



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
UNIQUE SITE NO.	_____
QUAD	_____
SERIES	_____
NEG. NO.	_____

YOUR NAME: Nancy Todd, Neil Larson DATE: March 1987
Empire State Plaza

YOUR ADDRESS: Agency Building #1 TELEPHONE: 518/474-0479

ORGANIZATION (if any): Division for Historic Preservation
see cover sheet Item #11

IDENTIFICATION

- BUILDING NAME(S): Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage (Component #22)
- COUNTY: Dutchess TOWN/~~XXX~~ Rhinebeck VILLAGE: Rhinecliff
- STREET LOCATION: Charles and Orchard Streets
- OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- PRESENT OWNER: see attached ADDRESS: see attached
- USE: Original: church and parsonage Present: both are residential
- ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain no; private property

DESCRIPTION

- BUILDING MATERIAL: Parsonage: Church:
a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints : parsonage
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls : church
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

see Item #18

- PHOTO: N. Todd, 1986 13. MAP: see continuation sheets
Rhinebeck Historical Society, 1984 Acreage: less than one



1. East (front) and north (side) elevations

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers e. deterioration
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn b. carriage house c. garage : associated with
d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse parsonage; contributing
g. shop h. gardens
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land b. woodland
c. scattered buildings
d. densely built-up e. commercial
f. industrial g. residential
h. other: _____
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

see continuation sheet

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

see continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: church: ca. 1859; parsonage: ca. 1888
ARCHITECT: unknown
BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

see continuation sheet

21. SOURCES:

see cover sheet, Item #9

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York

Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
Component #22

Item 5: Present owners

Church

Kenneth Fricker
P.O. Box 153
Rhinecliff, New York 12574

Parsonage

Ruth Boyd
P.O. Box 91
Rhinecliff, New York 12574

17. The Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage (ca. 1859; ca. 1888) occupy two small adjoining parcels (total acreage of nominated property: less than one) in the historic core of the hamlet of Rhinecliff. The nominated property spans a block-long section on the south side of Corning Street and is bounded on the west by Charles Street and on the east by Orchard Street. Located one-half block north of the O'Brien General Store and Post Office, one and one-half blocks north of the Morton Memorial Library and two blocks northeast of the Rhinecliff Hotel (Individual Components #24, 25 and 23), the church and parsonage are surrounded by a relatively dense neighborhood composed of small-scale nineteenth-century residential properties, none of which retains sufficient architectural and/or historical significance to meet the National Register criteria.

The chapel (ca. 1859) is oriented towards Orchard Street and is surrounded by a small grassy lawn which drops sharply to the west. The parsonage (ca. 1888), oriented towards Charles Street, is surrounded by a flat, grassy lawn dotted with mature trees and shrubbery. There are no outbuildings associated with the chapel; the parsonage includes a contributing late-nineteenth century frame garage (sited behind the house to the northwest).

The heavy black outline on the attached county tax map identifies the boundary of the nominated property. The line is drawn to incorporate the two small lots historically and currently associated with the chapel and parsonage.

Contributing buildings: 3

18. The Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage consists of a small, Gothic Revival style stone chapel (ca. 1859), a Picturesque frame parsonage (ca. 1888) and a contributing late nineteenth century frame garage on a small village lot.

The focal point of the group, the church, is a rectangular, polychrome stone building in the rural Picturesque taste. Derived from the rural English parish church idiom, the chapel features a steeply pitched, polychrome slate roof surmounted by an open frame bell tower, broadly projecting eaves supported by exposed (both decorative and functional) rafters, roughly hewn, random-coursed stone construction highlighted with brick and smooth-faced stone trim and a variety of decorative scroll-sawn ornament. The building is embanked into the hillside, exposing a full basement level on the west (rear) facade. Fenestration is regular throughout the building. Windows include paired Gothic-arched windows at the upper (sanctuary) level and paired, segmentally arched windows at the basement level.

The front (east gable end) facade features a small, gable-roofed entrance foyer with a Gothic-arched brick entrance surround. (The entrance has been altered in the mid- to late twentieth century by the addition of a modern door surmounted by

a panelled wooden transom.) Two large, Gothic-arched windows at the gallery level flank the entrance. A small oculus is centrally located in the apex of the gable end. A frame bell tower supported by decorative wooden brackets surmounts the ridge of the roof. The tower features scroll-sawn wooden ornament and a steeply pitched, polychrome slate roof.

