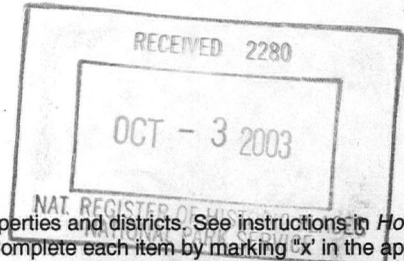


1149

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

**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 Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

other name/site number Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church

2. Location

street & town 339 Delaware Ave. not for publication

city or town Buffalo vicinity

state New York code NY county Erie code 029 zip code 14202

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.)

M. Carter, SPO 9/19/03
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 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:) _____

for
Edson V. Beall 11.15.03
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	
01	00	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
01	00	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

00

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / church

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
roof Slate; Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

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

*Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., NY*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The former Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, more recently known as the Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church, is situated at the southeast corner of Delaware Avenue and West Tupper Street in Buffalo, New York. Delaware Avenue, a fashionable residential avenue in the city in the nineteenth century, is now characterized by a mix of commercial and institutional uses, a number of which are housed in former mansions and older commercial buildings. The Delaware Avenue church is a monumental High Victorian Gothic building constructed in two episodes between 1871 and 1876. The exterior is faced in both rough and uncoursed red Medina Sandstone trimmed in Connecticut brownstone. The earliest portion of the building (1871) is situated at the east and consists of a two-story gabled chapel building with its roof ridge parallel to Delaware Avenue. The main portion of the church (1874-1876) now represents the western two-thirds of the combined building and is oriented with its gabled, tower-flanked façade toward Delaware Avenue. The combined building is T-shaped in plan with the bottom of the T oriented westward.

The west façade of the church is gabled with a gabled porch at the center, a large auditorium window above it and two flanking towers of differing configurations and height. The walls and towers bases are laid up in rough coursed red sandstone. The larger of the two towers is at the north end and rises in five stages to a height of 185 feet. It includes a 90-foot high octagonal stone spire. The smaller tower flanks the south end of the façade and rises to a height of 115 feet. Both towers feature heavy buttresses at the exterior corners and sill courses between stories and stages. Window and door openings in both are headed by a combination of segmental and flattened gothic arches. The belfry levels of both are octagonal in plan and are designed with broaches and louvered openings in alternate faces. The spires, which rise above each belfry are very different in form. The north spire features a flared base, dormered lancet windows at two levels, and small oculi near the top. The upper portion of the south tower is composed of stepped buttresses, an octagonal lantern and a minor spire. The gabled center of the façade consists of a richly carved Gothic entrance porch at the center of the ground floor level, flanked by Gothic arched windows. The entrance is framed by round columns with crocket capitals supporting molded Gothic arches. The porch roof is distinguished by open stone tracery. The upper portion of the wall is dominated by a large, Tudor arched window with Perpendicular style wooden tracery. This window is set within a blind-arched recess in the wall. The surrounds of this recess are constructed of alternating dark and light colored quoins and voussoirs. A finial rises above the verge of the gable.

The north and south elevations of the main portion of the church are similar and both are laid up in rough coursed red sandstone. Each consists of six window bays separated by buttresses. The sanctuary windows are Tudor arched and filled with Perpendicular style wooden tracery. A small porch is present at the east end of the north elevation, sheltering a doorway in the chapel portion of the church. There is a cut stone water table at both elevations and basement level windows beneath all but two of the nave windows. Copper gutters form a cornice at the top of both walls.

The chapel portion of the church (1871) is two stories in elevation and consists of gabled walls at the north and south elevations and a buttressed wall across the east side. The gabled walls are built of rough coursed red sandstone while the east wall is built of uncoursed sandstone. The north gable wall is divided into three bays by buttresses. Each bay is filled by large grouped Tudor arched window openings filled with Perpendicular style tracery for windows at the first and second stories. The upper portion of the wall includes a Gothic attic window and a chimney at the verge. The south gable wall features buttresses and rectangular windows at the first story and small, Tudor arched Gothic windows at the second story. The "ornamental" windows are attributed to Mr. Meyers of the Covington Glass Company. A chimney rises above the verge of this wall to match that of the north wall. The east wall is divided by buttresses into six bays. Tall, rectangular windows are present in four bays at the first story. The second story is filled with Tudor arched windows in five of the six bays.

The gabled roof of the main church and portions of the chapel are surfaced in Pennsylvania slate believed to date from the 1930s. It is believed that small dormers were present on the main roof slopes when first built, but removed during this later roofing period. The east slope of the chapel is covered in asphalt shingles installed circa 1960. Two ventilators rise above the main ridge of the roof.

The interior of the church consists of two major parts, the 1874-1876 sanctuary and the 1871 chapel building. The sanctuary is a large rectangular auditorium with a vaulted ceiling supported by hammer beams. Galleries with wood paneled fronts line the north and south sides of the auditorium. Both are gracefully curved to meet the east and west end walls and rest on slender octagonal

*Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., NY*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

columns. The west side of the auditorium includes a narthex at the first story and a recessed choir loft at the second. Two Gothic doorways communicate between the narthex and the auditorium. The choir loft is placed at a higher level than the side galleries and is recessed behind a large Tudor arch. The loft communicates with the galleries by way of stairs at each side and is lit by a large stained glass window with Perpendicular style tracery. The east side of the auditorium includes a raised dais in front of a large, recessed niche beneath a molded Tudor arch. The altar, altar rail, and pews have been removed. Each side of the auditorium is lit by six stained glass windows filled with Perpendicular style tracery and period stained glass from the Buffalo firm of Booth and Reister. Many windows feature stenciled lights decorated in Gothic motifs surrounded by brightly colored stained glass borders. The windows extend through the galleries where they are protected by decorative iron railings. There is a paneled wainscot at the base of the walls. The ceiling consists of flat surfaces above the galleries and sloped sections above the center, both supported by wooden hammer beams carved with pierced Gothic tracery and gilt pendants. The intersections of these trusses with the ridge beam are also decorated with gilt pendants. Lighting consists of an incomplete set of large, chain-hung electric lamps with Gothic style art glass shades dating from circa 1922. Floors are wood except in the narthex where the floor is laid in decorative encaustic tiles. A finished basement lies beneath the auditorium and was fitted out as Bashford Hall in 1922.

The chapel interior incorporates the former worship space in the northern half of this portion of the building as expressed by large Perpendicular style gothic windows at the north elevation. Clustered cast iron columns are arranged in two rows in the first floor hall and support an auditorium with a small stage at the second floor. Classrooms and offices are arrayed in the basement first and second stories. Original wainscots, doors, trim and fireplaces remain in this section of the building.

8. 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 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

1871-1876

Significant Dates

1871; 1874-1876.

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Selkirk, John, architect, Buffalo, NY

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:

NYS Div. for Hist. Preservation, Waterford, NY

*Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., NY*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is architecturally significant under Criterion C as a distinctive example of High Victorian Gothic ecclesiastical architecture. Designed by prominent Buffalo architect John H. Selkirk and built in two phases between 1871 and 1876, the imposing Medina sandstone church and its picturesque towers visually dominate several blocks of Delaware Avenue. The design of the church combines a richly textured Gothic exterior with an auditorium-like worship space rooted in the Protestant meeting house tradition. The integration of these historically opposed design approaches into a visually and functionally cohesive church building is emblematic of the picturesque tastes and architectural creativity of the Victorian era.

From its start as a planned village in 1804, Buffalo grew slowly until 1825 when it was designated the western terminus of the Erie Canal. By 1830, Buffalo was the shipbuilding capital of the Great Lakes area. In 1843, the railroad established the city as a transportation center and the subsequent development of cattle, meatpacking and lumber industries brought prosperity to the area. Buffalo continued to grow throughout the nineteenth century and by 1860, it was regarded as the nation's grain center. The city experienced its greatest period of expansion and prosperity, particularly in manufacturing, heavy industry, maritime trade and commerce following the Civil War and by the mid-1880's, Buffalo was considered the nation's leading inland port, earning the nickname "Queen City of the Great Lakes." By 1900, Buffalo was the eighth largest city in the United States and continued to prosper until after World War II, when, like many large American cities, it suffered a decline in population.

