

**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 Providence Methodist Church
other names/site number Providence United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 4833 Old State Road not for publication
city or town Holly Hill vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Orangeburg code 075 zip code 29059

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Elizabeth M. Johnson, 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: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	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)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
 walls Brick
 roof Asphalt Shingle
 other Limestone
Wood

Narrative Description

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

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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.
- 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.)

- 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

1856-1920

Significant Dates

1856
1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wilson, Charles Coker (Architect)
Spencer, G. W. (Contractor)

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:

Providence United Methodist Church

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 5.0 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 542757 3694915</u>	3 <u>17 542692 3694619</u>
2 <u>17 542814 3694752</u>	4 <u>17 542621 3694683</u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the Providence Methodist Church and historic grounds is indicated by the dark line on a portion of Parcel #20 on the attached Orangeburg County Tax Map #0298-00-02-020.000. It is delineated by the northeast limit of the cemetery, the outer boundary of the horseshoe driveway encircling the church building to the southeast of the church [excluding the Fellowship Hall at the eastern corner and the parsonage at the southern corner], Old State Road [U.S. Hwy. 176] to the southwest, and the tree line separating the church from property to the northwest.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the historic church building, cemetery and grounds historically associated with the Providence Methodist Church but excludes the modern fellowship hall and parsonage.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eric W. Plaa date September 8, 2009
 street & number 925 Gregg St. telephone (803) 466-7050
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

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

Property Owner

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

name Providence United Methodist Church, J.O. Shuler, et al, Trustees
 street & number 4833 Old State Rd. telephone 803-496-9564
 city or town Holly Hill state SC zip code 29059

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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Providence Methodist Church is located in the small, rural Orangeburg County community of Providence, and lies on the northeast side of U.S. Highway 176 (Old State Road), approximately eight miles northwest of Holly Hill. The church is positioned on a partially wooded parcel of land that includes the church building, a fellowship hall, a parsonage, and an historic cemetery.

The church building, inclusive of the sanctuary and rear educational/administrative wings, is laid out in a slightly modified cruciform plan and features a Neo-Classical Revival edifice designed in 1919 by the renowned Columbia, South Carolina architect Charles Coker Wilson and completed in 1920 by the contractor G. W. Spencer. The church was designed as a gable-front, temple-form, two-story brick building set on a stretcher bond brick foundation that is capped by a bevel-edged limestone water table, then a deep vertical Flemish bond band with rowlock cap. The majority of the remaining brick masonry is laid in a variant of American or common bond [five rows of headers to a row of alternating headers and stretchers], with ornamentation variations surrounding window openings on the northwest and southeast sanctuary walls and the blind brick arches and bull's eye windows framing the temple portico of the façade [southwest elevation]. The central tetrastyle portico includes a full-width masonry stair with cheek walls. The limestone columns, responding pilasters and entablature are of a simplified Roman Doric order, while the brick tympanum remains unadorned, unlike the tympani over the southeast and northwest gabled entrances as well as the northeast gable, all of which include bull's eye louvered vents that echo the bull's eye windows found on the southwest façade, as well as the southeast and northwest elevations. The portico's surrounding entablature's frieze remains quite simple and unadorned, and extends the full width of the building's facade to terminate with brick pilasters at each extreme corner. Sustained for the full circuit of the building is a simple boxed cornice with pedimented gables. At the center of the portico is a recessed double-leaf paneled door, with a single-light transom whose original glass was replaced in the 1980s with stained art glass. The classical surround includes a segmental-arched pediment, resting on a lintel supported by ornamental consoles. Shorter versions of this surround design are repeated at the entrances to the educational/Sunday School wings on the northwest and southeast wings of the building. On the northwest side of the building's façade, a modern masonry handicap access ramp with a simple iron balustrade and a matching, rising cheek-wall was added in 1982, but this does not detract substantially from the building's architectural integrity.¹

¹ All details about the construction of the church and any changes to the church building, unless otherwise noted, are from the pamphlet by Harriet Lancaster Hutto, *History of Providence United Methodist Church and Providence School and Surrounding Property*, second printing (Providence, SC: by the author, April 2006).

