

CARR-565
Methodist Protestant Church (Davis Library)
129 East Main Street (MD 32)
Westminster
Private

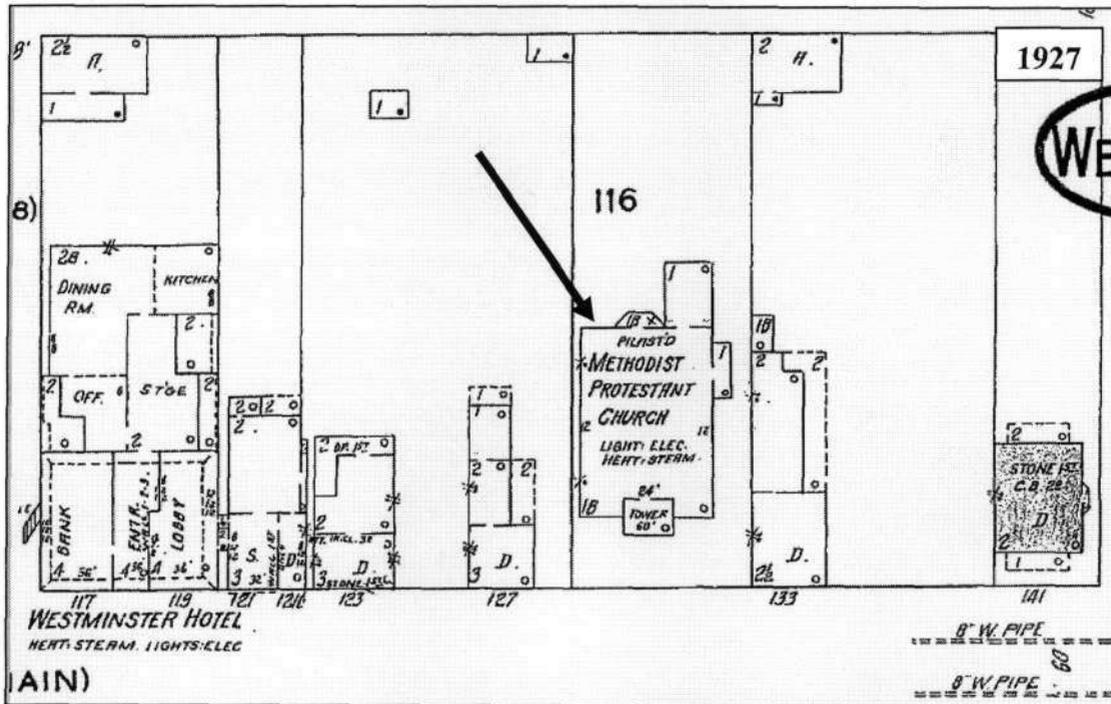
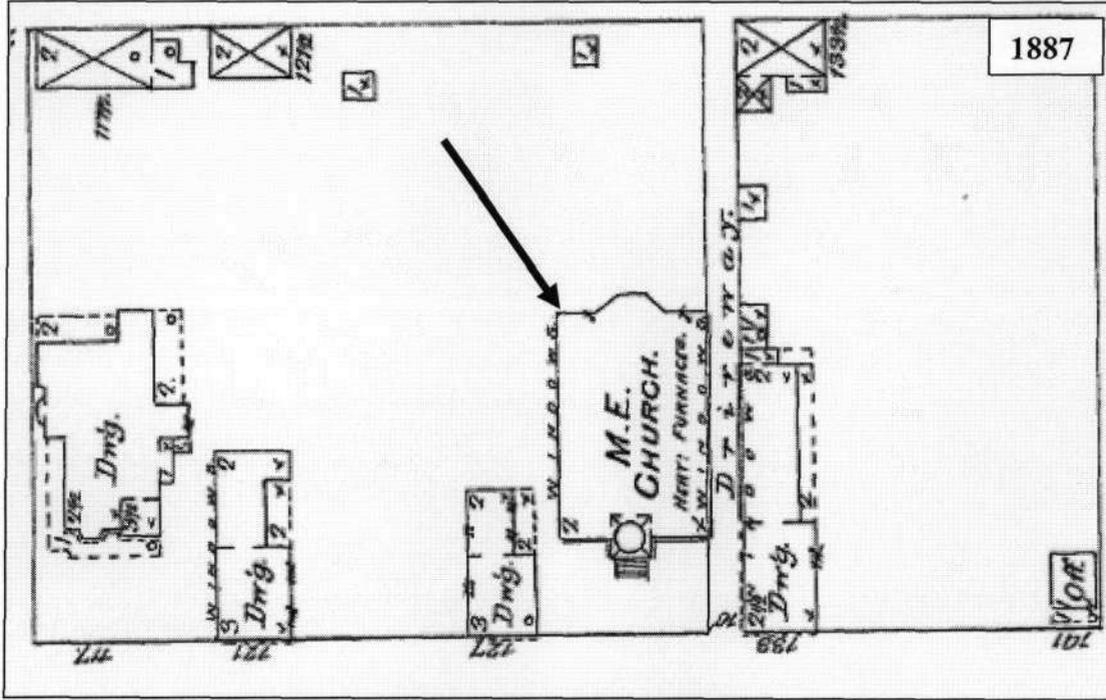
c. 1875, 1939

