

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 30 1977

DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Harmony Hill United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Stillwater United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fairview Lake Road

N of Stillwater on

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stillwater Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Members of the Harmony Hill United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

Fairview Lake Road

CITY, TOWN

Stillwater Township

STATE

New Jersey

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

4 Park Place

CITY, TOWN

Newton

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Sussex County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Sussex County Department of Planning

CITY, TOWN

Newton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harmony Hill United Methodist Church was built in 1832.

The main church building is rectangular stone 2 story structure 34 feet by 45 feet with a gable end front. The front entrance was originally served by double doors on strap hinges. Each door had six panels. In 1907 a new belfry and bell were added and a new narthex created. The previous exterior doors now separated the narthex from the sanctuary as the two previous interior doors had been removed and replaced by a very wide archway. There are six windows on each side of the church and two on the second floor of the entrance end. Originally, all of the windows were double-hung 12/12 sash. Subsequently, all of the windows were replaced in 1907, with each new sash having colored glass lights surrounding a larger pane of frosted glass. The altar end of the church has two two-story lancet windows, each having multiple movable sashes. Both of these windows were later converted much in the same manner as the double-hung windows.

The first floor interior includes a large rectangular, single step, platform altar with a wooden rail and balusters. The pulpit was originally elevated, but was lowered at a later date. The church was originally furnished with pews made of simple, 'straight-backed' boards, arranged with aisles down the sides. In 1907, new pews of quartered oak replaced the original ones and a central aisle was created. The present floor boards are tongue-and-grooved oak (one inch thick), which has been laid directly on top of the original random width oak floor. The floor is supported by hand hewn floor beams, roughly ten inches square and set into notches in the stone wall. On either side of the present interior doors are stairs leading to the balcony.

The top level is an open, level balcony on the two sides and entrance end of the church. The balcony projects out seven feet on the side walls and approximately ten feet on the entrance end of the building and has a wooden rail and balusters. The balcony is supported by girders resting on hand-turned, nine inch diameter columns. The rear of the balcony was level as presently. However, the sides were tiered and arranged with additional seats. This tiering was later removed. The walls are plaster on stone. The ceiling was originally plaster on wood lath, but was replaced in 1907 with a stamped tin ceiling. The walls are constructed of local field stone in a random coursed rubble fashion and finished with stucco. The roof is covered with slate. The single gable roof has a simple cornice construction with no return. There is no plumbing in the church and electricity was first introduced around 1920 with a delco generator system.

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Harmony Hill United Methodist Church
Stillwater Township
Sussex County
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The church was first heated by a pair of pot bellied stoves, whose stove pipes passed through each side balcony and through the roof. In 1953 a masonry addition was added to the west side of the church. The addition is 41 feet by 26 feet 6 inches and has a basement. A central heating plant was installed in the basement to serve both the addition and the church. The addition has a simple gable roof, covered by asphalt shingles.

In 1841 the parsonage was erected, consisting of one and a half stories, four rooms, with a large room across the back of the ground floor. It was not until 1909, however, that any major alterations on the parsonage took place. In that year the parsonage was re-built, raising the building to a full two stories and adding a new porch. In 1922 the delco generating system was extended from the church and provided the parsonage with its first electricity. That same year, a new coal furnace was installed in the parsonage. In 1947 the first indoor bathroom was installed.

In 1931 a one stall garage was built for the pastor.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> _PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> _AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> _LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> _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	1832 and 1907	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Thomas Dildine (1832) John W. Earl (1907)
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With the organization and settling of any community one of the first buildings to be erected is the church. Besides the religious needs a church fulfilled, it served other needs as well. It was a public meeting place where local residents could get together and discuss important municipal business.

The Harmony Hill United Methodist Church has been in constant use for 144 years (as of 1976).

