

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS 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 West Market Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1893-1939)

and or common West Market Street Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 302 West Market Street not for publication

city, town Greensboro vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Guilford code 081

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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name West Market Street United Methodist Church

street & number 302 West Market Street

city, town Greensboro vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Guilford County Courthouse, Register of Deeds Office

street & number 201 South Eugene Street

city, town Greensboro state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Greensboro, N. C. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History, N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 1893 Sanctuary of West Market Street United Methodist Church is a Richardsonian Romanesque structure located among many twentieth-century commercial and governmental buildings. Designed in a style made popular by New York architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886), the church is characterized by rounded arches, contrasting exterior materials, and turrets. In addition to all of these elements, West Market Street has a massive bell tower, a small cupola, and a recessed entry porch with three granite arches. Granite steps lead to the center arch, and a granite foundation, which extends in height from two to eight feet, accents two facades (south and east). This granite was quarried in Mt. Airy. The church's exterior walls are constructed of brownish-red brick laid in the common bond. The bricks were made in Greensboro at the Kirkpatrick Brick Yard, which was located on North Greene Street at Park Drive. Three of the building's elevations are basically as they were constructed. The fourth (north face) has been covered by a 1962 building, although spacing was provided to illuminate three nineteenth-century stained-glass windows. The building is basically a rectangle, approximately 120 feet long and 90 feet wide. It is two stories high, although much of the Sanctuary is open both stories with a gallery around three sides.

The front elevation (south face) is the most complicated. There is a large turret with an entrance on the west, and a smaller turret which adjoins the entry porch on the east. The small turret has a conical slate roof, while the large one has a conical roof which joins a gable roof. Between the two turrets are the recessed entry porch with a gable roof and the bell tower (approximately 85 feet high) with a pyramid roof. A 13 foot bronze and aluminum cross was added at the top of the bell tower in 1959, and four electrical crosses were attached to the bell tower's sides in 1976. The original stained-glass windows on this facade are among the 68 purchased for the church while it was under construction. They were used in the German Pavillion at the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago during 1893. Many of the windows feature granite sills and/or lintels; a variety of shapes and arrangements are present. Each of the original wooden doors has four rectangular panels with a carved cross near the center. Stained-glass panels are over the three doorways. The granite foundation on this face was added in 1910 when a Sunday School Building was constructed south of and adjoining the Sanctuary; it covered a number of basement window openings which were bricked in.

The east elevation begins with the small turret which wraps around the south-east corner; at the center of this facade, where the primary roof peaks, the wall is 40 feet high; the elevation ends with a rounded east-north corner. A large stained-glass window with a granite lintel is the focal point of the wall. On this side the granite foundation, added in 1910, is approximately eight feet high. Basement classrooms under the Sanctuary were not needed after construction of the Sunday School Building; therefore, a doorway and windows for the area were bricked in and covered with granite.

The west elevation has a gable roof and granite accents carved with floral motifs. Three bands of windows are present: the third-floor windows have segmented brick arches; the second-floor windows have brick arches and granite sills; the first-floor windows have granite sills and lintels. Nine of the thirteen windows have original stained-glass; one has been filled with bricks, and three have clear glass. A door has been added as an elevator entrance.

The interior of the Sanctuary was designed by the "Akron plan" and features a semi-circular arrangement of pews with the pulpit slightly raised but close to the pews. This design creates a sense of intimacy between the preacher and his people. The original woodwork was produced by Bain Building Company, a Greensboro firm which became the Cape Fear Manufacturing Company in 1895. It includes the pews, grille for the organ pipes, a large sliding screen which separates an additional seating area, and the balcony

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balusters. In 1957 Otto Zenke (1905-1984), an interior designer of local and national prominence, directed a remodeling of the sanctuary interior. Structural changes included lowering the pulpit and choir area and removing a stairway from the pulpit area to the balcony. The new pulpit/choir area was constructed of wood with a natural finish, and the original woodwork was refinished to match. Zenke's objective was to lighten the entire sanctuary. Red carpet and cathedral lamps were added also. In 1964 Mr. Zenke designed a cross to hang over the pulpit area from the organ-pipes grille.

Small rooms which open from the sanctuary and the west-turret foyers also contain original stained-glass windows and millwork. One, used as a Heritage Room, has its original tile fireplace facing. The pulpit furniture used from 1893 to 1957 is displayed here, as are photographs, record books and historical objects.

