

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 14-16-7

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

other

2. Location

street and number 23640 Woodfield Rd not for publication

city, town Gaithersburg vicinity

county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

street and number 23640 Woodfield RD telephone 301-948-8161

city, town Gaithersburg state MD zip code 20882-2818

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Court House liber folio

city, town Rockville tax map: FW62 tax parcel: P706 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

M:
Inventory No. 14-16-7

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 + good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, built in 1910, is a frame structure with a brick veneer. The main building is tee-shaped, with the head of the tee being a taller, gable-front block, and the stem being eaves front, with a lower ridgeline. The sanctuary is located in the taller section. The main façade faces Woodfield Road, on the northeast side of the structure. A bell tower is located at the intersection of the two blocks on the main façade. The brick veneer was added in 1957.

The steeple is a frame construction and is covered with clapboard siding. Both of the gable ends have circular stained glass windows above a first floor gothic arch stained glass window. Attached to the main sanctuary is an addition constructed in 1948. The entrance to this portion is from the parking lot and is covered by a low, flat porch roof. Built onto the back of the church, this section of the church is utilitarian and lacks the ornate windows and decorative elements of the sanctuary. Storm windows were installed about 1977.

Behind the church is the cemetery. The oldest gravestones are not inscribed with dates. The oldest known gravestone dates from 1880. A rail fence surrounds the cemetery. The driveway was paved about 1977.

At the back of the parcel (P706) is a one-story frame structure that was built about 1909. The residence was built for Robie Harrison King, the unmarried son of Singleton and Mary King, who built their own house about the same time at neighboring 23630 Woodfield Road.¹

¹Mary Ann Davis interview by Clare Cavicchi, 3-7-2002

8. Significance

Inventory No. ^{M:} 14-16-7

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: Local History

Specific dates	Architect/Builder
Construction dates	

Evaluation for:

National Register + Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The property on which the church now stands was once owned by Singleton L. King, a local farmer. As early as 1875, he and C J Burdette, a preacher, Charles W. Browning, and F B Day established the religious education organization known Sunday School Society of Chestnut Grove. The group took its name from the trees which were said to stand on the north side of Woodfield Road, near the present 23623 Woodfield Road. By 1878, the group's name had changed to the Wesley Grove Sabbath School.²

The Wesley Grove group built a church building in 1880, on land donated by Singleton King on the south side of Woodfield Road. By this time, there were 78 members and eight teachers. That first church stood on the site of the present structure. The building was a simple, front gable structure (see photograph) typical of churches, schools, stores, and other public buildings constructed in this region through the mid and late 19th century.

Wesley Grove, like other Methodist churches in the area, including Damascus and Bethesda Church, held revivals which attracted new members to the congregation. Rev. Jacob E. James is credited with the expansion of the church membership when he was the minister from 1906-1909. As a result, a new circuit of churches formed in 1890, known as the Laytonsville Circuit. It included St. Paul, Laytonsville; Mt Tabor, Etchison; Salem, Cedar Grove; Damascus; and Wesley Grove. A parsonage for the minister of the new circuit was built in Laytonsville.³

²Most of the historical information is from Atkinson, Harold, Jr. (Editor). *Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, 1880-1980*. Wesley Grove Centennial Committee. 1980 (58pp), The church has a banner with the Wesley Grove name and 1878 date.

³Ibid, 2-6, 53.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M. 14-16-7

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Rev. Hoffman was the impetus for construction of a new Wesley Grove Church. When he arrived in 1909, he is said to have embarked on a mission to build a new church to suit the expanded congregation. Hoffman was the minister for the Laytonsville Circuit from 1909-1913.⁴

The design chosen for the church was a popular one for the time. It is nearly identical to the Bethesda UM church, built 1907 (no longer standing). Material for the church was prepared locally, with logs sawed into planks and timbers at James Burdette's farm, and poplar weatherboard siding planed on the Lewis farm on Welsh Road. Roof shingles came from Mount Airy's Rudy and Burdette Company. Though the congregation hired a general foreman, much of the manual labor was done by volunteers.⁵

The cornerstone of the new building was laid on May 28, 1910, and the building was dedicated on November 27. The congregation had raised over \$4,000 during the year to cover the construction of the church and a new organ.

