

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 24 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 13 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Primitive Baptist Church of Brookfield

AND/OR COMMON

Old School Baptist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

State Route #6

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Slate Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

26th

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

71

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Old School Baptist Church Association

STREET & NUMBER

15 1/2 Orchard Street

CITY, TOWN

Warwick

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Land Records Office

STREET & NUMBER

Orange County Clerks Office

CITY, TOWN

Goshen

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old School Baptist Church (1792) is located on a rise just east of the center of the rural, crossroads village of Slate Hill. It is a two-story, rectangular, wood frame, clapboarded structure with a gable roof and an attached, four-story tower with a belfry and spire on the south elevation. The east elevation, three bays wide, was the original front entrance and it retains its period, classically detailed doorway and sidelights. The tower and steeple were added to the south elevation in 1828 and another entrance to the sanctuary was added at its base. The west and north elevations contain two bays and retain, as does the entire structure, most of the original window sash. The cornice has its original dentils although they are not easily visible due to the large eaves of a later nineteenth century roof.

The interior has partially exposed frame members, and its original box pews with raised and fielded panels in the manner of a late medieval style meetinghouse. A remarkable survival is the classically inspired, hexagonal, raised pulpit mounted on a slender post against the west wall of the structure. A gallery of three sides faces the pulpit area from the second story which is reached by a staircase in the tower. The interior woodwork of white pine has never been painted.

The clapboarding on the north elevation and on the tower appear later than the broad, random widths on the other three elevations. However, it is likely that none of the siding is original to 1792 as church records from the nineteenth century record replacement of various sections at various times. It appears, since the two small windows behind the raised pulpit on the west elevation are covered over with siding on the exterior, that originally the design was intended to permit the access of light to the pulpit area.

A cemetery, dating to the period of the church's origin, is also on the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1792

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally known as the Baptist Church of Brookfield, it served, beginning in 1792, a fellowship of Baptists that were first constituted as a separate congregation in 1783. In 1833, in reaction to the popular Evangelical Protestant fervor of the era, the congregation returned to the beliefs of the ultra-conservative "primitive" order and became known as "Old School Baptists." By that time Brookfield, a rural crossroads village in the heart of the Orange County farmlands, took the new name of Slate Hill. The old style, plain meetinghouse, with its 1828 tower and steeple is remarkable for its medieval type, exposed beam construction and its unaltered interior with a dramatic, classically detailed, raised, hexagonal pulpit reminiscent of older New England meetinghouses.

The Brookfield Baptist Church was originally a branch of the Warwick Baptist Church in the next town south. But in 1783 a separate congregation was formed and meetings were held at the home of Richard Wood in Brookfield. A church was incorporated in 1791 and an edifice constructed in 1792 on land donated by John Hallock. In 1828 a square tower, four stories high and capped with a belfry and spire, was added on the south elevation giving it a more up to date and less vernacular appearance. Another entrance doorway was added at its base but the main entrance of the original, rectangular meetinghouse remained in use. The stairs were also changed from the structure's interior to the tower to permit more seating capacity. Cast iron stoves, the first heat in the structure, were added just after the Civil War.

The church, in 1833, turned from the more evangelical directions taken by most Protestant denominations during the "Second Great Awakening" of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The Old School Baptists, as they were called, returned to the practices and doctrines of the Primitive Baptists of the early eighteenth century, setting themselves apart as a distinct group within the Baptist denomination at a meeting of Baptists in Black Rock, Maryland in September of 1832. Their conservative beliefs included strict interpretation of the Bible and rejection of evangelical practices such as tract and missionary societies and sabbath schools.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Old School Baptist Church, Slate Hill, Orange County

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE 2

Such beliefs reflect, along with their emphasis on the doctrines of election and predestination, a return to the doctrines of the early Calvinists.

Although the exterior of the church is mildly classical in detailing with its sidelighted doorway and dentiled cornice, the interior appears more like a late medieval style New England meetinghouse with exposed heavy timber framing and extensive panelling on the woodwork and box pews. The raised, hexagonal pulpit is of a type frequently found in seventeenth and early eighteenth century New England churches and represents an unusual treatment for the New York region and also, for 1792, a rather late example of a design more popular in the pre-revolutionary period.

Although the last member of the congregation died in 1933, the required annual meeting has been carried on by other members of the community rededicated to the survival of this unique and substantially intact late eighteenth century meetinghouse.

Property Primitve Baptist Church of Brookfield

76001260

State New York

Working Number 8.24.76.4009

Orange Co.