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Construction History of West Market Street Methodist Church traces through Sanborn maps, drawn by the Sanborn Map Company of New York.

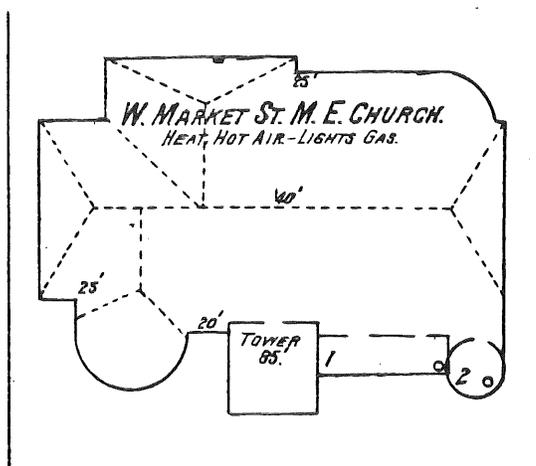


PLATE 1

West Market Street M.E. Church,
South

1903

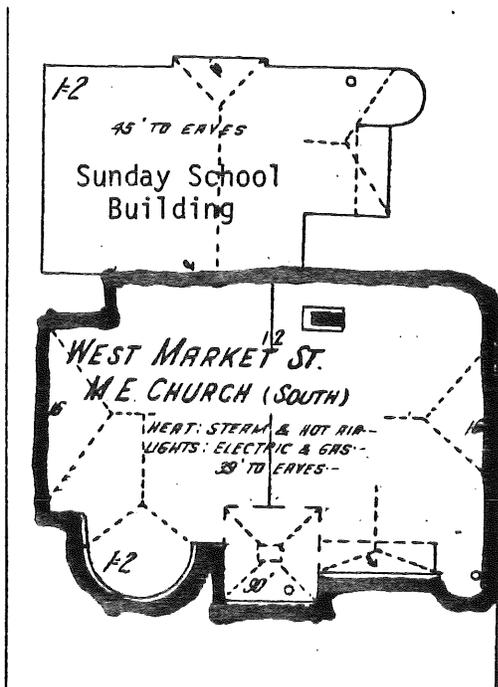


Plate 2

West Market Street M.E. Church,
South

1913

Nominated structure is outlined in red. The Sunday School Building was constructed in 1910 and razed in 1961.

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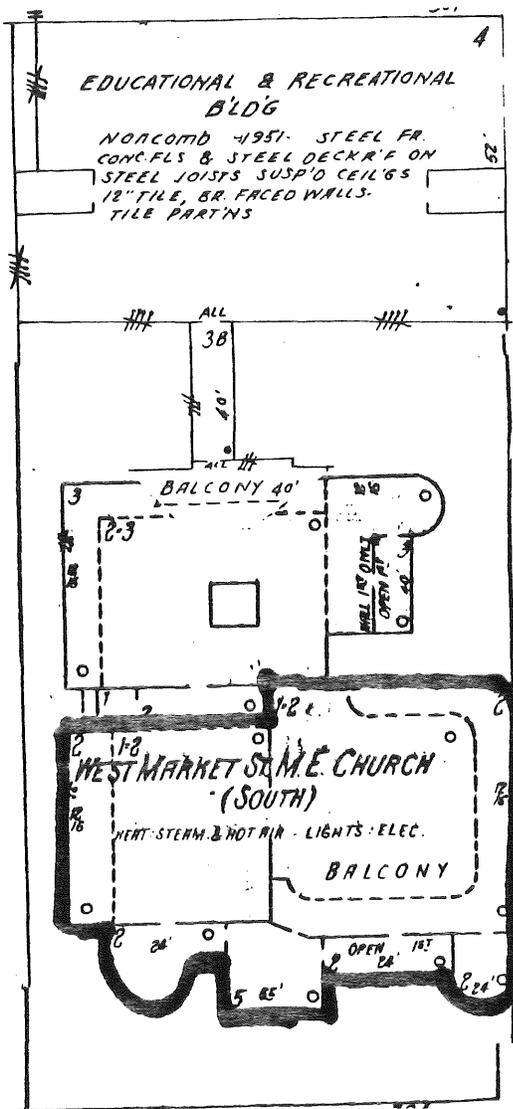


PLATE #

West Market Street M. E. Church
(South)

1925 Sanborn map with 1959 addition

Nominated structure is outlined in red.
The buildings adjoining Sunday School
Building was constructed in 1910 and
razed in 1961.