The new church building had two rooms. The main sanctuary was divided from a Sunday School room by large wooden doors. The building had a central heating system, acetylene lights and stained glass windows. A communion table and bookcase still in use were made and donated by church founder and first Sunday School superintendent F B Day.⁶

The Methodist churches continued to grow through the early 20th century. In 1927, the Laytonsville Circuit was divided, combining Wesley Grove, Mt Tabor, and St. Paul churches, and separating Damascus and Salem churches into a new Damascus circuit. With the smaller number of churches in each circuit, the minister for each circuit was able for the first time to conduct services every Sunday in each church.

The education building located to the side of the church began its life as a social hall for a Masonic order and as a rental space for various community groups. Singleton King built the social hall about 1905. About the same time Singleton King helped organize a masonic group, the International Order of Good Templars. Intended as a financial investment, the hall was rented out to community groups. In the 1920s, the Templar activities declined, while the local Grange became more active and made use of the hall.

⁴ Ibid 9, 53.

⁵ The original Wesley Grove Church was moved to Rufus Ward's farm at the corner of Rocky Road and Woodfield Road and was later demolished. Wesley Grove Church history, pp12-14.

⁶ Ibid, p16.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 14-16-7

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

From 1927, the building has served as an educational center for the church. An addition was built around the late 1940s, about the time of the addition on the church. The structure was remodeled and renovated in 1959.⁷

About 1908, he and his wife Mary R E King moved to a two-story brick house built behind Wesley Grove. They built a one-story brick house for their son Robie Harrison King, who required supervision.

The parsonage was built in 1959, when the Wesley Grove church became a station church independent of the circuit.

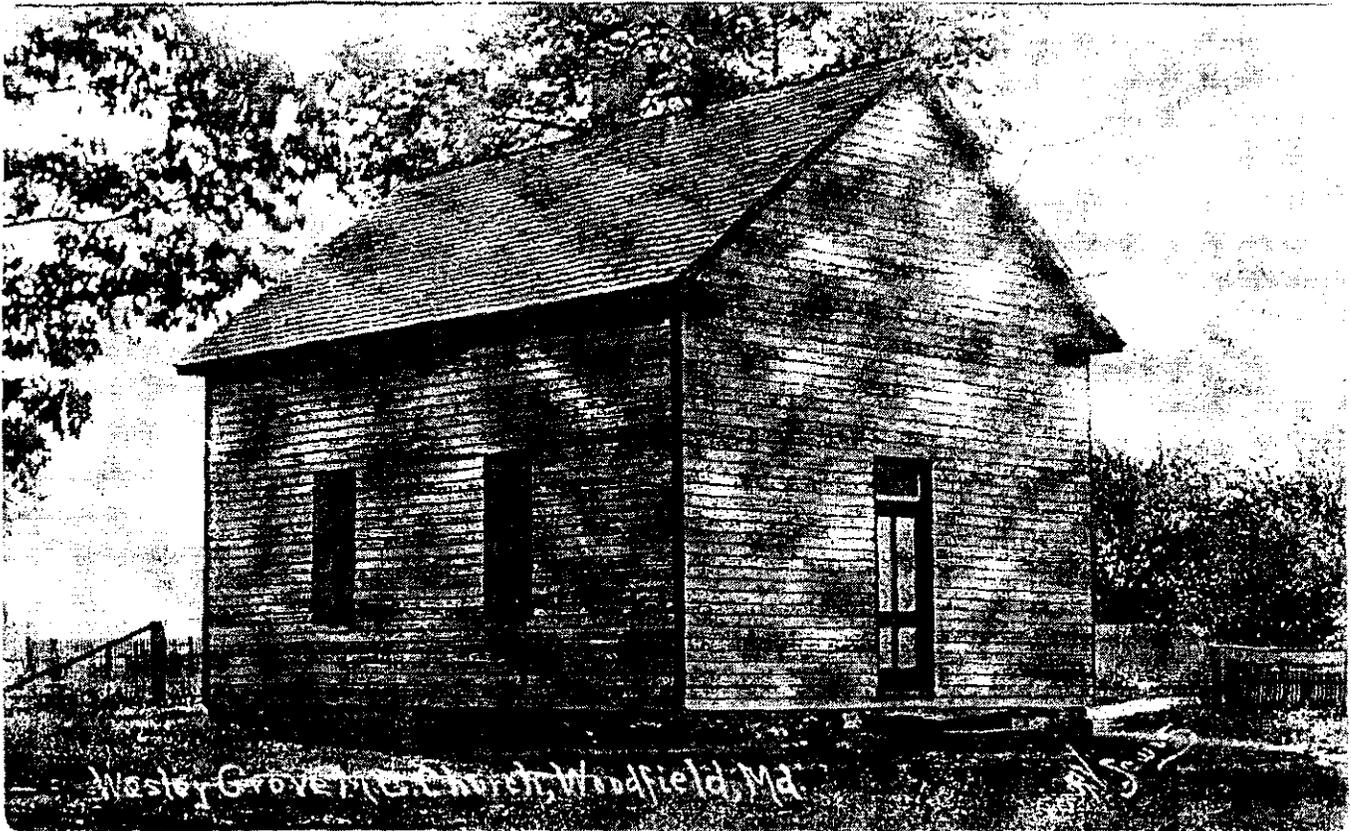
⁷ Ibid. Interview with Mary Ann Davis, 3-7-2002.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M : 14-16-7

