

WESLEY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
662 Washington Street
Bath
Sagadahoc County
Maine

MHBR No. 119

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
SCANNED HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

MAINE HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD (MHBR)
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street
65 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

MAINE HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD (MHBR)
WESLEY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MHBR NO. 119

- Location:** 662 Washington Street
Bath
Sagadahoc County
Maine
- Coordinates:** The southeast corner of the main block of the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church (“Wesley Church”) is at latitude 43.908612° north and longitude -69.816417° west. The coordinates were obtained on March 14, 2026, using Google Earth (WGS84). There is no restriction on its release to the public.
- Present Owner/
Occupant:** The building is owned by the Bath Iron Works Corporation (BIW) and is occupied as office space by Serco. Serco provides professional support services to the Navy.
- Present Use:** The former church building is used as office space.
- Significance:** The Wesley Church is architecturally significant as an example of a notable church design by Maine architect William R. Miller and for its role in the religious and community life of Bath. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has determined the Wesley Church is eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Historian:** Margaret Gaertner
M. Gaertner, Historic Building Consultant
11 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102

March 30, 2026
- Project Information:** This documentation was commissioned by SMRT Architects & Engineers and Barba + Wheelock Architects, both of Portland, Maine, on behalf of BIW, Bath, Maine. The Wesley Church and other nearby buildings are to be demolished as part of an expansion of

BIW. This documentation has been prepared to mitigate, in part, the undertaking's adverse effect on historic properties.

The written portion of this recordation was completed by architectural historian Margaret Gaertner. The large-format and digital photographs were taken by photographer John Monroe of Portland, Maine.

Preliminary research and photographic documentation for this report were completed in April 2025, and more detailed field survey work was completed in March 2026. Report writing and photography were completed during March 2026.

Part I. Historical Information

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1898-99. The cornerstone was laid in 1898,¹ and the building was dedicated on July 18, 1899.²

2. Architect: The architect of the Wesley Church was William R. Miller.³ William Robinson Miller (1866-1929) was a Maine-born architect best known for his flamboyant designs in a wide variety of historical revival styles. He began his architectural career in the Lewiston, Maine, office of George M. Coombs in the 1880s and then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1891-92. By 1895, Miller was back in Lewiston and practicing under his own name.⁴ Miller quickly established a statewide practice, designing buildings from Portland to Millinocket.

The 1898 Wesley Church was an early commission in Bath for Miller. He quickly followed the Wesley Church project with designs for the People's (Baptist) Church (1901-02; demolished), which stood across Washington Street and a few blocks north from the Wesley Church and the Morse High School on High Street (1903; burned 1928). He designed buildings for Bath's leading citizens, including a carriage house on High Street for Albert H. Shaw in 1908.

¹ "Impressive Ceremonies" *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 37, No. 262: 9 November 1898) 4

² "Dedicated The New Wesley Church..." *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 39, No. 163: 18 July 1899) 1.

³ *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 37, No. 206: 2 September 1898) 4.

⁴ Roger G. Reed, *William R. Miller*, 1.

3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: The builder and original owner of 662 Washington Street was the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Bath. Since its construction the building has occupied a lot at the northwest corner of Wesley and Washington Streets. The City of Bath's assessor has designated the .44-acre parcel as Lot 152 on Map 27.

The extant building was the congregation's third church building on this site. The first church was dedicated in 1820. That building was later removed to Commercial Street and used as a commercial structure.⁵

The second church building was a wood-framed Gothic Revival church designed by architect Francis H. Fassett, a native of Bath. The cornerstone for the second church building was laid in June 1869, and the new building was dedicated in September 1870.⁶ This building was destroyed in the devastating July 1898 fire that destroyed twenty buildings in Bath's south end.

After their second building burned, the congregation retained Lewiston architect William R. Miller to design a "modern style" building.⁷ The new church was set forty feet back from Washington Street, while the earlier building had been much closer to the street.

The congregation of the Wesley Church worshipped in the building until 1970 when dwindling membership led the two active Methodist churches in Bath to consider merging. The Wesley Church merged with the Beacon Street Church, formed the United Methodist Church of Bath, and decided the newly joined congregations would worship in the Beacon Street building. The Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church sold the church building to the United Methodist Church of Bath in 1973,⁸ and in April 1975 the United Methodist Church of Bath sold it to BIW.⁹

By early June 1975 BIW was using the church building as a mess hall. The (Brunswick) *Times Record* described the church as freshly tiled, partially repainted, and relighted. The reporter also mentioned that the stained-glass windows and antique organ were still in place.¹⁰ The building remained a mess hall through at

⁵ "Impressive Ceremonies," *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 37, No. 262: 9 November 1898) 4.

