

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Warren United Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
First Methodist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Warren

STATE Rhode Island, 02885	CODE 44	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 001
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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"/> 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 checked="" 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Methodist Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Warren

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02885

CODE:
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Warren Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Warren

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02885

CODE:
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Survey of Historic Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02903

CODE:
44

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

The present United (or First) Methodist Church fronting south on Church Street in Warren, Rhode Island, was built in 1844, the second church building on the site. The structure is a long (62' by 78') gable-roofed, two-story building with a full two-story Greek Revival portico and a steeple and spire built up of modified Georgian elements. The view of the building as seen from the Town Common is dramatic; adjacent eighteenth-century and Victorian buildings combine to establish it in an important historic environment.

Exterior:

Four colossal hand-hewn wooden Doric columns set upon 4 1/2'-square granite bases rise 32' to support a wide plain architrave with a narrow dentil-band below a plain frieze which supports a plain cornice framing the pediment. Four panelled pilasters divide the facade wall into bays, each of which contains a single 9-over-9-sashed window on the ground level and a two-story compound 9-over-9 window above, all with heavy, molded lintels. This pattern of wall pilasters and fenestration is continued on the sides of the church. Flush boards are used for the front wall cover; the sides are clapboarded.

The main front entrance is not original. The original flat-headed enframing containing massive, eight-panelled double doors was replaced in 1958 by the present doorway of smaller scale, carrying a broken-scrolled pediment and containing smaller doors beneath a transom. (An additional entrance on the church's east side was closed in 1869.) On the north end of the church building, the sanctuary projects 6', with no windows except a small round-headed one at the northwest corner, near a plain rear entrance to the vestry.

The steeple, of retardataire Georgian form has three square, graduated stages leading to an octagonal cupola-base for the small spire with a simple arrow weathervane; the spire's termination is 130' from the ground. The steeple's first level is a horizontally-rusticated square indented at its angles, with narrow triple openings on each side. It contains a great bronze bell placed there by the town in 1855, at an original cost of \$ 700.00, to enable the clock to sound the hours. This bell was originally rocked by a great wooden wheel, to swing the striker inside; today the bell is hit by a metal hammer operated by a rope pull. A widely-projecting cornice originally carrying acroteria (now removed) crowns this stage of the steeple.

The steeple's second level has panelled corner pilasters and low projecting panels containing acroteria motifs on each side, below the four clock-faces, which are painted black and have their original gold numerals. Inside, naturally, is the clock room, where in 1848 the town placed iron clock-works (inoperative now and awaiting repair) with 300-pound weights.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) -1

STATE Rhode Island	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The smaller third level of the steeple repeats that of the clock level and is pierced by 6-over-6 windows of battered shape with heavy architraves. Upon this stage rises the delicate octagonal cupola, with panelled pilasters and eight windows, which supports the panelled, wood-sheathed spire and the weathervane with its gilded arrow.

During renovations in 1970 the acroteria upon the cornice of the bell tower (and these may have originally been a repeated adornment at the upper levels of the steeple) were removed due to deterioration and have not been replaced.

Interior.

The church auditorium is reached by stairs at either side of a large, high front hall which contains a balcony and a catwalk from it to the bell-rope. Staircases have massive turned newel posts and rectangular wood balusters that continue across the balcony. Walls are plastered down to a wainscot of horizontal flush boards.

The auditorium, designed to seat 500, is nearly square, measuring 60'-6" wide and 65'-6" deep. The pew plan is laid out with a wide center aisle and side aisles; the original box pews are still in place. The side balconies have plain fronts of recessed panelling and are each supported by four round wooden columns with Doric capitals. The original choir loft or rear balcony is now closed off by a solid wall.

An 1874 stereoscopic photograph of the altar wall is of great interest, showing that area before the present organ was installed in 1907. This shows painted trompe-l'oeil decoration representing two great Ionic columns set in front of a pilastered wall; these columns support an entablature with frieze and dentils below a panelled ceiling. The painted perspective creates an illusion of great depth in what is actually a very shallow platform. This old view also shows details painted on the pilaster capitals on each side of the platform, a Greek-key frieze around the panelled ceiling and a band of dentils on the continuous entablature--all seen today without this ornamentation. Church records suggest that all these elaborations may have been added in 1869.