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3



First Wesley Grove Church building (1880)
Source: Augusta Mae Wayne, Damascus History CD

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. 14-16 - 7

Atkinson, Harold, Jr. (Editor). *Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, 1880-1980*. Wesley Grove Centennial Committee. 1980.
Gladys King, Historian. "Our Present Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, built in 1910". c1975. Montgomery County Historical Society, Vertical File--Churches, Methodist: Wesley Grove.
Interview with Mary Ann Davis, by Clare Cavicchi, 3-7-2002.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 51,400 SF 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name Gaithersburg

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Luke Idziak and Clare Kelly Cavicchi

organization M-NCPPC

date August 2004

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue

telephone 301-563-3400

city or town Silver Spring

state MD

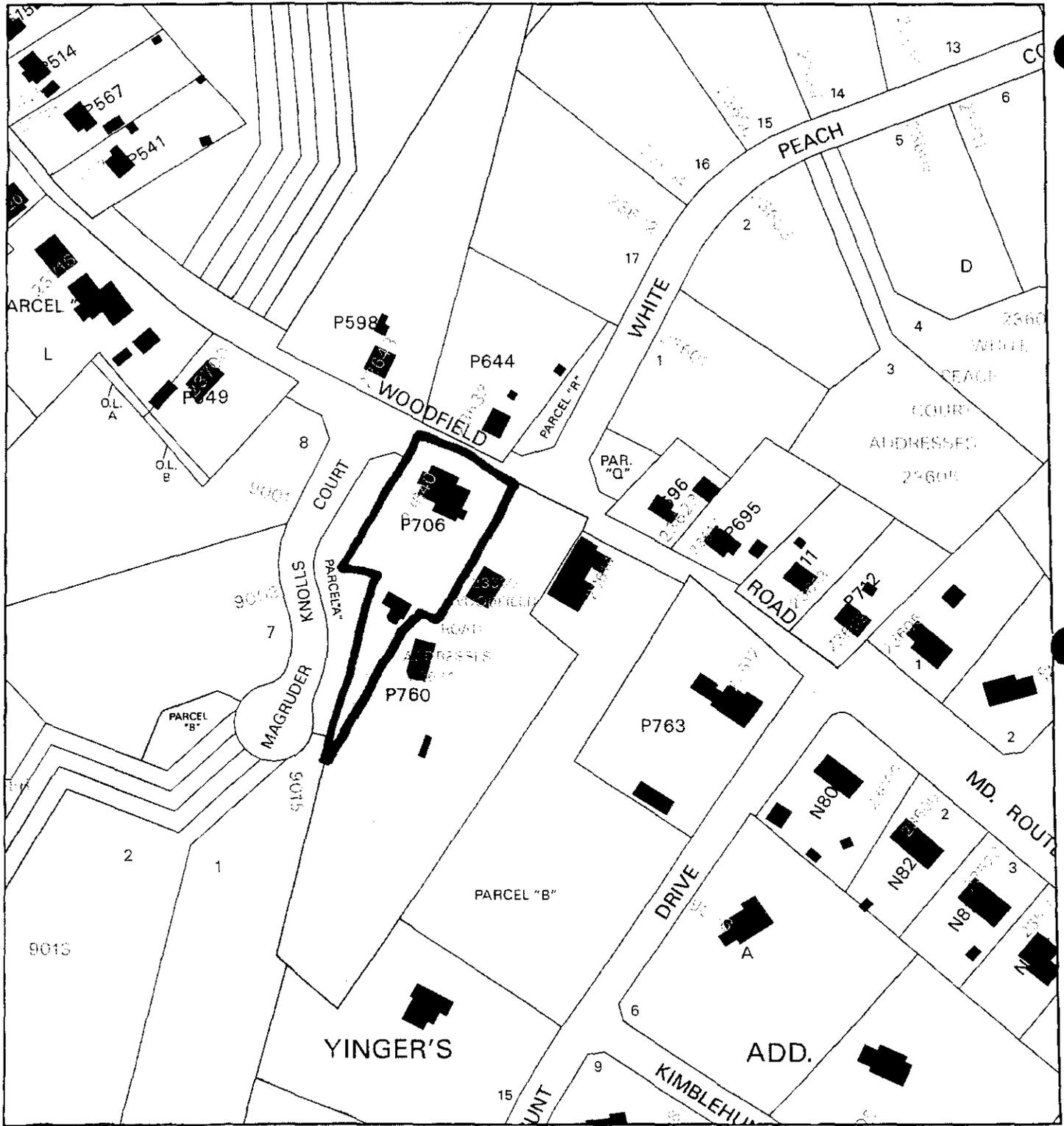
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

M: 14-16-7

WESLEY GROVE UM CHURCH (14-16-7)



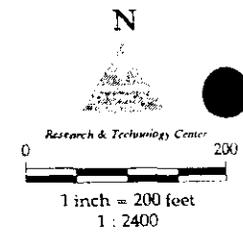
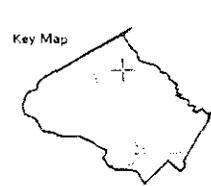
Map compiled on August 10, 2004 at 10:08 AM | Site located on base sheet no. 233NW09

NOTICE

The planimetric, property, and topographic information shown on this map is based on copyrighted Map Products from the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and may not be copied or reproduced without written permission from M-NCPPC.

Property lines are compiled by adjusting the property lines to topography created from aerial photography and should not be interpreted as actual field surveys. Planimetric features were compiled from 1:14400 scale aerial photography using stereo photogrammetric methods.

This map is created from a variety of data sources, and may not reflect the most current conditions in any one location and may not be completely accurate or up to date. All map features are approximately within five feet of their true location. This map may not be the same as a map of the same area plotted at an earlier time as the data is continuously updated. Use of this map, other than for general planning purposes is not recommended. Copyright 1998



M:14-16-7

NOTE TO FILE

Historic Sites Research and/or Photography
By Clare Lise Kelly, M-NCPPC
Formerly Clare Lise Cavicchi
301-563-3402

