

Maryland Historical Trust/ National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

WA-HAG-044
MHT Inventory No.

MHT Computer No.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. For instructions, see the Trust publication National Register Application Guidelines. Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name John Wesley United Methodist Church

other names

2. Location

street & number 129 N. Potomac Street not for publication

city, town Hagerstown vicinity

state Maryland code county Washington code zip

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

4. Ownership

See Continuation Sheet.

5. Reserved (leave this space blank)

Submit completed applications to:

National Register Administration
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classifications (enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Gothic

foundations limestone
 walls limestone

 roof slate
 other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Built in 1885, the John Wesley United Methodist Church (formerly St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church) is a gable fronted Gothic style limestone building. It is located on the west side of North Potomac Street. It is of irregular exterior plan with pointed arched openings and a steeply pitched slate roof. The two front corners of the building are marked by square towers with crenelated tops. The south tower reaches four stories in height. Both towers had their upper open bell housing sections added after initial construction as indicated in an 1885 photograph of the building, showing hipped roofs above the stone dentiled cornices for each tower. The towers were extended in 1922. The front facade is dominated by a large Gothic-arched stained glass rose window in the central bay. Beneath it is the main entrance housed in a projecting gabled vestibule. The arches above the openings are lined with cut stone trim which extend from the base of each arch as horizontal bands around the building. Additions to the building are constructed of tan brick and date from 1951 and 1954. The interior of the church was renovated extensively in 1963.

8. Statement of Significance

the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Registration Form, page 3

Architecture

Religion

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

1885-1946

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Significant Dates
MHT Inventory No.:

1885

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Methodism is a Protestant Christian denomination that developed from the evangelic teachings and work of John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield and others in the early 18th century. The name derives from the methodical study and worship practiced by the founders, emphasizing personal and social responsibility and John Wesley's ideal of Christian perfection.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Francis Asbury, first Superintendent and Bishop of the Methodist Church in America visited and preached in Hagerstown. By 1794, Hagerstown had become part of the regular itinerary of Methodist preachers by being assigned first to the Carlisle Circuit and later to the Chambersburg Circuit in 1812. In 1825 after years of sharing meeting rooms with the Brethren, the local Methodists built their first church on North Jonathan Street. The present lot was purchased in 1883 and the Church building begun shortly thereafter. The cost of construction was \$50,000. In 1922, a new parsonage was built and the church towers were completed at a cost of over \$28,000.

As Methodism grew in Hagerstown, other churches were established from the original congregation. The Washington Square United Methodist Church in Hagerstown's West End was established in 1885 and the South End organized St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in 1914.

Maryland Historical Trust/
**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

WA-NAG-44

MHT Inventory No.

Fundamental Baptist Church, Inc.
Name of Property

Section Number 8 Page 1

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Religion/Church

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Religious structure

Known Design Source: Gothic

ABSTRACT
(R. Andrews, 1-77)

John Wesley United Methodist Church
129 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

Cornerstone 1884

Originally known as Saint Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, this Romanesque influenced stone building was designed by Charles Carson (1847-1891), a Baltimore architect, and was erected by the Baltimore contractor B. F. Bennett. Work was begun on the structure in 1883 with ground breaking on 15 December. The cornerstone was laid 7 August 1884 and the church was dedicated on 22 November 1885. It was at the time the cornerstone was laid that the congregation chose the name Saint Paul's.

Centered between Franklin and Church Streets, the building is one of the largest structures along North Potomac Street. The impact of its size, however, is diminished somewhat by its position set back from the general building line along the street. Located on the southern slope of a hill, the two facade towers are positioned with the tallest one on the low side, counteracting the slant of the street.

WA-HAG-44
2204584608

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Saint Paul's Methodist Church Building

AND/OR COMMON

John Wesley United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

129 North Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Wesley United Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

129 North Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

95 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The church stands at 129 North Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, and is located on the west side of the street near the center of the block formed by Franklin and Church Streets, the second block north of Public Square.

The building is an 1883-1885 Romanesque-Gothic influenced stone ecclesiastical structure typical of late nineteenth century urban churches. The building consists basically of a large, rectangular block with a sharply pitched gable roof, gable end facing the street. The facade has two projecting square end towers, each with one story half round projections to the sides. The building is constructed of rock-faced ashlar with decorative banding and surrounds of a plain stone.

