

**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
other names/site number Ridgedale United Methodist Church; First Baptist Church of Bozontown

2. Location

street & number 1518 Dodds Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Chattanooga vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Hamilton code 065 zip code 37404

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 for 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I hereby certify that the property is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Hamilton County, TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
3	0	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church building

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church building

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick

roof Asphalt
other Glass, plaster, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1925

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Parks, T.V., builder of annex

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Bicentennial Library, Chattanooga, TN

Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Hamilton County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.6 acres Chattanooga, TN 112 SW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>657818</u>	<u>3876724</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Archambault/Historic Preservation Planner
organization Southeast Tennessee Development District date February 2009
street & number P.O. Box 4757 telephone 423.424.4266
city or town Chattanooga state TN zip code 37405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Reverend N.F. Ball, First Baptist Church of Bozontown,
street & number 1518 Dodds Avenue telephone
city or town Chattanooga state TN zip code 37404

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
Hamilton County, TN

VII. Description

The Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church (First Baptist Church of Bozontown) is located at the corner of Dodds Avenue and 16th Street in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Situated at the base of Missionary Ridge, the Late Gothic Revival Style church faces west on Dodds Avenue on a downward sloping half-acre lot. The brick sanctuary and education building, constructed in 1925, is two stories and features a T-shaped floor plan with a front gable section intersected by a rear side gable section. Connected to the rear gable section's north elevation is a brick, three-story wing connector and flat roof annex building constructed in 1953. The building contains large arched stained glass window units, engaged buttresses, and a beamed ceiling.

A high degree of the church's original integrity is retained in the sanctuary and original Sunday School department. The church features original stained glass windows surrounded by a brick stretcher course, six-over-six sash windows, interior wood doors, hardwood floors, plaster walls, and pews.

The church's surrounding lot contains sidewalks along its south elevation (16th Street) and west façade (Dodds Avenue). A narrow parking lot with a retaining wall is located behind the church with a driveway along the educational building's north and west elevations.¹ An open lawn with two mature trees is located directly west of the educational building. A stone retaining wall, constructed in 1943, is located on both sides of the church's main entrance concrete stairway. The stone retaining wall is considered a contributing structure.

The façade of the church faces west toward Dodds Avenue. The main entrance is accessed by a sidewalk that runs parallel with Dodds Avenue and two sets of concrete steps divided by iron handrails.² The steps are flanked by brick and stone railings and span the width of the narthex. The entrance to the narthex includes two wood paneled doors featuring three rectangular stained glass panes on each door with a semi-arched transom that includes eight stained glass panes. The entrance has a cut stone block surround.

The narthex, protruding from the façade, is flanked on both sides by brick buttresses with stone lancets and features an angular parapet wall above the entrance doors. The north and south elevations of the narthex include one rectangular stained glass window covered by plexiglass on the first floor and one replacement entrance door on the sub-floor leading to the community room in the basement. Both elevations also feature brick pilasters.³

The sanctuary's façade is symmetrical featuring two sets of stained glass windows on the first and second stories with a circular stained glass window centered below the apex of the gabled roof. A set of original six-over-six sash windows are visible on the basement at either side of the narthex. The windows are outlined by a brick stretcher course with a semi-arched design above the second story windows.

¹ Note: The driveway was paved in 1983.

² Note: Handrails were added in 1947.

³ Note: Plexiglass added in late 1970s.

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The first story windows feature a set of three rectangular stained glass windows on either side of the narthex entrance. Two slim rectangular stained glass windows flank a wider, central stained glass window. The windows are encased by wood frames.

Two sets of semi-arched windows are present on the second floor each divided into three sections. The middle window in each set features an elongated arched window topped by three smaller fixed panes. The bottom of the window opens as a hopper. The two windows flanking the middle window are slimmer, elongated windows topped by two smaller fixed panes.

The south elevation's first story features four symmetrically placed semi-arched stained glass windows separated by two-tier brick pilasters topped by stone lancets. Each stained-glass window is divided into three sections. The middle section has an elongated arched window that is topped by three smaller fixed panes. The bottom of the elongated window opens as a hopper. The outer two sections have an elongated fixed window topped by two smaller fixed panes. The entire unit is set in an arched opening that features concrete sills, corner blocks, and keystone. The basement level includes three sets of paired six-over-six double-hung windows. Each bay of the elevation is separated by a brick engaged buttress.

