

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: Ontario	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Seneca Presbyterian ("Number Nine") Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: E of Stanley off n.y. 245 on
Number Nine Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Stanley mic

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New York	36	Ontario	069

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>community meeting room</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Presbytery of Geneva

STREET AND NUMBER:
72 Castle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Geneva

STATE:	CODE
New York	36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Ontario County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Canandaigua

STATE	CODE
New York	36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

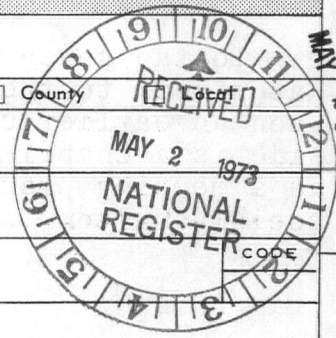
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

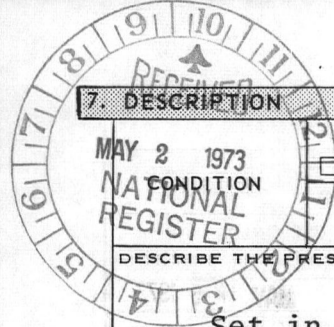
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	New York
COUNTY:	Ontario
ENTRY NUMBER:	25
DATE:	MAY 25 1973



7. DESCRIPTION

		(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set in flat rich agricultural land west of Seneca Lake the white clapboard Seneca Presbyterian ("Number Nine") church is visible for miles around.

Little of the original exterior appearance of the 1838 church remains due to several major additions indicative of the continually growing congregation throughout the nineteenth century. First in 1863, the building was widened to include two galleried side aisles; ten years later the bell tower and front vestibule were added; in 1889 further changes were made to the vestibule as well as extensive interior decoration.

The church is rectangular in plan and has a gable roof. The front (east) facade is five bays wide. Pilasters trimmed with green articulate the slightly projecting center tower, the two flanking front doorways, and the two tall arched windows at either end. The central tower bay is three stages: a single tall arched window on the ground level, a pair of narrow windows on the second floor, and above an open belfry. The two front entrances have stone steps and a rose window above each doorway. The north and south facades are three bays wide, and on the west is a chancel bay and an outside chimney.

A "trompe l'oeil" in the reredos at the west end commands the church interior. This fresco of a succession of arched openings and rooms with coffered ceilings and checkered floors, leading to a mysterious dead end has a haunting surrealist quality to the twentieth century eye. The stenciled friezes on the walls are in a wide variety of patterns and the designs on the ceiling of the Cross, Crown and Bible are Coventar symbols.

A gallery runs along three sides of the church, and on the north and south sides the supporting inside pillars were the outside timbers of the 1838 church prior to its enlargement. The back gallery has a high iron railing and has been closed off with removable twentieth century partitions as a self contained room.

To the southwest of the church lies the cemetery which dates back to the first decade of the nineteenth century when an earlier church stood on the site. On the north side is a chapel or parish house which has served for years as a meeting place not only for church functions but for other social and community organizations.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

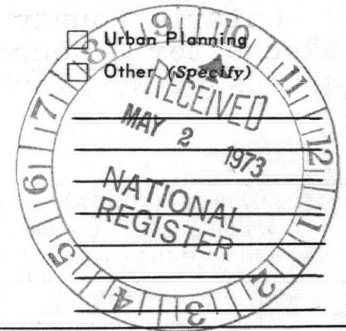
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838, 1863, 1889

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The forceful role of a church in a rural township lacking nuclear villages is a nineteenth century historical phenomenon still embodied in the Seneca Presbyterian (Number Nine) Church of Stanley in Eastern Ontario County. This gleaming white church, which serenely "floats" above surrounding cornfields, has provided for hundreds of farm families (in the words of one of the present church elders) "almost the entire social and community interest outside their immediate farms and homes."

