

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Grace United Methodist Church Inventory Number: M: 21-164
Address: 119 N. Frederick Avenue (MD 355) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Gaithersburg Zip Code: 20877 County: Montgomery
USGS Quadrangle(s): Gaithersburg
Property Owner: Grace United Methodist Church & Trustees of Grace United Tax Account ID Number: 09-03091171
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0000 Tax Map Number: FT342
Project: MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit Improvements Project Agency: Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
Agency Prepared By: VHB
Preparer's Name: George Rounds Date Prepared: 7/2/2018
Documentation is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) Form
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Introduction/Location:

Grace United Methodist Church is located at 119 N. Frederick Avenue on the south corner of the intersection with Walker Avenue. The resource is set back approximately 70 feet from N. Frederick Avenue (also known as MD 355) and 30 feet from Walker Avenue, behind a lawn with trees and planting islands that include a variety of grasses and shrubbery; manicured shrubbery is interspersed along the building foundation. Mid- to late-20th century commercial development dominates the surrounding area, primarily along the N. Frederick Avenue corridor; historic residential development occupies lots along Walker Avenue, to the northeast behind the church.

The church consists of three attached buildings: the cross-gabled sanctuary with a bell tower featuring elements of the Shingle, Romanesque, and Gothic styles (constructed in 1904); the Forest Oak Building (constructed in 1960); and the Walker Building (constructed in 1982). Access to the sanctuary from the sidewalk along N. Frederick Avenue is provided via a set of brick steps with metal railings that were installed following the widening of the roadway during the 1980s, which resulted in the removal of the original steps. A brick walkway extends from the steps to the stone front steps of the sanctuary entrance. A brick sign has been

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MHT Comments:

John Paul ...
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

9/17/18
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added to the front yard, and a poured concrete walkway extends across the front lawn from the Forest Oak Building and an adjacent asphalt parking area to the southeast to Walker Avenue. Asphalt parking areas are also located on the property behind the Forest Oak Building and are accessed via Walker Avenue by an asphalt driveway. The property is owned by Grace United Methodist Church and Trustees of Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church and remains in use as a religious facility (SDAT 2018).

Architectural Description:

The Grace United Methodist Church is a church constructed in 1905 during the Industrial/Urban Dominance Period of suburbanization (1870-1930) as defined in the Maryland Suburbanization Historic Context and Survey Methodology (KCI 1999). Three connected buildings comprise the resource: the sanctuary, the Forest Oak Building, and the Walker Building.

The sanctuary is the oldest portion of the resource and is distinguished from the other two buildings by its architectural eclecticism, which features elements of the Shingle, Gothic Revival, and Romanesque styles. The building is covered by a slate shingle, cross-gabled roof with minimal eaves, forming a gable front on the primary façade; the building rests atop a raised rough-faced stone foundation, which features a basement that was excavated in 1919 (Grace UMC 2018). Brick veneer clads the section of the building from the foundation level to the first-floor window lintels and original wood shingles clad the exterior of the sanctuary and bell tower above the brick. Each section is separated by a wood string course.

The front (southwest) elevation is fenestrated with eight bays and a prominent bell tower. Original flat-headed one-over-one wood windows with stained glass panes flank the north and south sides of the tower; flat-headed windows on the gable front flank a large original wood arch tripartite window; wood louvers are set within the gable front. Wood shingle cladding above the arched window is patterned concentrically around the curvature of the arch. Entry into the sanctuary is provided via a recessed entryway set within the bell tower featuring three-panel double doors with an overhead stained-glass fanlight. Decorative wood panels clad the walls of the recessed entryway. The bell tower is three-story structure clad with wood shingles. Each side of the bell tower features arched windows set above flat-headed windows on the second-floor openings; wood panels are in the interstice between each set of windows. An open balcony supported by brackets occupies the top floor, and a steeply-pitched pyramidal roof with flared overhangs and dentil ornamentation tops the structure.

The southeast side elevation includes two bays with double-hung one-over-one stained glass wood windows; each window is paired with an arched overhead wood window. A gabled entrance clad with brick veneer and an asphalt shingle roof provides access to the building from the south side parking lot. Wood louvers are present in the gable tympanum. The northwest side elevation fenestration includes original flat-headed one-over-one wood windows flanking a large original wood arch tripartite window. Wood shingle cladding above the arched window is arranged concentrically to follow the curvature of the arch.

Observation of the rear (northeast) elevation was limited from the right-of-way of N. Frederick Avenue and Walker Avenue. However, the elevation features an original single-story projecting wing that is covered by a double-pitched slate roof with an original brick chimney. One original one-over-one stained glass window was visible from the public right-of-way. Attached to the rear elevation are the Forest Oak Building, constructed during the 1960s, and the Walker Building, constructed during the 1980s.

The two-story Forest Oak Building is set behind the sanctuary to the east and possesses a rectangular footprint. A flat roof with a decorative stone cornice covers the building, which is clad in stretcher-bond brick veneer; header brick string courses are located above the first and second floor openings. The portion of the building observable from the public right-of-way of N. Frederick Avenue includes a three-bay front facing toward the southwest. Replacement eight-over-eight windows, likely vinyl or metal installed during the late 20th or early 21st century, feature concrete flat arch lintels with keystone embellishment as well as

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concrete sills. Original wood panel double doors are set in the center of the elevation and are capped with an identical flat arch lintel. The southeast elevation is seven bays with replacement vinyl or metal windows with stone lintels and no decorative arch lintels. The foundation of the building was not visible from the public right-of-way.

The Walker Building, located behind the sanctuary to the northeast, is clad with stretcher bond brick veneer and is attached to the projecting single-story wing on the rear elevation of the sanctuary; a cornerstone engraved with "1982" is set within the north corner of the building. The addition features a single-story section with a gabled, asphalt-shingle roof, and a two-story section with an asphalt shingle hip roof. A projecting gable on the side (northwest) elevation facing Walker Avenue features an arched entryway with double wood doors, each with three square lights and a two-light arched fanlight. The doors are accessed from a concrete sidewalk via a set of poured concrete steps with metal hand rails and a brick wing wall. Windows are vinyl or metal found in double-hung two-over-two configurations. First-floor windows on the two-story section include arched brick openings with corresponding decorative corbeled brick surrounds; arched fanlights with stained glass panes are set on header and soldier brick sills within the openings.

The Grace United Methodist Church property also includes a house located to the northeast of the Walker Building that was likely constructed during the early 20th century, shortly after the acquisition of a 0.282-acre parcel known as lot one of the John Wesley Walker Addition to Gaithersburg in 1905 (Montgomery County Deed Book [MCDB] 182:40). The three-story, asymmetrically-massed Queen Anne house is covered by an irregularly-shaped asphalt shingle roof featuring a turret, gables with decorative returns, and brackets. Replacement siding clads the exterior, and the house foundation is concealed behind lattice wood that has been applied along the base of the house. The front elevation includes a one-story full-width porch with a hip roof supported by Tuscan columns. Replacement railings enclose the porch, which is accessed from a concrete sidewalk along Walker Avenue via a poured concrete walkway and replacement wood steps with wood hand railings. An original single-light wood panel door with side lights and a three-light wood transom opens onto a wood porch floor. One original two-light semicircular wood window is set within the gable on the front elevation; the remainder of the windows appear to be double-hung, one-over-one wood windows set behind modern storm windows. This house is considered to be a contributing feature of the Brooks, Russell and Walker Historic District (Maryland Inventory of Historic Places [MIHP] Number M: 21-165).