The north elevation, similar to the south elevation, features four identical semi-arched stained glass windows separated by two-tier brick pilasters topped by stone lancets. The basement level includes four sets of six-over-six double-hung windows. The northeast corner includes a brick, arched entrance in the connector between the education building and the annex leading to the community room underneath the sanctuary.

The rear side gabled section, the original Sunday School department, protrudes south towards 17th Street. It's south elevation includes three six-over-six double-hung windows on the first and second stories with a rectangular wood vent below the apex of the gabled roof. The roof is topped by a brick chimney. A side entrance facing Dodds Avenue is covered by a red, metal awning and is accessed by five concrete steps and an ADA accessible concrete walkway with metal railing running parallel with 17th Street. In the second floor above the entrance is another six-over-six double-hung window.

The rear (east) elevation of the Sunday School department faces the church's parking lot and features five symmetrically placed six-over-six windows on the first and second stories. A small rectangular four-light window is located north of the central window on the first story. The center window on the second story is covered with plywood. The Sunday School department's north elevation attaches to the educational building via a three-story wing connector, constructed in 1953. The north elevation includes two six-over-six double-hung windows on either side of the wing connector on the first and second stories.

The three-story wing connector is constructed of brick with a flat roof and an arched entrance with original double doors facing Dodds Avenue. The second and third stories each include a set of aluminum frame windows on the west elevation and smaller frame metal windows on the east elevation with an entrance door on the first floor.

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The educational building, constructed in 1953 to accommodate a growing congregation, is a three-story building constructed of brick with a flat roof. All elevations feature rectangular four-light metal windows with hoppers on the bottom frame and concrete sills. Two-tier, brick engaged buttresses capped with stone are located at the southwest and northwest corners of the building. Replacement entrance doors are located on the west, north, and east elevations. The south elevation is connected to the three-story connector.

Interior

The sanctuary is accessed through the narthex's original, wood paneled double doors. The interior of the narthex includes rectangular stained glass windows on its north and south walls, and an original, wood paneled double entrance into the sanctuary. The sanctuary's floor plan is rectangular in shape with original wood floors, plaster walls, brass light fixtures, original light brown color pews, cream colored walls, and rich, dark brown interior woodwork on the ceiling support beams, window trim, and doors.

The west wall features double wood doors leading to the narthex, four semi-arched stained glass windows on the first and second stories, a second story balcony with two staircases along the north and south walls, and a large, central circular window on the second story above the balcony. The first story semi-arched stained glass windows on either side of narthex/sanctuary entrance include an Alpha Omega symbol on the northwest window and a flower symbol on the southwest window. The staircases include original wood railings, balusters, and newel posts. The balcony, supported by two wood columns, includes two sections of original pews with five pews in each section. The stained glass windows feature dark brown frames. Two radiators are located at the base of the west wall on either side of the sanctuary's main entrance.

The north and south walls feature four identical semi-arched stained glass windows each containing a symbol in the central elongated, arched window. The bottom of each elongated, arched window includes an operable hopper that open for cross-ventilation through the sanctuary. Three radiators are centered at the base of three of the four windows. The windows closest to the west wall of the sanctuary are partially covered by the balcony stairwells.

Symbols are located within a circular medallion design in the central elongated section of the semi-arched stained glass windows along the north and south walls. Three out of the eight windows are memorial windows that include writing at the bottom section of the central elongated window. Symbols on the north wall windows, beginning in the northeast corner closest to the pulpit, include the following: Holy Bible, Ten Commandments (In Memory of J.A. Smith), Harvest (In Memory of Minnie Lee Meachem Krause), and Anchor. Symbols on the south wall windows, beginning in the southeast corner closest to the pulpit, include the following: Dove, Crown with Jewels (In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Martin), Grapes, and Cross & Crown.

