

**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 Eldbrooke United Methodist Church
other names _____

2. Location

street & number 4100 River Road not for publication
city or town Washington, D.C. vicinity
state District of Columbia Code DC county _____ code 001 zip code 200016

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 request for determination of eligibility 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 meets 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/Title Date

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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

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

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

Tenleytown in Washington, D.C.: Historic and Architectural Resources

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility/church

RELIGION/Religious Facility/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Spanish Revival

foundation Concrete
walls Steel, brick and stucco

roof Tile
other _____

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church is located at 4100 River Road in the Tenleytown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The church building, designed by architect Howard Cutler and constructed in 1926, is executed in a Spanish Mission style not common for the city. The stucco-clad, steel-frame structure consists of the main church sanctuary and a Sunday school wing. The sanctuary is a basilican-plan structure covered with a red tile roof and featuring a picturesque corner belltower. The façade is decorated with highly ornamental cast cement bas-reliefs. The nave wall extends along Murdock Mill Road and is defined by double-height round arched recesses filled with stained glass tracery windows. The Sunday school wing is appended to the rear of the church building and set perpendicular to, creating the building's T-shaped footprint. The primary entrance of the school opens on Murdock Mill Road. The school wing is clearly distinguished architecturally from the sanctuary, though it uses the same stucco finish and the same window treatment.

The church is in good condition, but is in need of maintenance. The cast concrete is spalling in places, in particular around the Sunday school entrance on Murdock Mill Road.

General Description:

Site:

Eldbrooke Church is located at the intersection of River Road and Murdock Mill Road, behind the former Sears & Roebuck Co. store building in Tenleytown, an important cultural landmark in the neighborhood. The church building faces northerly and fronts directly on River Road, prominently identifying itself by its corner bell tower. At the rear of the church, but located on a separate and independently owned lot is The Methodist Cemetery.

Exterior:

Eldbrooke Church is a two-part, T-shaped, steel frame building raised upon a high foundation, clad with stucco and covered with a red tile roof. The building consists of two principal parts: the main church sanctuary and the Sunday school. The main church building is a basilican-plan structure that measures 52 feet wide by 119 feet deep and stands two stories high. The raised lower level includes a social/recreation hall, while the upper level holds the sanctuary proper. The primary façade faces River Road and presents a flat-fronted, but highly ornamented gable end with *bas relief* sculpture, a central entry and a corner bell tower on the left side. A dual-flight, stucco-clad enclosed stair leads from ground level to a landing at the raised first floor level and providing direct access to the church's central entry. The landing opens onto a pair of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

massive wood-paneled doors. These doors are flanked by paired pilasters, surmounted by an arch containing a cast concrete *bas-relief* image of a cross and crown within a circular medallion. (Of note, an identical cross and crown symbol is found in Masonic buildings.) Above this arched tympanum is a three-part Baroque-inspired, cast-concrete *bas-relief*. The *bas-relief* exhibits no particular religious imagery; however, the stained-glass window, located on-center and added in 1940, depicts Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The *bas-relief* itself has a combination of floral and geometric patterning.

A square bell tower is attached to the front southeast corner of the building, at the intersection of River Road and Murdock Mill Road. At street level on the Murdock Mill Road side, the tower offers an entry door into the social/recreational hall. Like the main door in the principal façade, this secondary entry is surmounted by an arch with cast concrete *bas-relief* ornamentation on-center of the tympanum. Above the entry, the tower presents a series of single windows on each of the three exposed tower walls; those of the lower level are rectangular, the middle level are round-arched, and the upper level are segmental arched, but topped by a Baroque-style arched pediment with *bas relief* ornamentation. The belfry itself has long, round-arched openings on all four sides, capped by a steeply pitched domed roof constructed of rib vaults and covered in red terra cotta tile.

On the southeast side, the main church building extends five bays deep along Murdock Mill Road. Each bay is defined at the raised basement level by pairs of multi-pane rectangular window openings, and at the upper level by double-story recessed blind arches. The blind arches are each lit by a pair of arched, stained glass windows separated by a narrow pilaster that is itself capped by a blind roundel. On the northwest side, the main church similarly extends five bays deep with each bay identically detailed as along Murdock Mill Road.

