	MONTCLAIR MRA,	MONTCLAIR, ESSEX COUNTY, NJ	(Churches)	7-216	
054	NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM		SERVICES HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 9713 7 5 2		
<b>.</b>	HISTORIC NAME: LOCATION:	First Methodist Episcopal 24 North Fullerton Ave.	COMMON NAME: BLOCK/LOT	Methodist Church 2212/06; 37-I/12	
123	MUNICIPALITY: USGS QUAD: OWNER/ADDRESS:	Montclair Orange	COUNTY: UTM REFERENCES:	Essex Zone/Northing/Easting	
₽, †	DESCRIPTION				
5707 - 767 (609)	Construction Date:	1902	Source of Date:	Building Corner Stone	
139	Architect: Var	n Vleck & Goldsmith	Builder:		
CZ080	Style: Gothic	Revival (late)		Rectangular w/ bell tower N.E. portion is a large	
	Number of Stories:	1 (large)	.octagon w/ sm the north & e	mall entrances filling out east corners.	
) JEK	Foundation: St	one			
IIISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION, 109 WEST STATE ST	Exterior Wall Fabric: Rusticated sandstone, random laid, gray: pinkish granite water table & belt course. Fenestration: A large lancet stained-glass window w/ 3 subsidiary divisions & cusped cir- cular section above in main gable. 2 1/1 small rectangular windows above Roof/Chimneys: entrance door in bell tower. Left gable wall has 3 evenly spaced vertical Red tile; hip & octagonal. Additional Architectural Description: Side buttresses flank bell tower, broken by tall lancet openings; chamfered openings above 1st floor levels, rising to crenellated battlements above. There are two vertical openings on each elevation, divided three ways by stone cross pieces. The two small arched entrance doors have side buttresses & crenellated battlements. The spandrels above the lower half of the large nave windows show Gothic motifs. Similar motifs appear in the spandrels of the windows at the left side (south) of the tower. All doors are approached by a flight of steps w/ simple hand-rail. Alterations: The large double-door, w/ Queen Anne strap hinges are of simulated wood, added in recent times. PHOTO Negative File No./ R37, 16 Map (Indicate North)				
VATI	rhoio itega		·····		
SER		a di di seconda di s			
IIISTORIC PRES				The second secon	
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIO<sup>1</sup> OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADD 2003

=. 0

• ,

ر

Set back from the street, the church is sited horizontally in the first third of a 282' x 233' lot. The property is well landscaped with a combination of large trees and good foundation planting. Approximately 1.5 acres.

 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 Urban
 Suburban
 Scattered Buildings

 Open Space
 Woodland
 Residential
 Agricultural
 Village

 Industrial
 Downtown Commercial
 Highway Commercial
 Other
 Scattered

This block is a mixture of religious, commercial & other quasi-public buildings.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

There is a rustic charm to this splendid stone vernacular church. Except for the tower, the details are basically unsophisticated and the church itself is too large to conform to the pattern of a typical country church.

The building makes an interesting contrast to the correct Renaissance formality of Immaculate Conception Church to the north. Design of the Methodist Church was based on the "Akron Plan" of church building popular at the turn of the century. It had a semi-circular plan with large folding door which could be used to enlarge space for special meetings. Modifications were made when the church was modernized in 1950.

This was the second church for this congregation to be built on this site. The earlier one was a frame structure erected in 1879. The first church built by the congregation in 1836 had been located on Bloomfield Ave. east of Grove St. It had the distinction of being the first church built in Montclair. A sketch design by Van Vleck & Goldsmith for this church was included in the Architectural League of New York Catalogue of Annual Exhibitions, 1901, Catalogue

ORIGINAL USE: Church	PRESENT USE: Church #520
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent 🔽 Good	
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes 🕱 Possible	
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development	
No Threat 🔽 Other	

COMMENTS:

**REFERENCES**:

Kiser, Ellis. Atlas of Essex County. Philadelphia: A. H. Mueller, 1906.

Groves, Dorin R., "A Short History of the First United Methodist Church," Dec. 14, 1979.

RECORDED BY: Henry Taves ORGANIZATION: Columbia University DATE: 4/12/80