

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEB 2 2001

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Methodist Church/ Memorial United Methodist Church

#### 2. Location

street & number 25 Grand Avenue  a not for publication

city or town Swanton  a vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Franklin code 011 zip code 05488

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eloa Mulbertson National Register Specialist 1/29/2001  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson W. Beall 3/7/01

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count )

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Religious Bldgs., Sites and Structures in VT

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Queen Anne  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Marble  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Slate  
other Wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

( Mark " x " in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

( Mark " x " in all the boxes that apply. )

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

( Enter categories from instructions )

Architecture

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**Period of Significance**

1895

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**Significant Dates**

1895

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**Significant Person**

( Complete If Criterion B is marked above )

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

( Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets. )

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

( Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets. )

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Swanton Public Library

Methodist Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Franklin County, Vermont

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property less than one acre

**UTM references**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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see continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name / title Matthew S. Janiga

organization University of Vermont, H.P. Program date April 29, 1997

street & number Wheeler House telephone 802 656-4006

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

( Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

( Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name The Trustees of Memorial United Methodist Church c/o Steve McKenzie

street & number RD 1 Box 1751 telephone none

city or town Swanton state Vermont zip code 05488

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 7 Page 1 **Methodist Episcopal Church  
Swanton, Franklin County, VT**

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**Description**

The Memorial United Methodist Church, built in 1895, is located on Grand Avenue between Canada Street and First Street on a narrow lot to the east side of the town green in the village of Swanton, Vermont. The building is a good example of late nineteenth century architecture and is surrounded on the town green by buildings of similar age and significance. The church is a two and one-half story, gable front, corner tower (with two tier belfry,) running bond brick veneer structure with a modern annex addition attached to the rear east facade. Among its distinctive original features are the fenestration patterns which include a large tripartite stained glass window on the front facade and side facade stained glass sanctuary windows. The front facade double door entries on the tower and main block also contribute to the architectural significance of the structure, as they are original. The church also contains many historic interior details such as wainscoting, trim, doors, pews, pulpit and organ. The property retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The Memorial United Methodist Church, built in 1895, is located on Grand Avenue between Canada Street and First Street on a long, narrow lot to the east side of the town green in the village of Swanton, Vermont. The town green is of modest size and is surrounded by civic, religious, commercial and residential buildings of varying styles, but with similar proportions and character ; most of them date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The two and one-half story, three by five bay, rectangular plan, corner tower, Queen Anne style church has a locally quarried black marble foundation. It is timber framed and sheathed in a running bond brick veneer, which has been painted red. The church has a steeply pitched, slate, gable roof with a single end chimney on the south slope, east facade. The gable roof is supported by a wooden truss system and is abridged on the ends of the gable eave, front facade by a partially engaged, four story tower on the north and west facades and by a gable roof dormer on the south facade.

All first story windows have splayed brick lintels. All attic windows, second story windows and entries have Roman arched brick lintels, with corbelled bases extant only on the west front facade and tower window lintels. All double hung, wood sash and fixed windows have aluminum storms. The eaves have been boxed in with aluminum as well, leaving no wood trim exposed except for entry surrounds.

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Section number 7 Page 2 **Methodist Episcopal Church  
Swanton, Franklin County, VT**

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**Description (continued)**

**West Front Facade**

Brick wall pilasters with corbelling at the base flank each side of the asymmetrical front facade's center bay. They begin at the vertical mid-point of the first floor main entry surround and extend to the gable eave. The main entry has wood double doors; each door has four recessed panels, the top two of which are opaque glass. To the outside of each door is a paneled surround. Above the doors is a tympanum replete with two circles and three Gothic arches constructed of wood. Above the main entry on the second story is a tripartite window with fanlight made of stained glass which dimensionally exceeds the entry below. The tripartite section of this window depicts a sunset landscape of the Adirondack Mountains. The tripartite window dates from 1996 and the fanlight dates from circa 1895. Centered above the tripartite window is the 1895 date stone of the building. In the gable is a fixed, yellow, stained glass, attic window with five panes, creating a Roman arch motif.

