

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 9 1985  
date entered JUN

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Methodist Episcopal South Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 809 SE Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Roseburg N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Douglas code 019

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Frank and Jeannette Horn

street & number PO Box 362

city, town Glide N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97443

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse

street & number 1036 SE Douglas Avenue

city, town Roseburg state Oregon 97470

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources Inventory of City of Roseburg has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE.

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The old Methodist Episcopal South Church is located at the corner of Lane and Main Streets in Roseburg, Oregon. Completed in 1922, the church is a simple expression of the 20th Century Gothic style, one of several period styles popular in the early part of the century. The stuccoed, cast concrete building, is in excellent condition with the exception of some of the stained glass windows. Over a period of 60 years it has been used as a church by four different denominations. It is now in private ownership and is used as an art gallery.

The old Methodist Episcopal South Church is located in Township 27 South, Range 5 West, Section 19, of the Willamette Meridian. The church occupies the western portion of Lot 5 in Block 60 of the Roseburg Plat. The building is rectangular, the longer axis oriented north and south. The main entrance is on the NW corner. Sixty years ago the southern edge of Roseburg's "downtown" stopped with the church. The downtown area has remained the same and the church is still on the edge of downtown. A three-story apartment house, still in use, was built in 1922-23 on Main Street to the west. Diagonally across the street is the Elks Club, an impressive two-story building and to the north is an empty lot, site of the former Methodist Church, heavily damaged in a 1959 blast which leveled much of the city. On the same block and to the south of the church is a row of pre-1920 residences. To the east, a newly-constructed Christian Science Church occupies the remaining one-half block. The current owners of the Methodist Episcopal South Church requested a commercial variance and it was granted by the city. The former church building is presently used as an art gallery. Sidewalks on the west and north sides of the church prohibit any but the most minimal landscaping. A gravelled parking lot to the east is not landscaped.

The one and one-half story building is approximately 64 feet, north and south, by 44 feet, east and west. Foundation and wall construction are cast concrete with a course separating the daylight basement from the main floor. The building has a rough stucco finish, now painted light green. Composition shingles cover the gabled portions of the roof; a flat roof now covers the main entry area. A concrete coping extends around the perimeter of the building. There is one chimney near the south end of the building.

The daylight basement has six-over-six, double-hung sash in single and in triple bays beneath the large windows on the gable ends. Gables on three sides are emphasized by pointed-arched stained and leaded glass windows measuring eleven feet six inches by seven feet nine inches. On the west facade the large window is flanked by two smaller pointed-arched stained glass casement windows measuring six feet by three feet nine inches. The north facade has a large pointed-arched window with a fixed pane arch plus a casement window with arch, both to the west of the large window. On the east facade the windows are more widely spaced with the large window centered in the gable end and two smaller arches to the north. An entrance on the south end of this facade has a paneled door with multiple lights. The south facade has three six-over-one, double-hung sash with clear glass and opaque arches. The center window has been modified to meet restaurant specifications; the east window has been temporarily replaced while the original wooden sash is being repaired. On the NW corner a flight of stairs with a cement balustrade ascends to the main entrance; small pointed-arched openings are in keeping with the style of the church; the square newel post is cement with a cap.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
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date entered

METHODIST ESPICOPAL

Continuation sheet SOUTH CHURCH

Item number 7

Page 2

Most of the exterior changes occur with the corner entry tower. The original double doors with large stained glass panels have been removed. The arch above the doors, originally fitted with stained glass, has been filled in, and the square, pinnacled, louvered belfry was removed in the winter of 1953-54. The belfry was constructed of wood, which had rotted; it was removed rather than repaired.

Flat buttresses emphasize the corners and gable corners of the exterior. The pointed-arched windows are accentuated by hood moldings. The smooth surface of the hood molding, buttresses, coping and belt course contrasts with the rough texture of the remaining stucco.

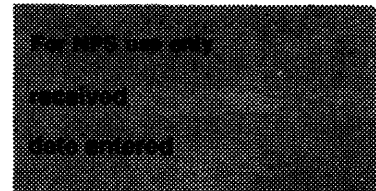
The interior of the church has received little alteration. The vestibule is a separate ten foot by ten foot room. The main sanctuary takes up almost all of the remaining space, an area roughly 40 feet by 60 feet including a curved platform twelve feet wide on the south end of the building. The platform is reached by two sets of steps. Behind the platform a partition has been removed to make a small kitchen from a corner rooms and the central baptistry; the other corner room serves as an entryway from the parking lot.

