

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0677736

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 21 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 10 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Memorial United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

243 South Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Caledonia

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7-Brown

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

101

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

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Memorial United Methodist Church Board of Trustees

STREET & NUMBER

243 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Caledonia

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Center and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Marion

STATE

Ohio 43302

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

June 1978

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Heidelberg Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Tiffin

STATE

Ohio 44883

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church "was fashioned after the Norman churches of the fifteenth century and is of flat Gothic style." The building is rectangular, 42 feet x 25 feet, with a 75-foot high tower. It is an ashlar stone structure with a gable roof on the main building and a pyramidal roof on the tower. Stone buttresses divide the sides into numerous bays. The louvered openings in the tower (two per side) and the side stained glass windows have stone gothic arches. There is a large stained glass window with stone tracery on the west side of the building. A small entrance on the north side of the building has a gable roof. The main entrance is recessed in an arch at the base of the tower on the east side of the building. Stone steps spiral up the northeast corner of the tower to provide access to the choir loft over the altar area; the round secondary tower on the north side of the main tower contains the steps. Other exterior features include several narrow rectangular openings in the spiral stairway and on the east facade; these have square or gothic-arched tops. A stone water table separates the sanctuary level from the stone foundation. There is a chimney on the west end of the building. The tower is visible for several miles.

The interior contains beautiful woodwork with a wood vaulted ceiling, gothic arches over the doors to the narthex behind the altar area, and a gothic arch over the organ pipes on the east end. Eighteen-foot high oak doors separate the main sanctuary from the back area of the church; these doors are also set in a gothic arch. When closed, the doors shut off the memorial window on the west end from the main sanctuary; the west end was designed for Sunday School rooms and class rooms. The 35 x 60 feet sanctuary has a seating capacity of 500.

Changes in the church building have been well documented by Ms. Brocklesby. A new oak floor was laid in the basement of the building in 1931, replacing the original oak floor. The church was connected to the city's water system in 1951. In 1952 symbols were put in each section of the windows in the back of the balcony. Rest rooms were installed in the back of the sanctuary area in 1952-1953. A carillon was installed and played for the first time during the 1968 Christmas season; the carillon was given by Mrs. Bruce (Martha Harrison) Mayer in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison. The carillon was officially dedicated on May 11, 1969. In 1970 an electric organ was installed to replace the original pipe organ, but the organ pipes have remained in place. The wood basement floor was replaced with cement in 1970, also, with tile later added over it. The basement kitchen area and the sanctuary have been refurbished several times, with new carpeting, paint, kitchen cabinets, etc., but none of this has harmed the architectural integrity of the church's interior.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1908-1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Abram Garfield

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is significant as an example of Gothic religious architecture and as an example of the philanthropy of Anna M. Richardson Harkness. The church's 1976 history notes that "the church is considered one of the most beautiful churches in the state and probably the most costly structure for a town its size in the country." It is the most important building, architecturally, in this small community on the eastern border of Marion County.

The first religious society in Claridon Township was organized in the fall of 1820, shortly after the first settlers arrived. This was a Methodist group. After meeting in homes for several years, the first church building, a log structure, was erected in 1824 south of the settlement that was later to be named VanBuskirk. A Methodist Society was organized in 1830, and five years later, the members decided to build a Methodist Episcopal Church in the northeast corner of the settlement of VanBuskirk; the cost was \$800. The town of VanBuskirk itself was platted in 1834, and the name was changed to Caledonia the following year. The church was served by Methodist circuit riders during the early years.

In 1861, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church were authorized to sell the old church property and apply the balance, after paying debts, to a new building. By 1863, the congregation had erected "a substantial frame building, 40 x 50', valued at \$2200" at the southwest corner of South and Main Streets in Caledonia. A Sunday School was organized in each circuit in 1867, with Caledonia becoming part of the Galion circuit in this year. The Caledonia Sabbath School Society had twelve classes by 1871.

Also in 1871, Dr. George Tryon Harding and his family moved to Caledonia, living in a house across the street north of the church. The Harding family lived here from 1871 to 1882, and Dr. Harding served as a trustee of the church in 1874. Warren G. Harding was a member of this congregation while his family lived in Caledonia, but he left in 1877 to attend college. The congregation is still quite proud of the fact that a President of the United States was a member of their church.

