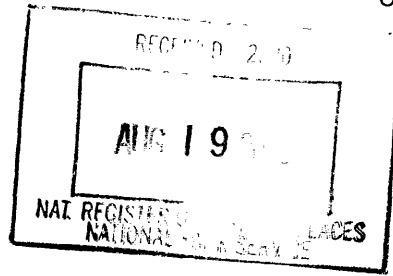


1002

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 by entering the information requested. If any 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 Central Methodist Church  
other names/site number Central United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 233 North Church Street not for publication   
city or town Spartanburg vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Spartanburg code 083 zip code 29306

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide x locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 8/18/03  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
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 commenting or other official Date

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register 9 Beall Signature of the Keeper 10/3/03 Date of Action  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Central Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion

Subcategory: Religious Facility

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion

Subcategory: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Gothic Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Brick  
walls Brick, Stucco  
roof Slate  
other

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

Central Methodist Church  
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- x a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
b removed from its original location.
c a birthplace or a 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

Period of Significance

1897-1930

Significant Dates

1896-97, 1909-10, 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barber, George F. (Architect, 1896-97); Normann, Gottfried L., Hentz, Hal F., and Reed, Joseph Neel (Architects, 1909-1910); Fant, Charles W., assisted by Carlisle, Aiken R., and Freeman, Robert A. (Architects, 1930); Bryson and Webber (Contractors, 1930)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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:
Central Methodist Church Library and Archives, Spartanburg, S.C.

Central Methodist Church  
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 17 414792 3867975	3 _____
2 _____	4 _____

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 Gayland Witherspoon and Rebecca Roberts, with the assistance of the SHPO staff  
organization McMillan Smith and Partners, PLLC date 30 July 2003  
street & number 127 Dunbar Street telephone (864) 585-5678  
city or town Spartanburg state SC zip code 29306

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church  
street & number 4908 Colonial Drive telephone (803) 786-9486  
city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29203

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Central United Methodist Church  
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Central Methodist Church, at 223 North Church Street in Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, S.C., faces Church Street (named after this church), and includes the 1885 sanctuary that was expanded and renovated in 1896-97, 1909-10, and 1930; a small attached chapel built in 1953, and an educational building built in 1930.

The exterior of Central Methodist Church today is High Victorian Gothic. The outside walls are a light yellow stucco, with beveled cast stone window sills, belt courses and matching drip moulds over pointed arched window and door openings. The sanctuary has been the continual nucleus of Central Church since its construction in 1885. Today the sanctuary is a culmination of the original 1885 structure as well as two renovations in 1896-97 and 1909-10.

In 1885, the existing church building (from 1854) was pulled down and replaced by a larger, red brick structure. Plans were drawn by members of the building committee, which was comprised mostly of Wofford College professors. The Moore Brothers of Spartanburg were the builders.<sup>1</sup> It was designed in the Gothic Revival, a popular revival style in this period. The 1885 church building, while remodeled and expanded, had the basic footprint and form of what is seen today—only smaller. A 100-foot bell tower on the southwest corner of the building was adorned with a steeple, gables on each side, and pinnacles at all four corners. The entrance to the tower had double doors with an arched stained glass transom. Above the entrance on the exposed sides of the tower were paired pointed arch stained glass windows, above which were large pointed arched traceried and louvered openings at the belfry level. Brick buttresses at the three corners were topped with stone caps and reached the height of the entry door. The sides of the sanctuary featured large pointed arched windows with flanking lancet windows with rose windows in the gables. The peak of each gable featured decorative open tracery and other molding. The central entrance repeated the same brick buttresses and stone caps but with a small pediment over the doorway. The wall of the center gable repeated the gable and the windows of the sanctuary wall. The building extended beyond the gable a short

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<sup>1</sup>Carolina Spartan, 27 October 1886, p.1.

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distance and was capped by another brick buttress and cast stone cap. The building was dedicated on November 7, 1886, one year after it was opened and in the tradition of the Methodist church, completely free of debt.

Ten years later, in 1896-1897, the building underwent a renovation, giving it more distinctly Gothic features. Inspiration for the renovation was the new Anglican Truro Cathedral in England, built from 1880 to 1903 in Cornwall's capital city of Truro. It was the first cathedral to be built in England since the Reformation in the sixteenth century, and attracted worldwide attention. It was designed by British architect John Loughborough Pearson, and built between 1880 and 1903. It combined Early English features with three spires designed in French Norman style, and was the last large-scaled work of imitative Gothic style in England.

The primary features borrowed from Truro Cathedral for Central Methodist Church by the attributed architect of the 1896-97 renovations, George F. Barber (1854-1915) of Knoxville, Tennessee, known throughout the nation as the order-by-mail house architect, included the steeple tower, finials, corner pinnacles, sectioned spire roof, the triple Gothic windows on the church facade, and more elaborate circular rose window motifs. An architect named Hill from Charlotte, North Carolina, is supposed to have been the associate or supervising architect for the 1896-97 renovation.

An apse on the south side of the building was the major addition to the sanctuary at that time. It was added to house the new organ purchased by the church. Detailed woodwork and elaborate stenciling were added to the interior of the apse and the rest of the sanctuary walls by a skilled Italian artist named DeQuintini of Richmond, Virginia. On the exterior of the apse is a rose window with triple stained glass arched windows below and single stained glass arched windows on the other walls. A sectioned spire roof with four large pinnacles at each corner, crenellations, roof ridge crestings, fleur-de-lis finials at the gable peaks, and corbeling were also additions. A large two-story bay was added to expand the Sunday school area and also had the sectioned spire roof and large pinnacles. Each of the five sides of the bay had double windows on the first and second floors and buttresses at each corner.

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The east and west sanctuary walls had their own renovation. It appears the two smaller side windows were left untouched, while the center window was replaced by a large pair of arched stained glass windows. The upper gable tracery and decorative work of the 1885 sanctuary was removed and replaced by triple arched windows. The large Gothic arched belfry of the existing bell tower was replaced with a pair of small arched windows, and the pair of windows below replaced by triple arched stained glass windows to imitate the south wall of the new apse. A sectioned spire roof was added and the buttresses were extended higher. Another smaller tower was also added to the Church Street façade as a visual balance to the renovated larger tower. The entire façade was given a more decidedly ornate or High Victorian Gothic presence with the addition of scored stucco on the exterior to give the impression of ashlar.

Wofford College began holding Baccalaureate services in preparation for commencements at Central each spring, and that, with the rapid growth of Spartanburg at the turn of the twentieth century, precipitated a rapid membership growth, and in 1909 the sanctuary was again enlarged. From 1909-1910, two transepts were added, extending the sanctuary on the east and west facades. The rose window, pair of arched windows, and two smaller lancet windows were replaced by the present three stained glass memorial windows. When the east and west walls were extended, they also gained the small parapet, which was later duplicated by Charles W. Fant on the 1930 Educational Building and the center gable when the 1896 bay was removed. The whole exterior of the church was changed to smooth stucco painted yellow. On the interior, DeQuintini's stenciling was painted over and the wood plank ceiling was plastered. The total seating capacity was increased by 60 percent to 800. Supervising architects were Swedish-born, German-trained Gottfried L. Norrman of Atlanta, formerly of Spartanburg, who had befriended Mr. Warren Dupre, Chairman of Central's building committee, and Pastor William A. Rogers in the mid-1890s. Norrman's associate architects for the project were J. Neel Reid and Hal F. Hentz.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> David Duncan Wallace, "Sketch of Central Methodist Church, Spartanburg," *Southern Christian Advocate* (11 October 1923): 12.

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As for the interior changes to the sanctuary, unfortunately few photographs exist to the knowledge of this author, and all are taken of the same area at the front of the sanctuary where the apse is located. As for the original sanctuary, an article in the Carolina Spartan recalls that the ceiling did have exposed trusses "arranged in artistic style."<sup>3</sup> A photograph labeled from the 1890s shows the front of the sanctuary after the 1896-97 renovation. It reveals the addition of the apse as well as a glimpse at DeQuintini's stenciling and detailed woodwork. It also shows pews, although it is not certain if these are the same ones in the sanctuary today. If the trusses in this photograph are the same ones described in the Carolina Spartan, then it can be assumed from the rest of the renovation, that all of the detail and filigree were added in 1896-97. A modern photograph shows a completely different truss system in place - no doubt installed during the 1909-1910 transept addition. Today's framework is more understated and fits with the character of the present church. A continuous fixture from the original church, the large gas light chandelier in the sanctuary was installed in 1886, and still remains a prominent feature of the interior. Gas piping is concealed in the walls and roof structure. The fixture operated using gas until electric lighting became available. The gas valves, jets, and pipelines are now disconnected. The main gas valve control is seen behind a small access door on the corner wall facing the mid-section of the sanctuary, marked with a small plaque on the wall.

