

Site M:26/10/24

Methodist Parsonage

111 West Jefferson Street, Rockville

Built: 1869

Private/Restricted Access

The oldest Parsonage remaining in Rockville, this building is still the property of the Methodist Church and is unaltered. It is L-shaped, $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories, cross-gabled with partially returned cornice and has closely spaced brackets of moderate size. It is of frame construction over a fieldstone foundation.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Methodist Parsonage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 111 West Jefferson Street not for publication

city, town Rockville 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Rockville United Methodist Church

street & number 110 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 762-2288

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber EBP5

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 424

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register - West Montgomery Ave. Historic District - 1974
~~Locally designated historic district - 1974~~

date M-NPPC - 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/10/24

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Parsonage is situated on West Jefferson Street on the opposite side of the block from the Methodist Church it serves. The main block of the house is L-shaped, 2 1/2 stories, four bay by two bay over a fieldstone foundation. The cross gable roofs are covered with asphalt, and there is a central brick chimney with corbeled cap. The bracketed eaves, window and door trim tend to the Italianate style, but the little-altered Parsonage is vernacular.

The front facade faces south onto West Jefferson Street. The west bay is a projecting gable end with large scroll brackets and partially returned cornice. Like the gable ends on the north and east facades of the main block, it is one bay wide; on each floor there are paired four-over-four double-hung sash windows with full architrave topped by slightly pointed lintels. Spanning the east three bays of this facade is a porch with low-pitch shed roof. The porch has smaller scroll brackets and is supported by four square columns. The two east bays under the porch are six-over-six windows with plain, wide lintels that reach to the porch ceiling. The entry door under the porch has a three-light transom, and is reached by a section of 19th century brick sidewalk.

The east facade of this main block has a gable end with paired four-over-four windows. The west facade has six-over-six single windows and bracketed eaves. Most windows on the house have louvered shutters.

To the north behind the L is a rectangular 2 1/2 story addition which runs parallel to the front-facing gable of the L; it appears to be almost contemporary with the main block. Its gabled north facade has no windows, but has a brick interior end chimney to match the main one. There is a later service porch at its juncture with the main front-facing gable block.

To the east of this section, and seemingly constructed around the same time, is a one room up and one down section, and a large two-story porch. The porch sits on brick piers with lattice work in-fill.

The east facade of the parsonage shows more of the foundation than does the west, as the land falls off slightly to that side. There is a newer bulkhead on this facade, and the driveway from the Church parking lot is close to the house here.

On the north there is a detached frame garage; it has a gable roof covered with corrugated tin, and sits on a later cinderblock foundation.

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 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 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 1869 Builder/Architect _____

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building is the oldest church parsonage remaining in Rockville, and is in nearly original condition. It was constructed for use by the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1869, and is still owned by the Church and used for various church-related purposes.¹ At the time of its construction it abutted the Baptist Church and Cemetery at the quiet western limits of town. But the area has changed and the proximity of the parsonage to the intersection of three busy streets makes its future uncertain.

The issue of slave-owning divided the Methodists of Maryland in the mid-19th century. From 1844 to 1860 the Methodist Conferences made several attempts to resolve the problem. A Plan for Separation was discussed as early as 1844, but the early prohibition against slave-owning gradually softened to tolerate slave-owning within the Church.²

This co-existence was a tenuous one, however, as was the acceptance of black members of the Church. Many black Methodists, both free and slave, were accustomed to using the Church building on Wood Lane in Rockville. But this use caused friction, as recorded in a 1858 newspaper editorial which warned that the Negroes holding temperance meetings in the basement of the Church at night were causing disturbances and fracas "…with blacks roaming the streets at night". It concluded with an admonition to masters, "Keep your slaves at home".³

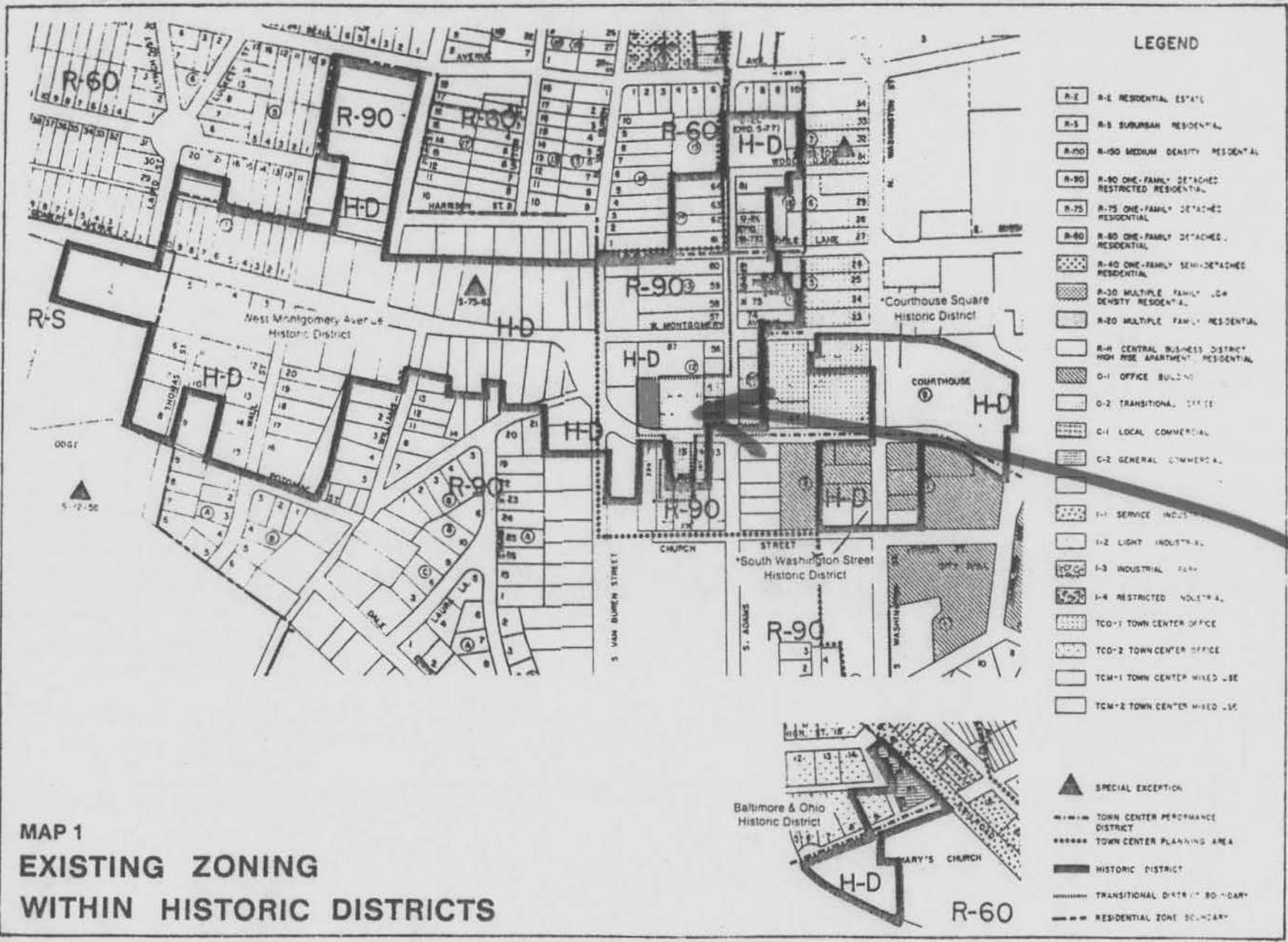
By 1861 the slavery issue and the emergence of the Republican Party made schism unavoidable. In that year a Conference of Southern Methodists was established and in 1863 the pro-slavery members of the Rockville congregation petitioned to join the Virginia District of this dissident group.⁴ During these years "Southern" members of the Rockville Church had removed themselves from the congregation on Wood Lane. (See Survey Site #M:26/10/39)⁵.

During the War years the M. E., South members met privately in Rockville homes, but after 1865 attempts were made to regain the use of the Wood Lane building at least on alternate Sundays. The Sentinel reported the course of protracted lawsuits over church properties all over the State, as well as in Rockville. In 1869 the suit was resolved in favor of the original of Baltimore Conference members. The Southern members had no further claim on the old buildings, and it was therefore necessary to erect a new Church building and a parsonage for its minister.

#8 CONTINUATION P. 8.1

The new M. E. Church, South, building was constructed on Commerce Lane (now West Montgomery) in 1868. In August of that year the Trustees purchased a lot immediately behind the new church, paying \$187.50 "...to erect a suitable house with the usual outbuildings...for use of the members of M. E. Church, South as a place of residence of their pastor...".⁶ The building on Jefferson Street was constructed of frame set off with heavy bracketing, with porches front and rear. It housed the ministers and their families for more than 100 years and still serves a variety of Church-related uses.⁷

1. The parsonage was dated by the Church in the 125th Anniversary Booklet (1969).
2. Those Incredible Methodists: A History of the Baltimore Conference of the United Methodist Church, Baltimore Conference Commission on Archives and History, Baltimore, 1972, p. 60 et seq.
3. Montgomery County Sentinel, August 27, 1858.
4. Those Incredible Methodists, p. 258-268.
5. The two Methodist Conferences were not formally united until 1939, but by the late 19th century most of the white Methodists of Rockville had joined the new church on West Montgomery Avenue, leaving the Wood Lane Church to the blacks. The blacks congregation grew so large that it was necessary to tear down, enlarge and re-construct the Wood Lane Church; it was dedicated in 1893 as Jerusalem Methodist Episcopal Church (Sentinel, November 3, 1893).
6. Montgomery County Land Records, EBP 5/424.
7. In 1983, Methodist Bishop Nolan Harmon published an account of his long and illustrious career. Ninety Years and Counting includes details of his Rockville pastorate from 1921 to 1925 and describes the parsonage as "a comfortable sort of house", but one which "leaked like a sieve". His solution of the draught problem was to chink the windows with strips cut from rubber inner-tubes. But Bishop Harmon has fond memories of Rockville; he met and married one of the local girls, Rebecca Lamar of South Washington Street.



**MAP 1
EXISTING ZONING
WITHIN HISTORIC DISTRICTS**

*Note: For discussion and planning purposes South Washington Street and the Courthouse Square district are considered independent Historic Districts even though they are shown on the existing zoning map as one district.

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 M: 26/10/24
 Methodist Parsonage
 111 West Jefferson St.
 Rockville



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1020-8

M: 26/10/24
METHODIST PARSONAGE
111 W. Jefferson St.
SOUTH ELEVATION

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1606 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

AUGUST, 1984



1017-12

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

W: 26/10/24
METHODIST PARSONAGE

111 St. Jefferson St.

EAST ELEVATION

Methodist Church Parsonage

AUGUST, 1984