Historic Context

Grace United Methodist Church is located on lands originally part of a tract of land known as "Deer Park," surveyed for Archibald Edmonston on February 14, 1720, and "Valentines' Garden Enlarged," surveyed for Arthur Nelson on June 17, 1720, approximately 45 years prior to the settlement of Gaithersburg in the 1760s (Boyd 1879: 38). During its early years as a small agricultural settlement, Gaithersburg consisted of a few clusters of homes and businesses located along the road now known as Frederick Avenue. Historically known as "The Great Road West," Frederick Avenue connected the District of Columbia and lands west to the Allegheny Mountains. With the arrival of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873, the small settlement developed into a railroad-centered commercial node as farmers and merchants could ship and receive produce and goods to distant areas (Beck 1994: 286). The town was officially named Gaithersburg when it was incorporated in 1878 (City of Gaithersburg 2018). In 1879, The History of Montgomery County Maryland notes the town possessing a town hall, public school, and a population of 200 persons, including farmers, blacksmiths, merchants, a physician, a shoemaker, and two churches, including a Roman Catholic Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Boyd 1879: 129).

According to the Grace United Methodist Church website, the congregation traces its origins to 1844 with the original Methodist Episcopal Congregation in the Gaithersburg area, first known as English's Class and later the Middlebrook Class (Grace UMC 2018). Services at the time were conducted by pastors from the Rockville Circuit of the church until after the Civil War when the church split between northern- and southern-sympathizing church members. In 1867, sixty southern-sympathizing members left the

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congregation and formed the Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church, South, located along the southwest side of N. Frederick Avenue on the site of nearby Forest Oak Cemetery (Grace UMC 2018). Deed research indicates that prior to the split, Elijah Thompson had conveyed an approximately 0.50-acre parcel on November 27, 1866 "to be erected and built thereon a House of Worship for the use of the ministers and members of the Society of Christians, now known and called by the name and style of 'The Methodist Episcopal Church South,' for a place of religious worship, and for a burial ground or grave yard, and for other religious purposes" (MCDB EBP 3:303).

In the decades following the Civil War, railroads increasingly improved the efficiency of commercial and agricultural operations, and lands surrounding cities became accessible not only to summer residents seeking to escape the heat of Washington, D.C., but also to permanent residents seeking "the pleasures as well as the advantages of a home in the country" (Kelly 2011: 36, 40). Real estate brokers and land developers began designing planned residential neighborhoods in Gaithersburg and other towns outside of Washington, D.C. According to a Washington Post article, "The development along the Metropolitan Branch within the past few years has been phenomenal. Nearly all the land between here [Rockville] and Gaithersburg has been bought up either by syndicates or wealthy individuals, and quite a number of the newly acquired properties have been platted for sale in building lots" (Washington Post via Beck 1994: 285).

The ensuing growth in the area due to the arrival of the railroad and, later, the advent of the automobile, likely contributed to the growth of civic and religious organizations. Church history states that by 1887, the Forest Oak congregation was large enough to support a circuit and a pastor. In 1888, the church received a 0.50-acre parcel from Eli and Catharine A. Burris for land to construct a parsonage (MCDB JA9:235). By 1903, the church had outgrown its building, numbering over 250 members (Grace UMC 2018).

In 1904, the congregation acquired 0.825 acres of land from Carson and Carrie E. Ward in trust that the land "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 Church, South" (MCDB 180:51). A building committee visited several area churches in search of a design for the new church, choosing a design resembling the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Middletown, Virginia. Baltimore architects Frank and Henry Davis were retained as architects (Grace UMC 2018) and James L. Gardner of Refuse, Virginia, who was the lowest bidder at \$11,800, was retained as the contractor (Walston and Reed: 1979). The Wards and Walkers also conveyed a 0.282-acre tract, "designated on the plat of John Wesley Walkers Addition to Gaithersburg as lot numbered one" to the church trustees for the construction of a dwelling house in April 1905 (MCDB 182:40). This house is no longer extant.

The Pentalpha Lodge of Masons laid the church cornerstone on May 20, 1905, during which a Mr. T. A. Sullivan presented a block of granite. The laying of the cornerstone is said to have generated excitement in Gaithersburg, drawing dignitaries such as Governor Warfield. Upon the completion of the church, a dedication ceremony was held on December 10, 1905, the dedicatory sermon preached by Rev. J. C. Kilgo of Trinity College (now Duke), North Carolina. A 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map illustrates the original footprint of the church and indicates that the church had changed its name to "Grace M.E. Church (South)." The map further describes the building as possessing furnaces and being lit by acetylene gas with an acetylene gas machine located behind the building on the east corner of the lot (Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1914). Later changes included the excavation of a basement in 1919 for Owen Hall, created "to answer the need for a large fellowship and multipurpose room, dining room, and kitchen" (Walston and Reed: 1979). In 1939, the Northern and Southern church factions of the Methodist Episcopal Church reunited (Grace UMC 2018 and MCDB 2591:515).

A period of industrial and commercial growth in Montgomery County followed World War II into the 1950s and 1960s. The relocation of the Atomic Energy Commission (later U.S. Department of Energy) to nearby Germantown in 1956 and the relocation of the National Bureau of Standards to Gaithersburg in 1960 drew other science-related firms and high-technology companies to

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the area. In turn, other commercial properties emerged that both serviced and provided an impetus for further residential growth that focused on larger, more expensive houses (KCI 1999: B-41, D-42 and City of Gaithersburg 2018). Construction of interstate highways such as I-270 enhanced automobile travel and helped to fuel suburban expansion in the Gaithersburg area.

The suburban development occurring in Montgomery County during this period likely extended to the growth of the church congregation. In 1959, the church acquired Lots 1 and 2 of John W. Walker's Addition to Gaithersburg from David S. and Erma Smith in trust "that said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained as a place of divine worship of the Methodist ministry" (MCDB 2591:513). This acquisition included the Queen Anne dwelling at 3 Walker Avenue, which sits on the rear of the property. This dwelling has been identified as a contributing resource of the Brookes, Russell, and Walker Historic District (MIHP Number M: 21-165 and M: 21-22).

The ongoing growth of the church and need for additional meeting space led to the construction of the Forest Oak Building in 1960. The Pentalpha Lodge of Masons, who also laid the cornerstone for the sanctuary, laid the cornerstone for the new building. By the late 1970s, the growing church found itself again in need of additional space and the inability to expand due to the pressures of commercial development along the N. Frederick Avenue corridor, leading to discussions of relocating the church to a new site. Ultimately, the congregation voted against relocation and for the expansion of the church at its current location. The parsonage at 1 Walker Avenue was torn down for the construction of the Walker Building, which is attached to the rear elevation of the sanctuary. The building, which features one- and two-story sections, was completed in 1982. (Grace UMC 2018). The church also acquired Lot 7 of the John W. Walker Addition to Gaithersburg from Edwin L. and Lottie S. Heeger (MCDB 5150:216). This parcel features a Foursquare house identified as a contributing feature to the Brookes, Russell, and Walker Historic District (MIHP Number M: 21-165 and M: 21-24).

The widening of N. Frederick Avenue during the early 1980s resulted in further alterations to the property (Maryland State Highway Plat 44926). As indicated by historic and current photography, the widening of the roadway likely entailed a modest amount of grading, resulting in the removal of the original steps, which featured flanking wing walls leading from the sidewalk to the sanctuary door. A set of brick steps with metal railings were installed in place of the original features. Additionally, the grading of the roadway reduced the height of the lot in relation of to the road. Further changes likely occurring during this period include the addition of brick signage in the front lawn along N. Frederick Avenue as well as a network of concrete sidewalks for pedestrian access as indicated by a right-of-way plat for the road widening (Maryland State Highway Plat 44926). In November 1991, the church acquired 5 Walker Avenue from George W. and Elizabeth Virts Woodfield (MDB 10018:316). This parcel includes the dwelling identified as a contributing Vernacular Homestead House in the Brooks, Russell and Walker Historic District (MIHP Number M: 21-165 and M: 21-22).