The 1930 Educational Building was designed by architect Charles W. Fant of Anderson, South Carolina, with Carlisle & Freeman of Spartanburg as associate architects, and the local firm of Bryson & Webber as builders. The three-story building duplicates the gable parapet of the west wall of the 1909 sanctuary but has an unequal roof pitch. The Church Street façade has four windows on the third and second floors with a doorway replacing the last window on the right at the first floor. The windows are double casement with eight panes each and a four pane transom. The building was constructed on a \$45,000 budget<sup>4</sup>, and replaced the 1885 Sunday school building with the 1896-97 bay addition that stood on the same location. It appears that in some areas, existing walls were

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<sup>3</sup> Carolina Spartan, 1 June 1886.

<sup>4</sup> Lewis P. Jones, *Central United Methodist Church: The First Hundred Years* (Spartanburg: Central United Methodist Church, 2001), 136.



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kept from the 1885 building and new walls were added. It is evident from the outside as well as from the inside where the additions of the 1896-97 and 1930 buildings were added because there is water damage. No major changes have been made to the 1930 building, and although deteriorated it still contributes to the integrity and significance of the nominated property.

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Central Methodist Church, on North Church Street in Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its significance in Architecture. This Gothic Revival sanctuary, constructed in 1885-86 with substantive alterations in 1896-97, 1909-10, and 1930, is an excellent example of late nineteenth and early twentieth interpretations of the Gothic Revival style and is associated with some of the most prominent architects of South Carolina and the Southeast during the period.

**Additional Information**

Central Methodist, the first church established in the city of Spartanburg, was founded in 1838 and known as Spartanburg Methodist Church until 1889. It is considered the "mother church" of the Methodist congregations in Spartanburg, and has been closely associated with Wofford College since the college was founded in 1854; Benjamin Wofford (1780-1850), a retired Methodist minister and one-time trustee of the church, left an endowment for the college in his will.

Its first sanctuary, a frame building, was built soon afterwards and served the congregation until 1854, when it was demolished and replaced by a second and more substantial church, one that seated about 200 members. The 1854 sanctuary was a large brick building with four large Doric columns on its portico and featuring two large galleries. By the early 1880s, with membership at between 400 and 500 members, the congregation needed a larger sanctuary. The second church was demolished in 1885 and replaced in 1886 by the present Gothic Revival church, described as "an ornament to our town" shortly before its dedication.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Carolina Spartan* (Spartanburg, S.C.), 27 October 1886, quoted in Lewis P. Jones, *Central United Methodist Church: The First Hundred Years*, ed. by Paul S. Lofton, Jr. (Spartanburg: Central United Methodist Church, 2001), p. 95. For the early history of the church up to the time the present sanctuary was constructed, see Jones, *passim.*, especially pp. 1-91; for the description of the construction of this building in 1885-86, see Jones, pp. 91-95.

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**Architecture**

This church is significant as an example of late nineteenth and early twentieth century ecclesiastical architecture as interpreted by some of the most prominent South Carolina and Southeastern architects of the period, and reflects the changing styles and forms of church architecture over a period of almost fifty years from 1885 to 1930.

In 1896-97 Central Methodist Church undertook the first of several significant renovations to the 1885 sanctuary. These renovations, all in the Gothic Revival style in keeping with the sanctuary and attributed to and carried out according to plans by the noted order-by-mail house architect, George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee, and under the supervision of an architect named Hill of Charlotte, North Carolina, included two large additions, one at the northwest corner and the other at the center of the south elevation, a small secondary steeple on the west elevation, and a large addition to the main steeple.<sup>2</sup> One reporter observed, "so much is new that it may be considered a new church."<sup>3</sup>

By 1909-10, the congregation had increased to more than 800 members, and reviewed plans by the Atlanta architectural firm of Norrman, Hentz, and Reid for another expansion intended to increase the size of the sanctuary by some sixty per cent. These renovations added or expanded wings or transepts and increased the seating capacity to more than 1000 seats. The *Spartanburg Herald* called the church an "enlarged and beautiful edifice" at its dedication in the spring of 1910.<sup>4</sup>

Gottfried L. Norrman (1846-1909), a native of Sweden, had settled in Spartanburg in the 1880s and lived briefly in Greenville, but lived from the 1890s

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<sup>2</sup> Jones, p. 97.