The strong interrelationship between land and institution began in 1807 with the choice of the site for the church in the geographic center of the township designated as Number Nine on Pioneer maps of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase. The village that was anticipated to grow up around the church never materialized, only a fringe of houses including the doctor's home and office and the Presbyterian manse lined Number Nine Road as it intersected some of the most productive agricultural lands of the Northeastern United States. The congregation was destined to be a relatively wealthy and dispersed one; the church would be their community center. Number Nine was the first Presbyterian Church to be established in the area, and its influence spread through mission churches so it is considered today the parent of five others including the one in the present-day city of Geneva ten miles away.

Just as the environment molded the development of the Number Nine Church so did the character of its congregation. It was built by Scotch Presbyterian settlers many of whom came from the same village in Northumberland, England's remote northernmost county. Their conservative Scotch Presbyterian or "coventar" inclinations are still evident in the symbols on the church ceiling. The present Number Nine Church is the second one on the site. When the first 60 foot by 40 foot church, built in 1810, was outgrown by 1848, the congregation in the thrifty Scotch tradition had it split in half to make wagon sheds beside the new church. These sheds containing the remnants of the first church have long

See Continuation Sheet

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dayton, Charles and John G. Coleman. "Growth of the Church on the Northwestern Frontier" published by Geneva-Lyons Presbytery, Shortsville, N.Y. 1955.
 "Historical Sketches of the Presbyterian Church of Seneca" The Ontario County Times Presses, Canandaigua, N.Y. August 1907.
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle Editorial June 28, 1932.
 Files of New York State Board for Historic Preservation.

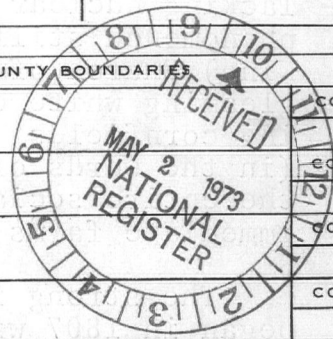
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	42	48	52	77	03	06
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-1/2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 18/330060/4741000
 4-22-76
 011125742

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cornelia E. Brooke, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: N.Y. State Division for Historic Preservation DATE: March 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: South Swan Street Building

CITY OR TOWN: Albany STATE: New York CODE: 36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 4/27/73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/25/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5 23 73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	New York	
COUNTY	Ontario	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAY 25 1973

(Number all entries)

Number 8.

since disappeared.

Throughout the Nineteenth century the records show constant enlarging, improving and rebuilding starting with the construction of the new church in 1838 under the supervision of Hubbell Gregory, a contractor from Benton in Yates County. With mid-nineteenth century religious revivals, the new church was soon too small and had to be enlarged in 1869 by E.N. Hall of the adjacent village named Hall. A Rochester architectural firm was hired in 1889 for the extensive enlarging and rebuilding of the front facade. At this point the church had reached the seating capacity of nearly 1,000 people. In contrast to the solemn exterior, the magnificent and fanciful frescoes and stencils inside the church were the work of another hand, H.D. Altwelt and Son of Syracuse. The "trompe l'oeil" in particular has attracted considerable note and was copied in the restoration of the Cobblestone Society's church at Childs, New York.

¹Rodney Lightfoote, September 1972. Manuscript in N.Y. State Division for Historic Preservation files.



PROPERTY

Seneca Presbyterian ("Number Nine") Church STATE N.Y.

73001242

WORKING NUMBER

5-2-73-2892

TECH REVIEW

Photos 2

Maps 1

Ontario

CONTROL REVIEW

CM
5-17-
73

HISTORIAN

I don't particularly like but may can accept for local sign - as community center

OK
Accept
AML
5/12/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Nice looking building

Accept
KH
5/17/73
Accept
5-22-
73
C Shall

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

OK
5/23/73
Wm
5/23

KEEPER

National Register write-up _____

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 2-3-73

Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 25 1973



NPS Number

May 25, 1973

Title:

Seneca Presbyterian

(Number One) Church

Loc.

