

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☒ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The pendant trusses, which contribute a great deal to the appearance of the sanctuary, are also unusual enough to rate consideration as an engineering feature. They are rarely found and their appearance is rather intriguing.

In its broadest sense, architecture, in addition to its obvious functions, often serves as a reflection of the society and culture from which it arises. The First Presbyterian Church is an excellent sample of this phenomenon. In the 1880's, Clarksville was a small but thriving center of commercial activity serving the rich tobacco-growing region surrounding it. In few other locales was the rise of the "New South" more rapid. The people who brought this revival about were, if local histories are accurate, industrious citizens who took justifiable pride in their accomplishments. This pride was reflected in their ways of life, their homes and their institutions; the most notable of the latter generally having been the church. It was a major beneficiary of its congregation's new-found wealth. This was probably due in part to a desire to "render unto God the things that were God's" and also to a certain tendency toward ostentation which is a part of human nature. The First Presbyterian Church in Clarksville stands today as a living monument to the optimism and reverence of those people and those times.

The finely executed and preserved interior of the church, while probably not unique in Tennessee, is of such exceptional quality as to be of at least regional significance. In size, attention to detail and consistency, it is without peer in Middle Tennessee.