Today, two colossal free-standing fluted Ionic columns stand at the rear of the auditorium, slightly forward (north) of the choir balcony and the curving vestibule wall; they support the main cornice of the auditorium at that end of the building. The now-vanished painted columns may have been intended to echo these.

Original colors of the auditorium, of its elaborately painted trompe-l'oeil pulpit area and its ornamental ceiling are unknown. In the refurbishing of 1951 the now coved, originally compartmented, ceiling was painted a pale blue-green. The walls are soft beige. Stronger

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)-2

STATE Rhode Island	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description.

colors are introduced through use of dark red velvet window drapery, scarlet carpeting and dark red pew cushions. The box pews are a soft grey-green and have their original carved, curvilinear mahogany arm-rests.

Repair to the interior of the steeple has been extensive. All the main vertical members here have either been replaced or repaired. Elsewhere, horizontal metal cross-pieces have been added where required; iron brackets have been used; and some of the great 12"x12" wood beams and rafters have been replaced. In the church attic, the original wood pegs tying rafters and braces together are, however, still performing their function in many places.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban-Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Historically, the Warren church is the first Methodist church in Rhode Island and the third in New England.

The present church building of 1844 stands on land given by John Luther in 1794 and on the site of the first church building, dedicated on September 24 of that same year. The story of Methodism in Warren began in 1789 when the Reverend Daniel Smith, an associate of the Reverend Jesse Lee, a noted pioneer of Methodism, held the first meeting in Kickamuit, now East Warren. By 1793, the Reverend Philip Wager had been appointed first minister of Warren Church. By 1844 his little church had been outgrown, and in that year--during a period of great commercial prosperity in Warren, generated by sea trade, ship-building and whaling--the congregation decided to erect a larger building.

This building is an excellent example of the vernacular architecture (here in the Greek Revival style) which is an important part of our American heritage. Not only is the church an outstanding architectural landmark, but it is located in the heart of Warren's historic waterfront area, where enough of the town's early building remains to warrant designation as an historic area. A full survey of the whole area is now being completed for the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.

This handsome church, opening onto the Town Common, facing Church Street quietly lined with small-scale houses dating from the 1740's to the 1880's, is an irreplaceable element in this close-knit historic neighborhood.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Town of Warren, Rhode Island: 200th Anniversary of Warren, Rhode Island (Warren, Rhode Island, 1947).
 Methodist Episcopal Society, Warren, Rhode Island: Highlights in the History of the Church (Warren, Rhode Island, n. d.).
The Providence Journal (Providence, Rhode Island), March 1, 1971, p. 29.
 Baker, Virginia: The History of Warren, Rhode Island, in the War of the Revolution, 1776-1783 (Warren, Rhode Island, 1901).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41°	43'	49" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		71°	17'	02" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Elizabeth S. Warren, Assistant Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: March 29, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) -4

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Bristol	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance.

The house was built in 1858 by the Methodist Church as a parsonage and has remained as such to the present. It has suffered no remodeling and all of the exterior detail has been preserved intact. As it still serves its original purpose and maintains its original appearance, the parsonage is a fine vernacular example of the Italian Villa style.

This is one of the few instances in the history of vernacular building where the names of the men who were responsible for the design and execution of the building are known. A building contract between the Building Committee of the Methodist Church and the carpenter survives. Ezra Millard Martin (1818-1900) of Warren agreed to construct the building following the plans and detailed drawings of "Hoar and Drown". Lewis Thomas Hoar (1810-1891) was Martin's partner in a local lumber business and the Drown referred to was either Henry Francis (1818-1899) or Joshua Champlin (1821-1907), brothers and both carpenters in Warren. None of these men were architects. They were born in and spent their lives in the immediate area and the parsonage reflects their provincialism and lack of professional training. Their version of the Italian Villa has been modified in accordance with their knowledge and capabilities. They did succeed in capturing the basic qualities of the style and showed their individuality in the truly splendid brackets beneath the cornices.

The parsonage is as fine an example of vernacular architecture in the Italian Villa style as the church is in the Greek Revival. Moreover, the parsonage survives unaltered. The church and parsonage are considered one property and together form an integral part of Warren's historic waterfront district.

