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B-17

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Maryland	
COUNTY:	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lovely Lane Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
First Methodist Episcopal Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2200 St. Paul Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First Methodist Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
2200 St. Paul Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 610, Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Landmark List

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:
402 City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

[see continuation sheet]

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lovely Lane Methodist Church, designed by the noted architect Stanford White, is built in the Romanesque style of the early churches and basilicas in Ravenna, Italy. The entire exterior is constructed of gray ashlar rock-face Port Deposit granite, creating an effect of massiveness broken only by strictly limited ornamentation. There are deep porticos on both the south and east facades, with round arches and columns, and wide flights of steps. Small rows of leaded windows penetrate the walls in the apse and at the clerestory level. There is a simple projecting stone cornice. The east and west end walls curve out to form the bases of semiconical sections of roof. The roof is covered with carved S-shaped Spanish tiles of Roman Red color.

The most commanding feature of the exterior is the square bell-tower, embedded at the southeast corner of the building, and patterned after the campanile of the twelfth-century church of Santa Maria, Abbey of Pomposa, near Ravenna. It rises in nine tiers of narrowing perimeter separated by stringcourses, with small windows, corner pinnacles, and a conical roof. The architect planned to achieve a balance between the mass of the tower and the college buildings (see #8) erected concurrently on the adjoining lot to the north.

The church building itself is comprised of several parts: the sanctuary, church school and reception rooms, a chapel on the western side, and the parsonage on the northern side. The sanctuary is elliptical in shape, with a gallery encircling it and leading up to the Roosevelt organ which is above and back of the pulpit. The pulpit is a reproduction of that of St. Apollinaris, in Ravenna. The cornice and frieze are artistic combinations of carving, stucco, and metals. The stained glass windows in the frieze are reproductions of the mosaics taken from the fifth-century Church of St. Piaceta, and preserved in the Christian Museum of St. John Lateran at Rome.

The dome or vault of the sanctuary is an exceedingly flattened ellipse, patterned after that of St. Sophia, at Constantinople. The firmament is represented in blue and gold on the ceiling, with every visible star in the position it occupied in the sky at 3 A.M. on the day of the church's dedication. By coincidence this arrangement of the heavens was the same as the one which appeared over Judea at the birth of Christ, with the exception of one star, which, church officials speculate, might have been the Star of Bethlehem.

The dome is carried forward in gilded corbels, after the dome of the Cathedral of Anastasia. Tongues of golden flame en-

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1884-1887

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [x] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [x] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify) _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lovely Lane Methodist Church derives it significance from two sources: its architectural merit and its religious history. Considered one of Baltimore's outstanding architectural monuments, it is also known as the Mother Church of American Methodism.

Eighteenth-century Methodist congregations of this country were found only in scattered groups. At Christmas, 1784, representatives of these groups came together at a conference held at the original Lovely Lane Meeting House, built in 1774 and located on the present site of the Merchants' Club (206 East Redwood Street). At this Christmas Conference, the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States was organized, and Reverend Francis Asbury was ordained as its first bishop. The Lovely Lane congregation moved to three new locations in later years. Then Reverend John F. Goucher was appointed pastor of the church, which had been named the First Methodist Episcopal Church in 1872, and the decision was made to build a new church on the present site. Construction was begun in 1884, and the entire building was consecrated on November 6, 1887. In 1954, the name of the church was changed to Lovely Lane Methodist Church, "thus restoring and reclaiming her heritage and lineage of descent from the Mother Church of American Methodism."[1]

The Women's College of Baltimore, founded in 1885 by Reverend Goucher and others, occupied several similar builidngs still standing adjacent to the church. Reverend Goucher served as president from 1890 to 1908, and upon his retirement, the institution's name was changed to Goucher College. The college is now located in Towson, Maryland.

In 1955, the Baltimore Conference Historical Society opened the Lovely Lane Museum in the church building. This museum contains priceless treasures of early Methodist history.

The architectural significance of the Lovely Lane Methodist Church is based on its design by Stanford White, one of America's foremost architects. "By its sheer force of design

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Methodist Bicentennial 1766-1966. Baltimore: Baltimore Conference Methodist Historical Society, 1966, pp. 64-66.

"An Extraordinary Dedication." Reprinted from The Christian Advocate (New York, November 10, 1887), pp. 1-4.

Howland, Richard Hubbard, and Spencer, Eleanor Patterson. The Architecture of Baltimore - A Pictorial History. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953, pp. 101-103.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		39	18	52.5	76	36	57
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Joyce Maclay and Catherine Black

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: Aug. 25, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland 21401

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date Sept. 20, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Lovely Lane Methodist Church

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

1968 state x

Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

#7. DESCRIPTION

circle the whole vault. The hand-carved woodwork of the interior of the church is of solid black birch.

A rectangular addition was bullt in 1930 on the northwest corner, to house social rooms and a kitchen.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE

White's First Methodist Church must be placed close to Latrobe's Cathedral as Baltimore's most monumental architecture."[2] The church itself is more than a monument; it remains a living force of religious influence in Baltimore and throughout the Methodist Church.

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[1]American Methodist Bicentennial, 1766-1966, (Baltimore: Baltimore Conference Methodist Historical Society, 1966, p. 66.

[2]Richard Hubbard Howland and Eleanor Patterson Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore - A Pictorial History, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953, pp. 102-103.

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Lovely Lane Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Methodist Episcopal Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2200 St. Paul Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
USGS 7.5 minute map; Baltimore East Quadrangle

SCALE: 1: 24 000

DATE: 1953 photorevised 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

B-17
LOVELY LANE
METHODIST CHURCH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

B-17

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Lovely Lane Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Methodist Episcopal Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2200 St. Paul Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Dan O'Toole, c/o Blakeslee-Lane, Inc.

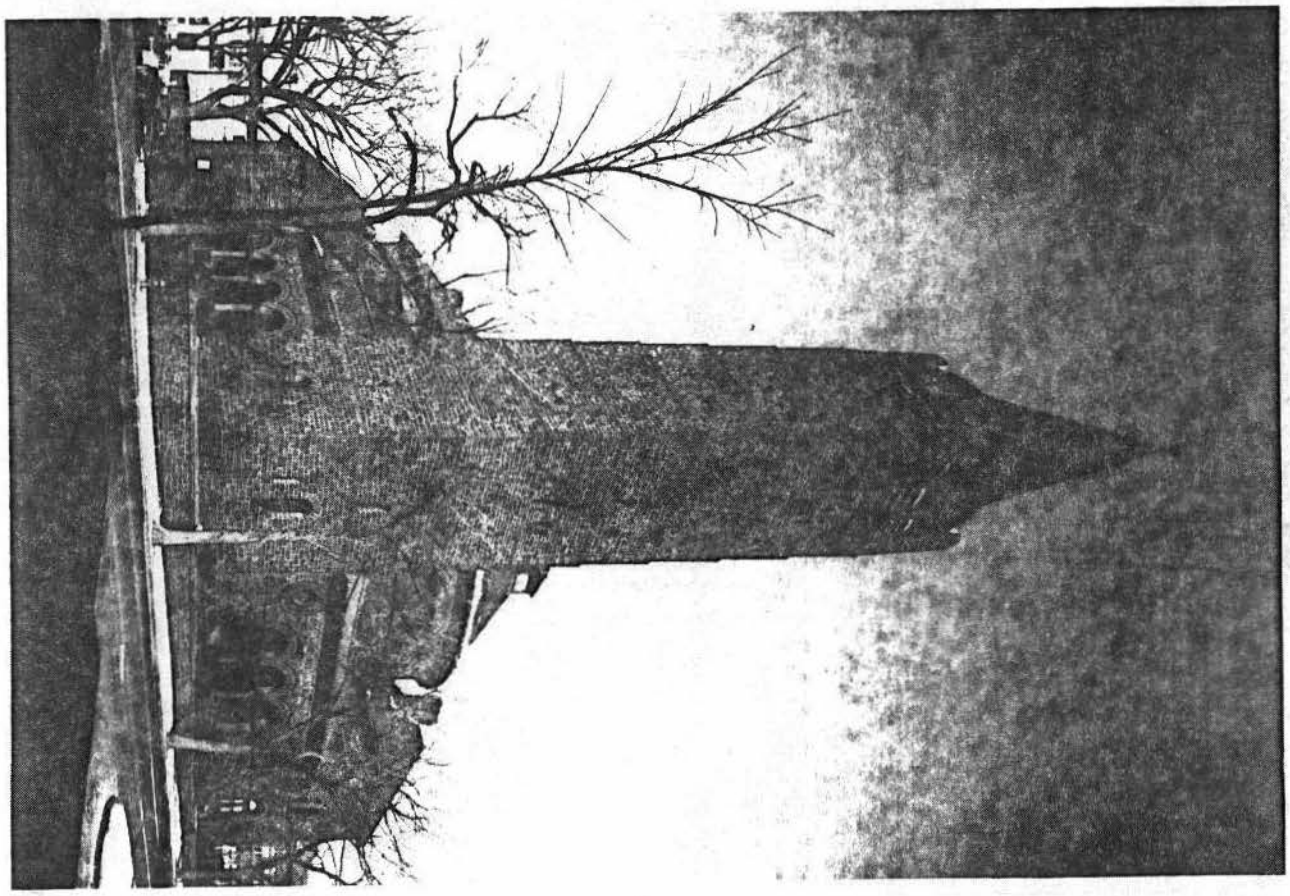
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Blakeslee-Lane, Inc., 916 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Lovely Lane Methodist Church from the southeast



Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore County
TOWN Baltimore VICINITY
STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER Lovely Lane Methodist Church
ORIGINAL USE Religious
PRESENT OWNER First Methodist Church
PRESENT USE Religious
WALL CONSTRUCTION Granite
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY B - 17

2. NAME First Methodist Church
Lovely Lane Methodist Church
DATE OR PERIOD 1882
STYLE Romanesque Revival
ARCHITECT Stanford White
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes

The plan of the First Methodist Church is an oval auditorium-nave encompassed by massive granite walls. "These walls are penetrated only by two deep arcaded porticoes and by rows of small windows in the apse and on the clerestory level. To the east and west the end walls swell out in bold wide curves to form the bases of semiconical sections of roof. The great bell tower on the corner is embedded in the body of the Church, not merely adjacent to it, so that it dramatizes the fine three dimensional structure." (The Architecture of Baltimore, Howland and Spencer, 1953, p. 102)

Set on top of the stone tower is a conical spire which reflects the main roof of the nave. Mr. Stanford White, the architect, attained experience while working on Trinity Church, Boston, Massachusetts, under Mr. Henry Hobson Richardson who was at the peak of his fame as an architect between 1870 and 1886. The heavy Romanesque feeling, on Trinity Church, is repeated in Mr. White's work in Baltimore.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered No Interior Good Exterior Good

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
Howland and Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore, 1953, pp. 102, 136

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael O. Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD March 19, 1968

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

0017

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore City
TOWN VICINITY
STREET NO. St. Paul & 22nd Streets

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY B-17

2. NAME Lovely Lane Methodist Church

DATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP *(Plan Optional)*

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES *(Author, Title, Pages)*
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE