Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

Easement

B-1401

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Orchard Street United Methodist Church (Formerly Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church)

AND/OR COMMON
Orchard Street United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
510 Orchard Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY
Baltimore City

CODE
510

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM in progress
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	X WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	X BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
H.C.D. - Housing and Community Development

STREET & NUMBER
222 Saratoga Street

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Saratoga and St. Paul Streets

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	X DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Orchard Street United Methodist Church is located on the northwest side of Orchard Street southwest of Druid Hill Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland. Its principal facade of pressed brick faces southeast. Attached to the rear of the nave of the church is a classroom and auditorium building. This rear structure, with its principal elevation facing northeast, forms an overall T-shaped plan for the entire complex. A two-story link about four feet wide connects the two large buildings. Built of the same type of red brick as the classroom portion, this link is bonded into the rear building but not the church which extends to Orchard Street.

This nineteenth century church possesses a mixture of revival styles. The main church is Romanesque Revival, but the rear building in Romanesque with a large Gothic window in its northeastern facade. The narthex, forming the Orchard Street facade, contains two staircases whichllead to galleries above the aisles and in the narthex. The nave, approximately 54 by 74 feet, has superimposed columns dividing the nave and aisles and a plastered ceiling with ornamental arched trusses. Clerestory windows light the nave.

The rear building is approximately 50 by 75 feet. Its first story is divided into classrooms with a central corridor. The second floor is a large hall or auditorium with a stage at one end and a balcony at the other. The plastered ceiling is arched. Between the windows, plaster-paneled, arched beams are supported by pilasters. All ornament is of a simple Roman style.

There are three existing cornerstones, all of which have been removed from the buildings. One with dates "1837, Rebuilt 1859, 1882" is thought to have come from the main church structure. Another, probably from the auditorium part, shows "1838, 1879, 1903" and is thought to be a replacement for a third reading "Orchard St. M. E. C., S. S. & Classrooms, Rebuilt A.D. 1879". The rear Sunday School and auditorium building is thought to be on the site of the original structure of 1837-38.

The condition of the Orchard Street Church has deteriorated since the congregation moved about two years ago. It has been vandalized, and most windows are broken and boarded. Several fires have damaged various portions, but there has been no serious structural damage. Most of the church's furnishings, including hand carved pews, pulpit furniture and organ pipes, have been removed. There are a few pews remaining in the galleries. However, enough exists so that restoration is feasible.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

DESCRIPTION CONTINUED, ITEM NUMBER 7

The Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church intends to preserve the entire complex for use as a museum and a cultural center for the Black community, not as a church for religious use by one denomination.*

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*The information for this description was obtained from James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Havre de Grace, Maryland.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Orchard Street United Methodist Church formerly known as Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, is located on Orchard Street and Druid Hill Avenue*. Metropolitan began back in the days of slavery; when the section of town where the buildings are now located was known as "Scrabbletown" and Druid Hill Avenue was Ross Street. "It was built in 1837 on a piece of ground situated and lying in the City of Baltimore, beginning at the corner formed by the intersection of the northwest side of Orchard Street and the South West side of Elder Alley which alley is laid out parallel with Ross Street (Druid Hill Ave.) and at a distance of one hundred and twenty feet. Southwestwardly bounding on Orchard Street fifty three feet eight inches northwestwardly parallel with Ross Street (Druid Hill Avenue) one hundred and twenty five feet to Moore's Alley.

Northeastwardly bounding on the South East side of Moore's Alley fifth three feet eight inches to Elder Alley and South Eastwardly bounding on Elder Alley one hundred and twenty five feet to the place of the beginning".[1] In 1825 a west indian black man name Truman Le Pratt held prayer meetings in his house on Orchard Street. The other two trustees at that time were Basil Hall and Cyrus Moore. As time went on, the blacks attending the meetings began to get bigger. Truman Le Pratt got the idea about a church, and gave the first sum of money toward its construction. His wife was employed by the Moore family. George and Henry Moore owned or were agents for a lot of property in Baltimore.

