

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Grace United Methodist Church Inventory Number: M: 21-164  
Address: 1 Walker Avenue City: Gaithersburg Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site visit by MHT staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context  yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Grace United Methodist Church is significant primarily for its architectural distinction as an example of typical late 19th century and early 20th century architectural eclecticism, embodied in the combination of brick and shingles for exterior walls, semi-circular arched window openings, open design of the top of the entrance tower and the use of slate tile roofing. The building also demonstrates the influence on architectural taste of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It is of local historical significance as the physical manifestation of later 19th century expansion of the congregation, established in 1867.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

**MHT Comments**

The Grace United Methodist Church was federally determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Carol D. Shull

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

November 05, 1979

Date



## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Grace Church
2. Planning Area/Site Number 21/2      3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 15  
L-2
4. Address Frederick and Walker Avenues, Gaithersburg
5. Classification Summary
- Category building  
 Ownership private  
 Public Acquisition NA  
 Status occupied  
 Accessible yes: restricted  
 Present use religious  
 Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC    Federal    State    X County X Local
- (Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976 )
6. Date 1905      7. Original Owner: Gaithersburg  
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
8. Apparent Condition
- a. excellent      c. original site  
 b. altered
9. Description: This Richardsonian Romanesque, shingle style church, is eight bays by five bays, two and a half stories, facing south. Built on rough faced undressed ashlar blocks, the first level is constructed of stretcher bonded red brick and the gable ends have brown stained shingles. A white molded wooden string course divides the two sections. On the south elevation there is a massive three story tower. At the first level there is a romanesque arch. At the second level there are one over one double hung stained glass windows--like those throughout the church. At the third level there are open arches and balconies on all four sides. The tower has a pyramidal roof with slate shingles. There are two light part stained glass windows on the south and west elevations. The church has intersecting gable roofs with slate shingles.
10. Significance: Grace Church is a important religious, community and architectural landmark for Gaithersburg, serving as a visual anchor for the townscape. The Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church South congregation has been established in the Gaithersburg area since just after the Civil War. A frame one-room church called Forest Oak Church had been constructed in 1867 but by 1900 could no longer meet the needs of the growing congregation. After land was donated for a new church, the building committee selected plans for an architect and chose a contractor. For the cornerstone laying ceremonies in 1905 all the stores in Gaithersburg closed and the Governor of Maryland arrived on the morning train to be the chief orator. Windows, the church furniture and bell were donated by the congregation.
11. Date researched and researcher Fall 1978 -- Mark Walston
12. Compiler Gail Rothrock      13. Date Compiled 2/79      14. Designation Candy Reed - Architectural Description  
Approval
15. Acreage .825 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 21/164  
 Old Gaithersburg  
 Historic District  
 MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
 Grace Church  
 AND/OR COMMON

Grace United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
 Frederick and Walker Avenues

CITY, TOWN  
 Gaithersburg

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE  
 Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
 Trustees of Grace Church

Telephone #: 926-8688

STREET & NUMBER  
 Frederick and Walker Avenues

CITY, TOWN  
 Gaithersburg

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 180

Folio #: 51

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
 Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
 M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE  
 1976

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN  
 Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

This Richardsonian Romanesque Shingle Style Church is eight bays by five bays, two and a half stories, and faces south.

Built on rough faced undressed ashlar block foundations, the first level is constructed of stretcher bonded red pressed brick; the gable ends are brown-stained wooden shingles. A white molded wood string course divides the two sections. On the west elevation four poured concrete steps, flanked by wrought iron handrails lead to double wooden paneled doors surmounted by a transom light. A modern brick addition on the north elevation provides space for classrooms and school activities. On the south elevation there is a massive three story tower. The first level is pressed red brick. Five granite steps lead to a Romanesque arch set in the base of the tower. Recessed within the arch are double wooden paneled doors surmounted by a stained glass tympanum window. The second level of the tower has brown-stained wooden shingles. On all four sides of this section of the tower there are one over one double hung stained glass windows set into round headed wooden arches. At the third level there are arched openings on all four sides, each with a shingled balcony supported by four shingled brackets. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof with slate shingle covering.

