

1154

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 Osceola Town Hall

other names/site Osceola Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number North Osceola Road [] not for publication

village Osceola [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Lewis code 049 zip code 13680

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Handwritten Signature]

10/25/05

Signature of certifying official/Title : Commissioner for Historic Preservation

Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

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)

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

Edson H. Beall *12-22-05*

Osceola Town Hall/Former Methodist Church
Osceola, Lewis County, New York

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	TOTAL

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS; church
Government; town hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education; library
Government; town hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

mid-late 19th Century: Carpenter Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls heavy timber framing with clapboard siding
roof metal
other _____

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Osceola Town Hall (former Methodist Church)
Osceola, Lewis County, NY

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The Osceola Town Hall, built in 1882 as a church, is a one-story, frame building on the west side of North Osceola Road at the north end of the tiny, cross-roads hamlet of Osceola in the predominantly rural agrarian town of Osceola. It sits on a relatively flat, 60' wide by 130' deep lot surrounded by expansive farm fields to the north and west and several altered late nineteenth/early twentieth century dwellings to the south and east. A small gravel parking lot is located in front (east) of the building; the remainder of the lot is characterized by grass and a few small trees. The hamlet, consisting of only a few public buildings and several dozen private dwellings, is located on the east bank of the Salmon River as it meanders on a northwest/southeast course through this relatively unpopulated section of Lewis County.

The Osceola Town Hall is a three-bay-wide, four-bay-deep Carpenter Gothic building surmounted by a steeply pitched, metal-clad, gable roof with slightly projecting eaves. Oriented on an east-west axis, the frame superstructure rests on a raised, random course stone foundation and is sheathed with narrow clapboard siding. Narrow corner boards articulate the structure. Fenestration is regular; large, Gothic-arched door and window openings are evenly spaced throughout the building; double-hung windows with clear glass panes predominate. The front façade is distinguished by decorative woodwork in the apex of the gable end, including a quatrefoil appliqué and vertical board siding with saw-tooth edging. A large oculus is located above the central entrance. Although the front door is new, the original Gothic arched opening, Gothic-arched transom light, and molded wood trim survives intact. The building originally featured a square bell tower supporting a tall spire; these were removed, along with interior liturgical furnishings, when the church was converted for use as a town hall.

On the interior, the building retains its room configuration from its days as a church: it is a single, large, open space, with only a few temporary partitions added to divide the area into library and town hall purposes. The original hardwood floors survive (covered in some areas by carpeting) as do plaster walls and beaded-board wainscoting.

Until the 1990s, a long, low, gable-roofed frame carriage/horse shed was located behind the former church. It collapsed after decades of neglect.

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

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albany, New York. Division for Historic Preservation. Research Files.

Moore, Lola and Quinn, Elizabeth. *Osceola – Jewel of Tug Hill*. Blossvale, NY: Compcu Custom Printing, 1985.

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

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1882 - 1920

Significant Dates:

1882; 1920

Significant Person:

NA

Cultural Affiliation:

NA

Architect/Builder:

na

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office

 - Other State agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
 - Other: Town Hall; research files
-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Osceola Town Hall (former Methodist Church)
Osceola, Lewis County, NY

Section 8 Page 1

Significance

The Osceola Town Hall, built in 1882 as the Methodist Church and converted in 1920 into a town hall, is architecturally significant as a highly intact, representative example of Carpenter Gothic religious architecture in Osceola. Characteristic features of the type and period embodied in the building include the large, Gothic-arched windows, the steeply pitched gable roof, and the decorative wooden trim in the apex of the front gable end. The building is additionally significant under criterion A (area: politics) for its 80+ year association with local government.