The story of this particular church building began on January 24, 1908, when Reverend James Gray, pastor of the Caledonia Methodist Episcopal Church, received a letter from Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness stating that she would like to present or erect a Memorial Library Building in Caledonia in memory of her mother, Mrs. A. Maria Ranck Richardson Underwood. A. Maria Ranck Richardson was the wife of John Underwood, the son of John and Sarah Fisher Underwood; the Underwoods were early settlers in the township and moved to Caledonia in 1868; their descendants are still active in the church. Anna Marie Richardson, daughter of A. Maria Ranck and I.R. Richardson, was born near Upper Sandusky on October 25, 1837; her father deserted her when she was a few weeks old, and her mother later married Underwood. Anna M. Richardson married Stephen V. Harkness, a merchant in Caledonia, in 1852. The Harknesses then moved to Monroeville, Ohio, where Stephen was a harness maker. Eventually, he became involved in the distillery business and gained enough money to invest in Standard Oil stock. He was one of the incorporators of Standard Oil in 1870 when the company was formed with a capital of \$1,000,000; the other incorporators were J.D. Rockefeller, Henry M. Flagler, and Samuel Andrews. Harkness also owned the Harkness Block in Cleveland, located on the southwest corner of Euclid and Wilson in 1876. He was Cleveland's

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brocklesby, Mary A. Methodism in Claridon Township. 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Caledonia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 333460 4499920

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This building is located on lot 59 at the southwest corner of South and Main Streets; the lot boundaries are 148.5 feet along South Street (east-west) and 66 feet along Main Street (north-south).

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

Winton & Delores Arnold / Barbara Howe

ORGANIZATION

Memorial United Methodist Church / Regional Preservationist

DATE

5 October 1978

STREET & NUMBER (home)

7105 Harding Way East

TELEPHONE

Heidelberg College

419-448-2804 (Howe)

CITY OR TOWN

Caledonia, Ohio 43314

STATE

Tiffin, Ohio 44883

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Signature]

TITLE Director Ohio Historical Society

DATE 3/8/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-18-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

7-5-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED MAR 21 1979

DATE ENTERED JUL 10 1979

Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

wealthiest man, according to the church's history; he died in 1888 leaving his wife with an estate of \$50,000,000. When she died in 1926, the estate had grown to \$85,000,000, the "largest ever taxed in New York State up to this date."

Mrs. Harkness also donated the Florence Harkness Memorial Chapel at the College for Women in Cleveland and the Harkness Memorial Quadrangle at Yale in memory of her son Charles. Her son Edward Stephen Harkness was a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City; he was also a large donor to Harvard, hospitals, medical research centers, schools, and churches.

Mrs. Harkness' offer to build a library in Caledonia was first accepted, and then declined. She then offered to build a Memorial Church for the Methodist Episcopal congregation and appointed her brother-in-law, T.J. Anderson, to represent her at the church since he was a member of the congregation. The church offer was made on the condition that the congregation pledge itself to keep the building in good repair "for all times to come."

The church board unanimously accepted Mrs. Harkness' offer and made plans to sell the building it was then using and have it moved from the site, so that the new building could also be located at the southwest corner of South and Main Streets. The church and contents were sold at public auction on June 6, 1908, with the short seat in front of the chimney, where Mrs. Harkness' mother always sat, saved and presented to Mrs. Harkness in memory of her mother. The church building was moved to a farm three miles north of Caledonia and was still in use on the farm in 1976.

Work began on the new building on July 15, 1908, with 1700 yards of earth removed in 20 days. A.M. Dilts was the excavating contractor. The architect for the building was Abram Garfield, ^{the son} a distant relative of President James Abram Garfield. The contractor was J. Wentworth Smith, the architect's foreman John Boldt, and the contractor's foreman David G. George; all were from Cleveland, Ohio. The stone dressers were Scottish workers from Cleveland.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid on October 24, 1908 by Mrs. T.J. Anderson, Mrs. Harkness' sister. This was apparently a big civic activity with services held in the town hall and all businesses in the community closed for two hours. The church historian notes that "This was one of the greatest events ever to occur in the village of Caledonia." Work continued through the winter with the last stone laid on the tower on April 23, 1909.

Dedication services for the church began on October 9, 1909 and lasted through October 15. Mrs. Harkness was present for these activities. Pastor James Gray headed the list of ministers participating; this included all living former ministers of the church.

Mrs. Harkness continued to donate funds to the congregation, including several thousand dollars in bonds and securities (only the interest could be used). She also later gave the church money for a new parsonage (across street from church, not architecturally eligible for National Register). In her will, she left \$15,000 in bonds for the church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church became part of the Methodist Church with the denominational merger of 1939. The Memorial Church's name again changed in 1968 with another denominational merger, this time to the present name, Memorial United Methodist Church. The "Memorial" name had been officially adopted in 1909 to recognize Mrs. Harkness' gift.

