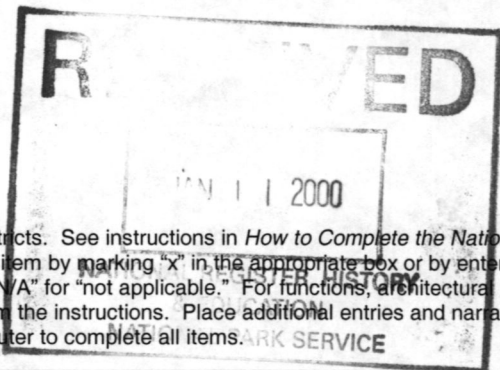


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

91



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 93 Church Hill Road [] not for publication

city or town Crescent [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Saratoga code 091 zip code 12188

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]

Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

21 Dec 99

Date

Signature of certifying official/Title

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register [] see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register [] see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

[Signature]
Edson H. Beall

2/10/00

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

Walls BRICK

roof SLATE

other

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheet)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property
Crescent, Saratoga Co. NY
County and State

Description

The Crescent Methodist Church is located on the north side of Church Hill Road in the hamlet of Crescent, Saratoga County. Church Hill Road rises to the crest of a bluff that overlooks the "crescent" bend in the Mohawk River below. The community of Crescent developed during the mid-nineteenth century as a cluster of residences, stores and service buildings situated on the north banks of both the Mohawk River and the Erie Canal. Currently part of the town of Halfmoon, Crescent retains numerous buildings associated with the canal era that exhibit a wide range of structural and architectural integrity.

In plan, the main block of the church is rectangular, three bays by five, situated with its principal elevation facing south. The red brick masonry walls are built above a foundation of fieldstone; a water table of smooth red sandstone surrounds the main block above the foundation. Brick pilasters spaced at regular intervals divide the walls into a series of bays. A shallow pitched, slate covered gable roof shelters the church, the roofline defined by a molded wood cornice. A two stage, flat roofed, open belfry of Tuscan columns surmounts the roof ridge at the south gable end. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical, consisting of tall rectangular openings with smooth stone sills and lintels. The present windows are paired lancets containing leaded stained glass enclosed within rectangular wood casings. These windows were installed ca. 1900 to replace the clear glass and divided lights of the original sash.

The principal elevation exhibits vernacular Greek Revival design features. The entrance in the center bay consists of panelled double leaf doors surmounted by a simple stone lintel. A marble tablet set in the wall above the entrance bears the legend:

First Methodist E. Church

Erected

A. D. 1852.

A simple frieze incorporating a corbeled brick pattern surrounds the building. The roof pediment is defined by a molded wood cornice. Decorative brick corbeling and a triangular wood louver accentuate the tympanum.

A one story, wood frame parish hall wing extends from the north (rear) gable end of the building. Built at an undetermined date after the brick main block already existed, the wing was erected above a brick foundation. A second frame wing was attached as a second stage early in the twentieth century. Because the church building remained vacant for more than a decade in the 1980s, the frame wings became deteriorated and partially collapsed. The walls of the clapboard-sheathed parish hall wing were re-erected in 1997, though not in their historic configuration and using

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property
Crescent, Saratoga Co. NY
County and State

modern materials. As a result, the frame wing is considered non-historic and does not contribute to the significance of the brick church building.

The interior of the Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church retains substantial integrity to its Greek Revival form despite a series of changes over time. An entrance vestibule with recessed sliding doors projects into the sanctuary. Despite the center entrance, the worship space was organized around a side-aisle plan. The banks of varnished pews were removed in the 1980s, although most remain within the building in damaged but restorable condition. The walls of the worship space are plastered above a beaded wainscot and chair rail; the pressed metal ceiling added ca. 1900 covers the original plaster ceiling. A dais with turned wood balustrade is located at the north end of the sanctuary. The end wall terminates above the dais in a segmental arch supported on tall wood pilasters surmounted by Tuscan capitals. A panelled door adjacent to the arch leads to the parish hall attached to the rear of the main block. The original pipe organ is located at the northwest corner of the sanctuary. Built by William H. Ferris of New York ca. 1860, the single-manual tracker organ is enclosed by an ornate case with Gothic wood ornamentation in a grained finish. The organ pump mechanism was electrified at an undetermined date during the early twentieth century.

