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NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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APR 22 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church
Other name/site number: The Sanctuary (current)
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 301 West Church Street
City or town: Edna State: Texas County: Jackson
Not for publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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 ☑ 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 ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
☐ national ☐ statewide ☑ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☑ C ☐ D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 4/13/16
Signature of certifying official / Title **Date**

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official **Date**

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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: _____

for Edson H. Beall 6.7.16
Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

X	Private
	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Religion-Religious facility, church

Current Functions: Social- Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals: Late Gothic Revival

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, stone, and concrete

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-10)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

	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.
X	**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: A - Religious property

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1908

Significant Dates: 1908

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

Architect/Builder: Pearson, Terrell Brooks

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-16)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 9-17)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- x preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested (*approved August 5, 2015*).
- _ 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 #

Primary location of additional data:
- x State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*, Austin)
- _ Other state agency
- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 28.974811 Longitude: -96.646171

Verbal Boundary Description: The property is bounded on the north by Church Street, on the East by Hanover Street, and on the south and west by separately owned property. It is comprised of Lots 3,4,5,6, Block 9, Marvin's Addition to the Town of Edna, Jackson County, Texas.

Boundary Justification: The property is that associated with Allen Presbyterian Church since 1924.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Maria Watson Pfeiffer, Historian
Address: 213 Washington Street
City: San Antonio State: Texas Zip Code: 78204-1336
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Date: November 11, 2015

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-18 through Map-19)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-20 through Figure-28)

Photographs (see log on pages 5 and 6, and continuation sheets Photo-29 through Photo-46)

Photographs

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church
Edna, Jackson County, Texas
Photographed by Roy Ortolon, November 2015

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0001.TIFF
East elevation looking west

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0002.TIFF
North elevation looking southeast

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0003.TIFF
North elevation looking southwest

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0004.TIFF
Northeast corner, north elevation looking south

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0005.TIFF
North and west elevations looking south showing connection between church and education building

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0006.TIFF
West elevation looking south (on left); north elevation of education building (on right)

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0007.TIFF
South elevation looking northeast

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0008.TIFF
Entrance at southeast corner looking south

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0009.TIFF
Sanctuary looking southwest

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0010.TIFF
Sanctuary looking west

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0011.TIFF
Looking east into sanctuary

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0012.TIFF
Sanctuary looking north

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0013.TIFF
Sanctuary looking northeast

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0014.TIFF
Sanctuary stained glass window looking south

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0015.TIFF
Detail, sanctuary ceiling and light fixture

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0016.TIFF
Detail, office fireplace and window looking north

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0017.TIFF
Looking south on Hanover Street

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0018.TIFF
Looking west on Church Street

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.

Narrative Description

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church is located on a .64 acre tract comprised of four lots at 301 West Church Street in Edna, Texas. Though some houses that once stood near the church are no longer standing, the neighborhood still retains a residential character. The original building on the site, known as the Edna Presbyterian Church, was moved here from nearby Texana after the congregation relocated in 1884. The Texana church building served the congregation until it was replaced by the existing, nominated building which was completed in late 1908 and dedicated in early 1909. The church was renamed in honor of Edna banker, J.W. Allen, who made a generous gift to build the new sanctuary. The brick, stone and concrete Gothic Revival church was designed by Waco architect, T. Brooks Pearson. The exterior is noted for its two- and three-story tall towers, triple-arched entry, and stained glass windows, including a stained glass oculus set in a projecting gable. The building is topped by a pyramidal hipped roof. Pearson designed the interior in the Akron style, widely used in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Protestant churches. The design is notable for its radial seating, corner pulpit platform, and flexible arrangement to accommodate both worship and educational activities. From 1908 until the congregation moved in 1965, interior modifications were limited to relocation and replacement of the organ and reconfiguration of the space behind the podium screen to accommodate air conditioning equipment. With the exception of these interior changes and removal of two stained glass windows when the congregation relocated, both the exterior and interior of the church retain a high degree of original integrity. A noncontributing educational building stands to west. Both buildings were fully rehabilitated for use as an events' venue in 2014-2015.

Overall Setting

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church is located at 301 West Church Street at the northwest corner of Hanover Street in Edna, Texas, in a neighborhood located just south of the historic downtown. While numerous residential structures that characterized the neighborhood at the time the church was completed in 1908 are no longer standing, the area still retains a quiet, tree-lined ambiance.

Exterior

The primary elevation of the church faces east onto Hanover Street, though the church maintains its address on Church Street to the north (photo 1). The north façade is the secondary elevation, while the west and south elevations are the least prominent (photos 2, 3, 6, & 7). On the west elevation, a covered walkway connects the church to the adjoining 1941 education building (non-contributing) (photos 5 & 6). The south elevation faces an open grassy area with trees that comprises the remainder of the block (photo 17). The building is constructed of brick, stone and concrete. Church minutes indicate that the specified material was Grey Brick No. 415 supplied by Elgin Butler Brick and Tile Company and laid with Hidvale Lime mortar.[1]

The building is comprised of the auditorium or worship space and adjoining rooms originally used for classes and a pastor's study. The auditorium is topped with a tall pyramidal hipped roof with projecting dormers on the north, south, and east elevations. Diamond-shaped asbestos French lock shingles cover the roof creating a faux slate appearance. The ridges are capped with barrel shaped asbestos tiles. The west portion of the structure, which includes the study and Sunday school rooms, has a high gable that extends from the west side of the pyramidal hipped roof. Near the western end, the gable steps down to a lower height.

[1] John E. Toppins, *A History of Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church, Edna, Texas, prepared by John E. Toppins, Minister on the occasion of the centennial observance, 1855-1955.* (n.p., 1955) 9-10.

The east elevation, reading from left to right, is comprised of a 2-story tall tower (southeast corner), a center bay dominated by a triple-arched entry, a covered portico, a projecting gable with stained glass oculus, and a 3-story tall tower (northeast corner) (photo 1). The 3-foot tall base is separated from the upper part of the structure by a stone course. Projecting piers with stone caps rise to the second story height at both the southeast and northeast corners. The southeast corner tower is topped with round corner finials and projecting gables with arched windows for ventilation. There is a single rectangular window on the tower's first floor and a single arched window on the second floor, both with stone sills.

The center bay on the first floor consists of a triple arched entrance to a recessed portico. Two double-hung stained glass windows are set in the portico wall. These window openings originally housed the previously mentioned memorial windows that the congregation moved to its new church in 1965. The two windows seen today were originally located in the north wall in the pastor's study. The portico is floored in hexagonal white tile with a grey and white diamond patterned border (photo 8). Stone-faced arches are separated by raised brick piers with stone caps and united by a stone string course. Each entry arch culminates in a tall, pointed gable topped with a decorative stone finial. A stone course and simple brick parapet with faceted, tile-roofed corner spires complete the first floor of the center bay. The tall projecting gable at the second floor level is flanked by brick and stone corner piers with pointed finials. The stained glass oculus is set in a decorative brick archway and surround. Both the portico stained glass windows and oculus emit light to the auditorium.

The northeast corner tower generally reflects the design of the southeast tower on the first two levels with the exception that it is two bays wide. The church cornerstone is set between the base and first floor rectangular windows. The design deviates above the second floor pointed arched windows. Corbelled brick banding and decorative cast stone molding cap the square tower, providing the base for the church steeple. The faceted tile roofed corner brick spires are taller than those on the southeast tower. A raised band of brickwork in an arched pattern unites the spires and tower faces. The steeple base is faced in metal and contains arched ventilation windows. The steeple is roofed in decorative pressed metal and has a simple metal finial.