The Sunday School building intersects the end of the main building and runs perpendicular to it, forming the T-shaped footprint of the two-part building. The Sunday School wing measures 104' x 42' and, though the same height as the main church wing, offers three floor levels. In general the wing is stylistically similar to the sanctuary, yet has more of an institutional feel. The principal elevation faces Murdock Mill Road, and is three bays wide and capped by a Mission-style parapet roofline. The first floor consists of ground-level rectangular window openings to either side of a taller central entry. This central entry, like that of the sanctuary, is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a round-arched pediment with *bas-relief* ornamentation in the tympanum. At the second story, long and simple, single arched windows are recessed into the stucco wall, while at the third story paired arched openings set within round blind arches follow those of the upper level of the sanctuary wing. The northwest side elevation of the school wing is similarly detailed. The long rear wall of the school wing however is less religious and more institutional in appearance with banks of steel windows filling the seven-bay-long elevation at all three levels.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

Interior:

The interior of the main sanctuary measures 72' x 50' with a large balcony, and seats about 550 persons. Because of its high ceiling, the sanctuary occupies the equivalent of two levels. The interior walls of the sanctuary are cream-colored stucco, and the ceiling is dark-stained wood with exposed beams. A choir loft, also built of dark wood, is behind the altar. The sanctuary has thirty-six stained-glass windows, all of which were installed in 1940. Each of these windows is arranged in pairs separated by pilasters, each having an upper arched window and a lower rectangular window. Bronze plaques under each set of windows identify the donor and/or the church member in whose honor the window was given. All of the upper windows have a central cartouche containing a Christian symbol, and the lower windows have a cartouche containing the name of some Christian virtue. The lower windows also have small inset panes with Christian symbols such as the crown, cross, chalice, lily, Bible, and anchor. A small round window containing a cross tops each pair of windows.

The social/recreational hall, under the sanctuary, measures 65' x 50' and includes a stage, dressing rooms, and a large kitchen that, at one time, was equipped to serve 300 people.

The three-story Sunday School wing consists primarily of classrooms and offices. A junior chapel, a library, and classrooms located on the second floor can be entered directly from the sanctuary. Three stained glass windows are located in the second-floor junior chapel.

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 pattern of our History.
- B** Property 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)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Howard Cutler, Jr.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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:

D.C. Historic Preservation Office

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Summary Statement of Significance:

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church is located at 4100 River Road at the intersection of River Road and the narrow Murdock Mill Road within the urban Tenleytown neighborhood of Washington, D.C., historically a small village *en route* to the port of Georgetown. The present stucco-clad Spanish Mission-style church, built in 1926, is the fourth Methodist church built on the site. The first church on the site was constructed in 1840 and was the first church to have been built in Tenleytown.

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church meets National Register Criteria A and C and Criteria Consideration A for religious properties, under the Multiple Property Document: *Tenleytown in Washington, D.C.: Historic and Architectural Resources, 1770-1941*, with Architecture as the Area of Significance. Eldbrooke Church is the site of the oldest church congregation to establish itself in Tenleytown and is representative of the growth of Tenleytown from crossroads community to urban neighborhood. Eldbrooke Church is an excellent example of the Spanish Mission style of architecture, and embodies the distinguishing characteristics of that style, namely its belfry tower and *bas-relief* decoration. Eldbrooke Church possesses high artistic value and has been identified with the work of notable architect Howard Cutler. The Eldbrooke United Methodist Church retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church meets National Register Criteria Consideration A for religious properties since the church derives its primary significance from its architecture and since it is an important cultural landmark representative of the former village of Tenleytown. The Period of Significance for Eldbrooke United Methodist Church is 1926, the year of its construction.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The First Methodist Church in Tenleytown:

The present Eldbrooke United Methodist Church, constructed in 1926, is the fourth Methodist church on the site. The Methodist congregation in Tenleytown was founded between 1832 and 1835 as the small crossroads community was just beginning to expand beyond John Tenally's Tavern and develop into an active rural village *en route* to the port at Georgetown. During that period, the original members of "the church at Tennallytown," including John M. Simpson, Jacob Earnest, Louis Shoemaker, Charles Shoemaker, Fred Robey, John Ward, Thomas Perry, and John Harry, met for worship services in the home of Philip L. Brooke near the intersection of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Loughborough Road (now VanNess Street) and the Frederick-Georgetown Pike (now Wisconsin Avenue).¹