A graceful coved ceiling rises to a height of 18 to 20 feet in the main sanctuary. There are four large and two small hanging light fixtures; these are suspended from the ceiling by three chains which are fastened to a brass collar which in turn supports a fluted and curved hemisphere of frosted glass. A plywood wainscoting (not original) was removed by the present owners and replaced with wallpaper in a subdued pattern; a band of pressed wood molding encircles the room at the top of the wainscoting at a height of three feet. Walls are plastered and in good condition. No new walls have been built; spaces are divided by counters, free-standing screens and some of the original pews. The platform will be used as a setting for a tea room.

In contrast to the rather austere and heavy exterior of the building, the interior is quite light and airy. This is partly because of the pleasing proportions of the room, but the stained glass windows are the most outstanding single feature of this interior space. Only one of the three large windows remains in its original condition. Colors are soft and the design is simple with a large oval medallion with a painted scene in the center flanked by lilies above and below. The two other large windows were damaged in the 1959 blast and are replacements of sympathetic design. Of the smaller casement windows, only one of five is now in place. These windows were also damaged in the blast; they were removed from the building and are awaiting repairs. Damage to the casement windows was not severe and repairs will consist of replacing a few pieces of glass in each rather than an entire restructuring. Wooden shutters now cover the window spaces. Most of the arches of the smaller windows have survived. Each arch has a circular medallion, originally painted with a scene; a total of six small arches have the original scene. Mrs. Polly Povey Thompson, daughter of one of the Povey brothers, has seen slides of the windows and has authenticated them as Povey Brothers work. The firm was the leading designers and manufacturers of art glass in Oregon for over 30 years.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet    METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
                                 SOUTH CHURCH

Item number    7

Page    3

Near the east end of the platform a wide and pleasant stairway leads to the basement. Originally the basement housed Sunday School rooms, a kitchen, rest rooms, and a furnace room. Spaces have been changed very little. The major room now functions as a workroom rather than as a Sunday School room.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1922 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Methodist Episcopal South Church, completed in 1922 and used for its original purpose until unification of the Methodist Church in 1939, is located at 809 SE Main Street in Roseburg, Douglas County. Similar in plan to other Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal South churches of the period in Oregon, the Roseburg church presents 20th Century Gothic elevations. The architect is as yet unidentified, but the plan and mass point to its basis in Church planbooks. It is the second oldest church building in Roseburg, predated only by the First Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1909. More importantly, it represents the Methodist presence in the Umpqua River Valley which is marked from the 1850s. The building is locally significant and meets National Register Criteria "a" and "c" as the premier church of the Methodist Episcopal South Church in Douglas County, and as a rare example in the county of 20th Century period architecture in the Gothic style. With the exception of the louvered belfry of its entry tower, which is missing, the building's mass and exterior features are unaltered. The church was particularly noted for its fine original stained glass windows, two of which remain, attributed to the Povey Brothers, master craftsmen whose studio was operated in Portland, Oregon from 1888 to 1930. The importance of the remaining original windows is emphasized as they are the only surviving pigmented leaded glass windows in Roseburg which predate 1959, the year a chemical truck explosion leveled eight blocks of the city and extensively damaged many buildings in the city.

Methodism began early in the Umpqua Valley when, in 1838, the Reverend Jason Lee and the Reverend Gustavus Hines visited the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Umpqua. A lack of leadership delayed the official beginnings of the Methodist Church in Oregon for thirteen years and in the meantime pre-Civil War beliefs divided the church. In 1844, the Methodist Episcopal South Church was formed.

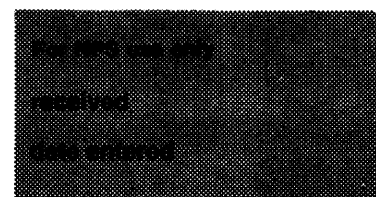
The basic difference in the philosophies of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal South Church were expressed in this letter written by Rev. Kolbe, Rev. J. E. Parrott, and O. Fisher, members of the Methodist Episcopal South Church in answer to a letter from Thomas H. Pearne, member of the Methodist conference, as it appeared in the August 16, 1859 Oregon Statesman.

"Prior to 1780 there was nothing in the Methodist discipline on the subject of slavery. Preachers and members in the slave-holding states held slaves and were not required to free them even in states that allowed their freedom."

