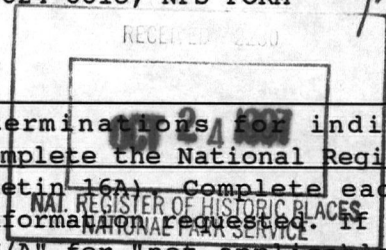


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

1459



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or 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 information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, 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 Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Butler Center Road [ ] not for publication

hamlet Butler Center [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county Wayne code 117 zip code 13154

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 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.)

J.W. Alden 14 Oct. '97  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation Date

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
[X] entered in the National Register. Elson H. Beall Signature of keeper 11.24.97 Date of Action  
[ ] 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: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property/Category of Property/Number of Resources within Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (check box) (do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Table with 3 columns: Ownership/Category, Number of Resources, and Resource Type. Includes rows for private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal, building(s), district, site, structure, object, buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM:

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Current Function

RELIGION; CHURCH

OTHER; VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th Century: Greek Revival

foundation cobblestone

walls frame/clapboard siding

roof asphalt shingles

other

Narrative Description

See attached continuation sheets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne County, New York

Section 7, Description, page 1

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**Description**

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler, built ca. 1836, is located on a 2.5-acre parcel in the historic core of the tiny crossroads hamlet of Butler Center in rural, eastern Wayne County. The nominated parcel, on which the church and related cemetery are located, corresponds with the full extent of the property both historically (i.e., since 1864) and presently associated with the resources. The Butler Center Cemetery, a two-acre burial ground established in 1947, is adjacent to and east of (behind) the 1864 Methodist Episcopal burial ground; it is not included in the present nomination because it is not historic and it is not directly associated with the Methodist Episcopal property.

The land around the church and cemetery is flat and landscaped with lawns and mature trees and shrubbery. Surrounding properties consist primarily of a few scattered, nineteenth and early twentieth century residences that together comprise all that survives of the tiny crossroads hamlet of Butler Center. Most of these buildings have been extensively altered; thus, there is no historic district potential in the hamlet.

The church is a rectangular, gable-roofed building designed in the vernacular Greek Revival style. The frame superstructure, mostly sheathed with clapboard siding, rests on a raised cobblestone foundation and is surmounted by an open belfry. The belfry, although reputed to be contemporary with the church, was modified around the turn of the century with late Victorian eclectic ornamentation. Fenestration throughout the building is regular, with three 9/9, double-hung sash windows evenly spaced on the north and south (side) elevations.

The front (west) facade features a Greek Revival style, pedimented gable end and a central entrance flanked by blind bays. The entrance features a paneled, double door flanked by bold, Doric order pilasters supported by a full entablature. Paired transom lights surmount the double door. A rectangular, gable-roofed, one-story, frame wing (date unknown; probably ca. 1900) extends on an east-west axis from the rear (east) elevation of the main block. It rests on a raised fieldstone

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne County, New York

Section 7, Description, page 2

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foundation and features clapboard siding and 9/6, double-hung sash windows. The rear (east) and north elevations of the building are sheathed with aluminum siding.

A variety of interior features - most of which appear to date from the second half of the nineteenth century - survive with a high degree of integrity of design, materials and craftsmanship. Notable historic fabric includes plaster walls, wainscoting, chair rails, pulpit (with adjacent choir area), altar railing and seven rows of pews.

The cemetery, established in 1864, features several dozen grave markers dating from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century; most are limestone markers with vernacular, period ornamentation. East of (behind) the historic burial ground is the Butler Center Cemetery, an approximately 2-acre municipal cemetery that was deeded to the Butler Center Cemetery Association in 1947. Even though the Butler Center Cemetery is currently associated with and owned by the organization which owns the Methodist Episcopal Church and 1864 cemetery, it is excluded from the nomination because it was not associated with the nominated property during the period of significance established for the historic church.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- [X] A Property is 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.
[X] C Property that 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 pre-history or history.

Criteria Considerations: NA

- [X] 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.

Area of Significance

Settlement
Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1836; 1900

Significant Dates

1836 - ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

na

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance: See attached.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Batthey, Rev. Arthur W. Handbook and Directory of the Butler Center Methodist Episcopal Church. (Savannah Times Print, July 1897).

Cowles. Landmarks of Wayne County. (1895).

Everts, Ensign and Everts. History of Wayne County. (1877).

Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested [x] State historic preservation office
[ ] previously listed in the National Register [ ] Other State agency
[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register [ ] Federal agency
[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark [ ] Local government
[ ] recorded by Historic American Building Survey # [ ] University
[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # [ ] Other:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne County, New York

Section 8, Significance, page 1

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**Statement of Significance**

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler is architecturally significant as a remarkably intact, vernacular Greek Revival style religious building in eastern Wayne County and is historically significant for its association with the settlement period of the formerly bustling mill village of Butler Center. Virtually intact to its date of construction in 1836 (with modifications to the bell tower and interior features sometime before ca. 1900), the church is a rare surviving example of early nineteenth century religious architecture in the region. For more than a century, the church was the primary public building in this tiny crossroads hamlet; as such, it served as a focal point of both the secular and spiritual life of the community.

Butler Center developed after Jacob Viele purchased land and established a sawmill on the Butler Center Pond. Other early settlers included the Wing family, who immigrated from England and established a smithy and store as early as 1820. A second store was operated by Manford Armstrong and a cheese factory managed by Nathan Montana. Though bustling throughout much of the early to mid-nineteenth century, Butler Center was soon eclipsed by nearby Wolcott to the north and South Butler to south as numerous tiny hamlets vied to serve the surrounding rural agrarian regions. Virtually all that survives of Butler Center today is the now abandoned Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler, the still operating Viele saw mill and a handful of modest residences.

The primary significance of the church is under criterion C in the area of architecture; it is a rare surviving, remarkably intact example of early nineteenth century, vernacular Greek Revival style religious architecture in eastern Wayne County. Distinctive characteristics of the type, period and style include the rectangular, gable-roofed form, the post and beam method of construction, the square belfry (with later modifications), the bold, pedimented front gable end, and the trabeated front entrance with full entablature supported by Doric order pilasters.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne County, New York

Section 8, Significance, page 2

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The building's secondary significance is under criterion A in the areas of settlement and entertainment/recreation. Built in 1836, it is the oldest extant building in the formerly bustling mill hamlet of Butler Center (established in 1820). Furthermore, throughout the history of the hamlet, it was the primary public building in Butler Center, serving as the focal point of virtually all "civic" (e.g., social, recreational, political, etc.) activities in the community.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately 2.5 acres

**UTM References**

A. 18/355997/4780818

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary coincides with legal lot lines of the nominated parcel as identified on the attached county tax map.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is drawn to encompass the full extent of land historically (i.e., as of 1864) and presently associated with the church and burial ground. The 2-acre Butler Center Cemetery, located adjacent to and east of the Methodist Episcopal burial ground, is not included in the nomination.

**11. Form Prepared By:**

contact: Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst

organization NYSHPO, Division for Historic Preservation date September 1997

street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

Research submitted by: Barbara Briscese, Butler Town Historian  
and Mary K. Raddant