5-2009

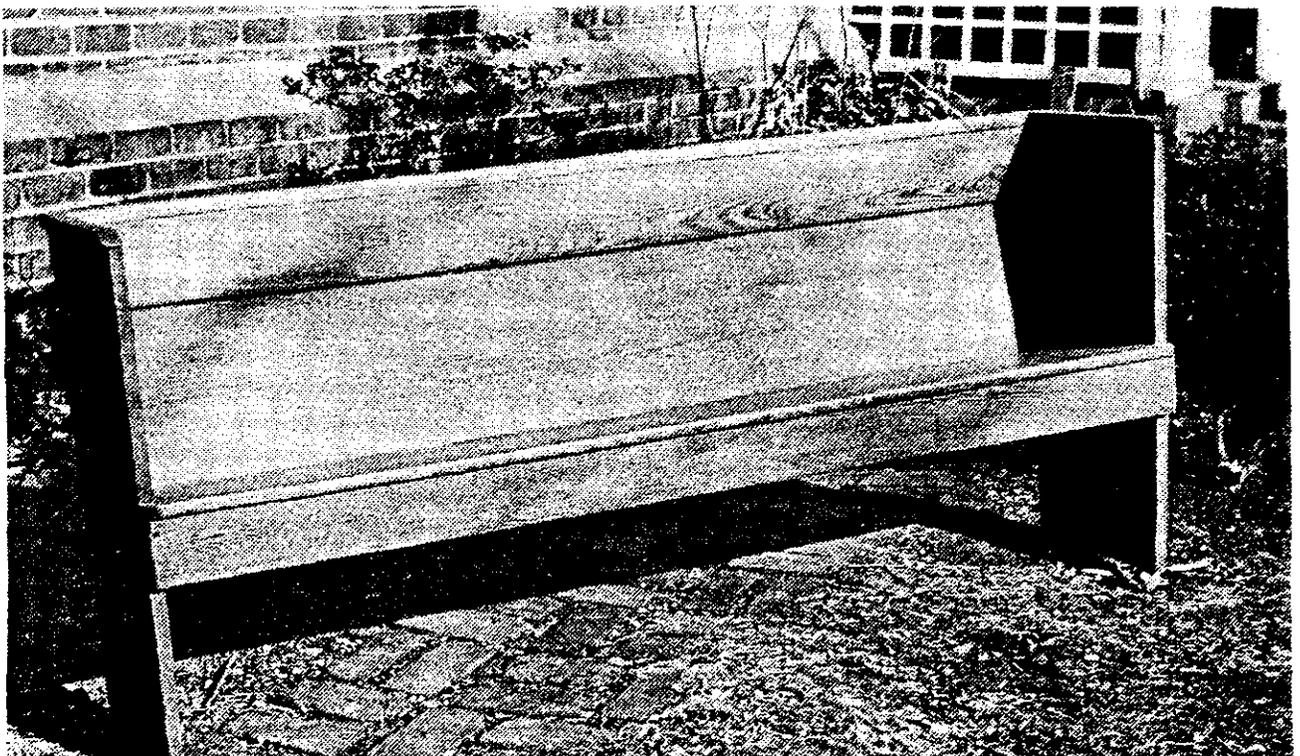


Banner



1910 Church

Source: Atkinson, Harold, Jr. (Editor). *Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, 1880-1980*. Wesley Grove Centennial Committee, 1980

