Plan


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First Floor Plan

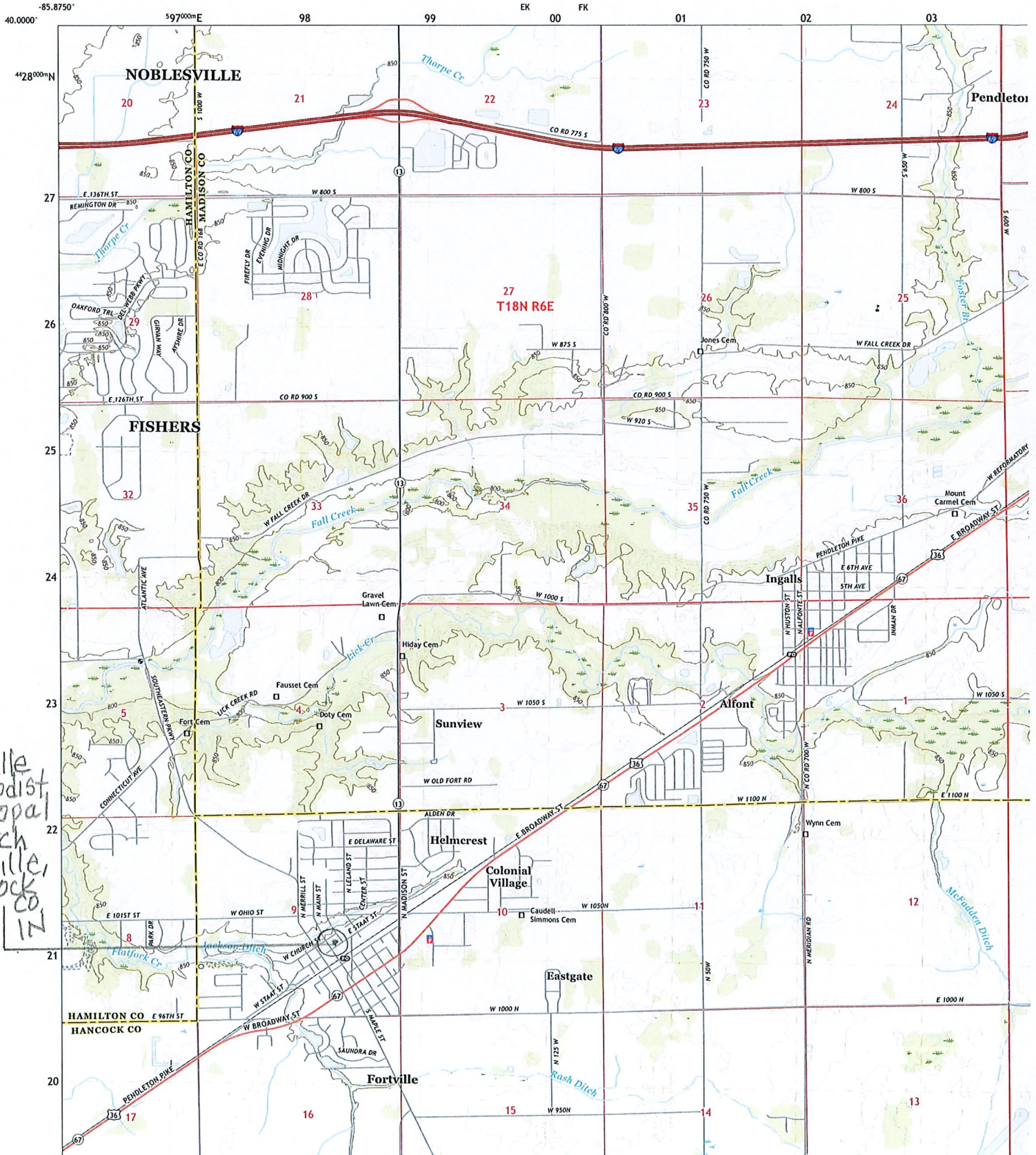


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Fortville
Methodist
Episcopal
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Fortville,
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