The sanctuary floor slopes slightly towards the pulpit and recessed choir box centered on the east wall. Red carpeting covers the wood floor in the aisles, pulpit, rostrum, and choir box. Three sections (ten pews in each section) of original pews face the pulpit. Each pew includes Gothic arches on the ends with red seat cushioning. The middle section of pews is approximately double the length of the two outer sections. One

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pew is located on either side of the narthex/sanctuary entrance along the west wall. Four symmetrically placed large stained glass windows are located on the north and south walls. The organ pipe room and box is located on the second floor directly above the choir box. Gold pointed arch trim surrounds the choir box and dark brown stained organ box.

Original double wood doors topped by semi-arched wood trim are present on either side of the pulpit and lead into the original Sunday School department and church offices. Inside the arch of the wood trim is a picture of the Last Supper in the southeast doorway and a picture of a resurrected Jesus in a sanctuary. The Sunday School department is two stories and includes a north-south central hall on both floors, pastor's office on the first floor, and Sunday School rooms. It features plaster walls, fluorescent lighting, original wood floors, and original six-over-six wood sash windows.

The Sunday School department's first floor includes the pastor's study and large Sunday School room along the east wall and the protruding choir box along the west wall. The pastor's study, originally a Sunday School room and located in the northeast section of the Sunday School department, includes a dropped ceiling, green carpeting, two six-over-six windows on the east wall, one six-over-six window on the north wall, closet and replacement entrance door on the west wall, and original closet in the southeast corner of the room.

The first floor Sunday School room is located in the southeast section of the Sunday School department south of the pastor's study. It is accessed via the north-south central hallway through an original door. The room includes two six-over-six windows on the south wall, three six-over-six windows on the east wall, dropped ceiling, original closet in the southwest corner, and a unisex restroom on the north wall, added in the late 1990s.

The rear of the choir box protrudes into the first floor along the west wall. The choir box can be accessed in the hallway by four wood steps and original wood paneled doors. Located on the hallway's south wall is one six-over-six window and a wood paneled door with stained glass at the southwest corner. The doorway leads to the church's side concrete step entrance along 16th Street.

Also located on the south wall of the hallway is an original, L-shaped staircase with square balusters, newel posts, and wood flooring. The stairwell leads to the second floor Sunday School rooms and organ pipe room. The Sunday School room in the southeast corner features an original wood entrance door on the west wall, two six-over-six windows on the south wall, and two six-over-six windows on the east wall. A second Sunday School room, located in the northeast section on the second floor, was divided into two rooms in the 1990s. The south room shelters HVAC unit equipment. It includes one six-over-six window on the east wall and an original wood entrance door in the southwest corner. The north room features one six-over-six window on the east and north wall.

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Located along the west wall of the hallway is the organ pipe room, which protrudes into the hallway. An entrance to the room is located on its north side via steps and an original wood door. The organ pipes, manufactured by Wicks Organ Company, were installed in 1946.

The wing connector for the annex building added in 1953, can be accessed through the Sunday School Department's north-south hallway on the first and second floors. The wing connector is accessed by double wood doors with four glass panes located on the hallway's north wall. The first and second floors of the wing connector include aluminum windows on the west wall, linoleum floors, and women's restrooms and stairwells on the east wall. The basement level of the wing connector features the men's restroom and stairwell on the east wall, and a double door entrance with nine-light windows and an aluminum window on either side of the door.

The educational building's first and second floors feature plaster walls, replacement six-light doors, linoleum floors, original light fixtures, and north-south central hallways. Each floor includes one room along the west section, three divided rooms on the east section, and a room on the north section. The north room on the second floor is divided into two rooms. The basement level of the educational building features two separate rooms in the west section, one room in the north section, and two connecting rooms in the east section. The north and west walls feature metal replacement doors that were originally aluminum frame windows.