The north face of the northeast tower reflects the design of its east face above the first floor level (photo 4). The first floor features the most prominent entrance to the church. Wide stone steps with simple metal railings lead to a set of double, paneled wooden doors, each with a large, single pane window. A stained glass transom spans the doorway. The surrounding brick archway has a stone keystone. West of the tower, the north elevation of the auditorium portion of the church is dominated by a large window with three, double-hung stained glass windows and an arched, multi-paned stained glass window with cast stone tracery. The lower, operable windows are separated from upper multi-pane window by a brick spandrel panel. The bay is flanked by raised brick piers and topped with a gable roof.

Proceeding west on the north elevation, a single, double-hung stained glass is set in the wall. To the west, stone steps lead to the doorway that accesses the original pastor's study and Sunday school rooms (photos 2 & 3). Raised brick piers flank the arched brick entryway and the entry bay is topped with a decorative brick gable. The northwest portion of the north elevation contains two, double-hung wood sash windows with stone sills that emit light to the pastor's study. These window openings originally housed the stained glass panels now located in the east wall of the portico. The panels were moved after the original memorial windows in the pastor's study were moved to the new church in 1965. A simple brick chimney rises between the windows to serve the study's fireplace.

The west elevation contains four bays (photo 2). It is generally plain brick with a simple brick parapet and center gable. Reading from north to south the first, third and fourth bays contain double-hung wood sash windows while the second bay contains a doorway that connects to the covered walkway leading to the non-contributing education building to the west. (The education building is not related stylistically to the sanctuary nor does it date to the period of significance and would not qualify individually for the National Register.)

The south elevation contains four parts (photo 7). The Sunday school portion at the southwest corner contains three double hung, wood sash windows with stone sills and a single wooden doorway. A five-sided bay with multi-paned windows in three bays emits light to the room behind the auditorium. The bay on the east side adjoining the church contains a wood paneled door with transom. The south elevation of the auditorium reflects the design of its north elevation with its operable lower stained glass windows and upper, multi-paned stained glass window assembly. The south elevation of the southeast tower contains a single arched entry door below and two arched windows above. An accessibility ramp has been added to this entrance.

Interior

On the interior, the dominant feature is the auditorium. The primary access to the auditorium is from the northeast tower vestibule. Two recessed niches flank the main, double entry doors at the northeast corner (photo 13). A secondary entrance at the southeast corner also contains double wood doors flanked by recessed niches (photo 11). The primary entryway at the northeast corner is on axis with the center aisle which separates the radiating pews on either side of the auditorium (photo 13). Pews are dark stained wood and are original. The multi-planed ceiling is paneled in decorative tin and the original pendulum light fixtures are metal and opalescent glass. The pews face the raised podium that is backed with a dark wood paneled screen (photo 9). Outer walls feature dark wood wainscoting to the chair rail height. On the west side of the auditorium, tall folding wood doors provide access to the adjoining Sunday school room, allowing the two spaces to be combined—a feature typical of Akron plan churches (photo 10). The portion of the church west of the auditorium also contains two rooms originally used for Sunday school, a pastor's study and an officers' room. The auditorium can also be entered through a doorway at the northwest corner that connects to the Sunday school/study area (photos 11 & 16). The space behind the auditorium's podium screen has been reconfigured to accommodate air conditioning equipment.

Education Building (Noncontributing)

The non-contributing education building is a rectangular, stuccoed frame structure with a standing seam metal gabled roof and projecting eaves. All windows have modern, six-over-six fenestration and plain plastered lintels and sills. A central glass and wood paneled front door on the north elevation is protected by a gabled portico supported by square wood columns. The porch and stairs are concrete and there is a plain pipe railing. The building has no exterior ornamentation. Two windows flank each side of the main, north entry. A modern covered walkway connects the church and primary east entry to the education building. Projecting porticoes have been added to protect two other doors on the east side and one on the west side of the structure. The south (rear) elevation contains five windows. There are louvered attic vents on both the north and south elevations. The interior is divided by a central hallway with a double parlor to each side. Original partitions have been removed from both the east and west side parlors. On the east, a modern accordion door has been installed and on the west, a modern wood and glass partition added. Hallway doors are both wood paneled and wood paneled with glass. The building contains a full kitchen and bathrooms and a large, un-partitioned meeting room spans the south end of the building. The walls and ceilings are textured and the floors dark-finished wood. The utilitarian building is unrelated to the church in both architectural style and period.

Rehabilitation and Integrity

Renovation of the church was begun in 2014. At that time, the building retained a high degree of integrity but had suffered from years of deferred maintenance. Renovation work focused on correcting this deterioration. On the exterior, damaging vegetation was removed, the exterior brick and stone work was cleaned and repaired, and deteriorated wood trim was replaced in kind. Roof leaks were fixed and the metal portion of the roof painted. A handicapped accessibility ramp was added at the southeast corner and a deteriorated covered walkway at the northwest corner connecting to the adjacent education building was rebuilt. A projecting gabled portico was added to the south elevation door leading into the hallway

behind the sanctuary. Both the plastered walls and metal ceiling in the sanctuary were repaired and painted. Damaged wood trim and flooring was replaced to match the original. Old carpeting was removed and floors cleaned. The original stained glass windows, podium, pews, folding screen, and light fixtures were retained. Walls and trim in the pastor's office, meeting room, and remainder of the building were repaired and painted. Fireplace tile work in the pastor's office was also restored. New HVAC equipment was installed and new wiring and plumbing added. Finally, the missing church bell was replaced.

In 2015, with the exception of the removal and relocation of two stained glass windows and modifications to accommodate the organ and air conditioning equipment, Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church retains a high degree of integrity.

Statement of Significance

The Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of a small-scale, late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical building. Designed by Waco architect, T. Brooks Pearson, the church was completed in late 1908 and dedicated in 1909. Its distinctive Gothic Revival characteristics include masonry construction, flanking towers, street facing gables, triple-arched entry, stained glass windows with cast stone tracery set in pointed arches, finials, and decorative brick courses. The building is also a good example of an Akron Plan interior, which was widely used in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Protestant churches. The design is notable for its radial seating, corner pulpit platform, and flexible arrangement to accommodate worship and educational activities, a design that responded to the centrality of worship and the Sunday school movement rather than formal ritual. Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church is nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of late Gothic Revival design and the Akron Plan, as well as of the work of architect T. Brooks Pearson. Because it derives its primary significance for its architectural qualities, it satisfactorily meets Criterion Consideration A. The period of significance is 1908, the date of the building's construction. The adjoining educational building, constructed in 1941, which is unrelated stylistically to the church structure and does not fall within the period of significance, is non-contributing.

The Presbyterian Church in Jackson County: 1855-1908

The J.W. Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1908 at 301 West Church Street in Edna, Texas. Located at the corner of Church (formerly known as Laura Place or Pin Oak Street) and Hanover (formerly called Quality Avenue), the building served the congregation until it moved to a new sanctuary in 1965 (photos 17 & 18).