One final note on the importance of Anna Harkness comes from the rules and regula-

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Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

tions for the janitor of the church that were issued on March 16, 1915: "A thorough cleaning of the church to be made the first day of May each year before Mrs. Harkness makes her annual visit to Caledonia. This must include a thorough cleaning of the stone sills and jams of the windows together with the cleaning of the ceiling. For this well done the church will pay the sum of \$5.00."

This building, then, is important for its architecture and as an example of the philanthropy of the Harkness family. Its history is very well documented in the book noted in #9, and all quotations and information is from that source.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCERS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 27 1979

DATE ENTERED

CALEDONIA MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -- CALEDONIA (MARION COUNTY) OHIO

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

15 JUNE 1979

This church is significant because it is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture as practiced in the early twentieth century. It is by far the most prominent building in this small rural community, and it is a well known architectural landmark in Caledonia, a town that is made up primarily of unpretentious frame houses and a few brick storefronts. The church's 1976 history notes that "the church is considered one of the most beautiful churches in the state and probably the most costly structure for a town its size in the country." The church's Gothic features are seen in the central stone tower with the gothic-arched louvered vents, turrets at the base of the tower, buttresses on all four walls, and gothic-arched stained glass windows. The beautiful wood vaulted ceiling in the sanctuary and the gothic arches over the doors to the narthex behind the altar, over the organ pipes on the east end, and over the massive 18-foot high oak doors separating the main sanctuary from the back section all help carry out the Gothic Revival style of the exterior.

This church is also significant as an example of the work of Abram Garfield, one of Cleveland's premier architects from 1898 to the 1940s. Garfield was the son of President James A. Garfield, and his autobiography contains the statement that "My work was largely residential . . . There was a church in Caledonia, Ohio." Garfield's involvement in this isolated community came because of the philanthropy of the Harkness family that resulted in this fine building for Caledonia. Garfield also designed the Garfield Library in Mentor (Lake County) Ohio, a building also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, so his work has already been recognized as important by the Register.



Memorial United Methodist Church

Caledonia, Ohio (Marion County)

Verlin Gray, 129 Boston St., Galion, Ohio 44833

October 1978

Dolores Arnold, 7105 Harding Way E., Caledonia 43314

East and north sides of church; camera pointing

southwest

Photo number

DOE
JUL 10 1979

MAR 21 1979

1087



Memorial United Methodist Church

Caledonia, Ohio (Marion County)

Verlin Gray, 129 Boston Street, Galion, Ohio 44833

October 1978

Dolores Arnold, 7105 Harding Way E., Caledonia 43314

West and south sides of church; camera pointing

northeast

Photo number

DOE
JUL 10 1979

MAR 21 1979

2 of 7



Memorial United Methodist Church

Caledonia, Ohio (Marion County)