⁶ "Impressive Ceremonies," *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 37, No. 262: 9 November 1898) 4.

⁷ *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 37, No. 206: 2 September 1898) 4.

⁸ Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds, Book 393, 964.

⁹ Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds, Book 408, 145.

¹⁰ "Dishing out the Biddles Vittles," *Times Record* (6 June 1975) 9.

least October 1982.¹¹ Sometime later in the 1980s or during the early 1990s BIW began using the building for office space, the use that continues to the present day.

4. Builder, contractor: The contractor for the church building was William Hartwell of Bath.¹² The *Bath Daily Times* noted this was a “fitting” choice as Hartwell had assisted his father Charles H. Hartwell in the construction of the congregation’s ca. 1870 church that had recently burned. The masonry foreman was E. Marshall of Waterville.¹³ The initial construction cost was \$14,000¹⁴ or \$16,000.¹⁵

5. Original plans and construction: The form of the church building is complex. The main block has a cross-gable roof with gables that face east, toward Washington Street, west, and north. At the northeast corner of the main block is a tall tower capped with an open belfry and a four-sided pyramidal roof. Each of the four upper corners of the tower is finished with a square tower with its own pyramidal roof. At the southeast corner is a second, shorter tower. This tower also has an open story, and above that is a steeply pitched, eight-sided spire. Between the two towers is a portico with three arch-topped openings.

South of the main block is a second large volume with a slightly lower roof (“south block”). This block has a half-hip roof that overlaps the south roof slope of the main block. The south wall has a half-round plan capped with a conical roof that extends over the adjacent hip roof to its north.

Attached to the west side of the south volume is a third volume, also with a half-hip roof (“west block”). This volume is shorter than the other two blocks of the building.

6. Alterations and additions: The overall form and mass of the church are unchanged. Changes have been made to the exterior, but the overall design and feeling remain. The rose windows were removed from the north and east gable ends (the openings remain), a window opening was removed from the west facade of the main block, the arched openings at the entry portico have been filled in, and much of the siding has been replaced. Only the stained-glass windows remain; all of the other windows throughout the building have been replaced.

¹¹ “City wants to see shipyard in court...” *Times Record* (5 October 1982) 1.

¹² *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 37, No. 218: 17 September 1898) 4.

¹³ “Impressive Ceremonies,” *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 37, No. 262: 9 November, 1898) 4.

¹⁴ “Dedicated The New Wesley Church...” *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 39, No. 163: 18 July 1899) 1.

¹⁵ “Bath’s New Church,” *Lewiston Evening Journal* (18 July 1899) 3.

Both of the original stained-glass rose windows have been removed from their openings. As shown in an assessor's photograph, the rose window on the east facade was still in place in 1986. MHPC's survey form notes the rose windows were no longer in place in 2000. A church history notes that at least one of the windows is in the Maine State Museum.¹⁶

The building originally had a stained-glass window behind the choir loft. This window was removed and the opening filled in at an unknown date. The replacement siding covers the exterior face of this window, but the infilled opening is visible above the finished ceiling on the men's room.

The portico alterations happened sometime between 1979 and 1986. The survey photograph taken by Sagadahoc Preservation, Inc. (SPI) shows the arched openings in the portico were still open in 1979. A ca. 1986 photograph taken by the Bath assessor shows the portico openings filled in with paired aluminum-framed glass doors under solid panels.

The interior of the church has seen more changes. The "auditorium" was redecorated in 1944. The work was done by painter Harry Cochrane of Monmouth. The redecoration included painting the walls a warm gray and painting a stenciled border above the wainscot and at the upper edge of the walls. The upper border incorporated Maltese crosses in gold and silver.¹⁷ Remnants of this treatment can be seen above the ceiling in the men's bathroom. The organ pipes were repainted in gold and silver.

Sometime after 1982, the building was converted from a mess hall into office space. Interior finishes in the north side of the west block and in the three rooms on the west wall of the main block are now hidden behind 1980s / 1990s finishes. An architectural drawing in the files of the Bath assessor dated 1991 shows work related to installing two offices in the first floor of the west volume and improving egress-route safety. This drawing shows the men's room was in place in the space behind the arch, but the women's room was not yet in place in the northwest corner. The floor framing under the women's room is newer than the floor framing found under the rest of the first floor, and the subfloor is plywood. It is also lower than the floor framing under the men's room. A sink in the women's room is dated 1988.