The Educational and Recreational
Building was completed in 1953 and still
stands.

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Reproduction of an Architectural Sketch Drawn of West Market Street Methodist Church:
Existing Sanctuary, Existing Educational Building, and New Educational Building
and Chapel. Drawn by H. R. McLawhorn, Jr., Robert E. L. Peterson and Bill
Glover, Architects. Dated March 25, 1959.

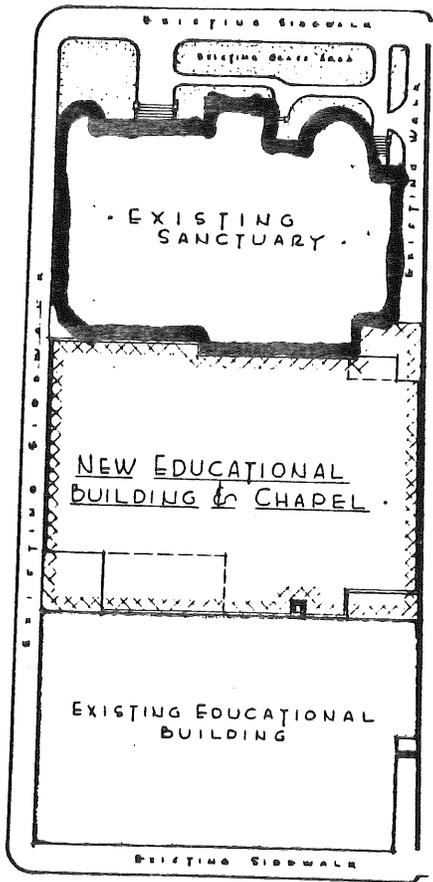


PLATE 4

West Market Street Methodist Church

Nominated structure is outlined in red.
The New Educational Building and Chapel
which adjoins it was completed in 1962.

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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 1893

Builder/Architect Architect S. W. Foulk of New Castle, PA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

West Market Street Methodist Church is a well-preserved link to Greensboro's religious, educational and social history. It is one of three surviving examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in the city and has suffered less alteration than the others -- The Foust Administration Building (1892) and the Greensboro Historical Museum (1892-1939). With its massive bell tower, triple-arched entrance and corner turrets, the church is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival architectural style made famous by Henry Hobson Richardson. Construction of the building began in June 1893, and more than 60 stained-glass windows purchased at the Columbian Exposition of '93 were incorporated in its design by architect S. W. Foulk of New Castle, PA. A Building Committee of prominent citizens acted as project contractor. As the pioneer Methodist congregation in Greensboro, West Market Street began a girls school which eventually became Greensboro College, and its ties to that college are very strong; the congregation also sponsored a number of neighborhood Methodist churches. Built to seat 2,000 people when Greensboro's population was less than 10,000, the Sanctuary was used for civic rallies including those held by the W.C.T.U. and for important Methodist conferences. West Market Street Church is one of Greensboro's most important buildings, and its survival in the heart of a city which has preserved little is a victory for historic preservation.

Criteria Assessment:

A. West Market Street Church was built during the 1890s, a decade of rapid growth in Greensboro. New factories, educational institutions and churches were constructed in styles appropriate for emerging modern cities. The Methodists and the Presbyterians used the Romanesque Revival style for their sanctuaries, and the State Normal & Industrial School (UNC-G) used the same style for its administration building and dormitory. Religion and education were important forces in the developing South, as were factories and railroad depots.

B. The Building Committee list for this church is similar to a "Who's Who In

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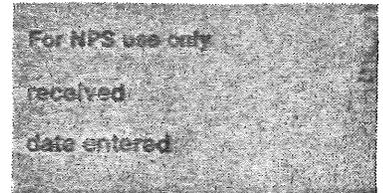
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Greensboro." Members included: C. M. Hackett of Epps & Hackett, the architectural firm which designed the first buildings at UNC-G; J. A. Odell and Charles H. Ireland, executives with Odell Hardware Company; S. L. Alderman, a commercial photographer; Dr. G. W. Whitsett, a dentist, and Dr. H. M. Alford, a physician; and J. M. Winstead, a bank president. These men used local building materials and workers on a project which they managed without issuing a contract. The construction of this church during the financial depression of 1893 was very important for the local economy.