To the right of the center bay on the front facade is a second story, one-over-one stained glass window with a Roman arched, double length top sash. The roof above this window is the west slope of the gable roof dormer that faces south. In the gable of this south side facade roof dormer is a semi-circular, clear glass, fixed window.

**Tower**

On the front facade, to the left of the main entry, at the northwest corner of the building, is a four story, partially engaged, square tower with one and one-half story buttresses at the three exposed corners of the tower. The buttresses are made of brick and each one has a coping stone at its mid-point and top. These coping stones are now sheathed in aluminum. The two story engaged, brick section of the tower is surmounted by two, freestanding tiers made of wood: a square plinth and a four sided belfry with an asphalt shingle mansard roof. Each side of the belfry has an open Roman arch, which pierces the cornice of the mansard roof. Above each Roman arch on all four sides of the mansard roof is a pointed arch.

**Tower Fenestration: West Front and North side, Facades**

On the first floor, front facade of the tower is an entry with wood double doors. Each door has five recessed panels. Directly above the doors is a stained glass fanlight. The doors are accessed by four black marble stairs with tubular iron railings at each side. Above the entry on the second story is a one-over-one, stained glass window with Roman arched upper sash. The north side facade of the tower has both a first and second

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**Description (continued)**

story one-over-one stained glass window replete with Roman arched upper sash. The first story window has an elongated upper sash.

Above the second story windows on the tower a false mansard roof creates a transition between the two story brick portion of the tower and the two freestanding tiers above. A pointed arch (framed by the false mansard roof) is present above both second story windows of the tower. The false roof and the two tiers of the belfry are sheathed in aluminum. The false mansard roof and roof of the belfry were wood shingled. The tall square plinth and the belfry proper were originally sheathed in decorative wood trim of various colors providing vertical rhythm and clearly demarcating the different architectural elements of the tower.

**South Side Facade**

The south side facade is abutted by a single lane asphalt drive. The first story has five, paired, one-over-one windows with opaque glass. The second story has five, paired, one-over-one stained glass windows with a stained glass fanlight above each pair. The second story windows are taller than the first story windows. Centrally spaced between each bay is a two-by-four, running vertically from grade to the cornice. Each one is bolted to the wall, perhaps acting as a makeshift buttress.

**North Side Facade**

The north side facade is abutted by an asphalt drive. The first and second stories have five, paired windows identical to the description of those on the south facade.

**East Rear Facade**

A gable end, two by three bay, annex, constructed in 1959, is attached to the east rear facade of the church, its roof line is three feet lower than the eave of the church. The north end of the main block gable is aluminum sided.

**Annex - Exterior**

The annex is aluminum sided and is surmounted by an asphalt shingle roof. The south side facade, first floor, main entry has a gable portico supported by brackets. A second story entry on the gable end east facade is served by a metal stairway. All windows are

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**Description (continued)**

one-over-one, double hung, wood sash with aluminum triple track storms. The annex has an eight room interior plan with classrooms, offices and a large kitchen on the first floor, west end that joins the congregation hall of the main church.

**Church - Interior**

On the interior of the main block, all spaces, which include the congregation hall on the first floor, the sanctuary on the second floor, the stairwells and the vestibule, have their original pine wainscoting and window surrounds. All wood surfaces have been painted with the exception of the wainscoting, windows, doors, their surrounds and the railings and banisters in the stairwells and vestibule.

**Vestibule**

Entering the vestibule through the first floor main entry doors on the front facade, a six panel metal replacement door is directly to the front. This door provides entry to the congregation hall. To the right of the main entry is a small storage closet with a four panel, wood door with surround. To the left of the main entry is a surround at waist level, now infilled. The surround serves a moderately sized storage area, at one time this surround may have been an opening for a coat check. The surround, with its present infill serves as a bulletin board. A very tall, two story stairwell with second floor landing and west front facade window is just beyond the storage closet on the right. Above the wainscoting, all walls and ceilings in the stairwell and vestibule have tongue and groove paneling. The second flight of stairs has a banister with turned newel post and balusters on the right side. At the top of these stairs is a four panel, metal replacement door, facing north and providing entry to the sanctuary.