Buffalo's commercial growth from Lake Erie and northward from the industrial corridor along the Buffalo River, caused the migration of residential construction north along such streets as Delaware Avenue. The Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed on this preeminent street by former members of the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. While the "mother church" of Buffalo Methodism was the Niagara Street Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1818 and located on Niagara Street, many of the original members of Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church came from Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, originally at the corner of North Division Street and Michigan Avenue. The people who advocated for a new church had moved their homes "uptown", because the area was no longer considered to be a desirable residential neighborhood and Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, their place of worship was determined to be too far away from their new residences. In the fall of 1870, Francis H. Root (1815-1892), a prominent businessman and a member of Grace Methodist Church met with Bishop Simpson who was on his way to the annual conference in Warsaw, Wyoming County. When Mr. Root broached the idea of creating a new Methodist Society in order to build a church on the west side of Main Street, the Bishop Simpson was encouraging and arranged for the appointment of Dr. Sanford B. Hunt as pastor to the newly formed society. Initially referred to as the Center Methodist Church, the 40-member group held its first service in the chapel of the Buffalo Female Seminary in 1870. After forming a Sunday School, the group began meeting in the Chapel of Calvary Presbyterian Church while plans were being developed and construction of the new Chapel was completed.

By December 1870, Francis Root had purchased the site at the southeast corner of Delaware Avenue and Tupper Street and committed \$100,000 to the construction of the chapel and church. Later, he established a \$25,000 endowment for the long-term maintenance of the church and chapel. Mr. Root as Chairman of the Church Building Committee, played an integral role in the chapel and church construction and was largely responsible for selection John H. Selkirk as architect. Francis H. Root was born in New Berlin, Chenango County and was the youngest of ten children. He came to Buffalo in 1835 to work as a bookkeeper and clerk for Isaac Skinner, who manufactured stoves. When the business was destroyed by fire, Root formed a partnership with Franklin Day and Sherman Jewett. For over forty years Jewett & Root was a successful business and Root became a prominent and wealthy businessman. In 1878 Root sold his interest and joined the leather making business of Jewett & Keating, which soon became Root & Keating. This business prospered as the most prominent leather manufacturer in the City of Buffalo, with tanneries in Port Allegheny and Olean. Francis Root served as director on several bank boards, was a trustee of the State Normal School, Genesee College, the Chautauqua Assembly and the Buffalo Public Library and was the first President of the Board of Syracuse University (then a Methodist University). He was an active member of the Methodist community in Buffalo. He also served as a Trustee of the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1852 he was appointed as the first layman delegate to the general conference that year held in Philadelphia and retained this prominent role at subsequent conventions. As Chairman of the Building Committee and as a prominent member of the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church congregation, he gave addresses at almost every major event held in the church.

*Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., NY*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

The church was designed to be built in two phases beginning with a chapel building at the rear of the lot which would serve as a temporary home while the larger main church was under construction. Upon the completion of the main church, the chapel would be used for Sunday school, receptions and lectures, church offices, and a pastor's study. The chapel was completed in 1871. The Treasurer's Book from 1871 found in the church archives attributes the "ornamental" windows to Mr. Meyers, who worked for the Covington Glass Company. The cornerstone of the main church was laid on May 21, 1874. The completed edifice was dedicated on September 10, 1876. Booth and Riester of Buffalo Stained Glass Works, who were well known manufacturers of ecclesiastic and domestic art stained glass created the windows in the main church. The total cost of the building was estimated at \$170,000.

The church was designed in the High Victorian Gothic style, a style introduced in England which reached the zenith of its popularity in the United States in the 1870s. The style differs from the earlier Gothic Revival style in its secular perspective and its free and unrestricted borrowing of historic Gothic forms and details. John Ruskin's writings are associated with its popularity and the style is referred to by some as Ruskinian Gothic. Unlike the Gothic Revival churches of the 1840s and 1850s by architects such as Upjohn and Renwick, the newer style was no longer constrained by ecclesiological concerns about the relationship between style and liturgy. The style celebrated visual richness for its own sake and was applied not only to churches, but museums, banks courthouses and armories. Hallmarks of the style include picturesque and asymmetrical compositions, bold forms and variegated stone or brick masonry, particularly alternating courses of light and dark stone or brickwork and arches with voussoirs of alternating color. The banding typical of the style derives from Byzantine architecture but was known to Ruskin from his experiences in observing and writing of Venetian architecture. By the 1880s, the popularity of the style had been quickly surpassed by what later became known as the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

Selkirk designed the Delaware Avenue church on a grand scale, comparable to Buffalo's existing downtown churches. Although the exterior was clearly Gothic in overall form and detail, the interior configuration still reflected the Protestant tradition of an open auditorium worship space with galleries instead of the medieval nave and side aisle configuration typical of the European roots of the Gothic style. The open plan required the design of trusses to carry roof loads over a substantial plan. The visible portions of these trusses are decorated in Gothic motifs but otherwise, the interior has little in common with true Gothic design. This apparent contradiction is not at all uncommon in the High Victorian Gothic period as architects borrowed freely from historic models in creative and highly original ways to create thoroughly functional but highly picturesque buildings. For example, the exterior represents a series of possible design inspirations without copying any one particular historic prototype. The two unequal towers are vaguely reminiscent of the cathedral at Chartres (1194-1220), while the Tudor arched windows with Perpendicular tracery are derived from English buildings such as St. George's Chapel in Windsor (1473-1516). The blind arch at the façade with its alternating light and dark colored stone quoins and voussoirs, however, illustrates the direct influence of John Ruskin and his writings. Encaustic floor tiles, such as those used in the paving of the church narthex, were particularly common in High Victorian Gothic buildings and many of these tiles were imported from England. The use of Medina red sandstone for walls added color to the exterior of the church, particularly when trimmed with a Connecticut sandstone of different color, and its choice was no doubt influenced by the close proximity of Buffalo to the red sandstone quarries nearby in Medina, New York.

John H. Selkirk (1808-1878) was one of Buffalo's most prominent mid-nineteenth century architects. Selkirk was born in Connecticut and according to his obituary, studied architecture and construction in New England before coming to Buffalo in the 1830's, where he established a builder-architect practice. While the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was his last and one of his most important works, he also designed the North Church, the Central Presbyterian Church and Calvary Church. Other works by Selkirk include the Illuminating Gas Company plant, the Bronson Rumsey House on Delaware Avenue and the Rich House on Main Street.

In 1917, the Asbury Methodist Church at Chippewa and Pearl Streets merged with the Delaware Avenue Church and sold the downtown building for \$237,500. The union of the two churches was reflected in a new name; the Asbury-Delaware Methodist Episcopal Church of Buffalo. The role of the merged church soon expanded to serve a broader and more diverse population of the city. In 1922, major renovations of the church building were undertaken including improvements to the kitchen, classrooms, lighting, the pastor's study and the organ. The basement of the church was deepened and redeveloped into a large meeting space named Bashford Hall. By 1924, the Asbury-Delaware Church hosted more than twenty community organizations and had become Buffalo's pre-eminent Methodist Church.

*Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., NY*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

The decline of the church mirrored to a certain extent the decline of Delaware Avenue as a grand tree-lined residential corridor. The avenue was widened in 1924 resulting in the loss of its beautiful elm trees and several of its elegant houses and mansions to spreading commercial uses. Church finances were dealt a serious blow in the Depression when the business syndicate that bought the site of the former Asbury Church defaulted on their loan. The church congregation declined in subsequent decades as the city lost population. In 1992, the building was sold to a small church congregation, which did not have the means to maintain the building. It became vacant and was turned over to the City of Buffalo by the mid-1990s. In spite of the building's deteriorated appearance, it retains an extremely high level of architectural integrity and is remains one of Buffalo's finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places recognizes the building's significance in Buffalo's history and architecture and is crucial in accomplishing its long-term preservation.

