

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

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1. ^{K-131:} Property Name: RUTH MANSION

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The Ruth Mansion House sits on a plot of land 147 feet deep by 102 feet wide on Main Street, between Front Street and Second Street. It is on the west side in the middle of the block. The total acreage is .344 acres.

3. Owner: Mrs. Hilda G. Watson, Main Street, Leipsic, DE 19901

4. Property Description:

The Ruth Mansion House was built in the late 18th century as a 2-story, 5-bay, center-hall, brick building. It is a typical Georgian building. The facade is laid in Flemish bond, while the sides and rear are done up in common bond.

The Ruth Mansion was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

K-1454:

1. Property Name: LITTLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: East side of Main Street at the intersection of Wilson Lane, Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware. It is sited on a parcel of land fronting Main Street, 65 feet wide and 210 feet deep, containing .313 acres.

3. Owner: The congregation of the Little Creek Methodist Church, P.O. Box 317, Main Street, Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware.

4. Property Description:

The Little Creek Methodist Church stands as a detached, one-story frame structure. The church is ell-shaped with a poured concrete perimeter foundation and three-bay fenestration. The frame superstructure is covered with milled and lapped weatherboard. The frame gabled roof has a tilted, boxed-in cornice with decorative sawn brackets at the corners and is covered with asphalt shingles. The main gable end facade is bisected by a slightly projecting, square bell tower topped with a tapered, pyramidal cupola housing the bell. The top of the cupola is surmounted by a copper spike with a copper sphere on top. The top two corners of the openings of the cupola house sawn, decorative latticework. A later, one-story wing extends from the south side of the main church. This wing has a small stoop with a shed roof supported by decorative, sawn brackets with Gothic motifs. The brackets that support the roof and the decorative Gothic cut outs are chamfered. A modern one-story shed addition occupies the southeast corner, at the juncture of the main structure and the wing. The stained glass windows of the main structure and wing are sliding sash with a Gothic, tripar-

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tite top section that is fixed and a two-light bottom section. A decorative wood molding surrounds the top portion of the windows. The bell tower has a circular, recessed, stained glass "rose" window. The modern aluminum and glass exterior door is framed by a projecting gable and is surmounted by a stained glass, tripartite, Gothic fanlight with a beaded molding at its base. A six-tread, brick stair with wrought iron railings leads up to the main entrance. The interior, main doorway is flanked on each side by a panel with six recessed panels. The door has six recessed panels and is also surmounted by a tripartite, stained glass, Gothic fanlight. The slightly wider door to the south wing is identical to the main door and is also surmounted by a tripartite, stained glass, Gothic fanlight with a beaded molding at its base. Decorative engaged buttresses made of wood occupy three of the corners of the main structure, as well as the southwest corner of the wing. The projecting main entrance way is flanked by a pair of engaged buttresses on each side. A stove chimney is located on the rear shed addition and an exterior, modern stovepipe runs along most of the length of the gable end of the wing. An original, interior brick chimney is located at the rear of the main church. A datestone, inscribed 1883, occupies the southwest corner of the principal facade. The interior of the church is plain with little ornamentation. The interior walls are vertically planked.

This church is still actively used by the Little Creek congregation. The interior and exterior condition of the structure is excellent.

5 Significance:

The Little Creek Methodist Episcopal Church is significant to the architectural history of Delaware as an outstanding example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. Erected in 1883, at a cost of \$3,500.00, this church was dedicated in 1884 after a year of occupation and is the third in a succession of Methodist churches in the immediate vicinity. Prior to the construction of this church, services were held in the Gum Swamp Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1820, and originally sited approximately one-half mile north of town. It also functioned as a public school by 1832. In February of 1875, the building was moved into Little Creek and placed on the site of the present church. In 1878, it was again moved; this time to Bell Street in Little Creek, where it was converted into a private residence that exists today.

Architecturally, the church is notable for its bold expression of the Gothic idiom of style. There is an aspiration to style in the decorative elements of this church which are typical of the folk architectural expression of the residential structures in the town. Elements of style in this church include the Gothic, stained glass windows and fanlights, the decorative engaged buttresses, the doors with recessed panels, and the simple, but elegant, bell tower. The aspiration to style extends to the decorative brackets and Gothic cut outs supporting the shed roof over the stoop on the side wing, the decorative Victorian

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latticework around the openings of the cupola, and the tapered, pyramidal roof over the cupola. In essence, the small decorative features of the Gothic idiom of architectural style make a public statement about the relative wealth of the congregation and the vernacular perception of what a proper folk church, contemporary to the period, should look like.