The north and south (side) elevations are four bays wide and feature paired Gothic and segmentally arched windows. The bays are articulated by stone buttresses. A secondary entrance is located in the rear bay of the north (street-side) elevation at basement level. A gabled hood supported by brackets and embellished with a wooden sunburst-motif surmounts the panelled door. The rear (west) elevation features a two-story projecting polygonal pavilion which marks the apse.

Although recently converted into residential space, the original room configurations and a variety of original features survive intact in the principal spaces of the interior. Simple and restrained surface treatments and decorative features characterize the interior spaces, including flat, plastered walls pierced by deeply inset, Gothic-arched stained-glass windows and exposed timber trusses in the sanctuary, a decorative plaster surround around the Gothic-arched apse and simple woodwork in the vestibule. The condition of the basement level interior spaces is unknown.

The parsonage (ca. 1888) is a two-story, T-shaped frame residence with Picturesque eclectic decorative features. The building is surmounted by a cross-gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal and pierced by two brick chimneys. The L-shaped main block features a three-bay-wide, side-hall front facade flanked by a two-bay-wide south ell and a one and one-half story, two-bay north wing. A verandah with elaborate scroll-sawn woodwork and a bracketed cornice spans the three-bay-wide front facade. Fenestration throughout the building is regular. Window openings generally contain two-over-two double-hung sash and are surmounted by flat-arched wooden lintels. Rounded-arch, two-over-two double-hung sash windows are located in the apexes of the front gable ends.

The original room configurations and a variety of modest interior features survive, including simple woodwork around door and window openings, original floorboards and panelled wooden doors. The side hall in the main block retains its original staircase with simple, turned newel post and balustrade.

The contributing garage (carriage shed), believed to date from the late nineteenth century, is a one-story, rectangular, gable-roofed frame building sheathed with clapboard siding. The garage features two large panelled carriage double-doors with decorative X-motif decoration. There are no other contributing features on the nominated property.

20. The Riverside Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage are architecturally significant examples of mid-nineteenth century Picturesque architecture in the multiple resource area. Erected in 1859, the remarkably intact church is a distinguished example of Gothic Revival style ecclesiastical architecture in the rural English parish church building tradition. Reflecting the influence of the ideals of the Romantic Movement in England and America and the concurrent liturgical and architectural reforms occurring within the Anglican Church in England, the Riverside Church embodies a variety of distinctive features associated with mid-nineteenth century Anglican church architecture, including masonry construction and medieval-inspired Gothic form and decoration. The significance of the church is enhanced by the survival of the adjacent parsonage (1888), an architecturally significant example of late nineteenth century Picturesque eclectic domestic architecture in the multiple resource area. The intact parsonage is complemented by the survival of a late nineteenth/early twentieth century barn/garage. Located in the heart of the riverside hamlet of Rhinecliff and erected under the auspices of the prominent Garrettson family, the church and parsonage remain prominent local landmarks in the community and are important reminders of the philanthropic activities of one of Rhinebeck's most important families.

The Riverside Church embodies numerous ideals of religion and architecture introduced by both English and American Ecclesiologists and Gothic Revival style architects and critics, including A.W.N. Pugin, John Ruskin, A.J. Davis and A.J. Downing. Typical of rural English parish church architecture of the period (early to mid-nineteenth century), the Riverside Church is derived from medieval English Gothic sources and is characterized by load-bearing masonry construction, a long, narrow rectangular form surmounted by a steeply pitched gable roof, Gothic-arched door and window openings and buttressed walls. The buttresses accentuate the vertical orientation of the building and emphasize the materials and method of construction; natural materials and structural truthfulness were of paramount importance to the Ecclesiologists.

In spite of its similarities to rural parish church architecture, the Hillside Methodist Church was not constructed for an Episcopalian congregation; thus, the church exhibits a variety of features that deviate from the liturgical and architectural principles of the Ecclesiological movement. Contrary to Ecclesiological prescription, the altar is on the west rather than the east end of the nave. The altar itself is greatly simplified and is marked by a raised platform beyond which the small apse recalls the fully developed choir that characterizes Anglican churches. The plan, a single nave sans side aisles or transepts, suggests not only the lesser size and space requirements of a smaller congregation but also a rejection of the principles of Anglican liturgy. The church also deviates slightly from the ideals of the English purists with respect to the use of materials. Partly in response to a limited budget and partly inspired by the American Picturesque movement, the church incorporates a variety of features that the purists would have