An early-20th century photograph depicts the Methodist Protestant Church as it stood before its conversion to a library. Facing south, the gable-front brick structure is dominated by a large square central tower trimmed with large corner pilasters with narrow recessed panels. The original main entrance stood in the first story of the tower, consisting of a paneled double door surmounted by a Gothic-arched stained glass transom with tracery. Above this is a tall lancet stained glass window consisting of two single Gothic-arched panes and one at the peak, with a Gothic-arched hood mold. Similar windows once pierced the front façade on either side of the tower. This area was covered by a library addition in 1939. The cornice of all sides of the tower and the raking cornice of the front façade feature blind arcading, which also appears between the pilasters on the east and west sides of the church. Pilaster similar to those on the corners of the tower appear on the corners of the building. The windows along the sides of the building match the lancet window of the tower. The north end of the building features a polygonal bay window. A one-story entrance vestibule was added to the north end of the east side of the church in the early 20th century.

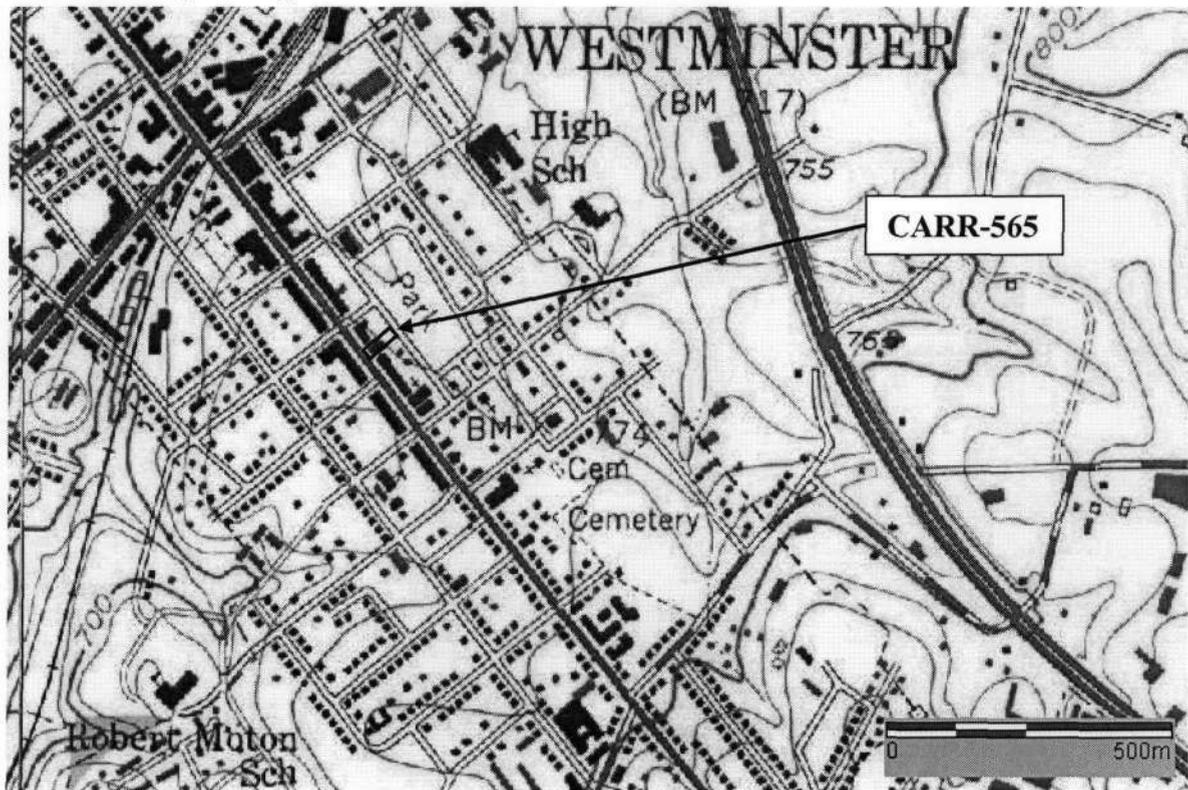
Originally designed with a soaring Gothic spire, this church was built to house one of the city's two (white) Methodist sects. Carroll County became the home of American Methodism when Robert Strawbridge, a disciple of John Wesley, settled here in the 1760s. The Methodist Church had different branches