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [] A Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- [X] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location
[] C a birthplace or grave
[] D a cemetery
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
[] F a commemorative property
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1852—ca. 1900

Significant Dates:

1852

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Johnstone, Jan. Saratoga Communities: An Historic Perspective. Clifton Park, 1980.
Sylvester, Nathaniel Bartlett. History of Saratoga County, New York. Philadelphia, 1878.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
[] previously listed in the National Register
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by historic American Building Survey #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[] Other repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property
Crescent, Saratoga Co. NY
County and State

Statement of Significance

The Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church is significant under Criterion C as a substantially intact, representative example of vernacular, Greek Revival style religious architecture in southern Saratoga County. Built in 1852, the three by four-bay, gable roofed, red brick building exhibits the design and decorative features of its type, period and method of construction. Sited atop a bluff overlooking the Mohawk River and the Erie Canal, the church reflects the Greek Revival-inspired architectural influence typically found in canal-era communities across New York State during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. As the religious and social center of Crescent, the church contributed to the growth and development of this southern Saratoga County community until the decline of the Erie Canal after 1900. Although partially altered and vacant since the 1980s, the former Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church retains substantial integrity to the period of significance, and will be rehabilitated for religious use.

The town of Halfmoon was one of four original towns created when Saratoga County was established in 1791. Although located between the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, the area was slow to develop until the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. On the north bank of the Mohawk where the Erie Canal crossed the river on a massive, cut stone aqueduct, the hamlet of Crescent emerged as the focus of economic development during the 1840s. Established largely through the efforts of entrepreneur Alfred Noxon, Crescent boasted a foundry, brickworks, hotel, bank and canal store. Crescent became the canal shipping point for ice, grain, hay and molders' sand produced in southern Saratoga County. By the eve of the Civil War, the population of Crescent approached 600. Alfred Noxon erected an imposing Greek Revival style residence on the bluff overlooking the scenic bend in the Mohawk; shortly thereafter, he donated land for the first church in Crescent.

Erected in 1852 and dedicated the following year, the Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church incorporates the vernacular Greek Revival stylistic elements characteristic of the region during the period of significance. The Classical pediment, brick pilasters, decorated frieze, open belfry, regular fenestration pattern and interior appointments of the Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church are typical of the New England meetinghouse form brought to the Mohawk Valley by immigrants from that region. Greek Revival forms in residential, civic, commercial and religious architecture spread westward across New York State along the route of the Erie Canal, achieving greatest popularity during the period ca. 1830-1855. Inspired and guided by the precepts and pattern books of Minard Lafever, builders widely adapted Greek forms to the vernacular architecture of urban and rural New York. Built from locally manufactured brick, the Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church is significant as a substantially intact, representative example of vernacular Greek Revival religious architecture evocative of the prosperity and taste that prevailed in Crescent during the heyday of the Erie Canal. The period of significance extends to ca. 1900, the period when stained glass windows and the pressed metal ceiling were installed in the building. These alterations reflect changes in the wealth and taste of the parish and are significant to the overall historical evolution of the church building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property
Crescent, Saratoga Co. NY
County and State

By the mid-1850s, the Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church had become the focus of religious and social activity for the growing canal community. Supported through the beneficence of local entrepreneur Alfred Noxon, the church attracted a large number of local residents; it also served a transient population travelling along the Erie Canal. A large Sunday school of over 100 pupils also was housed in the church at Crescent. By the early twentieth century, however, a sharp decline in commerce along the Erie Canal negatively affected the fortunes of communities such as Crescent. As local prosperity and population declined, the Methodist congregation proved unable to continue holding services in the brick church building. Individual parishoners drifted away to affiliate with congregations in nearby Clifton Park and Waterford. The congregation finally merged with the Shenendehowa Methodist Church and ceased holding worship services at Crescent. The vacant church property reverted to the Champlain Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1962. In 1986 a private owner attempted unsuccessfully to adapt the building to commercial use, removing the pews and altering the historic interior configuration. In 1997, the vacant brick building was acquired by the nascent congregation of St. David's Anglican Catholic Church, which hopes to restore the former Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church to use for religious services. Despite decades of neglect, the church retains its defining architectural features; it remains an important visual and historical element reflecting the development of Crescent and southern Saratoga County during the canal era.