eschewed, most notably the wooden belfry, bracketed eaves and brick trim. However, the varied materials in the Riverside Church are appropriate to the Hudson Valley in general (and Rhinebeck in particular), where the small-scale rural churches of Richard Upjohn and the Carpenter Gothic and board-and-batten cottages of Davis and Downing glorified the attributes of wood and justified the use of affordable materials. The bracketed wooden belfry and exposed wooden rafters along the roofline provide textural and chromatic variety, as does the painted brick trim around door and window openings. The polychromatic patterned slate roof further enhances the lively and Picturesque appearance of the building. The use of materials on the interior also deviates from English parish church prototypes: the wall surfaces and window surrounds are of plaster rather than stone and the ceiling features wooden trusses rather than stone vaults; nonetheless, the effect clearly derives from masonry sources.

The parsonage, in addition to its significant association with the church, is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of late nineteenth century Picturesque eclectic domestic architecture in the hamlet of Rhinecliff. A rather late and restrained example of the type and style, the parsonage nevertheless embodies a variety of features that complement the Gothic Revival style church and its naturally landscaped site. Similar to many dwellings in Rhinecliff, the frame parsonage displays a two-story, three-bay main-block form flanked by one and one-half to two-story wings and surmounted by a cross-gable roof. The parsonage is distinguished from its neighbors, however, by an unusual level of ornament and degree of craftsmanship best illustrated by the front verandah, which is embellished by scroll-sawn brackets between support posts and paired, scroll-sawn brackets along the cornice. Other significant ornamental features include the rounded-arch windows in the front cross gables. The significance of the parsonage is enhanced by the survival of a late nineteenth/early twentieth century carriage barn/garage.

The full history of the church, parsonage and Methodist Episcopal denomination in Rhinebeck is presently unknown. Available information indicates that the church was financed and operated under the auspices of Miss Mary Garrettson, the only child and spinster daughter of the renowned Reverend Freeborn Garrettson and Catherine Livingston Garrettson.

The Reverend Garrettson, a renowned preacher on the Methodist circuit during the late eighteenth century, met Catherine Livingston (fifth child of Judge Robert R. Livingston and Margaret Beekman) on a visit to Rhinebeck in the early 1790s. They were married in 1793 and settled on the Sepasco Turnpike (Route 308) in the village of Rhinebeck where they erected a small Methodist Church (J. Smith, p.260). Nothing more is known about this home or chapel, which are no longer extant. In October, 1799 the Garrettsons moved to Wildercliff, an elegant riverside estate in the south end of the town. (See Sixteen Mile Historic District.)