Verlin Gray, 129 Boston Street, Galion, Ohio 44833

October 1978

Dolores Arnold, 7105 Harding Way E., Caledonia 43314

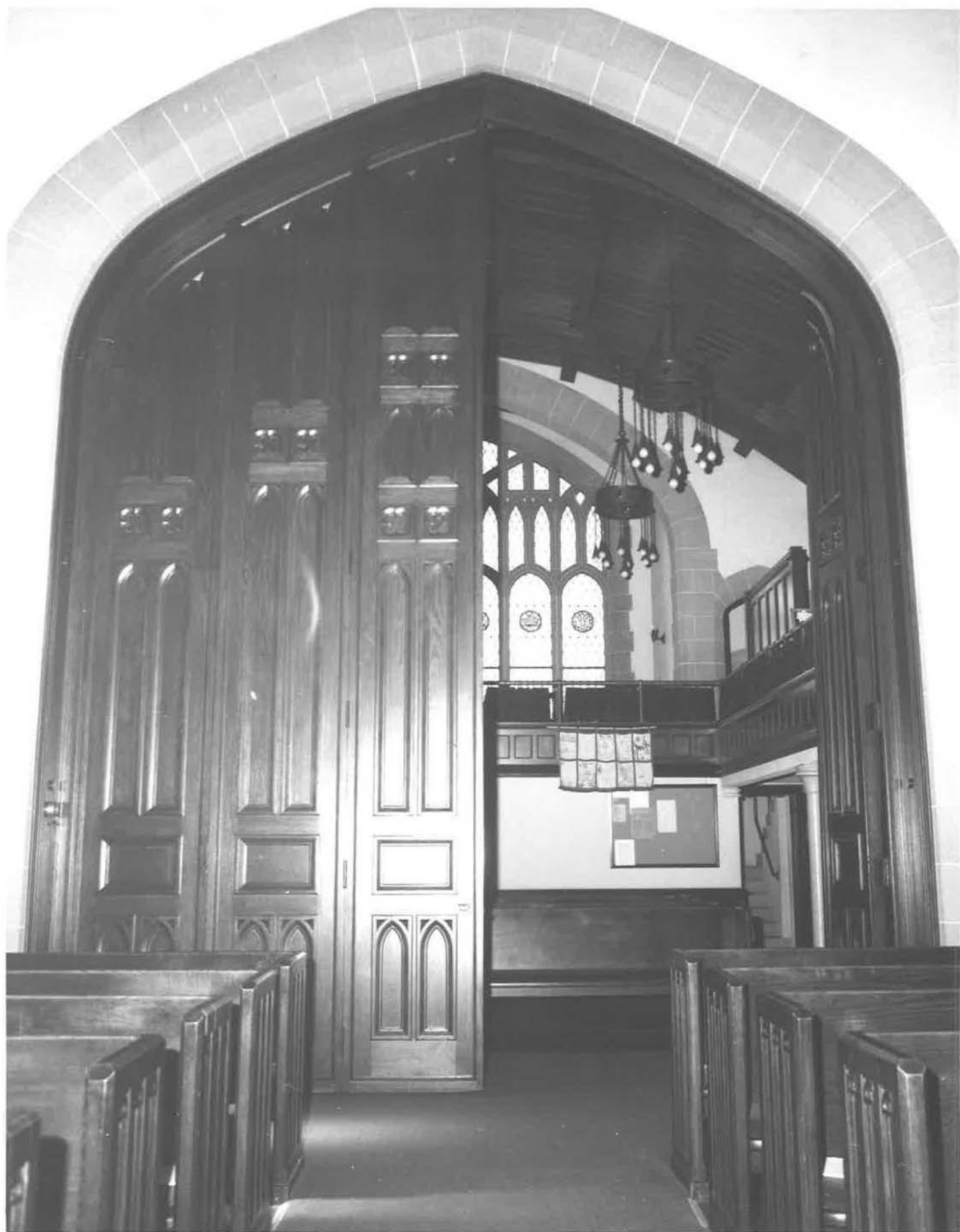
East end of sanctuary; camera pointing east

Photo number

^{DOL}
JUL 10 1979

MAR 21 1979

3087



Memorial United Methodist Church

Caledonia, Ohio (Marion County)

Verlin Gray, 129 Boston Street, Galion, Ohio 44833

October 1978

Dolores Arnold, 7105 Harding Way E., Caledonia 43314

West end of sanctuary, showing folding doors partially
closed; camera facing west.

Photo number JUL 10 1979
DOE

MAR 21 1979

4 of 7



Memorial United Methodist Church
Caledonia, Ohio (Marion County)

Verlin Gray, 129 Boston Street, Galion, Ohio 44833
November 1978

Dolores Arnold, 7105 Harding Way E., Caledonia 43314
West end of sanctuary; camera pointing west

Photo number

^{DOE}
JUL 10 1979

MAR 21 1979

5087



Memorial United Methodist Church
Caledonia, Ohio (Marion County)
Verlin Gray, 129 Boston Street, Galion, Ohio 44833
November 1978
Dolores Arnold, 7105 Harding Way E., Caledonia 43314
West end of basement; camera pointing west
Photo number *DOE*

JUL 10 1979

6 of 7

MAR 21 1979



Memorial United Methodist Church

Caledonia, Ohio (Marion County)