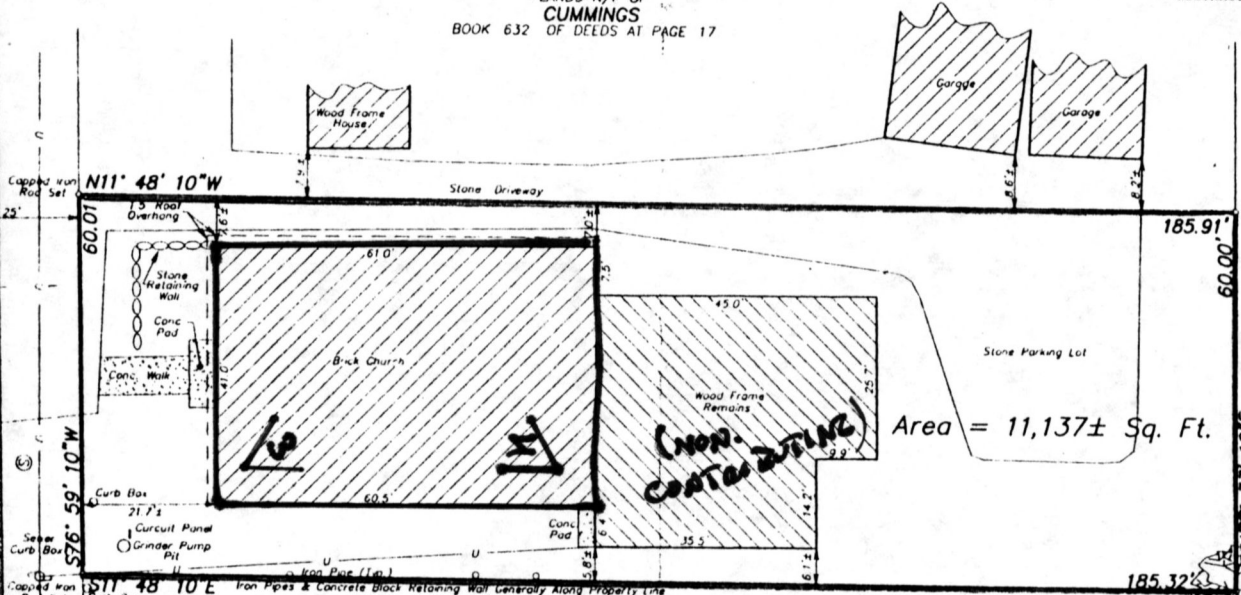
DEED REFERENCE:

CONVEYANCE TO DONALD W COLE BY DEED DATED JANUARY 2, 1986 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 1111 OF DEEDS AT PAGE 110.
SURVEY SUBJECT TO ANY STATE OF FACTS THAT AN UPDATED ABSTRACT OF TITLE MAY SHOW.

LANDS N/F OF CUMMINGS BOOK 632 OF DEEDS AT PAGE 17

LANDS N/F OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH BOOK 864 OF DEEDS AT PAGE 138

LANDS N/F OF SEQUIN BOOK 1208 OF DEEDS AT PAGE 86



Area = 11,137± Sq. Ft.

NOMINATED BOUNDARY

CRESCENT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CRESCENT, SARATOGA CO. NY
SURVEY MAP / SCALE. 1" = 20'

Unauthorized alterations or additions to this survey map is a violation of Section 7209 of the New York State Education Law. Only this survey map not bearing the Licensed Surveyors Embossed Seal shall not be considered valid copies.

Gilbert G. VanGuilder
GILBERT G. VANGUILDER, PLS NO. 49,824

SURVEY
OF LANDS FORMERLY OF
DONALD W. COLE

TOWN OF HALFMOON	SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK
SCALE: 1" = 20'	DATE: JUNE 19, 1996
TELEPHONE NO (518) 383-0634	MAP NO: 96 - 11 - 37

Gilbert VanGuilder & Associates
Professional Land Surveyors
988 Route 146, Clifton Park, New York 12065

< = PHOTO KEY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Crescent Methodist Episcopal Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Saratoga

DATE RECEIVED: 1/11/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/24/00
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/09/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/25/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000091

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/10/00 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



CRESSENT METHODIST EPISCOPAL Church

CRESSENT, SARATOGA CO. NY

R. SMITH, 1999

N36 @ NY SH 30, WATERFORD NY

2018 24N N N 0418 620 08 4 10000

WEST (L.) & SOUTH ELEVATIONS, VIEW N.

Photo 1



CRESCENT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CRESCENT, SARATOGA CO. NY

R. SMITH, 1999

NEE @ NY SH RD, WATERFORD NY

SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW N.

