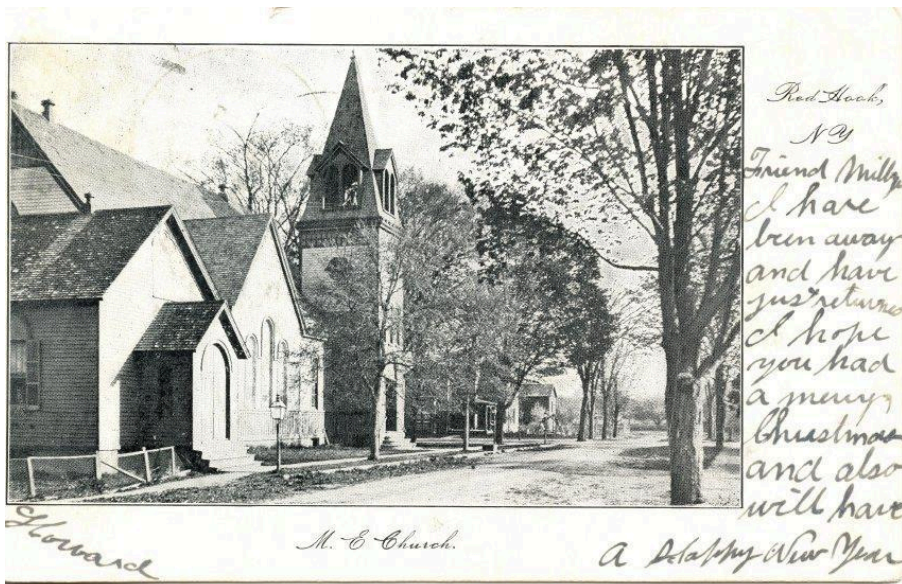


Methodist Church, 50 West Market Street





RHWG: Built by prolific local carpenter Daniel Van de Bogart in 1893, this church was designed in the Victorian decorated Gothic style and replaced an earlier church built, along with the present parsonage, in 1848. Red Hook was a Methodist Mission, served by circuit preachers until 1840, when Philip Gilbert Fraleigh gave the land to build the church. In an early ecumenical gesture, the Lutherans shared pastors and churches with the Methodists and the Lutheran's donated the pulpit for the new church.

RHHG: Methodism in Red Hook began in the mid-1800s with the arrival of a circuit preacher, Dr. Samuel Cochran. For a while meetings were held in individual homes. The first church building was acquired in 1849. It was purchased for \$700 and brought by boat from Connecticut. While waiting for the present building, designed by Daniel Van de Bogart, to be completed, the Methodist and Lutheran congregations shared facilities, alternating weeks for receiving the offering. In 1894, the present building was finished at the cost of \$10,005, and the Lutheran Congregation presented the altar as a gift. The bell was a gift of Edward Martin. Outstanding features are the very beautiful stained glass windows, all given as memorials or gifts. It is Victorian decorated Gothic style, with lavish façade of shingle work and an unusual cased chimney stack. A wing having educational facilities was added in the 1960s.

Bassett: Church Street was named for the church. The parsonage was next to the church and it has been the home of a long line of Methodist ministers. I remember a number of them, but as they changed every three years as a rule, the names of many have slipped from my memory. The church was enlarged and remodeled about 30 years ago.