Verlin Gray, 129 Boston Street, Galion, Ohio 44833

October 1978

Dores Arnold, 7105 Harding Way E., Caledonia 43314

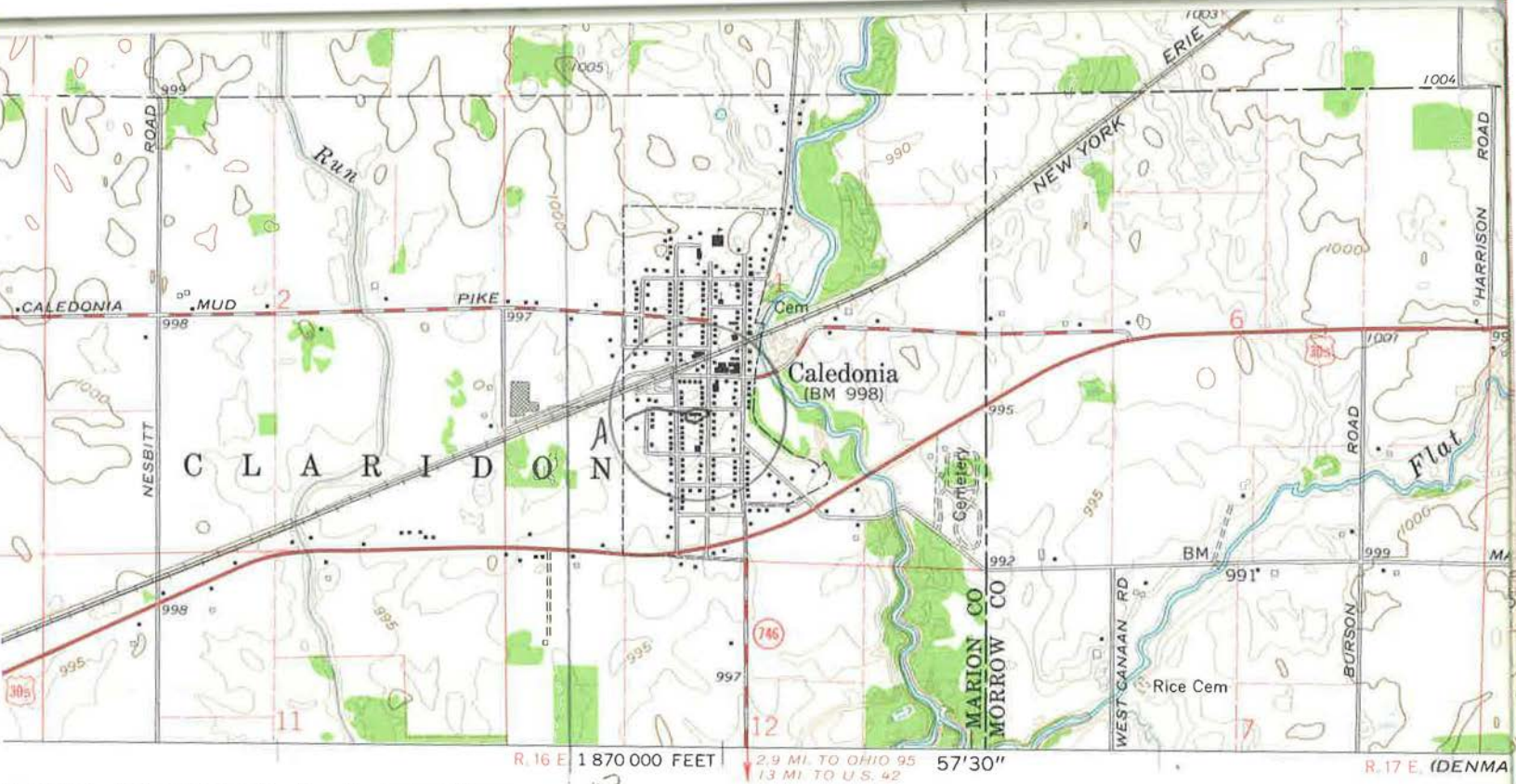
East end of basement; camera pointing east

Photo number *DOE*

JUL 10 1979

MAR 21 1979

7087



d, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
by USGS and USC&GS

phy by photogrammetric methods from aerial
aphs taken 1960. Field checked 1961

ic projection. 1927 North American datum
foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
eter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks.

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH



CONTOUR INTER

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

OF PROPERTY Memorial United Methodist Church STATE Ohio

Attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for verification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS SUBMITTED.

Description: 6.27

See enclosed
Statement of Significance: As architecture is checked as the area of significance, pls. provide a short, concise statement of its architectural significance, paying particular attention to the religious exception to the criteria.

Bibliography: _____

Geographical Data -- Acreage: _____

UTM Reference(s): _____

Verbal Boundary Description: _____

Certification: _____

Photographic Coverage: _____

Map Coverage: _____

Other: _____

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Lucy Franklin
the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Bill Lebowich for Date: May 10, 1979
f, Branch of Registration

GO TO THE ONLINE COLLECTION CATALOG

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THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register

PRESERVATION
SITE INDEXPRESERVATION
SITE MAPPRESERVATION
STAFFRELATED
LINKSCONTACT
US

National Register Searchable Database

Use your browser's Back button to refine your current search.
Click here for a new search.