K-1510

1. Property Name: ELIZABETH STUBBS HOUSE

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: West side of Main Street, south of Wilson Lane, Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware. It is sited on a parcel of land fronting Main Street, 50 feet wide and 210 feet deep, containing .241 acres.

3. Owner: Mrs. Charlotte Ford, Little Creek, Delaware.

4. Property Description:

The Stubbs House, situated on Main Street in the town of Little Creek, is a two-story frame and weatherboard dwelling, 25 feet by 44 feet including the rear wings, which rests on a brick pier foundation. The front section of the house has a grey slate, concave, mansard roof with gable dormers, the interior of which remains as an unfinished attic rather than as an additional third floor. The original two-story rear wing has a shallow gable roof covered by tin. Later, when the second rear wing was constructed alongside it, a larger gable roof was built to encompass both wings so that the tin roof remains intact in the attic. Exterior ornamentation includes over-sized dentil moldings on the roof cornice and on the door and window lintels, cut out scrolls on the dormers, and patterned square and hexagonal slate roof tiles. A full facade porch that wraps around the south side of the house has square column supports. Unfortunately, the floor to the porch rotted and has been removed. A one-story lean-to to the extreme rear of the house is a later addition. The house was originally a three-bay, side-hall-plan, but the interior hall wall was removed to create one large front room. This room has a straight-run staircase with a winding corner at the top, raised panels beneath the windows on the facade wall, French doors into the rear wing, and chimney closets. The three main rooms on the first floor are all equipped for parlor stoves. All of the floors are painted and grained, but only at the edges of the rooms as there appears to have been carpets on the floors.

A frame privy and a small frame shed of ambiguous vintage are also located on the property.

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National Park Service

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Leipsic and Little Creek Multiple Resource Area
State Delaware

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- X 1. Laws, Alexander, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Linda McClelland 4/25/83
Attest accept Patrick Andrus 4/21/83
- X 2. McClary House **Substantive Review** Keeper Linda McClelland 4/25/83
Attest accept Patrick Andrus 4/21/83
- X 3. Hoffecker, H. T. House **Substantive Review** Keeper Linda McClelland 4/25/83
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION Attest Eligible Patrick Andrus 4/21/83
- 4. Sipple House **Substantive Review** Keeper Tom McDaniel 5/29/82
Attest Emma Jane Saxe 5-14-82
- 5. Fennimore Store **Substantive Review** Keeper Tom McDaniel 5/29/82
Attest Emma Jane Saxe 5-14-82
- 6. **Little Creek Methodist Church** **Substantive Review** Keeper Tom McDaniel 5/29/82
Attest Emma Jane Saxe 5-14-82
- X 7. Reed House **Substantive Review** Keeper Linda McClelland 4/25/83
Attest accept Patrick Andrus 4/21/83
- 8. Stubbs, Elizabeth, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Tom McDaniel 5/29/82
Attest Emma Jane Saxe 5-14-82
- 9. Woodley, Jonathan, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Tom McDaniel 5/24/82
Attest Emma Jane Saxe 5-24-82
- X 10. Rawley House **Substantive Review** Keeper Linda McClelland 4-25-83
Attest accept Patrick Andrus 4/21/83

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Little Creek Methodist Church
(Chippie + Little Creek MRA)
State, County: DE Kent
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 12.3.80.2936
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/1/83
Date Due: 5/24/82
Action: ACCEPT 5/24/82
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

photos
maps _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Meets C. Accept.
Reviewer E.J. Saxe
Discipline Architectural History
Date 5-14-82
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair
 deteriorated ruins unexposed
Check one unaltered altered
Check one original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____
title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



WEDNESDAY
8:00 P.M. SERVICE
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 A.M. SERVICE
12:00 P.M. SERVICE
7:00 P.M. SERVICE