Ontario Co, N.Y. ①

External view of

front

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number May 25, 1973

Title: Seneca Presbyterian
(Number One) Church (2)

Loc. Ontario Co, N.Y.
Interior

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON

Seneca Presbyterian (No. Nine) Church

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

MAY 25 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

New York

COUNTY

Ontario

TOWN

Seneca

STREET AND NUMBER

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS 7.5 minute Series
(topographical) Stanley Quad

DATE

1952

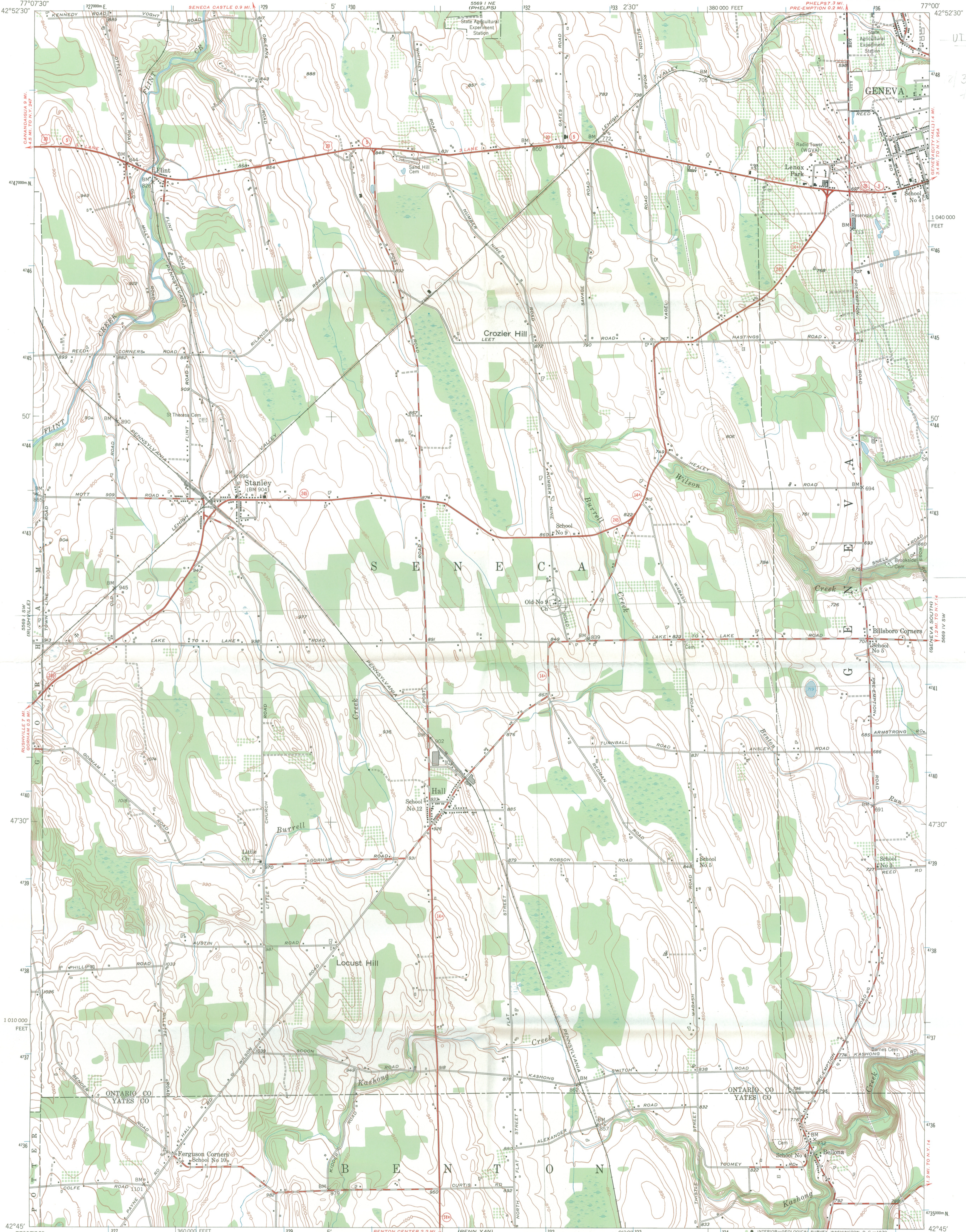
SCALE

1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

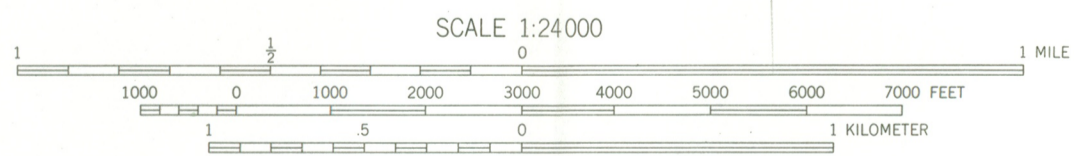
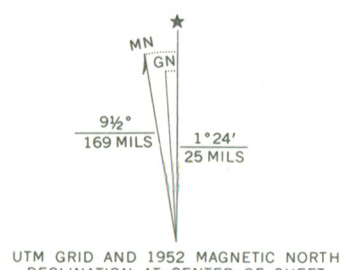


PH0040461



UIM
433260
474100

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers,
Dept. of the Army, from aerial photographs taken 1942
Topography by plane-table surveys 1952
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 10 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

STANLEY, N. Y.
SE/4 PHELPS 15' QUADRANGLE
N4245-W7700/7.5

1952

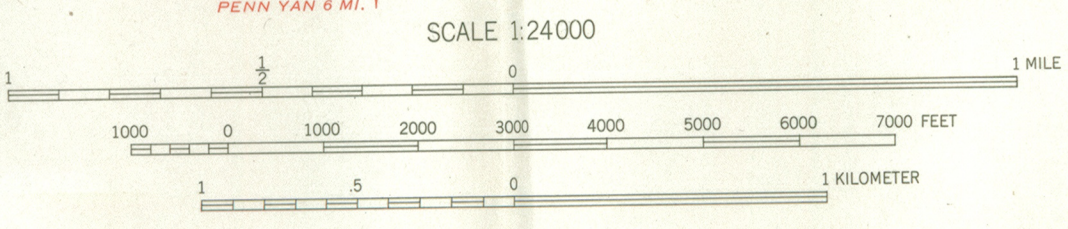
AMS 5569 I SE-SERIES V821

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



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers,
Dept. of the Army, from aerial photographs taken 1942
Topography by plane-table surveys 1952
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,
central zone

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1952



SCALE 1:24000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