During this period in history blacks were given things without anything being recorded, or any legal transaction such as a deed. Truman Le Pratt's wife asked her employer for some land to build a house of worship for her people. She was promised some land by the family. However, this was by word of mouth only.

*Mrs. Elizabeth M. Newman, Researcher, Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church, 2402 Arunah Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, has written a paper entitled History of Orchard Street United Methodist Church, Formerly Metropolitan M. E. Church. Since her research describes the significance of this church, it has been quoted.

[1] Liber T. K. 295 Folio 352

(See Continuation Sheet No. 2)

The Moore brothers died before any deed could be drawn up. George died in 1822 and Henry died one year later in 1823. Margaret, wife of Henry Moore and Administrator of the property, gave Mrs. Le Pratt the land without a deed or any legal document.

The deed for this building was started in 1839 after Margaret Moore Administrator of the property of Henry Moore, was carried to court by Kirkpatrick Ewing and his wife Malvina. The back building was left in tact and the deed for this Church and premises was completed in 1840.[2] This building is rectangular shape made of red bricks with six or more windows facing Druid Hill Avenue. The entrance to this Church is on Moore's Alley. I cannot give any further description because it is in the process of being renovated.

The second building was added to this building in 1853.[3] It is also rectangular in shape with six or more windows on the side facing Elder Alley or Moore's Alley. The entrance to this building is on Orchard Street. The congregation became so large until the trustees found it necessary to build another Church. The trustees used what funds they had to build this Church. When the conference of 1856 met, an agent named W. M. D. Ryan made a resolution, that the conference pay for the erection of the Church, and it was approved.[4] A sabbath school was added to this building in 1865.[5]

The extension to the two buildings was added in 1882 on Orchard Street and Elder Alley. This extension was necessary to meet the demands of the flourishing congregation.[6] When one moves about Baltimore searching out old landmarks, there is none that deserves any more recognition than the Old Orchard Street United Methodist Church formerly Metropolitan M. E. Church. For truly it has weathered many storms, being the oldest building still standing in Baltimore City built by blacks one hundred thirty eight years ago.

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[2] Liber T. K. 295 Folio 355

[3] Liber E. D. 49 Folio 59

[4] Christian Advocate (1856)

[5] Bradford Papers (1867)

[6] The Morning Herald - Whole No. 2294, p. 1

(See Continuation Sheet No.3)

Father John Hersey, Street Preacher and Missionary in Baltimore in 1836, was associated with Light Street Church. Father Hersey helped to handle the bricks used in building the Church in 1837. He passed the bricks to the men who were putting them in position. From the Old Dallas Street Methodist Church, he got a piece of railing and had it used in connection with the steps leading to the basement, he did this for the ministers that held meetings there.[7]

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Orchard Street Church is the oldest existing building built by Blacks in the City of Baltimore. Two of the buildings are pre-Civil War structures (first church, 1837 and second church, 1853). The Church is a 19th century interpretation of Renaissance Italian architecture with some Gothic Revival portions.

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[7] Sketch of Rev. John Hersey (1879)

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 4

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LESS THAN 1 ACRE

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	359930	4350850	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
George J. Andreve, Ass't. Arch. Historian (cas)

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE
Spring 1975

STREET & NUMBER
21 State Circle

TELEPHONE
267-1438

CITY OR TOWN
Annapolis

STATE
Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Atlas Baltimore and Its Envisons" Vol. 1, p. 25 (1876)

"Bradford Papers", Box 1215 (vii) (1867)

"Christian Advocate", Baltimore Conference Journal of M. E. Church (1856)