In 1840, the congregation purchased a tract of land at the intersection of River Road and Murdock Mill Road for the purpose of erecting “a place of worship.” The site was described in the deed as “lying on the west side of the River Road and north of Godfry Conrad’s Tavern² at Tenly [sic] Town.” Like Loughborough Road and the Frederick-Georgetown Road, River Road and Murdock Mill Road were established in the 18th century along what had once been Piscataway Indian trails to connect the outlying farms with the market port in Georgetown. The land acquired by the Methodist congregation—and indeed most of Tenleytown—was part of the 3,124-acre tract of land called “Friendship” granted to Charles Calvert to James A. Stoddert and Colonel Thomas Addison in 1713. At that time, “Friendship” lay within the borders of Prince Georges’ County, Maryland; in 1748, the area became Frederick County and in 1776 it became Montgomery County; and in 1791 it was incorporated into the District of Columbia. Thomas Addison’s daughter Ann married William Murdock (1710-1769), a member of the Maryland legislature, and thus a portion of the “Friendship” grant came into the possession of the Murdock family, passing from Ann Addison’s brother to her sons Addison and John Murdock and eventually to her great-great-grandson William David Clark Murdock.

The “indenture,” or deed of sale, by which the land was transferred to the church trustees from the Murdock family is dated June 15, 1840. Signing for the Methodist church were Thomas S. Watkins, Thomas N. Wilson, William Sayer, Enos Ray, and Peter D. Posey. Signing for the Murdock family were Jane Clagett, Marianne C. French, William D.C. Murdock and Ellen Louisa Murdock, his wife. Jane Clagett, the grandmother of William D.C. Murdock, was the former Jane Contee Harrison. After the death of her husband William Murdock in 1791 she married Zadock Clagett. Marianne C. French, born Marianne Clark, was the mother of William D.C. Murdock with her husband Addison Murdock II; after Murdock’s death she married a Mr. French. Jane Clagett (as the widow of William Murdock) and Marianne French (as the widow of Addison Murdock), retained dower rights in the Friendship tract, which would have included the church land.³ For this reason they were required to sign the document transferring ownership to the trustees of the Methodist Church.

¹ “100th Anniversary of Eldbrooke Methodist Church, 1840-1940.”

² John Tennally’s Tavern had by then become Godfrey’s Tavern.

³ William Murdock married Jane Contee Harrison on May 27, 1783. William Murdock died in 1791. Addison Murdock (son of William Murdock and Jane D. Harrison Murdock) married Marianne C. Clark on April 14, 1805. Information on the Addison and Murdock families is from Effie Gwynn Bowie, *Across the Years in Prince Georges’ County* (1947), 31-35; 562-567, with additional information provided by Priscilla McNeil.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

On the prominent site at the corner of River Road and Murdock Mill Road the founders erected the first church, called Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal. It was a simple wooden structure, heated by two pot-bellied wood stoves and lit by kerosene oil lamps; music was provided by a small Estey pedal organ. In the beginning, Mount Zion was a mission church of Dumbarton Avenue Church in Georgetown, and a visiting minister was furnished by the West Georgetown Circuit. In 1855, the Tenleytown Church was incorporated into the West Georgetown Circuit, along with the West Georgetown Church at 35th and T Streets. The Reverend W.F. Speake was the first resident pastor. At that time the Sunday School had twelve teachers, sixty pupils, and one hundred volunteers.⁴

Also in 1855, a group of twelve Tenleytown residents, many of whom were members of the Mount Zion congregation, purchased from William D.C. Murdock and his wife Ellen Louisa Murdock, a parcel of land directly behind the church for the purpose of establishing a cemetery. This site, although it is called the Methodist Cemetery, has always been privately owned and has never belonged to the Methodist Church.⁵

The Second Church:

The Civil War had a profound effect on Tenleytown because of the area's proximity to Fort Pennsylvania (renamed Fort Reno in 1863), which was located on the highest point in the District of Columbia. Union soldiers from the 55th New York regiment of French Algerian Zouaves, and the Rhode Island Volunteers were encamped in Tenleytown. While some developed friendly relations with local residents, Tenleytown was plagued by soldiers who took over private homes and businesses for their own use, and plundered the neighborhood for firewood, vegetables, eggs, milk, and livestock.⁶

Mount Zion Church was occupied by several contingents of soldiers, and worship services had to be moved to private homes. The church was first used by the 55th New York regiment, who reportedly hung a hand-lettered sign over the door announcing that this was the "New York Eating House." It was also used as a guardhouse by the Zouaves, who "tore out the pulpit and destroyed the Sabbath School library."⁷ The Rhode Island volunteers subsequently established an encampment behind the church, which was called Camp Frieze. The building was used as a

⁴ Church history was found in "100th Anniversary of Eldbrooke Methodist Church, 1840-1940" and in several newspaper articles (see bibliography).