**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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

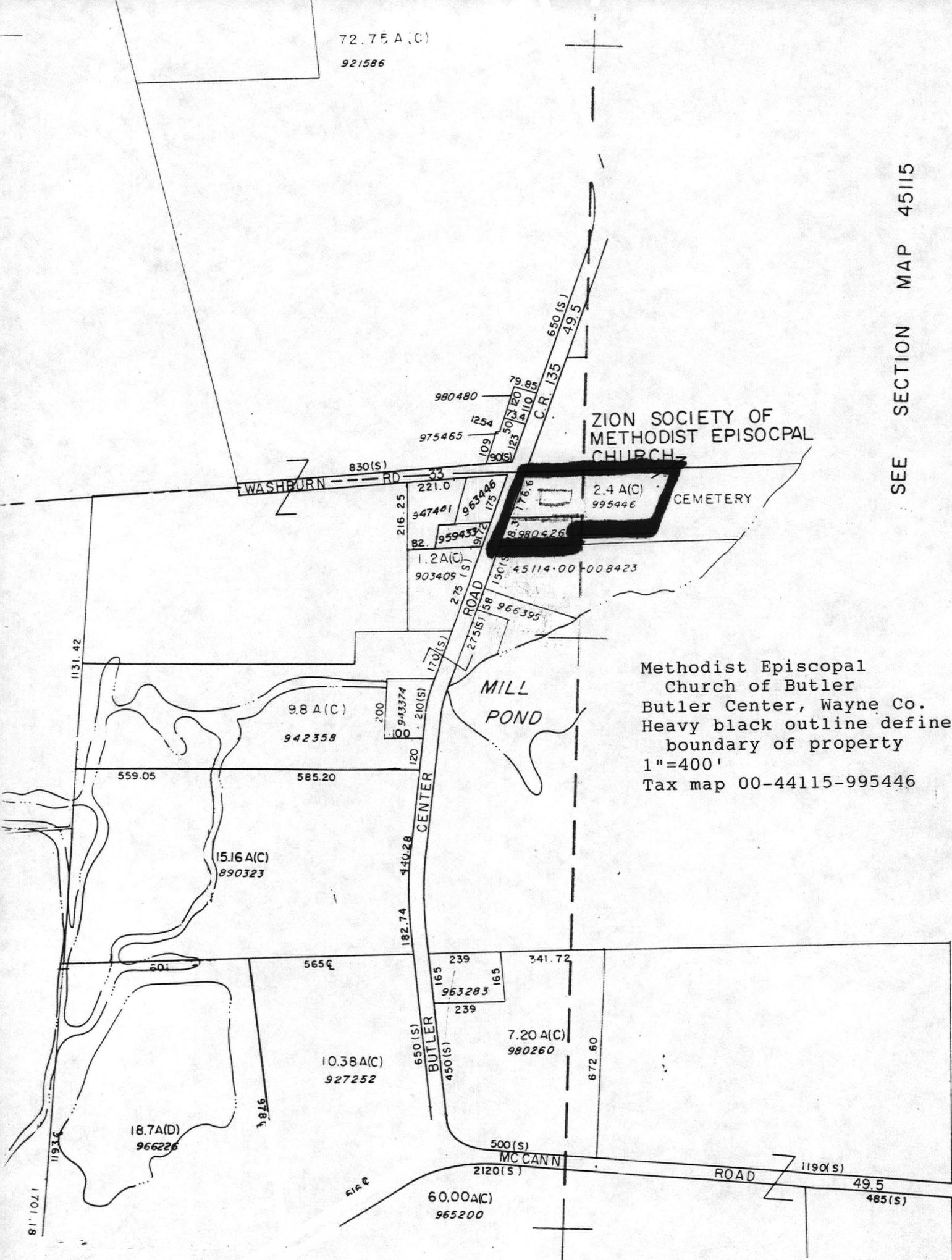
street & number \_\_\_\_\_

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.).