9. Major Bibliographical References.

Building Contract Between the Building Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Warren and Ezra M. Martin, January 27, 1858.

The New-England Mercantile Union Business Directory, 1849.

The Warren Directory, 1876, 1881.

Record of Deaths, Town of Warren.

10. Geographical Data: Same as on original nomination.

11. Form Prepared by:

Mrs. Richard P. Sullivan, Grants Administrator
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
John Brown House, 52 Power Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

January 22, 1973

Code: 44

* This involvement on the part of Lewis Hoar as both a lumber dealer and draftsman or designer was a typical combination for the period.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) -3

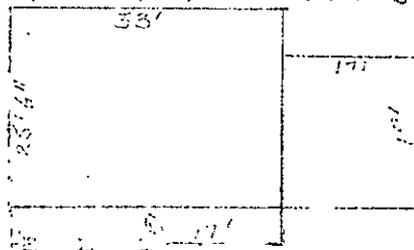
STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

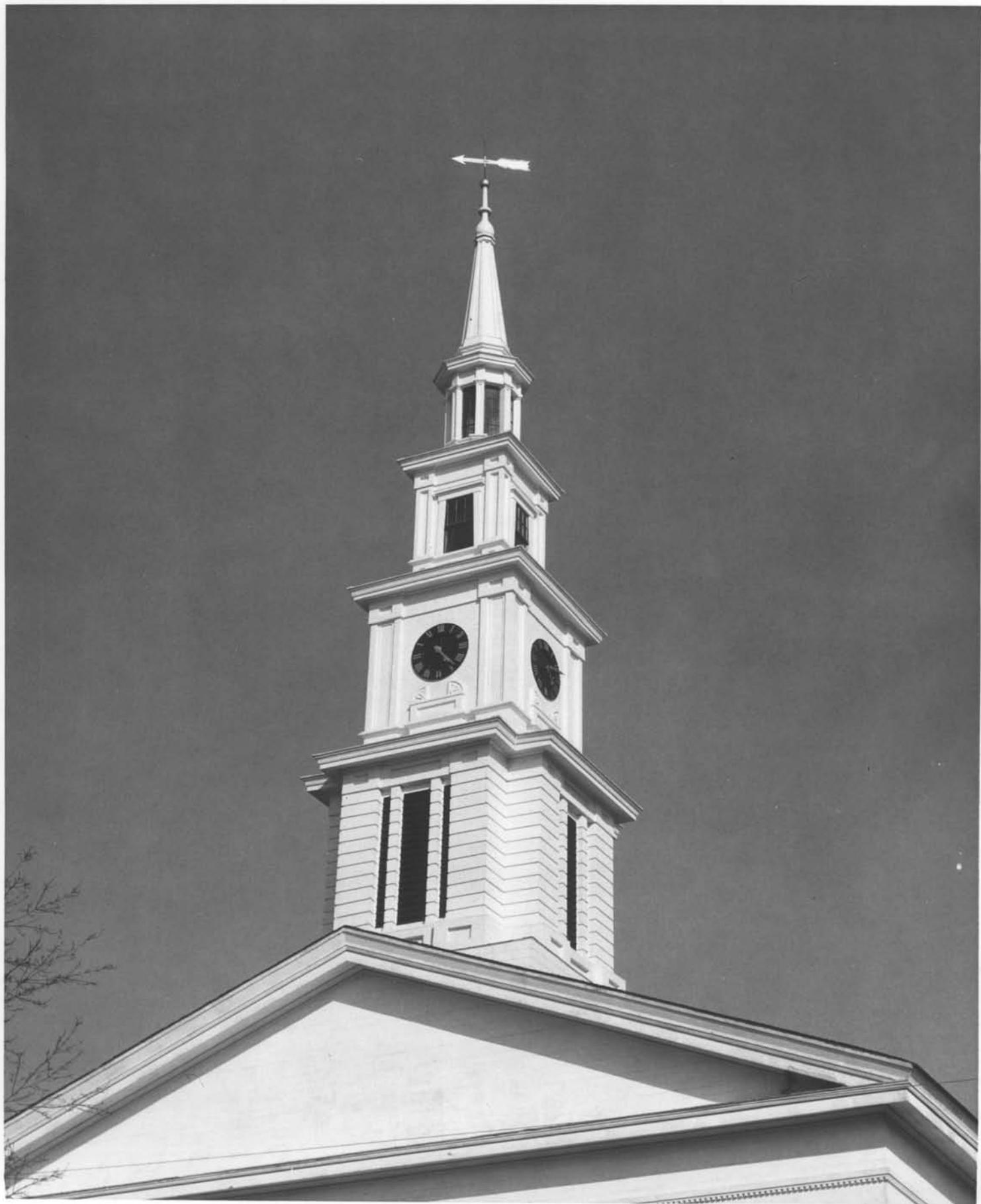
- Name.
Common: Warren United Methodist Church--Addition of Parsonage to Original Nomination
And/or Historic: First Methodist Church
- Location: Same as on original nomination
- Classification: Same as on original nomination.
- Owner of Property: Same as on original nomination.
- Location of Legal Description: Same as on original nomination.
- Representation in Existing Surveys: Same as on original nomination.
- Description.
Condition: Excellent, Unaltered, Original Site