⁵ Margaret R. Amundson, "The Methodist Cemetery," Tenleytown Historic Resources Survey. The original trustees of the cemetery were referred to as the "Tenleytown Twelve." See the National Register nomination on the Methodist Cemetery for more information.

⁶ Helm, *Tenleytown D.C.*, 55.

⁷ Helm, Tenleytown, D.C., 51, quoting from William Spicer, *History of the 9th and 10th Regiments, Rhode Island Volunteers* (1892), 276.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

quartermaster's store, residence, hospital, and mess hall. Minutes from an 1863 meeting of the West Georgetown Circuit (which included Mount Zion) recorded that, "The school at Tenleytown is suspended in consequence of the destruction of the church by the army."

Two 1862 sketches, reproduced in William Spicer's History of the 9th and 10th Regiments, Rhode Island Volunteers, show the church as a very plain gable-fronted, wood-frame building with a stone foundation, a center door flanked by single windows, and four windows along the side. It is unclear whether this is an accurate depiction or an artist's conception. The church was surrounded by tents and a few small structures—in one of the sketches the Methodist Church can be seen in the background. According to the 100th Anniversary booklet, the remains of rifle pits and breastworks have been found behind the building.

In 1866, following the war, Mount Zion Church was rebuilt on the same site. A photograph of this new structure shows that the plain wood-frame building had two entrances in front and three regularly spaced windows along the sides, with a low-pitched, front-gabled roof and no steeple. A photograph of the interior shows the pot-bellied stove and kerosene lamps, three rather ornate straight-backed chairs for church officials and wooden pews. In 1873, Mount Zion Church separated from the West Georgetown Circuit to join the Tenleytown Circuit, which also included churches at Little Falls and Sligo.

The Third Church:

In 1899, during the pastorate of H. E. R. Beck, the second church building was considerably enlarged and effectively encapsulated in a new building. A bay was added in the back to accommodate the pulpit, a vestibule and bell tower were constructed on the front, and a Sunday School room was added to the west side. A photograph shows a wood frame building with a wide arched entry opening into the tower, with large Gothic tracery windows in the gable end and a much more steeply pitched front gable roof. The school wing had its own entrance to the side. The old stoves were replaced by a hot-air furnace, and electric lighting replaced the kerosene lamps. The church also acquired new pews and a new Miller organ.⁸

A house was built next door as a parsonage, as seen in an undated photograph of the church. This land had been deeded by William D.C. Murdock to William Oscar Harry in 1865, and in 1868 Mr. Harry deeded the land to Philip L. Brooke. Brooke turned the land over to the trustees

⁸ 100th Anniversary and "Eldbrooke Methodist Church was Named after Aquila Eld and Philip Brooke," *The Washington Star*, December 7, 1946.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

of the “Church of West Georgetown and Tenleytown” and land for the parsonage was deeded by Brooke to the congregation in 1894.⁹

In 1899, the church was renamed Eldbrooke, combining the names of Aquila Eld (1820-1878) and Philip L. Brooke (1821-1903) in recognition of their great service to the Tenleytown church. Mr. Eld was the son of Aquila Eld senior, who was born in 1799 in Coventry, Warwickshire, England and died in Tenleytown on June 28, 1850. The Elds owned a large farm near the D.C./Maryland border. Mr. Brooke was the son of Clement Hill Brooke and Ann Carroll Brooke. Like Aquila Eld, he was a farmer. Both men were members of the original congregation and were among the founders of the Methodist Cemetery. Aquila Eld is buried at the Methodist Cemetery as is his father.¹⁰

At about the same time, in 1901, a group of Tenleytown men formed the William R. Singleton Lodge No. 30 of the Free and Accepted Order of Masons. The lodge had especially strong ties to Eldbrooke Church. The land on which the lodge was built had belonged to the Harry family, and later to the Rileys, from whom it was purchased by the Masons. The names of Shoemaker, Wendel, Robey, Bowling, Heider, Smith, Parks, Riley, Walther, Ray, Chappell, Giles and Hurley are cited in Judith Helm’s Tenleytown D.C. as having been masters of the Singleton Lodge; many of these names are also prominent in the history of Eldbrooke Church. Several Methodist ministers served as chaplains of Singleton Lodge.¹¹

The Present Church:

By the early 1920s, under the leadership of the popular pastor Reverend John E. Fort, the congregation had about 400 members and had outgrown the enlarged and remodeled 1899 church. At first, church leaders considered building on church-owned land across the street, but this site was determined to be too small and the land was sold for \$16,000.00. It was decided to raze the 1899 building and construct a larger one on the same site, using the proceeds of the land sale to help finance the project. The last worship services in the 1899 church were held on Sunday, November 1, 1925 and that evening there was a farewell march around the church.