*Property Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Location Buffalo, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 page 1

Bibliography:

A History of the City of Buffalo. Its Men and Institutions. Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens.
Buffalo: Buffalo Evening News. 1908.

“The Bishop’s Reception,” *Northern Christian Advocate*, May 20, 1886.

Board Minutes of the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. (located in the church archives at Western New York Conference The United Methodist Church).

_____. *Centennial Anniversary of Methodism in Buffalo, May 1817-1917.* Buffalo: Kenworthy Printing Company.

“City Pastors – Methodists,” *Buffalo Advocate*, September 1877.

“Delaware-Avenue Church,” *Commercial Advertiser*. September 8, 1876.

“Delaware Avenue Church Dedication,” *Northern Christian Advocate*, September 21, 1876.

_____. “Delaware Avenue,” in *The Grand American Avenue, 1850-1920*. J. Cigliano and S. Landau (eds), San Francisco: Pomegranate, 1994, pp.35-64.

Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Treasurer’s Book 1881 and 1882 March & April. (located in the church archives at Western New York Conference The United Methodist Church).

Francis H. Root Record Book 1870-1890. (located in the church archives at Western New York Conference The United Methodist Church)

“Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation,” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Prepared by Claire L. Ross with Draft by Dr. Francis Kowsky)

The Industries of Buffalo. A Resume of the Mercantile and Manufacturing Progress of the Queen City of the Lakes, Together with a Condensed Summary of Her Material Development and History and a Series of Comprehensive Sketches of Her Representative Business Houses. Buffalo: The Elstner Publishing Co. 1887.

Jaeger, Robert A. *The Auditorium Plan and Akron Plans Reflections of a half Century of American Protestantism.* Thesis Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Cornell University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts. 1984.

“Laying the Corner Stone,” *Buffalo Daily Courier*, May 22, 1874.

“The New Church Dedication of Delaware Ave. M.E Church Yesterday ,” *Buffalo Daily Courier*, September 11, 1876.

*Property Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Location Buffalo, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 page 2

Bibliography Continued:

“Obituary. Mr. John H. Selkirk-Mr. Peter Baxter,” *Buffalo Daily Courier*, September 24, 1878.

_____. *.100th Anniversary Asbury-Delaware United Methodist Church, 1874-1974.* (located in church archives at Western New York Conference The United Methodist Church)

Olenick, Andy and Richard O. Reisem, *Classic Buffalo A Heritage of Distinguished Architecture.* Buffalo: Canisius College Press. 1999.

Organization of Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church 1869-1917. (located in church archives at Western New York Conference The United Methodist Church)

Randall AIA, John. *Buffalo and Western New York. Architecture and Human Values.* Buffalo: Artcraft-Burow. 1976.

“Selkirk Street Named to Honor Famous Builder,” *Buffalo Daily Courier*. August 21, 1938.

_____. *Through the Years 1848-1948 Asbury Delaware Methodist Church.* (located in church archives at Western New York Conference The United Methodist Church)

_____. *.Year Book & Directory Ten Years Together 1917—1927 Asbury Delaware Methodist Episcopal Church.* (located in church archives at Western New York Conference The United Methodist Church)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

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

1 17 673480 4750970
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 Mark Peckham and Claire Ross based on draft by Blythe Merrill, Buffalo, NY
organization NYS Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau date July, 2003
street & number P.O. Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
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 Hon. Anthony M. Masiello, Mayor
street & number Buffalo City Hall, 65 Niagara Square telephone _____
city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14202

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

*Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., NY*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies a rectangular corner lot at the southeast corner of Delaware Avenue and Tupper Street in Buffalo, New York. The nomination boundary follows the street right-of-ways and the south and east lot lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary follows the current lot lines which describe the same parcel purchased for the construction of the church in 1871. It remains unchanged.

*Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photograph Page 1

Photograph Page

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Name of Property | Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
339 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York
Erie County |
| 2. Photographer | Sara Howell, photos 1-4
Brent de Riszner, photos 5-7 |
| 3. Date | July 2003 |
| 4. Location of Negatives | Flynn-Battaglia Architects
617 Main Street, Suite S-401
Buffalo, New York 14203-1400 |
-

List of Photographs:

1. Main façade on Delaware Avenue, looking east.
2. South elevation, Chapel on the right and main Church on the left, from parking lot.
3. North elevation, Chapel on the left and main Church on the right, from West Tupper Street.
4. East elevation, of the Chapel looking west from the parking lot.
5. Church sanctuary, looking west, toward choir loft and entrance doors from the vestibule.
6. Church sanctuary, looking toward stairway to gallery.
7. Second floor of the Chapel, former worship space then Sunday Schoolroom, showing Gothic style windows.

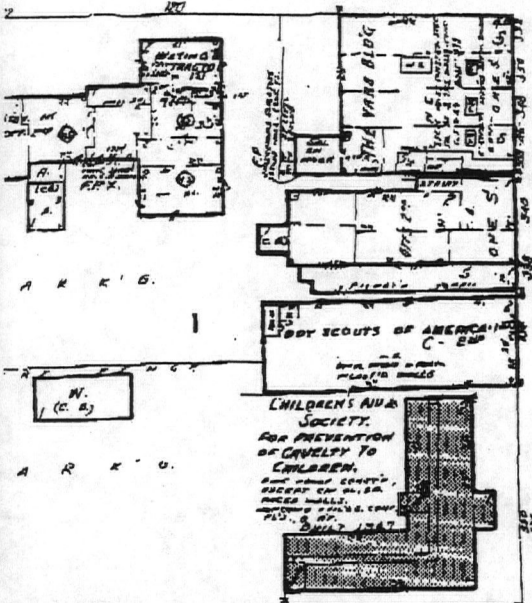
W. TUPPER

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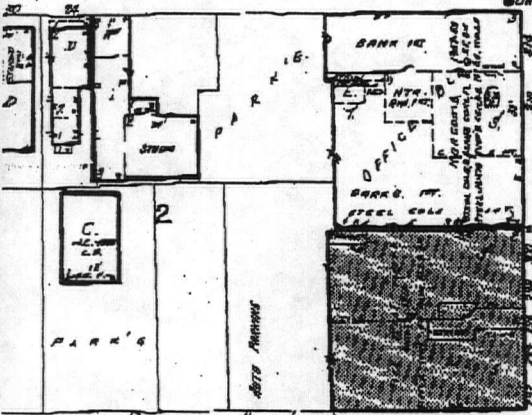
22' W. SIDE (N)

BUFFALO, N.Y.