There are one over one double hung stained glass windows. On the south and west elevations there are large eight-part fixed stained glass windows set in Romanesque arches defined by brown shingles. The north window is now blocked by the north school addition.

The church has intersecting, gable roofs with slate shingles.

The south tower door opens into a rectangular entry way. Directly ahead of the front door is a doorway which leads into the (west) Sunday school room. This room may be separated from the main church room by folding glass and wooden paneled doors. The main church faces east.

Three aisles divide the seating into four sections of curved pews: the two center sections are nine rows each and the two flanking sections are seven and two rows. The carved communion rail bows out toward the congregation. The altar has carved on it the words "In Remembrance of Me"; north of the altar is the ornately carved podium. Behind the altar (east) are the organ, choir loft, and organ pipes.

The church has a narrow hardwood floor. The walls have tongue and groove wainscoting and plaster over lath walls and ceilings. The structural members of the roof are exposed. There are three ornate wooden cross screens from which are suspended six-sided hanging lamps.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M: 21-164

The Rockville Methodist Episcopal Congregation, established in 1844, had extended as far as Gaithersburg by the 1860s. Just after the Civil War, the M.E. Church and the M.E. Church, South, (rival congregations split over the issue of slavery) had each acquired property and constructed a church on the

**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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1905                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      James L. Gardner

Frederick Rd. By the turn of the 20th century, the 2 congregations had established mission churches on the Darnestown Rd. within a few miles of each other. The first Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was constructed on property donated on November 27, 1866, by Elijah Thompson to "Nathan Cooke, Nathan J. Walker, Samuel Higgins, James H. Claggett, Richard Milles, Mahlon G. Thompson, Samuel Briggs, Nathan Cooke, Jr. and William H. Cooke, trustees... for the erection or building of a House of Worship for the society of Christians called the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and for a burial ground or graveyard." [1] The property was located on the north end of town, "on the southside of the road leading from Georgetown to Frederick City," [2] By 1867, the congregation had erected a one room, frame structure, dedicated as Forest Oak Church, (Today, only the cemetery remains from this early church.) Yet, by 1900, the small church could no longer meet the growing needs of the community of worshippers, and the Forest Oak members and officials responded to the demands for change by selecting a new site for a larger church building.

On September 7, 1904, Carson Ward and his wife Carrie granted to the trustees "132 square perches of 'Deer Park', at the intersection of the road leading to the farm of John W. Walker and the northeast side of Frederick Avenue, for the use of a place of divine worship," [3] Almost immediately the building committee, chaired by Rev. Thomas J. Lambert, adopted plans for the new church drawn up by a Baltimore architect, and began receiving bids from contractors. At the end of November, 1904, the bids were opened, and the contract was awarded to James L. Gardner, of Refuse, Virginia, who was the lowest bidder at \$11,800. He signed a contract with the committee to complete construction of the new edifice, except the interior furnishings, within ten months from December, 1904. [4]

The cornerstone for the building was laid on May 20, 1905, amidst a flurry of local excitement. All the stores in Gaithersburg closed promptly at 1:30 p.m., only to reopen at 4:00 at the end of the ceremonies. Governor Warfield arrived on the 9:27 morning train, and was chief orator at the exercises. The Pentalpha Lodge, No. 194, A.F. and A.M. of Gaithersburg, along with Masons from Washington and Baltimore Cities, assisted the Grand Master, Thomas J. Shyrock, of the State of Maryland, in the laying of the cornerstone, a block of light granite presented by Mr. T. A. Sullivan of Washington, D.C. [5]

The completed church was dedicated on Sunday, December 10, 1905. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. C. Kilgo of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Trinity College (now Duke), North Carolina, with special music rendered by a 60 voice choir under the leadership of Prof. E. Wilson Walker. A contemporary account described the new church thus:

The new building is on the main street of the town, on a knoll, with its steeple 70 feet high, making a landmark visible for many miles around.

The church is 86 feet by 100 feet in size, divided into a main auditorium seating 400 persons; Sunday-school room for 300, a room for the primary class and a room for library and for business meetings of the church officials. Folding doors are so arranged as on occasions to throw the rooms into one large auditorium capable of seating 1,000 persons. The woodwork of the interior is of cypress and oak. The chancel rail, which runs 30 feet across in front of the choir, is of oak, while the altar is of cypress.

The building is heated by steam and lighted by an acetylene plant: the pews are in semi-circular rows and are of oak. One large window in front is a memorial to Mr. J. O. Trundle and his son, R. Dorsey Trundle: the opposite window is a testimonial of gratitude to the pastor for his faithful labors during the erection of the church, and was presented by the ladies of the congregation. A third large window was presented by Mr. Nathan J. Walker, of the Sunday School, of which he has been for 30 years superintendent. In the year of the chancel are memorial windows to Rev. E. H. Henry and Rev. W. A. McDonald, former pastors of the charge. There are also similar memorial windows to Mr. Zachariah Briggs and Mr. Wm. D. Hughes. A fine assembly bell, costing \$400, was presented by the young ladies of Gaithersburg. The bell is being placed in the belfry of the steeple. The pulpit furniture is also a gift of the ladies. [6]

In 1917, the old organ brought from the Forest Oak Church was replaced with a Moller pipe organ. A basement was excavated in 1919, and several years later Owen Hall was established "to answer the need for a large fellowship and multipurpose room, dining room, and kitchen." [7] In 1946, carillon bells were installed to honor those who served in World War II.

#### NOTES

1. Deed EBP 3/303, Montgomery County Land Records
2. ibid., loc. cit.
3. Deed 180751, Montgomery County Land Records
4. Montgomery County Sentinel, December 2, 1904
5. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 19, 1905
6. Montgomery County Sentinel, December 15, 1905
7. Montgomery County Sentinel, November 2, 1967



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Grace United Methodist Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Grace Methodist Church (South)				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 Walker Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Gaithersburg				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Grace United Methodist Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 Walker Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Gaithersburg			STATE: Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)  
 Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)  
 Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church is a brick structure with a forward-facing gable roof and a corner entrance tower. The gable is shingled. The facade has a large, semi-circular arched window and flanking square-headed windows. The tower is shingled above the porch; it has a four story elevation with an open bell cote; the tower roof is a bell hip. A wing extends to the north; it is A-roofed and has three square-headed windows on the facade. The end wall of the wing is identical to the facade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				C O R N E R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreege Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 24 Jul 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1 Walker Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland  
.825 Acre

This Richardsonian Romanesque style church is an architectural landmark in Gaithersburg, as well as an important religious and community center. It is constructed in an L plan, 2 1/2 stories in height. Resting on a rough faced ashlar foundation, the first story is constructed of stretcher bond brick, with brown stained shingles above. The steeply pitched gable roof is clad in slate.

A massive three (3) story entrance tower rises from the crux of the L. Five (5) granite steps lead to double paneled doors surmounted by a stained glass tympanum window in the brick base of the tower. On the second level, the tower is shingled, and each side has a tall double hung stained glass window set in a round-headed opening. There are wide arched openings on all sides of the third level, with projecting balconies supported by heavy brackets. A modillioned cornice sets off the tall pyramidal roof.

To the left (west) of the tower three (3) evenly spaced double hung stained glass windows are ranged across the facade, while on the right, the facing gable contains a large central stained glass window set in a rounded opening, flanked by double hung stained glass windows. The west gable has identical fenestration. There is a modern addition to the rear (north).

The Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church South congregation has been established since just after the Civil War. The frame, one-room church constructed in 1867 to serve this congregation had become inadequate by 1900, and land for a new building was donated in 1904. Construction began in December, 1904, and the cornerstone was laid the following May. Then-Governor Warfield was chief orator at the ceremony. The church was dedicated in December, 1905.



107 308 12'30" 310 (ROCKVILLE) 5562 11 SW  
 HOCKVILLE 3.5 MI. WASHINGTON, D. C. (WHITE HOUSE) 20 MI.  
 SCALE 1:24000  
 1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000  
 1 5 0

M:al-164

GAITHERSBURG QUAD

Topical Survey  
 YEK plotter 1944  
 creek 1945

M:21-164