¹⁶ Richard Card, "Fire and Faith...", 11.

¹⁷ *Bath Daily Times* (Vol. 84, No. 261: 6 November 1944) 8.

B. Historical Context It is believed the first Methodist service in Bath was held in 1793. Circuit preachers led the earliest services. In 1817 a retired circuit preacher, Rev. John Wilkinson, moved to Bath and somewhat regular services began. The first Methodist church building in Bath was erected in 1820 on the lot where the Wesley Church now stands. Membership grew and in 1852 a second church, the Beacon Street Church, was built in the North End of Bath.

By the time the Wesley Church was rebuilt in 1899, the congregation had grown significantly. The new auditorium was designed to seat 350, while the chapel/vestry side could accommodate an additional 250, for a total of 600 seats when the doors were rolled up.

The church building was used by the wider community, not just the Methodist congregation. Numerous “union services,” in which ministers from as many as ten congregations participated, were held in the Wesley Church. The *Bath Daily Times* reported on many events held in the church building including Boy Scout ceremonies and suppers, and non-religious concerts, performances, and talks.

Part II. Architectural Information

A. General statement

1. Architectural character: The Wesley Church is an excellent example of an early church design by Maine architect William R. Miller. The complex volumes and rooflines, the asymmetry of the towers, and the use of a variety of siding types and architectural details create a dynamic composition. Details such as the four, pointed turrets at the top of the tall tower, the entry portico with its row of arched-topped openings, and the band of brackets across the gable end are details Miller would later use in other designs such as the People’s Church (1901-02; demolished) across Washington Street.

The interior plan is unusual, with a large sanctuary space divided into two rooms, an auditorium and a chapel/vestry, by two partitions that roll up nearly to the ceiling. The pulpit was in the southwest corner of the auditorium, where it was also visible to those in the adjacent chapel/vestry. Although some exterior details such as the original siding and rose windows have been lost, and a modern dropped ceiling hides the original auditorium ceiling, the overall design and feeling of Miller’s original design remain.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is in fair condition. The paint is failing and the clapboards, trim, and shingles are visibly decayed. The stained-glass windows have broken panes, and three entire windows are missing from the upper level of the south tower. Three more stained-glass windows are replaced with window air-conditioner units. Two large rose windows have also been removed.

The taller tower at the northeast corner of the building has suffered extensive water infiltration leading to the failure of plaster and decay in the flooring. The stair railing is missing, and the stairs have suffered water damage. The safety of the stair is questionable, and the attic and tower were not entered during the survey work.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: *Due to its complex massing, the corners of the various parts of the building are not accessible. Thus, the following dimensions were taken at the interior of the building.*

The overall interior dimensions of the main block, including the restrooms and stairs on the west wall, are 48' - 1 - 1/2" north-south x 57' - 9" east-west. The north tower measures 12' - 6" north-south x 13' - 5" east-west, and the south tower measures 10' - 4" north-south x 9' - 0" east-west. The portico between the towers measures 32' - 8 - 3/4" north-south x 6' - 10" east-west.

The south block, which is the chapel/vestry, measures 30' - 0" north-south x 44' - 10 - 1/2" east-west. The half-round section is an additional 8' - 0" long.

The west block measures 24' - 10" north-south x 25' - 0" east-west.

2. Foundations: The church building has a raised foundation. The foundation under the north tower is taller than the other sections and has battered granite piers at its corners. The foundation walls under the south tower are battered. The foundations are a mix of gray and orange stone laid in a random ashlar pattern. The foundations have been repointed and repaired many times, and many colors of mortar are found on the masonry.

The mortar in protected locations, such as under the belt course, is likely the original mortar. This mortar is reddish beige and has a highly textured, polychrome aggregate. The joints are tooled with a shallow, half-round groove.

3. Walls: The exterior faces of the walls are finished with clapboards. Contrasting wood-shingle siding remains on the gable end on the north facade. A ca. 1907 photograph¹⁸ shows the gable end on the east facade was once shingled as well (it is now finished with clapboards). Just above the foundation a water table of wood moldings runs the length of the walls. At the top of the wall is a deep frieze board.

Most of the clapboards have been replaced. Small areas of likely original clapboards remain under the entry porch on the south facade, on the walls in the enclosed portico, and on the towers. The clapboards in the portico are well preserved due to their sheltered location. The clapboards on the column bases and east wall (interior face) are installed with a 3 - 3/4" exposure and have a 1/2" thick butt end.