72.75 A(C)  
921586

SEE SECTION MAP 45115

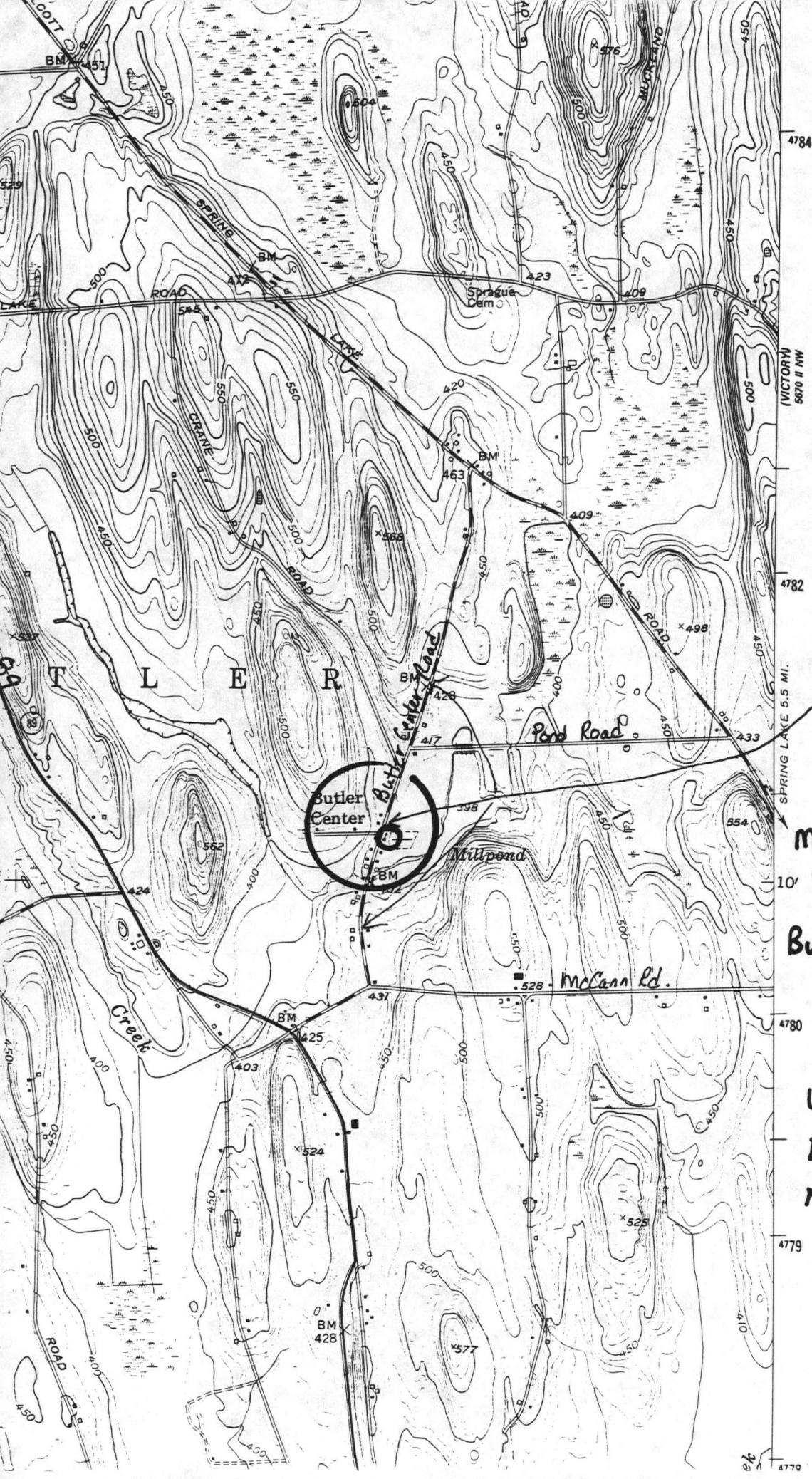


ZION SOCIETY OF  
METHODIST EPISOCPAL  
CHURCH

CEMETERY

MILL  
POND

Methodist Episcopal  
Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.  
Heavy black outline defines  
boundary of property  
1"=400'  
Tax map 00-44115-995446



Butler Center Road  
Pond Road  
McCann Rd.  
Methodist Episcopal  
Church of Butler  
Butler Center  
Wayne Co  
Zone 18  
Wolcott Quad  
E: 355997  
N: 4780818

4784  
4782  
4780  
4779  
4770

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Wayne

DATE RECEIVED: 10/24/97      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/04/97  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/20/97      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/08/97  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97001459

NOMINATOR: STATE

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    11-24-97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.

Photo & Neg: ~~North elevation~~  
B. Briscece, 1997

View: north elevation

JUL97 P563  
00 0222N5N321611



Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.  
Photo & Neg: B. Briscese, 1997  
View: Cupola detail

JUL97 P563  
08 0007 N7 H 2 16 01



methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.

Photo & neg: B. Briscese, 1997

View: Front (West) entrance

JUL97 #563  
08 0222N7N1Z1612



Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.  
Photo & neg: B. Briscese, 1997  
View: cemetery

JUL97 #563  
08 0222 N 7 N 2 2 16 13



Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.

Photo & neg: B. Briscese, 1997

View: Interior detail

JUL 97 P563  
08 0722 N7 NN 2 15 J



Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.  
Photo & Neg: B. Briscese, 1997  
View: Sanctuary