"In 1780 the ever-restless North began the agitation and got a rule passed condemning slavery in the preachers of the South. The South submitted rather than separate. In 1784 the church adopted a new test of membership requiring all slaveholders to free their slaves, where states would allow it, on pain of excommunication. Thousands left the church."

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet    METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
                                 SOUTH CHURCH

Item number                    8

Page                            2

"In 1848 the general conference deposed a southern Bishop for being the legal owner of slaves in a state that did not allow emancipation, notwithstanding he made the slaves as free as he could and received no benefit whatever for their services. The church separated in 1848 after the expulsion of the Bishop. The North church claimed the South property including meeting houses, colleges, schools, etc."

Of local interest is the fact that in 1864 the Methodist Episcopal South Church in Oregon established Corvallis College in Corvallis. It was changed to a Land Grant college in 1868, and a state college in 1885.

In September, 1852, the annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church formally organized the Umpqua Mission, covering all of Southern Oregon from the Calapooia Mountains to the California border. The first service was held at Winchester, Oregon, in October, 1852. In 1853 the Umpqua Mission was divided into two parts, the line of division being the North Umpqua River. Both areas (or charges) of the Umpqua Mission were served by circuit preachers until 1858 when Reverend Cornelius C. Stratton became the resident minister for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

It was at this time, 1858, that Reverend James Stuart, a brother of General J. E. B. Stuart of Civil War fame, visited Oregon. Discovering that there were a great number of Southern Methodists in the area, he began forming the Methodist Episcopal South charge. In 1865 J. W. Craig became resident minister for this charge. During the ministry of Reverend Craig work was begun in 1866 on the first building of the Methodist Episcopal South Church in Roseburg on property located on Washington Street between Rose and Stephens Streets. By 1893 the congregation had outgrown this one-room building and under the leadership of Reverend J. W. Fenton a building committee was formed. The old church building was moved and used as a residence, and a new, larger church was built on the same spot and dedicated that year. Interestingly, the plan for that church was the same as that used by many other Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal South churches in Oregon, including congregations at Stephens, Elkton, Drain, Goshen, and Antelope. Some of these churches are still in good condition and in use.

In 1916, the citizens of Roseburg decided to establish a high school. At the same time membership in the Methodist Episcopal South Church had grown and a larger building was needed. The Methodist Episcopal South congregation sold their property to the school district and bought the residence and property at the corner of Lane and Main Streets from Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Orcutt. Included in that transaction was the following statement: "In trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal South Church."

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

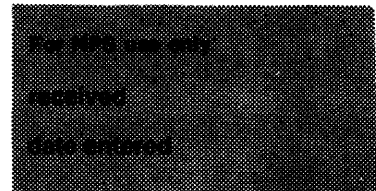
Continuation sheet

SOUTH CHURCH

Item number

8

Page 3



World War I slowed building, so a small chapel was built on the SW corner of the newly acquired property. It was from here that Reverend John B. Coan preached for one year until he entered army service as a chaplain. Twenty young people from the church membership went into the service.

Actual construction of the church began in 1919-20. The residence then located on the property was moved to face the east edge of the lot; it was then used as a parsonage. On July 8, 1921, the building was far enough along to lay the cornerstone; Reverend J. C. Jones was the minister presiding at the ceremony and the principal address was given by Dr. Louis Albert Banks.

In October, 1921, the social rooms were completed and church services were held there rather than in the temporary chapel. In the spring of 1922 the sanctuary was finished and ready for the dedication which was done by Dr. Charles D. Bulla of Berkeley, California. The minister at that time was Reverend J. B. Needham.

Up until the unification of the Methodist churches in 1939 the Methodist Episcopal South Church played an important part in the religious life of Roseburg. It was one of five or six major churches and many members were influential in the community. Worthy of particular mention is Will Cobb, Sunday School Superintendent for many years, owner of Cobb Real Estate, and principal contributor to the financing of the church.

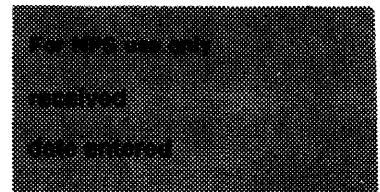
The Methodist Episcopal South congregation continued to use the church until the national unification of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal South Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Protestant Church in 1939. The United Methodist Church was the name chosen for the new church by the three branches. In Roseburg, the Methodist Episcopal Church was north from the Methodist Episcopal South building. The building occupied by the Methodist Episcopal congregation in Roseburg, Oregon, from 1913 to 1959 was a large three-story structure in the Classical Greek style. The symmetrical front facade featured a centered portico with four colossal columns resting on high plinths and a full entablature. A pedimented gable accented the low-pitched gable roof and there were false pediments on the side facades. The building was sheathed in horizontal wood siding. Windows were multi-paned, 16 lights on the street level, twelve on the second floor, and eight on the third floor. The interior was plastered.

