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|---|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------|
| City, Village or Town:<br><b>1</b> WAUKESHA   |   | County:<br>WAUKESHA                             | Surveyor:<br>HNTB  | Date:<br>2/10/82                 | Wisconsin Avenue |
| Street Address:<br>121 Wisconsin Avenue       |   | Legal Description:<br>Addendum                  |  | Acreage: <b>Less than 1 acre</b> |                  |
| Current Name & Use:<br>First Methodist Church |   | Current Owner:<br>First United Methodist Church |  |                                  | 121              |
| Film Roll No.<br>WK-4                         | Affix  |   | Current Owner's Address:<br>121 Wisconsin Avenue   |                                  |                  |
| Negative No.<br>35                            |   |   | Special Features Not Visible In Photographs:<br>UTM: Zone 16<br>Easting: 400940<br>Northing: 4762370<br>USGS Waukesha Quadrangle/Scale: 1:24,000 |                                  |                  |
| Facade Orient.<br>N                           |   |   | Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No  |                                  |                  |

| Original Name & Use:                           | Source | Previous Owners | Dates | Uses | Source |
|--|--------|-----------------|-------|------|--------|
| <b>2</b> First Methodist Church                | A      |                 |       |      |        |
| Dates of Construction/Alteration<br>1895-1898  | C      |                 |       |      |        |
| Architect and/or Builder:<br>Henry F. Starbuck | C      |                 |       |      |        |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>3</b> Architectural Significance   | <b>4</b> Historical Significance  |
| <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master<br><input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values<br><input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction<br><input type="radio"/> Is a visual landmark in the area<br><input type="radio"/> Other: _____ <input type="radio"/> None | <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons<br><input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events<br><input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality<br><input type="radio"/> Other: _____<br><input checked="" type="radio"/> None |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Architectural Statement:<br>See Continuation Sheet | Historical Statement:<br>See Continuation Sheet |
|--|---|

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|--|---|
| <b>5</b> Sources of Information (Reference to Above) 1964  | <b>6</b> Representation in Previous Surveys   |
| <b>A</b> First Methodist Church, "125 years", unpub.   | <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> NAER <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> landmark   |
| <b>B</b> J. H. A. Lacher, "Pioneer Clergymen Had to Contend with Hardships, Freeman 75th Anniv. 1934 | <b>7</b> Condition  |
| <b>C</b> Waukesha Freeman, June 13, 1895 p. 1  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> excellent <input type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins |
| <b>D</b> Milwaukee City Directories 1891, 93, 95, 97... 1920   | <b>8</b> District: _____  |
| <b>E</b>   | <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing   |
| <b>F</b>   | initials: _____ date: _____   |
|  | <b>9</b> Opinion of National Register Eligibility   |
|  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown  |
|  | <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local initials: <u>DS/CC</u>                                |

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH (121 Wisconsin Avenue)  
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: The First Methodist Church is one of the four fine church buildings in Waukesha, constructed of the beautiful local limestone, which are distinctive examples of architectural styles. The other buildings, however, are Gothic-inspired designs. (See St. Joseph's Catholic Church, East Avenue, St. Matthias Episcopal Church, and the First Baptist Church, 247 Wisconsin Avenue) First Methodist is the only design to have been derived from Romanesque sources. The only comparable design in Waukesha is the Waukesha County Courthouse (101 W. Main Street)(WK 5/22) entered on the National Register in 1975. First Methodist, constructed of randomly coursed limestone, is dominated by a large rectangular bell tower which rises from a battered base adjoining the gable end of the church. Narrow round headed openings pierce the walls, but accentuate the solidity and mass of the structure. The body of the church extends in a north south direction and is rectangular in plan. The sanctuary however, is circular expressed on the exterior by a circular pavilion (or belvedere) at the roof and by slightly curved walls on the side elevations. The interior of the sanctuary is dominated by a beautiful stained glass skylight from which radiate ribs of the roof trusses. In 1925, a stone classroom addition was appended to the building. This was designed to harmonize with the original building. An education wing, of more modern appearance, was constructed in 1959. Although this is a contrast in style and materials this unit is located to the rear of the church and remains fairly unobtrusive. (Continued Below) However, this addition does not contribute to the significance of the building.