JUL97 P563  
08 0227 N-7 N-12 16 15



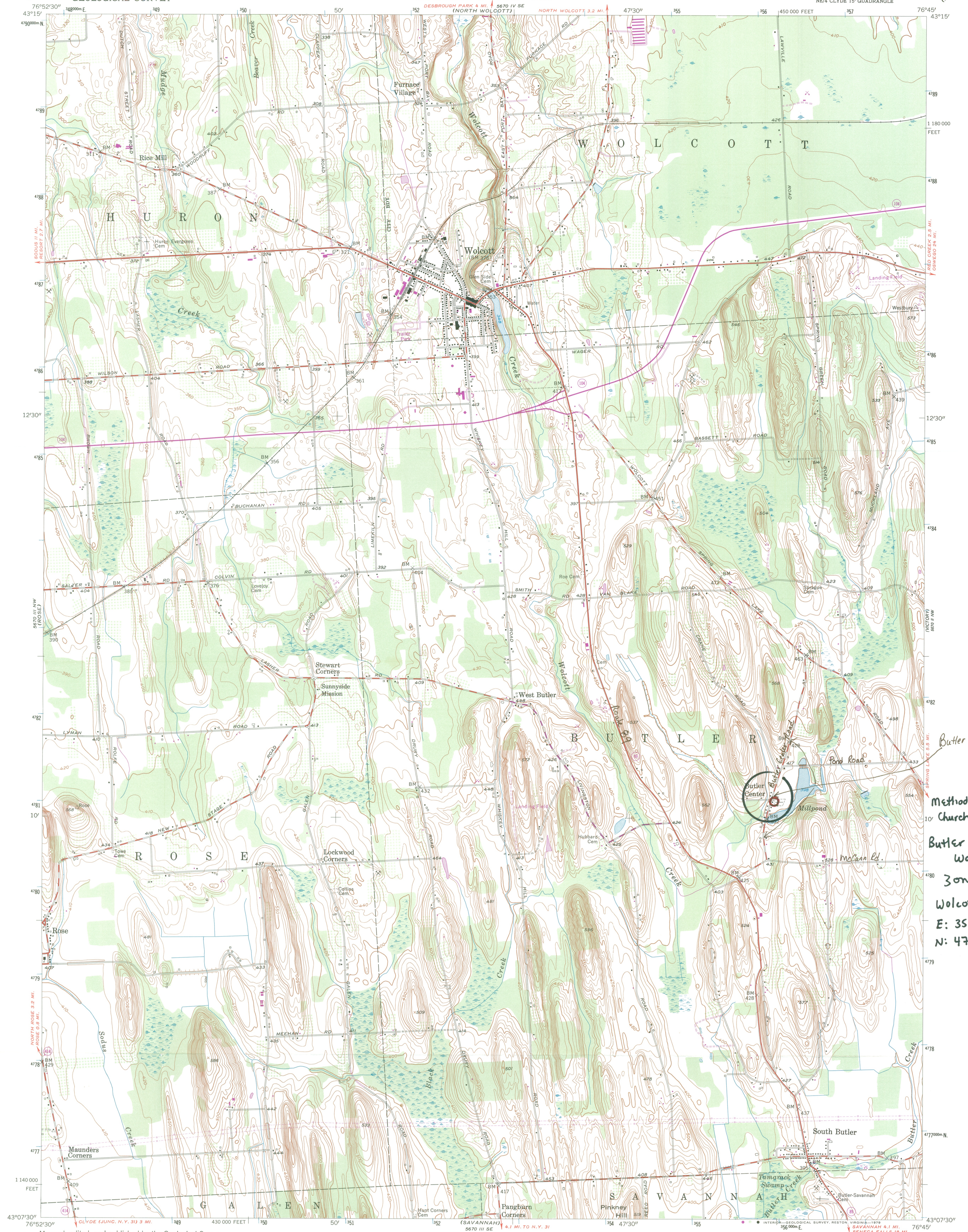
Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.  
Photo & neg: B. Briscese, 1997  
View: Sanctuary detail

JUL97 P563  
08 0222 N7 N-1 2 16 09



Methodist Episcopal Church of Butler  
Butler Center, Wayne Co.  
Photo & Neg: B. Briscese, 1997  
View: Built-in cabinetry

JUL97 P563  
08 0222 N-7 N-1 2 16 10

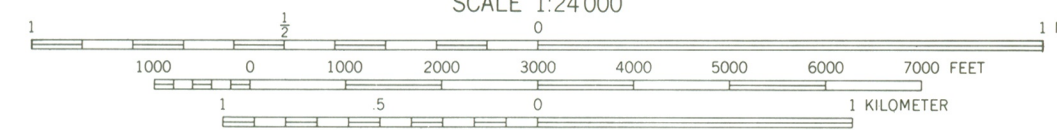
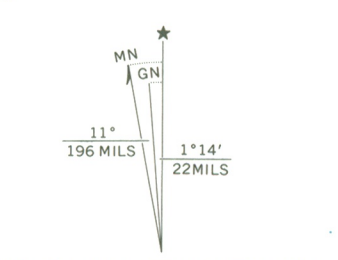


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and TVA  
Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers,  
Dept. of the Army, from aerial photographs taken 1942  
Topography by plane-table surveys 1953

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

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from  
aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data.  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1978



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

WOLCOTT, N. Y.  
NE/4 CLYDE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 4307.5—W 7645/7.5  
1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
AMS 5670 III NE—SERIES V821