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The exterior sanctuary walls on the northwest and southeast sides also feature remarkable large stained glass Palladian windows that are easily the building's most impressive feature. Church tradition holds that these windows were designed by and purchased from Louis Comfort Tiffany's art glass studio at the time of construction for \$750, but a search of church records was not successful in confirming this detail. Nevertheless, these windows dominate the northwest and southeast elevations. The central Palladian window design includes a large arched window at the center, whose limestone impost frame is supported by Roman Doric columns and a limestone sill, framed by one-over-one sidelights. Five arcing stained glass lights with heavy mullions surround the central arched window to fill the arched brick opening on either elevation. These central windows are flanked by two smaller, much simpler but similar arched windows that are surmounted and punctuated by bull's eye windows. The masonry surrounding these smaller arch/bull's eye window combinations is slightly recessed, with the arched window accentuated by a surrounding soldier course with a limestone key and divided from the bull's eye by a soldier course. In 1995, these stained glass windows were cleaned and covered with a transparent Lexan covering for protection; on the southeast side, this covering has yellowed for unknown reasons, but this does not detract substantially from the integrity of the original window design.

Other fenestration on both the northwest and southeast elevations includes five one-over-one light windows near the building's front. Three of these windows sit parallel and evenly spaced on the second-floor balcony level of the sanctuary; the other two are slightly larger and indicate the presence of a rising interior stairwell to the balcony on either side of the narthex. In addition, the projecting educational/Sunday School building wings of the church on both the northwest and southeast elevations extend one bay from the sanctuary's side elevations and are five bays in depth. These wings are highlighted by the gabled entrances described previously, each of which is accessed by stone steps with cheek walls that are surmounted by iron balustrades. These entrances each are framed by nine [four on first level and five on second level] twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung sash windows, each with a limestone sill and key. The rear, or northeast, elevation is the top portion of the cruciform building plan, which is two stories in height and seven bays in width and features a total of fourteen twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung sash windows with limestone keys and sills. The right angles of the cruciform's transepts on the northeast elevation are partially filled with small one-story extensions with hipped roofs. The boiler and utility room on the southeast side of the rear elevation features no windows, while the ladies lounge on the northwest side of the rear elevation includes a single, smaller twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung sash with limestone sill and cropped key on the rear face. On both sides, the second floor lateral portion of the wing extensions

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is exposed to the rear elevation, each side of which is highlighted with a single twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung sash that appears to match the bulk of those on the rear elevation in style and size. The multi-gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles that replaced the original slate roof in 1976.

The building's interior features a narrow narthex just inside the southwest (main) entrance, flanked on either side by triple-rise wooden staircases with wooden balustrades ascending to the balcony area. Access to the sanctuary is through two sets of wooden double-leaf swinging doors, each with a circular light at center, opening on aisles set to either side of a central bank of original curved wooden pews. The double aisles lead from these entries to the curved and elevated wood-paneled altar rail, with an additional bank of original curved wooden pews to the other side of each aisle. The balcony above features a wood-paneled fascia surmounted by a single iron rail, behind which sit several tiered rows of folding wooden theater seats that are anchored into the wooden plank flooring. The window frames for the large Palladian windows on the northwest and southeast walls mirror their exterior features, except for the solid wood material and the use of fluted Doric pilasters in place of the Roman Doric columns that appear on the exterior. Interior walls are of smooth, painted plaster, accentuated by monumental, unfluted Doric pilasters and a surrounding crown molding between the pilasters that roughly aligns with the horizontal line of the balcony rail. A simple, unornamented entablature encircles the room, and beams are plastered and trimmed, creating an impressive recessed panel appearance. A large, period, decorative chandelier, as well as four smaller light fixtures positioned at the corners of the sanctuary space, suspend from the ceiling over the banks of pews. The sanctuary lacks a high-profile pulpit, but the chancel alcove features a large, keystone proscenium arch, within which are two rows of cushioned, folding wooden theater seats for the church's choir. Also within the alcove is a large, circular stained glass window, depicting Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, that is backlit electrically (installed 1975). A low, paneled wall, similar in style to the altar rail and installed in 1977, divides the raised altar from the chancel choir space. The altar space is flanked by a church organ on one side and a baby grand piano on the other, as well as doorways to either side of the arched chancel that lead to the educational/Sunday School/administrative area and adjacent doorways on the side walls that lead to vestry rooms.

At the rear of the sanctuary space, in the educational/administrative area, are two floors of Sunday School rooms and offices, with simple arched corridors on the first floor, and plaster walls, wooden floors (some carpeted), and transomed wooden doorframes and doorways into the rooms on both levels. The plain glass of the original transom lights was replaced in the 1980s with original stained art glass completed by a parishioner, designed to echo the style of the art glass in the sanctuary's large Palladian windows. Triple-rise wooden staircases with wooden balustrades, within segmental

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arched alcoves, frame the passageways from the sanctuary to the educational/administrative areas and provide access between the two floors. Double-loaded corridors on both floors are punctuated with paneled doors with transoms, and high chair rails with hooks for hanging coats. The first level also features segmental plaster arches at the staircase alcoves.

