

WASHINGTON

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Unity Church

and/or common Trinity Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number 2200 Western Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Mattoon N/A vicinity of congressional district 22

state Illinois code 012 county Coles code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

street & number 821 South Second Street

city, town Springfield N/A vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Coles County Clerk

street & number Coles County Courthouse P.O. Box 207

city, town Charleston state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Coles County Register of Significant ^{Places} as this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April 30, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Coles County Regional Planning Commission

city, town Charleston state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Trinity Episcopal Church, 2200 Western Avenue, Mattoon, Illinois, is a handsome brick structure built in 1872-1873 and located on one of the most beautiful residential thoroughfares in the city. The structure is quite modest by today's standards and features delicate brickwork.

The exterior is red brick with stone window sills, a stone stringcourse, and frame cornice-work. The south facade of the building features a gabled nave flanked by two rectangular, flat-roofed towers. The eastern tower, a bell tower with two bells, is the tallest of the two. At its base is the church entrance. Originally there were two entrances at this tower, one on the south side and another on the east. The east entrance was bricked over in 1907, but the window above the door was kept intact. The interior of the tower on the ground level is a vestibule originally having two entrances into the church proper. The northern entrance has been closed to reinforce the structure.

Openings are rounded with keystones. The nave has a large wheel window. Below it is a large window incorporating the wheel effect flanked by two narrower, round-arched windows. Stained glass was added to the south windows when the church was remodeled in 1907. On the east facade are four round-arched windows, on the west five. These were filled with amber Cathedral glass in 1907.

Other exterior features include an arcaded corbel table along the eaves and across the top of the large tower as well as subdued brick piers on the east and west facades. The exterior has been altered very little since 1872. The slate roof has been replaced by asphalt shingles. A brick chimney was added when the heating system was installed; the chimney is not visible from the Western Avenue side. An old wooden cross and decorative urns on the roof have been removed. An entrance to the rear of the structure was added in the mid-1960s.

The interior of the church has been carefully restored, with a major restoration project completed in 1976. In the nave are three passageways or alleys, one at each wall three feet six inches wide and one in the center five feet six inches wide. Between these are pews of double length entered from either side. They are of high quality oak with heavy ends of ecclesiastical design. The chancel has choir stalls on one side and the organ on the other. The pulpit is at the north side. On one side of the chancel is a choir vestry with lavatory, on the other is the priest's vestry. The organ in the church was the first manufactured by the Reuter-Schwarz Organ Company (1917). Formerly of Trenton (IL), the company is now located in Lawrence, Kansas.

The original electric and gas fixtures were installed in 1907. In 1976 the lighting fixtures were replaced. At the same time new carpet was installed, walls replastered, and oak furnishings reglued and refinished. The result is a most modest but pleasing interior, looking much as it did in the early 1900s.

In the early 1930s, a basement was built under the church and a frame entranceway was added on the east side of the building. In 1951, kneelers were padded for the convenience of parishioners. Replacement pieces for the wooden kneelers were crafted by the Amish in

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Continuation sheet UNITY CHURCH

Item number

Page

Representation in Existing Surveys

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1

"Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Coles County," November 1973, deposited at Illinois Department of Conservation in Springfield.
 "Inventory of Architecture Before World War II," October 1973, deposited at Illinois Department of Conservation in Springfield.

Description

7

2

Douglas County. In 1955 the east and west windows were releaded. They have since been covered with plastic sheets to protect them. In 1963, the basement area was rebuilt and improved for use as a church school.

Major Bibliographical References

9

4

Mattoon, IL Journal-Gazette, Saturday, December 1, 1979, page 3.
 Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1979).
 Smith, Phillip M. "The Organ of the Plains," in American Organist (March, 1981), pp. 48-50.
 Douthit, Jasper. Jasper Douthit's Story: The Autobiography of a Pioneer (Boston American Unitarian Association).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates built 1872-1873 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Trinity Church is significant primarily for its architecture. In addition, Trinity is the oldest standing religious structure in Mattoon as well as one of the oldest structures in the area.