**Congregation Hall**

Entering the congregation hall through the replacement door from the vestibule one encounters a rectangular space with wainscoting and boxed baseboard on the north and south walls. The hardwood flooring is maple. There is tongue and groove paneling on the walls and ceiling. To the left side of the entry door on the west wall is a storage closet with a four panel Dutch door, this storage area serves the infilled surround in the vestibule, mentioned previously. There are four window bays on the north and south walls. There are three cast iron lally columns that run lengthwise to the east end of the room at equidistant intervals, approximately three feet from the center of the space.



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**Description (continued)**

These poles are not decorative and are believed to be a later addition for structural support. The east end wall has an eight panel, wood, pocket door with surround to the south side. A single door surround is to the north side the door has been removed. The east end of the congregation hall is entered through the single door surround. To the left on the north wall is one window bay. To the left of this is a storage closet with a four panel, wood door and surround. The south wall has a modern partition wall made of sheetrock. This partition wall does not rise to meet the ceiling. Behind the partition wall is one window bay. All the walls in this space have wainscoting and there is tongue and groove paneling above this on the walls and ceiling with the exception of the east wall where this space joins the annex kitchen.

**Tower Stairwell**

Entering the sanctuary space from the vestibule stairwell at the southwest corner of the church there is directly across the way a double door entry to the tower stairwell. These doors have been covered with a padded material. The material is fastened to the doors with decorative brass tacks. Descending from the double doors is a single flight of twelve wood stairs with wood railings to either side. The stairwell is replete with wainscoting and tongue and groove paneling on the walls and ceiling. At the bottom of the stairs is a single window on the north wall with the tower's entry doors to the left.

**Sanctuary**

The sanctuary is a large, two story, rectangular, vaulted space. On the west end wall of the sanctuary, in an alcove between the two entry stairwells, is the large tripartite stained glass window. Facing east, to the front of the sanctuary, on the right, just past the vestibule stairwell is a four panel, wood door with surround that provides access to the attic and belfry. The sanctuary is replete with wainscoting and plaster walls above. There are five window bays with very colorful, highly ornate stained glass on both the north and south walls. Each window is unique to the others in the church. Symbolic objects, plants and flowers comprise many of their abstract designs. The windows make for a beautiful, visual religious reference. The vaulted ceiling has false half timbering, with the lateral timbers springing from capitals just above and between the north and south window surrounds. Proceeding to the east end (front) of the sanctuary there are thirteen rows of historic 1880's wooden pews to either side of a center aisle. The pews are made of wood that is pine and oak. The pews are elegantly crafted and have decoratively beveled surfaces on the armrest ends. At the east end of the sanctuary is a

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**Description (continued)**

two tiered, platform altar made of wood with wood paneled partitions. The western most, front partition is knee high and the proceeding one, several feet behind it is waist high. The altar has several historic objects: a wood pulpit with red Swanton marble inlay and two highly ornate Gothic chairs made of wood. Behind the altar is a large floor to ceiling Roman-arched niche with a 1912 Hinner organ inside it. This organ has in excess of seven hundred pipes and was recently restored. The surround of the organ is made of a beautiful hardwood oak with coffered paneling. To the north side of the altar platform, on the east wall, is a door surround providing entry to the second floor of the annex. To the south side of the altar platform, on the east wall, is a four panel, wood door with surround. All flooring in the sanctuary is linoleum covering a hardwood floor.

**Statement of Significance**

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Swanton, Vermont is significant under Criterion C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, specifically a Queen Anne style church built of brick in 1895. The outstanding features of the church - including the asymmetrical massing of the front facade elements, the fenestration; particularly the Roman arches above doors and second floor window openings, the highly ornate stained glass in second floor and stairwell windows, interior woodwork and pews - exemplify the Victorian style as it generally appears in Vermont. The church reflects well on a sector of the industrial economic climate of Swanton, at the time of its construction as is evidenced by the use of locally quarried marble in its foundation and pulpit. A testament to the success and endurance of the Methodist congregation in Swanton, Vermont, the church has provided a place of worship exceeding one hundred years. This property which maintains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, clearly meets the registration requirements for the church property type under the Multiple Property Submission "Religious Buildings, Sites and Structures in Vermont." It also meets criteria consideration A because of its architectural importance.