in early years: The Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, each branch with its own building. The two branches united in 1939. After this mid-19th century church was no longer needed it was purchased by the county through a Trust established by Walter H. Davis, to be used as a library. The present marble front was added for this purpose. The library has since outgrown the old church and as of 1978 was constructing a new building on the site of the old St. John's Catholic Church downtown. This shifting and interplay between Houses of God and Houses of Learning is not unique to Westminster.

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 Westminster
 Sanborn Maps



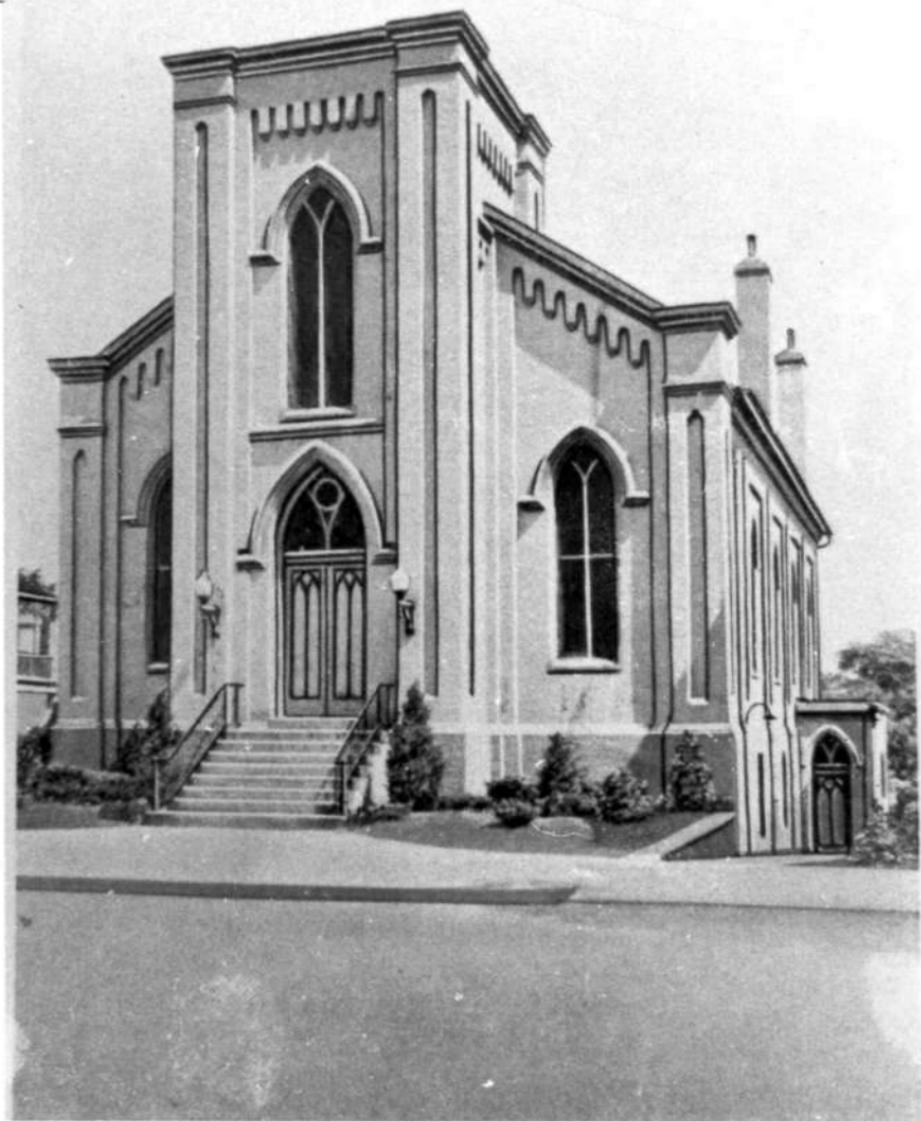
CARR-565
Methodist Protestant Church (Davis Library)
129 East Main Street (MD 32)
Westminster Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



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Methodist Protestant Church,

Stage 2

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CXLX Methodist Protestant
Church today.

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