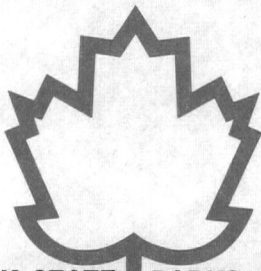
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty 2 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty
Medium-duty 2 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route State Route

STANLEY, N. Y.
SE/4 PHELPS 15' QUADRANGLE
N4245-W7700/7.5

1952

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION

• South Swan Street Building, South Mall, Albany, N.Y. 12223

Alexander Aldrich
Commissioner

April 27, 1973



Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Seneca Presbyterian ("Number Nine") Church
Stanley, Ontario County

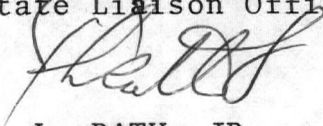
The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on the Registers in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the New York State Division for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH
State Liaison Officer

By:


F. L. RATH, JR.
Deputy Commissioner

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered MAY 25 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Washington Park	Troy Rensselaer County
Glenwood	Troy Rensselaer County
Lansing Manor House	Town of Blenheim Schoharie County
Seneca Presbyterian ("Number Nine") Church	Stanley Ontario County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
 Hon. James L. Buckley
 Hon. Carleton J. King
 Hon. Donald J. Mitchell
 Hon. William Walsh

State Historic Preservation Officer
 Mr. Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner
 Parks and Recreation
 Room 303, South Swan Street Building
 Albany, New York 12223

Director, Northeast Region

PHR

MMott

6/7/73