The Memorial United Methodist Church was built in 1895, in Swanton, Vermont. By way of its construction date it is a unique contributing factor to the existing fabric of Swanton's historic buildings. The building is an ecclesiastical expression of late nineteenth century American architecture shared by no other religious structure in Swanton. The massing and asymmetrical fenestration of the front facade, the

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

architectural elements, and historic photos all serve to best describe the church as Queen Anne style. The eclecticism of this church marks a high point and end to the Victorian era of American architecture. The church also serves as one of the prominent architectural symbols to the town's past due to its location on the town green where buildings of relatively similar age and visual character are located. The church may also be seen as a physical artifact, lending testimony to Methodism's development and evolution in Swanton, as a Christian denomination.

The late nineteenth century church exhibits a high degree of integrity in its materials, construction and craftsmanship. Most of the church's wood elements and details are irreplaceable due to the lack of availability and high cost of old growth timber today. Examples of its use in the church are: heavy timber framing, interior wood trim, wainscoting and double hung sash windows. A high degree of craftsmanship in the fashioning and installation of these materials and many others (such as the highly ornate stained glass windows) can be seen throughout the church. The skills and artistry exhibited in the construction of this church are not widely practiced or employed today in commercial and residential building. This is attributable to the contemporary methods, materials and practice of today's modern construction. Some of the materials that were used in the church are of local and regional origin, such as the marble used in the foundation and pulpit. This knowledge is supported primarily by an oral history from present congregation members as there are no church records known to exist that attest to these facts. However, historical written documentation as to the prevailing industrial economy of Swanton and the surrounding region of Vermont supports this oral history and can further lead to the certain speculation regarding the origin of other materials used in the construction of the church, such as the slate and lumber. The church meets national register criterion C in the area of architectural significance. The church is also part of a multiple property submission, "Religious sites, buildings and structures in Vermont" under the property type "church" and clearly meets the registration requirements.

**Historical Background**

Elisha Barney, who was a known organizer and supporter of the Methodist movement in Swanton, settled in the area in 1799. He was originally from Taunton, Massachusetts. He and his brother Rufus (who resided in Rutland, Vermont) established mill privileges and commenced iron production in Swanton early in the nineteenth century.

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

The first circuit rider to preach in the Swanton area was Reverend Ruben Harris, a Methodist. In 1806 he made an appointment to have a service in the Swanton Falls schoolhouse on the west side of the Missisquoi River. Services continued to be conducted in the schoolhouse by Reverend Harris for several years thereafter. The population of Swanton Falls steadily increased in the early nineteenth century and by 1815 was known to have been about 1,600 people. In 1815 Reverend Almond Dunbar organized the Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was located in a woodshed of a large building belonging to Elisha Barney. On May 16, 1816, Elisha Barney along with his wife and several other local people are noted to have been some of the founding members of this organization. In the summer of 1819, the church had its First Quarterly Conference in the Barney's building. The Reverend J. B. Statton was the presiding elder at this time.

In 1822, the four Christian denominations of Swanton agreed to build a public house of worship in which each denomination ( Congregational, Methodist, Episcopalian, and the Society of Friends) would share pulpit rights. The ensuing structure that was built is the present day New Wine Christian Fellowship on the south end of the Swanton green. The pulpit rights of the Episcopalians were purchased by the Congregational Society on October 14, 1827. During the 1840's the Universalists felt they had pulpit rights in the brick church and subsequently displaced the Methodists, whose pulpit rights were eventually transferred on November 12, 1867. This conflict led lay leader and founder Elisha Barney to organize and erect a house of worship exclusive to the Methodists. In 1847 construction commenced on the present site of the Memorial United Methodist Church at 25 Grand Avenue. The first church was completed the following year and its title was the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was worshipped in for the next twenty years, and during this period the population of Swanton expanded from 850 in 1810 to 2,866 in 1870.

An increase in members of the church during this period made it necessary to enlarge and improve the first Methodist Church. This was done by the Reverend H. F. Austin in 1867. In the following years a strong program of evangelism brought new members to the church, and with this growth it was deemed necessary to build a larger house of worship. Consequently, the 1848 Methodist church was torn down and a new one erected on the same site in 1886.

