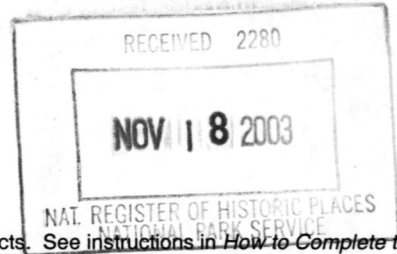


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Sand Lake Baptist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2960 NY 43 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Averill Park [N/A] vicinity

state New York code NY county Rensselaer code 083 zip code 12018

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 as 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.)

[Handwritten Signature]

Commissioner *[Handwritten Signature]*

7/22/03
Date

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

[Handwritten Signature: Edson H. Beall]

date of action

1-2-04

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

Narrative Description

The Sand Lake Baptist Church, a Federal period frame building built in 1805, is located on the north side of NY Route 43 in the hamlet of Averill Park in the town of Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, New York. It is situated on a long, narrow, eight-acre lot that rises fairly steeply from the road and then flattens as it extends to the north. A paved driveway enters the property on the east side and leads to parking near the church, with additional parking at the back corner of the educational building wing. The drive continues around the back of the church and back to Route 43 on the west side of the church between it and the parsonage. There are expansive lawn areas in front of the church and parsonage, while the rest of the property at the rear is wooded. There are several maple trees along the front of the property as well as various shrubs near the buildings and around a sign near the road. This nomination consists of three contributing buildings: the church, parsonage, and a garage.

The church is highly intact on the exterior, with the exception of modern siding, early-20th century windows, and the modern educational wing. It is a rectangular, two-story, heavy wood frame building on a low stone foundation, with a pedimented gable end facing the street. It has a medium pitch gable roof with a deep boxed cornice featuring finely detailed mutule blocks and a deep frieze with triglyphs. All of the windows and doors have finely molded surrounds dating from the original construction. The five-bay symmetrical main façade on the south gable end has a three-bay projecting central block with three entrances on the first story, three windows on the second story and a triangular pediment at the top containing a central oval window. A modern concrete patio provides access to the front of the church. The central entrance contains double doors surmounted by a rectangular transom, within an enframing of pilasters supporting a molded shelf. The two flanking entrances have single doors and semicircular transoms with keystones at the top of the surrounds. Above the central entrance is a Palladian window with pilasters and central keystone. The Palladian window is flanked by single rectangular windows. The central pediment supports a square semi-engaged tower in two stages. Built in 1840 and Greek Revival in style, it has a plain lower stage, and smaller upper stage with corner pilasters flanking large louvered panels. The single end bays of the main façade contain one window on each of the first and second stories.

The identical east and west elevations are six bays long, with the same cornice and window treatments as the main façade. All of the windows originally contained 12-over-12 double-hung wood sash which were replaced in 1911 with simple geometric stained-glass windows. The north (rear) elevation has no cornice or decoration. A single, original, 12-light sash window is located in the attic gable and two old (not original) brick chimneys rise on the outside wall above the roofline. A one-story wing with a shed roof, probably dating from the second half of the 19th century, extends from the rear elevation. It has a rear entrance and other appendages. Extending from the last bay of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

the east elevation and from the rear wing is the 1957 Educational Building, a modest one-story concrete block and aluminum sided wing with a gable roof and multiple window and door openings. Although it does not contribute to the significance of the church, it was carefully designed to provide additional space as well as handicapped access to the church.

The interior of the church retains the basic form of the original 1805 building with much of the woodwork and features intact, but has had a number of later modifications. Most surfaces are plaster over lath. The front section of the church has two floors, while the main sanctuary, occupying the bulk of the main building, is a full two stories in height. The three front entrances lead into a vestibule extending across most of the front of the building. There is a small room, now an office, at the eastern end of the vestibule. At the western end a staircase with simple square newels, appearing to be original, leads to the conference room and balconies on the second floor. Under that is a narrow door to a closet and access to the basement. The northern wall of the vestibule has a series of undulating curves, corresponding to the two entrances to the sanctuary and three niches in the sanctuary. The sanctuary has a flat ceiling, balconies on each side supported by simple turned posts, a glazed room overhanging the southern end of the space (replacing the original southern end of the gallery), and an altar at the northern end, with Greek Revival and Victorian fittings, including a large baptistry (1909) that is accessed by removable wood panels. The curved oak pews date from 1899.