- C. West Market Street Church, a fine example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, features rounded arches, contrasting exterior materials, turrets, a recessed entry porch with triple arches, and a massive bell tower. Few alterations have been made to its exterior, except along the north face which is not visible from the front. More than sixty stained-glass windows purchased at the Columbian Exposition of 1893 were incorporated in its design, and all of these survive. The church was designed by S. W. Foulk, an architect in New Castle, Pennsylvania, who made "a specialty of church work." He designed a number of educational and religious buildings, including YMCAs.

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The history of West Market Street Methodist extends back to Greensboro's earliest years. The Methodists began construction of the first religious structure in Guilford's new county seat on August 14, 1830, and completed their church in 1831. The original sanctuary stood in the third block of South Elm Street on the west side.¹ Its sixty-four members included blacks and whites. The Reverend Peter Doub (1796-1869) is considered the founder of the church.

Under Doub's leadership the congregation began a preparatory school for girls in 1832. Its success led the church sponsors to petition the Methodist Episcopal Church for permission to begin a college. In 1832 the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church agreed to the request and the State of North Carolina granted a charter to Greensboro Female College (now Greensboro College). It was the first college for women in North Carolina, the second in the South, and the third in the United States.² During the 1840s the college was moved to its West Market Street campus, and a number of Methodists built their houses nearby. A number of those residences still stand in College Hill, a neighborhood which became Greensboro's first historic district in 1980.

In 1849 the Methodist congregation decided to build nearer its new college and purchased a lot in the 400 block of West Market Street on the north side. The new church, which came to be called West Market Street Church rather than the Greensboro Methodist Church, was used from 1851 until a third church was built.³

By the 1890s the congregation had outgrown its second church. At the Quarterly Conference in February 1892, Reverend S. H. Hilliard reported that the Trustees had purchased a lot (144' wide and 150' deep) nearer the center of the city for \$4,500.⁴ At the Quarterly Conference held on April 17, 1893, the decision was made to build on the new lot located in the 300 block of West Market Street on the north side.⁵ A building committee was appointed, and it included a number of prominent men: J. A. Odell and Charles H. Ireland, executives with Odell Hardward Company; S. L. Alderman, a commercial photographer; Dr. G. W. Whitsett, a dentist, and Dr. H. M. Alford, a physician; J. M. Winstead, a bank president; and C. M. Hackett of Epps & Hackett, the architectural firm which designed the first buildings at the State Normal & Industrial School (now UNC-G). S. W. Foulk, an architect from New Castle, Pennsylvania, was hired to design the sanctuary. Foulk designed a number of religious, educational and residential buildings in Pennsylvania, Greensboro and Wilmington, North Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, St. Augustine, Florida, Norfolk and Stanton, Virginia, and Warren, Ohio.⁶ His choice of a Richardsonian Romanesque design for West Market Street reflected the popularity of this style in the 1890s, the decade following Henry Hobson Richardson's death.

Although Foulk established a branch office in Greensboro during 1893, the Building Committee served as the general contractor for the project. J. M. Wolf was hired as superintendent, J. L. Winningham as foreman, and church member J. T. Hunt, manager of Bain Building Company, as supervisor of interior construction.⁷

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 26, 1893, and the first brick was laid on July 5.⁸ On August 11, 1893, the Manufacturer's Record reported in its

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Building Notes: "Greensboro, NC - Church - The Greensboro Methodist Church, now being erected, will cost \$30,000. It will be 122 feet long, eighty-nine feet wide, and be built of Mt. Airy granite, with a steeple 123 feet high."⁹ In October 1893, the Greensboro Patriot reported on "An Impressive Ceremony" which was held to lay the cornerstone of the new West Market Street Church on October 18, 1893.¹⁰

This building project was very important to workers during the financial depression of 1893; the use of local building materials (bricks and millwork) also stimulated Greensboro's economy. The final cost of the building is listed as \$52,000, not including the 68 stained-glass windows which were purchased as memorials. Members of the Building Committee (Dr. G. W. Whitsett and Charles H. Ireland) saw the windows in the German Pavillion at the World Columbian Exposition of 1893. They negotiated their purchase and arranged the necessary funding by church members.¹¹