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church was the successor to Texana Presbyterian Church, founded in 1855 in the nearby community of Texana, then the seat of Jackson County. Among the congregation's organizing members were John A. Brackenridge and Mary Eleanor Brackenridge, father and sister to noted banker and philanthropist George W. Brackenridge. John A. Brackenridge purchased land in Jackson County in 1851 and moved there with his family to operate a mercantile business that transported goods using the nearby river.[2]

River transportation became outmoded with the construction of rail lines in the late 1800s, and in 1882 Texana was bypassed by the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway. Texana residents moved to the new county seat of Edna located seven miles to the northwest. Edna was built on land granted by Stephen F. Austin to Robert Guthrie in 1824. The town site property was later inherited by Guthrie's granddaughter, Mrs. Lucy M. Flournoy, who conveyed right-of-way to the railroad and half interest in 800 acres in exchange for laying out the town and constructing the rail line. Edna was named for the daughter of Count J. Talferner, the railroad's contractor and builder. Because Count Talferner was Italian, the railroad became known as the "Macaroni" line.[3]

When the population of Texana migrated to Edna and the new town was named county seat in 1883, its commercial and religious institutions followed. Texana Presbyterian church members organized the Edna Presbyterian Church in February 1884 in one of the new town's commercial buildings. It was the first church established in Edna. In August 1884, church

[2] Marilyn McAdams Sibley, *George W. Brackenridge: Maverick Philanthropist* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1973) 22-23. Texana was founded in 1832 near the confluence of the Lavaca and Navidad rivers. The Brackenridge Family's home site and cemetery are today part of the Brackenridge Recreation Complex operated by the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority.
[3] I.T. Taylor, *The Cavalcade of Jackson County* (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1938) 106-107.

trustees purchased land at the corner of Church and Hanover streets from Emma Hunt and the congregation's old Gothic Revival frame structure (NRHP 1979) was moved to the site from Texana in November 1884.[4]

As Edna's first house of worship, the Presbyterian Church invited all "orthodox Christian denominations" to use their sanctuary until their sanctuaries could be constructed. The Methodist Church was dedicated in 1886, the Catholic Church in 1891, the Baptist Church in 1892, and the Episcopal Church in 1899.[5]

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church: 1908

Edna Presbyterian Church reported 109 members by 1899 and by the early 1900s the church was inadequate for the growing congregation. In early 1908, J.W. Allen, president of Edna's Allen National Bank and ruling elder of Edna's growing congregation "set aside a sufficient sum," specifically $15,000, to build a new sanctuary.[6] Allen, a native of Kentucky, came to Texas in the 1870s and settled in Texana where he operated a general merchandise business. He became a member of Texana Presbyterian Church in September 1881. Soon after joining the church, Allen, like other Texana residents, moved to the new town of Edna. Allen, who never married, lived with his brother and sister-in-law and their children.[7]

With Allen's gift, the congregation proceeded with plans to design and construct a new building. The old church building was sold and moved off the site and construction began on the new sanctuary. The congregation moved in June and worshipped in the nearby Episcopal Church while construction was underway. The cornerstone was laid on September 8, 1908, and J.W. Allen died three weeks later on September 28. The trustees subsequently named the church the Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church. The structure was completed in November and was dedicated on April 4, 1909.[8]

The Design of Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church

The church building committee hired Waco architect and engineer T. Brooks Pearson to draw plans for the new sanctuary. Bid advertisements were published and the $11,297 contract was awarded to local builders Holdrige and Lemly on June 3, 1908.[9]

T. Brooks Pearson designed the exterior of Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church in the Gothic Revival style that was widely used in ecclesiastical architecture well into the 20th century. In contrast, the interior design demonstrated the movement toward experimentation with spatial arrangements in Protestant churches. Rather than utilizing a traditional Greek cross plan, Pearson arranged the sanctuary according to the Akron plan, a design that responded to the centrality of worship and the Sunday school movement rather than formal ritual. This stylistic variation was introduced by architect George Washington Kramer (1847-1938). The style created a space where all could see and hear and provided a flexible

[4] Church trustees paid $100 for lots 5 and 6, block 9, in Marvin's addition. Emma Hunt had purchased the land from W.N. and J.B. Marvin in December 1882. Marvin's Addition was platted (Jackson County Deed Records, K:283-84, December 6, 1882; K:396, March 15, 188?).
[5] Taylor 118; Toppins 5.
[6] Toppins 9.
[7] Toppins 8; Victoria *Daily Advocate*, September 29, 1908, 1; United States Federal Census, Jackson County, 1880 and 1900; San Antonio *Daily Express*, March 3, 1908.
[8] Ibid; San Antonio *Daily Express*, September 9, 1908, 2. After being moved to its new site, the church was used for storage. In 1984 it was repurchased by the congregation, then known as Edna Presbyterian Church, and moved and restored at the church's property on Apollo Drive in Edna. Finally, in 2001, the church was moved to its current site at the Brackenridge Recreation Complex near the Brackenridge Family's home site and cemetery. The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and named a Registered Texas Historic Landmark in 1981.
[9] Toppins, 9-11; Victoria *Daily Advocate*, September 29, 1908, 1.

arrangement that accommodated both worship and education. Worshippers were seated in pews arranged in a radial orientation that faced a corner pulpit platform. The sanctuary was separated from an adjacent meeting room by folding doors that could be opened to create a larger gathering space. The Akron plan became popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for Protestant houses of worship— notably those of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian denominations.[10]

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church was positioned on a prominent corner in a residential neighborhood. Its tall northeast corner tower extended high over surrounding structures, creating a focal point for the town. A lower tower at the southeast corner balanced the building's primary façade. Gothic Revival detailing included flanking towers, street facing gables, stained glass windows with cast stone tracery set in pointed arches, finials, and decorative brick courses. The generally square structure was entered through doors in the base of both corner towers. The vestibule led into the auditorium-style sanctuary that featured a raked floor with curved pews oriented toward a corner pulpit. The sanctuary seated 350 and as many as 400 with the addition of folding chairs.

With an emphasis on education, Akron plan churches, including Allen Memorial Presbyterian, were configured to provide access through tall folding wooden doors from the auditorium to an adjoining Sabbath school room. The auditorium and Sabbath school room could therefore be combined as needed. As previously described, the church also contained two smaller Sabbath classrooms, a pastor's study and an officers' room.

An unidentified newspaper clipping contained the following account.

> It is a beautiful building of pearl brick trimmed with stone, with a tall tower on the northeast corner and a smaller one on southeast corner, and art glass windows. There are two memorial windows, one to the donor, Mr. J.W. Allen and the other to Rev. Mr. Caldwell… The building is handsomely furnished throughout, and has a fine Vocalion organ with pipe effect.[11]

In 2015, the church retains the majority of its original floorplan with some modifications to the space behind the auditorium to accommodate organ equipment and the installation of central air conditioning in the middle-1950s. The two memorial windows, originally located in the east portico, were removed to the new church when the congregation relocated in 1965. These were replaced with two stained glass windows from the pastor's study. With these exceptions the original design retains a high degree of integrity as expressed by the pews, pulpit, folding wood doors and art glass windows that remain in intact in 2015.

Architect Terrell Brooks Pearson

Terrell B. Pearson (1881-1945), known more commonly as T. Brooks Pearson, was born in Georgia, but by 1900 he was living in Sherman, Texas, where he worked as a bookkeeper. Little is known about his architectural or engineering training. It is possible that he studied in St. Louis between 1900 and 1903. Pearson came to Waco from St. Louis in 1903 to supervise the building of Providence Hospital. He married Talula Wood in about 1908 and the couple lived in Waco when they were enumerated on the 1910 Federal census. Pearson stated his profession as "architect." [12]

Pearson practiced in Waco with Milton W. Scott and James S. Dean for an undetermined length of time, but the partnership dissolved in March 1912. Pearson and Dean then continued to practice together for a short time. In July 1913,

[10] Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945* (Austin: University of Texas, 1993) 35-37; Willard B. Robinson, *Reflections of Faith: Houses of Worship in the Lone Star State* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 1994) 81-82.
[11] Undated clipping, c. February 1909, courtesy of Harrison Stafford II.
[12] Waco *News Tribune*, April 14, 1959, 5; United States Federal Census, 1900, 1910. In 1920, Terrell B. Pearson stated his profession as a farmer, but in both 1930 and 1940, he was listed as an architect (United States Federal Census, 1920, 1930, 1940).

E M'Iver Ross and Herman F. Cason announced that they would take over Pearson's practice which was subsequently conducted under the name of Ross and Cason. Pearson apparently lived at least twice in Amarillo. In 1927, the Amarillo *Globe* reported that he had "moved back to Amarillo after living in Waco for several years." [13] Accounts of Pearson's work in Amarillo refer to him as a "contractor." His obituary indicates that Pearson served "for a number of years" as architect for the Waco public schools and "designed a number of school buildings here."[14]

A comprehensive list of T. Brooks Pearson's work has not been compiled but the following designs are attributed to him.

Project	**Location**	**Date**	**Firm**
Providence Hospital (supervision)	Waco	1903	Pearson
Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church	Edna	1908	Pearson
Harold H. Shear residence		1910	Scott and Pearson
Nelson K. Smith residence	Waco	c. 1910	Scott and Pearson
Waco High School	Waco	1911 & later; NRHP 2008	Scott and Pearson
Masonic Temple	Waco	1912; NRHP HD 2012	Scott and Pearson
Fire houses including Central Fire Station	Waco	1912 & later; NRHP HD 2012	Pearson
John Koller building	Waco	1913	Pearson
North Waco public school	Waco	1913	Pearson
J.J. Dean residence	Waco	1913	Pearson
YMCA remodeling	Waco	1913	Pearson
Goldstein & Migel Company building	Waco	ND; demolished	Scott, Pearson & Dean
Waco Drug Company	Waco	1925; NRHP 2008	Pearson
Allen Early residence	Amarillo	1927	Pearson
Palo Duro Furniture Company	Amarillo	1927	Pearson
Robert B. Dupree residence	Waco	1929	Pearson
First Baptist Church education building	Waco	1929	Pearson
High school and auditorium	Groesbeck	1935	Pearson
State juvenile training school-hospital addition and remodeling	Abilene	1936	Pearson
State juvenile training school- dormitory	Abilene	1937	Pearson
Lampasas County Courthouse-alterations and additions	Lampasas	1937; NRHP 1971	Pearson
Coca Cola Bottling Company	Waco	1939; NRHP HD 2012	Pearson with Robert V. Darrah (Los Angeles)

Notably, with the exception of Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church and an education building for Waco's First Baptist Church, this list does not include any other church-related structures. At this time it is not known if Pearson designed any

[13] Amarillo *Globe*, January 13, 1927.
[14] Waco *News Tribune*, August 6, 1945, 1.

other religious structures. Pearson continued his career throughout the 1930s and was enumerated on the 1940 census as an architect. He died in Waco on August 5, 1945 at the age of 63.[15]

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church: 1908-1965

The population of Edna grew in the early 1900s, increasing from about 1,100 in 1904 to 2,000 in 1925. Though church statistics are not available, it is assumed that the congregation of Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church also increased and prospered. In 1924 the church elders purchased two adjoining lots to the south on Hanover Street. Period postcards and the Sanborn's insurance maps for 1924 and 1948 illustrate a frame cottage on the property (figures 3,4,5 & 7). The house was apparently removed by the church at a later, undetermined date. The current owners, life-long residents of Edna, have no recollection of the structure. Available material does not indicate if the house was used as a manse or for other church functions. It is known that after a new minister was called in 1952, "the officers of the church, having already determined to build a manse" called a church meeting to elect a manse committee. The manse was completed at 410 S. Hanover in 1953.[16]

The congregation conducted its worship services and educational programs in the church structure until early 1942. A separate educational building was needed to accommodate the growing Sunday school, and in late 1941, a contract for $11,695 was signed with E.T. Gerdes of Victoria to construct the new structure that was completed in March 1942. That structure remains standing today and is a non-contributing building. The original church organ was replaced in 1949 with a new instrument and in 1954, the organ console was relocated. In advance of the congregation's centennial in 1955, a new choir section was built, carpet runners installed, the church was re-painted, and central air conditioning and heating was installed in 1955. The centennial celebration was held on September 18 and 19, 1955. At the time of the centennial, the congregation numbered 235 members.[17]

Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church occupied the building at 301 W. Church Street until 1965. Only four years after celebrating its centennial, the congregation approved recommendations from its building committee to construct a new church on a five-acre donated site. Bids were approved at a congregational meeting on April 23, 1964. Members also approved changing the name from Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church to Edna Presbyterian Church. The name change took effect on June 15, 1964. The last service was held in the Gothic Revival building at 301 W. Church Street on February 21, 1965 and the congregation moved to its new building at 502 Apollo Drive.[18]

Two months after holding the last service in its 1908 Gothic Revival church, the congregation sold the building to Jackson County Loan and Investment Company for $25,109. The building was rented to a Lutheran congregation for four years and in 1977 was sold to Thomas and Gladys Manning for $30,000. The church and adjoining educational building were used until 1995 as the Jackson County Funeral Home and Sowders Printing Company. The businesses were closed after Mr. Manning's death and the property sold in March 1995 to the Slavik Family and Francis Blanchard. In 1996, they conveyed the property to the East Texas District Pentecostal Church of God, Corsicana and New Life Pentecostal Church of God, Edna, for $36,000. The Pentecostal Church used the property until about 2011. It remained vacant and was

[15] Texas Department of Health, death certificate 36372; Waco *News Tribune*, April 14, 1959, 5. The list of works by T. Brooks Pearson is drawn from numerous newspaper sources accessed on newspaperarchive.com, with additional information provided by Stephen Fox (e-mail correspondence, Stephen Fox to Maria Pfeiffer, May 7, 2015).
[16] Joe Hermes to Maria Watson Pfeiffer, November 25, 2015; Toppins 15; *Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide for 1904*, May 1904; (http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth123779/ accessed November 25, 2015); *The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide 1925*, ca. 1925; (http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth123783/ accessed November 25, 2015),.
[17] Toppins, 14-15.
[18] http://www.ednapc.org/ourchurchshistory.htm, accessed on May 21, 2015.

purchased by Joe and Margaret Hermes and Jeanette and Harrison Stafford in 2014 who have renovated it as an event venue. The project is being submitted for both State and Federal tax credits.[19]

In 2016, Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church remains an excellent, small-scale example of Gothic Revival style architecture built on the Akron plan popular in Protestant church design in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The building retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, as well as location and setting. It is the only currently known example of church design by prolific Waco architect T. Brooks Pearson. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Because it derives its primary significance for its architectural qualities and not religious doctrine, it satisfactorily meets Criterion Consideration A. The period of significance is 1908, the date of the building's construction. The adjoining educational building, constructed in 1941, which is unrelated stylistically to the church building, is classified as noncontributing.