The *Washington Evening Star* reported on November 28, 1925 that the Eldbrooke Methodist Episcopal congregation had selected Howard W. Cutler as the architect for the new church and

⁹ Until the mid-1950s, the house next to the church served as the residence of the pastor and his family. When the church acquired a new parsonage at 4505 Burlington Place, the old parsonage became the “Senior House” for the Sunday School, and was later razed to create space for a parking lot. (See “Eldbrooke Church,” *Leaves of Wesley Heights*, July 1959.)

¹⁰ Information on Aquila Eld and Philip L. Brooke comes from census records and from Eldbrooke Church member Diane Tamayo and Brooke descendant Ann Chandler. Brooke and his family are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

¹¹ Helm, *Tenleytown, D.C.*, 128-129.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 6

had awarded the building contract to C. H. Brooks of Gaithersburg, MD. Mr. Cutler had already submitted plans for a “modern and commodious church and Sunday school building” which was expected to be completed by September of the following year at a projected cost of \$180,000.

The D.C. building permit was issued on November 29, 1925. The building committee was chaired by the pastor, the Reverend Charles L. Pate with C. Wendel Shoemaker as secretary and treasurer, and Luther L. Derrick, John B. Harry, and the Sunday school superintendent, H.S. Omohundro, also serving on the committee.

The cornerstone was laid on April 24, 1926 in what the *Washington Evening Star* called “an impressive ceremony.” The Reverend Dr. J. Phelps Hand, superintendent of the Washington district of the Methodist Church, presided over the event; other speakers included Rev. Dr. Lucius C. Clark, chancellor of American University, and Rev. Oswald B. Falls, Rev. W. W. Shearer, and Rev. Fred C. Reynolds. Members of the William R. Singleton Masonic Lodge also participated in the ceremony, demonstrating the close tie between the church and the lodge. Grand Mastery Sydney Jacobs used a gavel once used by George Washington, and Grand Secretary Claude Keiper announced the contents of the cornerstone box, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Robey. Howard W. Cutler, architect for the building, presented the tools used in placing the cornerstone.

On Sunday March 13, 1927 Methodist Bishop William Fraser McDowell dedicated the new church building. Services were held throughout the day and various events were planned for the following week.¹² Thirteen years later, in 1940, the year that Eldbrooke celebrated its 100th anniversary, the church dedicated its nineteen, newly installed stained glass windows. In 1950, the church celebrated the installation of a new carillon.

In addition to being a house of worship, Eldbrooke Church has over the years sponsored a great number of community charitable and social organizations, including the Women’s Missionary Society, the Ladies Aid Society and the Women’s Society of Christian Service. In relatively recent years, the Eldbrooke congregation opened its doors to the Real Life Church and St. Gregory the Great Orthodox Church, Antiochan Archdiocese Western Rite. Space in the Sunday School building was used for the extended daycare program for Janney Elementary School. The sanctuary proper was used for musical and theatrical productions of the Eldbrooke Artists’ Series.

By 2005, the Eldbrooke congregation had dwindled and a decision was made by the trustees to join the congregation of Metropolitan Methodist Church. The last worship service of Eldbrooke

¹² “Eldbrooke Methodist Cornerstone is Laid,” *Washington Evening Star*, April 25, 1926. Helm, *Tenleytown, D.C.* 127-129.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 7

Church was held on Sunday June 26, 2005. In April 2008, Eldbrooke Methodist Church was designated a D.C. Landmark and listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. The church has been purchased by the City Church and once renovated will again house religious services in the sanctuary and Sunday School in the adjacent school building.