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Jones, p. 98; see also pp. 97-98.

<sup>4</sup> Quoted in Jones, p. 101; see also pp. 99-101.

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to his death in Atlanta. Norrman, who helped establish the Atlanta chapter of the American Institute of Architects, designed the Spartanburg Opera House (1880) and Newberry City Hall and Opera House (1882).

After Normann committed suicide in late 1909, his partners Hal Hentz and Neel Reid took over the renovations to Central Methodist Church. Hal Fitzgerald Hentz (1883-1972) and Joseph Neel Reid (1885-1926) had studied architecture at Columbia University, studied with architect Charles McKim of the famous New York firm of McKim, Mead, and White, and attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. They joined Norrman's Atlanta firm in 1909, and practiced from 1909 to 1912 as Hentz and Reid, then from 1913 to 1926 as Hentz, Reid, Adler, and Schutze, adding Rudolph S. Adler and Philip T. Schutze as partners. Known primarily for their residential architecture, Hentz and Reid were among the most prominent architects practicing in the Southeast in the first half of the twentieth century.<sup>5</sup>

Within twenty years, Central Methodist Church needed still more room, and the church hired Charles W. Fant (1886-1956) of Anderson as the architect for a Sunday School addition and a remodeling of the auditorium. This renovation was described at its completion as a "three-story modern Class A educational building of ample and admirably arranged accommodations."<sup>6</sup>

Fant, a graduate of Clemson College and Columbia University, practiced in the firm of Joseph H. Casey (1875-1928) and took over the practice at Casey's death in 1928. Among Fant's other South Carolina designs of the period were Sunday School additions at First Baptist Church, Anderson (1929) and Central Methodist Church, Newberry (1929), and the expansion of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson (1931).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 133-34 (Norrman), pp. 69-70 (Hentz), and pp. 143 (Reid).

<sup>6</sup> *Southern Christian Advocate*, 27 November 1930, quoted in Jones, p. 137.

<sup>7</sup> Jones, pp. 136-37; Wells and Dalton, p. 52.

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**Select Bibliography**

*Carolina Spartan* (Spartanburg, S.C.), 1 June, 27 October 1886.

Jones, Lewis P. *Central United Methodist Church: The First Hundred Years*.  
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Central United Methodist Church  
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The historical boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Spartanburg County Tax Map, School District 7, Sheet 7-12-10, Parcel 43, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100', marked "Central Methodist Church."

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is restricted to the historic church building and the historic city lot on which it is located.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Central United Methodist Church  
Location of Property: 233 North Church Street  
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Photographs 1-12:

Name of Photographer: Stephen Stinson  
Date of Photographs: November 2002  
Location of Original Negatives: Stephen Stinson Photography  
1440 Fernwood Glendale Road  
Spartanburg, S.C. 29307

1. Front Elevation from Church Street
2. Interior of Sanctuary, facing Pulpit, Choir, and Organ
3. Exterior showing Apse (behind Choir and Organ) and Tower/Steeple
4. Front Elevation from Church Street, showing new Education/  
Day Care/Social Hall Building
5. South Elevation from Alley, showing Apse, Steeple, and Sanctuary
6. Entrance beneath Tower from Church Street
7. Sanctuary from Church Street showing Memorial Windows and  
Masonic Plaque
8. Detail of solid oak pews in Sanctuary
9. Detail of Tower/Steeple
10. Front Elevation from Church Street with Montgomery Office Building  
in Background
11. Sanctuary Interior looking East through 1909-1910 Transept
12. Memorial Garden and Chalice Fountain showing separation of  
Original Building and New Education/Day Care/Social Hall

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Central United Methodist Church  
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Photographs 13-19:

Name of Photographer: Unknown  
Location of Original Negatives: (Photographs and some negatives)  
Central United Methodist Church,  
Library and Archives

13. Exterior from Church Street, February 21, 1894
14. Exterior from Church Street (after 1896-1897 renovation), ca. 1897
15. Interior of Church (after 1896-1897 renovation) displaying work of Mr. DeQuintini, ca. 1897
16. Exterior from Church Street (after 1909-1910 renovation) with snow and Montgomery House in the foreground, ca. 1920
17. Exterior from Church Street (after 1930 renovation), ca. 1937
18. Interior view of Choir and Apse, 1947
19. Aerial view, ca. 1990