There are 14 sites matching your criteria!

Name	Address	Ref. No.	City	County
Caledonia Bowstring Bridge	N of Caledonia	78002131	Caledonia	Marion
Memorial United Methodist Church	243 S Main St	XXXXXXX35	Caledonia	Marion
Harding Tomb	Marion Cemetery	76001485	Marion	Marion
Harding, Warren G., House	380 Mount Vernon Ave	66000618	Marion	Marion
Hotel Harding	267 W Center St	80003154	Marion	Marion
King, George W., Mansion--Etowah	429 Mount Vernon Ave	95001331	Marion	Marion
Marion Cemetery Receiving Vault	620 Delaware Ave	95001415	Marion	Marion
Marion County Courthouse	Courthouse Square	74001572	Marion	Marion
Marion Township Sub-District #8 School	2473 SR 4 N	07000027	Marion	Marion
Old US Post Office	169 E Church St	90001777	Marion	Marion
Palace Theater	272 W Center St	76001486	Marion	Marion
Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Chapel	SR 423, E side, within Marion Cemetery	95000169	Marion	Marion
Bretz Farm	197 Morrall-Kirkpatrick Rd	80003155	Morrall	Marion
Wyatt's Tavern-Fort Morrow Site	Address Restricted	78002132	Waldo	Marion

Requests for PDF versions of individual National Register nominations can be made through the Ohio Historic Preservation Office for \$.50 per record. To submit a PDF request from your database query, you may highlight the initial results table, copy and paste into a Word document, then email the file to our office. Or, click here to request PDF files--be sure to include the county and National Register Reference Number for each PDF requested.

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OHIO HISTORY STORE || CALENDAR || PLACES || RESOURCES || ABOUT || SEARCH

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OHIO

STATE

Date Entered JUL 10 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mansfield Blockhouse	Mansfield Richland County
Memorial United Methodist Church	Caledonia Marion County
Mayflower Memorial Congregational Church	Mansfield Richland County
Belville-Maxwell House	Centerville vicinity Montgomery County

Also Notified

Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum

Honorable John H. Glenn, Jr.
Honorable John M. Ashbrook
Honorable Clarence J. Brown
Honorable Tony P. Hall

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Thomas H. Smith
Director
The Ohio Historical Society
Interstate 71 at 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

NR Byers/bjr 7/13/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

Property Memorial United Methodist Church

State OH. (Mason) Working Number 3.21.79.633

2nd Control

TECHNICAL

Photos 7

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 6.28.79

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Is this a new structure significant
as a local landmark - designed by architect son of
James Warfield. - short, concise statement of
significance. -*

*accept
Braham
7.5.79*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*accept
Braham
7.5.79*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered JUL 10 1979

Property Memorial United Methodist Church

State OH. (Manion) Working Number 3.21.79.623

TECHNICAL

Photos 7
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 3.22.79

HISTORIAN

*Return
Franklin
5.8.79*

Agree w/ Brabham

No statement of significance

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Return
Brabham
4.24.79*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

*Inadequate statement of
significance*

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Return
Franklin
5.8.79*

*no statement of architectural significance,
beyond first sentence of #8, rest of #8 is
nonessential history of church*

BRANCH CHIEF

*Return
Rebovich
5/9/79*

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back 5.10.79

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit 6.27.79

Attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for completion of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS SUBMITTED.

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UTM Reference(s): _____

Verbal Boundary Description: _____

Certification: _____

Photographic Coverage: _____

Aerial Coverage: _____

Other: _____

Comments concerning this nomination may be directed to *Lucy Franklin*

National Register staff, telephone *202-343-6401*

Draw your attention to the above items.

Bill Belovich for Date: *May 9, 1979*

Branch of Registration

REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION FORMRECEIVED MAR 21 1979
DATE ENTEREDSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
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AND/OR COMMON

Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

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☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

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ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

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STREET & NUMBER

243 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Caledonia

VICINITY OF

STATE

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REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

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DATE

June 1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Heidelberg Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Tiffin

STATE

Ohio 44883

PTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church "was fashioned after the Norman churches of the fifteenth century and is of flat Gothic style." The building is rectangular, 42 feet x 125 feet, with a 75-foot high tower. It is an ashlar stone structure with a gable roof on the main building and a pyramidal roof on the tower. Stone buttresses divide the sides into numerous bays. The louvered openings in the tower (two per side) and the side stained glass windows have stone gothic arches. There is a large stained glass window with stone tracery on the west side of the building. A small entrance on the north side of the building has a gable roof. The main entrance is recessed in an arch at the base of the tower on the east side of the building. Stone steps spiral up the northeast corner of the tower to provide access to the choir loft over the altar area; the round secondary tower on the north side of the main tower contains the steps. Other exterior features include several narrow rectangular openings in the spiral stairway and on the east facade; these have square or gothic-arched tops. A stone water table separates the sanctuary level from the stone foundation. There is a chimney on the west end of the building. The tower is visible for several miles.