The Architect:

Howard Wright Cutler (1883-1948) was a native of Quray, Colorado and the son of geologist Martin Van Buren and Margaret (Jocknick) Culter. He earned his B.A. in architecture from the Athenaeum and Mechanics Art Institute in Rochester, New York in 1904. He began his architectural career at the local firm of Gordon and Maden. Then, in 1906, he started his own firm, designing a building for Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester. During World War I, Cutler was assigned to the U.S. Army's Designing and Architectural Department, giving him the opportunity to design hospitals across the country, including an addition to the Walter Reed Medical Hospital in D.C. After the War, Cutler partnered with engineer Samuel Woodbridge in D.C., forming the firm of Cutler and Woodbridge. This partnership was shortlived, lasting just two years from 1919 until 1921. For the next two years, Cutler joined forces with architect Louis R. Moss to form Cutler and Moss. In 1924, Cutler went out on his own, practicing in Silver Spring, Maryland for the next twenty years, predominantly designing public school buildings (Cutler designed 25 schools in Montgomery County). In the District of Columbia, in addition to Eldbrooke Church, Cutler is known to have designed the Lincoln Congregational Temple United Church of Christ at 1701 11th Street, NW.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

“100th Anniversary of Eldbrooke Methodist Church, 1840-1940,” internal publication, 1940.

Bowie, Effie Gwynn. *Across the Yeas in Prince George’s County; genealogical and biographical history of some Prince George’s County, Maryland and allied families*. Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie, 1947.

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Eldbrooke United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17,441 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Long (Tenleytown Historical Society) and Kim Williams (DC HPO)

Organization D.C. Historic Preservation Office date June 2008

street & number 801 North Capitol Street telephone 202 442-8840

city or town Washington, D.C. state zip code 20002

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- X A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- X A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- X Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

Name District of Columbia

street & number 1133 North Capitol Street, NE telephone

city or town Washington state D.C. zip code

Paperwork Reduction 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Eldbrooke United Methodist Church at 4100 River Road occupies Lot 805 in Square 1730 in the northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia. +

Boundary Justification:

A Methodist Church building has been located on this site since circa 1840; the present church was built on the site in 1926.

+

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

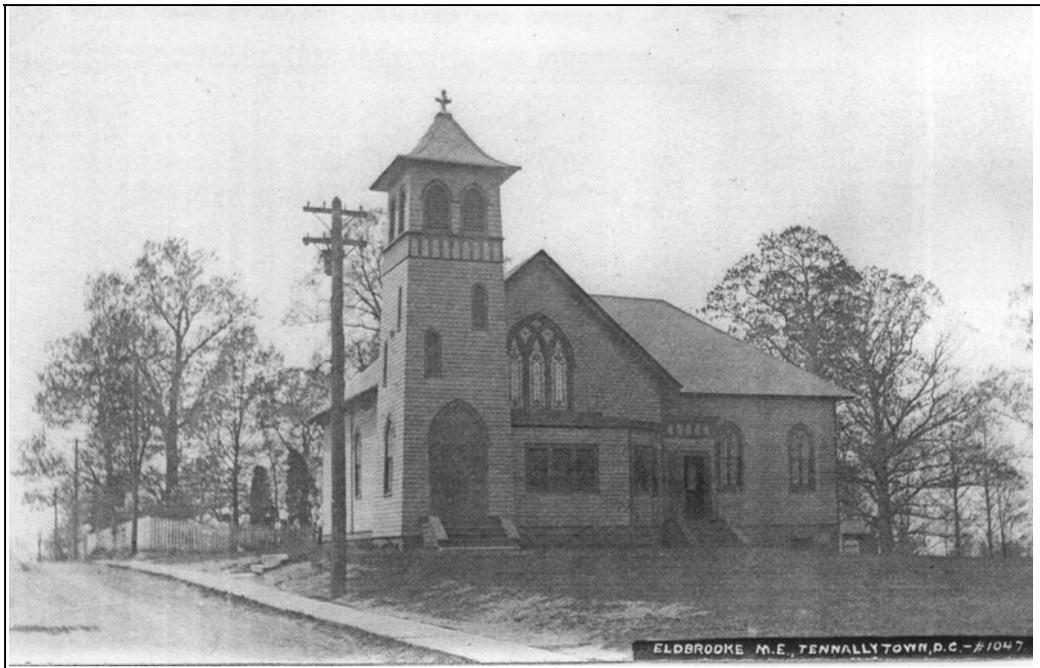
Eldbrooke United Methodist Church

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH



Eldbrooke Church (1899-1925). The third church on the site at 4100 River Road
Historical Society of Washington DC (CHS 05485)