The staircase up to the balcony area leads to a door into the second floor meeting room across the front of the church. Originally a balcony within the sanctuary, this space was created in 1865 by the erection of a wall in the sanctuary. Five large windows with 6-over-6-over-6 triple-hung sash overlook the sanctuary. An additional partial staircase and ladder lead up into the attic and tower. An interesting feature of the framing of the church are the paired hewn roof rafters. The 1,018 pound bell in the tower tower was manufactured by the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Company of Troy and was installed in 1891.

The one-and-one-half-story frame parsonage, west of the church and dating from 1846, has been altered somewhat, but retains its basic form and fenestration. At the rear of the church is a 1939 two-car garage.

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 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 boxes that apply.)

- 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:

1805 - 1939

Significant Dates:

1805

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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 Building 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 repository: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

The Sand Lake Baptist Church is architecturally and historically significant as a classic example of Federal period architecture in Rensselaer County and as the primary place of worship in the town during its early history. Built in 1805, the church is the oldest standing institutional building in the town of Sand Lake and its design can be clearly be connected to the 1797 builder's guide of Asher Benjamin, America's first such publication (see illustration). A classic New England form transplanted to rural Rensselaer County, the building exhibits the hallmarks of the Federal style, including its pedimented gable roof, symmetrical fenestration, finely molded door and window surrounds, prominent Palladian window, and elaborate cornice and frieze with mutule blocks and triglyphs. Further research may prove the church to also be the oldest religious building in Rensselaer County.

The area of the town of Sand Lake was entirely within the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, the extensive feudal-style landholdings of the Van Rensselaer family. There was spotty settlement of the area before the American Revolution. In 1812, the Town of Sand Lake was created by dividing the towns of Greenbush and Berlin. The first church built in what became the town of Sand Lake was a Lutheran Church, built in 1790, and what is now known as the Sand Lake Baptist Church was the second church to be built in the town. In January of 1805, a group of residents in what was then the town of Greenbush organized The Protestant Society, with the purpose of building a meeting house to be shared by Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists. Stephen Van Rensselaer III provided them a parcel of land and the building was soon completed. It was originally called the Union Church or Union Meeting House. Although its builder is not known, he was obviously familiar with Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant, following the design illustrated in Plate 27 quite closely. It is believed the interior was modeled somewhat after Benjamin's design as well. Money must have been a consideration, as the bell tower was not constructed at that time. According to Abbott Lowell Cummings (Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects), this was the most important design in Benjamin's book and "... had a far-reaching impact upon early nineteenth-century ecclesiastical building throughout New England and as far west as Ohio." It remains to be seen how many other churches in New York State are closely modeled on Benjamin's design.

By 1831 the three denominations that shared the meeting house must have begun to have problems, for in that year the Methodists sold their interest in the meeting house and built their own church nearby in Glass Lake, and in 1835 the Presbyterians sold their interest, leaving the Baptists as the sole owners of the church. The Baptists also divided, with one group remaining at Sand Lake, and the church name changing to the Second Baptist Church of Sand Lake. The first major changes or improvements to the church were made in 1840 at the cost of \$2,000. They included building the tower, the purchase of a bell, new pews, partitioning off a conference room in the gallery, new stoves, etc.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

In 1848, when the Town of Poestenkill was created, the so-called First Baptist Church there changed its name to the Poestenkill Baptist Church and the church in Sand Lake was renamed the Sand Lake Baptist Church. In 1865 further interior alterations were made, including the enlargement of the upstairs conference room to its present size, the lowering of the front of the galleries two feet, and the construction of a choir loft behind the pulpit, with dressing rooms for baptisms on either side and a baptistery underneath. In 1899 the current pews were installed and in 1911 the present stained glass windows (Haskins Art Glass Company of Rochester) were installed. In 1913 electricity was installed and in 1928 the current tracker organ was installed. More recent alterations include the Educational Building addition of 1957 and the covering of the original (or old) clapboards with aluminum siding in 1961.)