The interior contains beautiful woodwork with a wood vaulted ceiling, gothic arches over the doors to the narthex behind the altar area, and a gothic arch over the organ pipes on the east end. Eighteen-foot high oak doors separate the main sanctuary from the back area of the church; these doors are also set in a gothic arch. When closed, the doors shut off the memorial window on the west end from the main sanctuary; the west end was designed for Sunday School rooms and class rooms. The 35 x 60 feet sanctuary has a seating capacity of 500.

Changes in the church building have been well documented by Ms. Brocklesby. A new oak floor was laid in the basement of the building in 1931, replacing the original oak floor. The church was connected to the city's water system in 1951. In 1952 symbols were put in each section of the windows in the back of the balcony. Rest rooms were installed in the back of the sanctuary area in 1952-1953. A carillon was installed and played for the first time during the 1968 Christmas season; the carillon was given by Mrs. Bruce (Martha Harrison) Mayer in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison. The carillon was officially dedicated on May 11, 1969. In 1970 an electric organ was installed to replace the original pipe organ, but the organ pipes have remained in place. The wood basement floor was replaced with cement in 1970, also, with tile later added over it. The basement kitchen area and the sanctuary have been refurbished several times, with new carpeting, paint, kitchen cabinets, etc., but none of this has harmed the architectural integrity of the church's interior.

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wealthiest man, according to the church's history; he died in 1888 leaving his wife with an estate of \$50,000,000. When she died in 1926, the estate had grown to \$85,000,000, the largest ever taxed in New York State up to this date."

Mrs. Harkness also donated the Florence Harkness Memorial Chapel at the College for Women in Cleveland and the Harkness Memorial Quadrangle at Yale in memory of her son Charles. Her son Edward Stephen Harkness was a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City; he was also a large donor to Harvard, hospitals, medical research centers, schools, and churches.

Mrs. Harkness' offer to build a library in Caledonia was first accepted, and then declined. She then offered to build a Memorial Church for the Methodist Episcopal congregation and appointed her brother-in-law, T.J. Anderson, to represent her at the church since he was a member of the congregation. The church offer was made on the condition that the congregation pledge itself to keep the building in good repair "for all times to come."

The church board unanimously accepted Mrs. Harkness' offer and made plans to sell the building it was then using and have it moved from the site, so that the new building could also be located at the southwest corner of South and Main Streets. The church and contents were sold at public auction on June 6, 1908, with the short seat in front of the chimney, where Mrs. Harkness' mother always sat, saved and presented to Mrs. Harkness in memory of her mother. The church building was moved to a farm three miles north of Caledonia and was still in use on the farm in 1976.

Work began on the new building on July 15, 1908, with 1700 yards of earth removed in 20 days. A.M. Dilts was the excavating contractor. The architect for the building was Abram Garfield, a distant relative of President James Abram Garfield. The contractor was J. Wentworth Smith, the architect's foreman John Boldt, and the contractor's foreman David G. George; all were from Cleveland, Ohio. The stone dressers were Scottish workers from Cleveland.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid on October 24, 1908 by Mrs. T.J. Anderson, Mrs. Harkness' sister. This was apparently a big civic activity with services held in the town hall and all businesses in the community closed for two hours. The church historian notes that "This was one of the greatest events ever to occur in the village of Caledonia." Work continued through the winter with the last stone laid on the tower on April 23, 1909.

Dedication services for the church began on October 9, 1909 and lasted through October 15. Mrs. Harkness was present for these activities. Pastor James Gray headed the list of ministers participating; this included all living former ministers of the church.

Mrs. Harkness continued to donate funds to the congregation, including several thousand dollars in bonds and securities (only the interest could be used). She also later gave the church money for a new parsonage (across street from church, not architecturally eligible for National Register). In her will, she left \$15,000 in bonds for the church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church became part of the Methodist Church with the denominational merger of 1939. The Memorial Church's name again changed in 1968 with another denominational merger, this time to the present name, Memorial United Methodist Church. The "Memorial" name had been officially adopted in 1909 to recognize Mrs. Harkness' gift.

