

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Methodist Center
2. Location: 159 Ralph McGill Boulevard NE, Atlanta, Fulton County GA

3a. Description: The Methodist Center was constructed in 1966 as the administrative headquarters of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church. It occupies a 0.38-acre lot at the southwest corner of Ralph McGill Boulevard and Piedmont Avenue in Atlanta, approximately one mile northeast of Atlanta City Hall and the Georgia State Capitol building and was recently rehabilitated for residential use. The complex consists of a six-story office tower with an attached twelve-sided, one-story chapel and a concrete pedestrian plaza situated on top of a three-story partial basement parking garage. The office tower, chapel, and connecting hyphen are considered one contributing building. The plaza is a contributing site.

The tower's exterior is clad with red brick veneer in running bond and includes minimal stylistic elements in brick that are characteristic of the New Formalist aesthetic of the Modern Movement, including angled rows of running-bond brick veneer turned vertically at the first-floor base, the stepped patterned brick veneer of the first-floor columns, rows of brick headers differentiating the first floor level from the upper part of the tower, simple brick window sills on the upper floors, and a single row of brick dentils along the tower's main cornice. The building's stair tower is also clad with brick veneer in running bond.

Ten of the chapel's twelve sides have tall and narrow, round-arched window openings that originally housed stained-glass window panels. A round window on the south façade above the chapel entrance originally held a stained-glass rose window. After the period of significance, the original stained-glass windows were removed and replaced with non-historic translucent glass panes; non-historic storm windows had also been added. During rehab, the translucent glass panes and storm windows were replaced with clear, fixed glass panes within the original hollow metal window frames.

The Methodist Center possesses historic integrity as the former administrative headquarters of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church and as an intact work of local Atlanta architectural firm Finch, Alexander, Barnes, Rothschild, and Paschal (FABRAP). The office tower, chapel, and pedestrian plaza that make up the complex remain in their original location at the corner of Ralph McGill Boulevard (originally Forrest Avenue) and Piedmont Avenue.

3b. Period of Significance: 1966-1972

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre

3d. Boundary Explanation: The National Register boundary represents the current legal boundary of the subject property, which aligns exactly with the legal boundary during the period of significance (1966-1972).

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Religion, Social History, Architecture

4c. Statement of Significance: The Methodist Center is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Religion and Social History for its association with the administration and social programming of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church (Conference hereafter) from 1966 to 2001. The Methodist Center is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a representative and intact example of the work of Atlanta-based master architecture and engineering firm Finch, Alexander, Barnes, Rothschild, and Paschal (FABRAP). Beginning in the early 1960s, FABRAP worked directly with Conference administrators to design the Methodist Center as the organization's headquarters. During and continuing after the period of significance, the Conference actively engaged in public outreach programming, advocacy, and event organization associated with important social and religious issues in the city of Atlanta and the larger North Georgia region, such as civil rights and race relations, women's roles within the church and society, education, welfare of children and the needy, as well as homelessness. Much of the North Georgia Conference's administration of the programming and events associated with these issues took place within the Methodist Center.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: Local

5. Sponsor: Braden Fellman Group, BFG Ralph McGill, LLC, 931 Ponce De Leon Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306
Consultant: WLA Studio, 675 Pulaski Street, Suite 1000, Athens, GA 30601