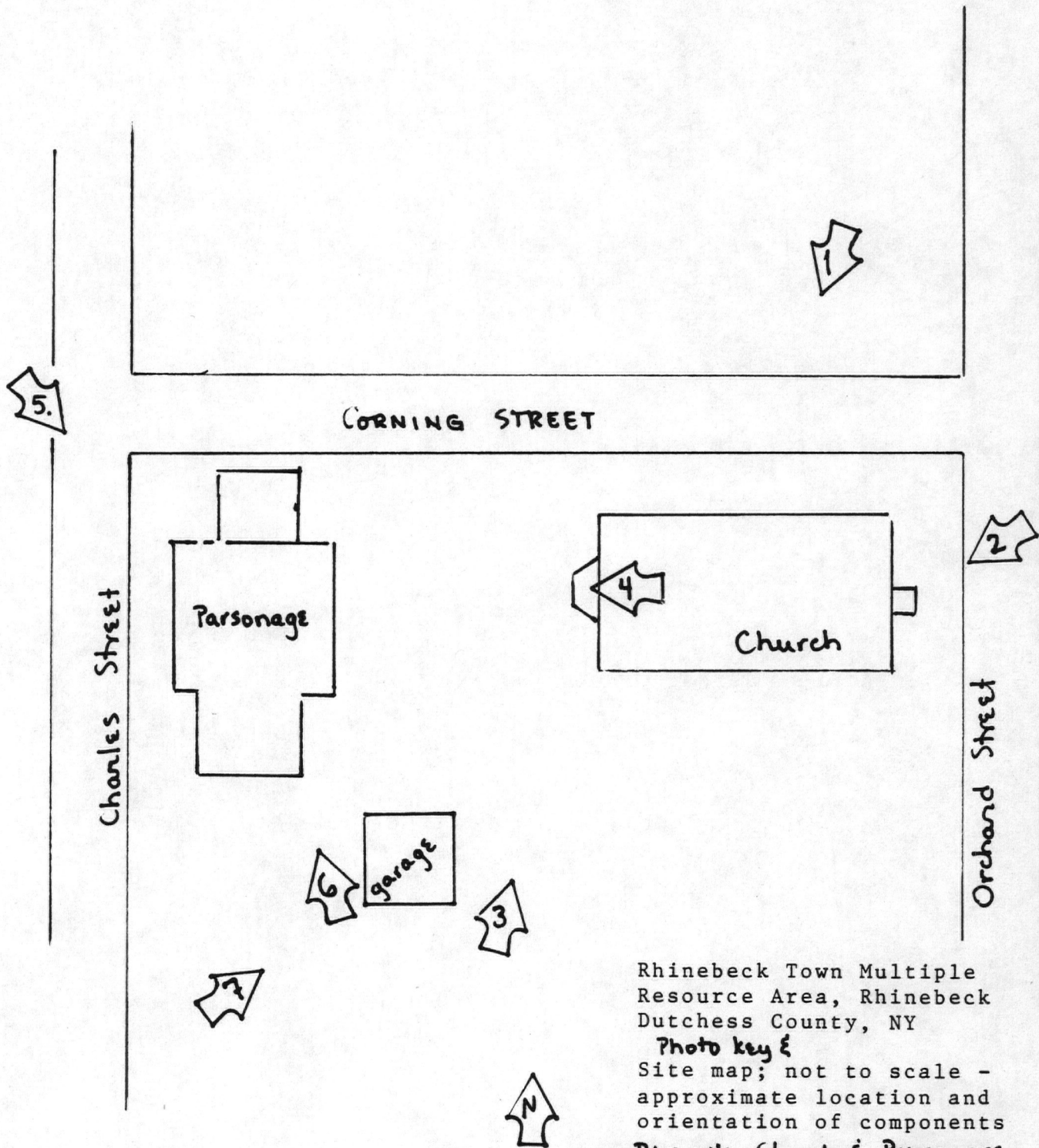
Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York
Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
Component 22, Continuation sheet, page 5

A second Methodist church, the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rhinebeck Flatts, was established in what later became the village of Rhinebeck in August, 1801. This church apparently was replaced in 1822; the current edifice (the Garrettson Memorial United Methodist Church) at 83 Market Street in the Rhinebeck Village Historic District was erected ca. 1900.

The Methodist Episcopal denomination apparently flourished in the town. The erection of the architecturally sophisticated Riverside Church in the bustling hamlet of Rhinecliff at mid-century, although constructed with the financial assistance of the wealthy and philanthropic Garrettson family, attests to the vitality and prosperity of the denomination and congregation. During the first several decades of its operation, the Riverside Church shared its minister with the Rhinebeck Flatts Methodist Episcopal Church and/or the Hillside Methodist Chapel (ca. 1855; Component #19). In 1888 the Riverside Church acquired its own pastor and the parsonage was erected.

