

BAR meeting October 18, 2022

Certificate of Appropriateness

BAR # 22-10-02

101 East Jefferson Street, TMP 330190000

North Downtown ADC District (contributing)

Owner: First United Methodist Church

Applicant: William L. Owens, AIA

Project: Install rooftop solar panels

- **Action:** Bailey moved: Having considered the standards set forth within the City Code, including the ADC District Design Guidelines, I move to find the proposed roof-top solar panels at 101 East Jefferson Street satisfy the BAR's criteria and are compatible with this property and other properties in the North Downtown ADC District, and that the BAR approves the application as submitted.
Whitney, second. Motion failed 2-4.
(Yes: Bailey, Whitney. No: Zehmer, Gastinger, Timmerman, Schwarz.)
- **Action:** Schwarz moved to accept applicant request for deferral. Bailey, second. Motion approved 6-0.

**City of Charlottesville
Board of Architectural Review
Staff Memo
October 18, 2022**



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Background

Year Built: 1923

District: North Downtown ADC District

Status: Contributing

First United Methodist Church is a Colonial Revival, brick church with a monumental portico and four Doric columns, with a tower and steeple.

Prior BAR Actions (See appendix for complete list)

October 18, 2016 – BAR approved (8-0) steeple lighting. (BAR awarded a *2020 Preservation and Design Award*: Rehabilitation of Historic Steeple and Installation of Steeple Illumination.)

September 20, 2022 – Informal discussion, staff questions re: proposed solar panels.

Meeting video link (begin at 4:41:00):

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/vabajtzezyv3iclklx1a?b=nvdouryu5aoooh1orqwxd>

Application

- Submittal: Wm. L Owens Architect, First United Methodist Church Solar Panel Project, dated September 27, 2022: Photo sims (three pages) and Site photos (four pages) and specs for Quick Mount PV *QBase® Shake & Slate Mount | QMNS*.

Request CoA for installation of roof-top solar panels.

- Information about the Quick Mount PV system is in the submittal packet. (See also: www.quickmountpv.com/integrated-system.html)
- All electrical connections will be made in the attic or the basement. The only exposed equipment other than the panels will be a 2” conduit running from the backside of the array on the west facing roof, along the roofline at the east face of the steeple, and down the north face of

the steeple to the existing electrical service at ground level in the courtyard. The conduit will be painted to match the existing slate or brick.

- The panels will be 5” - 7” above the slate. No higher than 7”.

Note on the existing roof: Buckingham slate. Original to building, 1923. Life cycle of Buckingham slate can exceed 150 years.

Discussion

Since 2010, the BAR has reviewed 15 projects with solar panel arrays, all were approved. (See list in the Appendix.) Since adoption of the current design guidelines, the BAR has reviewed and approved 11 CoA requests for photovoltaic panels--eight in ADC Districts and three in HC Districts. All, except one, were rooftop arrays.

The Design Guidelines (Rehabilitation, Roofing) do not specifically recommend against solar panels on historic roofs, but instead recommended they be placed *on non-character defining roofs or roofs of non-historic adjacent buildings*.

In the BAR staff reports for several projects reviewed between 2010 and 2017, the Preservation and Design Planner applied the following when recommending approval: *The panels extend up from the roof by less than one foot, which does not significantly change the profile of the roofline*. This appears to be an interpretation of a recommendation in the Secretary’s Standards to not place panels *where they will change the historic roofline or obscure the relationship of the roof features such as dormers, skylights, and chimneys*. That is, panels that are installed low and parallel to the roof surface will not change the profile of the roofline.

During the 2018-2020 [pre-COVID] discussions re: updating the design guidelines, staff noted the following BAR comments related to solar panels:

Chapter III. Rehabilitation, Roof:

- Should not damage or interfere with historic material.
- If existing roof is relatively flat, panels should not create the illusion of a sloped roof.
- Advise owners to inspect condition of existing roof prior to attaching solar equipment; make necessary repairs—even replacement—prior to installing solar equipment.
- Address/evaluate photovoltaic shingles as replacement shingles.
- Address/evaluate how panels are attached to historic roofs.

At the September 20, 2022 meeting, staff asked the BAR for informal comments on this pending request, with the following offered:

Questions:

- How will the panels be installed/mounted? (Brackets, hardware, etc.)
- Where will wires/cables/conduit and equipment boxes be placed and how will they be screened, of necessary?
- How high will the panels be above the slate?
- How will the slate roof be protected during installation and subsequent maintenance of the solar panels? (Concern for condition of slate tiles with more-frequent activity.)
- Photo-sim: panels on sanctuary are oriented NW.