It has been thought for many years that the Sand Lake Baptist Church was involved in the Underground Railroad. The following excerpts from town historian Judy Rowe's unpublished manuscript about the Underground Railroad in Sand Lake explain how the church and its members were involved. Further research may prove this to be true and this nomination form could be amended to add that area of significance.

Fugitive slaves traveled known routes to Sand Lake. One was a military road cut through wilderness in 1758 to Deerfield, Massachusetts and was used later by fugitive slaves escaping from Albany to Bath (now the City of Rensselaer). They would continue on the Best Road into West Sand Lake and onward to the small village surrounding Sand Lake Baptist Church, thence over the Eastern Turnpike and the Berlin Mountains into Massachusetts. Sand Lake residents brought fugitive slaves over the border to Massachusetts which became a free state in 1784. This story about the Underground Railroad was the same in every interview. The code name for Sand Lake Baptist Church on the 12 Apostles of Freedom was John. This came from Rodman Fox, a descendent of Isaac Fox, an owner of the Glass Factory. Other Apostle names were: Paul for the Second Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Sand Lake, and Luke for First Presbyterian Church, Sand Lake. Federal Marshals were known as Judas and Harriet Tubman was known as Moses. The Rev. Nicholas Van Alstine, whose code name was Paul, was pastor of the Second Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Sand Lake from 1850-1860. Hymns were also used to send code messages. Later when working on history of fugitive slaves, I found proof of these stories. Proof was in the Berkshire Library in Pittsfield, MA.

Fugitive slaves rode in the empty sand wagons returning to Lanesborough from Sand Lake. This trip was necessary when the Rensselaer Glass Factory was built and local sand was too coarse and the glass was too dark after it was blown. Sand beds in Lanesborough were 99 % pure silica which was perfect for making glass. Thus, trip after trip was made to bring sand to Glass Lake

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

from Lanesborough. Again another piece of the puzzle fell into place. The Lanesborough Historian found an article on a station on the Underground Railroad near where the glass wagons came into Lanesborough.

This story was given to me by a descendant of the Carmon family. Later while visiting the Lanesborough Historian I asked if she had anything in her records. The answer was "No." About three months later I went back to rephotograph pictures of the Glass Factory. When I walked in she greeted me with a big smile. Look what I found. The story of Beatrice Todd's ancestor, Ishmael Coffey, a freed slave, who fought in the American Revolution. His home was a station on the Underground Railroad, almost at the junction of the road where Sand Lake wagons passed.

A large number of slaves lived in the area of Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Massachusetts called the Gulf. I was able to interview their descendants on a speaking engagement. One of the women, who was descended from Jimmy Coten, told me her ancestor had been helped by members of Sand Lake Baptist Church. She noted that he passed from New York to Massachusetts in the year 1841. I looked into Sand Lake Baptist Church records and found an Abel Brown served as minister from May 5, 1841 - April 3, 1842, and was an abolitionist from Massachusetts. As noted he stayed at Sand Lake Baptist Church less than a year. Later in a book written by his wife she notes in his diary he put 346 slaves through what was called the Freedom Trail; therefore, that meant many slaves passed through Sand Lake Baptist Church. Albert Fox, owner of the Glass Factory and a member of the church, also had connections to the Underground Railroad. The fugitive slave, Charles Nalle, worked at the glass factory as a teamster.