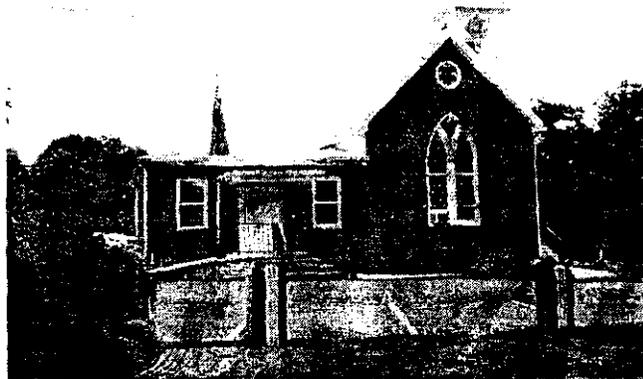


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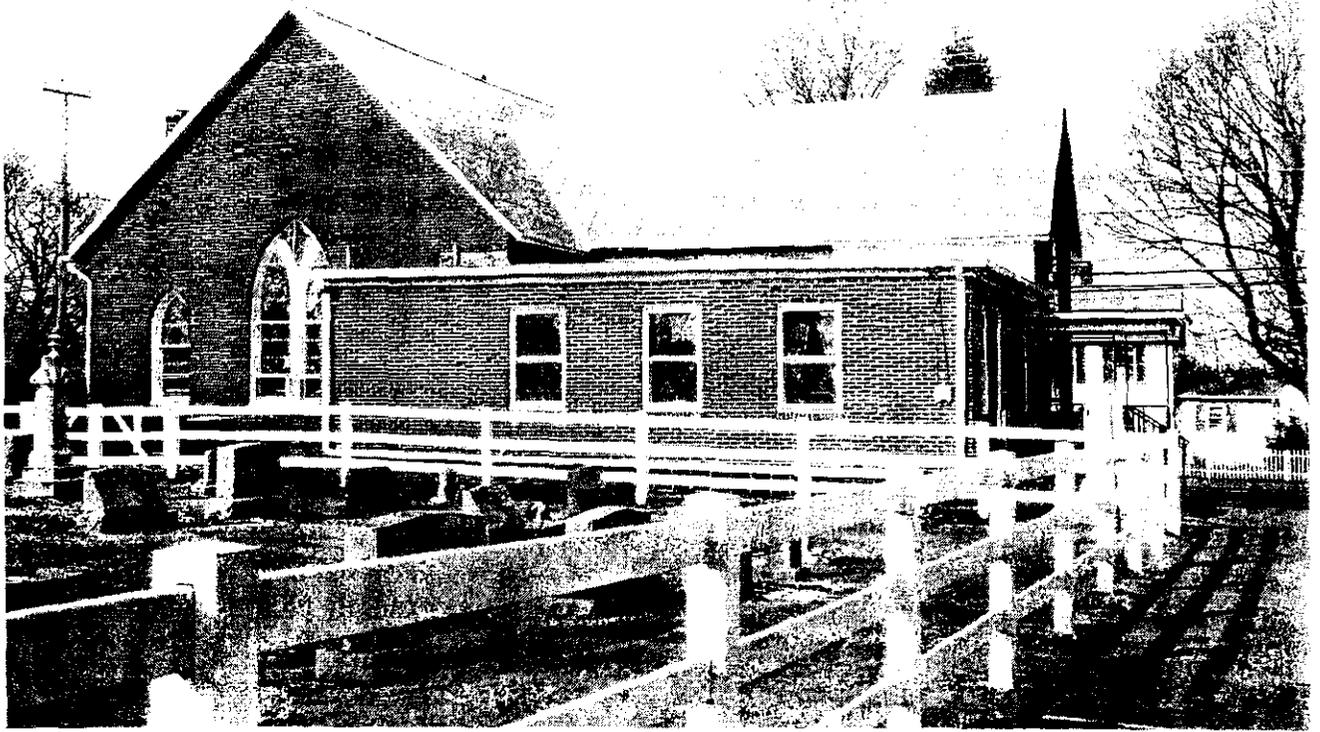
Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23640 Woodfield Rd.