4. Structural system, framing: As the Wesley Church is an occupied building in good repair, only limited areas of framing are exposed and accessible. The wall framing was not visible. Given the age of the building it is likely that the building is balloon framed.

In the basement, two rows of brick piers support large beams that run east-west and in turn support the floor joists, which run north-south. The first-floor joists measure 2" x 11 - 1/2" and are installed at 1' - 4" on center. The beams that support the joists measure 7 - 3/4" x 7 - 3/4".

The roof framing is accessible in the attic over the chapel/vestry. In this space, two trusses running north-south support the rafters and ceiling, allowing for the open space below. The rafters in this attic measure 7 - 3/4" x 1 - 3/4" and are installed at 1' - 6" on center.

5. Porches, porticoes, bulkheads: A portico runs across the primary facade, sheltering the main entrance. The portico has a shed roof supported on three arches, which serve as the openings into the building. The arches are supported on short, square bases finished with thick clapboards.

On the south facade, an original porch protects an entry door. This porch has a half-hip roof that is supported on curved, wood brackets.

¹⁸ Richard Card, "Fire and Faith...", 9.

On the west facade, a modern porch protects a set of modern exterior stairs and two entry doors. The single-pitch roof is supported on pressure-treated lumber posts and slopes down from south to north.

The cellar under the main block is accessed via a “doghouse” in the west wall. This structure has a gable-front roof on short, wood-framed walls. The stairs to the cellar are poured concrete.

6. Chimneys: The building has a single chimney. The chimney is an interior chimney that starts in the basement, runs through the main block south of the former choir loft/present men’s room and attic, and then exits through the roof. The chimney is red brick, laid in running bond. The top of the chimney is missing.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and doors: The building has three entranceways: the portico on the east facade; the entry door on the south facade of the west block; and a door in the north faced of the west block.

Only one original exterior door leaf remains. This door is in the south wall of the portico. It is a wood rail-and-stile door with eight evenly sized recessed panels.

b. Windows Most of the window openings retain original exterior trim. The openings are trimmed with a variety of details. Window openings on the taller, north tower have arched tops with a partial arch of wood moldings at the header. Window openings on the south tower have Gothic Revival drip moldings at the header.

Window openings in the north, west and south facades of the west block have three windows placed under a shared header. The header has a tall entablature board capped with moldings. The top third of each window opening is filled with a solid panel to accommodate the dropped ceilings at the interior. On the north facade, the east-most window has been enlarged into a door opening.

The only original windows remaining in the church building are the stained-glass windows. All of the other window openings have modern vinyl replacement windows.

8. Roof

a. Shape, covering: The main volume has a cross-gable roof. The south volume has a half-hip roof. The ridge runs north-south. The half-round section of the south

volume has a conical roof. The west volume also has a half-hip roof, and the ridge on this section runs east-west. Most of the lower roofs are covered with black or dark green architectural-style asphalt shingles. The roofs on the north cross gable and the two towers are covered with older green three-tab asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: The existing cornice is a plain, wood, box-style cornice, painted white. The 1979 survey photograph taken by SPI shows the building had gutters built into the cornices, and the cornices were finished with wood moldings.

The only gutter on the building is a single length of plastic (likely polyvinyl chloride, or PVC) gutter over the three entry doors in the portico.

c. Dormers: The building has a dormer on the south slope of the west block. It has a half-hip roof and two windows in its south wall. It provides light to the former meeting room on the second floor.

d. Weathervanes and finials: The building retains a copper weathervane on the tall tower; four pointed copper finials on the four turrets on the north tower; and a pointed copper finial on the short tower.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: One enters the main block of the church through the portico on the east facade. At either end of the portico, in the north and south walls, a door leads into the first floor of one of the two towers. These spaces serve as vestibules for the auditorium. Openings in the west walls of the vestibules led into the auditorium. The original door frames remain, but the openings are now infilled. In the west wall of the south tower, a short hall leads to a third entry door that leads directly into the chapel/vestry.

The main sanctuary is an open space. A wide opening connects the larger, north room, which was called the auditorium, to a slightly smaller space, the former chapel/vestry at the south end. These two spaces can be divided into separate spaces using two large rollup doors.