To the rear [north] of the church is a large cemetery that contributes to the significance of the property. It contains the burial plots of more than 400 parishioners and community members dating to 1856, though fewer than fifteen individuals were buried there prior to 1880. Though some graves date from the period 1880 to 1900, the majority of the graves are from the twentieth century. The cemetery is laid out on a regular grid plan, with little discernible landscaping or other planned features, except for several large oak trees in the cemetery and around the church that apparently date to the original period of construction. Grave markers are primarily granite or marble tablets, obelisks, and square stepped monuments with caps or urns, and burials still take place here.

A small, concrete block structure located to the east of the church—the Providence Fellowship Hall—and a brick parsonage built in 1979 to the southeast of the church have been excluded from the National Register boundaries and are not part of the nominated acreage.

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Providence Methodist Church, in the community of Providence near Holly Hill in Orangeburg County, South Carolina, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its significance in architecture. This Neo-Classical Revival building, constructed in 1919-20, is an outstanding and remarkable example of an early twentieth-century sanctuary in rural lower South Carolina.

The church was designed by the renowned Columbia, South Carolina architect Charles Coker Wilson, one of the most successful and influential South Carolina architects of the early twentieth century. It is one of at least four significant Wilson-designed churches built in rural communities or small towns during the first two decades of the twentieth century, along with Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church in the St. Charles community of rural Lee County (1911), listed in the National Register July 17, 2003, both in rural communities; and St. Paul Methodist Church in Saluda, Saluda County (1917); and St. George Methodist Church in St. George, Dorchester County (1919), both in small-town county seats. Providence Methodist Church and Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church in Lee County are particularly similar in form, scale, and design elements.

Other Wilson churches, built in larger South Carolina towns or cities during the same period, are also typical of his Classical Revival or Neo-Classical Revival designs—such as the First Baptist Church in Newberry, Newberry County (1906-07); or the First Baptist Church in Hartsville, Darlington County (1908), listed in the National Register May 3, 1991, as part of the East Home Avenue Historic District. Such churches feature many of the same characteristics as Wilson's rural and small-town churches, but the latter are often much more impressive in their settings than similar Wilson-designed churches in larger towns and cities.²

Providence Methodist Church has been at the center of the Providence community since 1810, when the second church building was built just north of the present building, replacing the original log cabin church that had been located on nearby Vance Road. Substantial renovations were made to this second church in 1855 and 1890, but by 1916, Methodist church officials determined that Providence needed a more substantial sanctuary and parsonage, and particularly one made of brick.

² For more on Wilson, see John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1835: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 209-19, and Walter B. Edgar, ed., *The South Carolina Encyclopedia* (Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press, 2006), pp. 1033-1034. For an example of a Wilson church already in the National Register, see J. Tracy Power and Andrew W. Chandler, with assistance from Archie H. Chandler, Jr., *National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, Bishopville vicinity, Lee County, SC (2003)*, State Historic Preservation Office files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

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Transporting brick to the new site proved to be difficult, but V.C. Badham, who was logging nearby Four Holes Swamp, agreed to build a railroad spur in part to transport the brick for the new church construction. G.W. Spencer was contracted in 1919, and the work on the present building was completed in 1920. The church remained the center of community activities, with the church classrooms serving as a medical and dental clinic during the 1920s. Also once located within the boundaries of the current parcel were the old Providence School, which was positioned near the current parsonage and burned in 1951, and a Woodmen of the World lodge. Other than minor cosmetic changes and the replacement of the slate roof with asphalt shingles in 1976, neither the sanctuary interior nor the building exterior has been substantially altered since the original construction.

The Providence Methodist Church building is an architecturally stunning example of a sophisticated rural church building from the early twentieth century. In particular, its outstanding sanctuary windows, which church members insist were purchased from Louis Comfort Tiffany's studio at the time of construction, make the church a noteworthy property combining Wilson's fine church architecture with outstanding examples of early twentieth-century art glass.