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 8.26.76

HISTORIAN

accept
B. Groves
11/1/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

The idea of Baptists in NY in late 18th C,
erecting that Church is hard to believe but
NY State appears to have done a thorough job

Accept
Lebovich
11.2.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
11/2/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Huntington
for Whitely
11.10.76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 8-1-77

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 13 1976

INT:2106-74



28

Primitive Baptist Church of Brookfield

~~Old School Baptist Church~~
Slate Hill, Orange County

AUG 24 1976

Photo credit: Orange County Historian - 1975
Neg. filed at: Office of the County Historian
Goshen, NY

East elevation.

NOV 13 1976 #1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



25

Primitive Baptist Church of Brookfield

~~Old School Baptist Church~~
Slate Hill, Orange County

AUG 24 1976

Photo credit: Orange County Historian - 1975
Neg. filed at: County Historian's Office
Goshen, NY

NOV 13 1976

North and west elevations.

#2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Primitive Baptist church of Brookfield

~~Old School Baptist Church~~
Slate Hill, Orange County

Photo credit: Orange County Historian - 1975
Neg. filed at: County Historian's Office
Goshen, NY

NOV 13 1976

AUG 24 1976

#3

Interior - detail of gallery.

19A

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



16A

Primitive Baptist Church of Brookfield

~~Old School Baptist Church~~
~~Slate Hill, Orange County~~

AUG 24 1976

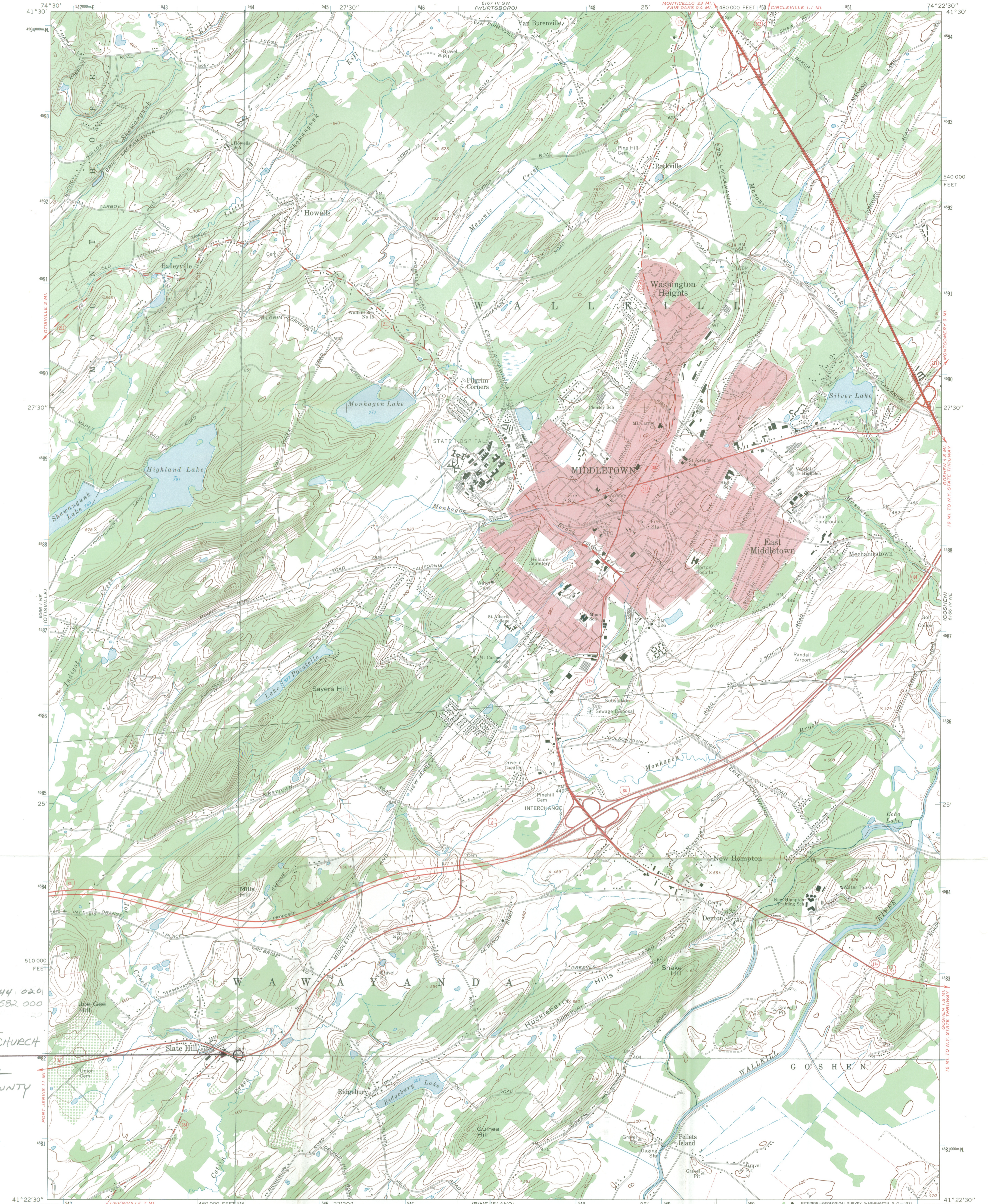
Photo credit: Orange County Historian - 1975
Neg. filed at: County Historian's Office
Goshen, NY

Detail of pulpit.