The basement level below the Sunday School Department and sanctuary features a north-south hallway with linoleum floors, wood paneled walls, dropped ceiling, and fluorescent lighting. Offices and a closet are located on the east wall. Restrooms are located in the hallway's southwest corner located next to a straight staircase leading to the sanctuary on the south wall. Two double doorways leading to the baptismal pool and kitchen are located on the west wall.⁴

The kitchen and fellowship hall is located directly underneath the sanctuary. It features linoleum floors and wood paneled walls, dropped ceiling, and fluorescent lighting. The baptismal pool is located along the east wall. Three sets of six-over-six windows are located on the north wall and one set of six-over-six windows are on the west wall along with a double door exit below the narthex. Two storage rooms are located along the south wall and may be accessed by doors in the southeast and southwest corners of the kitchen/community room.⁵

The Ridgedale M.E. Church experienced some alterations from the 1970s until present, but retains a high degree of its original architectural integrity. A large majority of the alterations have occurred in the kitchen and fellowship hall with the addition of wood paneled walls, linoleum floors, dropped ceilings, and fluorescent lighting. The church's construction in 1925, relates largely to the development of the Ridgedale community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It remains as a religious institution today serving a well populated residential community in Ridgedale.

⁴ Note: Wood paneling was added in 1985.

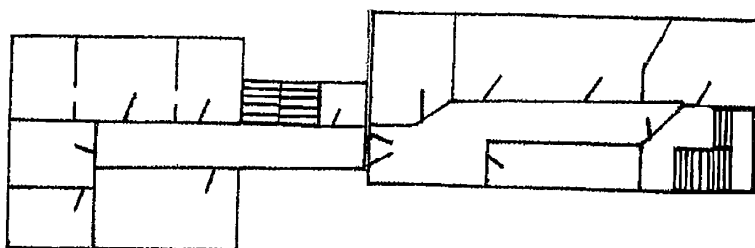
⁵ The kitchen and community room, first remodeled in 1954, underwent several updates in the last 30 years. In 1975, a fire occurred in the basement, causing damage to the kitchen/community room.

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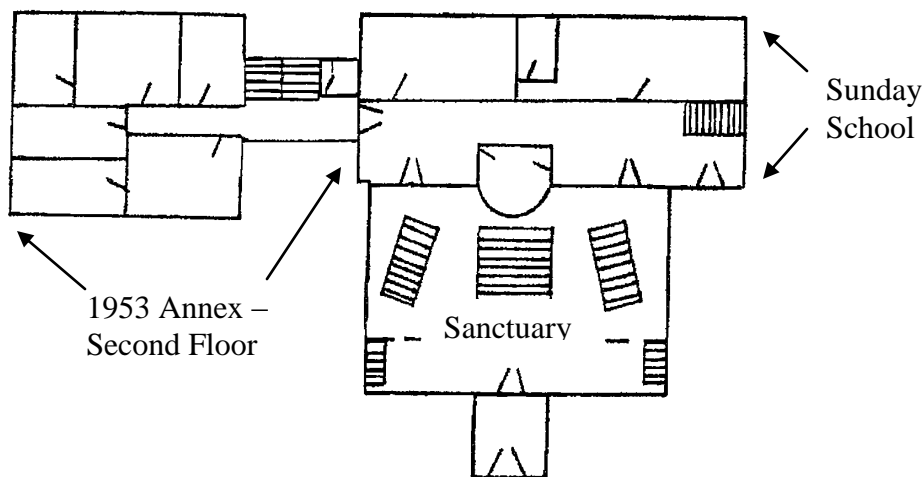
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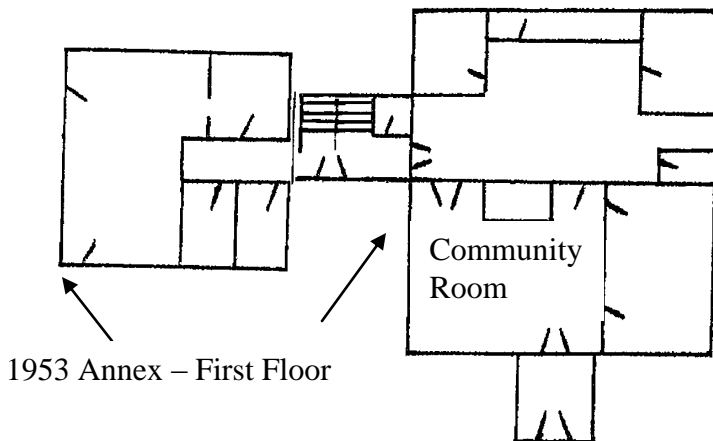
Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
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1953 Annex - Third Floor Sunday School Department - Second Floor