Comments:

- Preference: install panels on rear addition; avoid panels on sanctuary.

- Re: maximizing panel area, a frame over the parking area (east side) might be evaluated.

Suggested Motions

Approval: Having considered the standards set forth within the City Code, including the ADC District Design Guidelines, I move to find the proposed roof-top solar panels at 101 East Jefferson Street satisfy the BAR's criteria and are compatible with this property and other properties in the North Downtown ADC District, and that the BAR approves the application [as submitted].

Or, [... as submitted] with the following conditions:

Denial: Having considered the standards set forth within the City Code, including the ADC District Design Guidelines, I move to find that the proposed roof-top solar panels at 101 East Jefferson Street do not satisfy the BAR's criteria and are not compatible with this property and other properties in the North Downtown ADC District, and that for the following reasons the BAR denies the application as submitted:

Criteria, Standards and Guidelines

Review Criteria Generally

Sec. 34-284(b) of the City Code states that, In considering a particular application the BAR shall approve the application unless it finds:

- (1) That the proposal does not meet specific standards set forth within this division or applicable provisions of the Design Guidelines established by the board pursuant to Sec. 34-288(6); and
- (2) The proposal is incompatible with the historic, cultural or architectural character of the district in which the property is located or the protected property that is the subject of the application.

Pertinent Standards for Review of Construction and Alterations include:

- (1) Whether the material, texture, color, height, scale, mass and placement of the proposed addition, modification or construction are visually and architecturally compatible with the site and the applicable design control district;
- (2) The harmony of the proposed change in terms of overall proportion and the size and placement of entrances, windows, awnings, exterior stairs and signs;
- (3) The Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation set forth within the Code of Federal Regulations (36 C.F.R. §67.7(b)), as may be relevant;
- (4) The effect of the proposed change on the historic district neighborhood;
- (5) The impact of the proposed change on other protected features on the property, such as gardens, landscaping, fences, walls and walks;
- (6) Whether the proposed method of construction, renovation or restoration could have an adverse impact on the structure or site, or adjacent buildings or structures;
- (7) Any applicable provisions of the City's Design Guidelines.

Pertinent Guidelines for Rehabilitation:

[Chapter 4 Rehabilitation](#)

G. Roof

- 1) When replacing a standing seam metal roof, the width of the pan and the seam height should be consistent with the original. Ideally, the seams would be hand crimped.
- 2) If pre-painted standing seam metal roof material is permitted, commercial-looking ridge caps or ridge vents are not appropriate on residential structures.
- 3) Original roof pitch and configuration should be maintained.
- 4) The original size and shape of dormers should be maintained.
- 5) Dormers should not be introduced on visible elevations where none existed originally.

- 6) Retain elements, such as chimneys, skylights, and light wells that contribute to the style and character of the building.
- 7) When replacing a roof, match original materials as closely as possible.
 - a. Avoid, for example, replacing a standing-seam metal roof with asphalt shingles, as this would dramatically alter the building's appearance.
 - b. Artificial slate is an acceptable substitute when replacement is needed.
 - c. Do not change the appearance or material of parapet coping.
- 8) Place solar collectors and antennae on non-character defining roofs or roofs of non-historic adjacent buildings.
- 9) Do not add new elements, such as vents, skylights, or additional stories that would be visible on the primary elevations of the building.

Pertinent Guidelines from the Secretary's Standards

Building Exterior – Roofs: Alterations/Additions for the New Use

Recommended:

Installing mechanical and service equipment on the roof such as air conditioning, transformers, or solar collectors when required for the new use so that they are inconspicuous from the public right-of-way and do not damage or obscure character defining features.

Designing additions to roofs such as residential, office, or storage spaces; elevator housing; decks and terraces; or dormers or skylights when required by the new use so that they are inconspicuous from the public right-of-way and do not damage or obscure character-defining features.

Not Recommended:

Installing mechanical or service equipment so that it damages or obscures character-defining features; or is conspicuous from the public right-of-way.

Radically changing a character-defining roof shape or damaging or destroying character-defining roofing material as a result of incompatible design or improper installation techniques.

Energy Conservation - Roofs

Recommended:

Placing solar collectors on non-character-defining roofs or roofs of non-historic adjacent buildings.

Not Recommended:

Placing solar collectors on roofs when such collectors change the historic roofline or obscure the relationship of the roof features such as dormers, skylights, and chimneys.

