STATE: New York
COUNTY: New York
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME

COMMON: John Street Methodist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 44 John Street
CITY OR TOWN: New York
STATE: New York

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Site
- Object
- Building
- Structure

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes: Restricted
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: John Street Methodist Church
STREET AND NUMBER: 44 John Street
CITY OR TOWN: New York
STATE: New York

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
New York County Hall of Records
STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Chambers Street
CITY OR TOWN: New York
STATE: New York

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
DATE OF SURVEY: Dec. 21, 1965
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: 305 Broadway
CITY OR TOWN: New York
STATE: New York

Rep. Bella Abzug
### 7. DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>(Check One)</th>
<th>(Check One)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☑ Excellent</td>
<td>☑ Good</td>
<td>☑ Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☑ Unaltered</td>
<td>☑ Deteriorated</td>
<td>☑ Ruins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☑ Unexposed</td>
<td>☑ Altered</td>
<td>☑ Moved</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>☑ Original Site</td>
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</table>

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

- **Number of stories:** The church is one story high with basement.

- **Number of bays:** The John Street (north) facade is three bays wide.

- **Layout and/or shape of plan:** The plan is basically rectangular with a semi-circular apse.

- **Wall construction:** The north facade is brown-colored stuccoed brick. The remaining walls are brick.

- **Structural system:** The structural system is masonry bearing wall.

- **Roof, cornice:** On the north facade there is a pediment with a raking cornice and a closed lower cord surmounting a full entablature profiled at the ends.

- **Other notable features:** There is a Palladian window placed directly above the broad main entrance door. Flanking the doorway are two elongated round-arched windows.

The pediment enframes a lunette window.
**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The John Street Methodist Church is an example of the classical style applied to a small ecclesiastical building. Standing on the site of the earliest Methodist church in New York, the present structure is the product of the third rebuilding, accomplished in 1841. The Methodist Society in New York was founded by two disciples of John Wesley, who had immigrated to America. Their first building, a small one in the colonial style, was dedicated in 1768. A rebuilding of 1817-18 created a building from which many of the elements -- hand-hewn beams, curved stairways to the sanctuary, floorboards and pews -- were retained as part of the present church.

The John Street facade, crowned by a wide, low pediment with a lunette, is dominated by the great Palladian window above the entrance door frame. Two tall round-arched windows which flank the central bay are framed by plain frames carried on a corbeled sill. They are crowned by arches with keystones. At present, there are plans for a new building to the west which will be open at ground level, exposing the western wall of the church for the first time. This plan will require that the exposed wall be finished in a sympathetic manner, and it will provide a dramatic new view of the building.

Inside the church, in addition to the portions of its fabric which have survived from the earlier building, there are several reminders of its history. A large basement room serves as a gallery displaying prints, paintings and other objects including a large clock which was sent to the first congregation by John Wesley. A balcony in the nave was employed in the days before the Civil War as a way station on the Underground Railroad.

Doubly distinguished by its architecture and by its roots in colonial times, this church still stands, a notable structure in the City.

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**S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S**

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**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
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<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
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**SPECIFIC DATE(S):** 1841

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<td>☐ Invention</td>
<td>☐ Social/Humanitarian</td>
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<td>☐ Landscape</td>
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<td>☐ Commerce</td>
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<td>☐ Music</td>
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**INSTRUCTIONS**

---

**RECEIVED**

JAN 31 1972

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HISTORIC PLACES
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>CORNER</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: under one acre

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<td>74° 00' 32&quot;</td>
<td>40° 42' 34&quot;</td>
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</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen S. Lash, Associate

ORGANIZATION: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE: Sept. 24, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: New York

STATE: New York

CODE: 36

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: (Signature)

Title: Chairman, N.Y. State Historic Trust

Date: 8/4/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/4/73

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

Date: 5/31/73
The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

1. Name. __________________________________________

2. Location. _________________________________________

3. Classification. _____________________________________

4. Owner of Property. ________________________________

5. Location of Legal Description. ______________________

6. Representation in Existing Surveys. ________________

7. Description. _____________________________________

8. Statement of Significance. __________________________

9. Bibliography. ____________________________________

    a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. __________________
    b. Acreage. _________________________________________

11. Form Prepared By. ________________________________

12. Certification.

Photographic Coverage. Please send a more recent photo
(less than five years old).

Map Coverage. ______________________________________

Other. We'll process as soon as possible after you return it.

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

Signed: [Signature]
<table>
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<th>PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)</th>
<th>MAP (S)</th>
<th>MAP DESCRIPTION (S)</th>
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<th>ACKNOWLEDGE</th>
<th>RESUBMIT</th>
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<td>4/26/73</td>
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</table>

**DATE OF RECEIPT**: 3/1/72

**PROPERTY**: YES

**NUMBER**: 1

**REGISTER**: 7300/1219

**STATE**: NY

**REVIEW**

- Needs more recent photo. Sent recent photo, 6/22/72
- Send photo only if 5 yrs. old. Some improvement, but not much
- Accept 4/4/73

**HISTORIAN**

- Agree on photographs. They seem as there have been no changes.
- OK 7/24/72

**ARCHAEOLOGIST**

- Accept 5/17/73

**ARCHITECT**

- OK Chambers

**ASST. KEEPER**

- OK for writer's standard

**KEEPER**

- C.K. for writer's standard

**WRITER/EDITOR**

- Editor's standard

**CHIEF, OAHP**

**EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR**

**Federal Registry Entry**: 8-7-73

**Annual Edition Entry**: 

**LOGGED**: JUN 4 1973

**CARD**: JUN 4 1973

**COMMENTS**: 

**WORKING NUMBER**: 13172171

**CONGRESSIONAL DIST.**: Bella S. Abing
NPS Number 64-73
Title: John St. Methodist Church
Loc. New York Co., N.Y.
Front facade
NPS Number 6473

Title: John St. Methodist Church

Loc. New York Co., N.Y.

North facade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

1. NAME
COMMON: John Street Methodist Church

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
44 John Street
CITY OR TOWN: New York
STATE: New York
COUNTY CODE: 36

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE: USGS Quadrangle 7.5 minute series Jersey City, N.J.- N.Y.
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1967

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
April 12, 1973

Mr. Jerry Rogers
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am returning herewith the National Register form for the John St. Methodist Church in New York County, New York. Enclosed please find a more recent photograph than the one originally submitted which is also enclosed.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn Beebe Weaver
Research Assistant
Division for Historic Preservation

LBW/djf
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowertown Historic District</td>
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<td>Haskell House</td>
<td>New Windsor vicinity, Orange County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steinheim (Allen) Museum</td>
<td>Alfred, Allegany County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of the Holy Cross</td>
<td>Troy, Rensselaer County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phelps Mansion</td>
<td>Binghamton, Broome County</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Street Methodist Church</td>
<td>New York, New York County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of the Transfiguration</td>
<td>New York, New York County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also Notified:

- Hon. Jacob K. Javits
- Hon. James L. Buckley
- Hon. Henry P. Smith
- Hon. Benjamin Gilman
- Hon. James F. Hastings
- Hon. Carlton J. King

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner
Parks and Recreation
Room 303, South Swan Street Building
Albany, New York 12223