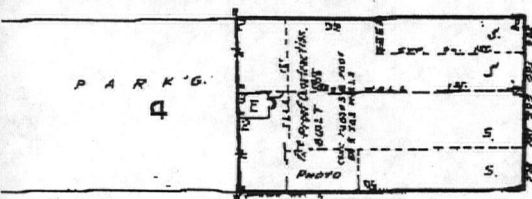
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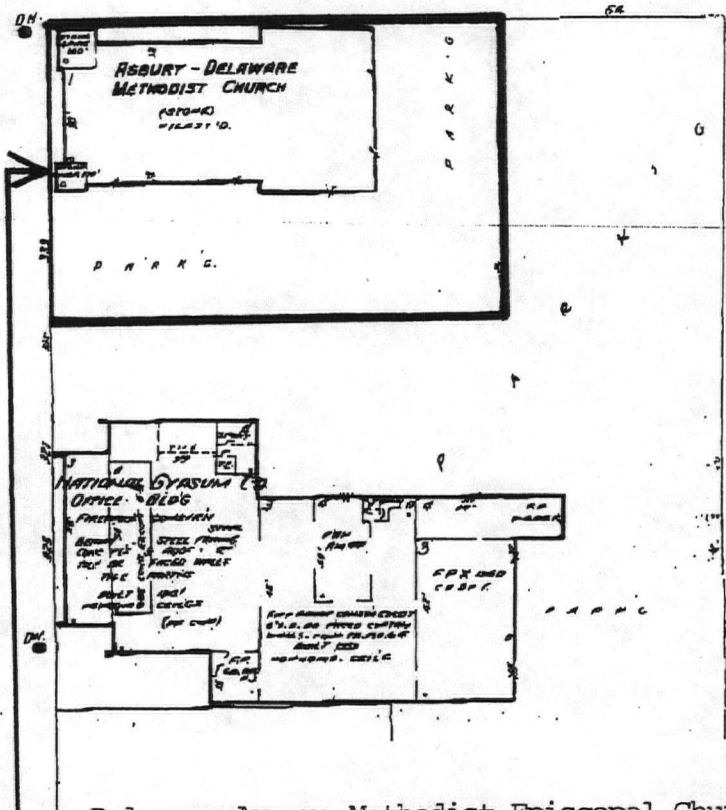
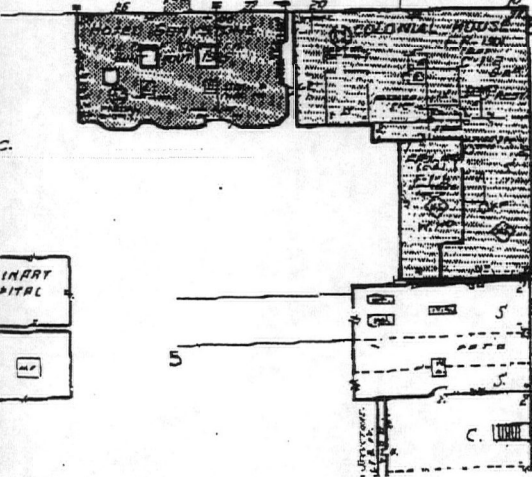
TRACY



JOHNSON PARK



JOHNSON PARK

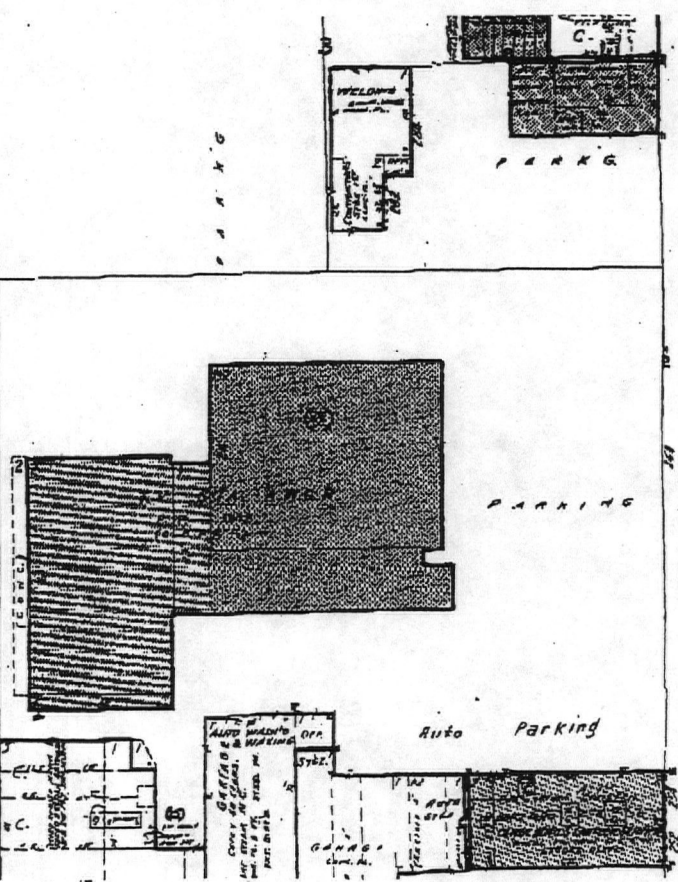


Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
 339 Delaware Avenue
 Buffalo, New York
 Erie County

Property Boundary—Heavy Black Line

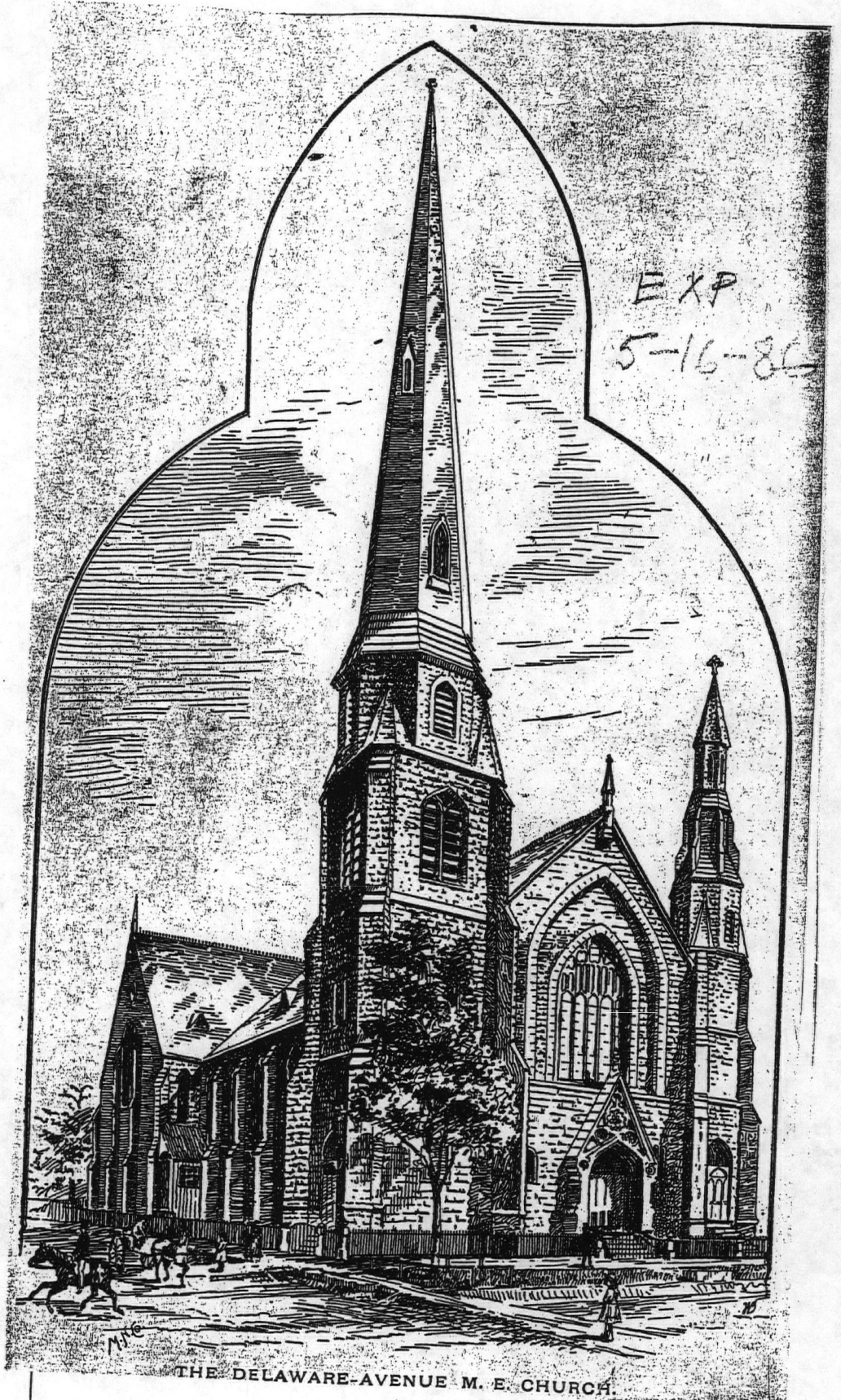
AV.
 DELAWARE

FRANKLIN



160.