Sanctuary and Sunday School Department - Main Level



Sanctuary and Sunday School Department - Sub Level

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VIII. Statement of Significance

The Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed in 1925 and located at 1518 Dodds Avenue in Chattanooga, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it represents the late Gothic Revival Style that was prevalent among religious institutions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The nominated property, now owned by the First Baptist Church of Bozontown, includes the original sanctuary/Sunday School department and the educational building, constructed in 1953. The original section of the church features arched stained glass window units, engaged buttresses, steeply pitched roof, and dark stained wood interior trim. The building retains the majority of its original architectural integrity, and has served the Ridgedale community for 84 years. It stands as a physical reminder of the surrounding residential neighborhood that was developed during a period of Chattanooga's suburban growth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Located at the base of Missionary Ridge, the Ridgedale community began its development in the late 1880s due to a growing population in Chattanooga. Before the Civil War, the land was wooded with a few surrounding small farms. After the Civil War battles in Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge, the land was bare due to deforestation that occurred in the 1860s and 1870s for building materials and firewood. During the 1880s, several large farms occupied the landscape.

The development of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in 1895 created a road network and electric streetcar extension to the new suburbs of Chattanooga. The new infrastructure increased the development of residential communities in the Missionary Ridge (N.R. listed 9/5/1996) and Ridgedale area. Around the same time, the Ridgedale M.E. Church was born near its present location.

In July 1888, the congregation initially met on the second floor of a small, two-story frame building referred to as "Smith Hall" on Montgomery Avenue, which is now referred to as Main Street. At this time, the congregation was sponsored by the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church. A rapidly growing congregation led the church to move to Hochstetter Hall located east of Smith Hall on Montgomery Avenue and Ringgold Road. The congregation paid four dollars a month for use the building and was officially recognized as the Ridgedale M. E. Church in December 1888 under the pastorate of Rev. J.W. Browning.

The first two Sunday services at the new location attracted 16 members to the church in the newly established Ridgedale neighborhood, largely inhabited by white, middle-class families. By the following winter, the church membership more than doubled to 36 members.

In 1889, a lot was purchased from D.T. Dodds across the street from the site of the present church building for \$700 to construct a new church building that could accommodate the congregation.⁶ The building was

⁶ Note: The Dodd family resided in the Ridgedale Community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. William L. Dodds served as the Hamilton County Engineer in the late 1880s overseeing the paving of roads in the Ridgedale neighborhood. Dodds Avenue, where the Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church is located, was named in honor of William Dodds. *Chattanooga's Story*, p. 234.

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constructed at a cost of approximately \$900 with financial assistance from First Centenary Church (non-extant), located at the corner of Eighth and A streets (Lindsay Street). At the end of Rev. Browning's term in October 1890, the membership at the Ridgedale M.E. Church ballooned to 136 members in two years.

Continued growth in the Ridgedale community during the 1910s and 1920s, led the Ridgedale Methodist Church to the decision of constructing a larger building. Under the pastorate of R.A. Kelly, a lot was purchased in 1924 on the northeast corner of Dodds Avenue and 16th Street across the street from Ridgedale Methodist Church.

At a total cost of approximately \$85,000, a brick late Gothic Revival Style building was constructed in 1925.⁷ Members of the building committee included Fred Scheidigger (chairman), A.D. Bass (treasurer), D.L. Lewis (secretary), Boyd Hargraves, A.H. Cate, T.A. Brunette, George Mason, N.W. Westbrook, M.M. Whitten, and Josephine Thompson. The formal opening of the church, which included 350 members, occurred on October 4, 1925 during Holston Methodist Conference week. Rev. C.G. Eastwood, a former minister at the Ridgedale M. E. Church, led the service. However, the church was not officially dedicated until March 12, 1939 when the debt of the construction was fully paid. Bishop Paul B. Kern, president of the Holston Conference, led the dedication ceremonies.