West of the auditorium, along the west wall, are three rooms. The floors in these spaces are higher than the floor in the adjacent auditorium, and the floor in the men's room is higher than the floor in the women's room. The north room is now a women's bathroom. The center space is the men's bathroom. The south space is a hall and a stair hall. The stair was enclosed in the 1990s to meet fire code.

Historically, these three spaces housed the pipe organ (north room), a choir loft (middle space), and a room that provided access to the pulpit and may have been the minister's office. A tall filled-in opening is visible at the north end, marking the location of the pipe organ. A wood arch on pilasters marks the location of the choir loft. The door south of that arch likely provided access to the pulpit. The stairs that lead to this door are not original and likely were added to provide access to the men's room.

The south wall of the chapel/vestry is half-round in plan. In the north wall are two doors. One leads to the stair to the basement and the other to three steps that lead up to the former pulpit. On the west wall an enclosed mezzanine with two windows overlooks the former chapel/vestry. The mezzanine does not appear to be original. The floor framing for the mezzanine dates to the mid or late twentieth century, and the underside has no plaster on it, only acoustic tiles. The mezzanine also intersects awkwardly with the housing at the top of the west Wilson door, the roll-up partition that was used to separate the auditorium from the chapel/vestry.

The first floor of the west block is divided into a hall and two offices. A small vestibule on the south wall of the west block serves as the entry into these spaces. The hall retains historic finishes — wood wainscot and plaster walls — while the offices have recent finishes such as drywall on the walls and a modern suspended ceiling. The second floor of the west block is a large room used as a meeting space.

2. Stairways: The church has three stairways. The first is a winding stair in the north tower. This stairway provides access to the attic over the main sanctuary and the bell tower. This stair had a wood handrail on balusters; at the time of the survey, the lowest section of the handrail was not installed. It was found leaning against a wall. The other handrails curve up and run vertically at the upper end to meet the top of a tall newel post found on each landing.

There is no stair in the south tower. There is a hatch in the ceiling of the first floor of that tower where a ladder could be placed for access.

The second stair is in the southwest corner of the main block, west of the auditorium. Once an open stair, it was enclosed in the 1990s as part of the egress work. It ascends to a landing. The landing provides access to the mezzanine that overlooks the chapel/vestry space. The stair then continues up to the meeting room in the west volume.

The third stair is in the west end of the west block. Holes in the treads indicate the stair once had balusters; the handrail now rests on a solid wall. The newel matches that in the tower stair, and it is likely this railing at this stair once matched that stair. This stair starts at the south wall, ascends to the west to a landing, turns ninety degrees, and climbs north to the second-floor meeting room.

3. Flooring: Most of the cellar under the auditorium has a poured concrete floor, although some areas are bare dirt. The floor under the chapel/vestry is unfinished.

The floors throughout most of the church are covered with modern wall-to-wall carpet (former auditorium, chapel/vestry, offices on first floor, mezzanine) or 12"-square vinyl composition tile (south tower, entry vestibule in west block, bathrooms). In the portico, the original wood porch flooring remains. The boards run east-west and are painted. The north tower floor is tongue-and-groove wood flooring. The boards run north-south and are in very poor condition due to ongoing water infiltration.

The second-floor meeting room has light-colored hardwood flooring, possibly birch. The boards are 2 - 1/2" wide and installed running north-south.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Many of the walls retain their original finishes: a wood beaded-board wainscot with a baseboard and heavy chair rail at the bottom of the wall and textured plaster on the upper wall. Most of the wainscot and other wood trim is now painted gray. The original finish — a dark stain and clear coat — remains in the two vestibules in the towers. The walls were originally painted a "very pale shade of green" and had simple borders.¹⁹ Remnants of this treatment — a pale gray or green surface with a stenciled border — remain on the ceiling in the north tower.

Modern partitions, such as those in the two offices in the west block, the women's bathroom, and the mezzanine, are finished with painted drywall and a vinyl cove base. The walls in the men's bathroom are finished with plastic panels.

The ceiling in the portico is stained and vanished tongue-and-groove wood boards. The boards run north-south. The ceilings in the two towers are plaster. The ceiling in the north tower is in very poor condition but retains a small area with a stenciled border.

¹⁹ "Bath's New Church," *Lewiston Evening Journal* (18 July 1899) 3.

The auditorium has a suspended metal-grid ceiling that supports 2' x 4' acoustic ceiling tiles. The original wood beams that form a grid across the auditorium space remain exposed between the acoustic tiles, but are largely obscured by the modern lighting fixtures mounted on them. The end of each beam is supported on a bracket. Above this ceiling, the original pressed-steel ceiling, which follows the pitches of the roof and cross gables, remains. It can be seen through the rose window on the north facade. Originally the ceiling was painted a "dull salmon pink."²⁰ Since 1944 it has been painted white.

