Site #131

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

Michigan History Division
Michigan Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

For Office Use

Theme _____

_____

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IDENTIFICATION

1. Building name Old Methodist Church
2. County Oakland Town/City — Village Clarkston
3. Street Location NE corner of Church and Buffalo Streets 29 BUFFALO
4. Ownership: a. Public ☐ b. Private ☒
5. Present Owner Salvation Army Address
6. Use: Original Church Present vacant
7. Accessibility to Public: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
   Interior accessible: Explain By appointment

DESCRIPTION

8. Building Material: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐
   e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ h. other
9. Structural Material: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐ b. wood frame with light members (balloon frame) ☐
   c. masonry load-bearing walls ☒ d. iron frame ☐ e. steel frame with curtain walls ☐
   f. reinforced concrete ☐ g. other
10. Condition: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. Integrity: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when?
    Notes on alterations and additions, with dates and architect.
    Two-story brick addition to rear of building constructed in 1955-56.

12. Related Outbuildings and Property
    a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐ d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐
    f. shop ☐ g. greenhouse ☐ h. landscape features ☐ i. other parsonage
13. Surroundings of the Building
    a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐ c. scattered outbuildings ☐ d. densely built-up ☐
    e. commercial ☐ f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒ h. other

14. Photo

15. Map

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16. Interrelationship of Building and Surroundings Substantial 2-story brick church on large lot, located one block east of Clarkston's Main Street. In excellent scale to adjacent homes. No commercial buildings are contiguous. Church surrounded by homes which date from 1850 to c.1880 and form cohesive neighborhood.

17. Other Notable Features of Building and Site Original stained glass windows are in place, but in need of repair. Original front doors, leading to entry hall open to second floor with double stairway. Original beaded wood throughout entry hall. Early electrical fixtures in sanctuary on second floor. Hardwood floors throughout second floor. Original wood exterior trim.

18. Threats to Building

a. none known ☐ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐ d. developers #2 e. deterioration #1
f. other _____

SIGNIFICANCE (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

19. Architectural Significance

Date of Construction 1873 Architect Unknown

Builders, suppliers, etc. _____

Notes on original plan and specifications: History of Oakland County, 1817-1877.
"It was decided on the 14th of January, 1873, that a new and more commodious edifice be erected. E. Stiff, J.T. Peter, and M.B. Vliet were appointed a building committee, whic began its work at once, so that the cornerstone was laid about the 1st of June of that y A very fine brick edifice, forty by sixty feet, two stories high, surmounted by a statel spire was erected upon this foundation that summer. It was finished in modern style at a cost of nine thousand dollars."

20. Historical Significance:
The Methodist congregation was the first one formed in Independence Township--1834-1837- and their first church was built on this site in 1841. On January 14, 1873, constructio was begun on the present building, and the church was dedicated on December 14, 1873. This building is one of only 2 brick structures which remain from the 19th century, with the Village. It is the only one which is a centennial building.

21. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date):

1. History of Oakland County, 1817-1877; Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1877.

2. Personal letter from Mrs. John Harris to Mr. Harry P. Edmonson, dated December 27, 1873, describing dedication ceremonies of the Church. Letter now in possession of Clarkston Community Historical Society.

3. Cornerstone on SW corner reads "1873".

Prepared by Jennifer L. Radcliff Date January 5, 1976

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Organization Clarkston Community Historical Society