In March 1995, the church resubdivided the property, removing a substantial portion of the rear yards of Lot 5 and Lot 7 of the John W. Walker Addition to Gaithersburg for the construction of a parking lot. The remainder of the lots and retained dwellings were subsequently sold. Lot 5, addressed as 5 Walker Avenue (resurveyed as Lot 32) was sold to John W. Little and Teresa Anderson-Little (MCDB 11311:90), and Teresa Ann Arnone purchased Lot 7 (resurveyed as Lot 33) from the church in May 2017 (MCDB 54695:407). The rear yard portions of these lots were aggregated into a single parcel comprising the church buildings and parking lots. Today, the property remains in use as a religious facility by the Grace United Methodist Church.

Statement of Significance:

The Grace United Methodist Church, located at 119 N. Frederick Avenue, was constructed in 1905 during a time of rapid growth in the area following the arrival of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad, and later, automobile transportation. It was constructed in an eclectic architectural style incorporating Shingle, Gothic, and Romanesque influences. A 1979 architectural

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assessment in a Determination of Eligibility Form described the church as an "important religious, community and architectural landmark for Gaithersburg, serving as a visual anchor for the townscape" (Walston and Reed 1979: 2). The assessment also notes the construction of an addition, the Forest Oak Building, described as "A modern brick addition on the north elevation [that provides] space for classrooms and school activities" (Walston and Reed 1979: 2).

Furthermore, the 1979 Determination of Eligibility Form notes: "The Grace United Methodist Church is significant primarily for its architectural distinction as an example of typical late 19th century and early 20th century architectural eclecticism, embodied in the combination of brick and shingles for exterior walls, semi-circular arched window openings, open design of the top entrance tower, and the use of slate tile roofing. The building also demonstrates the influence on the architectural taste of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It is of local historical significance as the physical manifestation of later 19th century expansion of the congregation, established in 1967" (Walston and Reed: 1979: 1).

Following the 1979 Determination of Eligibility, additional changes have been conducted on the property. The widening of N. Frederick Avenue in the early 1980s removed the original steps providing access to the property from the roadway. In 1982, the Walker Building was attached the projecting rear wing of the sanctuary. However, the addition is smaller in scale and is distinguishable from the original sanctuary. Modern vinyl or metal replacement windows have been installed on the property; however, the change is confined to the Forest Oak and Walker Buildings. Aside from these changes to the property, no apparent alterations have occurred the sanctuary, from which the property derives its primary architectural significance. The resource, which continues to be utilized in a religious capacity, possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

It is therefore recommended that the Grace United Methodist Church remain eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an early 20th century example of a church constructed in an architecturally eclectic style and as an important character-defining feature of the Gaithersburg townscape.

As stated in the guidance provided in How to Apply the National Register Criterion for Evaluation, a resource can be eligible for listing in National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A if it is "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" and must retain historic integrity (Shrimpton et al 1990: 12). However, mere association is not enough, and the event or trend "must clearly be important within the associated context," and the property's specific association must be considered important as well (Shrimpton et al 1990: 12). Grace United Methodist Church is a physical representation of the 19th and early 20th century expansion of one of the earliest church congregations in the city. The building, constructed in 1904, has been continuously occupied by the congregation and utilized as a place of religious worship and therefore retains integrity of association. It is therefore also recommended that the Grace United Methodist Church remain eligible under Criterion A in the area of religion.

To qualify for eligibility under Criterion B, a property must be associated with an individual "whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, State, or national historic context" and the property must be associated with that individual's productive life (Shrimpton et al 1990: 14). There are no known documented associations with persons who "gained importance within his or her profession or group" (Shrimpton et al 1990: 15). Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion B. As an architectural resource, the Grace United Methodist Church was not evaluated under Criterion D.

In summary, it is recommended that the Grace United Methodist Church remain eligible under Criterion A for a local level of significance in the area of religion and under Criterion C as an example of early 20th century architectural eclecticism.

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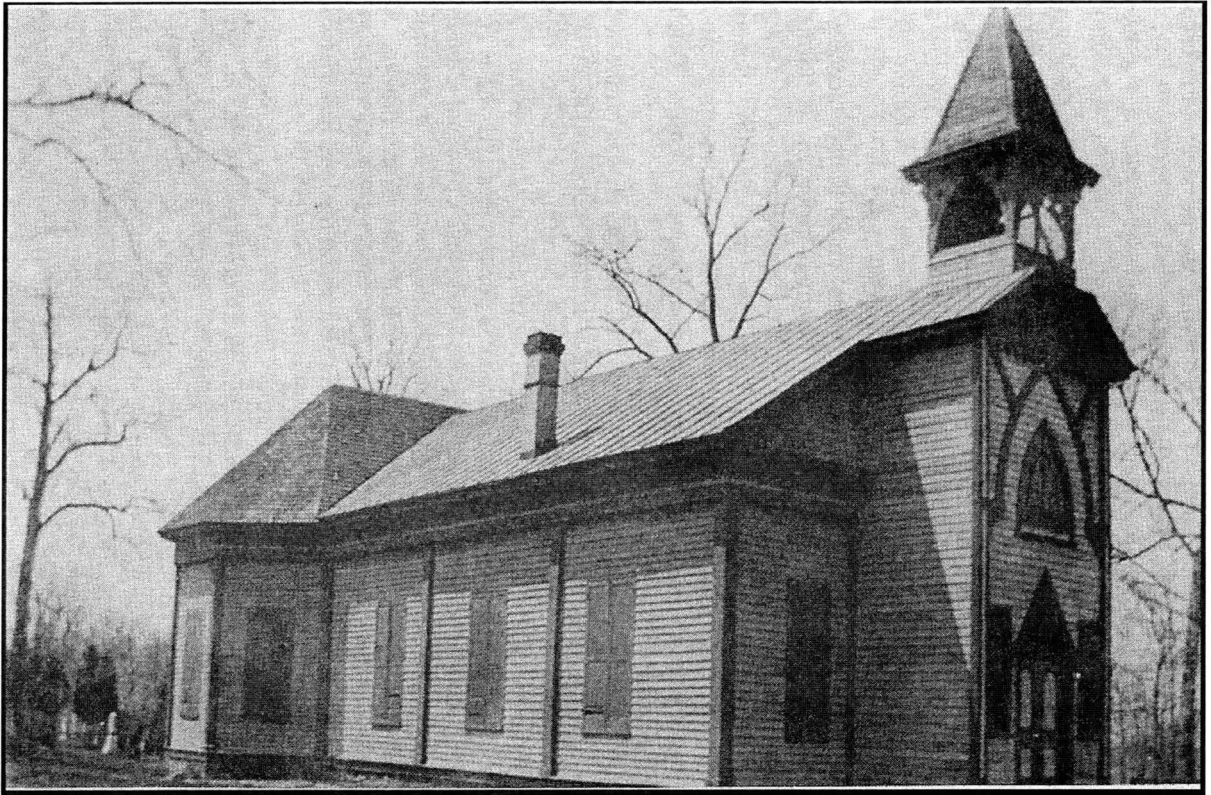
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**Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland**



Undated photograph of Forest Oak Methodist Episcopal Church, South constructed in 1867 (Curtis n.d.)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