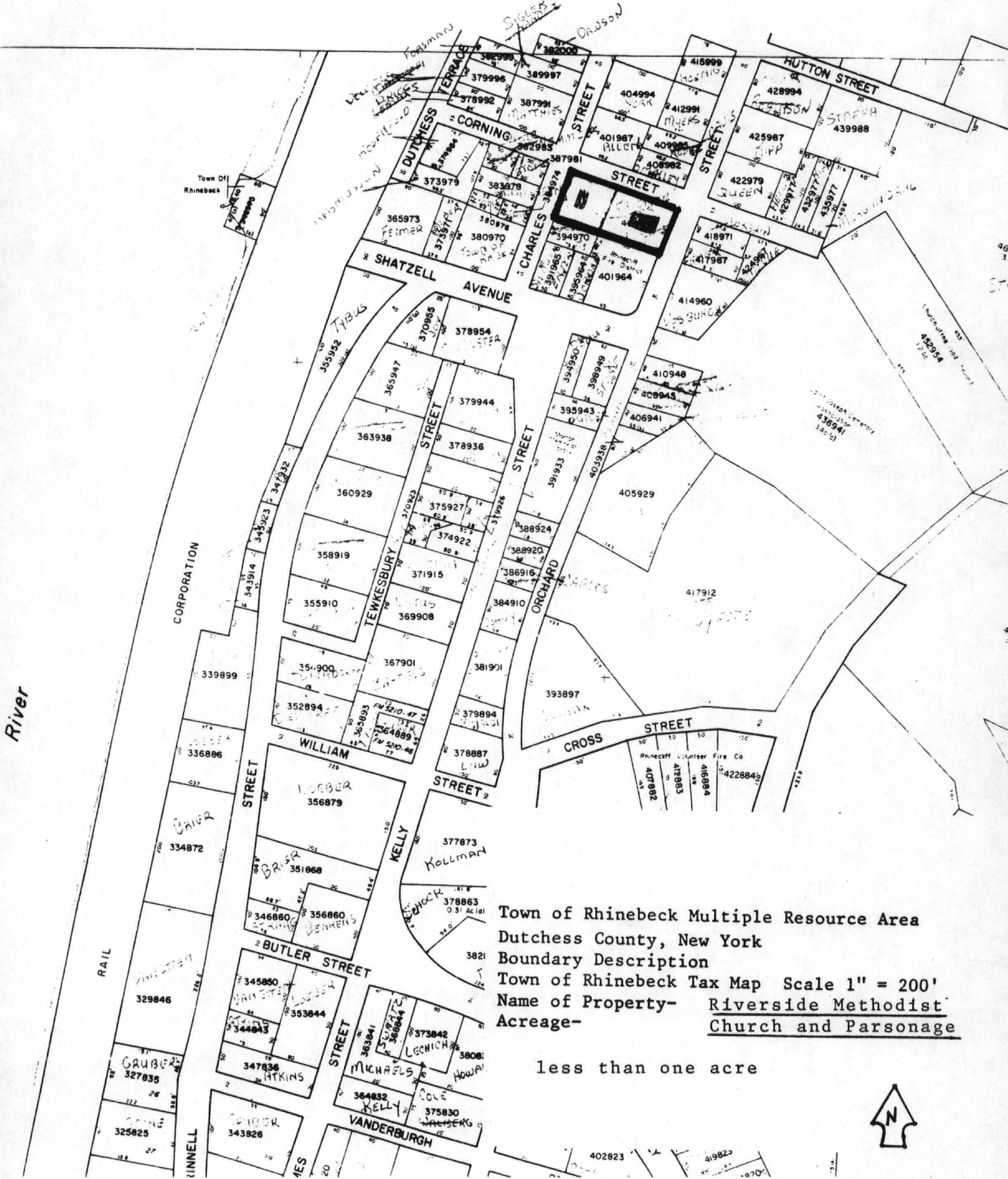
The substantially intact church and parsonage remain outstanding examples of religious and domestic architecture in the town of Rhinebeck. Located on a prominent site near the heart of the hamlet of Rhinecliff, the pair remains an important local landmark and key visual element in the community.

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York
Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
Component #22



Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area, Rhinebeck Dutchess County, NY

Photo key &
Site map; not to scale - approximate location and orientation of components
Riverside Church & Parsonage



River

Town of Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area
 Dutchess County, New York
 Boundary Description
 Town of Rhinebeck Tax Map Scale 1" = 200'
 Name of Property- Riverside Methodist
 Acreage- Church and Parsonage

less than one acre



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 26 1987
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Rhinebeck Town MRA
State NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Pultz Farmhouse

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

22. Rhinecliff Hotel

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

23. Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

24. Salisbury Turnpike Bridge

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

25. Sipperly Lown Farmhouse

Substantive Review

fu Keeper Patrick Anders 7/9/87

Attest

26. Slate Quarry Road Dutch Barn

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

27. St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Parsonage &
Cemetery

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

28. Steenburg Tavern

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

29. Stonecrest

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

30. Strawberry Hill

Entered in the
National Register

fu Keeper Melora Byers 7/9/87

Attest

87001086

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
(Rhinebeck Town MRA)
Dutchess County
NEW YORK

MAY 26 1987

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 6/25/87 7/10/87
Action: ACCEPT 7-9-87
_____ RETURN _____
_____ REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
 Rhinebeck Town M.P.A.
 Dutchess County
 NEW YORK

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York

#22. Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
Orchard Street and Charles Street, Rhinecliff



2. West facade, entrance detail



3. West (rear) and south elevations

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York

- #22. Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
Orchard Street and Charles Street, Rhinecliff