Appendix

Prior BAR Actions

- February 17, 2004 – Preliminary discussion re: iron fencing.
- April 20, 2004 – BAR approved the addition of a five-ft high, wrought iron fence parallel to the east property line to protect the public from a large window well.
- March 15, 2011 – BAR approved (7-0) modifications to/replacement of main entry doors as submitted with conditions: (a) door be replaced, not modified, with existing doors saved/stored on site; and (b) glass in the new door is clear glass, not beveled glass.
- June 21, 2011 – BAR approved (6-0) a new bathroom addition as submitted.
- October 18, 2016 – BAR approved (8-0) steeple lighting. (BAR awarded a *2020 Preservation and Design Award*: Rehabilitation of Historic Steeple and Installation of Steeple Illumination.)
- September 20, 2022 – Informal discussion, staff questions re: proposed solar panels.

Solar panel installations reviewed by BAR since 2010. All were approved.

Date	Address	District	Roof type (location of panels)
Apr-10	215 East High St	North Downtown	parapet (not visible)
Aug-10	222 South St	Downtown	frame in back yard (rear)
Oct-10	219 14th St NW	Rugby-U Circle-Venable	standing-seam metal (side)
Mar-12	230 West Main St	Downtown	parapet (not visible)
Oct-16	206 West Market St	Downtown	parapet (not visible)
Aug-16	450 Rugby Rd	Rugby-U Circle-Venable	flat roof (rear)
May-17	615 Lexington Ave	Martha Jeff HC	standing-seam metal (rear)
Jul-18	503 Lexington Ave	Martha Jeff HC	standing-seam metal (side)
Apr-19	1102 Carlton Ave	IPP	standing-seam metal (rear)
Aug-19	507 Ridge St	Ridge Street	frame in back yard (rear)
Mar-19	206 5th St NE	North Downtown	membrane (rear)
Mar-19	420 Park St	North Downtown	standing-seam metal (side and rear)
Mar-19	924 Rugby Rd	Rugby Road HC	standing-seam metal (front and rear)
Aug-21	735 Northwood Ave	North Downtown	standing-seam metal (front)
Jun-22	636 Park St	North Downtown	standing-seam metal (rear)

First United Methodist Church

Solar Panel Project

Photo Simulation 1



First United Methodist Church

Solar Panel Project

Photo Simulation 2



First United Methodist Church

Solar Panel Project

Photo Simulation 3



First United Methodist Church Solar Panel Project

Site Photos – East Jefferson Street



Property from E. Jefferson St./1st St. N. Intersection



Property from E. Jefferson St./2nd St. N.E. Intersection



Facing Property from E. Jefferson St.



Facing Property from E. Jefferson St.

First United Methodist Church Solar Panel Project

Site Photos – 1st Street N.



Property from E. High St./1st St. N. Intersection



Property from E. Jefferson St./1st St. N. Intersection



Facing Properties from E. Jefferson St./1st St. N. Intersection



Facing Properties from E. High St./1st St. N. Intersection

First United Methodist Church Solar Panel Project

Site Photos – 2nd Street N.E.



Neighboring Property from 2nd Street N.E.



Property from 2nd Street N.E.