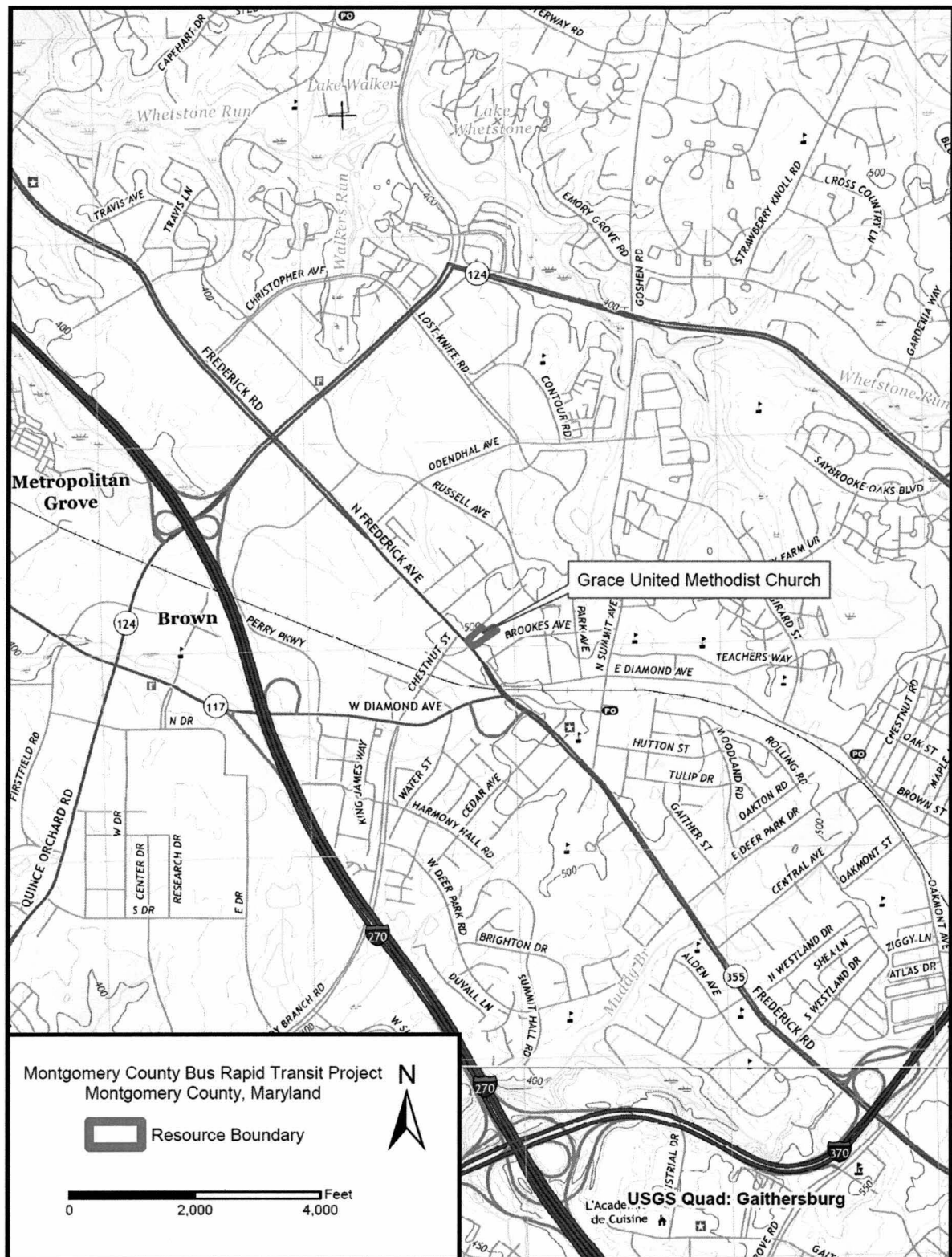
Undated photograph of Forest Oak Methodist Episcopal Church, South constructed in 1904 (Curtis n.d.)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



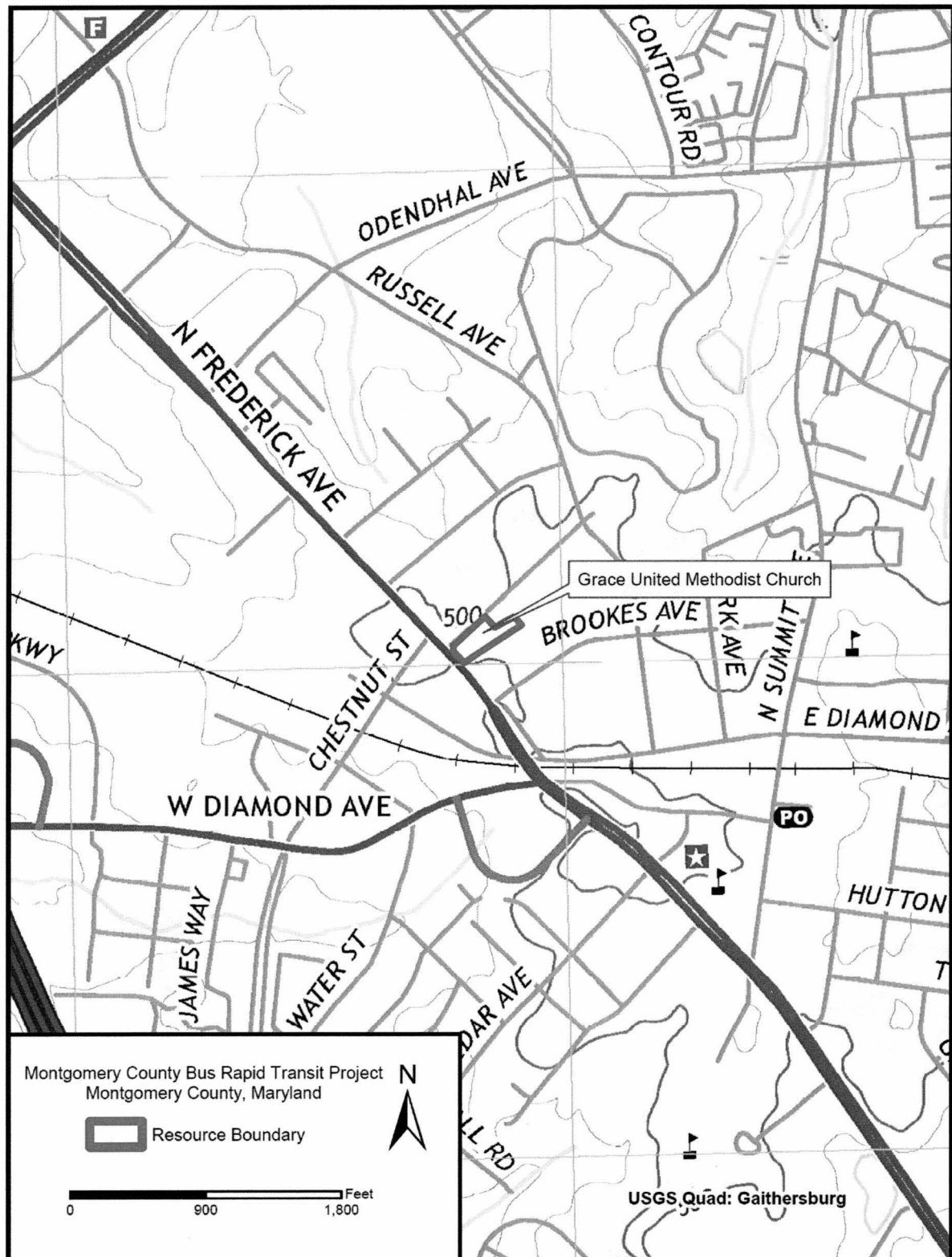
Undated photograph of Forest Oak Methodist Episcopal Church, South constructed in 1904
Note front steps likely removed during widening of N. Frederick Road (Curtis n.d.)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