The Methodist Parsonage is to the west of the Church. The main part of the building is 25'6" by 33', the rear projection 19' by 17', and the east projection 5' by 17'. These combine to form the precise rectilinear masses of the Italian Villa style. The parsonage has a one-story veranda extending from the east projection to the front of the building, is a full two stories in height throughout, and has a flat roof. The foundation is of slate stone cemented and grooved on the outside to imitate granite, the walls are wooden clapboards over frame construction, the single chimney is of brick, and the front steps are of granite.

The exterior detail is typical of the Italian Villa style and the 1858 date of construction. The entrance, situated in the corner created by the east projection, is framed by sidelights and a cornice supported by four scrolled brackets. A heavy cornice supported by two scrolled brackets of the type above the doorway crowns each window while a projecting sill with a pair of curved brackets beneath further emphasizes the opening. By far the most outstanding element of the architecture is the elaborately scrolled brackets beneath the main cornice with a smaller one also appearing on the porch. The S-scroll design from which stylized leaf motifs gracefully extend is the greatest achievement of the carpenter's skill and the designer's originality. * On the veranda the columns are fluted with a double tongue transition to the square, moulded entablature and decorative panels also embellish the cornerboards and baseboards. Inside the parsonage the most noteworthy feature is the staircase with its vigorously turned mahogany newel post and turned balusters. (The other details of the interior are simple and typical of the period and style.



* On the veranda the four square columns are fluted with a double tongue transition to the square, moulded entablature and decorative panels also embellish the cornerboards and baseboards. Inside the parsonage the most noteworthy feature is the staircase with its vigorously turned mahogany newel post and turned balusters. (The other details of the interior are simple and typical of the period and style.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Warren United Methodist Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC: First Methodist Church			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 27 Church Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Warren			
STATE: Rhode Island, 02885	CODE 44	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: A. R. Medley			
DATE OF PHOTO: November 10, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: A. R. Medley, 30 Hawthorne Avenue, Barrington, Rhode Island, 02806			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Steeple after renovation.			

A. G. Eldridge, Photographer,



Warrren, R. I.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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COUNTY Bristol	
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1. NAME

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AND/OR HISTORIC: First Methodist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

27 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Warren

STATE:

Rhode Island, 02885

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Bristol

CODE

001

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: A. G. Eldridge, in Warren United Methodist Church records

DATE OF PHOTO: 1874; copy negative, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Society,
52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of (north) pulpit area of church auditorium, showing painted architectural background therein and showing auditorium ceiling, cornice etc. as then picked-out by colored painting of details.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

Warren United Methodist

AND/OR HISTORIC

First Methodist Church

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Bristol

TOWN

Warren

STREET AND NUMBER

27 Church Street (Parsonage)

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Elizabeth Warren

DATE

November 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Elizabeth Warren

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of parsonage from the southeast.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