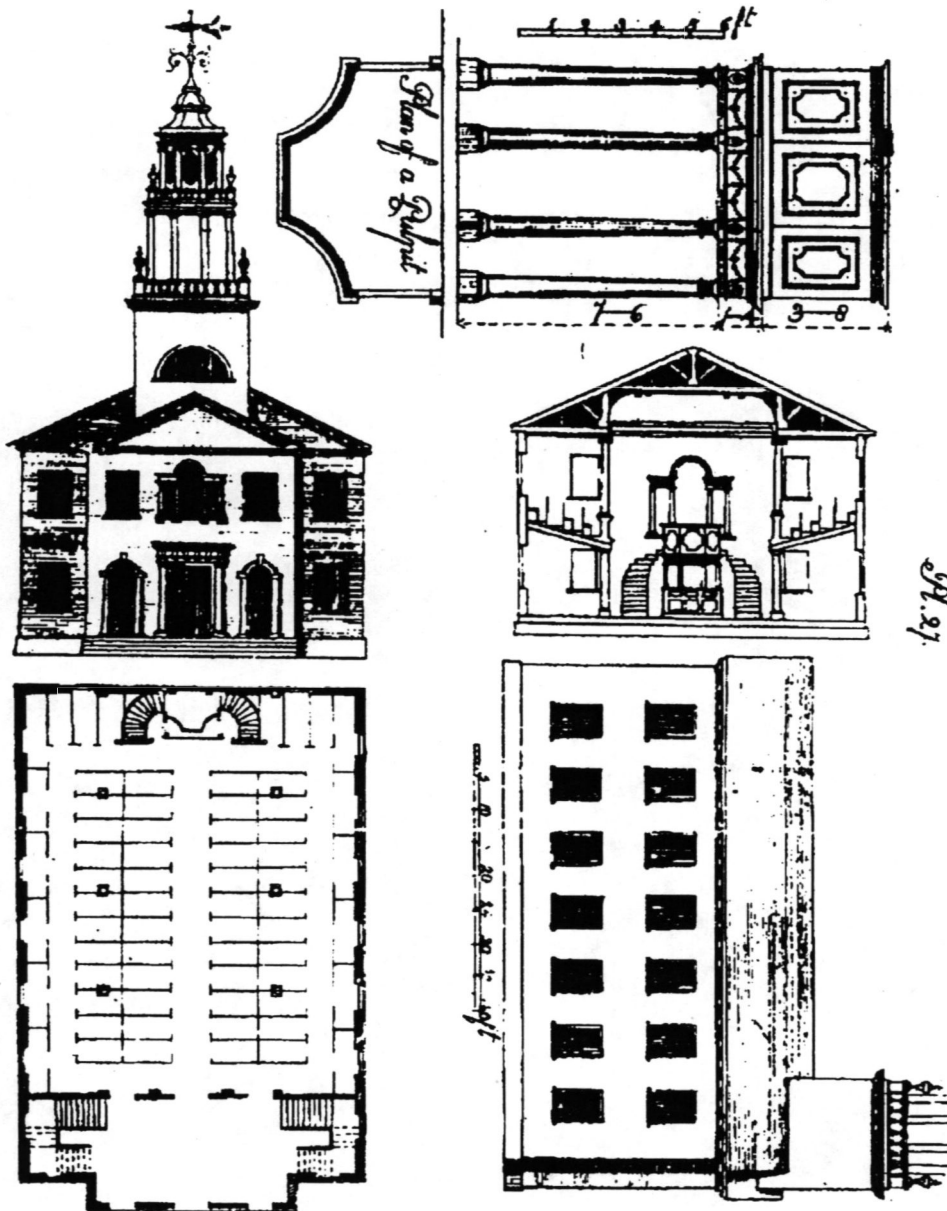
The Sand Lake Baptist Church remains a prominent landmark in the town of Sand Lake and the present congregation hopes to undertake an ambitious restoration plan, including the removal of the aluminum siding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York



From Asher Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant, 1797.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

Bibliography

Benjamin, Asher. The Country Builder's Assistant. Greenfield, MA: Thomas Dickman, 1797.
1992 reprint by Applewood Books.

Carpenter, Madolyn. History of the Sand Lake Baptist Church. Sand Lake: privately published, c.
1968.

Placzek, Adolf K., editor in chief. Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects. New York: The Free
Press, 1982.

Rowe, Judy. "The Invisible Road to Freedom." Unpublished manuscript, n.d.

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.21 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 618910 4721110
Zone Easting Northing

3 18
Zone Easting Northing

2 18

4 18

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed partial tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nomination boundary is drawn to encompass all property historically associated with the church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter D. Shaver

organization New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation date November 12, 2002

street & number P.O. Box 189, Peebles Island 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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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, D.C. 20503

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Sand Lake Baptist Church are shown by a heavy line on the attached survey map and tax map. The owner of the small triangular parcel along the west side of the property is unknown. Historically it was not part of the church property; however, the present tax map now indicates it is part of the church property.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the boundaries that are historically associated with the property during the period of significance.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 1

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

Form prepared by:

Initial application and documentation prepared by:

Mary D. French
Sand Lake Baptist Church

Expanded and edited by:

Peter D. Shaver, NYSHPO

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Rensselaer County, New York

Name of photographer: Peter Shaver, NYSHPO

Date of photographs: July 2002

Location of original negative: NYSHPO

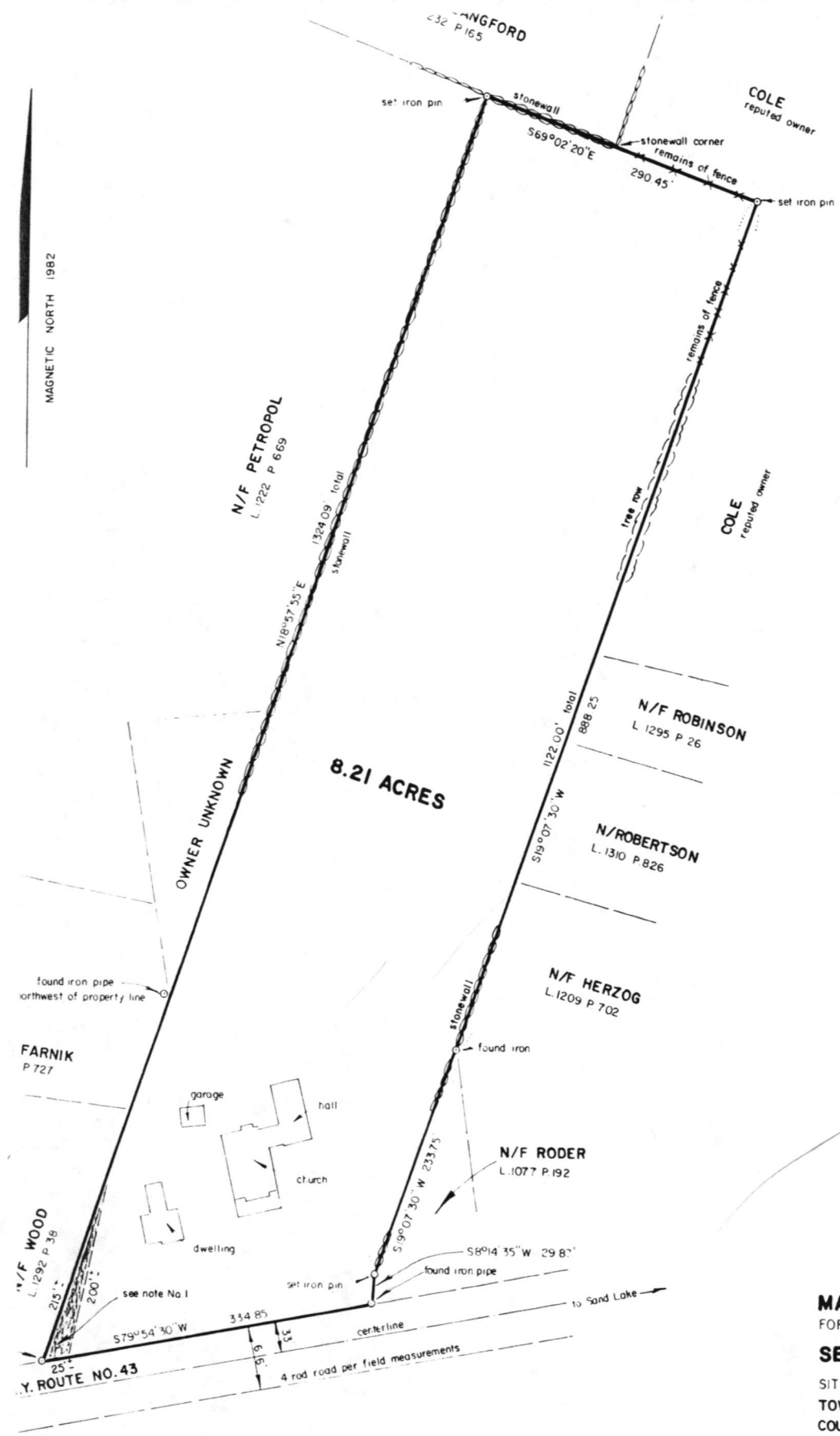
Photo 1: Exterior, facing northwest, showing front and east side of church, parsonage at left

Photo 2: Exterior, facing north, main façade of church

Photo 3: Exterior, facing southeast, rear and west elevation of church

Photo 4: Interior, sanctuary, facing southeast

MAGNETIC NORTH 1982



1. ... area occupied by ... utility line and appears to be ... owner. Said area also appears to be ... for roadway purposes.
2. The southwest corner was ... direction of the stonewall ...
3. Deed does not close matter

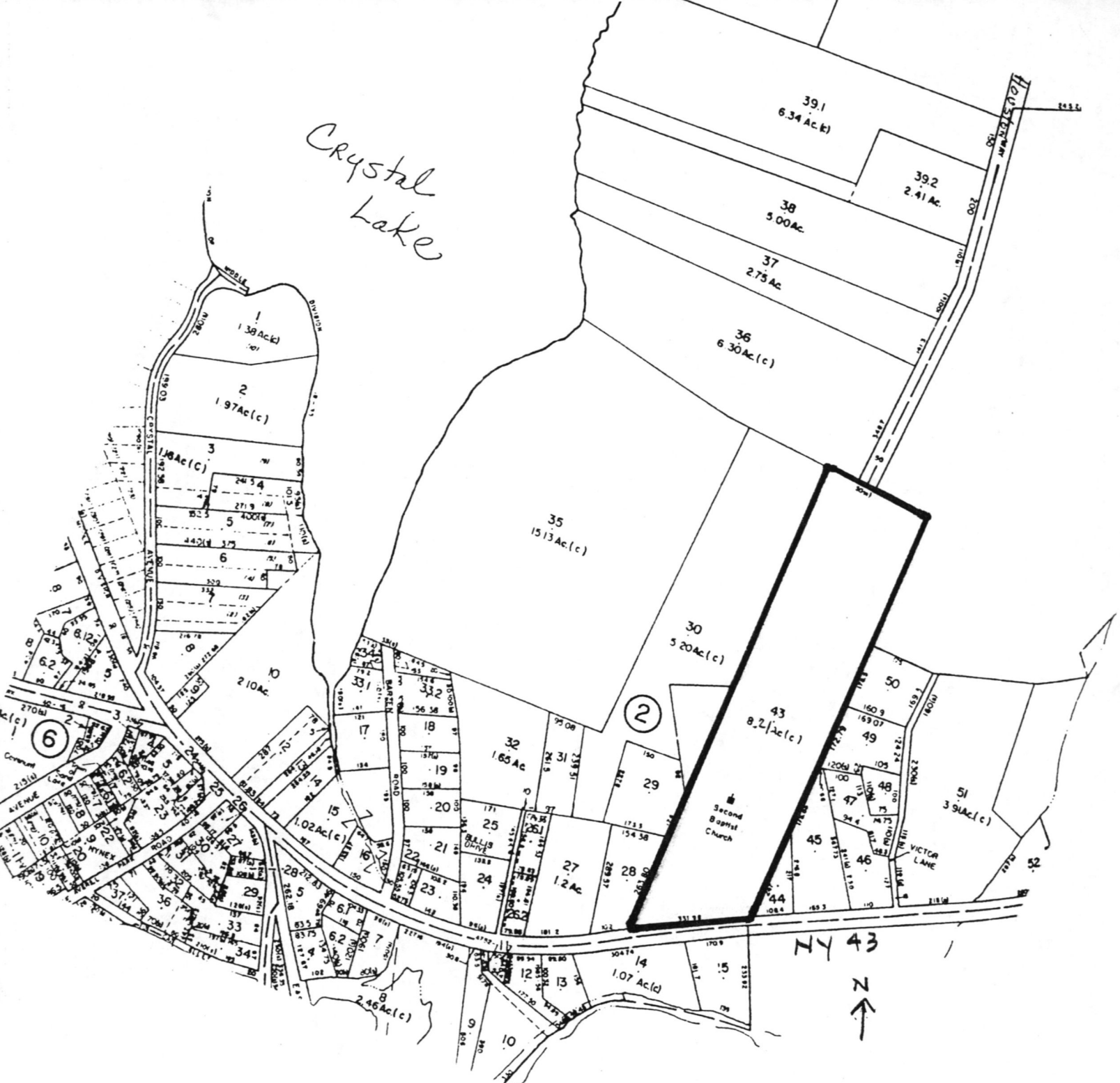
MAP SHOWING SURVEY OF LANDS FOR THE

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

SITUATE IN
 TOWN OF SAND LAKE
 COUNTY OF RENSSELAER
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 100 FEET
 DATED: September 21, 1982
 Survey and Map by
 SCHAFFER AND SCHAFFER
 Licensed Land Surveyors
 356 Troy - Schenectady Road
 Latham, New York 12110

(Sand Lake Baptist Church)

Robert A. Schaffer, L.S.
 N.Y. Reg. No. 44618



Sand Lake Baptist Church
 Averill Park, Rensselaer County, NY
 Rensselaer County tax map, c. 2000
 scale 1" = approx. 350'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sand Lake Baptist Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Rensselaer

DATE RECEIVED: 11/18/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/16/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/01/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/01/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001353

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 1.2.04 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



Sand Lake Baptist Church
Averill Park, Rensselaer County, NY
Photo # 1 of 4



H

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Averill Park, Rensselaer County, NY
Photo # 2 of 4



I

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Averill Park, Rensselaer County, NY
Photo # 3 of 4

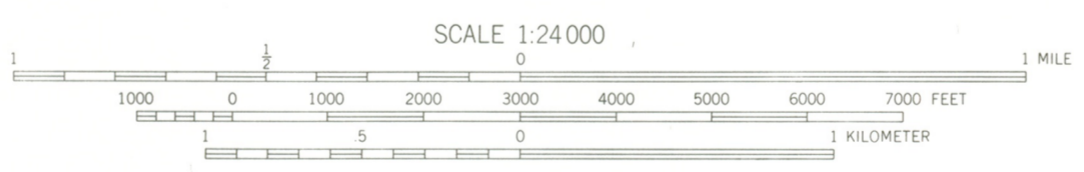


I