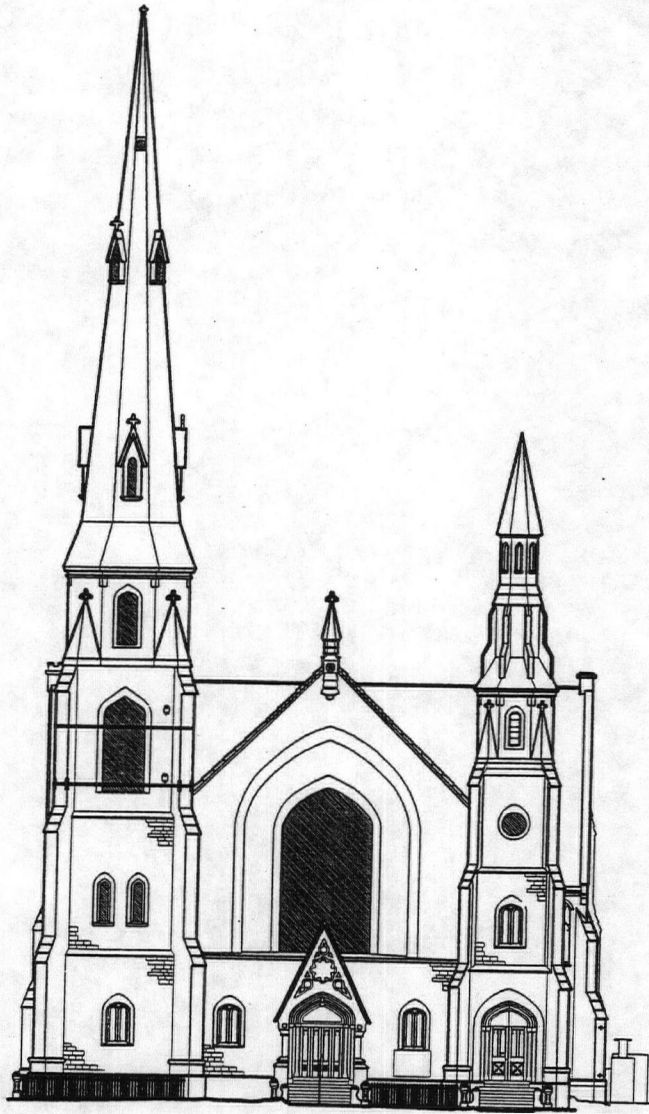
Delaware Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., N.Y.



THE DELAWARE-AVENUE M. E. CHURCH.

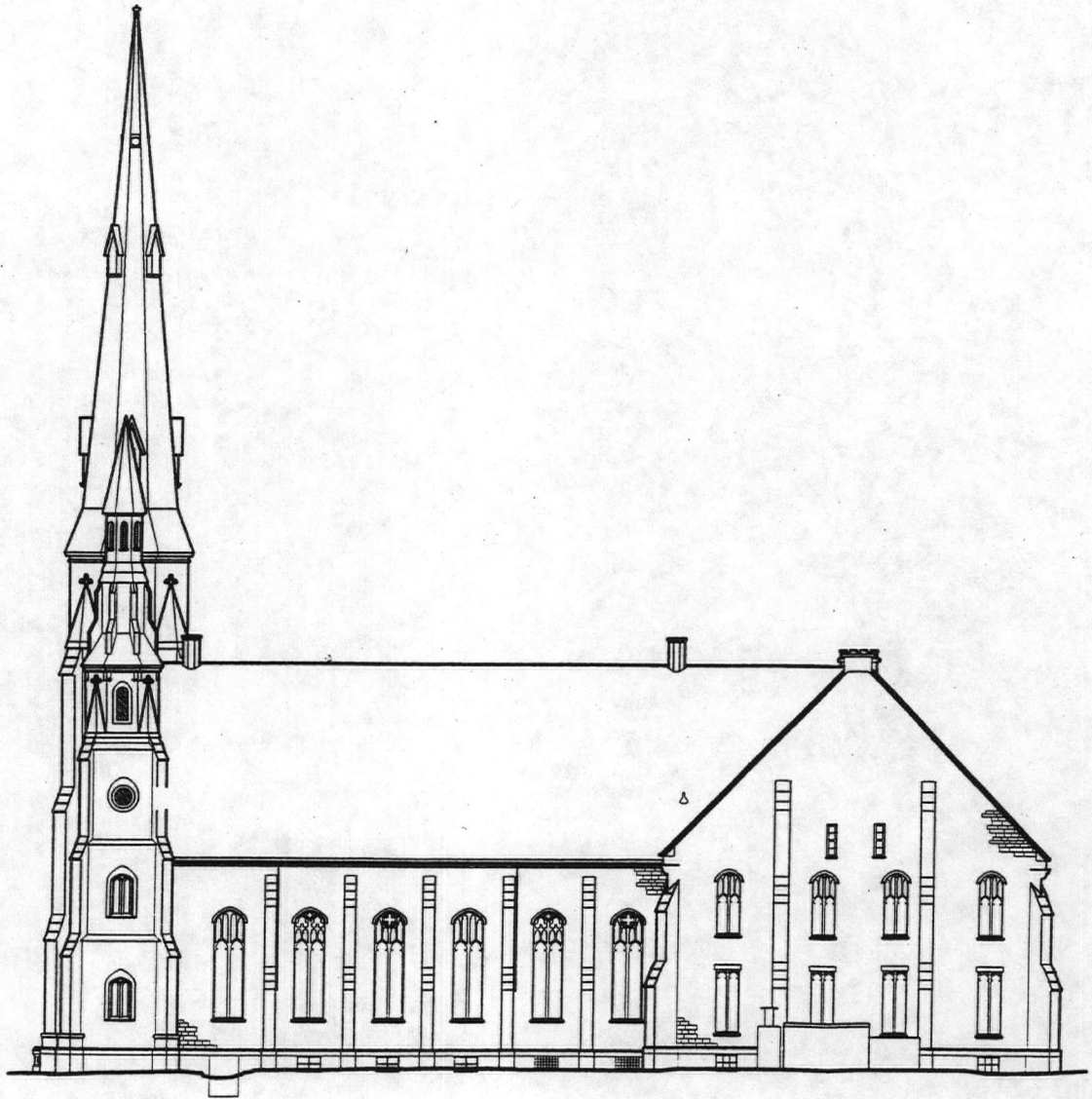
Express 5-16-1886

Delaware Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., N.Y.