Facing Property from E. High St./2nd St. N.E. Intersection



Facing Property from E. Jefferson St./2nd St. N.E. Intersection

First United Methodist Church Solar Panel Project

Site Photos – E. High Street



Property from E. High St./2nd St. N.E. Intersection



Property from E. High St./1st St. N. Intersection

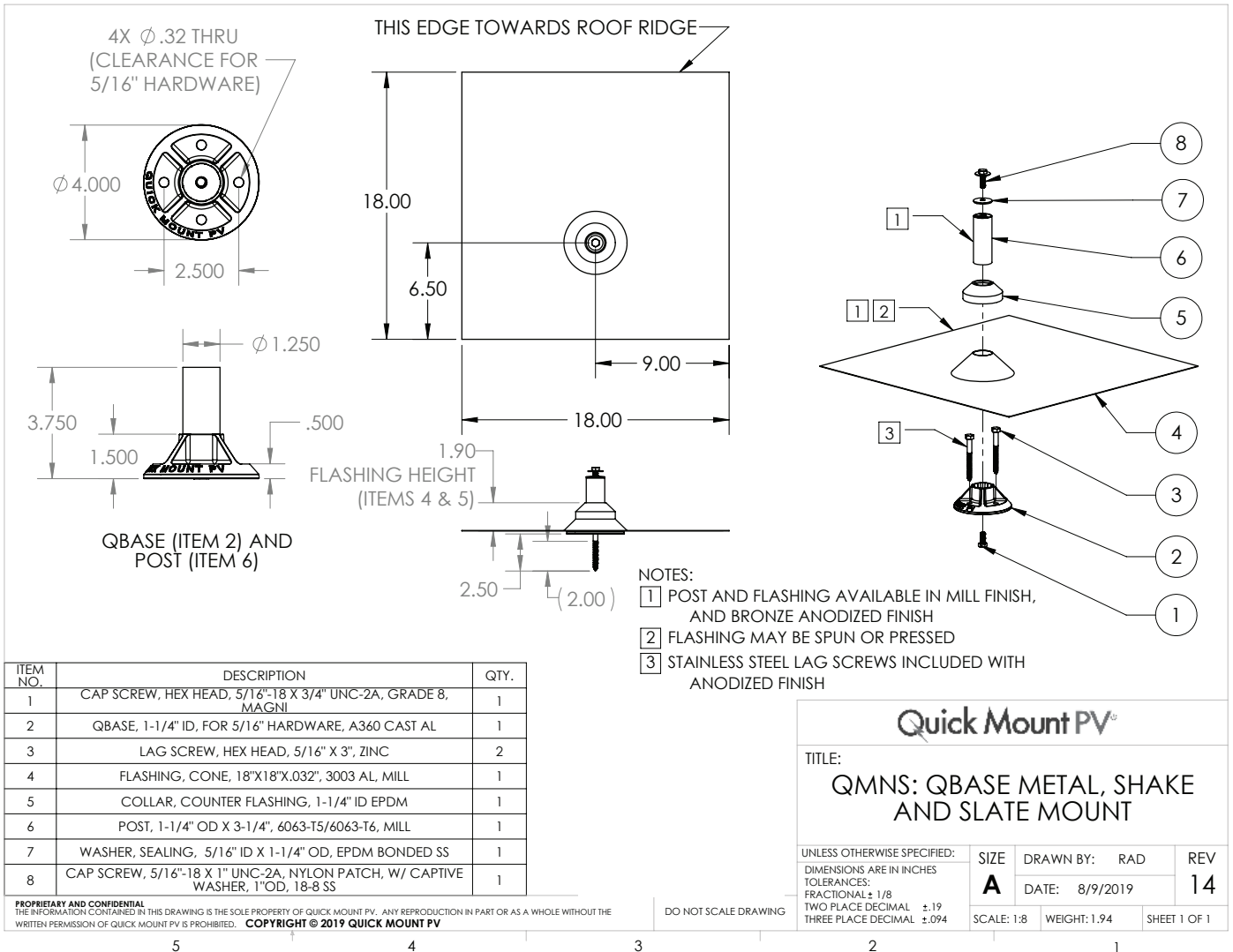


Facing Properties from E. High St./1st St. N. Intersection



Facing Properties from E. High St./2nd St. N.E. Intersection

QBase® Shake & Slate Mount | QMNS



PLEASE NOTE: Cedar shakes treated with ACQ or CCA wood preservatives or fire retardant chemicals, or shakes with higher concentrations of natural tannins, may cause accelerated corrosion when in direct contact with aluminum. The Cedar Shingle & Shake Bureau recommends pre-painting both sides of the flashing using a good metal or bituminous paint. It is also advisable to use an appropriate physical barrier to isolate the aluminum from these corrosive chemicals. Accepted barriers include standard roofing felt, ice & water shield type underlayment, or 10 mil thick polyethylene sheeting. Please check with your shake roofer and/or supplier to see if your shakes require these barriers.

Caution: Prior to installation, check that proper screw embedment will be achieved for the necessary site load and roofing configurations.



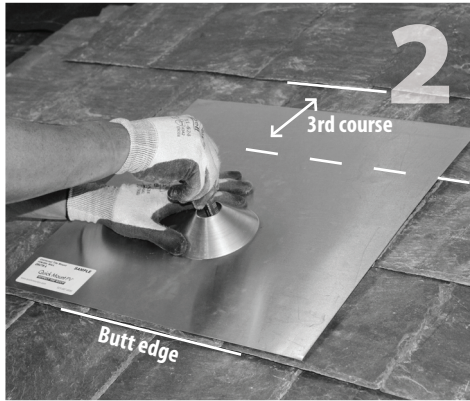
Installation Instructions for Slate Roof

Installation Tools Required: tape measure, slate roofing bar AKA slate ripper, chalk line, stud finder, caulking gun and sealant compatible with roofing material, drill, 4" diameter diamond embedded hole saw, masonry drill bit matching size of hole saw pilot drill bit, grinder with cutoff wheel, hammer, 7/32" high speed drill bit, and impact gun with 1/2" socket

WARNING: Quick Mount PV products are NOT designed for and should NOT be used to anchor fall protection equipment.