One final note on the importance of Anna Harkness comes from the rules and regula-

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tions for the janitor of the church that were issued on March 16, 1915: "A thorough cleaning of the church to be made the first day of May each year before Mrs. Harkness makes her annual visit to Caledonia. This must include a thorough cleaning of the stone sills and jams of the windows together with the cleaning of the ceiling. For this well done the church will pay the sum of \$5.00."

This building, then, is important for its architecture and as an example of the philanthropy of the Harkness family. Its history is very well documented in the book noted in #9, and all quotations and information is from that source.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

GOthic	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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 1908-1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Abram Garfield

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is significant as an example of Gothic religious architecture and as an example of the philanthropy of Anna M. Richardson Harkness. The church's 1976 history notes that "the church is considered one of the most beautiful churches in the state and probably the most costly structure for a town its size in the country." It is the most important building, architecturally, in this small community on the eastern border of Marion County.

The first religious society in Claridon Township was organized in the fall of 1820, shortly after the first settlers arrived. This was a Methodist group. After meeting in homes for several years, the first church building, a log structure, was erected in 1824 south of the settlement that was later to be named VanBuskirk. A Methodist Society was organized in 1830, and five years later, the members decided to build a Methodist Episcopal Church in the northeast corner of the settlement of VanBuskirk; the cost was \$800. The town of VanBuskirk itself was platted in 1834, and the name was changed to Caledonia the following year. The church was served by Methodist circuit riders during the early years.

In 1861, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church were authorized to sell the old church property and apply the balance, after paying debts, to a new building. By 1863, the congregation had erected "a substantial frame building, 40 x 50', valued at \$2200" at the southwest corner of South and Main Streets in Caledonia. A Sunday School was organized in each circuit in 1867, with Caledonia becoming part of the Galion circuit in this year. The Caledonia Sabbath School Society had twelve classes by 1871.

Also in 1871, Dr. George Tryon Harding and his family moved to Caledonia, living in a house across the street north of the church. The Harding family lived here from 1871 to 1882, and Dr. Harding served as a trustee of the church in 1874. Warren G. Harding was a member of this congregation while his family lived in Caledonia, but he left in 1877 to attend college. The congregation is still quite proud of the fact that a President of the United States was a member of their church.

The story of this particular church building began on January 24, 1908, when Reverend James Gray, pastor of the Caledonia Methodist Episcopal Church, received a letter from Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness stating that she would like to present or erect a Memorial Library Building in Caledonia in memory of her mother, Mrs. A. Maria Ranck Richardson Underwood. A. Maria Ranck Richardson was the wife of John Underwood, the son of John and Sarah Fisher Underwood; the Underwoods were early settlers in the township and moved to Caledonia in 1868; their descendants are still active in the church. Anna Marie Richardson daughter of A. Maria Ranck and I.R. Richardson, was born near Upper Sandusky on October 25, 1837; her father deserted her when she was a few weeks old, and her mother later married Underwood. Anna M. Richardson married Stephen V. Harkness, a merchant in Caledonia in 1852. The Harknesses then moved to Monroeville, Ohio, where Stephen was a harness maker. Eventually, he became involved in the distillery business and gained enough money to invest in Standard Oil stock. He was one of the incorporators of Standard Oil in 1870 when the company was formed with a capital of \$1,000,000; the other incorporators were J.D. Rockefeller, Henry M. Flagler, and Samuel Andrews. Harkness also owned the Harkness Block in Cleveland, located on the southwest corner of Euclid and Wilson in 1876. He was Cleveland's

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

rocklesby, Mary A. Methodism in Claridon Township. 1976

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Caledonia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 333460 449920

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This building is located on lot 59 at the southwest corner of South and Main Streets; the lot boundaries are 148.5 feet along South Street (east-west) and 66 feet along Main Street (north-south).

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Winton & Dolores Arnold / Barbara Howe

ORGANIZATION

Memorial United Methodist Church / Regional Preservationist

DATE

5 October 1978

STREET & NUMBER (home)

7105 Harding Way East

TELEPHONE

Heidelberg College

419-448-2804 (Howe)

CITY OR TOWN

Caledonia, Ohio 43314

STATE

Tiffin, Ohio 44883

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Signature]

TITLE Dredge Ohio Historical Society

DATE 3/8/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION