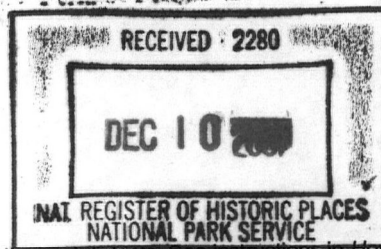


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1503

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 Oran Community Church
other name/site number Oran Free Church

2. Location

street & town New York State Route 92 not for publication
city or town Town of Pompey vicinity
state New York code NY county Onondaga code 067 zip code 13104

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] SA/PO 9/21/01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State of 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 of 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] Edson H. Beall 1.24.02
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 1 | 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 Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY: Gothic Revival
Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets-

Property Name *Oran Community Church*
Location *Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

7. Narrative Description

The Oran Community Church is located on the southwest side of New York State Route 92 in the Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York. The church rests immediately adjacent to Route 92 and is built into the bank that slopes gently down away from the road. Oran, a small crossroads hamlet, is situated between Manlius and Cazenovia near the Ononadaga-Madison County border. Located less than a quarter mile southeast of the building on Route 92 is the Oran District Schoolhouse Number 22, constructed circa 1820, a National Register property listed in 1998. The church, the façade of which is oriented northeast toward the road, is bounded to the southeast by a non-historic parsonage, and northwest by a parking lot and the Fellowship Hall, an adjoining non-contributing facility constructed in 1963. The immediate landscape is characterized by gently rolling hills and woods, interspersed with open farmland.

The church, rectangular in shape and covered by a medium-pitched gable roof, was built in 1851 using a heavy timber frame sheathed in narrow pine clapboard. Compact in profile, the one-story building rests above an uncoursed, mortared rubble foundation, exposed at grade on the northwest elevation. The primary elevation is three bays in width with an engaged bell tower that projects slightly from the plane of the remainder of the façade. Decorative brackets are set below the building's eaves and are present on all four elevations. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The design vocabulary of the exterior is primarily Gothic-inspired, while the interior displays both Gothic and Greek Revival influence. The Oran Community Church is a distinctive example of mid-nineteenth century vernacular construction, a traditional meeting house dressed with an eclectic mix of Romantic and Neoclassical detail.

The façade of the church is composed of the engaged bell tower, set in the center of the front-facing gable. The rectangular tower projects approximately five feet from the plane of the façade, rising three stories in height, crowned by a tall six-sided spire that is sheathed in imbricated shingle and terminated by an imitation gold pinnacle. The corners of the tower are delineated by wood buttresses, each of which is crowned by a pinnacle in imitation of the spire; one has been removed and is currently in storage within the church. The main entrance is situated slightly below the grade of the road in the center of the bell tower, and is highlighted by ornamental shrubbery. Paired wood doors, each with two slender recessed vertical panels, are framed by a heavy architrave with a Gothic label mold above. A panel above the door reads "Pleasant Valley Society, Free Church, Erected September 1st, 1851, J.E. Sweet Architect, T. Little Builder," painted in black on a white background. Above this panel and a molded wood belt course are paired windows headed by a label mold. Considerably larger in scale than the entrance, the nine-over-nine double-hung wood sash windows are framed by a plain architrave. A rounded arch window of Romanesque precedent pierces the third story of the tower below a Neoclassical entablature.

Property Name *Oran Community Church*
Location *Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 2

Flanking the entrance are paired windows with six-over-four double-hung wood sash. Crowned by label molds, they are covered by louvered wood shutters. Four wood brackets with chamfered edges are applied to the building's eaves on either side of the tower. Narrow corner boards finish the corners of the primary elevation.

The side elevations of the church are the same in design excepting that the foundation on the northwest elevation is exposed by the sloping grade. Each side elevation is punctuated by four evenly spaced, paired windows. Windows are double-hung with six-over-four sash, framed by simple architraves and label moldings. A molded wood belt course runs the length of each elevation at sill level. Thirteen wood brackets identical to those employed on the façade are set below the eaves. An enclosed, pent roofed staircase adjoins the southeast elevation and provides outside access to the basement.

The rear elevation is devoid of ornament, excepting the bracketed eaves, with one pair of double-hung one-over-one windows lighting the basement.

The interior of the church is given over entirely, with the exception of a small vestibule, to an open sanctuary space. The ceiling is formed by a four-centered, or Tudor arch, currently clad in acoustic tile, from which hang electric light fixtures. Walls are covered in horizontal and vertical matched birch paneling with bead board wainscot below. Both the original wide plank pine flooring and pews grained in imitation of black walnut survive intact. The shouldered and battered window architraves are characteristically Greek Revival in style. Stairs on either side of the vestibule lead to a partially enclosed gallery, which can be closed off from the sanctuary by hinged wood partitions. A shouldered and battered architrave encases these panels. Below this architrave, and running the entire length of the gallery front from wall to wall, is a paneled wood treatment that employs recessed Tudor arches. In 1941, the basement was renovated to provide dining and kitchen facilities.

8. Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is 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 significant in our past.
- 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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1851

Significant Dates

1851

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Sweet, John Edson: architect

Little, Truman: builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

Property Name *Oran Community Church*
Location *Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 1

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Oran Community Church is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C as an intact and distinctive example of mid-nineteenth century vernacular meeting house construction in predominately rural Onondaga County, New York. Completed in 1851, the wood-frame building displays the form of the conventional New England meeting house, brought to the region during settlement following the American Revolution and once a common feature of the central New York architectural landscape. Employing a design vocabulary primarily of Gothic precedent, the building is nonetheless indebted in detail and form to the persisting influence of the Neoclassical tradition, reflecting the conservative agrarian roots of its rural builders. The Oran Community Church survives with considerable integrity and remains a noteworthy local resource, recalling the development of this small agricultural community and the Town of Pompey. The church is also notable for its association with John Edson Sweet, who, following an early career as a builder and designer, gained widespread recognition for his efforts in the field of American engineering.

The Town of Pompey, originally Military Township Number Ten, formed in 1794 during the initial organization of Onondaga County. Like many of the adjoining towns, Pompey was settled by New Englanders in the decades following the Revolution, many of whom received shares of land for their service during the war. James Scoville, Joseph Bartholomew, Roswell Barnes, and Asael Barnes are among the first documented settlers in Oran, having established themselves there prior to 1800.¹ In 1805, a meeting occurred in a barn on the farm of James Scoville, at which time the 'Pleasant Valley Church Society' was formed under the leadership of Reverend Hugh Wallace.² According to Clark's *Onondaga*, the society was re-organized in October of the following year under the title 'Second Congregational Society of the town of Pompey,' at which time Penderson Avery, Jedediah Cleveland, and Joseph Bartholomew were elected as the church's first trustees. Between 1807 and 1808 the new society built the town's first church, a frame meeting house of the New England tradition on a hill near the present cemetery, representing the third house of worship to be erected in the county.³ This church apparently fell into disrepair sometime around mid-century, at which time plans for the current building were laid.

It was decided by the society that the new building would be situated 'down in the village'⁴ on land acquired from D.D. Denison in exchange for a portion of the former building's parcel. John E. Sweet, then working out of Syracuse, was chosen as architect. Truman Little, listed in the 1850

¹ Joshua Clark, *Onondaga; or Reminiscences of Earlier and Later Times* (Syracuse: Stoddard and Babcock, 1849), 2: 252.

² *Pompey: Our Town in Profile* (Pompey, New York: Township of Pompey, 1976), 1: 179.

³ Clark, *Onondaga*, 253.

⁴ Quoted in *Pompey*, 179.

Property Name *Oran Community Church*
Location *Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 2

United States Census as residing in the Town of Lafayette, was selected as the builder. The new building was dedicated in January 1852 as a 'free church,' available for the use of any Christian denomination. A circa 1900 photograph shows the church and setting as it appeared throughout the nineteenth century, the building abutted on the south elevation by a horse shed and framed by an expansive landscape of open agricultural land.

John Edson Sweet (1832-1916), architect of the Oran church, was born in Pompey in October 1832, a descendant of Salem, Massachusetts settlers of the early seventeenth century.⁵ Sweet gained his education in the local district schools and in 1850 gained an apprenticeship with John Pinkerton, a local carpenter and joiner. Shortly thereafter, Sweet headed to Syracuse, intent on learning architectural drafting. He gained a position in the office of Elijah Hayden (1809-1901), then listed as the city's only practicing architect, exchanging his duties as an office boy for the opportunity to study the architect's plans and practice drafting.⁶ According to Sweet's obituary in the *Syracuse Standard*, his first 'real job' was the drafting of plans for the Oran church.⁷ It was likely in Syracuse that Sweet gained widespread exposure not only to the waning Greek Revival tradition but also to early expressions of the Gothic Revival. His second effort at drawing plans, this time for a barn design competition sponsored by the *Rural New Yorker*, led to a series of articles on architecture which Sweet authored for the magazine. The barn he designed, located on his father's farm in Pompey, was judged by the magazine as the finest barn in New York State.⁸

Following stints as an architect in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and time spent in Europe, Sweet returned to the United States, quickly establishing a reputation as an inventor and engineer of considerable skill. In 1873 Sweet became an instructor of engineering at the Cornell University, resigning in 1879 to return to Syracuse. It was in Syracuse, where his career began, that Sweet established the Straight Line Engine Company, gaining notice as "the widest known mechanical engineer in the United States."⁹ In January 1914 Syracuse University conferred upon Sweet the degree of doctor of engineering. Sweet also received the John Fritz medal from the American Society of Engineers, in recognition for "his achievements in machine design and for pioneer work in applying sound engineering principles to the construction and development of high speed steam engines."¹⁰ His passing in May 1916 was noted in many periodicals, including the *New York Times*.

⁵ *Dictionary of American Biography* (1936), 243.

⁶ *Syracuse Post Standard*, 9 May 1916, 6. This is an obituary note.

⁷ *Ibid*

⁸ *Onondaga Landmarks* (Syracuse: Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse and Onondaga Co., 1975), 86.

⁹ *Post Standard*, 13.

¹⁰ *Ibid*

Property Name *Oran Community Church*
Location *Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 8 Page 3

The Oran Community Church was built at a time when the longstanding Neoclassical tradition in native architecture, dominant throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, was waning. The emergence of the Gothic Revival in ecclesiastical architecture, due in large measure to the efforts of Ithiel Town and Richard Upjohn, and the increasing popularization of the picturesque philosophies of Andrew Jackson Downing and Alexander Jackson Davis, which broadly impacted the direction of native domestic architecture, largely diminished the influence of Neoclassicism. Although indebted to the conventional meeting house form in its combination of gable-roofed block with engaged bell tower, Sweet's building acknowledges the Gothic Revival in the use of label molds and a roof of substantially greater pitch than common to Federal and Greek Revival style buildings. On the interior, Gothic Tudor arches are used freely with shouldered Greek architraves, the whole of the sanctuary covered by a Tudor arched ceiling. Also of note on the exterior are the bracketed eaves and the distinctly Romanesque window on the third story of the bell tower. The Oran Community Church as designed by Sweet reflects his familiarity with Gothic and other Romantic stylistic vocabulary, either gained through plans or books during his association with Hayden, or by firsthand contact with buildings in Syracuse.

The Oran Community Church retains a substantial degree of integrity, the exterior virtually unaltered from the time of its dedication in 1852. Of particular note in the sanctuary are the original grained pews, done in imitation of black walnut by the builder Truman Little, for which he was paid an additional twelve dollars. The only significant change made to the sanctuary space was the application of fitted birch paneling and acoustic tiles in 1958. The basement was modified in 1941 to provide for a dining and kitchen area. In 1963 the Fellowship Hall, a non-contributing building, was added.

Property Name District *Oran Community Church*
Location *Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clark, Joshua. *Onondaga; or Reminiscences of Earlier and Later Times*. Syracuse: Stoddard and Babcock, 1849.

Pompey: Our Town in Profile. Pompey, New York: Township of Pompey, 1976.

Onondaga Landmarks. Syracuse: Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse and Onondaga County, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18/ 423700/ 4758684
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger
organization NYS OPRHP date July 2001
street & number Post Office Box 219 telephone 518-237-8643 x3265
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and **white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title The Oran Community Church
street & number 4257 Oran-Delphi Road telephone _____
city or town Oran state NY zip code 13104

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Property Name Oran Community Church
Location Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Oran Community Church is shown as the heavy black outline on the enclosed map, entitled *Oran Community Church, Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the proposed nomination has been drawn to coincide with the current legal lot for the property.

Property Name *Oran Community Church*
Location *Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs

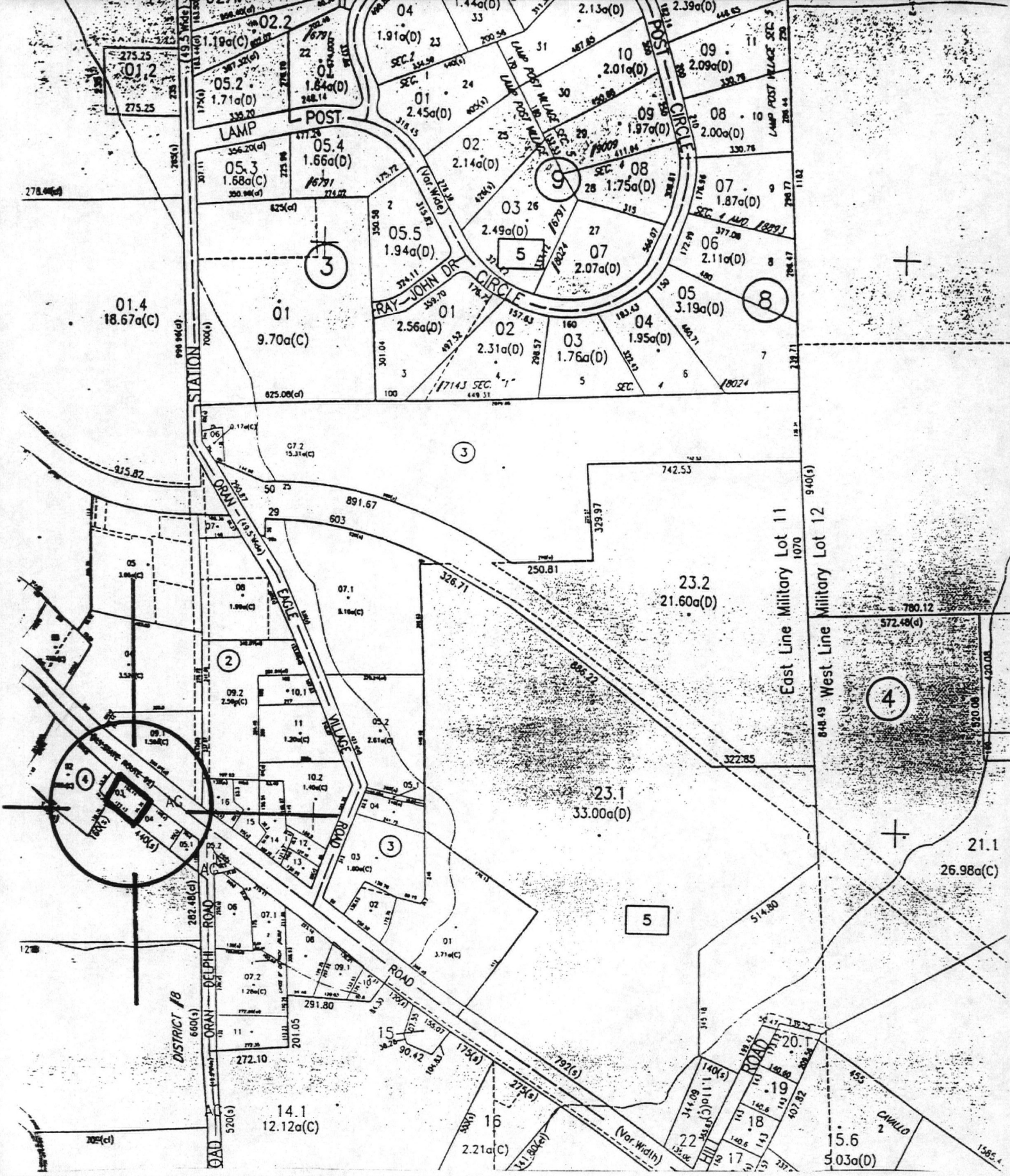
Photograph key

Pictures taken April 2001

Photographer: Bill Krattinger

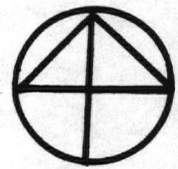
Negatives: NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau, Peebles Island, Waterford, New York