[19] Jackson County Deed Records (JCDR), Instrument No. 78,456, filed May 5, 1965; JCDR 563:431-432, filed November 30, 1977; JCDR 51:802-803, March 10, 1995; JCDR 80:596-599, filed August 12,1996; JCDR 470:217.

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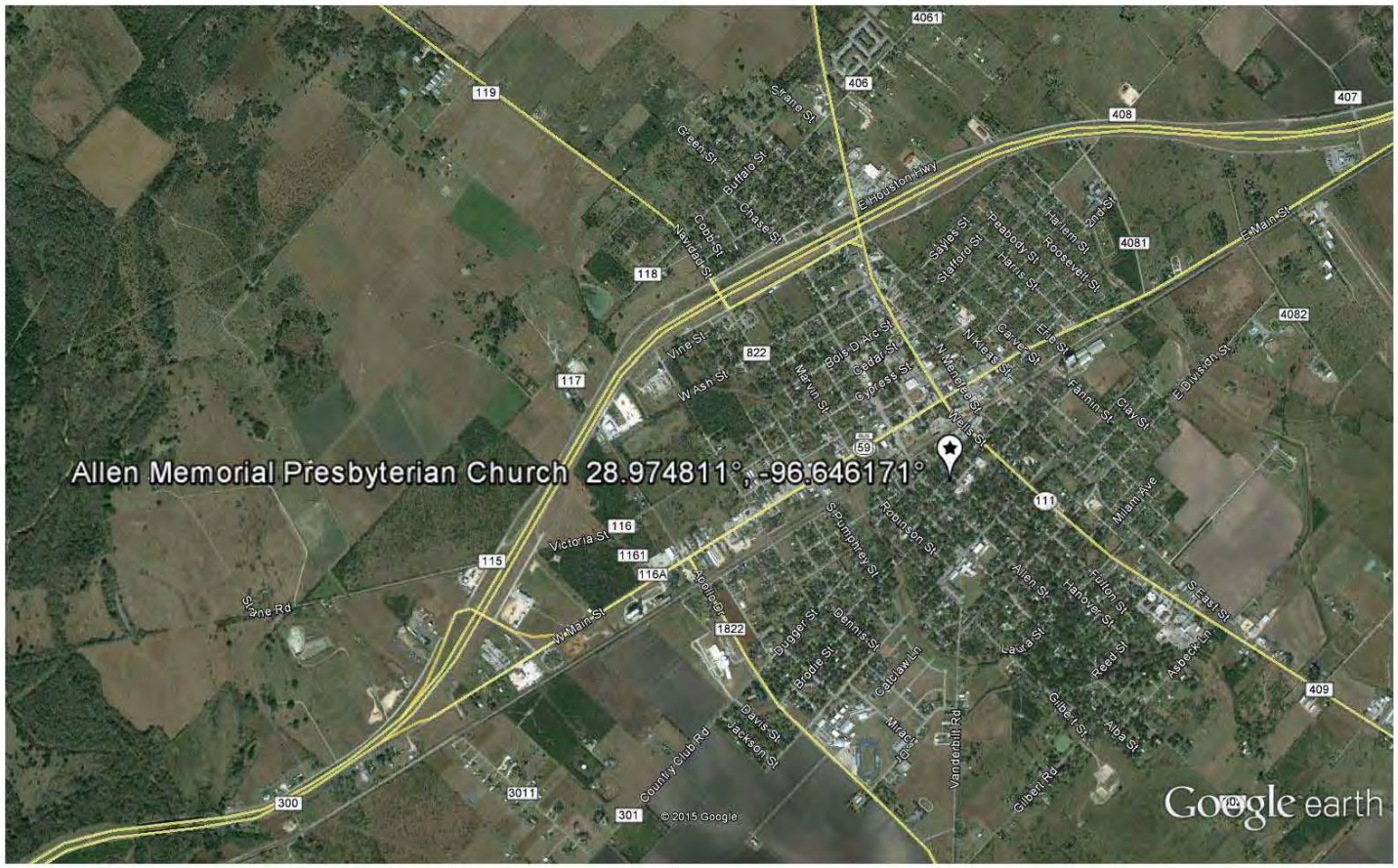
Stafford, Harrison and Joe Hermes. Miscellaneous clipping.

United States Federal Census, 1900-1940.

Waco News Tribune, various issues.

Map 1: Jackson County (shaded) is located along the Gulf Coast of Texas.

Map 2: Scaled Google Earth map depicts nominated property's location within the community of Edna, Texas.



Map 3: Scaled Google Earth map depicts nominated property's approximate boundary and its location at the intersection of Church and Hanover streets.