Mark the centerline of the rafter.



To mark the location of the QBase, position the bottom edge of the flashing flush with or just above the butt edge (drip) of the slate, the top edge extended up under the 3rd course, and the cone centered over your rafter centerline.



Using a masonry drill bit, drill a pilot hole at the center of the QBase location you marked in step 2. This drill bit should match the size of the guide bit of your hole saw.



Using a cutoff wheel in a grinder, score the slate above the mounting area at 4 inches above the center of the QBase location. In step 5, you will remove the slate below the score line, which will allow you to slide the flashing up under the remaining slate in step 10.



To remove the slate below the score, slightly lift the lower portion of slate with a slate ripper, then gently but firmly tap the top piece with a hammer. The lower piece should break off cleanly.



Using a 4" diameter diamond hole saw and the pilot hole drilled in step 3, drill through the existing slate.



Using QBase (item 2) as a guide, align two clearance holes vertically with the center of the rafter. Mark the center of these 2 holes. Drill 7/32" pilot hole at each of the 2 marks. Hold drill square to rafter. Do not use QBase as a drill guide.



Fill pilot holes with sealant compatible with roofing material such as Chemlink M-1, Geogreen 4500, or Solar Seal 900.



Prior to mounting to the roof, seat the grade-8 cap screw (item 1) through bottom of QBase. Secure the QBase to the rafter with (2) 5/16" lag screws (item 3) and tighten to a snug fit.

continued on next page



Slide the flashing over the QBase and under the slate above. Make sure you get up and under the 3rd course of slate.



Screw on the post.



Apply a bead of sealant around the area where the cone flashing meets the post.



Install the EPDM rubber counter flashing over the post, and attach all the remaining hardware (items 7-10) on top of the post for safekeeping until the racking is ready to install.

You are now ready for the rack of your choice. Follow all the directions of the rack manufacturer as well as the module manufacturer.

All roofing manufacturers' written instructions must also be followed by anyone modifying a roof system. Please consult the roof manufacturer's specs and instructions prior to touching the roof.

Additional Tips for Installing Mounts on a Slate Roof:

- If you have access to the underside of the roof, you can provide solid blocking at the location of the mount.
- It is possible that the roof is sheathed with solid wood boards that are thick enough to hold the mounts. It is important to verify the thickness, condition, and structural integrity of the wood you are attaching to and to consult an engineer licensed in your state to determine the bolting requirements.
- It can be difficult getting the flashing over the nails of the first course of slate. Helpful hint: slide the slate ripper up to or past the nail, then slide a piece of standard steel flashing over the slate ripper, allowing the slate ripper to guide the steel flashing over the nail. Then remove the slate ripper, slide the aluminum cone flashing into place and remove the steel flashing.
- Walking directly on a slate roof can break the slate. The most common way to distribute a person's weight is to lay a ladder on the slate roof and walk on the ladder. Be sure to secure the ladder so that it cannot slip or fall.

Quick Mount PV[®]

925-478-8269 | www.quickmountpv.com | info@quickmountpv.com

2700 Mitchell Dr. | Walnut Creek, CA 94598

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 101 East Jefferson Street
Map and Parcel: 33-190
Census Tract & Block: 1-107
Present Owner: First Methodist Church
Address: 101 East Jefferson Street
Present Use: Church
Original Owner: First Methodist Church
Original Use: Church

BASE DATA

Historic Name: First Methodist Church
Date/Period: 1923-24
Style: Colonial Revival
Height to Cornice: 31
Height in Stories: 2
Present Zoning: B-1
Land Area (sq.ft.): 89 x 115
Assessed Value (land + imp.): 25,880 + 230,730 = 265,610

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Colonial Revival Church with a monumental portico of four doric columns, entablature with triglyphs, and a broad pediment. One of the most unusual features of this church is its detached tower and steeple. The source for this arrangement is clearly Wren's church type, which he developed after the Great Fire of 1666. Other impressive features of this design include the flight of entrance steps which spill out well beyond the flanking terraces which are themselves inspired by those found on the Lawn of the University. The interior is painted to resemble ashlar masonry and is fitted with typical panelled woodwork. The architect for this church was Joseph Hudnut.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The First Methodist Church bought the lot from R. S. J. Sterling in January of 1922. The \$20,000 purchase price included a residence appraised at \$2,200, which was removed to make room for the present structure. This site is the third to be occupied by the First Methodist Church. The earliest, built 1834-35, was situated on a lot bounded by Water, First, and South Streets. The second, begun in 1859, was finished in 1867, and was located on the corner of West Second and Water Streets.