Charles Coker Wilson [1864-1933], a native of Hartsville, South Carolina, and a member of the influential Coker family of Society Hill and Hartsville in Darlington County, began his career as a civil engineer in Columbia in 1886, then established an architectural practice in Roanoke, Virginia in 1891. By 1896 he was back in Columbia and in partnership with fellow Darlington County native and architect William Augustus Edwards. In 1899 and 1900 he obtained his first professional architectural education when he traveled in Europe and briefly studied in Paris with the Atelier H. Duray at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. His partnership with Edwards was essentially over when he returned from Europe, but he embarked upon a successful architectural practice and by 1904 had eleven apprentices working for him, had projects in Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and South Carolina, and had landed the commission to complete the South Carolina State House, under construction since 1855.

Wilson had successive and successful partnerships with Henry Ten Eyck Wendell [1905-1906]; Edwin Douglas Sompayrac and James Burwell Urquhart [Wilson, Sompayrac & Urquhart, 1907-1910; Wilson & Sompayrac, 1910-1918]; George R. Berryman and J. Robie Kennedy [Wilson & Berryman, 1923-1924; Wilson, Berryman & Kennedy, 1924-1927]; and Harold Tatum [Wilson & Tatum, 1929-1933]. Throughout most of his career he employed numerous architectural draftsman, some of whom later became his partners and associates, and some of whom went on to have distinguished careers themselves. Some of these included Arthur W. Hamby [active 1897-1934], James Hagood

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Sams [1872-1935], Paul H. Youmans [1871-1904], J. Carroll Johnson [1882-1967], and Jesse W. Wessinger [1895-1970]. Wilson's office became a training ground for young apprenticing architects just starting their careers.³

Wilson also led the way in fostering the profession and practice of architecture in South Carolina. He was the first practicing architect in the state to become a member of the American Institute of Architects, the founding president of the South Carolina chapter [1913], the first South Carolinian to be named a fellow of the American Institute of Architects [1914], and the first chairman of the State Board of Architectural Examiners [1917], a position he held until his death in 1933. In addition, he was instrumental in drafting the state's first building codes after a devastating school fire in 1923 at Camden, in Kershaw County, killed seventy-seven people.⁴

Wilson's or his firms' commissions through the years included many churches, synagogues, public buildings, college and university buildings, and elementary and secondary schools, as well as high-rise office buildings, hotels, libraries, banks, mercantile stores, hospitals, and residences in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.⁵

³ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects*, pp. 209-219; Walter B. Edgar, ed., *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*, pp. 1033-1034.

⁴ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects*, pp. 209-219; Walter F. Petty, AIA, *Architectural Practice in South Carolina, 1913-1963: A Semi-Centennial History of the South Carolina Chapter, The American Institute of Architects* (Columbia, SC: South Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1963), pp. 10-11, 112-135; John M. Bryan, *Architectural Practice: The South Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects* (Columbia, SC: AIA of South Carolina, 2003), pp. 24-31.

⁵ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects*, pp. 209-219.

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- Bryan, John M. *Architectural Practice: The South Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*. Columbia, SC: AIA of South Carolina, 2003.
- Edgar, Walter B., ed. *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*. Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press, 2006.
- Hutto, Harriet Lancaster. *History of Providence United Methodist Church and Providence School and Surrounding Property*. Second printing. Providence, SC: by the author, April 2006.
- Petty, Walter F., AIA. *Architectural Practice in South Carolina, 1913-1963: A Semi-Centennial History of the South Carolina Chapter, The American Institute of Architects*. Columbia, SC: South Carolina Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, 1963.
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- Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1835: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

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Section number Photographs Page 13 Providence Methodist Church
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	Providence Methodist Church
Location of Property:	4833 Old State Road Holly Hill, SC 29059 Orangeburg County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer:	Eric Plaag
Date of Photographs:	November 9, 2007
Location of Original Digital Files:	SC Department of Archives and History, Columbia

1. Setting, looking NW, with SW elevation
2. SW elevation, right oblique
3. SW and SE elevations, oblique
4. NW and SW elevations, oblique
5. NW elevation
6. NW elevation, sanctuary detail [Palladian window arrangement]
7. SE elevation, sanctuary detail
8. SW elevation, main entrance detail
9. NE and NW elevations, oblique
10. NE elevation, left oblique
11. SE elevation, church office entrance, educational/administrative wing
12. Narthex, with front entry and balcony stair
13. Sanctuary and chancel from balcony
14. Sanctuary and balcony from chancel
15. SE Palladian stained glass window arrangement
16. NW Palladian stained glass window arrangement
17. SE staircase behind chancel
18. NW staircase behind chancel
19. First floor corridor, educational/administrative area
20. Second floor double-loaded corridor, educational/administrative area
21. Cemetery, looking north