Trinity Church is one of the very few Mattoon buildings possessing architectural value and integrity. The architectural value of the church was recognized in the "Inventory of Architecture Before World War II." The building is the only religious structure and one of only six standing Mattoon structures designated in the survey. Among these six, Trinity Church is the oldest.

The church was constructed in 1872 by the Unitarian congregation at a cost of between \$7500 and \$10,000, a substantial amount for the early 1870s. When the Unitarian church was dissolved in the early 1900s, church records were lost. Consequently, the architect and the building's derivation are unknown. However, persons associated with the construction of the church have been identified.

One of the prime backers of the church was Thomas Parkman Cushing Lane, Mattoon's first attorney. Lane came to Mattoon from Cambridge, Massachusetts (Harvard University), to represent property owner and developer Ebenezer Noyes. Having joined the Unitarian movement while at Harvard, Lane participated in the organization of the Mattoon congregation in the late 1860s and urged construction of a monumental church structure. Although the financial climate was poor at the time, Lane urged that construction plans proceed, in honor of his deceased daughter Nina. Lane was likely responsible for selecting the design of the church as well as the contractors. Just prior to construction of the church, Lane had hired an architect-friend from his Harvard days to design a 17-room brick house on Western Avenue (since demolished). The design was displayed in Shawneetown and Chicago. Quite possibly Lane also had assistance from Massachusetts in selecting the design of the church, either from a friend or from the American Unitarian Association in Boston.

The existence of similar churches in other Illinois and Indiana communities suggests that Lane and his fellow Unitarians selected a capsule plan designed by an architect from Chicago or from the East Coast. The major East Coast religious periodicals of the day, including periodicals of the Unitarian Association, advertised such plans for use by new congregations in the "West." Notably similar to Trinity are churches in nearby Shelbyville, linked to Mattoon by Jasper Douthit. Douthit was the Unitarian missionary who helped start a Unitarian Church in both Shelbyville and Mattoon. Douthit helped secure financing for the Mattoon church in 1873, then helped build a very similar structure in Shelbyville in 1876 (demolished in 1970). Other Shelbyville churches which are similar to Mattoon Trinity are the Presbyterian Church (built 1864), the Baptist Church (built 1870), and Immaculate Conception Church (built 1878). All are located in a National Register Historic District.

Despite the similarities, Trinity Church, in the context of its surroundings, is a most valuable Mattoon architectural landmark, symbolizing the growth and prosperity of the city in the 1870s as well as the influence of the East Coast on the New West. As a local landmark, Mattoon Trinity Church merits listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bumenson, John. Identifying American Architecture (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977).
History of Church Renovation, 1907.
History of Mattoon Trinity Episcopal Church.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 0.16 acre

Quadrangle name MATTOON, IL.

N 39° 29'

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References NOT AVAILABLE

W 88° 23'

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies lot 12 in block 80 of Noyes addition to the City of Mattoon and is approximately 50' x 140' in size.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice Larrabee with assistance from

organization Coles County Regional Planning Commission date April 30, 1981

street & number Route 1 Box 5 telephone 217-235-1206

city or town Mattoon state Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title Director, Dept. of Conservation date 6/23/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