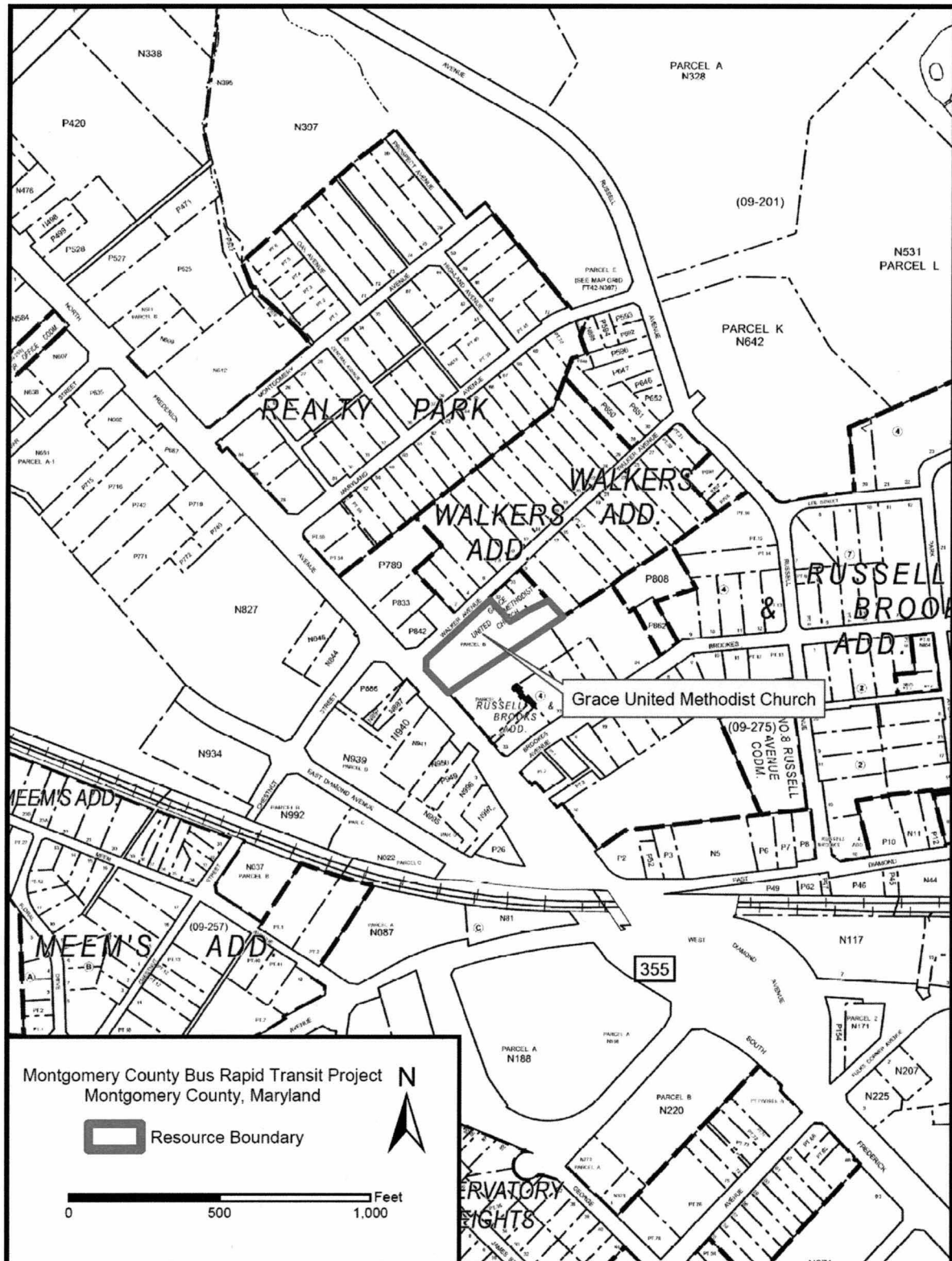
Location of resource along N Frederick Ave on 7.5-Minute Gaithersburg, Maryland,
United States Geological Survey Topographic Map (USGS 2016)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland

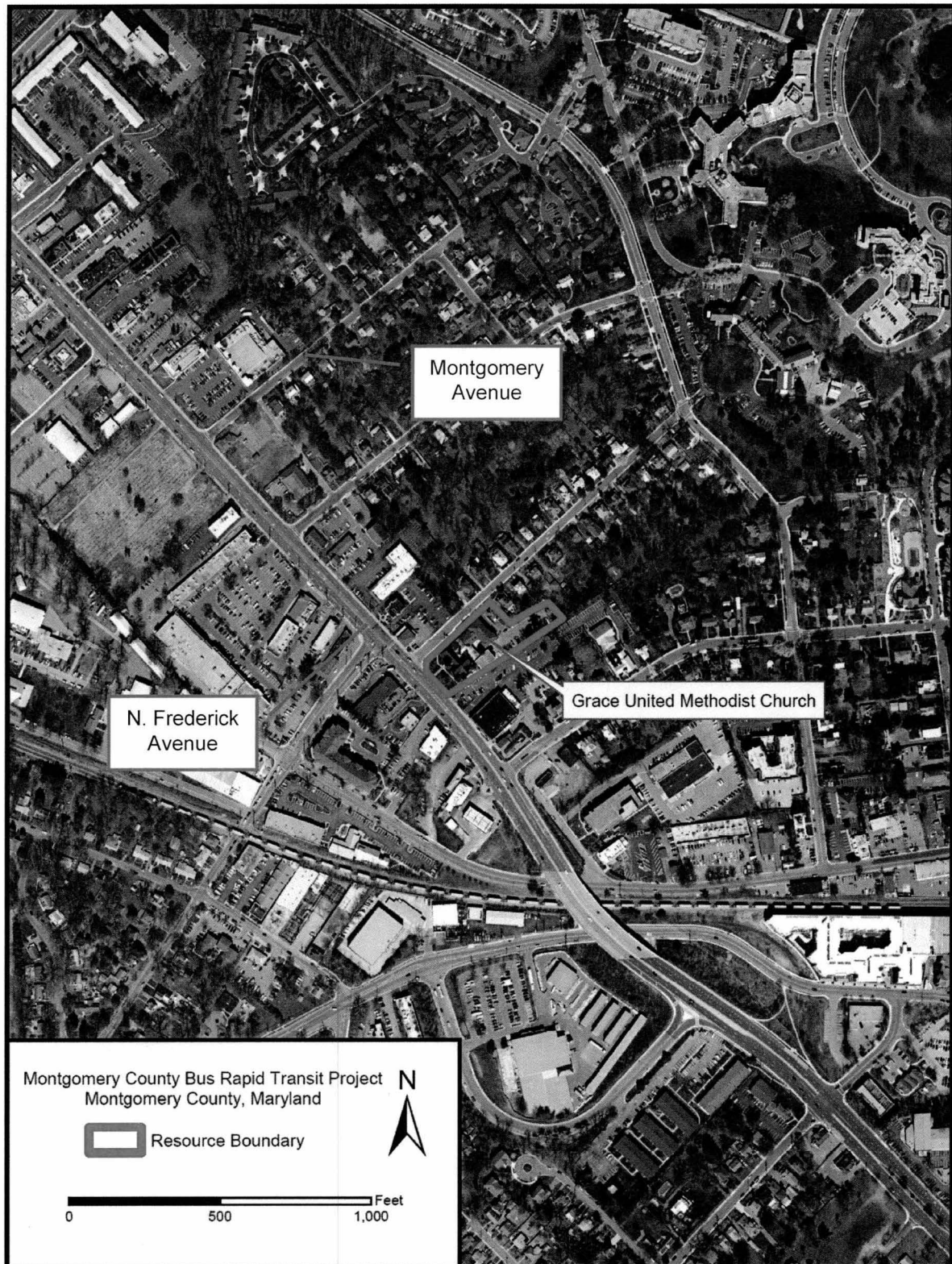


Location of resource along N Frederick Ave on 7.5-Minute Gaithersburg, Maryland,
United States Geological Survey Topographic Map (USGS 2016)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland

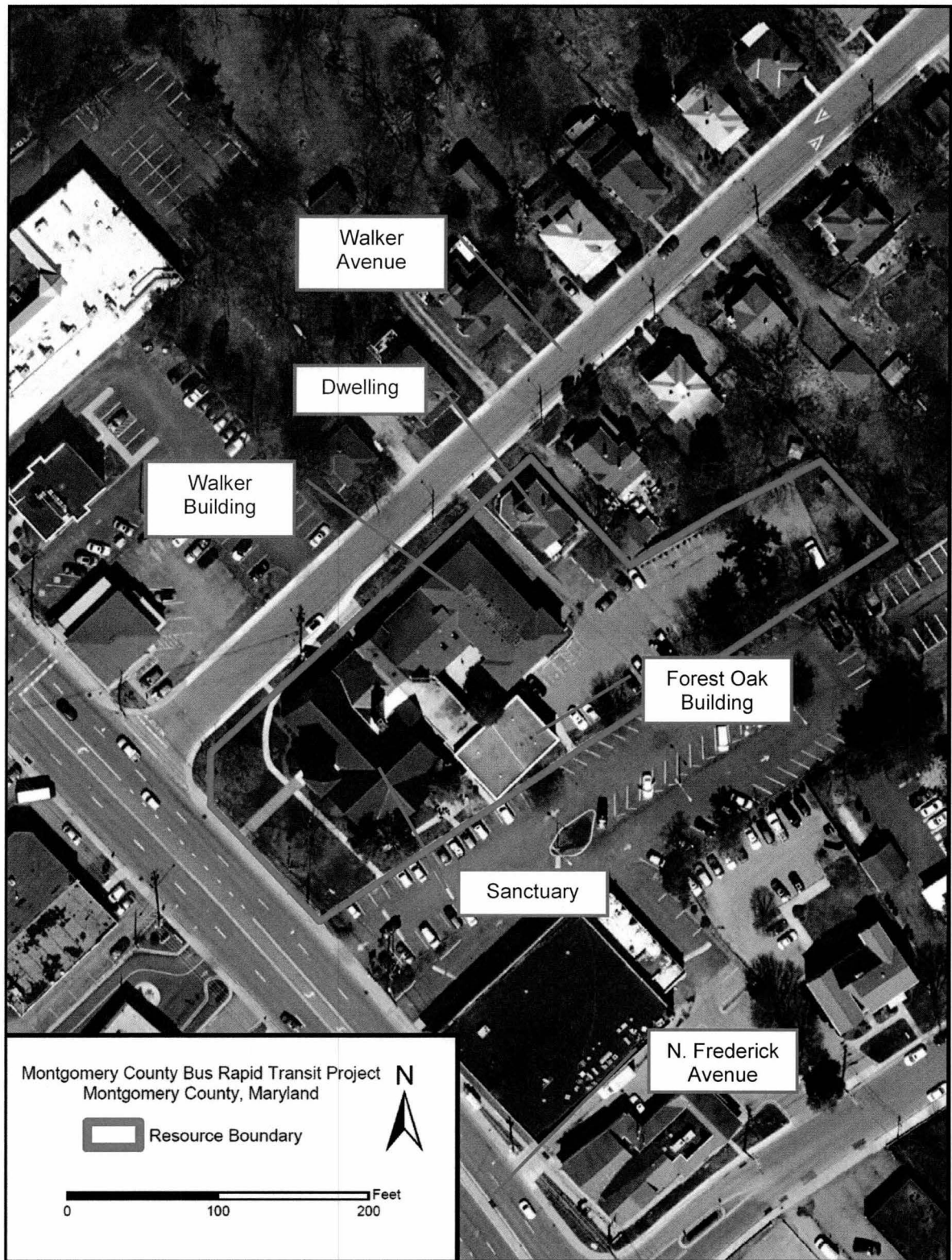


Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



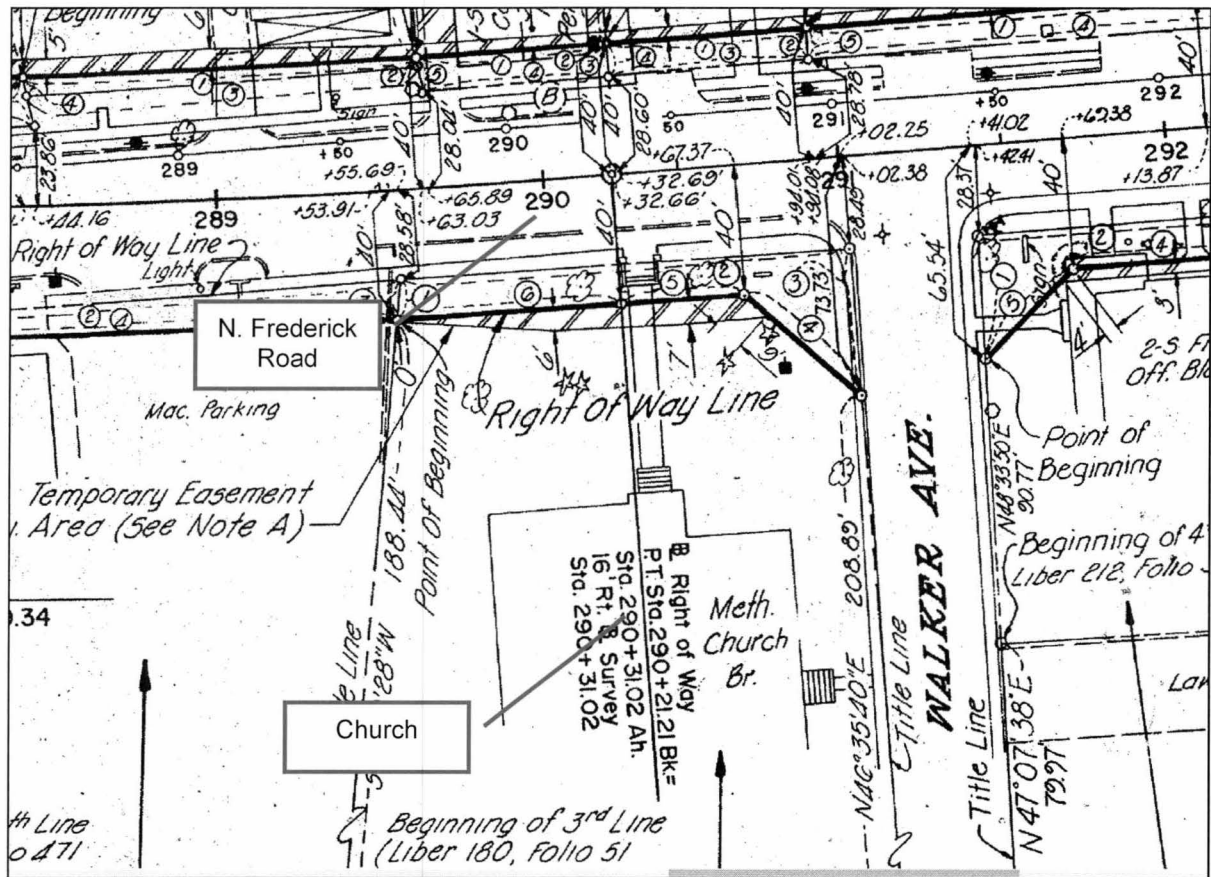
Location of resource on 2017 aerial image
(Maryland's Mapping and GIS Data Portal)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