The two bathrooms on the west wall of the main block have suspended metal-grid ceilings with 2' x 4' acoustic tiles. Above the suspended ceiling in the women's room, the original ceiling of the organ loft remains. This ceiling is stained and vanished tongue-and-groove wood boards. The ceilings in the stair hall / hall in the southwest corner of the main block are finished with 1' x 2' acoustic tiles. These are either installed over strapping or glued directly to the earlier ceiling.

The ceiling in the chapel/vestry is finished with 1' x 2' acoustic tiles. These are either installed over strapping or glued directly to the earlier ceiling. An 1899 description of the building notes this space had a "flat, frescoed" ceiling. The underside of the balcony in the chapel/vestry has a suspended metal-grid ceiling that supports 2' x 2' acoustic ceiling tiles. Above that ceiling are 1' by 2' acoustic tiles installed over strapping. There is no plaster, lath, or evidence of lath above the acoustic tiles.

In the first-floor spaces in the west block, the ceilings in the hall and offices are suspended metal grids that support 2' x 2' acoustic ceiling tiles. The suspended ceiling hides the upper portion of the exterior windows. Above the suspended ceiling, the original ceiling remains. In the northeast corner of the east office, the ceiling slopes to follow the pitch of the stair above it. The rest of the upper ceiling is finished with 1' x 2' acoustic tiles.

The second floor of the west block, a former meeting room, retains original wall and ceiling finishes. The lower portion of the wall is finished with beaded-edge boards installed horizontally. These boards are stained and varnished. The ceiling is painted plaster and slopes to follow the roof pitch.

²⁰ "Bath's New Church," *Lewiston Evening Journal* (18 July 1899) 3.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The surviving original interior doors are rail-and-stile wood doors with five horizontal panels. The north door opening between the chapel/vestibule and the room to the west had a pair of pocket doors that appear to be sealed in the wall. Recently added doors, such as those to the modern bathrooms and the two offices, are wood slab doors in wood frames.

b. Windows: The only original windows remaining in the church building are the stained-glass windows. All of the other window openings have replacement windows.

6. Decorative features and trim: A wood arch on pilasters remains on the west wall of the auditorium. Newspaper accounts record this space occupied by the choir.

It appears the original rolling partitions that divide the auditorium from the chapel/vestry remain in their housings (these are fixed in place with blocks and could not be operated). The *Lewiston Evening Journal* described these doors as a "Wilson rolling partition."²¹ A 1905 catalog shows these doors were tambour-style doors of wood slats that rolled up into a housing. The housing remains in the church, at the top of the openings on the chapel/vestry side.

7. Hardware: One lockset was found in the chapel/vestry. The lockset is brass and has floral motifs on its knob and backplate.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The building is heated with steam radiators in both sides of the sanctuary and hot water radiators in more recently finished spaces, such as the two offices on the first floor of the west block.

A decorative grille remains in the center of the ceiling of the chapel/vestry. This was likely for ventilation.

Window and through-wall air conditioners are installed in the auditorium, the chapel/vestry, the mezzanine, and the offices on the first floor of the west wing. Modern ceiling fans are installed on the ceilings in both sides of the sanctuary.

²¹ "Bath's New Church," *Lewiston Evening Journal* (18 July 1899) 3.

There are four on the ceiling of the auditorium and four on the ceiling of the chapel/vestry.

b. Lighting: No original or historic lighting survives in the building. The lighting is modern strip fixtures with fluorescent or LED lamps. Some fixtures are suspended from chains (chapel/vestry), others are surface mounted (auditorium, portico, second-floor meeting room), and others are supported in metal ceiling grids (bathrooms, offices).

c. Plumbing: Plumbing fixtures throughout the church date to the late twentieth century. No historic fixtures remain.

d. Life-safety systems: The Wesley Church has late-twentieth-century life-safety equipment, such as illuminated exit signs, emergency lighting, hardwired smoke detectors, and strobe fire alarms, installed throughout.

9. Original furnishings: Folding chairs are stored in the attic adjacent to the meeting room on the second floor. These chairs are wood with cane seat backs. The chairs are ganged together in groups of four seats.