Descriptions of the new church building in a 1925 *Chattanooga Times* article describe the church having an auditorium and balcony seating capacity of 500. The interior woodwork as being rich, dark red brown color, with paneled walls that are a deep cream color, pews and chairs that are natural gum, and brass lighting fixtures hanging from the ceiling. The large stained glass memorial windows on the north and south walls of the sanctuary were donated by Mrs. M.A. Bass, Mr. W.H. Martin, Mrs. Smith, and Will Hargraves.

The rear gabled section of the church was designed to accommodate the Sunday School classes. The lower floor beneath the Sunday School department and sanctuary originally included additional Sunday School rooms, kitchen, dining room, restrooms, and a furnace room.

The Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church demonstrates a typical Late Gothic Revival Style. This architectural design was representative at many of Chattanooga's churches in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Local examples in Chattanooga include the following: Wiley United Methodist Church (NR listed 8/1/1979, 504 Lookout Street), St. Paul's Episcopal Church (NR listed 9/1/1978, E. 8th Street) First Congregational Church (M.L. King Blvd. and Lindsay St., NR pending), and Asbury United Methodist Church (Bailey and Orchard Knob avenues). Identifiable Gothic Revival features typically included Gothic arched windows with wood tracery frames, decorative narthex and bell towers, lancet windows, ornamental brick buttresses with stone caps, and Gothic arched entryways.

Later church related construction and expenses included new parsonage constructed in 1931, one block east of the church on Ringgold Road for Rev. R.W. Harrison; a stone retention wall constructed at a cost of ap-

⁷ "Ridgedale M.E. Church to be Dedicated," *Chattanooga Times*, 27 Sept 1925. See also, "Ridgedale Body Marks 75th Year: Anniversary Celebration Sunday to Be Combined with Homecoming," *Chattanooga Times*, 19 Nov 1963, and *Ridgedale United Methodist Church: 100 Years, 1888-1988*, p.10.

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proximately \$200 in 1943; and a new pipe organ purchased from the Wicks Organ Company in Highland, Illinois and installed in 1946 at a cost of \$5,000. The pipe organ was dedicated to World War II soldiers.⁸

In 1947, a lot to the north of the church building was purchased for \$1,275 for recreational purposes, which included a badminton court and barbecue pit. In addition, iron handrails for the church's main entrance steps were installed and donated by C.A. Horner.

Under the direction of Rev. C.D. Mehaffey, a three-story brick addition with aluminum-frame windows was completed and connected to the Sunday School department's north elevation in 1953. The annex, constructed by T.V. Parks, housed fifteen Sunday School rooms, pastor's office, church office, and three restrooms. The annex, used for additional Sunday School classrooms, was named the "Scheidigger Memorial Annex" in memory of Fred Scheidigger, chairman of the building committee for the original 1925 church building.

The church's kitchen was remodeled with the addition of new cabinets and new sinks at a cost of \$815 in 1954. During the 1960s, green carpeting was added in the sanctuary and chimes were added to the organ, donated by Bonnie Christy and James Smartt in memory of their mother, Dollie Smartt.

Ridgedale M. E. Church was known for incorporating orchestral music with their hymns from the 1930s through the early 1960s. Led by J. Livingston, the orchestral music received great praise and attention from the congregation. Notable members of the orchestral group were R.S. Simpson, Louise Benton Ellis, Charles Bryan, Eddy Gothard, and Jimmy Wilson.

In 1963, Ridgedale M.E. Church celebrated their 75th anniversary under the pastorate of Rev. Arthur Phillips, but also began to see change taking place in the landscape of the Ridgedale and Missionary Ridge neighborhoods. In the early 1960s the Tennessee Department of Transportation and local officials decided that an extension of U.S. Interstate 24 would be placed through Missionary Ridge. The "Ridge Cut" was completed in 1965 taking out a significant number of homes and businesses in the local community. With the displacement of some members and a transformed neighborhood, the Ridgedale M.E. Church membership began its steady decline.

In 1968, the Ridgedale M.E. Church experienced change when the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church joined to create the United Methodist Church. Both Conferences met in Dallas in April for discussions and an official vote. Beginning in late spring, Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church changed to Ridgedale United Methodist Church.⁹

⁸ Note: The Wicks Organ Company began in the early 1900s in Highland, Illinois. Their popularity among churches in the Midwest grew rapidly by 1910. The next two decades, the company was selling pipe organs to churches across the country.

⁹ *Ridgedale United Methodist Church: 100 Years, 1888-1988*, pp. 14-15.

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The church's peak membership reached 765 in 1949 remaining at that level until the mid-1960s after some members were displaced because of interstate construction. With declining membership in the late 1970s, the Ridgedale United Methodist Church made several efforts to provide outreach to the community in hopes of raising membership rather than unifying with a nearby sister church. Community activities at the church included UNICEF, Brotherhood Week, Vacation Bible School, church camp at Camp Lookout, and preaching missions.

A fire in 1975 destroyed the original church kitchen and small fellowship hall underneath the sanctuary damaging the floors, walls, and cabinetry. The kitchen and fellowship hall were remodeled and the sanctuary windows were cleaned at a cost of \$84,000, which was nearly the cost to construct the church in 1925.

Further expenditures and changes at the church included the installation of plexiglass over the stained glass windows, pouring of a concrete driveway in front of the educational building (annex), and the installation of wood paneling on the walls of the kitchen and fellowship hall.

In 1988, membership declined to 220 members remaining at that level until 1993, which marked the last year of the Ridgedale United Methodist Church. In 1994, many members merged with the congregation at the St. James United Methodist Church (Rossville Avenue) and joined the East Ridge United Methodist Church. The same year, Ridgedale United Methodist Church sold the building to a local American Pentecostal Church. The building served as temporary place of worship for American Pentecostal Church for a two year span. In 1996, the First Baptist Church of Bozontown purchased the church building from the Holston Conference.

The First Baptist Church of Bozontown, organized circa 1930, moved from Latta Street near Riverside Drive in Chattanooga. The name "Bozontown" refers to the neighborhood in Chattanooga where the First Baptist Church was originally located. Membership at the church is presently 350 and the congregation as well as the Ridgedale neighborhood is largely African American.

Under the current pastorate of Reverend N.F. Ball, the First Baptist Church of Bozontown, remains an influential fixture in the community providing outreach to the neighborhood. Future plans at the church include restoration work to the roof, ceiling, and walls, and the incorporation of daycare.

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Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
Hamilton County, TN

X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description and boundary justification:

The Ridgedale Methodist Church (First Baptist Church of Bozontown) is located at 1518 Dodds Avenue. It is located at the intersection of Dodds Avenue and 16th Street on .6 acre sloping lot. The nominated boundaries include the sanctuary building, annex building, and surrounding lot. This represents the historic and current property associated with the church. It is listed as Parcel 001.00 on Hamilton County Tax Map 156 F.



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Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
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XI. PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Paul Archambault
Southeast Tennessee Development District
1000 Riverfront Parkway
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Date: March 2010

West facade of sanctuary. (facing east)
1 of 19

West facade and north elevation of sanctuary. (facing southeast)
2 of 19

West facade and north elevation of sanctuary and annex. (facing southeast)
3 of 19

West facade of annex. (facing east)
4 of 19

North and east elevations of annex. (facing southwest)
5 of 19

East elevation of annex and Sunday school department. (facing southwest)
6 of 19

East elevation of Sunday school department. (facing northwest)
7 of 19

South elevation of sanctuary. (facing north)
8 of 19

Interior of sanctuary from balcony. (facing east)
9 of 19

Interior of sanctuary from below balcony. (facing east)
10 of 19

Interior of sanctuary showing the balcony (facing west)
11 of 19

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Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church
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Sanctuary south wall windows. (facing south)

12 of 19

Pews in sanctuary.

13 of 19

Pews in the balcony. (facing north)

14 of 19

Hallway in the Sunday school department. (facing north)

15 of 19

Room on second floor of Sunday school department.

16 of 19

Room on first floor of Sunday school department.

17 of 19

Hallway in annex.

18 of 19

Room in annex.

19 of 19