The earliest body of Methodists in the hamlet was organized in the 1870s, about a decade after the Congregational Church was established and two decades after the "Osceola Independent Church" was formed. The latter group met in the District #1 Schoolhouse and, in 1867, the Congregationalists built a church. Meanwhile, the Methodists spent several years meeting in private homes and being serviced by circuit riders. In 1882, under the leadership of Reverend A.J. Grant, money was raised by the Methodists for the construction of a permanent house of worship. Built by local contractors William Patterson and Benjamin Jackson, the 1882 edifice was a rectangular, gable-roofed frame building with Gothic-arched windows, decorative woodwork in the apex of the front gable end, and a square bell tower tall topped by a tall spire.

The hamlet experienced relative prosperity during the late nineteenth century; economic stability was provided by several mills, including a tannery, on the Salmon River. By 1875, the hamlet also boasted a general store, a district school (#8) and the local post office, all of which drew farmers and their families from the surrounding township. Despite the rather well-to-do character of the hamlet, neither the Congregationalists nor the Methodists were able to support full-time, long-term pastors. By the early twentieth century, the two congregations merged and used the 1867 Congregationalist Church as their home base. The old Methodist facility was acquired by the town in 1920; the steeple and pews were removed and the building was converted for use as the town hall. Since then, the building (which now also houses the town library) has served as the center of political, social and educational activity in hamlet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References: **18: 441590/4816720**

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the legal lot lines as delineated on the attached county tax map (#395.02 – 01 – 1.0).

Boundary Justification: The boundary coincides with the full extent of land historically and currently associated with the nominated resource.

11. Form Prepared By:

name/title Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst

organization Division for Historic Preservation date September 2005

street & number Peebles Island, Box 189 telephone (518) 237-8643 x 3262

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

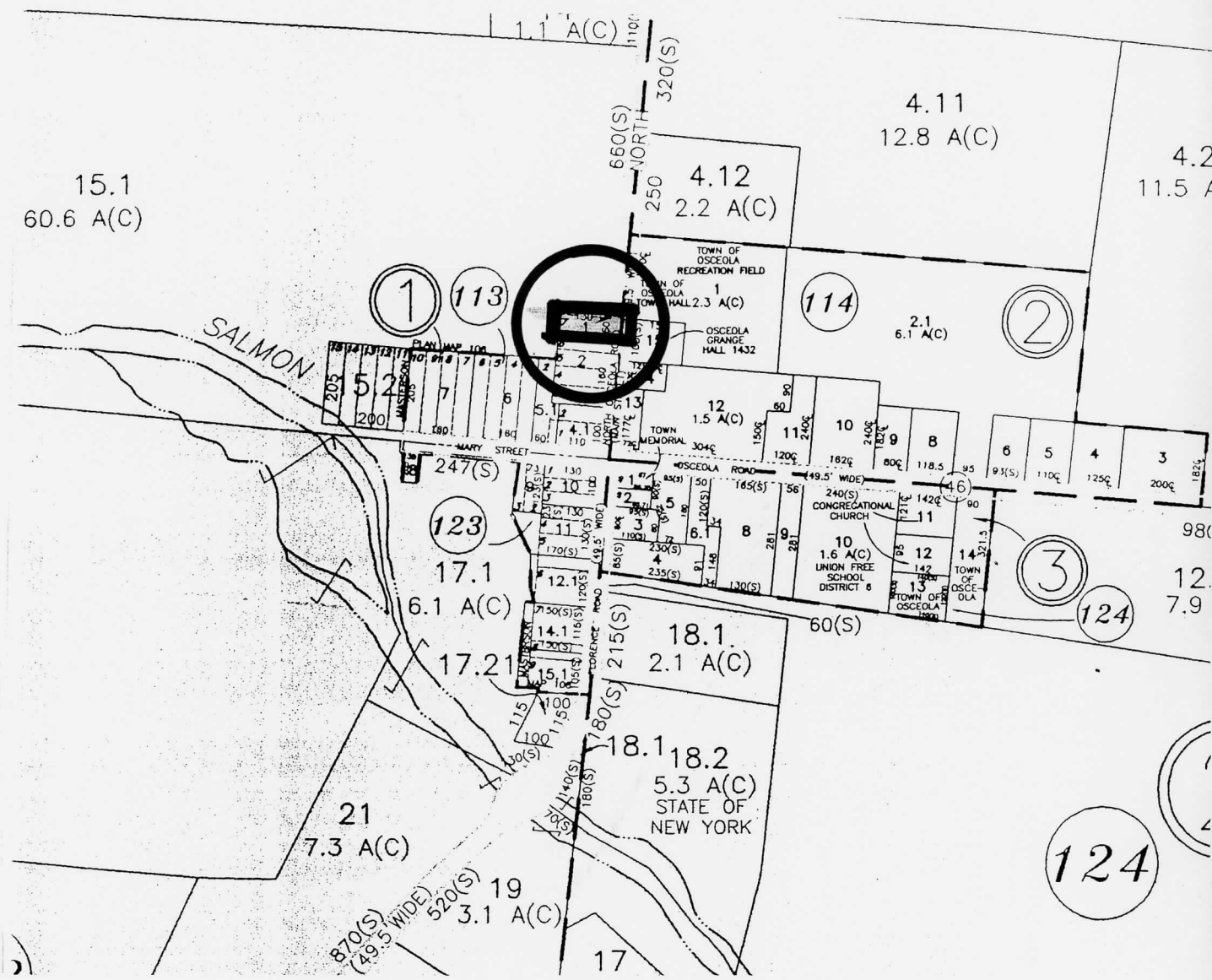
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____