Apse, west wall



5. Parsonage, front (west) and north elevations

CONTINUATION SHEET

RHINEBECK MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

BUILDING NAME: Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
Component 22

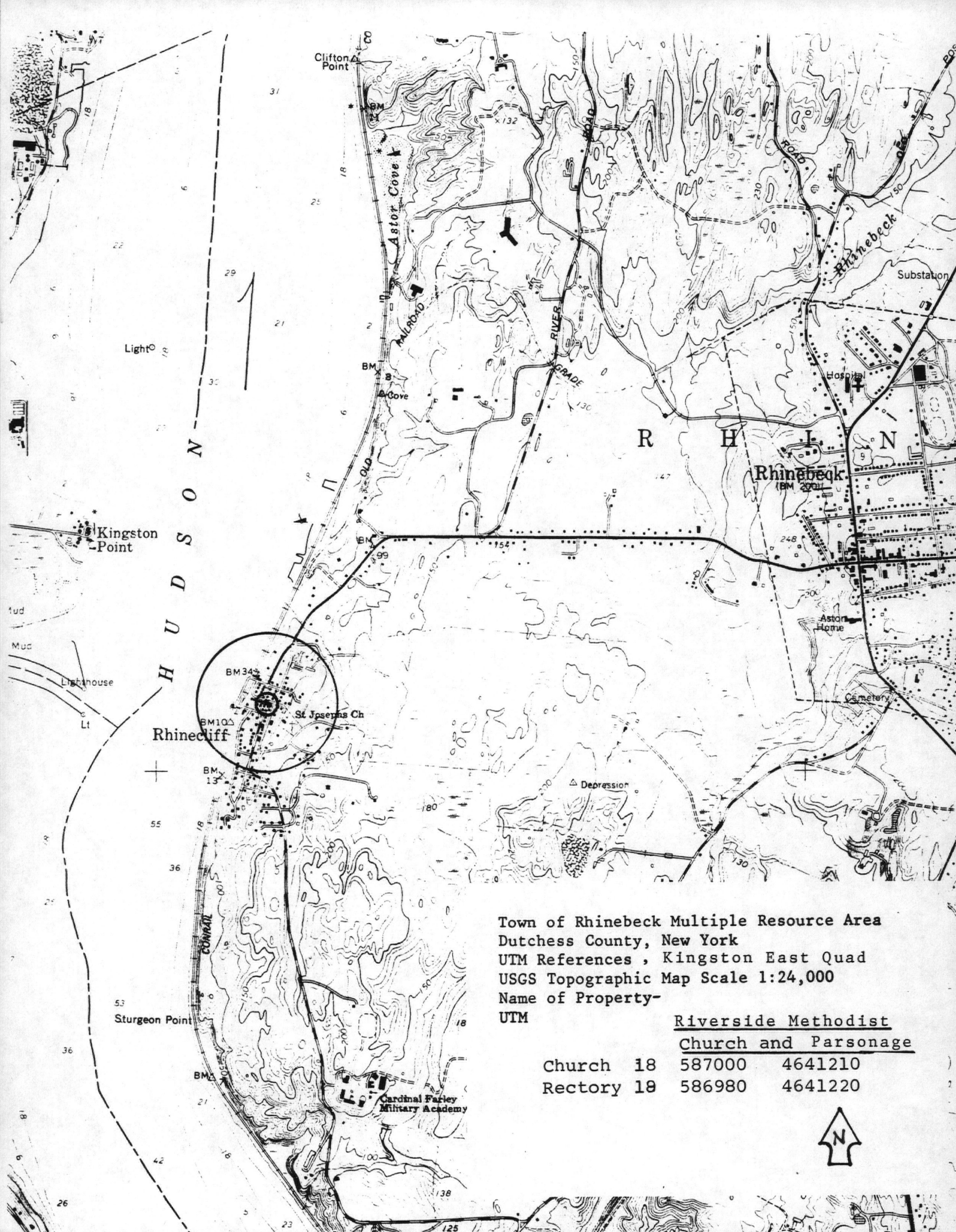
412. Photos



6. North and east elevations



7. Garage, west facade



Town of Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area
 Dutchess County, New York
 UTM References , Kingston East Quad
 USGS Topographic Map Scale 1:24,000
 Name of Property-

UTM	Riverside Methodist Church and Parsonage
Church 18	587000 4641210
Rectory 18	586980 4641220