Figure 1- Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1908

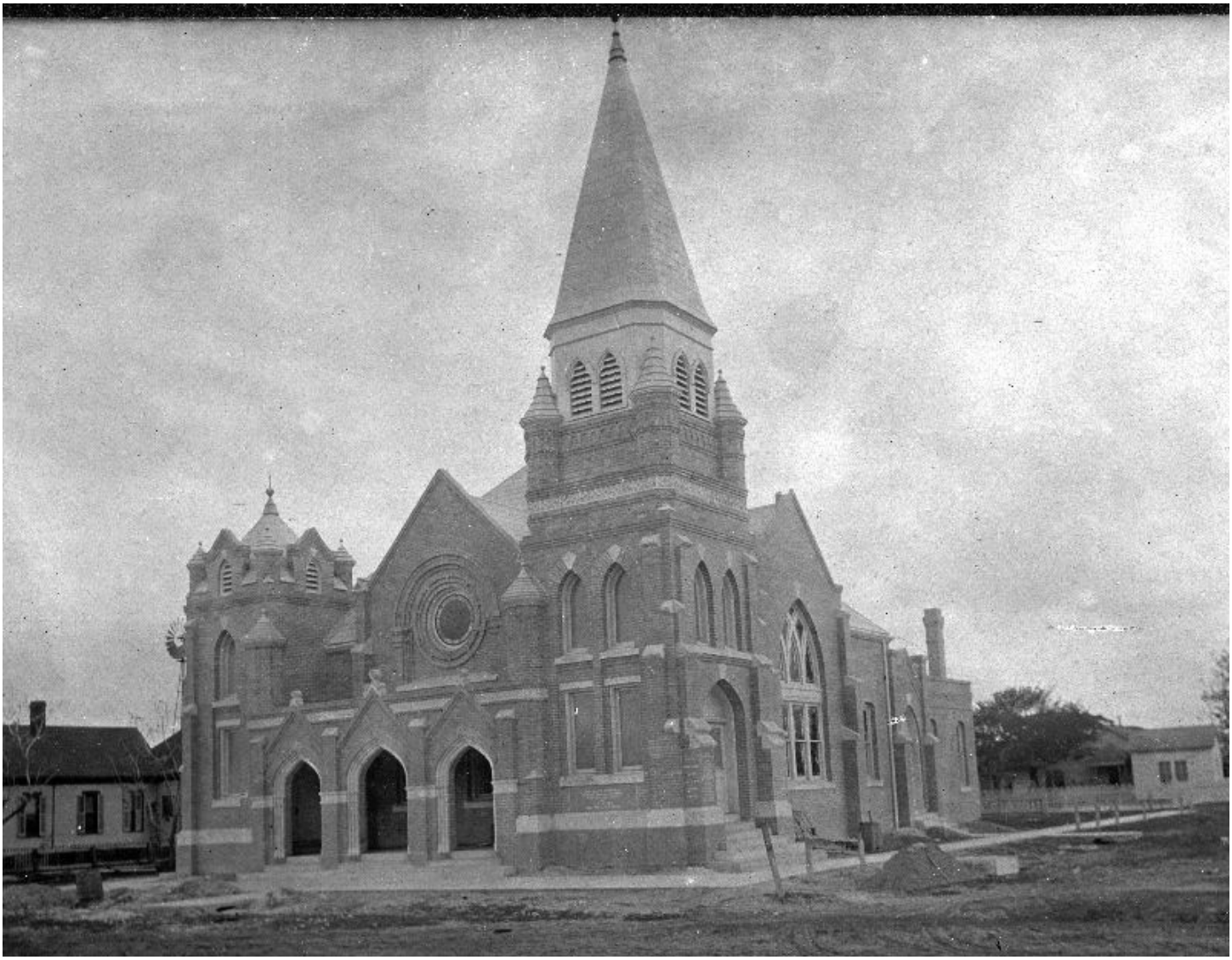


Figure 2- Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church, ca. 1908

Figure 3- Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church- postcard showing view looking south on Quality Avenue (today's Hanover Street), c. 1910

Figure 4- Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church, postcard showing church ca. 1920

