

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 |
| | MAY 25 1973 |

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 Maryland | CODE 24 | COUNTY: Baltimore City | CODE 510 |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First Methodist Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
2200 St. Paul Street

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore | STATE: Maryland | CODE 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: Baltimore | STATE: Maryland | CODE 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: Baltimore | STATE: Maryland | CODE 24 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

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ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.

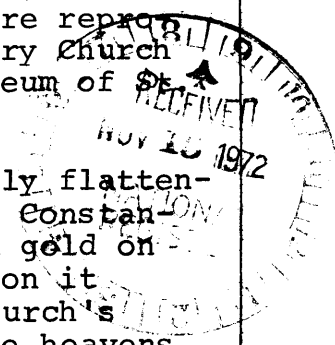
The church building itself is comprised of several parts: the sanctuary, church school and reception rooms, a chapel on the western side, and the parsonage on the northern side. The sanctuary is elliptical in shape, with a gallery encircling it and leading up to the Roosevelt organ which is above and 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



SIGNIFICANCE

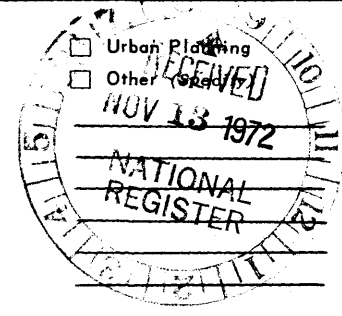
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lovely Lane Methodist Church derives its 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 buildings 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.

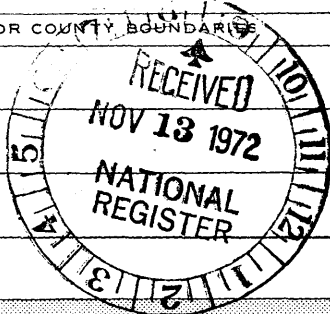
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | 39 | 18 | 52.5 | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | 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 |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 | NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION |
|---|--|
| <p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u> Orlando Ridout IV</p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer for Maryland</u> Maryland</p> <p>Date <u>Sept. 20, 1972</u></p> | <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/25/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Carla M. [Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>5 23 73</u></p> |

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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| STATE | | Maryland | |
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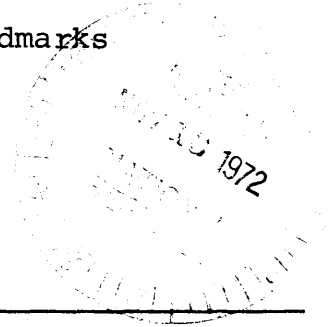
(Number all entries)

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 built 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.

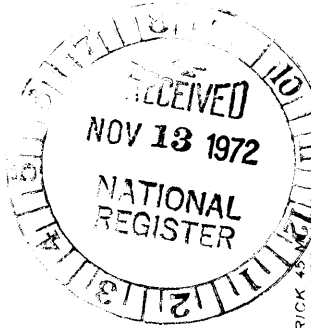
¹American Methodist Bicentennial, 1766-1966, (Baltimore: Baltimore Conference Methodist Historical Society, 1966, p. 66.

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



BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE
 USGS 7.5 minute map
 scale: 1:24 000
 photo revised, 1966

LOVELY LANE
 METHODIST CHURCH



17'30"



4355
 4354
 4352
 4350
 LAUREL 20 MI.
 5662 I SW
 (BALTIMORE WEST)
 SHAWAN 14 MI
 FREDERICK 4 MI
 PINE ORCHARD 4 MI
 D. C. 31 MI.

at long. 76° 36' 52.5" W
 39° 07' 57.0" N

Basin