GRAPHICS



CONDITIONS

Good

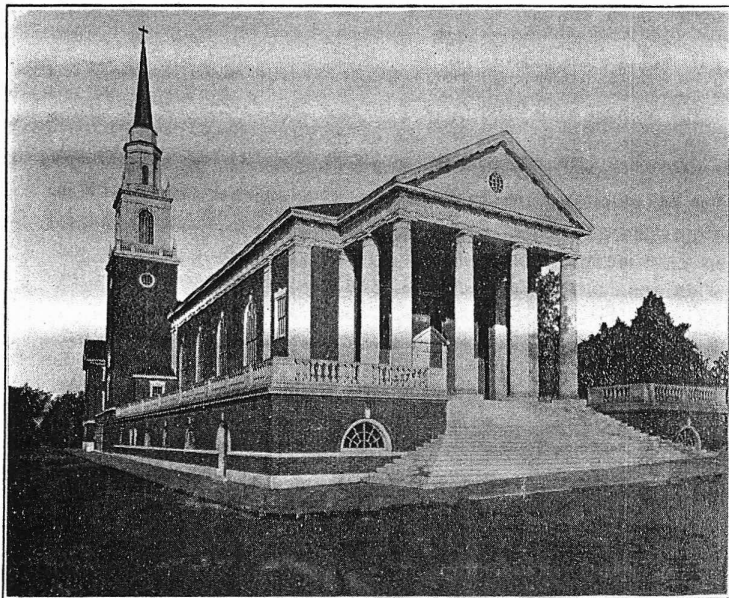
SOURCES

Alexander's Recollections, 1963 editions.
City Records

A CENTURY OF METHODISM
IN CHARLOTTESVILLE
VIRGINIA

By
A. L. BENNETT

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE MEN AND
EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE FIRST METH-
ODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH, OF
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

A Short History Prepared for the Centennial Celebration
November 11-14, 1934.

Published by
FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

1 9 3 4

The first Meth. church in Ch'ville was a small

*1st
bldg.*

brick structure, built on the site now partly occupied by the old parsonage. It was built by James Lobbin, and had a seating capacity of about 350, including the gallery at the rear end. The very high pulpit, somewhat like that found in the old Episcopal churches, was used.

The lot on which the church stood was purchased in 1834, from Jesse Scott, a colored man, for \$150. Scott presented the church with \$10 of the purchase money. This was considered very cheap, even in that day. The trustees' names were Gessner Harrison, Nathan C. Goodman, Stapleton Sneed, Matthew and Thomas Wingfield, Ebenzer Watts and Thomas Price.

The lot (bounded by Water, First and South Streets) contained about half an acre and the church stood in the center, surrounded by a large yard. The entrance was on the north side, facing Water Street. The building was surmounted by a tower of peculiar structure which Dr. Hammet said resembled an inverted card table. This comment caused the legs of the "card table" promptly to be sawed off.

There was no organ in the church, public opinion being at that time against the use of instrumental music in the service, as shown by the fact that an old lady of a sister denomination left her church upon the introduction of the violin into the choir. Nevertheless the singing was hearty, and was considered an important part of the service.

The church was dedicated in 1835 by Bishop Emory. Edward Wadsworth was then pastor. Says the late Rev. James A. Riddick: "At the Conference of 1835 Rev. Edward Wadsworth was appointed to Charlottesville and Scottsville, with one church, Temple Hill, near Carter's Bridge, between. He alternated the Sabbaths between the two towns and preached at Temple Hill during the week. Wadsworth was a young man of great ability, and Methodism gained considerably that year in all his churches. Dr. Wm. Hammet was then chaplain at the University of Virginia and greatly assisted Jamison, the first pastor and Wadsworth in securing funds for the new church.

The next year Riddick says: "I was assigned to the same charge which Wadsworth had held. The moral and religious statue of the two towns was fairly good and the Sabbath was properly observed."