PHOTO 2



CRESCENT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CRESCENT, SARATOGA CO. NY

R. SMITH, 1999

NE @ NYKHO, WATERFORD NY

SANCTUARY, VIEW NW

PHOTO 3



CRESCENT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CRESCENT, SARATOGA CO. NY

R. SMITH, 1999

NEG@NYSHP. WATERFORD NY

SANCTUARY. VIEW SW

PHOTO 4



CRESCENT METHODIST ESCORTAL CHURCH
CRESCENT, SARATOGA CO. NY
TROY NORTH QUAD.
18/603630/4741923

Published by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

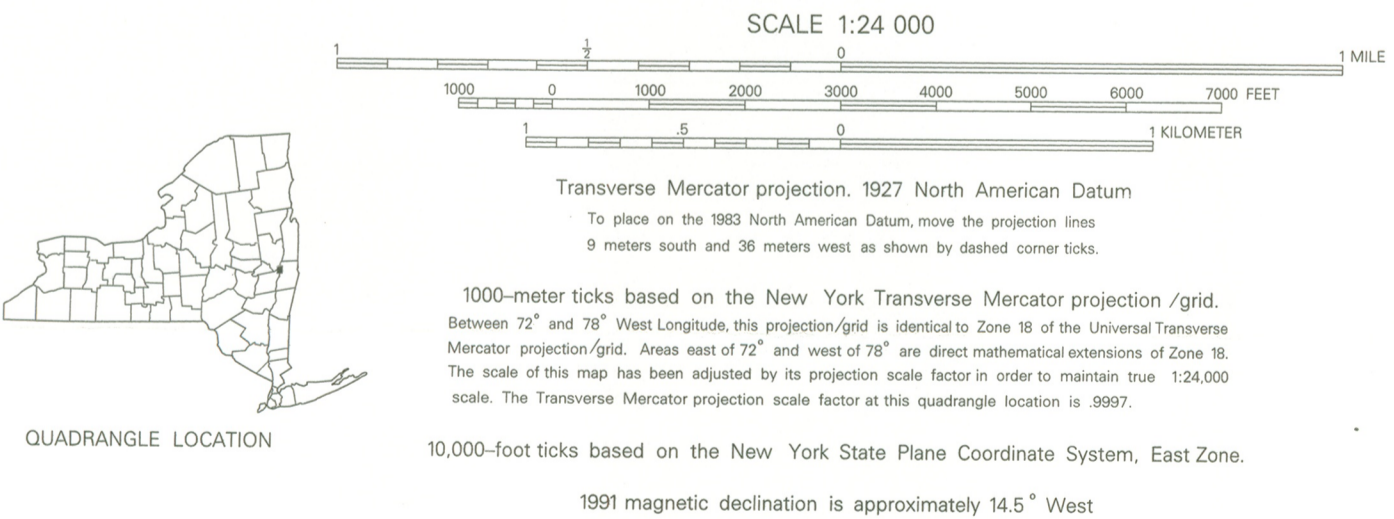
Map base from 1954 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Map revisions made using aerial photographs dated 1990, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil and public land boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Gray tint indicates developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Darker gray tint indicates open water features.

Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

Correspondence concerning this and other Department of Transportation maps should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Building 4, Room 105, Albany, New York 12232.

Revisions by J. Hoover



INDEX TO 1:9600 (1"=490') MAP COVERAGE

TROY NORTH (north)	TROY NORTH (south)
--------------------	--------------------

BOUNDARIES:

State	-----
County	-----
Town or City	-----
Incorporated Village	-----
State / Federal Land	-----

ROADS:

Posted Touring Route	-----	Divided:	-----
Interstate	(67)	Wide mall	-----
U.S.	(28)	Narrow mall or barrier	-----
State	(24)	Undivided:	-----
County	(62)	4 or more lanes	-----
State Highway (SH) number and limit	8120	Less than 4 lanes	-----
County road	(22)	Vehicle track; trail	-----
Interchange number	(8)		





JOSEPH L. BRUNO
PRESIDENT PRO TEM
MAJORITY LEADER

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247

(518) 455-3191

December 17, 1999

Mr. Ray Smith
New York State Office of
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 219
Delaware Avenue
Waterford, New York 12188

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing to give my strong support on behalf of the Board of Directors of St. David's Anglican Church located on Church Hill Road, Crescent, New York in their effort to establish this historic structure as a New York State Historic Landmark.

It is my hope that the application for Historic Listing for St. David's Anglican Church, located in Saratoga County, will be favorably reviewed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph L. Bruno".

Joseph L. Bruno