Sand Lake Baptist Church
Averill Park, Rensselaer County, NY
Photo # 4 of 4



Prepared and published in 1974 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.
Map base from 1953 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.
Map revisions made using 1974 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensely developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.
Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.
Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.
1974 revisions by G. D. Schmidt



Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.
1000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator grid.
Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.
10,000-foot ticks based on the New York Plane Coordinate grid, East Zone.

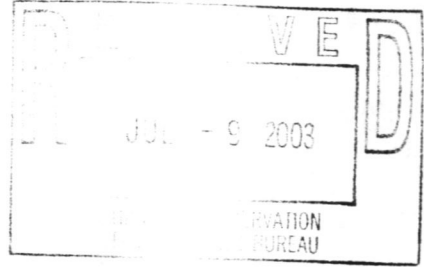
BOUNDARIES:

State.....	-----
County.....	-----
Town or City.....	-----
Incorporated Village.....	-----
Federal-Aid Urban Area.....	-----

ROADS:

Touring Route markers.....	-----	Divided highways and streets:
Interstate.....	(I)	Wide mail.....
U. S.	(U.S.)	Narrow mall or barrier.....
State.....	(S)	-----
State Highway number and limit.....	(S)	Undivided highways and streets:
County road.....	(C)	4 or more lanes.....
Interchange number.....	(I)	Less than 4 lanes.....
		Vehicle track; trail.....

*Sand Lake Baptist Church
Averill Park, Rensselaer County, NY
Averill Park quad Zone 18
1:24,000
easting 618910
northing 4721110*



STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, CHIP REDNOUR, ^{HEAD OF THE TRUSTEES} am the ~~owner~~ of the property at
(print or type owner name)

2960 RT 43
~~PO BOX 157~~ AVERILL PARK NY 12018
(street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Chip Rednour 7/6/03
(signature and date)

SAND LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH
PO BOX 157
AVERILL PARK NY 12018
(mailing address)