Osceola Town Hall/Former Methodist Church
 Osceola, Lewis County
 Heavy black outline defines boundary
 of nominated property
 Tax map # 395.02 - 01 - 1.0
 1" = 400'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Osceola Town Hall
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Lewis

DATE RECEIVED: 11/09/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/07/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/22/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/23/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001454

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 12.22.05 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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Osceola Town Hall

Osceola, Lewis County

Photo & Neg: N. Todd, OPRHP
2005

View: East (front) and
south (side) elevations



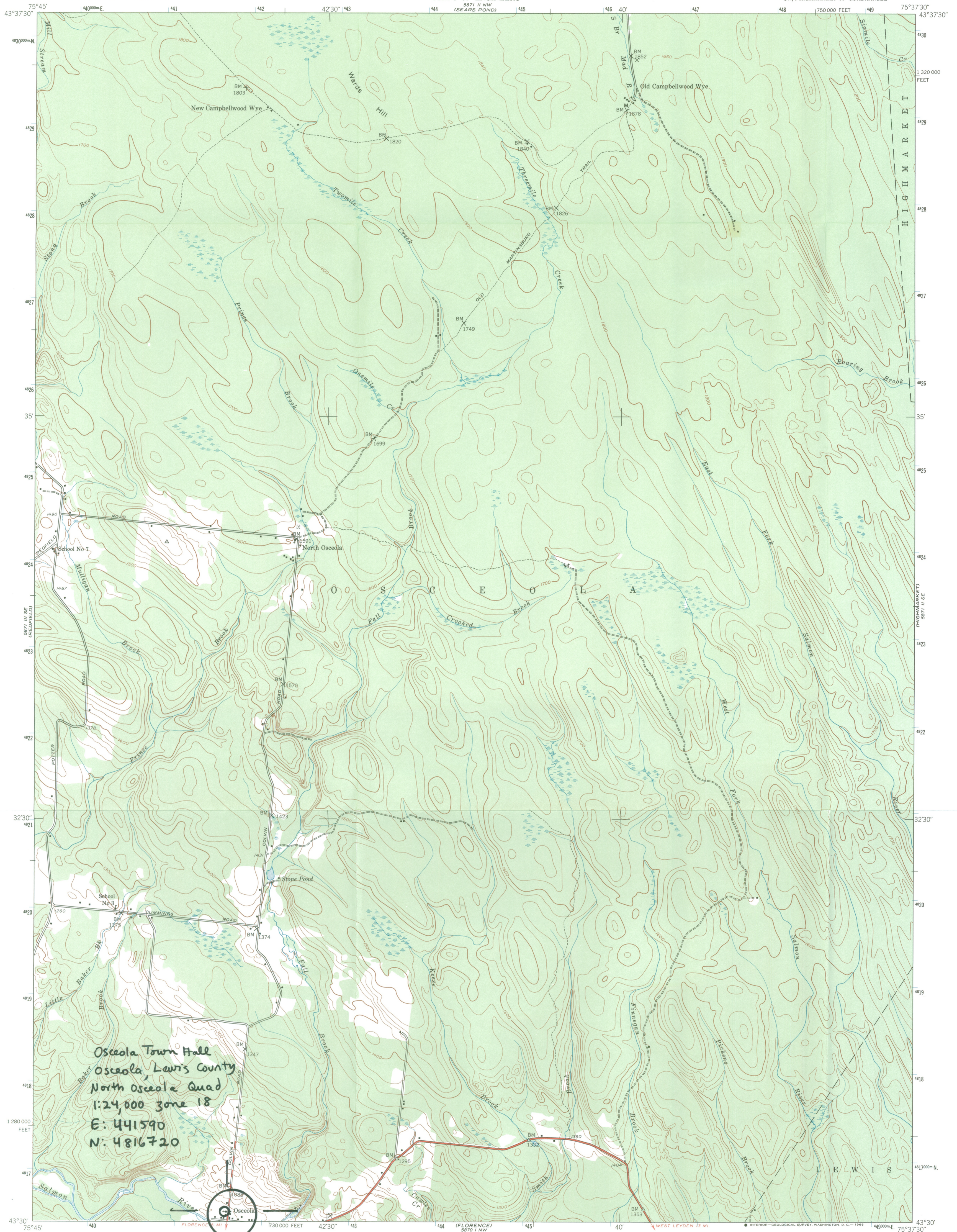
Osceola Town Hall

Osceola, Lewis County

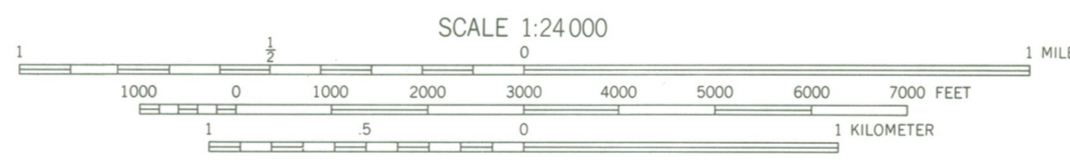
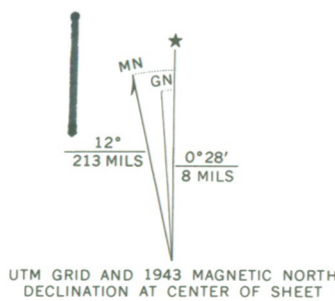
Photo & Neg: N. Todd, OPRHP

2005

View: East (front) and
north (side) elevations



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and TVA
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1942. Field check 1943
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	4 LANE, 6 LANE Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE, 6 LANE Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route

NORTH OSCEOLA, N. Y.
SW/4 HIGHMARKET 15' QUADRANGLE
N4330-W7537.5/7.5

1943

AMS 5871 II SW-SERIES V821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



TOWN OF OSCEOLA
Theresa Sullivan, Supervisor
1327 Gregory Road
Camden, N.Y.
13316

Nancy Todd, Program Analyst
N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189



Dear Nancy:

This letter, as requested by your office, is a letter of support by the Town Board of Osceola in reference to the listing of the Osceola Town Hall in the Historical Registers. Our Town Board voted unanimously to support the restoration of the building and its inclusion in the Register at our May 2005 regular board meeting. We have begun the restoration process and look forward to continuing with direction from your office. Please let me know if you need anything else from us.

Sincerely,

Theresa Sullivan
Supervisor
Town of Osceola

*Enclosed also please find
interior pictures, tax map, &
Copy of "Osceola - The Jewel
of Jug Hill"*