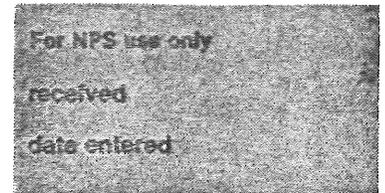
The church was designed with sliding partitions to separate a main auditorium and gallery, a main Sunday School room and gallery, eleven classrooms, a ladies' parlor and cloak room, and the pastor's study. When all of the partitions were opened or raised, a "vast auditorium to seat 2,000" was created.¹² Since the building was large and centrally located, it was used for a number of religious and civic meetings, including rallies held by the Women's Christian Temperance Union which had its state headquarters nearby on West Market Street.¹³

This church was the site of a historic conference for North Carolina Methodists in October 1939. The Methodist Episcopal Church (established in 1784) had experienced a number of divisions, including that of the Methodist Protestants in 1828 and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1844. The three groups decided to merge in 1939,¹⁴ and many North Carolina Methodists met to vote on this proposal at West Market Street.

The church is significant for several reasons. As the original Methodist church in town, it sponsored a number of churches, and neighborhood growth can be traced through these institutions. The church's role as sponsor of Greensboro College gives it a unique place in local educational history. Also, leaders who came to serve the church and college contributed to the cultural life of Greensboro, helping create an environment favorable for women and artists. Finally, the church's continued use of an important building near the heart of a city which has preserved little is a continuing witness for historic preservation.

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FOOTNOTES

¹James W. Albright, Greensboro: 1808-1904 (Greensboro: Joseph J. Stone & Company, 1904), p. 50. Hereinafter cited as Albright, Greensboro.

²Samuel Bryant Turrentine, A Romance of Education (Greensboro: Piedmont Press, 1946), p. 21. Albright, Greensboro, p. 24.

³"Historical Sketch Read at the 100th Anniversary of Founding of West Market Church" (Greensboro: Woman's Missionary Society, 1934), p. 12. Hereinafter cited as "Historical Sketch."

⁴Quarterly Conference Report Book, February 12, 1892. Guilford County Deed Book 87, p. 10.

⁵Quarterly Conference Report Book, April 17, 1893.

⁶Information on and photograph of S. W. Foulk supplied by the New Castle Public Library, New Castle, Pennsylvania, from pamphlets on "Leading Citizens of Lawrence County."

⁷"Historical Sketch," p. 27.

⁸James W. Albright, "A Sketch of Methodism in Greensboro, North Carolina" (1900), p. 6. Hereinafter cited as Albright, "Sketch."

⁹Manufacturer's Record (Baltimore), Vol. 24 (August 11, 1893), p. 22.

¹⁰Greensboro Patriot, October 25, 1893.

¹¹Notes from interview with Maud Hester on March 14, 1971.

¹²Albright, "Sketch," p. 7.

¹³Greensboro News-Record, October 1, 1981. Interview with Bernard W. Kirkman.

¹⁴Samuel B. Turrentine, "Greensboro Methodist Churches," North Carolina Christian Advocate, October 19, 1939.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albright, James W. "A Sketch of Methodism in Greensboro NC" (1900)
"Historical Sketch Read at 100th Anniversary of Founding of West Market Church (1934)
Quarterly Conference Minute Book, 1892. West Market Street M. E. Church, South
WPA Survey of State and Local Historical Records: 1936. Church Records Form. Surveyor:
Mrs. Annette S. Tinsley

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Greensboro

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

17	608660	3992580
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

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Verbal boundary description and justification (See attached plat map)

Nominated building is on the northwest corner at the intersection of West Market Street and Commerce Place (formerly North Ashe Street, then Library Place). Two additional buildings (1953 & 1962) join the structure along its north wall and extend to

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries West Friendly Avenue.

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gayle Fripp, Chairman of Church History Committee

organization West Market Street United Methodist Church date August 26, 1985

street & number 1400 Colonial Avenue telephone (919) 373-2043 (B) 288-8028 (H)

city or town Greensboro state North Carolina (27408)

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 William S. Fripp

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-10-1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

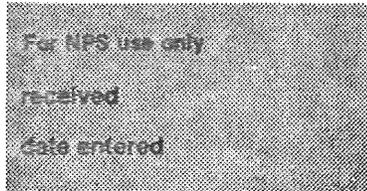
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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PLAT MAP: West Market Street United Methodist Church Property
(taken from Guilford County Tax Map 12, Block 5, Panel 3)

Scale: 1" = 50'