D. Site

1. Historic landscape design: Available historic images such as photographs show the lot was covered with a grass lawn. There was a single tree on the front lawn, east of the church. A straight drive ran along the south lot line, and a straight path led from Washington Street to the entry portico.

2. Outbuildings: None.

Part III. Sources of Information

A. Architectural drawings: William R. Miller's original drawings for the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church are not known to survive. They are not in the collections of the Maine Historical Society. The United Methodist Church of Bath, the successor congregation to the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, does not have any original drawings.

The following renovation drawings were found in the files of Bath's Code Enforcement Office:

- Bath Iron Works Corp. Office of Plant Engineer. "Drawing 6790 Wesley Manor Renovations." 6 April 1982. *Architectural plan showing layout for food preparation service.*
- Bath Iron Works Corp. Office of Plant Engineer. "Drawing No. 9551, 0958 Wesley St. Church Floor Plan." 5 August 1991.

B. Early Views: The Wesley Church is clearly visible in a photographic postcard labeled "Washington St. West Side North of Shepard, Bath, Me. 20." Item LB2007.1.112926, Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Company Collection, Penobscot Marine Museum.

Several early postcard views of the church survive. Scans of three postcards are included in the "Supplemental Material" section of this report.

C. Interviews: Gaertner, Margaret. Interview with William Moore via Telephone. 16 February 2026. *William Moore of Primer Properties owned the building from 2002-2019.*

D. Selected Sources:

Primary sources

Assessor's Office, City of Bath, Maine. Assessor's Cards. Accessed in person at Bath City Hall, March 2026.

Bath Daily Times. 1898-1944.

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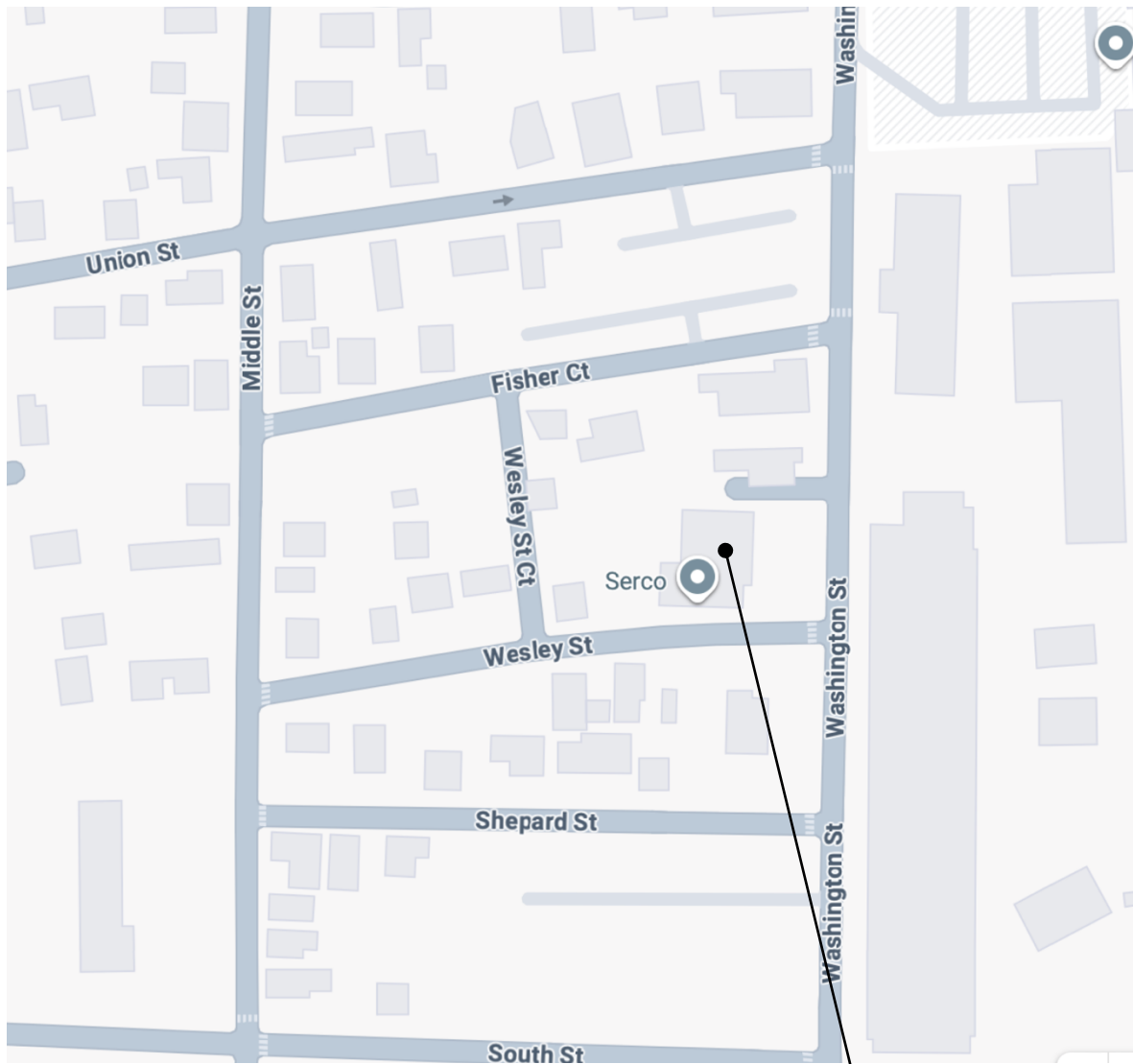
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E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Requests have been made to the United Methodist Church and BIW. The Church was unable to locate photographs or drawings of the building. BIW was unable to locate building plans. It is hoped these materials are found at a later date.

