B-81

Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-10-2011

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Designed in the Norman-Gothic style by Thomas Dixon, a Baltimore architect, Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church was completed in 1872 and stands on the northeast corner of Charles Street in Mt. Vernon Place, Baltimore, Maryland.

Blocks of a unique metabasalt, a green-toned Maryland fieldstone, were used for the solid wall surfaces; "true stone" rather than veneer. Windows, entrances, building edges and corners are done in brownstone, as is most of the ornamentation.

Aisle roofs slope gradually to a strip clerestory above which rises to a sharply peaked roof. This lofty impression is re-emphasized by three spires. The vertical lines of the largest spire on the southwest corner of the church echo the lines of the tall columnar Washington Monument in the center of the square. This largest spire, and a smaller one on the southeast corner, frame the south and primary facade. Broad stairs lead to the triple entrance crowned by a free-standing, glassless, three-point "comb" of Gothic tracery. Above and behind the "comb," a large rose window ornaments the wall recessed within a large pointed arch of brownstone which serves as a frame for both window and "comb."

The western wall as a street facade adjoins the great spire and runs north in a series of pointed arch windows separated by thin buttresses. These are applied to the west wall and taper at a sharp angle toward an entablature below the aisle roof. Contained in its frieze are a number of distinct and individual faces, one of which is recognizable as Charles Tireman, a wealthy Baltimore merchant.

North of the west wall a smaller spire abuts the crossing. The west wall simulates the principal facade, having a similar brownstone relieving arch enclosing a rather large rose window. The sharply peaked crossing roof is lower than that of the roof of the nave.

The interior is notable for its iron columns, carved wooden beams and stained-glass Connick cross over the pulpit.

The Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church is lofty, yet maintains the scale of the neighboring buildings. The unusual colored stone adds interest to the Square.

Immediately to the east of the church stands Asbury House, a brownstone townhouse with balcony and iron grillwork extending the entire width of the facade at the second-story level.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church is the fourth home of a group from a congregation which officially organized the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States. It has always been deeply involved in the business, professional and civic life of Baltimore as well as a link with the most important figure in historic American Methodism, Francis Asbury. Its preservation as a contemporary influence is vital to the heart of Baltimore where it stands as one of the four corners of Mount Vernon Place.

During World Wars I and II as a haven for service personnel stationed temporarily in Baltimore, the church provided meals, beds and entertainment. Its facilities have been used by the Women's Civic League of Baltimore to promote the annual Flower Mart held in Mount Vernon Place, a tradition of the city The excellence of the music program of the for fifty years. Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church adds to the life of the city. Its Sunday Evening Club, a service organization for young adults instituted forty years ago; its Community Center which has served hundreds of inner-city children; its connection with the McKim Center; the establishment of a 1971 Downtown Crisis-Center and the Fellowship of Lights group dealing with alienated youth, runaway teenagers and victims of drug abuse, contribute to ameliorating the city's needs. From the ministry and membership its men and women in the congregation have made appreciable contributions to the life and growth of Baltimore. "Downtown Tours" stop regularly as they do at the church's neighbors -- The Peabody Conservatory, the Walters Art Gallery and the Washington Monument.

In Lovely Lane Chapel--no longer extant and not to be confused with Lovely Lane Methodist Church on St. Paul Street-in 1784, the Methodist Episcopal Church was established and the Reverend Francis Asbury was ordained as its first Bishop. "City Station" on Light Street was the congregation's next home from which a group moved "uptown" to Charles and Fayette Streets where began the "Society" as it was called, which in 1872 became the Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church as the result of a final move. A bronze plaque on the front of the

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Reverend Norman W. Clemens and Reverend James Davis, Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church, January 1971

Mrs. Walter Black, Jr., Maryland Historical Trust, January 1971

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7.

Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church & Asbury House

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

1971

Maryland Historical Trust 94 College Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401

code: 2

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

Above the balcony is a central bay with slim arched windows.