"In 1837 Charlottesville was made an independent sta-

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CHAPTER THREE
THE SECOND PERIOD

By the late fifties the congregation felt the need of a larger and better church. What we call the "old church"—the one located at the corner of Second and Water Streets and now used as a garage was begun under Dr. Judkins in 1859 but the work was interrupted by the War Between the States. The edifice was completed in 1866-67 while Thomas A. Ware was pastor. G. W. Spooner, a member of the church was the builder. Of the workmen on this building only one, George Nimmo, aged 84, is now living. The work done under the Ware pastorate cost \$3900. By 1887 under the pastorate of H. M. Hope the congregation decided to enlarge and remodel the church at a cost of \$7000.00. G. W. Spooner, the original builder and his son were the contractors. Another son, George, was the draftsman. He afterwards became one of our ministers and was superannuated last year. In a letter to the committee he states that nothing of the old church remained except the walls. A choir loft was added to the rear of the pulpit, circular galleries on the front and sides were built, the roof was made steep with open finish ceiling, new windows placed, towers built on both front corners with one of them continuing up into a high spire, modern and beautiful pews as well as a pipe organ—the first such instrument the church had—installed. The basement consisted of three rooms for the primary department of the Sunday School, the Board of Stewards and general assembly. This was the most modern church building in the city at that time.

Only the lecture or Sunday School room in the basement was finished until after the war. It was here that the services were conducted during that period.

During the days of the War Between the States Thos. H. Early (1860-62) and Jno. S. Lindsay (1862-65) were our pastors. The records indicate "in the army" after many of the names of members, some of whom never returned. It was said that Lindsay endeared himself to the people because of his work among the wounded soldiers brought here.

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W. Aiken Smart (1913-14) is a son of Dr. R. D. Smart, who five years previous was pastor of First Church. Young Smart was recognized as one of the most promising young men in the Conference. His pastorate was terminated in the summer of 1914 by a call to a professorship in Emory University, which he ably fills today. But he did much in this one year for First Church, whose membership for the first time reached the thousand mark. In his final meeting with the quarterly conference he stated his greatest regret in leaving Charlottesville was that he would not be its pastor when the new church was completed.

L. T. Williams (1914-16), now superannuated and living in Richmond, served First Church during two years when unsuccessful efforts for a new church were continued. A net gain of 218 members and an even greater increase in the Sunday School were made.

The years 1916-20 found the affable J. K. Joliff as our pastor. Many efforts to secure a new church met with the failure which befell the previous ones, but the membership showed a net gain of one hundred and fifty. The church for the sixth time entertained the Virginia Conference in 1918. Bishop Hendrix presiding and Dr. B. F. Lipscomb, a former pastor and Presiding Elder, serving as secretary.

In the fall of 1920 H. P. Myers, a young minister who had not served a church of the first rank was sent to Charlottesville, because he had performed his task so well in the smaller churches the Bishop and his advisors believed he could build a new church. What he lacked in years was more than offset in energy, earnestness and good judgment. He spent some months in visiting his members and reviving the sentiment for a new building.

On April 4, 1921, a committee composed of N. T. Shumate, W. H. Snyder, B. G. Childs, Dr. Wm. R. Smithey, O. E. Hawkins, H. B. Graves, J. D. Via, W. R. Barksdale, W. E. Wilson, and S. F. Hamm was appointed to secure pledges of \$100,000 for a new church. So well was this duty performed that \$104,431 was subscribed within a few weeks.

The next obstacle to be overcome was the location. This question had been discussed for many years and had caused a division of opinion. Some members desired the old site; others wanted a new and better located lot. Options had

been secured and allowed to expire for years; committees had been unable to solve this vexing problem.

The church wisely secured its pledges before appointing on July 25, 1921 a committee on location composed of M. V. Pence, chairman of the board; O. E. Hawkins, its treasurer; and N. T. Shumate. In the following September the location now used (bounded by First High and Jefferson Streets) was accepted.

On October 10, 1921, a committee on church plans consisting of N. T. Shumate, J. E. Harrison, W. H. Snyder, B. G. Childs, and S. F. Hamm was appointed. On October 31, 1921, Jos. Hudnut of New York City was selected as architect. The plans and specifications were adopted the following February.

The building committee, composed of J. R. Morris, M. V. Pence and N. T. Shumate, arranged with the Charlottesville Lumber Company to erect the church on a cost plus ten per cent commission. The firm, however, donated half of its commissions to the church in addition to the liberal contributions made by several members of the firm who were members of the church. J. E. Harrison, Vice-President of the Company, and a member of the board, supervised the work and endeavored to make the structure a monument to the city.