Name: LITTLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH; K-1454

Location: Main Street, Little Creek

Photographer: Dean Nelson

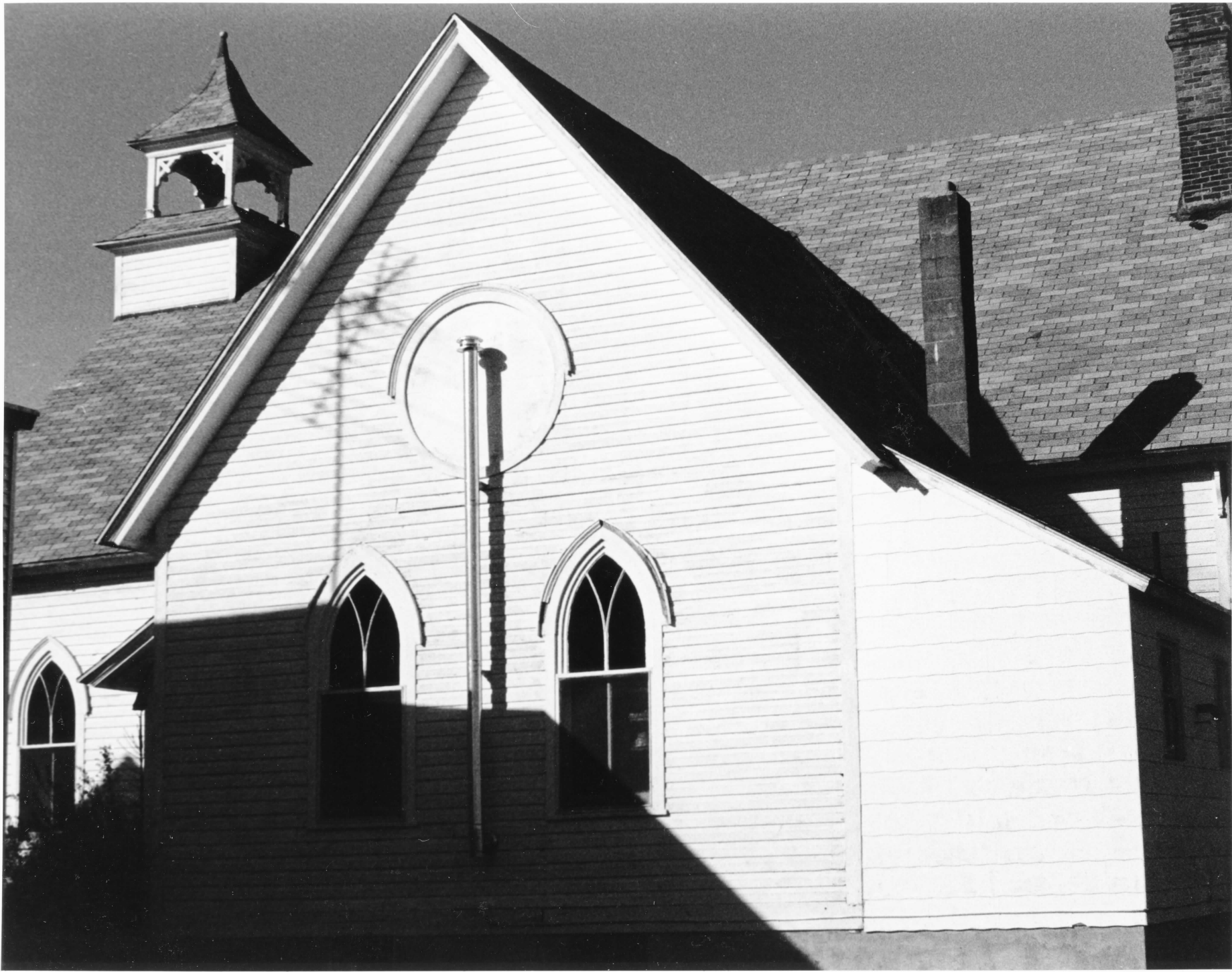
Date: June 1980

Location of Negative: B/A&HP

Description: 2-story, 3-bay, center-hall, church
building.

Photograph Number: 15 of 34

DEC 3 1980



Name: **LITTLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH; K-1454**

Location: **Main Street, Little Creek**

Photographer: **Dean Nelson**

Date: **June 1980**

Location of Negative: **B/A&HP**

Description: **2-story, 3-bay, center-hall, church
building.**

Photograph Number: **16 of 34**

DEC 3 1980



Name: **LITTLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH; K-1454**

Location: **Main Street, Little Creek**

Photographer: **Dean Nelson**

Date: **June 1980**

Location of Negative: **B/A&HP**

Description: **2-story, 3-bay, center-hall, church
building.**

Photograph Number: **17 of 34**

DEC 3 1980



Name: **Datestone: LITTLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH: K-1454**

Location: **Main Street, Little Creek**

Photographer: **Dean Nelson**

Date: **June 1980**

Location of Negative: **B/A&HP**

Description: **2-story, 3-bay, center-hall, church
building.**

Photograph Number: **18 of 34**

DEC 3 1980

Name: **Detail: LITTLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH; K-1454**

Location: **Main Street, Little Creek**

Photographer: **Dean Nelson**

Date: **June 1980**

Location of Negative: **B/A&HP**

Description: **2-story, 3-bay, center-hall, church
building.**

Photograph Number: **19 of 34**

DEC 3 1980

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000103