Side Elevation of Church



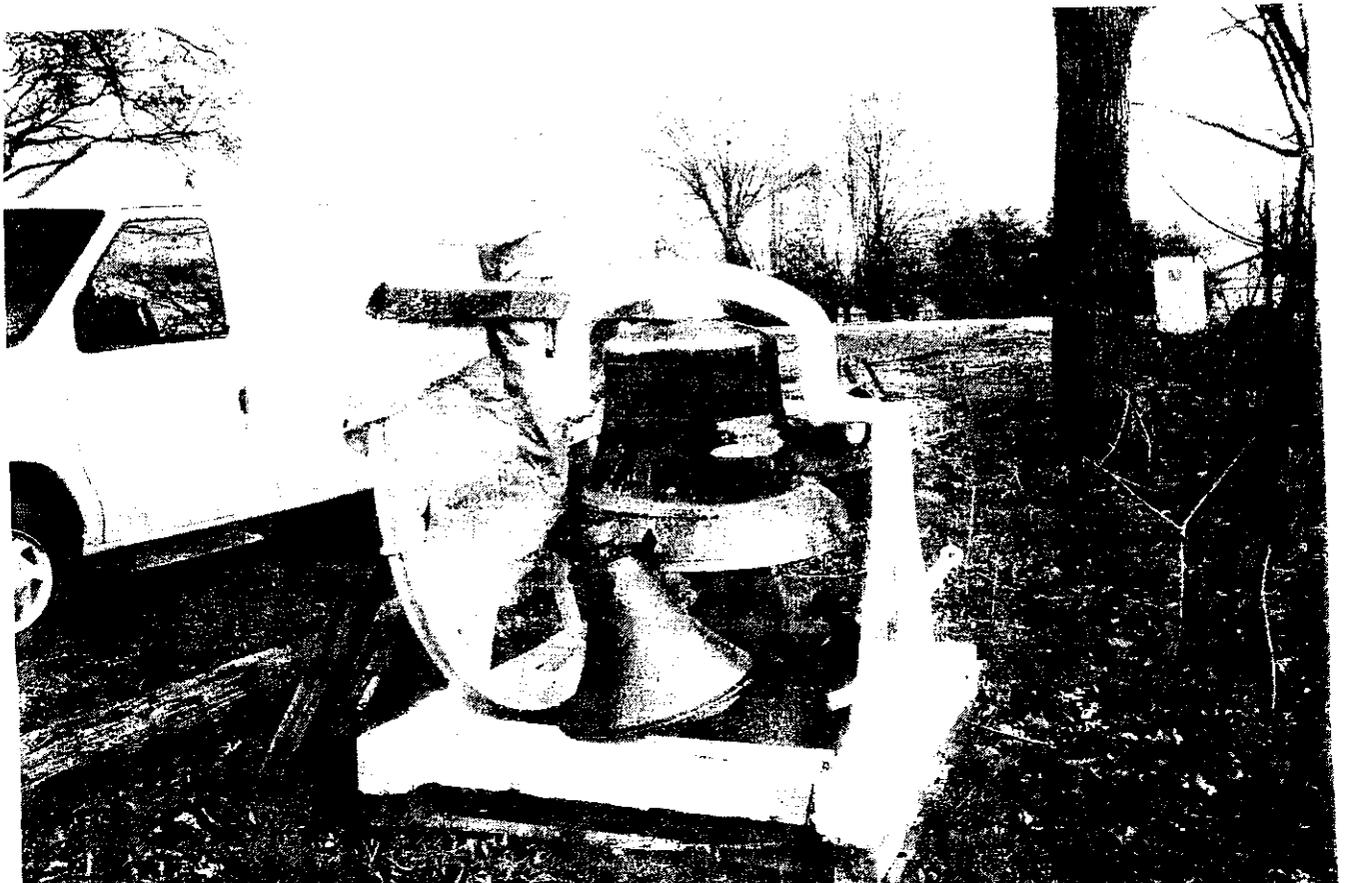
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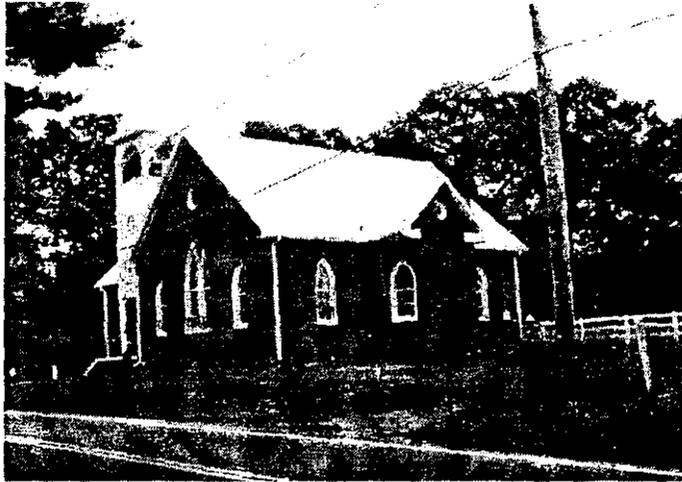


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M:14-16-7

Side Elevation of Church



Church Education Building
23614 Woodfield Rd.