Ground for the building was broken on March 12, 1923 at which time Bishop Du Bose, who was residing in Charlottesville spoke. The work was immediately begun and rushed, although a great amount of earth had to be moved. So rapidly did this progress that the laying of the corner stone by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Virginia was held on March 31, 1924, M. W. Callahan being the Grand Master. Bishop Candler delivered a great address on the occasion.

The work on this large plant went forward so quickly that the last service was conducted in the old church on Sunday, October 5, 1924, a day mingled with rejoicing because of the progress made in achieving our goal of having one of the best church plants in Southern Methodism and sadness because we were leaving our old church which had housed us since 1859 and the site of our church home since our organization.

On the following Sunday, November 1, 1924, Dr. Myers preached the first sermon in the new church. Though the

Present
bldg

main auditorium was not completed until the following fall. In the meantime the social room was used for the church services. The Sunday School building was used, however, from the first day we entered the church.

While the four year pastorate of Dr. Myers will always be remembered because of the erection of the church, it would be recorded as one of the most successful in our history if the edifice had not been constructed. At the same time he was erecting the church he was building the membership and Sunday School and effecting an organization for effective work.

Henry C. Pfeiffer was assigned the task of finishing the church and occupying the main auditorium on the first Sunday in December, 1925. Bishop McMurry preached at both services on this occasion to one of the largest congregations ever assembled in Charlottesville. During the week former pastors were present to conduct the services.

The building has an auditorium that will seat 975; a social room of the same size to care for the social and physical needs of the church; a student club room, dedicated to the memory of Dr. F. H. Smith, a chapel with a seating capacity of 300, which is used as an assembly room for the adult department of the Sunday School, prayer services and Epworth League; a large and well furnished kitchen; a comfortable ladies parlor, and above all ample auditoriums and class rooms for every department of the church school.

The lots upon which the church is erected, building and equipment cost slightly more than \$300,000, of which the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, gave \$72,125.42 out of funds left from war work and the Board of Missions of the Virginia Conference gave \$20,000. When the building was completed the church owed a debt of \$109,700 which has been reduced to \$51,800.

So well did Dr. Pfeiffer perform his duties that he served the church from 1924-28, being the sixth and last pastor to serve us for four consecutive years. He was at his best in organizing the work so as to use the new plant to its maximum capacity. As a preacher, he was among the best in the conference; as a gentleman, none surpassed him. His pastorate marked four years of growth in every phase of the work of the church.

J. W. Moore (1928-30) came to First Church after

a rich and successful pastorate in many of our largest churches. He is a deep thinker and able preacher with a wonderful storehouse of apt illustrations to aid him in driving home a truth. The membership continued to increase and every department of the church was working well when he was appointed to the Eldership of the Petersburg District at the end of his second year.

The beautiful copy of Raphael's Transfiguration in the north end of the church auditorium was the work of and presented on October 26, 1930, by Mrs. Ada Woodson Quarles, a faithful and useful member of the church, as a memorial to her father, Rev. John T. Payne, who died December 23, 1918, after being a member of the Virginia Conference for more than thirty years and to her brother, Corporal Maurice L. Payne, Co. D, 317th Infantry Division, A. E. F., who was killed in France, July 29, 1918.

Because their service to us have been so recent and helpful, mention is made of the Eldership of: W. Archie Wright, 1921-25, who came to the district as a young Elder. He served and greatly aided us during the period when we were erecting our church. M. S. Colonna proved a capable, patient and efficient leader. T. F. Carroll, another young man, showed remarkable executive ability as well as being an able preacher. Daniel T. Merritt, our present Elder, won us by his able leadership and lovely character. We wish we could keep him in his responsible position indefinitely.

C. C. Bell (1930-33) a young and energetic preacher who was not afraid of hard work followed Dr. Moore for three years of diligent labor during a time when the people were facing the depression and debt on the building courageously. He went from First Church to Trinity, Newport News, where he is proving quite successful with a splendid program of work.

In 1933 the members of the church were made happy by the return of George E. Booker whom many remembered so pleasantly from his former pastorate. He left us an able man, but returned enriched by his pastorate in many of the leading churches in the conference as well as the Eldership of the Richmond District for four years. He is recognized as one of the ablest ministers in Southern Methodism. His popularity with both the clergy and laymen is