An interior feature is a hanging spiral staircase which rises three stories. The library on the second floor is adorned with intricate hand-carvings on doors, and the frames of all the built-in bookcases. These carvings were executed by German immigrant craftsmen. A German artist executed the ceiling painting, a copy of "Aurora" by Guido Reni (Italian 1575-1642).

While the first floor has been remodeled for church use and a passageway between the house and the church has been created, Asbury House remains unaltered. The carved marble mantel in the parlor and a mirrored console in the hall are still in their original place.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

church notes that the building was erected on the site of the home of Charles Howard in which Francis Scott Key died on January 11, 1843. The cornerstone of this Gothic-style structure was laid on September 26, 1870, an innovation for the Methodists of that period. The building was designed by Thomas Dixon and the church completed in 1872. As the result of a merger with the Eutaw Street Methodist Church in 1926, the church acquired the flat marble marker from Bishop Francis Asbury's tomb, and placed it on the interior wall of the narthex--a pulpit from which Bishop Asbury had preached at the Eutaw Street church.

Additions to the Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church include the Sidney Stanton Bosley Memorial Chapel in 1949, a Connick cross in 1956 and Asbury House in 1957.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church & Asbury House

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Niernsee and Neilson, the Baltimore architectural firm, designed a number of the neighboring structures on Mt. Vernon Place and were the architects for Asbury House. Originally built for Albert Schumacher, a local shipping magnate and President of the Board of Trade, Asbury House has been converted into church offices and group meetings. Built c. 1850, the house was sold in 1893 to George von Lingen, the German consul in Baltimore, who is credited with remodeling the second floor library. He employed German laborers for the intricate carvings and ceiling painting. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ellet Rieman were the last residents prior to the purchase by the trustees of the Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church of the house, named for Bishop Asbury.

#9. REFERENCES continued

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- Howland, Richard H. and Eleanor Spencer. The Architecture of Baltimore A Pictorial History. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.
- Murray, John. The Queen of the South. Baltimore: n.p., 1902.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. <u>Chronicles of Baltimore</u>. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1874.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day:... Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881.

Form 10-301 (Dec. 1968)

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TES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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10 East Mt. Vernon Place (Asbury House)

Baltimore COUNTY: STATE: CODE CODE Maryland 24 Baltimore City 510

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clement D. Erhardt, Jr.

DATE OF PHOTO: September 18, 1962 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Clement D. Erhardt, Jr.

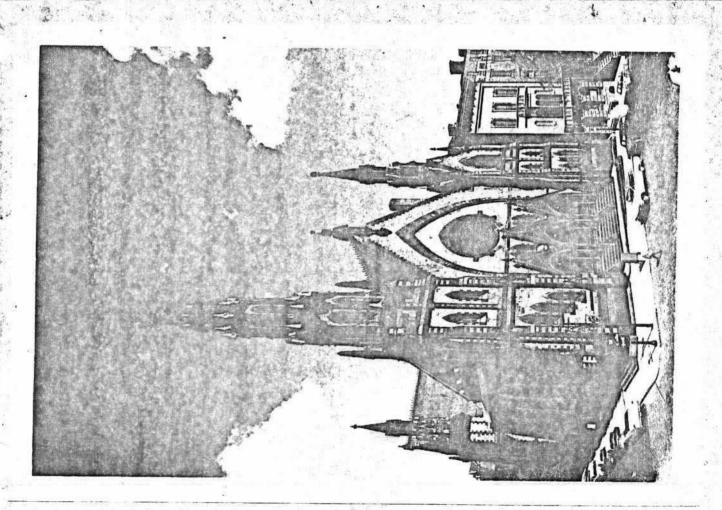
8218 Burnley Rd., Baltimore, Maryland 21204

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

South and west facades of the church

South facade of Asbury House (first building east of church)



HIT



The preservation threat to the Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church is the condition of the exterior of the building. Pieces of stone have become detached and have fallen into the street causing danger to pedestrians and motorists.