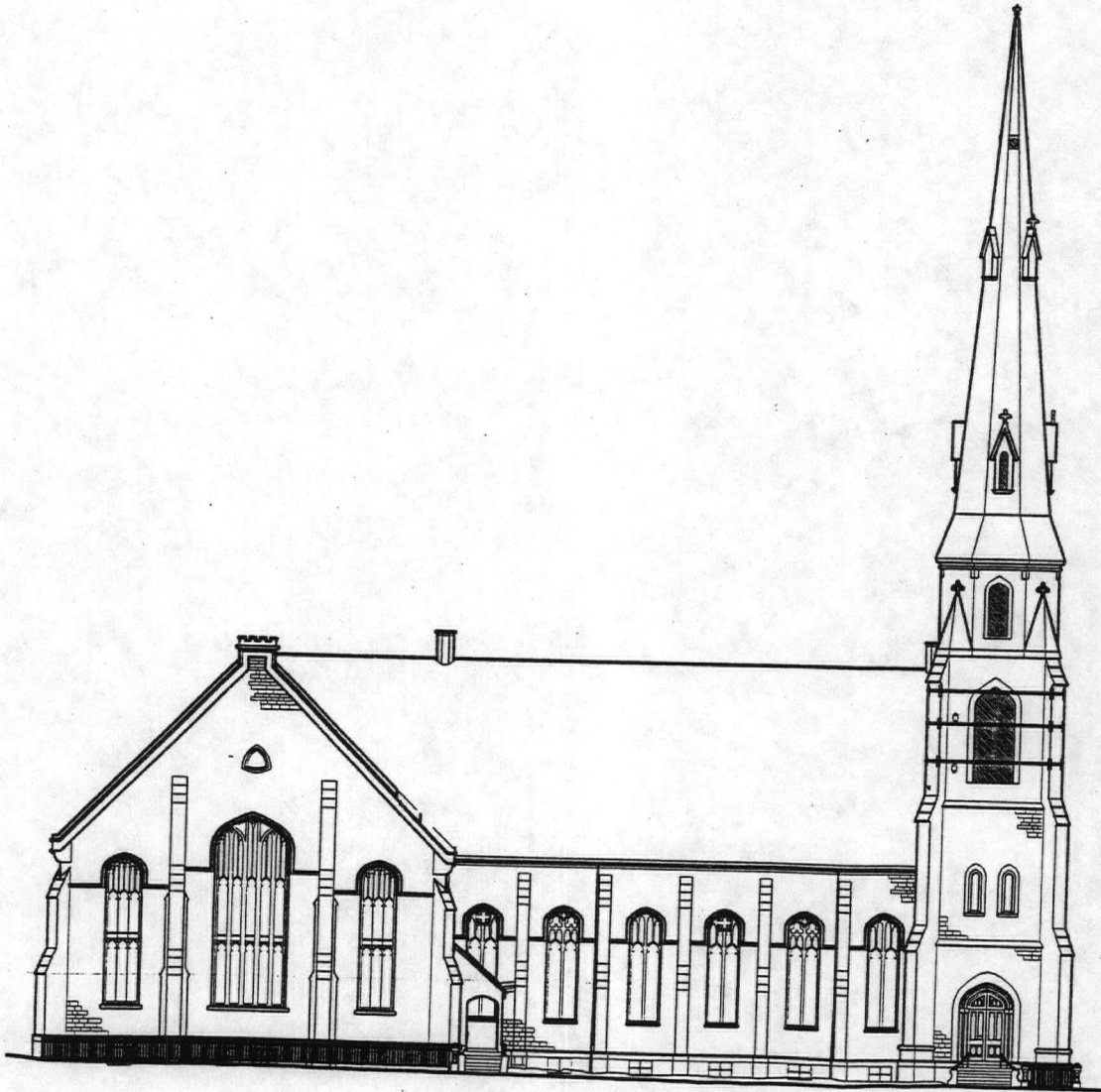
1 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

Delaware Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., N.Y.



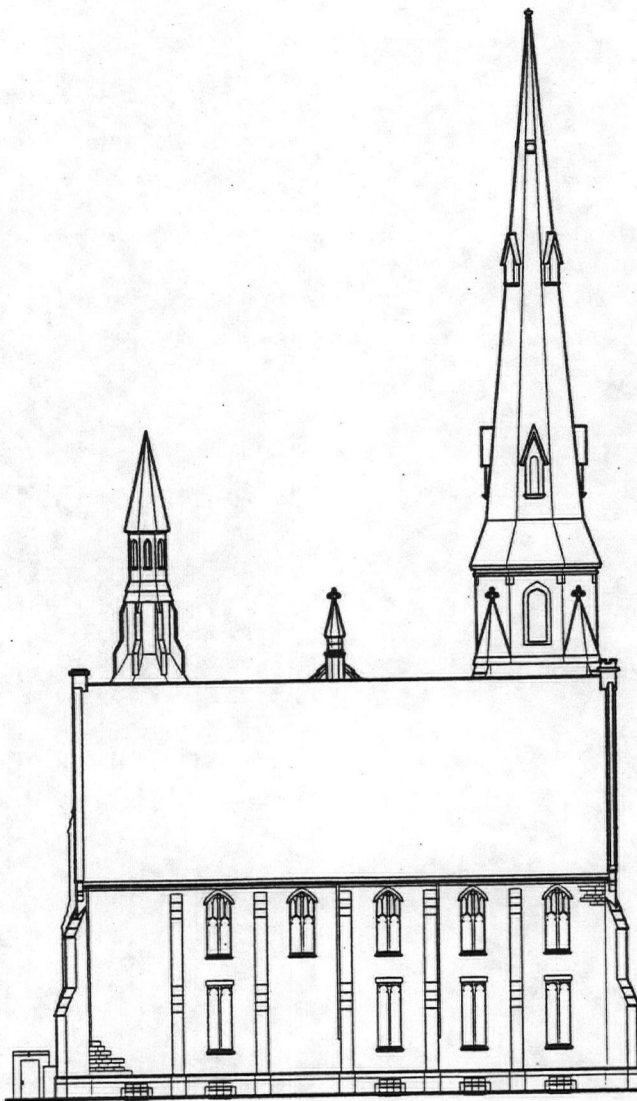
2 SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

Delaware Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., N.Y.



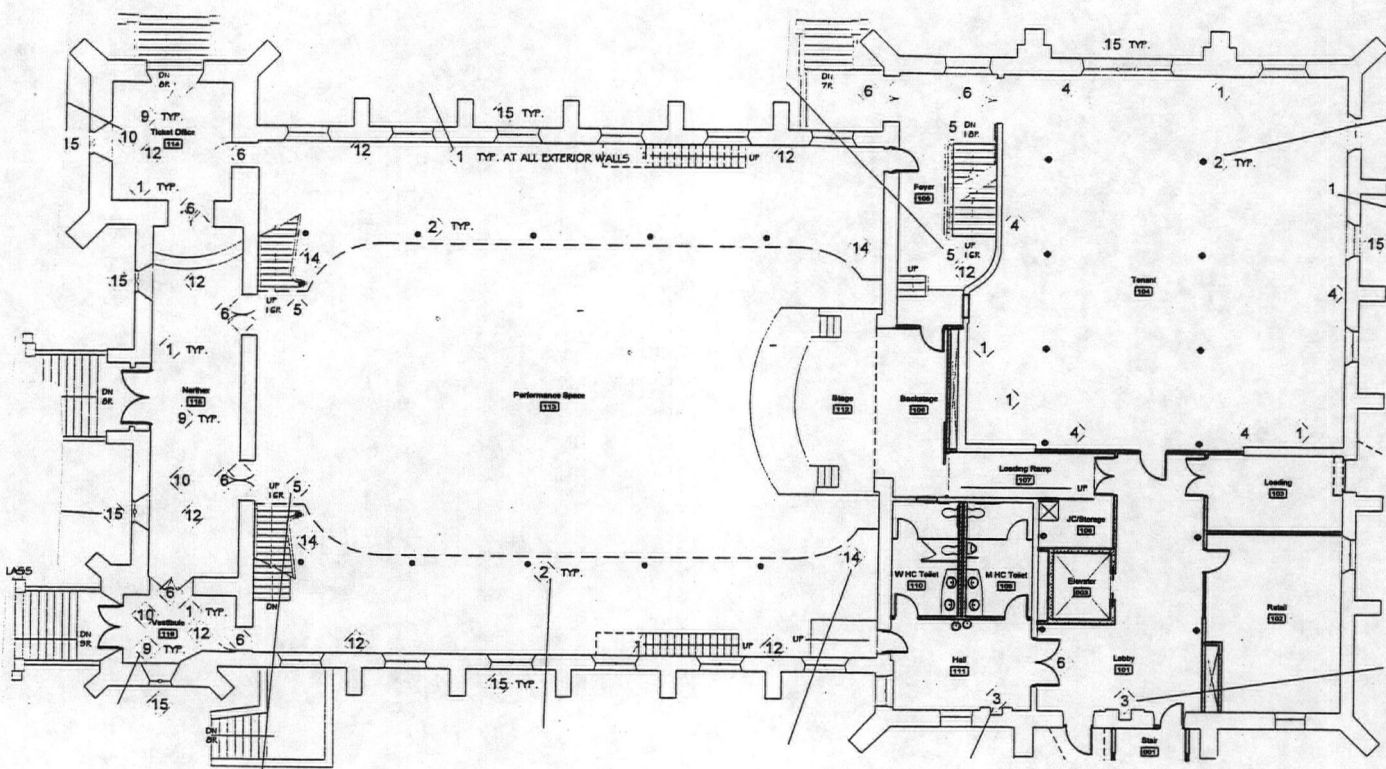
2 NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

Delaware Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church
Buffalo, Erie Co., N.Y.



1 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

Delaware Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church
 Buffalo, Erie Co., N.Y.



