This vernacular, one-and-one-half-story church has a gable roof, and a high, stone foundation. A set of double doors, in an arched front entrance with a semicircular transom window, is at the base of a hipped roof tower. The top of the tower has four arched openings, each slightly smaller than the doorway arch, each with three keystones. The east, gable end of the main building has four stained-glass windows centered below a large oculus window with four keystones. Another small oculus window sits under the front-facing gable. All other windows are rectangular, stained glass, with stone sills and lintels. The front-facing window has a semicircular transom identical in size and shape to the one above the front doors. This building is heavily used and well maintained.

Though a Methodist Congregation, with services in Colonial Hall, organized early in Oberlin as an interracial congregation, sometime prior to July 1872 the congregation divided along racial lines. The white congregation stayed on S. Main and “…the Negro members purchased property on South Water Street” (today’s Park Street). The congregation then purchased a small frame building and moved it to this site. The first pastor was Mrs. Elizabeth Carr; the Trustees were John Ramsey, James Houston, Perry Carter, James Montgomery, Thomas H. Burnett, Frank Savo, and William H. Brown. In July 1915, under the leadership of Rev. Frank S. Delaney, (cont.)

This building is located at the intersection of Groveland and Park Streets in the southeast quadrant of Oberlin. The neighborhood shows some signs of deterioration.
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)

the congregation assembled at the church at 4 a.m. to begin the dismantling of the frame building. From then until July 16, 1916, the congregation met at the Centennial Building at the corner of South Main and Edison Streets. This new church was dedicated on October 8, 1916; it had been built at a final cost of $11,000. The church bell, and the rose window in the east, were from the razed frame building. In 1925, Samuel King, the oldest member of the church, burned the mortgage note on the building; the congregation had paid off the debt.

In the late 1920s, or early 1930s, a new organ was purchased; in the 1950s the stained glass window was repaired and a new heating system was installed. In 1955 a new Baldwin organ replaced the organ, a new basement floor was laid, and the basement was decorated (Ferguson). In 1970 new pews were installed and in 1997 the ceiling was modified and new lights were installed.

This building is significant for its history of Oberlin's early African-American community, and for the history it embodies of racial relationships in Oberlin. Rust United Methodist Church was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in March of 1997.