On or about the year 1802, the Reverend Elijah Woolsey preached a sermon along side of an apple tree on the farm of Jacob Mains which is located about 1/2 mile up "Cat Fish Pond Road." As a result of this first meeting, a Methodist class was organized with its meetings being held in the log cabin of Jacob Main. Among that early class of twelve members were: Main, Egbert, Kimball, Savacool, Banghart, and Lenny. The class was appended to the Flanders circuit and visited by the circuit riders, Reverend Woolsey and his assistant Gamaliel Bailey. The circuit was a large one, and necessitated a journey of nearly 400 miles. As an indication of how hard these intinerant preachers worked, it was estimated that Woolsey and Bailey preached 8 to 12 times a week while traveling the circuit.

In 1832, the class numbered about 100. Under the direction of the Reverend Caleb Lippencott, the Methodist class subscribed to build a meeting house. The land was acquired in 1832 on Harmony Hill as follows: from Thomas Dildine and his wife, 1.7 acres of land for \$1.00; also from the Dildines, a piece of land 0.21 acres for \$25.00 on which the church is located; from Peter Wintermite, 1.75 acres of land, apparently the remainder of the land which is presently the cemetery, for \$10.00.

Thomas Dildine was the master builder of the church. The cost of the edifice was \$1,300.00. The interior of the church was completed had the following appearance: there was no belfry and the front door opened directly into the narthex. Two doors opened down the side of the church, with no central aisle. The pews were simple boards and the balcony held the organ. The rear of the balcony was level as now. However, the sides were tiered and arranged with additional seats. There were two pot bellied stoves used for heating purposes. The pulpit was centrally located and raised on the middle platform.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Shrope, Mrs. Charles - "History of the Harmony Methodist Episcopal First Church of Stillwater, New Jersey" 1971
- Snell, James - "History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey" 1881. Various records and documents of the Harmony Hill United Methodist Church, various dates.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.642 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	5 0 1 9 0 1 5 1 0	1 1 5 1 1 3 1 2 1 6 1 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C				D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 3101, Tax Lots 11 & 9 - Stillwater Township Tax Office

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

Wayne T. McCabe Church Historian

ORGANIZATION

Harmony Hill United Methodist Church

DATE

March, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Fairview Lake Road

TELEPHONE

383-1283 (home)

CITY OR TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Assistant

Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

6/13/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/19/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.12.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The dedication sermon was preached by the Reverend Issac Winner. From 1833-1939, Harmony Church served as a preaching point on the Flanders circuit. In 1834, the church was incorporated as a religious society under the laws of the State of New Jersey.

In the year 1839, the church was designated as a station - indicating that an established and resident pastor would be in Stillwater. However, it was not until 1841 that the Trustees decided to purchase additional land and erect a parsonage. This apparently was done, constructing a 1 1/2 story building with four rooms, with a large room across the back of the ground floor.

In 1871, there were 300 enrolled in the Methodist classes. These classes met in Harmony Church and Mount Holly school. Three years later, the annual conference set the pastor's salary at \$600.00 per year. The following year it was raised by \$75.00.

In 1883, the organ was moved from the balcony to the side of the pulpit (where it is presently located). During the summer of this year, the pastor received 22 new members and obtained temperance pledges from 140 persons.

The year 1907 saw significant improvements made on the church. New pews of quartered oak, new ceiling, a new belfry and bell, the arrangement of a single entrance with three aisles through the pews. John W. Earl was the builder.

In 1909 the parsonage was re-built, raising the building to a full two stories and adding a new porch.

During 1915, under the direction of the pastor, a "Brotherhood" was established in the church. This association of men met monthly for singing, quoits, lectures and general fellowship.

The Reverend Joseph Blessing was the pastor in 1922. While he was there, the delco generating system was extended from the church to the parsonage. A new coal furnace was put into the parsonage that same year. The balcony was also leveled on all sides and the pews removed.

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Membership in the Harmony Church was down to 63 active members in 1933, with 30 listed as inactive. Over the years the number of active members has risen to the point where there are presently well over 250 such members.

The Harmony Hill United Methodist Church is significant because it has been in continuous use for almost 150 years. It has served as an extremely important meeting place to discuss local matters, and has afforded both an educational (cultural) and religious leadership for the entire community. All of the work that has been done on the church was done by members of the congregation and they continue to donate their time and services to the upkeep of the church.