F. Supplemental Material: Following, please find:

Site Plan, not to scale

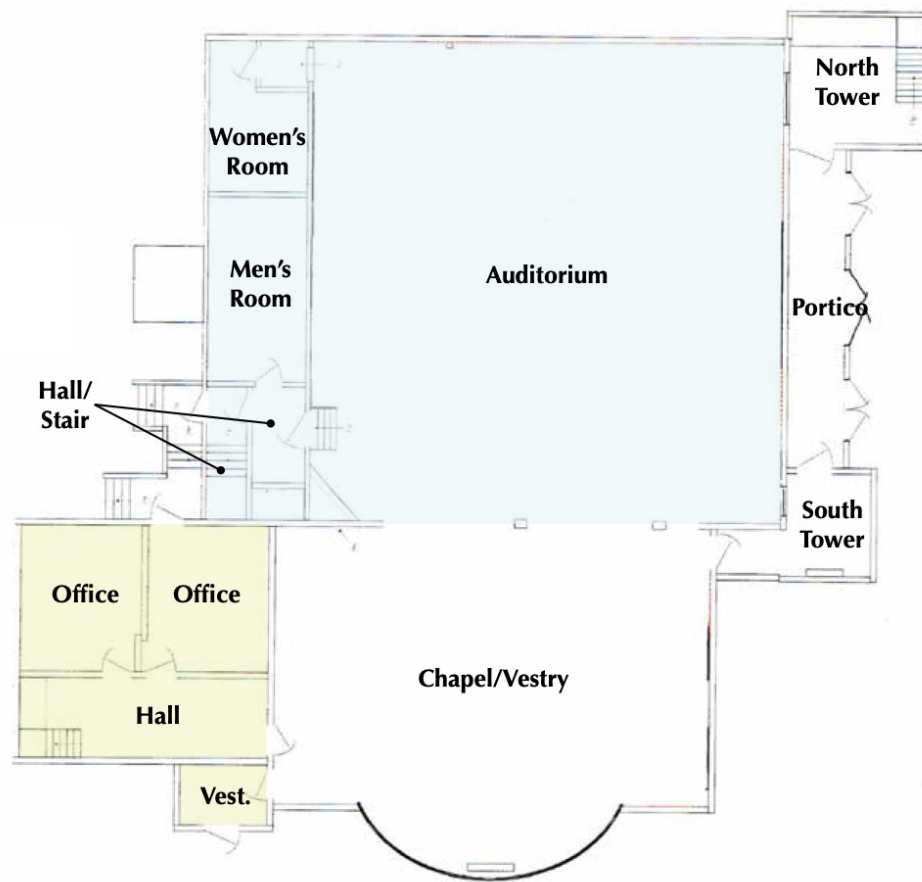
Scans of Historic postcards showing the Wesley Church



The Wesley
Church

Site Plan
Not to scale

WESLEY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MHBR 119
(Page 21)



LEGEND

	Main Block
	South Block
	West Block

Floor Plan
Not to scale

WESLEY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MHBR 119
(Page 22)



The back of this postcard is postmarked 1909.

WESLEY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MHBR 119
(Page 23)



Undated, early postcard view. In this image, the dormer and entry at the west block are visible.

WESLEY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MHBR 119
(Page 24)



Undated, early postcard view.