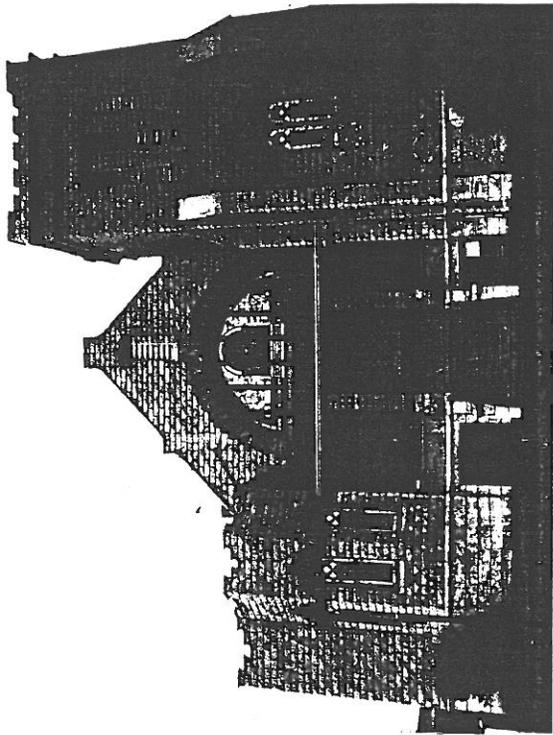


STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310



County Linn  
Ranking \_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
(Common) Evangelical Church of North America  
(Historic) Methodist Episcopal Church  
Address 500 Park Street  
Lebanon Ch. Evangelical  
Present Owner Church of N.A.  
Address 80 East Vine Street  
Original Use Church  
Date of Construction 1910  
Map Reference Number 106

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The plan of the Methodist Episcopal Church is an H-shape with the main entry located on the east and secondary entries facing the street on the north. The rusticated base is reinforced concrete while the upper part of the building is constructed of concrete blocks with a stone-like finish. Typical of Jacobethan style churches, the east facade has a portico flanked by two square towers. The front stairs rise to separate entries in the bottom of both towers. There is a large fixed stained glass window at the head of the stairs and smaller double-hung, wood sash, stained glass windows on each side. Centered above the portico's shed roof is a large half-round stained glass window with seven panels. All the windows above the base, except the larger ones in the center and end of the nave, contain stained glass designs of lilies. The window openings have rounded arches with stepped radiating voussoirs. The gable end of the nave is stepped. The lower tower on the south features a three-sided bay with double-hung windows and a crenellated parapet. The tower on the north contains a tracery window directly above a granite cornerstone with "Methodist Episcopal Church" and the date 1910. There are buttresses at the tower's corners and three narrow round arch openings containing louvered vents below the crenellated parapet.

(continued)

Recorded by Heritage Investment Corporation, 813 SW Alder, Portland, OR 97204 (228-0272)  
Allen, McMath-Hawkins, Architects, 213 SW Ash, Portland, OR 97204 (228-5154)

Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sources consulted: see attached.

The taller tower's facade is the same on the east and north. The north end of the transept contains two double-hung windows and a round arch vent in the stepped gable. The porch in the center of the north facade features two masonry piers, wide entry stairs, a large fixed window in the center and double-hung windows in each corner. There are new doors and concrete block walls enclosing the space below the porch, and a new handicap ramp on the west side.

Along the base of the south elevation are square multi-light windows, three of which are grouped together in the center. Above in the center of the nave is a large round arch window with three stained glass panels. There is a round arch, double-hung window on either side and three more in the truncated tower on the east. On the west there is a porch with a hip roof. Above the porch is a chimney with decorative recessed slots in the imitation stone blocks. Similar decorations have been removed from the chimney which rises up the west wall of the southeast tower.

### History

Most of those who first came to the Lebanon area were Methodists. When the town was platted a 10-acre tract was given to the Methodist Conference by the Ralston and Kees families for church and school purposes. At the same time a plat was made for the nearby pioneer cemetery.

Jeremiah Ralston's home was the first meeting place when the town was organized in 1847. In 1849 the Rev. James H. Wilbur organized a congregation building, a log cabin and later a framed church on Main Street opposite what is now the high school. 1887 saw a church at the site of the present Methodist Church. In 1910 it was moved to Sherman and Second and converted to an opera house, then later demolished in an expansion of the Kirkpatrick Ford dealership in 1929.

The current masonry structure was erected during the pastorate of Rev. A. F. Lacy. Early membership records have been lost but the early congregations included William and Laura Ralston, Owen Rees, F. M. Miller and Joseph Lucian Gilbert, all of whom have stained glass windows in the present church dedicated to them. Other early members included G. H. Bland, Joseph Powell, Luther Connet, Nellie Crandall, Mattie Moise Dolph Reeves, Z. T. Bryant, Claude Steen and Edward Taylor.

### Sources Consulted

1. "Span of Nearly a Century Since Settlers Established First Linn County Churches," Lebanon Express. June 5, 1947.
2. Welsh, William, A Brief History of Oregon City and West Linn, Lebanon, Oregon. Crown Zellerbach Corporation, 1941.