- 1. Front and side elevation**
- 2. Detail of front door with date plaque**
- 3. Interior view of worship space looking toward gallery**
- 4. Interior view of worship space showing Tudor arched ceiling**
- 5. Original pews and wide plank flooring**



**Oran Community Church
Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, New York**

Boundary shown as solid black outline
Scale: One half inch is equal to approximately two hundred seventy five feet



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Oran Community Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Onondaga

DATE RECEIVED: 12/10/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/27/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/25/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001503

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 1.24.02 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



Dean Community Church
Town of Pompey, Oneida Co. NY
#1

060 001 MHC --- 01.02.01 ELITE PHOTO

PLEASANT VALLEY SOCIETY
FREE CHURCH,
ERECTED SEPT. 17, 1851.
J. E. Sweet, Architect. T. Holt, Builder.



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Oren Community Church
Town of Pompey, Onondaga Co. NY

#2

056 001 HHC ----- 01.02.01 ELITE PHOTO



Oran Community Church
Town of Pompey, Onondaga Co. NY
#3

049 001 NANC ----- 01.02.01 ELITE PHOTO



be with
you

HYMNS
517
530
419

Oron Community Church
Town of Pompey, Oneida Co. NY

#4

053 001 NANC ----- 01.02.01 ELITE PHOTO



Oran Community Church
Town of Pompey, Oneida Co. NY
#5

01.02.01 ELITE PHOTO



Oran Community Church
 Town of Pompey, Onondaga County
 18/423705/4758684
 Scale 1:24,000
 Oran Quad

NEW YORK STATE
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ORAN QUADRANGLE
 NEW YORK
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES



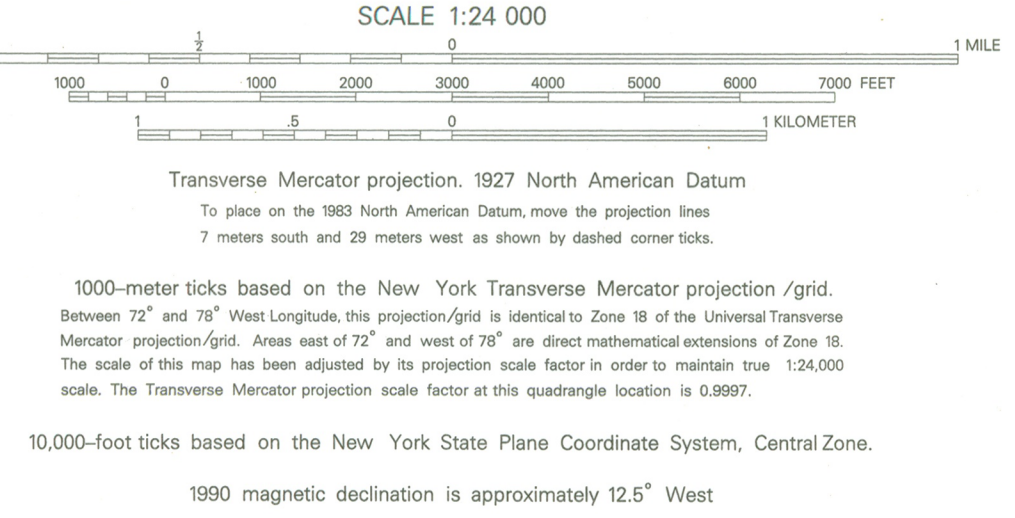
Published by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Map base from 1973 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle. Map revisions made using aerial photographs dated 1989, 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 S.J. Fiorito



INDEX TO 1:9600 (1"=800') MAP COVERAGE

| |
|---------------|
| ORAN (shaded) |
|---------------|

BOUNDARIES:

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

ROADS:

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