1 First Floor Plan
 A-101 1/16" = 1'-0"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 10/03/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/30/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/15/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/17/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001149

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 11-15-03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



USE
TWO
LANES

DELAWARE AVE

W. TUPP

Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

339 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Erie County

Photoby: Sarah Howell, July 2003

Negat: Flynn Battaglia Architects

#1

414 Main St., Suite S-401

Buffalo, N.Y. 14203-1400

View: Main facade on Delaware Avenue, looking east.



Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

339 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Erie County

Photo by: Sarah Howell, July 2003

Negat: Flynn Battaglia Architects, 617
Main St, Suite S-401, Buffalo, N.Y.

142.03-1400

#2

View: south elevation of Chapel
on the right, from the parking lot, church
on the left

Del. Ave. M.E. Church
Buffalo, N.Y.



Relawan. Avenue. Methodist Episcopal Church.

339 Relawan Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Erie County

Photo by: Sarah Howell, July 2003

Neg. at: Flynn-Battaglia Architects, 614 Main
St., Suite 6-401 Buffalo, N.Y. 14203-1400

#3

North

View: ~~North~~ Elevation Chapel on the left
and main Church on the right, from
West Thurston St.



Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

339 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York
Erie County

Photo by: Sarah Howell, July 2003

Negat: Flynn-Battaglia Architects, 614 Main
St., Suite 5-401, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203-1400

#4

View: East elevation of the
chapel, looking west from
parking lot

Delaware Ave. Methodist Church
Buffalo, NY
Erie County



Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

339 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Erie County

Photo by: Brent deRiszner, July 2003

Negs. at: Flynn-Bittaglieri Architects, 417 Main St.,
Suite S-401, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203-1400

5

View: Church Sanctuary, looking west,
toward Choir loft and entrance doors
from the Vestibule.



Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

339 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Eric County

Photo by: Brent de Risenau, July 2003

Neg. # : Flynn-Battaglia Architects, 417 Main
St., Suite S-401, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203-1400

#6

View: Church sanctuary, looking west toward
stairway to gallery.

Del. Ave. Meth. Church
Buffalo, N.Y. Eric County



Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

339 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York

East County

Photo by: Brent de Riszner, July 2003

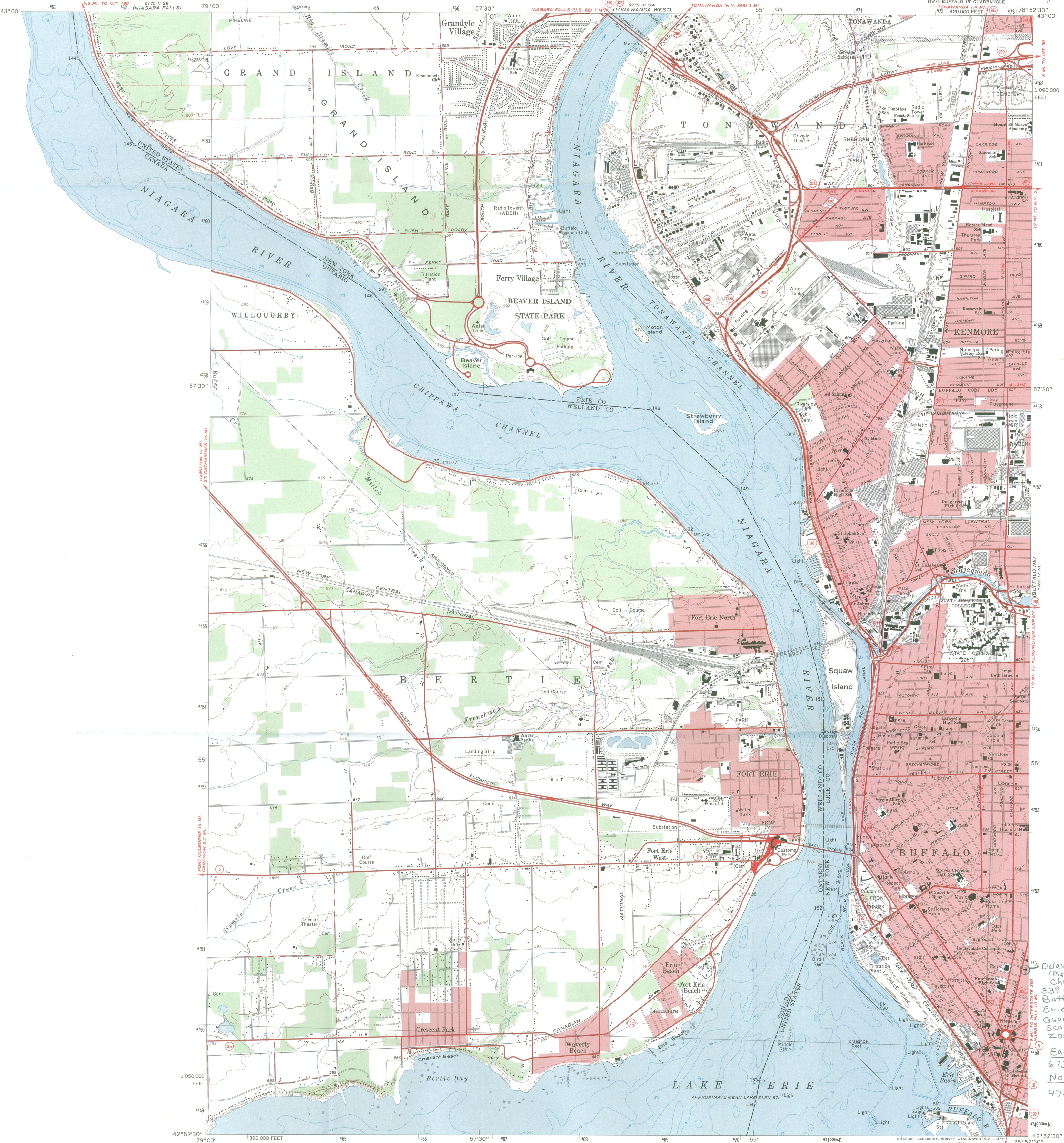
Negs at: Flynn-Battaglia Architects, 617 Main
St., Suite S-401, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203-1400

#7

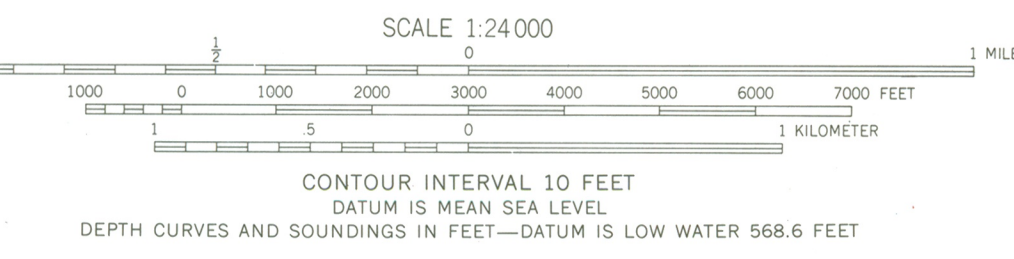
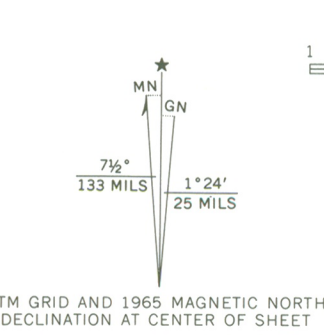
View: Second floor of Chapel, former
Worship Space then Sunday School Room,
showing Gothic style windows

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BUFFALO NW QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK-ONTARIO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 BUFFALO 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with New York Department of Public Works Control by USC&GS, International Boundary Commission, and U. S. Lake Survey
Planimetry compiled by U. S. Corps of Engineers from aerial photographs taken 1942. Topography by planetable surveys 1948. Revised 1965
Canadian portion mapped by the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Dept. of Mines and Technical Surveys 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Charts 312 and 314 (1965).
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 568.6 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NEW YORK