The architectural firm of Bonnett and Brant, Inc., 701 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, conducted a study to determine the extent of the exterior deterioration and presented a proposal for the repair necessary for preservation as well as a proposal to restore the stonework. The total restoration estimate amounted to \$264,387. This figure includes provision for the use of skilled stone masons as required for the complicated stonework. The repairs are estimated to take six months. The preservation proposal to stabilize what is there amounts to \$30,000.

Sources:

Reverend James E. Davis, Associate Minister, Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church, to Orlando Ridout IV, State Liaison Officer, September 3, 1970; files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

Bonnett and Brant, Inc., 701 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland

Egsement (Church Only) N. R. FIELD SHEET

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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COUDITION	(Check One)										
CONDITION	Excellent	Good	Z.	Fair [Deteriorated		Ruins		Unexposed	
INTEGRITY	(Check One)						(Check One)				
	Altered			Unaltered	1 (29		Mo	ved 🗍		Original Site	

The church was designed by Thomas Dixon, a local architect, and completed in 1872. It is constructed primarily of a variety of Maryland field stone of a unique green tone. The blocks are solid rather than veneer, "true stone", reflecting a truth to materials characteristic of the period. The windows, entrances and building edges and corners are done in brownstone, as is most of the ornamentation, the green stone being devoted to the solid wall surfaces.

The aisle roofs slope gradually over the wide aisles to a strip clerestory and a sharply peaked nave roof. The lofty impression is re-emphasized by three spires. The largest spire is on the southwest corner of the church, and its vertical lines echo those of the neoclassical Washington Monument nearby.

The triple entrance of the south and primary facade is crowned by a three-point comb of gothic tracery which is free-standing and without glass. Above this is a large rose window. Both of these are framed by a large pointed arch of brownstone, and the wall containing the window is recessed within the arch. The system is thus self-contained and independent as an introduction to the church.

The western side is the only other one which faces the street. It adjoins the great spire and consists (continued)

IGNIFICANCE								
PERIOD (Check One or M	fore as	Appropriate)		***				
Pre-Columbian [16th Century 🗌		18th Centur	у 🗆	20th Century		
		17th Centur	у 🗆	19th Centur	у 🖄			
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If A	pplicab	le and Known)	187	0-1872				
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANC	E (Che	eck One or More as	Appropri	ste)				
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Prehistoric		Engineering		Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)		
Historic		Industry		losophy	*	2		
Agriculture		Invention		Science				
Art	×	Landscape		Sculpture				
Commerce		Architecture		Social/Human-				
Communications		Literature		itarian				
Conservation		Military		Theater				
		Music		Transportation				

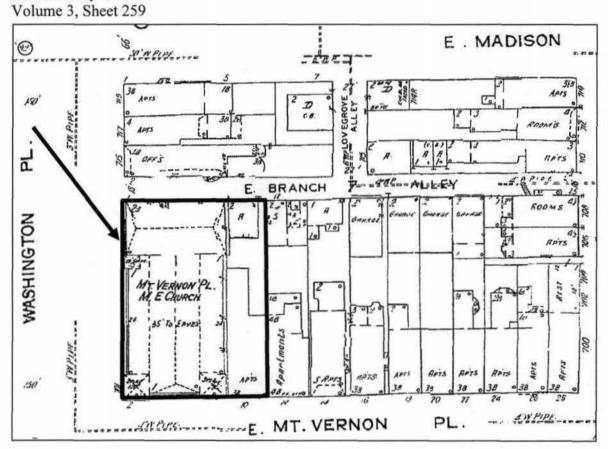
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Meeting House in Baltimore, the site of the historic Christmas Conference of 1784, during which the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States was officially organized. The present structure is the fourth home of the congregation. It was built on the northeast corner of Mt. Vernon Place and Monument Street where in former years stood the home of Charles Howard in which Francis Scott Key had died, January 11, 1843. A bronze plaque moting this fact is attached to the front of the building. At the time the church was erected, this was the most fashionable neighborhood in Baltimore, located around the Washington Monument which was the first monument built by any American city to the memory of George Washington.