NOV 13 1976

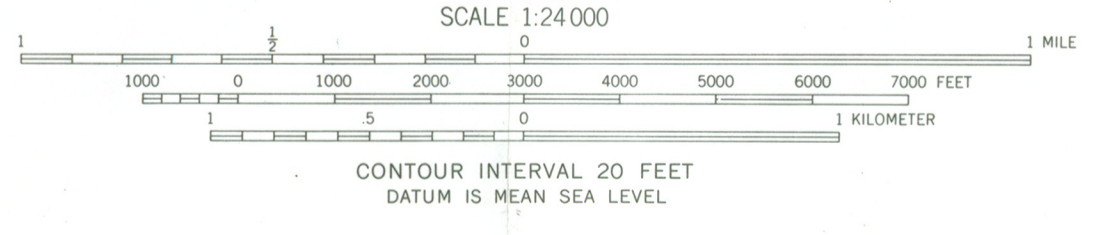
#4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



EASTING 544 020
NORTING 4582 000
OLD SCHOOL
BAPTIST CHURCH
SLATE HILL
ORANGE COUNTY

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Revised by the Geological Survey in cooperation with New York
Department of Transportation
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Field checked 1943. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, 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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

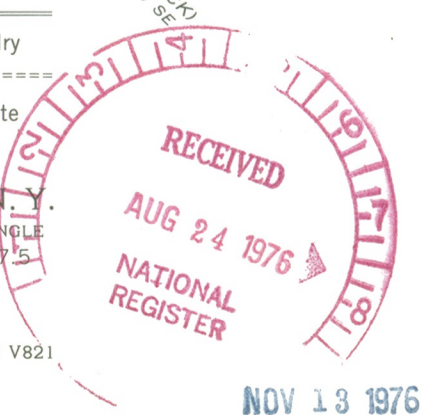
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

I Interstate Route
 U.S. U.S. Route
 O State Route



MIDDLETOWN, N.Y.
NW/4 GOSHEN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4122.5-W7422.5
1969
AMS 6166 IV NW-SERIES V921

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered NOV 13 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Primitive Baptist Church of Brookfield</u>	Slate Hill Orange County
Ellsworth, Col. Elmer E., Monument and Grave	Mechanicville Saratoga County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
Hon. James L. Buckley
Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman
Hon. Edward W. Pattison

Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner, Parks and Recreation
Agency Building #1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

880

Mott

11/22/76

INT: 2950-75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/1/76
Reviewer INITIALS: JG

NR DOE NOV 13 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Primitive Baptist Church of Brookfield

OTHER NAMES: Old School Baptist Church; Baptist Church of Brookfield

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER NY 6
CITY, TOWN Slate Hill
STATE New York 36
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 26th
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Orange code 71

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1, unknown-4, not applicable-7
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2, unknown-5, not applicable-8
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3, unknown-6, not applicable-9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR, DETERIORATED, RUINS, UNEXPOSED, Unexcavated, UNALTERED, ALTERED, Reconstructed, Excavated, ORIGINAL SITE, MOVED, Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted, Yes-unrestricted, No access, Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- church
now- church

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC, AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE, ART, COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS, CONSERVATION, ECONOMICS, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, EXPLORATION, INDUSTRY, INVENTION, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LAW/Gov't/politics, LITERATURE, MILITARY, MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, RELIGION, SCIENCE, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER (SPECIFY), entertainment, health, recreation, settlement, socio/cultural, urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: ~~Federal~~ Federal

architect/m.builder: unknown

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

John Hallock - donated land church stands on, 1792
Richard Wood - permitted meetings of congregation @ his home until church was built, 1783-1792

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1792 ✓

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1833, 1791 church incorporated

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~substantive~~

roof - side center

Frame, clapboarding; 2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof, side center entrance with sidelights in architrave; 14 stage tower with entrance, octagonal belfry & spire, added, 1828. Original interior woodwork with pews, gallery & notable raised pulpit ~~swinging~~ cemetery. Federal.

Served a minority Baptist congregation which, ^{that} in 1833 rejected the evangelism of the Second Great Awakening returning to ~~the~~ early conservative doctrines.