BUFFALO NW, N.Y.—ONT.
NW/4 BUFFALO 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W7852.5/7.5

1965

AMS 5269 IV NW—SERIES V821

ISSN 0-607-112191-4
9 780607 412191

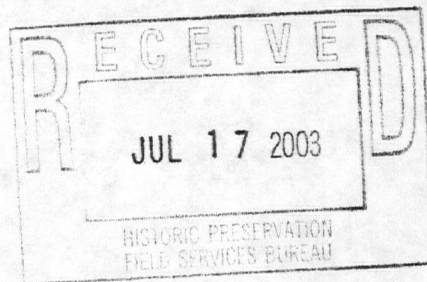
Delaware Avenue
Methodist Episcopal Church
339 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York
Erie County
Quad: Buffalo NW, NY-ONT
Scale: 1:24,000
Zone 17
Easting
673 485
Northing
4750970



CITY OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ANTHONY M. MASIELLO
MAYOR

July 11, 2003



Claire L. Ross, National Register Program Analyst
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Pebbles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

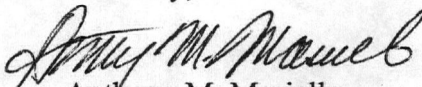
**Re: Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church
339-341 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York, County of Erie**

Dear Ms. Ross:

I concur with the decision of the Buffalo Preservation Board to waive 30 days of Buffalo's 60-day comment period so that your office has had the opportunity to refine the draft nomination of the above captioned property to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (716) 851-4841.

Sincerely,


Anthony M. Masiello
Mayor

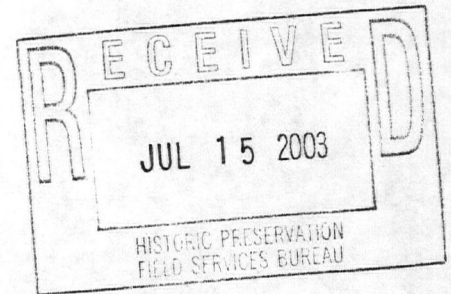
AMM/TM/sa



BUFFALO PRESERVATION BOARD

901 City Hall
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 851-5029

Thomas W. Marchese, Secretary



July 11, 2003

Claire L. Ross, National Register Program Analyst
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

**Re: Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church
339-341 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York, County of Erie**

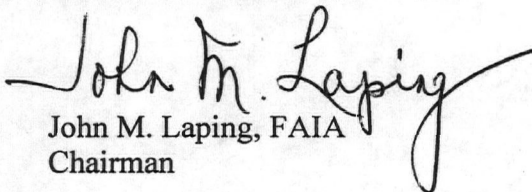
Dear Ms. Ross:

At its meeting on July 10, 2003, the Buffalo Preservation Board approved the request from your office to waive 30-days of Buffalo's 60-day comment period so that your office has had the opportunity to refine the draft nomination of the above captioned property to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Thomas W. Marchese, Executive Secretary, at (716) 851-5029.

Sincerely,

Buffalo Preservation Board


John M. Laping, FAIA
Chairman

JML: tm



CITY OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

AUG - 1 2003

ANTHONY M. MASIELLO
MAYOR

July 29, 2003

Claire L. Ross, National Register Program Analyst
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

**Re: Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
(a.k.a. Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church)
339-341 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York, Erie County**

Dear Ms. Ross:

I concur with the Buffalo Preservation Board's support for the nomination of the property listed above to the State and National Registers of Historic Places:

- That the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church) 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.

I am in support of the nomination of the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church) to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. Masiello
Mayor

AMM/sa

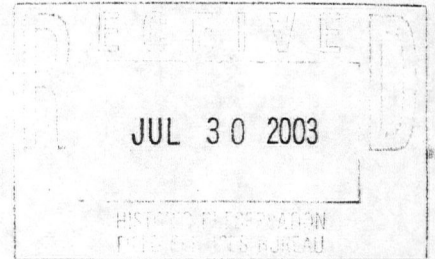


BUFFALO PRESERVATION BOARD

901 City Hall
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 851-5029

Thomas W. Marchese, Secretary

July 28, 2003



Claire L. Ross, National Register Program Analyst
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

**Re: Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church)
339-341 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York, County of Erie**

Dear Ms. Ross:

At its meeting on July 24, 2003, the Buffalo Preservation Board met to consider the nomination of the property listed above to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Board after due consideration, finds that the property met the following criteria established for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places:

- That the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church) 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.

Consequently, we support the nomination of the Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church) to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Buffalo Preservation Board

John M. Laping, FAIA
Chairman

JML: tm



September 9, 2003

Ms. Bernadette Castro
Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Peebles Island, PO Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188

Dear Ms. Castro:

I was pleased to receive your letter of August 12, 2003 stating that Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church will be considered for nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places during your September meeting.

As the anticipated owners of this structure, Righteous Babe Records strongly supports this nomination. The very qualities that attracted us to this building are what makes it eligible for the State and National Registers. Asbury-Delaware is reminiscent of the churches we admire in many of the European communities to which we travel and is a fine example of a Gothic Revival church dating from the late nineteenth century. It has additional significance as being among the last remaining intact buildings designed by prominent local nineteenth century architect John H. Selkirk.

We were first attracted to Asbury-Delaware because of its historic architectural qualities. Its handsome Medina sandstone façade with its graceful stone tracery entryway and double towers make it an imposing and important building in the heart of downtown, deserving of recognition. Its richly tiled vestibules with beautiful coffered ceilings and elegant three-sided interior gallery with rich wood detailing, false hammer beam ceiling and grisaille stained glass windows captured our imaginations and immediately drew us to this building. We could easily envision this grand interior as a beautiful backdrop for concerts, weddings and different types of community events.

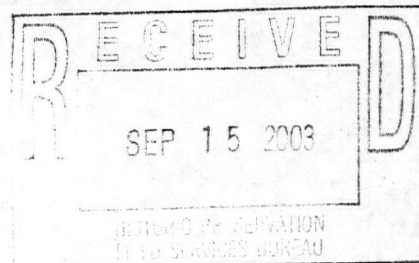
Since its construction in 1871, Asbury-Delaware Church has been a significant historic structure in downtown Buffalo and for more than 100 years, its grand steeple served as a beacon in the heart of our city. We hope that the adaptive reuse of this noteworthy structure into a performance space and arts center home to Righteous Babe Records and Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, will ensure that Asbury-Delaware will once again act as a beacon in the heart of downtown.

We see this building as a community asset deserving of preservation and active community use. As our efforts move forward to reclaim this historic treasure and give it new life, we will continue to work hard to ensure that the building is rehabbed to preservation standards so that it will remain a landmark in downtown Buffalo for another hundred years.

Righteous Babe Records recognizes and celebrates the historic significance of Asbury-Delaware Church. It is my hope that the board will act favorably and provide Asbury-Delaware with the status and recognition that this significant historic structure warrants and deserves.

Sincerely,

Scot Fisher

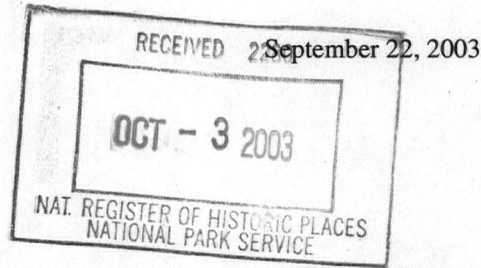




New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Pebbles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

Ms. Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW
8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005



**Re: Transmittal of National Register
Nominations**

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to transmit five new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register as follows:

North Fifth Street, Houses at 37-47, Hudson, Columbia Co., NY

Upper Middleburgh Cemetery, Schoharie Co., NY

Cold Spring Harbor Fire District Hook and Ladder Co. Building, Suffolk Co., NY

Coeymans-Bronk Stone House, Coeymans, Albany Co., NY

Delaware Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

Thank you for your assistance in processing these new proposals. Please feel free to call on me at 518-237-8643 ext. 3258 if any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Peckham
National Register
Program Coordinator

enclosures