Figure 5- Allen Memorial Presbyterian- 1951

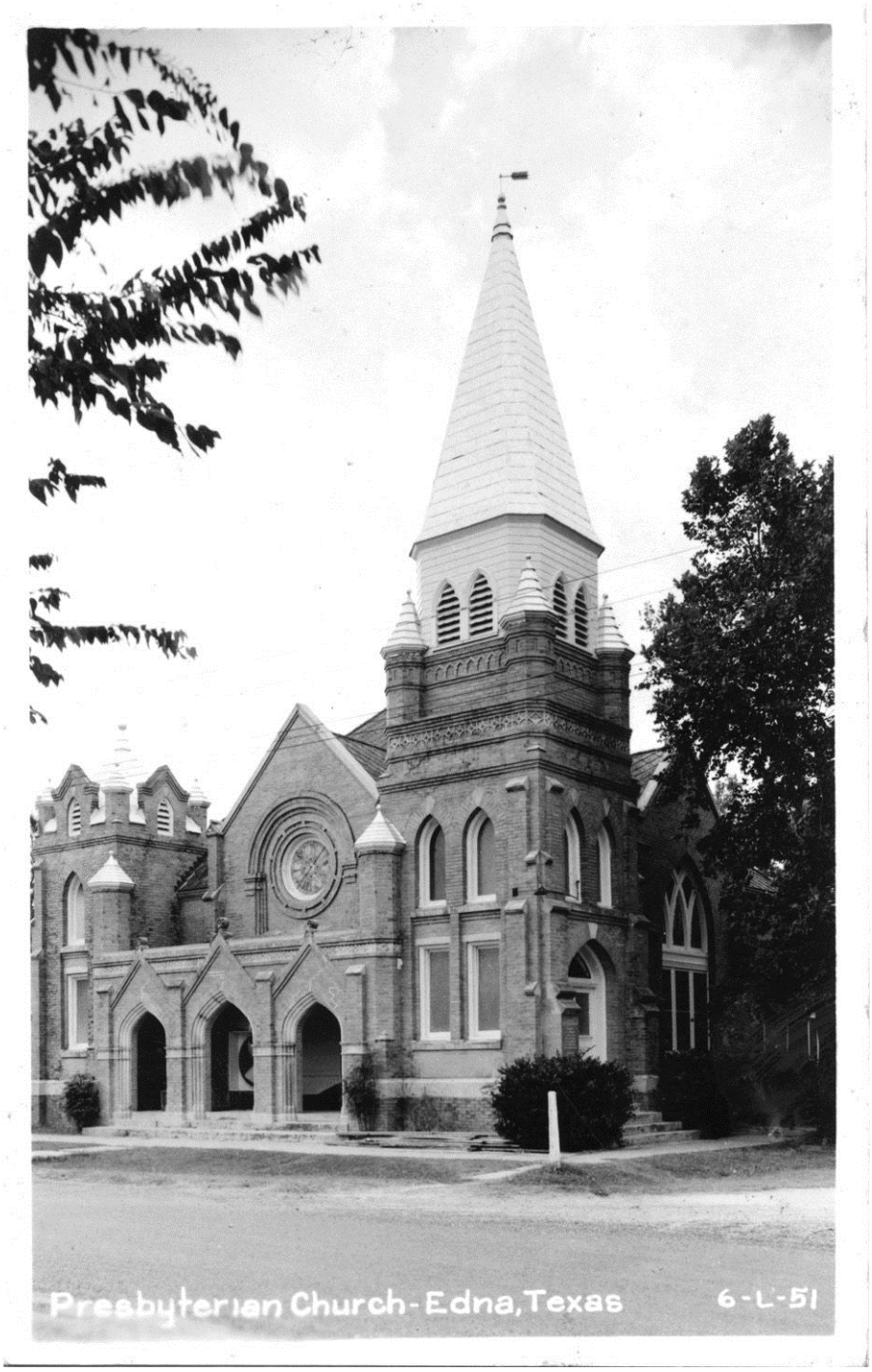


Figure 6- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1926

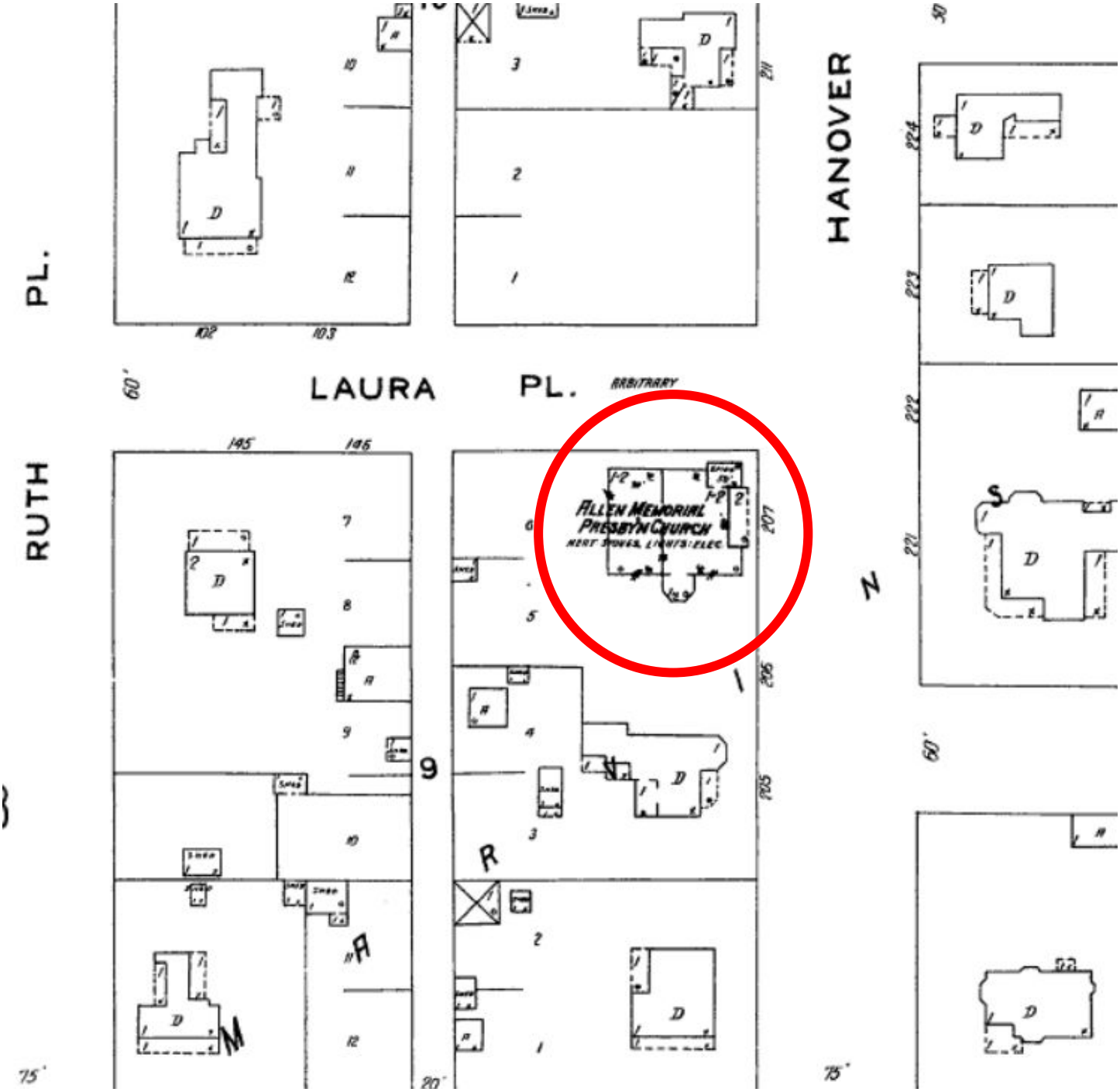


Figure 7- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1926-1949

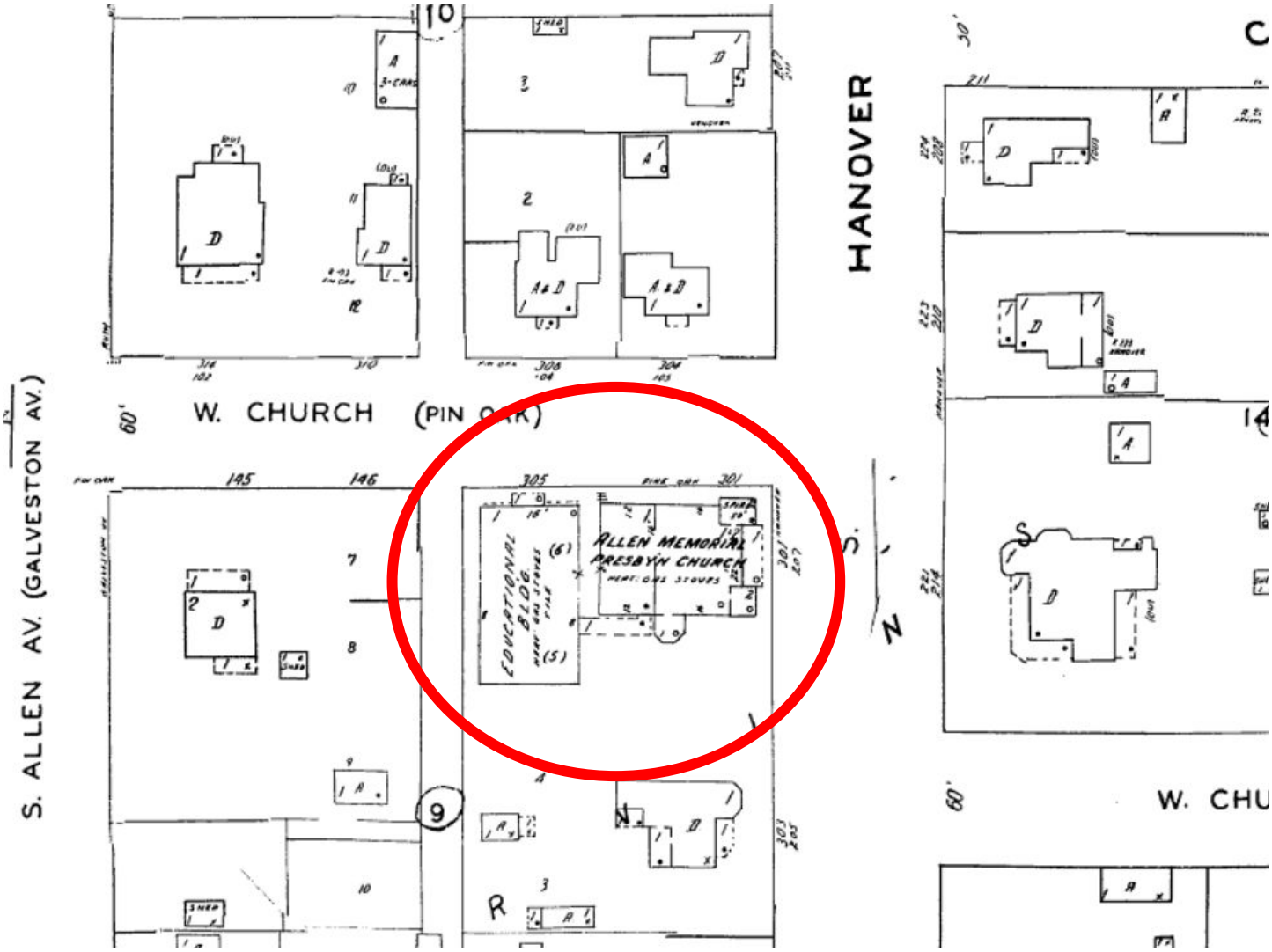
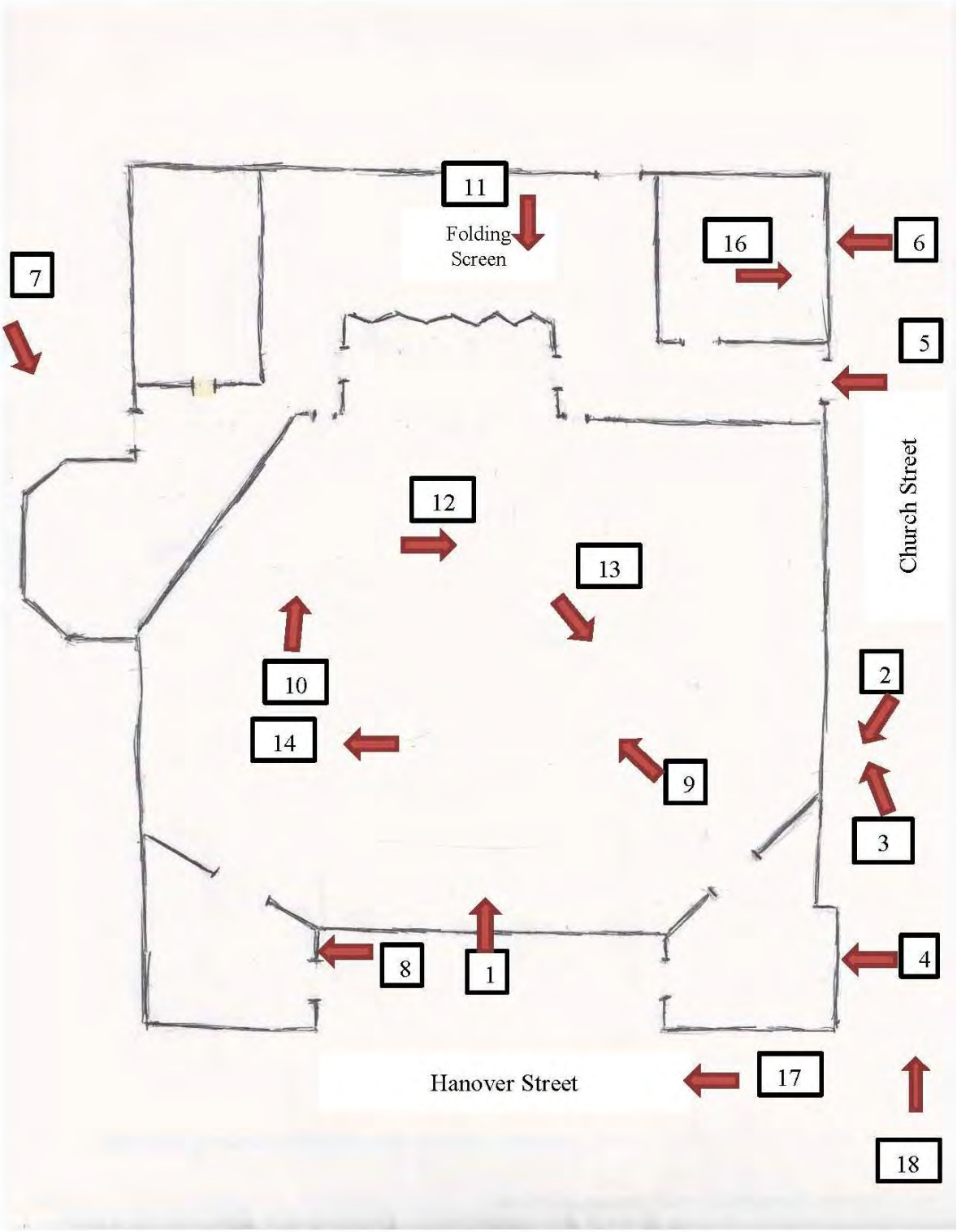


