

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 450 Randolph Avenue

not for publication

city, town Elkins

vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state West Virginia

code 54

county

Randolph

code 083

3. Classification

Category

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

Public Acquisition

N/A in process

☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

Accessible

☐ yes: restricted

☒ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☐ private residence

☒ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church

street & number 450 Randolph Avenue

city, town Elkins

vicinity of

state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Randolph County Courthouse

street & number Randolph Avenue

city, town Elkins

state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Davis Memorial is a medieval-revival church built of a local granular conglomerate consisting of large, transparent quartz crystals bound in clay or silica. This beige stone is somewhat weathered, but is generally sound. The building consists of nave, its roof divided into fourteen-foot bays and spanned by wood trusses, an engaged tower, and a secondary, gable-roofed structure located perpendicular to the nave at the rear of the church property. The structure has two porches. The building was originally built in 1894 and 1895 after designs prepared by the Baltimore architect Charles E. Cassell. In 1921 an Akron plan Sunday School building was added to the north by Clarence L. Harding of Washington D.C. The style of the original structure was Gothic Revival complicated by Romanesque and eclectic influences, and the addition of 1921 was designed so as to be consonant with the original style and finish. The original church furniture was replaced in 1975.

One architecturally interesting feature of the building is the west window, five panels arranged in a unified composition. These either are the work of the Tiffany Studio or were built under Tiffany's influence. They, and especially the central window in this five-part composition, are plated and were composed of an unusually wide variety of glass types and colors.

The major changes in the building since 1921 have been the replacing of the pews and chancel furniture and the restoration of the tile roof in 1983.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1894-1895/1921      **Builder/Architect** Charles E. Cassell/Clarence L. Harding, Architects.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Architecturally, Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church belongs to the last phase of the nineteenth-century Gothic Revival, although the building also displays some influence of the Romanesque Revival. The church is not obviously related to the ecclesiological Gothic of the pre-1865 period, but is, like most of the architecture of the nineties, eclectic to some degree. Despite such stylistic ambiguities, the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church is, with the Randolph County Courthouse, probably one of the finest medieval-revival buildings in the Potomac Highlands.

The social and religious importance of the building derives from its status as the parish church of the culturally dominant Presbyterians, and as the memorial gift of Henry G. and Thomas B. Davis, wealthy New Yorkers interested in the development of Elkins and resident in the town during summer months. In late-eighteenth-century Virginia, Presbyterianism was the quasi-established faith of a prosperous majority, descended for the most part from the Scotch-Irish who had immigrated to the Valley beginning about 1745. The architectural quality, placement within the town--at the intersection of the main thoroughfare and the road that led to the Davis house (Graceland) and the Elkins house (Halliehurst)--and relatively expensive finishes and appointments of the church building image the cultural status of the congregation.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Board of Trade of Elkins, West Virginia. Elkins, West Virginia, November, Nineteen Six. Morgantown, West Virginia: Acme Publishing Company, 1906; rpt. Elkins, West Virginia: Randolph County Historical Society, 1975. P. 30.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name Elkins, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 17 599 900 4309 140  
Zone Easting Northing

B                 
Zone Easting Northing

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

Verbal boundary description and justification

The church stands on a plot located in the southeast intersection of Randolph Avenue and Sycamore Street. Lot N<sup>o</sup> 44, measuring 140' by 100' by 90' by 70' by 125'; Assessor's map, Randolph Co., sheet no. 13, Elkins, WV,

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

June, 1963

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Patrick

organization Knight, Cain, Patrick

date 11/15/83

street & number 213 Kerens Avenue

telephone 304-636-3081

city or town Elkins, WV 26241

state West Virginia

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/5/84

For NPS 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

57°30"

4312

4311

5061 IV NW  
(JUNIOR)

DAVIS MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

RANDOLPH AND  
SYCAMORE STS. 4309

ELKINS, RANDOLPH  
COUNTY  
WEST VIRGINIA

UTM:

17/599900/4309140

(ELKINS, W. VA.)  
QUAD.