The congregations decided to use the larger Methodist Episcopal building, so on a Sunday morning in 1939 the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church formed a double line facing south, the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal South Church formed a double line from the church facing north. The two ministers, Reverend Magan, Methodist Episcopal, and Reverend N. E. Wood, Methodist Episcopal South, led the two lines together up the steps and into the former Methodist Episcopal Church.

The two churches had been separated for almost a century and naturally there were many differences. This was an emotional time for many members, especially the Methodist Episcopal South who were giving up the building they had worked so hard to complete. Some members felt so strongly against the unification that they left the Methodist Church altogether and joined other Protestant churches; the Episcopal and Christian churches were two mentioned.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet    METHODIST EPISCOPAL    SOUTH CHURCH    Item number    8    Page    4

The records of the Methodist Episcopal South Church were supposed to have been moved to the United Methodist Church, however, there are only two early membership books and a book with minutes of a few meetings over a period of many years in the files of the Roseburg United Methodist Church. Two possible explanations for the missing records are (1) they were destroyed in the blast of 1959, or (2) they were kept by members of the Methodist Episcopal South Church in 1939 and have since been lost.

In 1939 the ownership of the church property reverted to A. N. Orcutt who in 1941 sold the church to the Western Oregon Conference of Seventh Day Adventists. This congregation used the building until 1952 when it was sold to the Church of Latter Day Saints.

In 1959 a major chemical blast damaged downtown Roseburg leveling about eight square blocks and killing 13 people. Many buildings suffered heavy damage; among the casualties were most of the stained glass windows in Roseburg. According to a member of the church at that time, a piece of the truck carrying the explosives came through a window on the west side of the church and burned a hole in the floor.

The building was used by the Church of Latter Day Saints for 20 years, then in 1972 it was sold to Burnett, Inc., who in turn sold it to the California Evangelical Association in 1974. The local congregation affiliated with that group was called the Garden Valley Christian Assembly. In 1984 the building passed into private ownership for use as an art gallery with rental space for associated businesses.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Roseburg, OR

Quadrangle scale 1: 62,500

UTM References

A 

1	0	4	7	2	0	6	0	4	7	8	3	5	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The Methodist Episcopal South Church is located in Section 19, Township 27 South, Range 5 West, Willamette Meridian, Douglas County. It is also known as occupying Lot 5, Block 60 of the Roseburg Plat. Tax Lot 10000.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state None code county code

state None code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marianne Kadas

organization N/A date November 29, 1984

street & number 690 Laurel telephone (503) 459-2651

city or town Sutherlin state Oregon 97479

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

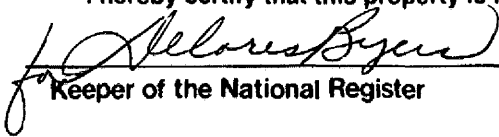
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date March 15, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered for the  
National Register

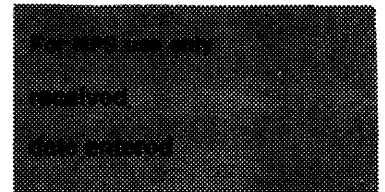
date 6-6-85

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet      METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
   SOUTH CHURCH

Item number      9

Page      1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

First Methodist Church Consecration Program, August 2, 1964, Roseburg, Oregon.

Deed Book, #76, p. 55, Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg, Oregon.

Leah M. Brown, 5612 SE Oetkin Rd., Milwaukie, Oregon 97222, correspondence, October, 1984. Mrs. Brown was a member of the Methodist Episcopal South Church in the 1920s and 1930s.

Lucien Cobb, 1850 Evans Lane, #28, San Jose, California 95125, correspondence, October, 1984. Mr. Cobb was a member of the Methodist Episcopal South Church in the 1920s and 30s.