Asymmetrically arranged, the facade or east elevation has a large round window mounted in a lancet or Gothic window with a row of small, narrow lancet windows below as though to form a balustrade. The first story of the front has three pairs of double doors in Gothic arches; one centered and one in each of the towers. The center doorway is in a projecting pavilion with steep roof which echoes the shape of the main building.

The towers are terminated at the top with parapets. The towers were not completed originally and terminated with blunt roofs below the present belfries. The towers are believed to have been extended in the first third of the present century.

The building appears to be structurally sound and, for the most part, original on the exterior. The interior was remodeled in 1963.

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

SPECIFIC DATES cornerstone 1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Carson, architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally known as Saint Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, this Romanesque influenced stone building was designed by Charles Carson (1847-1891), a Baltimore architect, and was erected by the Baltimore contractor B. F. Bennett. Work was begun on the structure in 1883 with ground breaking on 15 December. The cornerstone was laid 7 August 1884 and the church was dedicated on 22 November 1885. It was at the time the cornerstone was laid that the congregation chose the name Saint Paul's. (Williams, I, 488.)

Centered between Franklin and Church Streets, the building is one of the largest structures along North Potomac Street. The impact of its size, however, is diminished somewhat by its position set back from the general building line along the street. Located on the southern slope of a hill, the two facade towers are positioned with the tallest one on the low side, counteracting the slant of the street.

According to the biography in the Withey and Withey dictionary, Charles Carson designed a number of buildings in Baltimore. While in partnership with Thomas Dixon under the name of Dixon and Carson, he prepared the plans for a Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Eutaw Place Presbyterian Church, and the Fireman's Fund Insurance Building in Baltimore. At one time he taught at the Department of Architecture at the Maryland Institute.

The facade towers are currently terminated at the top with parapeted belfries. The towers were not originally the present height but ended just below the open belfry with blunt roofs. A sketch published in 1906 A History of Washington County (p. 243) shows what was probably the original plan of a tall spire on the south tower only.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Williams, Thomas J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland, 2 vols. Hagerstown, MD: John M. Runk and L. R. Titsworth, 1906 (I, 488).

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956, p. 111.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

The property measures approximately 82' x 240'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant	(mbe)
ORGANIZATION	City of Hagerstown	DATE January 27, 1977
STREET & NUMBER	City Hall	TELEPHONE (301) 731-3200
CITY OR TOWN	Hagerstown	STATE Maryland 21740

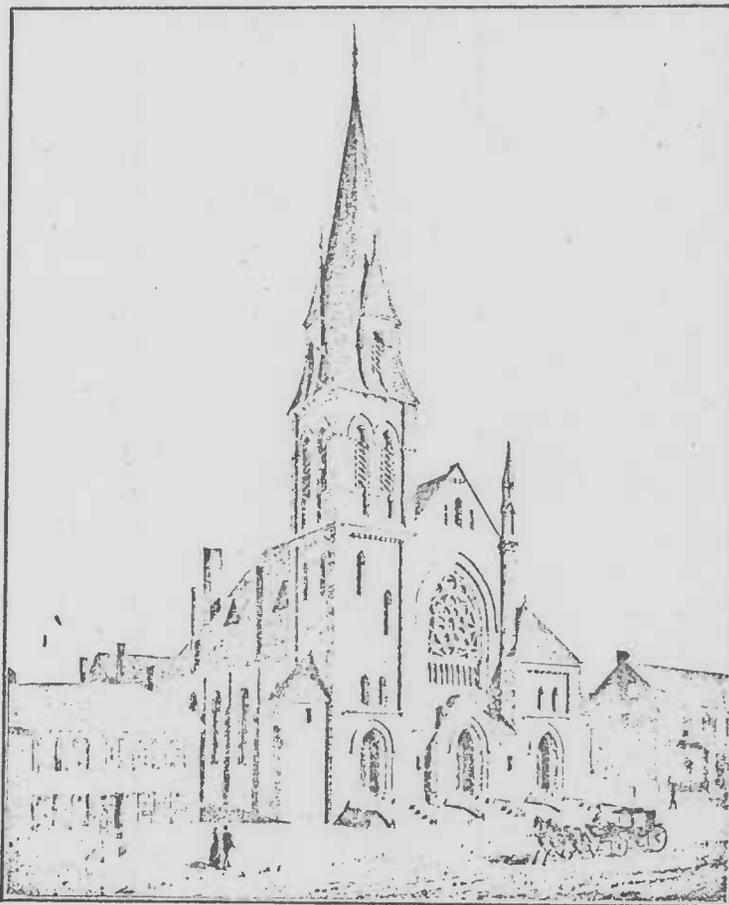
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