Location of resource on 2017 aerial image
(Maryland's Mapping and GIS Data Portal)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



1977 Maryland State Highway Administration Plat 44926 (MCPB 44926)

Grace United Methodist Church (M: 21-164)
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland

TIFF Image File Name	Description	Date Taken	Ink	Paper	Brand, Make & Dye Type of DVD
M; 21-164_2018-03-14_01.tif	View of front (southwest) and southeast side elevations of sanctuary	3/14/2018	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 21-164_2018-03-14_02.tif	View of northwest side elevation of sanctuary	3/14/2018	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 21-164_2018-03-14_03.tif	View of front and southeast side of Forest Oak Building	3/14/2018	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 21-164_2018-03-14_04.tif	View of northwest side of Walker Building along Walker Avenue	3/14/2018	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 21-164_2018-03-14_05.tif	View of northwest side elevation along Walker Avenue	3/14/2018	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 21-164_2018-03-14_06.tif	Detail view of Walker Building entrance	3/14/2018	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 21-164_2018-03-14_07.tif	View of rear (northeast) elevation of Walker Building	3/14/2018	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R







Mr: 21-124

Groce United Methodist Church ..

Montgomery, Alabama 36103

George Rourds

3/14/2018

MD 5426

front and southeast side of Forest Oak Building

± 3 of -1



M: 21-1127

Grace United Methodist Church

Montgomery County, MD

George Rands

3/14/2018

MD GPS

Northwest side of Walker Building along W. on River Rd
#4 of 7



M: ?' - '2 -

Grace United Methodist Church

Portgomery County MD

George Burdick

3/14/2018

MD SHPO

Northwest side elevation of Walker Building

#5 of 1



Nov 21 - 2014

Grace United Methodist Church

Pratgomery, Maryland

George Road

3/14/2018

MD 9470

Detail view of Walker Building entrance

16 of 21



11: 27-164

Grace United Methodist Church

Montgomery County, MD

Gen. J. Rounds

3/14/52

MD SHPL

view of road (northeast) elevation of Walker Bldg no.

7 of 7

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒ X
no ☐

Property Name: Grace United Methodist Church Inventory Number: M: 21-164
Address: 1 Walker Avenue City: Gaithersburg Zip Code:
County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map:
Owner: Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
Tax Parcel Number: Tax Map Number: Tax Account ID Number:
Project: Agency:
Site visit by MHT staff: ☒ X no yes Name: Date:
Is the property is located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number:
NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District:
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ X yes no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Grace United Methodist Church is significant primarily for its architectural distinction as an example of typical late 19th century and early 20th century architectural eclecticism, embodied in the combination of brick and shingles for exterior walls, semi-circular arched window openings, open design of the top of the entrance tower and the use of slate tile roofing. The building also demonstrates the influence on architectural taste of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It is of local historical significance as the physical manifestation of later 19th century expansion of the congregation, established in 1867.

Prepared by: Date Prepared:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☒ X A B ☒ X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

MHT Comments

The Grace United Methodist Church was federally determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Carol D. Shull

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

November 05, 1979

Date

✓

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Grace Church
2. Planning Area/Site Number 21/2
3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 15 L-2
4. Address Frederick and Walker Avenues, Gaithersburg
5. Classification Summary

Category	<u>building</u>
Ownership	<u>private</u>
Public Acquisition	<u>NA</u>
Status	<u>occupied</u>
Accessible	<u>yes: restricted</u>
Present use	<u>religious</u>
Previous Survey Recording	<u>M-NCPPC</u> Federal <u>State</u> <u>X</u> County <u>X</u> Local <u> </u>

(Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976)
6. Date 1905
7. Original Owner: Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church, South
8. Apparent Condition

a. <u>excellent</u>	c. <u>original site</u>
b. <u>altered</u>	
9. Description: This Richardsonian Romanesque, shingle style church, is eight bays by five bays, two and a half stories, facing south. Built on rough faced undressed ashlar blocks, the first level is constructed of stretcher bonded red brick and the gable ends have brown stained shingles. A white molded wooden string course divides the two sections. On the south elevation there is a massive three story tower. At the first level there is a romanesque arch. At the second level there are one over one double hung stained glass windows--like those throughout the church. At the third level there are open arches and balconies on all four sides. The tower has a pyramidal roof with slate shingles. There are two light part stained glass windows on the south and west elevations. The church has intersecting gable roofs with slate shingles.
10. Significance: Grace Church is a important religious, community and architectural landmark for Gaithersburg, serving as a visual anchor for the townscape. The Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church South congregation has been established in the Gaithersburg area since just after the Civil War. A frame one-room church called Forest Oak Church had been constructed in 1867 but by 1900 could no longer meet the needs of the growing congregation. After land was donated for a new church, the building committee selected plans for an architect and chose a contractor. For the cornerstone laying ceremonies in 1905 all the stores in Gaithersburg closed and the Governor of Maryland arrived on the morning train to be the chief orator. Windows, the church furniture and bell were donated by the congregation.
11. Date researched and researcher Fall 1978 -- Mark Walston
12. Compiler Gail Rothrock
13. Date Compiled 2/79
14. Designation Candy Reed - Architectural Description
Approval
15. Acreage .825 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 21/164
Old Gaithersburg
Historic District
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Grace Church
AND/OR COMMON

Grace United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Frederick and Walker Avenues

CITY, TOWN
Gaithersburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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
Trustees of Grace Church

Telephone #: 926-8688

STREET & NUMBER
Frederick and Walker Avenues

CITY, TOWN
Gaithersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 180

Folio #: 51

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Richardsonian Romanesque Shingle Style Church is eight bays by five bays, two and a half stories, and faces south.

Built on rough faced undressed ashlar block foundations, the first level is constructed of stretcher bonded red pressed brick; the gable ends are brown-stained wooden shingles. A white molded wood string course divides the two sections. On the west elevation four poured concrete steps, flanked by wrought iron handrails lead to double wooden paneled doors surmounted by a transom light. A modern brick addition on the north elevation provides space for classrooms and school activities. On the south elevation there is a massive three story tower. The first level is pressed red brick. Five granite steps lead to a Romanesque arch set in the base of the tower. Recessed within the arch are double wooden paneled doors surmounted by a stained glass tympanum window. The second level of the tower has brown-stained wooden shingles. On all four sides of this section of the tower there are one over one double hung stained glass windows set into round headed wooden arches. At the third level there are arched openings on all four sides, each with a shingled balcony supported by four shingled brackets. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof with slate shingle covering.

There are one over one double hung stained glass windows. On the south and west elevations there are large eight-part fixed stained glass windows set in Romanesque arches defined by brown shingles. The north window is now blocked by the north school addition.

The church has intersecting, gable roofs with slate shingles.

The south tower door opens into a rectangular entry way. Directly ahead of the front door is a doorway which leads into the (west) Sunday school room. This room may be separated from the main church room by folding glass and wooden paneled doors. The main church faces east.