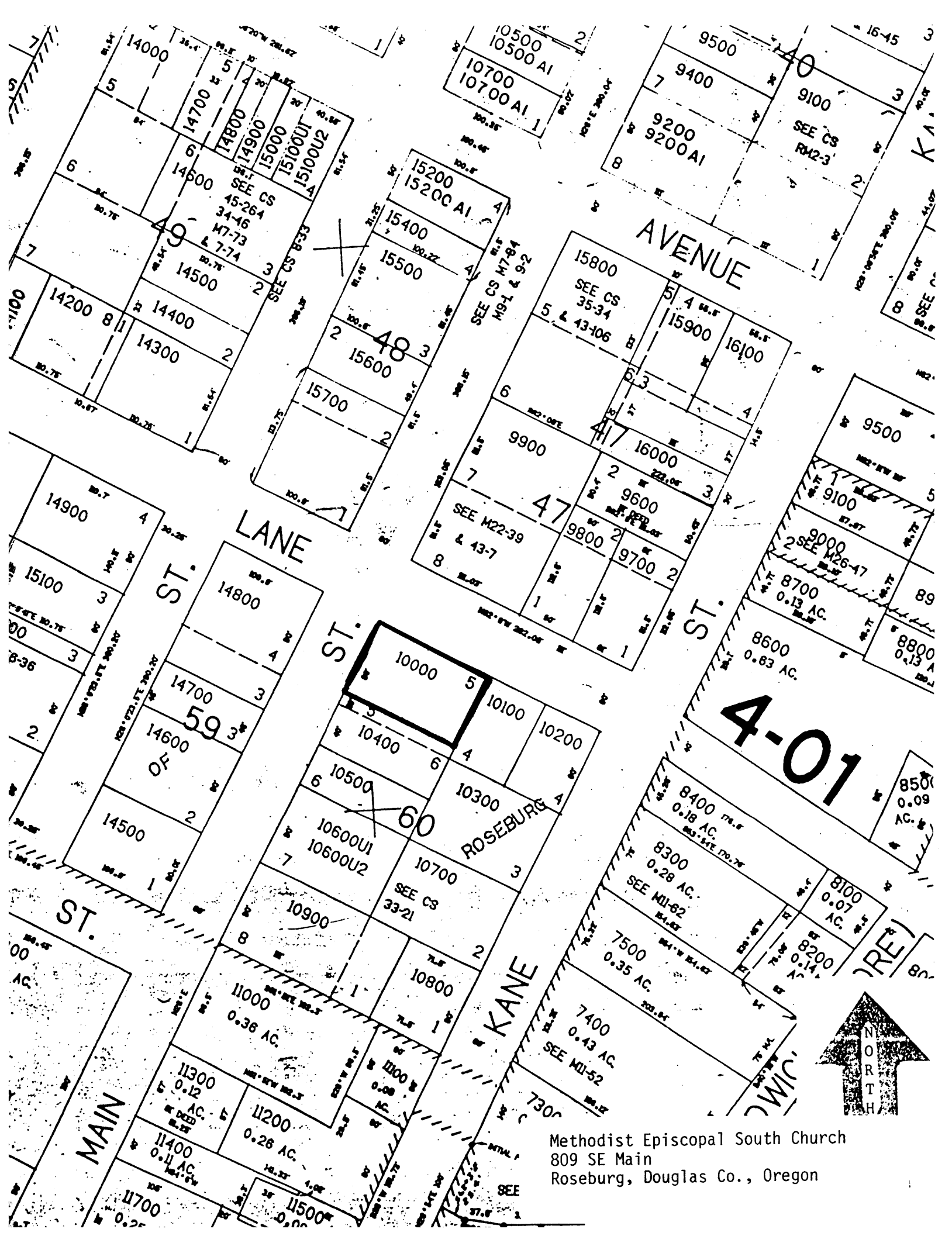
George Updegraff, Dillard, Oregon. Telephone conversation, 1-4-84. Mr. Updegraff was a member of the LDS Church in Roseburg in the 1950s.

Margaret Wells Havens, Roseburg, Oregon. Interview, October, 1984. Mrs. Havens was a member of the Methodist Episcopal South Church in the 1930s, and was married in the church in 1937.

Historical Sketch of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in Oregon, 1858-1939.  
H. S. Shangle, Milton, Oregon, May, 1941.

Files of the Douglas County Museum, Roseburg, Oregon.

History of Oregon, Vol. I. Charles Henry Corey. Chicago-Portland, Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1922, p. 727 and 739.



**4-01**



Methodist Episcopal South Church  
 809 SE Main  
 Roseburg, Douglas Co., Oregon