John Wesley United Methodist Church
129 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

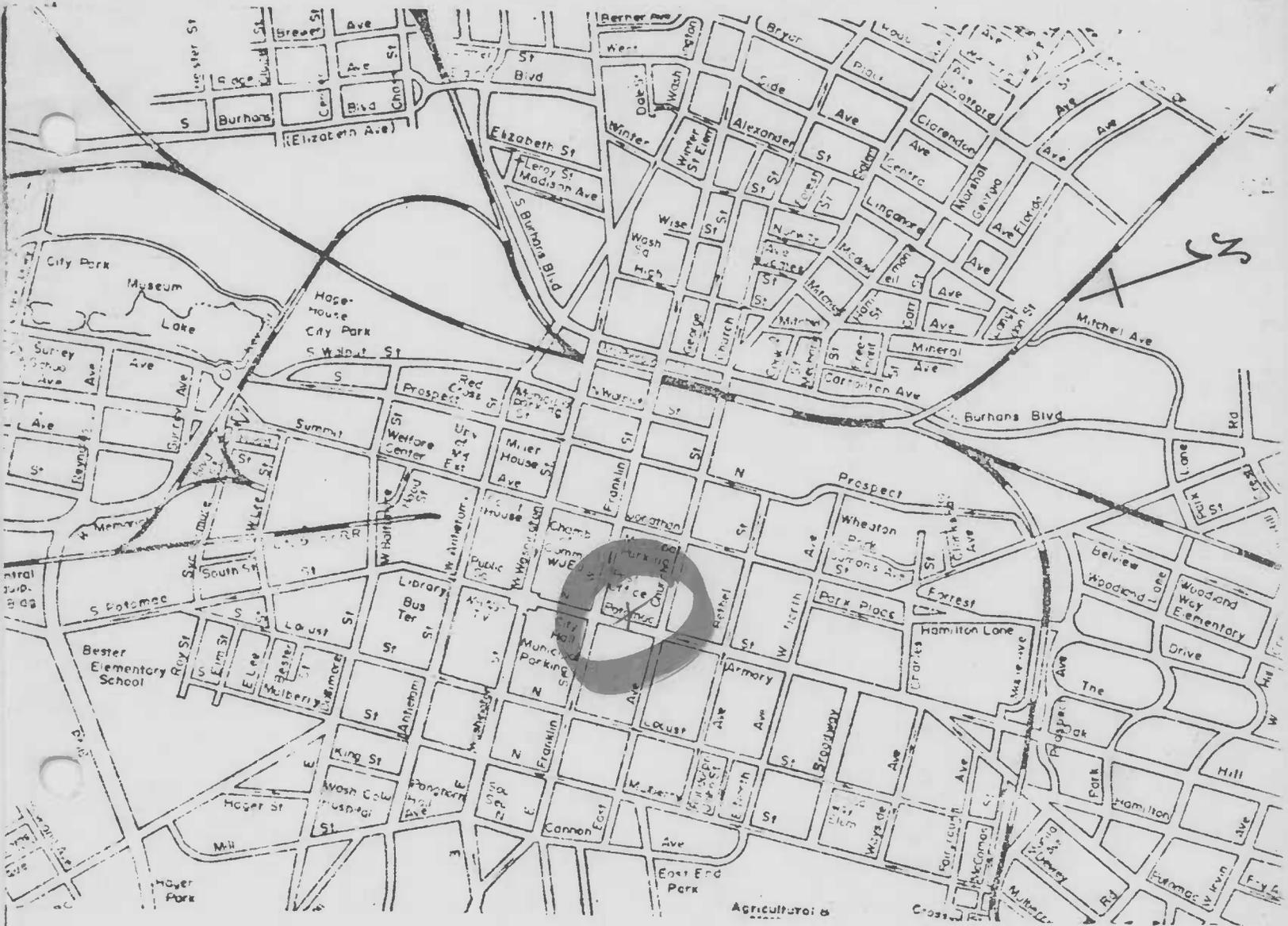
Williams, Thomas J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland
(2 volumes). Hagerstown, Md.: John M. Runk and L. R.
Titsworth, 1906, p. 243.



urch, Hagerstown.