Figure 8- Plat of Marvin's Addition. The nominated property occupies Block 9, Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Figure 9: Floor plan, with photo references. (Photos begin on next page.)



Photographs

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0001.TIFF
East elevation looking west

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0002.TIFF
North elevation looking southeast

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0003.TIFF
North elevation looking southwest

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0004.TIFF
Northeast corner, north elevation looking south

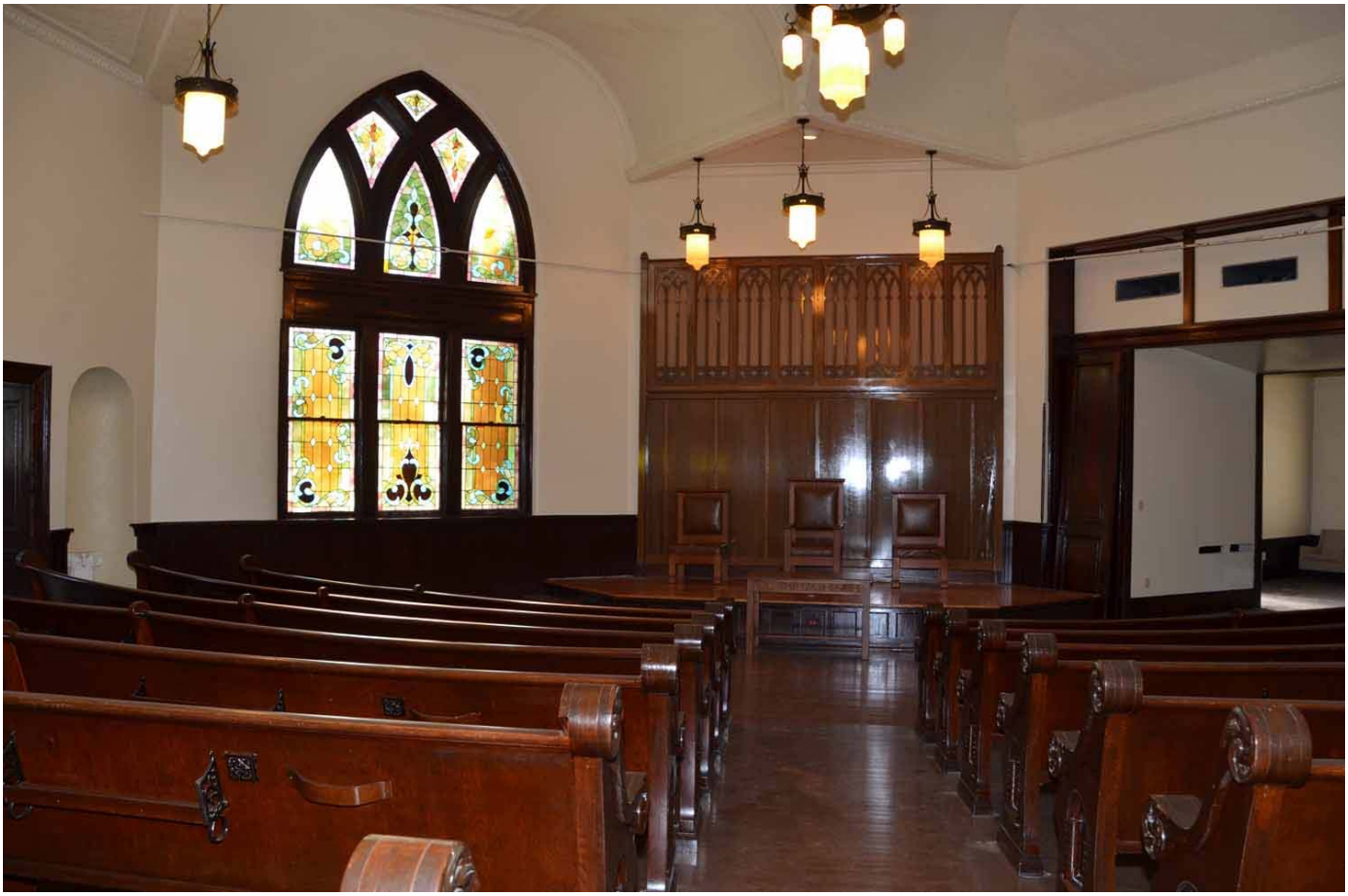
TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0005.TIFF
North and west elevations looking south showing connection between church and education building

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0006.TIFF
West elevation looking south (on left); north elevation of education building (on right; noncontributing)

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0007.TIFF
South elevation looking northeast

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0008.TIFF
Entrance at southeast corner looking south

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0009.TIFF
Sanctuary looking southwest



TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0010.TIFF
Sanctuary looking west

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0011.TIFF
Looking east into sanctuary

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0012.TIFF
Sanctuary looking north

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0013.TIFF
Sanctuary looking northeast

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0014.TIFF
Sanctuary stained glass window looking south

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0015.TIFF
Detail, sanctuary ceiling and light fixture

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0016.TIFF
Detail, office fireplace and window looking north

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0017.TIFF
Looking south on Hanover Street

TX_Jackson County_Allen Memorial Presbyterian Church_ 0018.TIFF
Looking west on Church Street

- fin -

STOP

803

HANOVER ST
W CHURCH ST