

SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

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

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 Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
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.

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