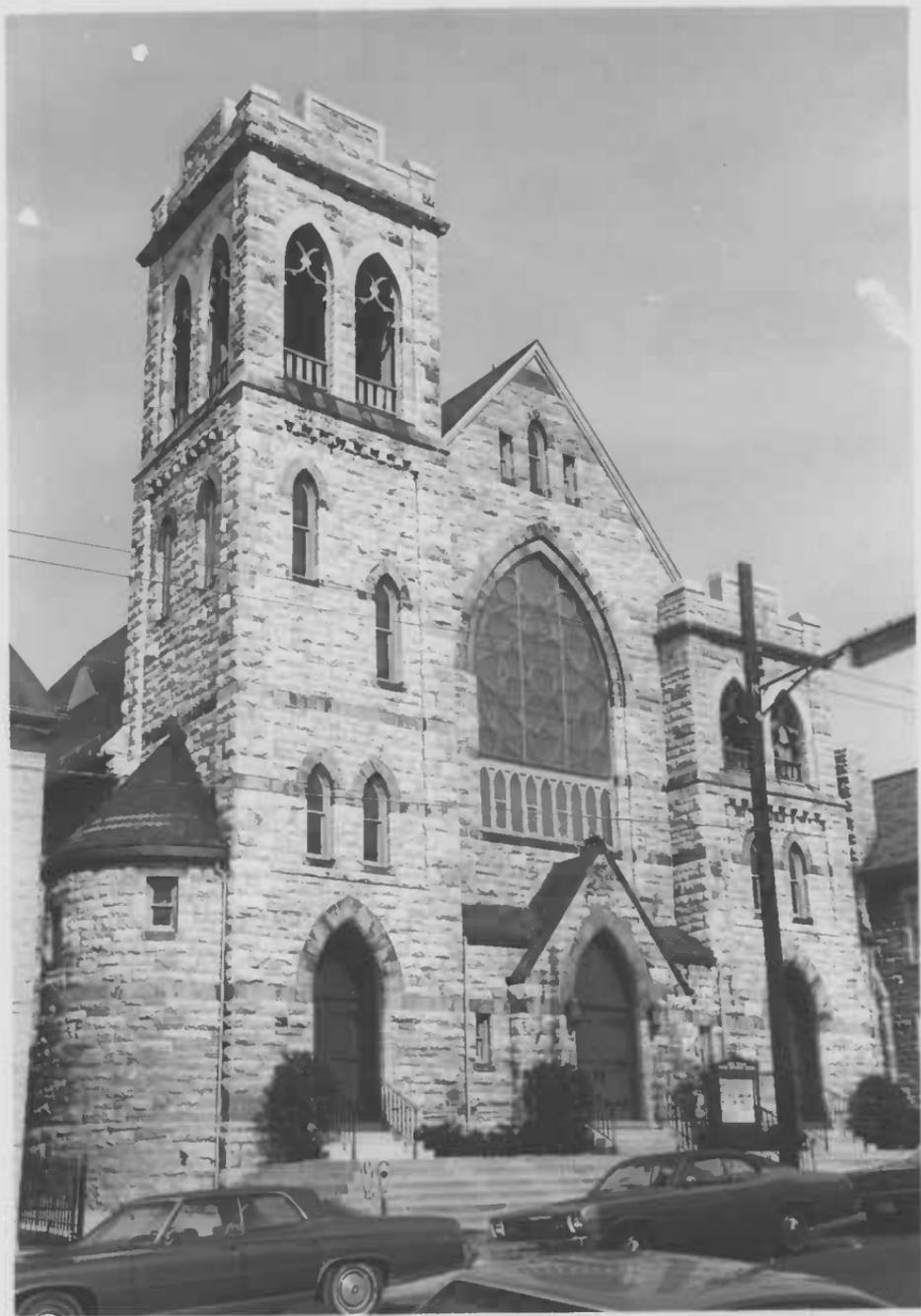
St. Paul's M. E. Church, Hagerstown.
now John Wesley United Methodist Church

Charles Carson, architect



SITE: John Wesley United Methodist Church
 129 North Potomac Street
 Hagerstown
 Washington County, Maryland

map: City of Hagerstown,
Washington County, Md.
 City Engineering Dept.
 July, 1970
 scale 1"=1200'



John Wesley United Methodist Church
129 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.

October, 1975

SE view

RONALD L. ANDREWS