Significance: The First Methodist Church provides Waukesha with a fine example of Richardsonian Romanesque design, which was a relatively rare style in Waukesha. The local stone is well suited to the design, creating the sense of mass and solidity associated with the style.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

The Methodist Church was started with a prayer meeting in 1837; however, the congregation was not started officially until 1839. First 1840's frame church burned in 1861. In 1863, its stone replacement was completed. It in turn, burned in 1882 but was repaired. In 1893, the congregation began to plan for a larger church which is this building completed in 1898 (A, B)

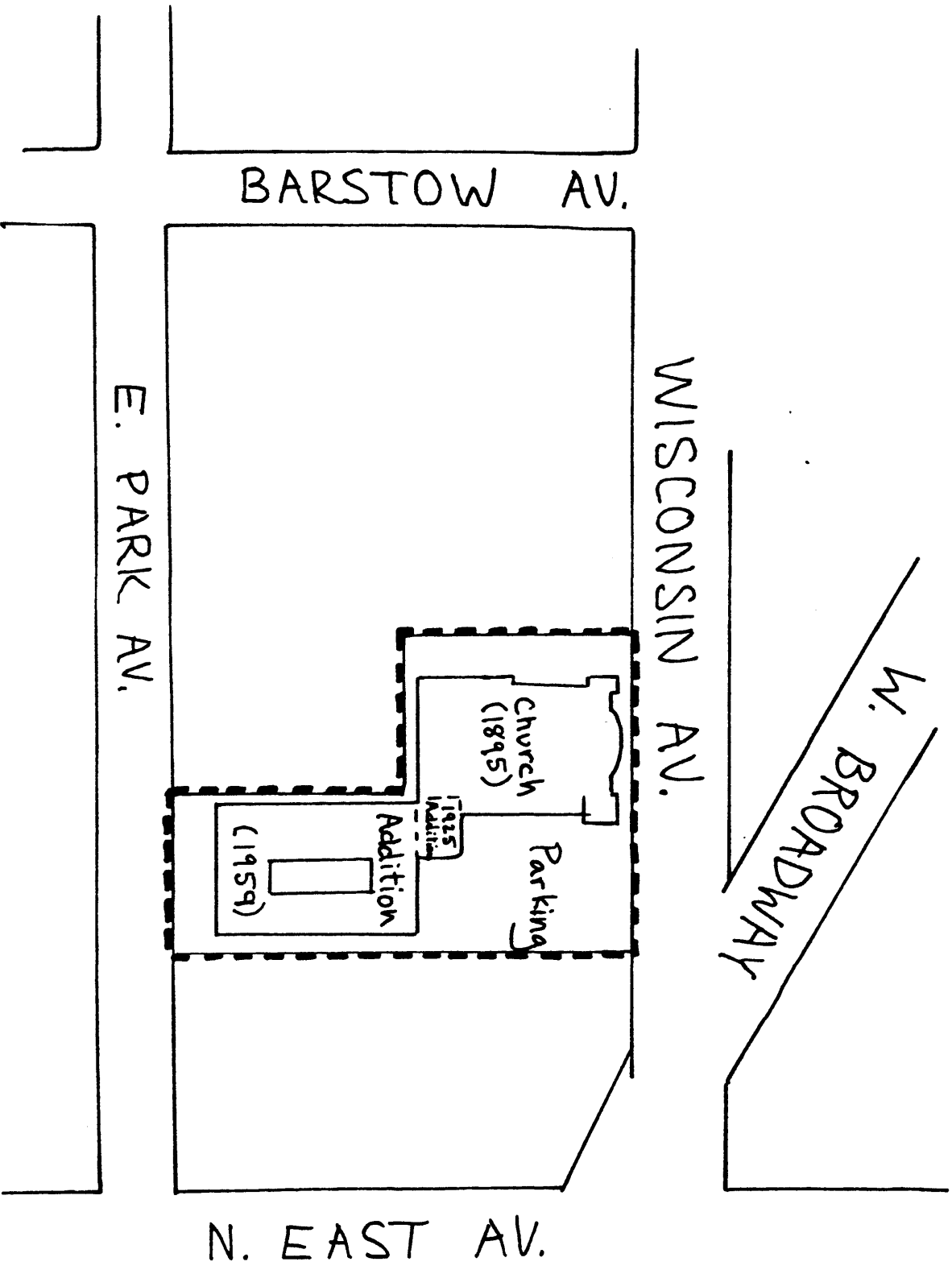
Addendum

Legal Description: Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 20 & 21 Blk D  
Cutler & Dakin's Add.  
Pt SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec 3 T6N R19E

ARCHITECTURAL Description (Continued): First Methodist Church was designed in approximately 1893 by Henry F. Starbuck, a Milwaukee architect. Newspaper articles and sketches credit Starbuck with the design but do not provide additional information on the architect. According to Milwaukee city directories Starbuck was in partnership with T. Leslie Rose in 1893. After 1895 Starbuck was no longer listed in the directories and Rose was in partnership with Charles Kirchoff, Sr. The First Methodist centennial pamphlet lists Hugo Haueser as the architect of the church. Haueser was also a Milwaukee architect, however, he was not listed in the city directories until 1898, at which time he was an apprentice and draftsman, apparently in the office of Ferry and Clas. By the early twentieth century, Haueser was a draftsman for A. Eschweiler, and in the 1920's was listed individually as an architect. Haueser may have designed the addition to the church which dates from the 1920's. (C,D)

# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

----- Nominated Property



Scale:  
1" = 100'