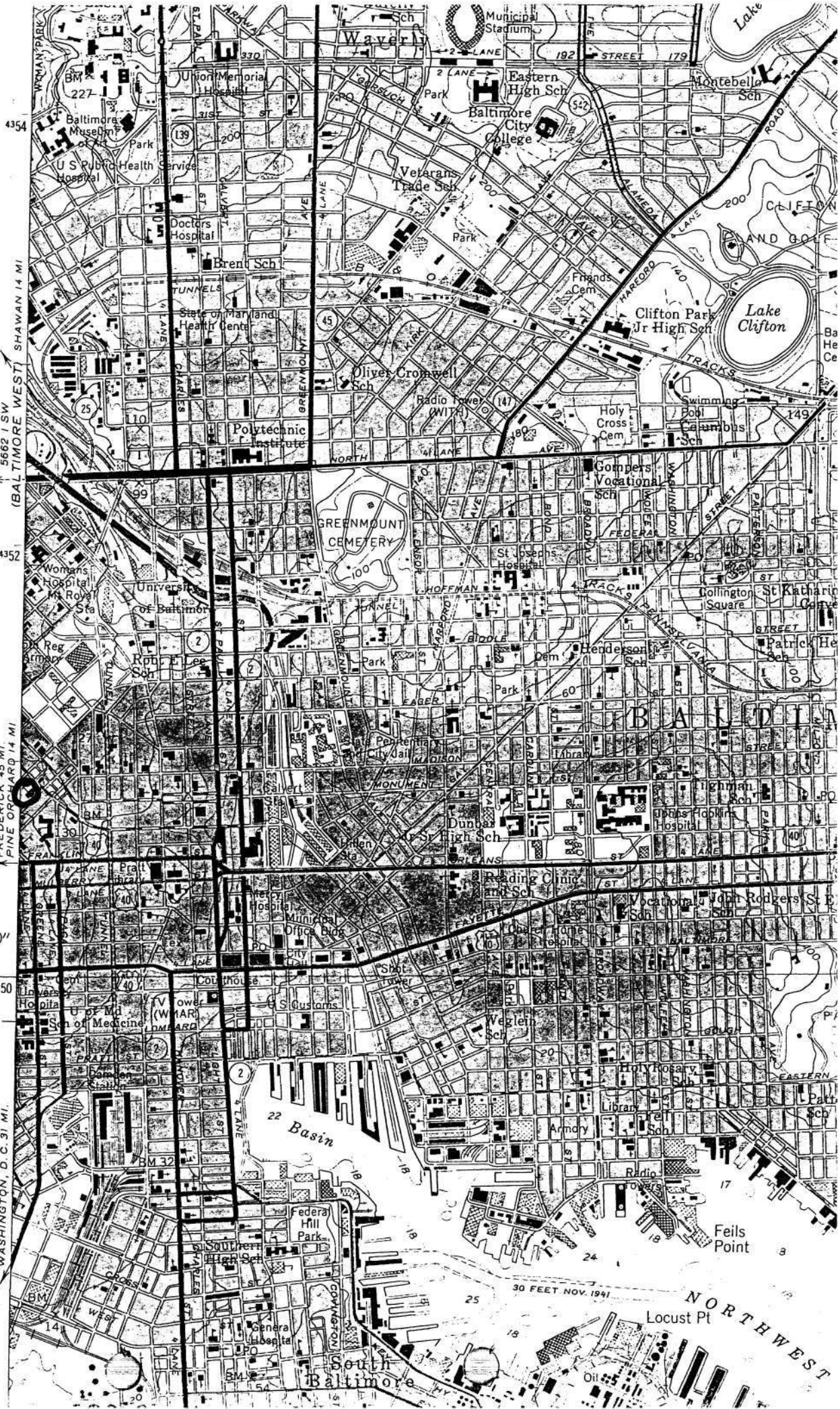
Liber E. D. 49 Folio 59

Liber T. K 295 Folio 352

Liber T. K. 295 Folio 355

Marine, F. E. Rev. "Sketch of Rev. John Hersey", Baltimore, Maryland: Hoffman and Company, 1879.

The Morning Herald, Whole No. 2294, page 1, Column 6, May 16, 1882.



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Orchard street Church

UTM Reference

18/359930/4350850

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECIEVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Orchard Street United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Baltimore ___VICINITY OF STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore City

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT George Andreve DATE OF PHOTO August 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Southeast facade

PHOTO NO.
1

B-1401

GPO 892-454