ADDITIONS TO BIBLIOGRAPHY
UNITY CHURCH, MATTOON, ILLINOIS

1. Abstract and examination of title of church property, made by Adair Abstract Company, Lot 12, Block 88, Noyes Addition.
2. Smith, Phillip M., "The Organ of the Plains, Reuter Organ Company, 1917-1981, "in The American Organist, March 1981, pp. 48-50.
3. Association for the Preservation of Historic Coles County, "Discovering Historic Mattoon," map no. 1, 1980.
4. Mattoon High School senior class. Green and Gold, 1903.
5. Historical Sketches and Biographical Album of Shelby County, Illinois, p. 70-71.
6. History of Coles County, Illinois, 1879. William Le Baron Company, p. 377.
7. Koefer, Frederick. Illinois Architecture. From Territorial Times to the Present (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968).
8. Lahey, William L. A Brief History of Trinity Episcopal Church.
9. National Bank of Mattoon. Mr. Mattoon's City, 1855-1955, 1955.
10. Mattoon Journal-Gazette, "Glancing Back," May 26, 1981 (1917 tornado destroyed 839 buildings and caused \$1.25 million in damages).
11. National Bank of Mattoon. Souvenir Collection of 17 Pictorial Scenes From Mattoon's Early History, 1855-1955, 1955.
12. Wilson, Charles E, ed. History of Coles County (Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company, 1906).
13. Wilhington Joseph. History of City of Mattoon, 1850-1913. published in the Mattoon Journal-Gazette.
14. Talked with Mrs. Virgil Dodson, granddaughter of Thomas P.C. Lane, donated a record book of the Unity Sunday School.
15. Talked to members of Shelbyville Historical Society. Reviewed records of Unitarian Church.
16. Called Unitarian Church Headquarters, Boston, Massachusetts.
17. Called Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
18. Called Meadville Theological School, Chicago, Illinois, Neal Gerdes, librarian.
19. Called Unitarian Churches in Urbana and Peoria.
20. Talked to Patty Schadd who worked at Meadville Theological School at one time. She had visited Unitarian Church in Shelbyville, Illinois and met the Reverend Jasper Douthit.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered MARCH 19, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Unity Church	Mattoon Coles County
Masonic Temple	Aurora Kane County
Bane, Warren, Site (M1-5)	McLean County
Rutherford House	Alton Madison County
Graham Building	Aurora Kane County

Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Alan Dixon
Honorable Tom Corcoran
Honorable Paul Findley
Honorable Edward R. Madigan
Honorable Daniel B. Crane
Midwest Regional Office, NPS

✓ State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. David Kenney
Director, Department of Conservation
State Office Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 272-3504

STATES
OF THE INTERIOR
AL SURVEY

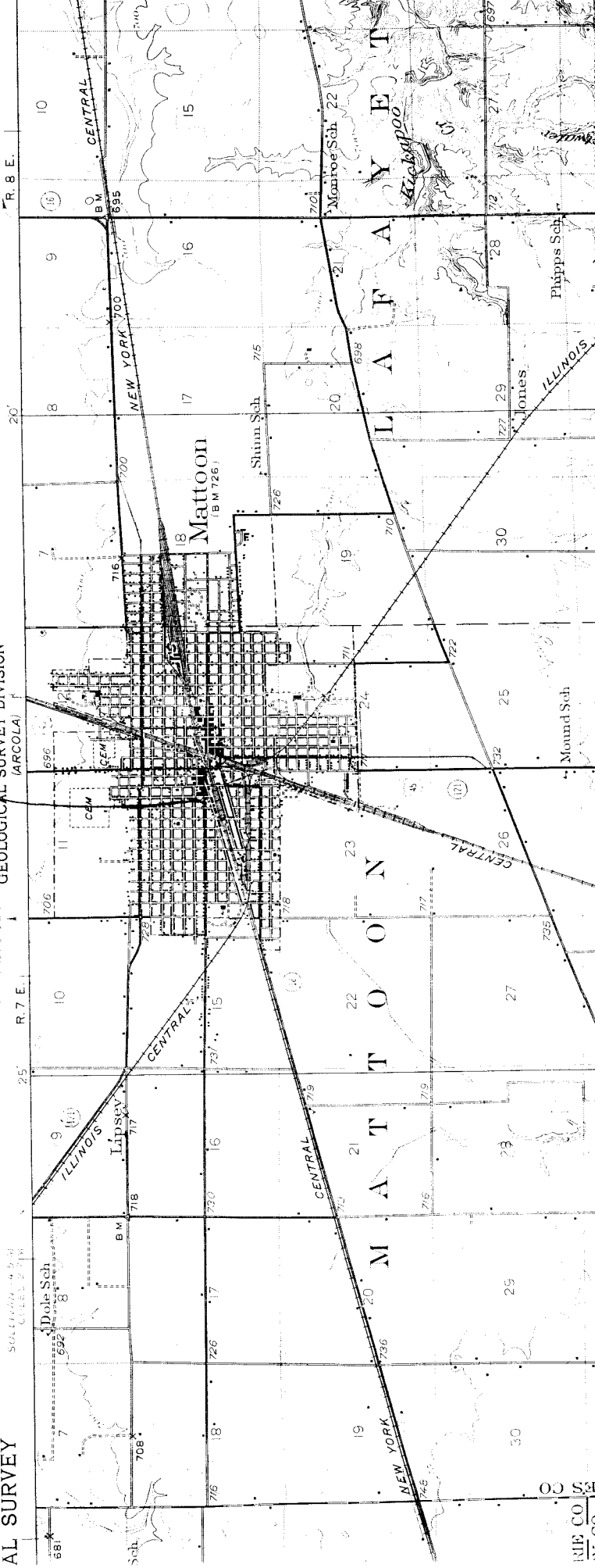
STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION
(ARCOLA)

PARIS 35 MI
CHARLESTON 30 MI

ARCOLA 13 MI
HUMBOLDT 7.5 MI

SCALE 1" = 1 MILE
CREEK 2.5 MI

15



Mattoon

700

700

RIE CO
Y CO

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CO-H-~~102~~
~~103~~

200314

1. Name of site:

Common Trinity Episcopal Church
Historic Unitarian Church

2. Location:

<u>Street and number</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>
500 cor., Eastern and Twenty-Second	--	2200 Eastern Ave.
<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Range</u>
Mattoon	61870	4 Section
<u>County</u>		
Wells		

3. Classification:

Category (check one)	Integrity (check one)
() District (x) Building	() Altered (x) Unaltered
() Site () Structure	() Moved () Original Site

4. Ownership

(x) Private	(x) Occupied
() Public	() Unoccupied
	() Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public

() Yes () Restricted () Unrestricted (x) No

Present Use (check one or more)

() Agricultural	() Industrial	(x) Religious
() Commercial	() Military	() Scientific
() Educational	() Museum	() Transportation
() Entertainment	() Park	() Other (specify)
() Government	() Private Residence	

5. Ownership of Property

<u>Owner's name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
<u>Street and number</u>	
<u>City or Town</u>	
<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>
	<u>Zip Code</u>

6. Description

Condition
(x) Excellent () Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins () Unexposed
Is there a program of preservation underway? () Yes (x) No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

() Archaeological Site	(Pre-Columbian)
() Archaeological Site	(Post-Columbian to 1673)
() French Influence	1673-1780)
() Illinois Frontier	(1780-1818)
() Illinois Early	(1818-1850)
(x) Illinois Middle	(1850-1900)
(x) Illinois Late	(1900-present)
() Famous People	(give names & dates)

RELIGION



8. Specific Date: Erected 1873

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates.) Use additional sheets if necessary.

See the attached sheet

9. Form prepared by:

Name and title: _____ Date: June 1873
Organization: Keith A. Sculle
Illinois Historic Sites Survey
Street and number: 1505 W. Kirby, Apt. 3
Champaign, Illinois 61820
City or town: _____ County _____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Letter from Craig Van Meter (1506 Broadway, Lutton, Illinois), April 11, 1973, to Keith A. Sculle.

The History of Coles County, Illinois. Chicago: William Le Baron, Jr. & Co., 1879, p. 377.

SIGNIFICANCE:

According to The History of Coles County, Illinois, the Unitarian congregation of Mattoon was organized in 1867 and disbanded shortly afterward. In 1872, another effort was made largely through the efforts of Rev. J. L. Douthit of Shelbyville. In 1873, the church building was erected. The first regular minister was Rev. George A. Dennison (1873-1875). Afterward the ministry was not regularly supplied and no regular services were maintained.

According to the letter from Craig Van Meter, the Unitarian Church became an Episcopalian Church in 1908.