In 1895 a fire began in the Central House Hotel south of the church. The hotel burned to the ground. Fearing that the church would also catch fire, people removed from the

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

church sanctuary the memorial stained glass windows as well as the pulpit and pews. All ten of the north and south side facade windows were saved, but the larger one in the front of the church was destroyed by fire. The rebuilding of the badly burned church, using the same design, began immediately after this tragic fire and construction was completed the same year.

The milling of regionally quarried marble for finished products, primarily architectural elements, was a prominent part of the Swanton economy in the nineteenth century. At one time in the latter half of the nineteenth century there were six marble mills operating in Swanton. George Barney, the son of Elisha Barney and member of the church, built and ran the Barney Marble Mill, which was located on the Missisquoi River in Swanton from 1850 to circa 1900, at which time the Vermont Marble Company assumed ownership of this mill. In the 1850's the Barney Marble Mill was the leading manufacture of marble in Swanton. George Barney started selling black marble products in the early 1850's to many principal cities in the United States. This black marble was used to construct the foundation for the Memorial United Methodist Church and was most likely taken from the Clark Quarry in Isle La Motte or from a quarry just north of the Canadian border, as these were the two locations known to have been producing this stone at the time of the church's construction. It is unknown however, whether this marble dates from the original 1886 structure or was installed in the 1895 reconstruction. In 1870 red stone marble or "Swanton Marble" was discovered at the present day location of U.S. Route 7 and Interstate 89 one half mile south of Swanton. This red marble was used for inlay in the church pulpit. The present church was freed from debt and dedicated in 1906.

In 1912 during the period of Reverend O. E. Aiken's ministry the Hinners organ was purchased and installed. The Hinners Organ Company was established circa 1881 and was located in Pekin, Illinois, providing small organs that were produced from standardized patterns. Being a mass produced unit, the company could reduce costs to consumers, thus making it possible for congregations of lesser means to afford a well built organ. John Hinners (1846-1906), used mail order catalogs to advertise and sell his organs. All organs were shipped factory direct and set up on site by a factory representative. Before 1920 all metal pipes in Hinners organs were products of Anton Gottfried in Erie, Pennsylvania. The Hinners Organ Company reached its greatest success in 1921 under the leadership of John Hinners' son Arthur who took control of the company after his father's death. The business failed in 1936 due to the economic climate

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

of the Depression. Major repairs and upgrades were made to the Methodist Episcopal Church's Hinners Organ in 1979.

In 1939, the name of the church was changed from the Methodist Episcopal Church to the Methodist Church. This was the result of a national merger amongst the denominations known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church.

In 1959 the construction of the Barney Annex was undertaken. This eight room addition replaced the horse stalls and stable located to the rear of the brick structure. The Reverend Roland Kelly and some of the church trustees supervised this project. The addition was built at a cost of \$23,000 and furnished for \$7,000. This sum was paid off in 1966, the same year Methodism celebrated its 150th anniversary in Vermont. In 1968, the church changed its name as the denomination underwent its second merger in less than thirty years. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren formed the United Methodist Church. According to a source in the present day congregation the name "Memorial" was added to the title of the church in the 1980's due in part to an anniversary the congregation wished to commemorate. In the early 1990's the Troy Conference, the district governing board for Methodist churches in the upper New York State and Vermont area separated the Memorial United Methodist Church from its sister church in Highgate Center. The Green Mountain Conference is now the governing board for Methodist churches in Vermont. Over the last 200 years, Swanton has undergone many changes both socially and economically, but the Memorial United Methodist Church has remained an integral part of the community.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated church property being located on the northerly side of First Street in the Town of Swanton, County Franklin, Vermont. The property is a small rectangular strip of land approximately 150 feet long on its north and south boundaries and approximately 60 feet wide on its east and west boundaries. The property is bounded on the north by the Town of Swanton, U.S. Post Office; the west by U.S. Route 7; the south by the Town of Swanton, public library; and to the east by a common parking lot shared with the library.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the immediate grounds that have historically been associated with the property.