Warren United Methodist
Church

AND/OR HISTORIC

First Methodist Church

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Bristol

TOWN

Warren

STREET AND NUMBER

27 Church Street, (Parsonage)

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Elizabeth Warren

DATE

November 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT

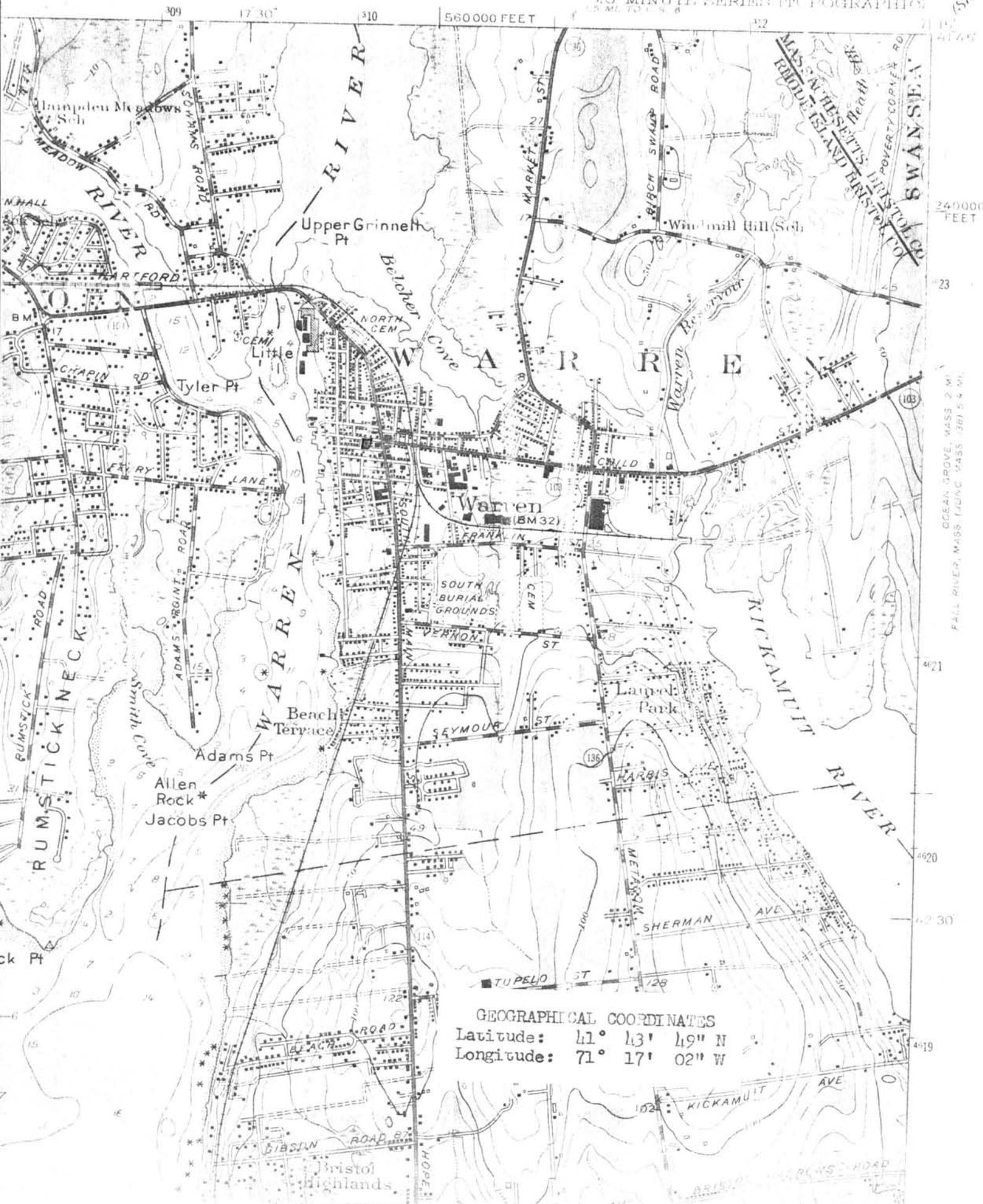
Elizabeth Warren

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of porch and roof cornices. View from the east.

0787 153
 (S.W. 153)



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
 Latitude: 41° 43' 49" N
 Longitude: 71° 17' 02" W

240000
 FEET

OCEAN GROVE, MASS 2 MI.
 FALL RIVER, MASS (JUNC MASS 38) 5.4 MI.

4621
 4620
 462 30

4619

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Warren United Methodist Church
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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Warren

STATE: Rhode Island, 02885	CODE 44	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 001
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1955

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.