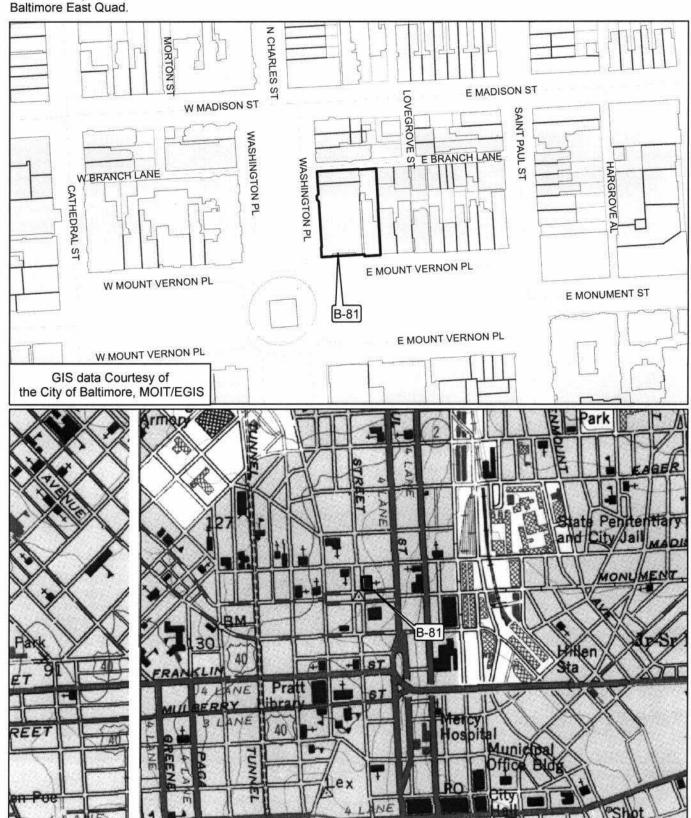
The architect chosen to design the Mt. Vernon Place
United Methodist Church was Thomas Dixon who elected
to build in the Norman-Gothic style, an innovation for
the Methodists of that day. The cornerstone was laid
in 1870 and the structure was completed in 1872.
(see Continuation Sheet #2)

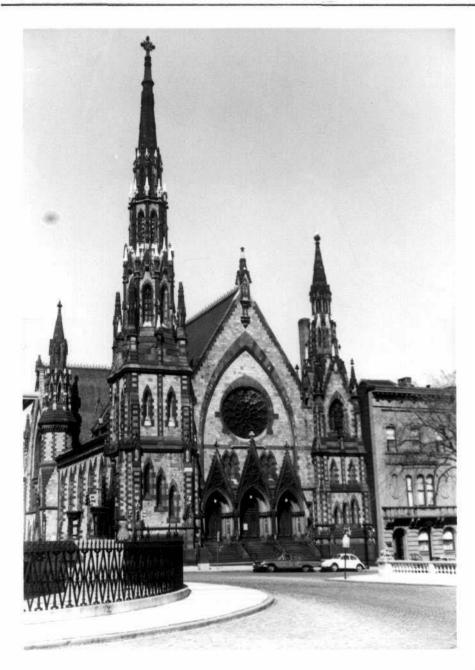
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As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law							I hereby certify that this property is included in the					
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89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion												
200000000000000000000000000000000000000				certify that it								
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forth by the National Park Service. The recommended							Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					
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B-81
Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church & Asbury House
(Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Episcopal Church & Schumacher-Eaton House)
2-8 & 10 E. Mt. Vernon Place
Sanborn Map 1952



B-81
Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church
2-10 E. Mount Vernon Place
Block 0526, Lot 010
Baltimore City
Rollimore Fast Ound





Methodist Church Mt. Playon Place Monument and Charles Sts Baltimore, Md. 187055 13-81

Dixon & Carson



B-81 Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church (Pattimore (Ht. Vernon District) from the south 2-10 EMt. Vernon Place Negative Filed c/o Clement Ehrhardt, Jr. 8218 Burnley Rd., Bultimore

Photo by Clement Ehrhards, Jr. Sept- 1962