Three aisles divide the seating into four sections of curved pews: the two center sections are nine rows each and the two flanking sections are seven and two rows. The carved communion rail bows out toward the congregation. The altar has carved on it the words "In Remembrance of Me"; north of the altar is the ornately carved podium. Behind the altar (east) are the organ, choir loft, and organ pipes.

The church has a narrow hardwood floor. The walls have tongue and groove wainscoting and plaster over lath walls and ceilings. The structural members of the roof are exposed. There are three ornate wooden cross screens from which are suspended six-sided hanging lamps.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M: 21-164

The Rockville Methodist Episcopal Congregation, established in 1844, had extended as far as Gaithersburg by the 1860s. Just after the Civil War, the M.E. Church and the M.E. Church, South, (rival congregations split over the issue of slavery) had each acquired property and constructed a church on the

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1905	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James L. Gardner
----------------	------	-------------------	------------------

Frederick Rd. By the turn of the 20th century, the 2 congregations had established mission churches on the Darnestown Rd. within a few miles of each other. The first Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was constructed on property donated on November 27, 1866, By Elijah Thompson to "Nathan Cooke, Nathan J. Walker, Samuel Higgins, James H. Claggett, Richard Milles, Mahlon G. Thompson, Samuel Briggs, Nathan Cooke, Jr. and William H. Cooke, trustees... for the erection or building of a House of Worship for the society of Christians called the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and for a burial ground or graveyard." [1] The property was located on the north end of town, "on the southside of the road leading from Georgetown to Frederick City," [2] By 1867, the congregation had erected a one room, frame structure, dedicated as Forest Oak Church, (Today, only the cemetery remains from this early church.) Yet, by 1900, the small church could no longer meet the growing needs of the community of worshippers, and the Forest Oak members and officials responded to the demands for change by selecting a new site for a larger church building.

On September 7, 1904, Carson Ward and his wife Carrie granted to the trustees "132 square perches of 'Deer Park', at the intersection of the road leading to the farm of John W. Walker and the northeast side of Frederick Avenue, for the use of a place of divine worship," [3] Almost immediately the building committee, chaired by Rev. Thomas J. Lambert, adopted plans for the new church drawn up by a Baltimore architect, and began receiving bids from contractors. At the end of November, 1904, the bids were opened, and the contract was awarded to James L. Gardner, of Refuse, Virginia, who was the lowest bidder at \$11,800. He signed a contract with the committee to complete construction of the new edifice, except the interior furnishings, within ten months from December, 1904. [4]

The cornerstone for the building was laid on May 20, 1905, amidst a flurry of local excitement. All the stores in Gaithersburg closed promptly at 1:30 p.m., only to reopen at 4:00 at the end of the ceremonies. Governor Warfield arrived on the 9:27 morning train, and was chief orator at the exercises. The Pentalpha Lodge, No. 194, A.F. and A.M. of Gaithersburg, along with Masons from Washington and Baltimore Cities, assisted the Grand Master, Thomas J. Shyrook, of the State of Maryland, in the laying of the cornerstone, a block of light granite presented by Mr. T. A. Sullivan of Washington, D.C. [5]

The completed church was dedicated on Sunday, December 10, 1905. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. C. Kilgo of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Trinity College (now Duke), North Carolina, with special music rendered by a 60 voice choir under the leadership of Prof. E. Wilson Walker. A contemporary account described the new church thus:

The new building is on the main street of the town, on a knoll, with its steeple 70 feet high, making a landmark visible for many miles around.

The church is 86 feet by 100 feet in size, divided into a main auditorium seating 400 persons: Sunday-school room for 300, a room for the primary class and a room for library and for business meetings of the church officials. Folding doors are so arranged as on occasions to throw the rooms into one large auditorium capable of seating 1,000 persons. The woodwork of the interior is of cypress and oak. The chancel rail, which runs 30 feet across in front of the choir, is of oak, while the altar is of cypress.

The building is heated by steam and lighted by an acetylene plant: the pews are in semi-circular rows and are of oak. One large window in front is a memorial to Mr. J. O. Trundle and his son, R. Dorsey Trundle: the opposite window is a testimonial of gratitude to the pastor for his faithful labors during the erection of the church, and was presented by the ladies of the congregation. A third large window was presented by Mr. Nathan J. Walker, of the Sunday School, of which he has been for 30 years superintendent. In the year of the chancel are memorial windows to Rev. E. H. Henry and Rev. W. A. McDonald, former pastors of the charge. There are also similar memorial windows to Mr. Zachariah Briggs and Mr. Wm. D. Hughes. A fine assembly bell, costing \$400, was presented by the young ladies of Gaithersburg. The bell is being placed in the belfry of the steeple. The pulpit furniture is also a gift of the ladies. [6]

In 1917, the old organ brought from the Forest Oak Church was replaced with a Moller pipe organ. A basement was excavated in 1919, and several years later Owen Hall was established "to answer the need for a large fellowship and multipurpose room, dining room, and kitchen." [7] In 1946, carillon bells were installed to honor those who served in World War II.

NOTES

1. Deed EBP 3/303, Montgomery County Land Records
2. ibid., loc. cit.
3. Deed 180751, Montgomery County Land Records
4. Montgomery County Sentinel, December 2, 1904
5. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 19, 1905
6. Montgomery County Sentinel, December 15, 1905
7. Montgomery County Sentinel, November 2, 1967

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Grace United Methodist Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Grace Methodist Church (South)				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 Walker Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Gaithersburg				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Grace United Methodist Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 Walker Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Gaithersburg		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One)	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE		
<p>The church is a brick structure with a forward-facing gable roof and a corner entrance tower. The gable is shingled. The facade has a large, semi-circular arched window and flanking square-headed windows. The tower is shingled above the porch; it has a four story elevation with an open bell cote; the tower roof is a bell hip. A wing extends to the north; it is A-roofed and has three square-headed windows on the facade. The end wall of the wing is identical to the facade.</p>		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1905 (datestone)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 24 Jul 74
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1 Walker Avenue
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland
.825 Acre

This Richardsonian Romanesque style church is an architectural landmark in Gaithersburg, as well as an important religious and community center. It is constructed in an L plan, 2 1/2 stories in height. Resting on a rough faced ashlar foundation, the first story is constructed of stretcher bond brick, with brown stained shingles above. The steeply pitched gable roof is clad in slate.

A massive three (3) story entrance tower rises from the crux of the L. Five (5) granite steps lead to double paneled doors surmounted by a stained glass tympanum window in the brick base of the tower. On the second level, the tower is shingled, and each side has a tall double hung stained glass window set in a round-headed opening. There are wide arched openings on all sides of the third level, with projecting balconies supported by heavy brackets. A modillioned cornice sets off the tall pyramidal roof.

To the left (west) of the tower three (3) evenly spaced double hung stained glass windows are ranged across the facade, while on the right, the facing gable contains a large central stained glass window set in a rounded opening, flanked by double hung stained glass windows. The west gable has identical fenestration. There is a modern addition to the rear (north).

The Gaithersburg Methodist Episcopal Church South congregation has been established since just after the Civil War. The frame, one-room church constructed in 1867 to serve this congregation had become inadequate by 1900, and land for a new building was donated in 1904. Construction began in December, 1904, and the cornerstone was laid the following May. Then-Governor Warfield was chief orator at the ceremony. The church was dedicated in December, 1905.



Topical Survey

FER plotter 1944
check 1945

M:al-164

GAITHERSBURG QUAD

ROCKVILLE 3.5 MI.
WASHINGTON, D. C. (WHITE HOUSE) 20 MI.

(ROCKVILLE)
5562 II SW
SCALE 1:24000



M:21-164

