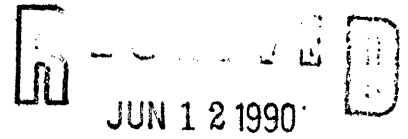


1065

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: BRIDGEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

other name/site number: S-4346

2. Location

street & number: 210 Market Street

city/town: Bridgeville, Northwest Fork Hundred not for publication: **NA**  
vicinity: **NA**

state: DE county: Sussex code: 005 zip code: 19933

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-local

Category of Property: buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Handwritten Signature] SHPO Date: May 25, 1990

DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official: NA Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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):

Signature of Keeper: Patrick Andrews Date of Action: 7/25/90

6. Function or Use

Historic: Education; Library Social; Meeting Hall Religion; Religious Structure
Current: Education; Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Gothic Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation brick roof asphalt shingles  
walls aluminum other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1917 1939

Significant Dates : \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Page # 1

=====  
The Bridgeville Public Library is located at the northeast corner of Market and Laws Streets in Bridgeville, Northwest Fork Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. An incorporated rural community of 1200 people, the community lies alongside Route 13, the principal north-south highway on the Delmarva Peninsula and astride U.S. 404, a principal tourist route for Maryland and Washington, D.C. residents who vacation at the Delaware Seashore resorts. Bridgeville is located 6 miles from the border with Maryland and 30 miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

The library, constructed in the early months of 1866 by the First Presbyterian congregation of Bridgeville, is a three-bay, one and one-half story, frame, gable-roofed (gable front), center entrance, Gothic-influenced building. To the west there is a one-story, gable-roofed wing; to the rear (North) there is a one-story gable-roofed addition and a one-story shed-roofed addition; to the front there is a two-story, gable-roofed bell tower and a gable-roofed Colonial Revival open portico with square supports. Except for the bell tower, which was added around the turn-of-the-century, all of these additions were made while the Tuesday Night Club owned the building.

The roof is steeply pitched and is covered with asphalt shingles. At the roofline there are exposed, clipped rafter ends. All chimneys except for a brick one on the rear gable addition have been removed. Windows in the original block and the west wing are Gothic-arched, two-over-two, double-hung sash; the arch heads contain louvered vents. The windows in the rear additions are more modern, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. The main door leading into what was once the narthex is a multi-panelled, wood double door. It is topped with a large pointed head which has two quarter-section moulded panels. The building is covered with aluminum siding and rests on a brick foundation. The original siding is sawn weatherboard. That material remains under the modern aluminum siding.

The main entrance, which is through the base of the bell tower, opens into the earliest block of the building. Recent renovations have exposed framing sections which indicate that the building was a combination braced and ballooned framed building. In the southeast corner of this block there is an enclosed set of stairs which ascends to the balcony above. The Tuesday Night Club constructed this balcony after it purchased the building in 1917. A window at the rear of the balcony looks into the bell tower which is directly behind it. Three balcony supports are anchored into the floor below. A shallow enclosed closet opens under the stairs.

The Tuesday Night Club also contracted for the large painted backdrop stage which is housed in the rear gable-roofed addition and which projects into the original block. Directly behind the stage there is a large plainly finished room off of which open three passages. The passage to the north runs across the back of the building, while those to the east and west run north and south and open into the main block. The west passage

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Page # 2

=====

also has an entrance into the wainscotted shed-roofed addition to the rear which currently functions as the library office. Sometime after 1917, the Tuesday Night Club also constructed the rather large butted gable-roofed wing to the west which now functions as the reception room for the library and off of which opens the library office. This section of the building is now lined with modern library bookshelves.

The Library building is situated near the back property line of the 23" wide X 160' deep lot. To the north of the library lot is Cemetery Alley and a large burial ground and open space.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Page # 1

=====

The Bridgeville Public Library is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of its association with the Tuesday Night Club and the establishment of the Bridgeville Public Library. The Tuesday Night Club, a women's organization, was the primary non-sectarian community/cultural club in Bridgeville and was responsible for the establishment of the library as well as providing for cultural events for Bridgeville and the surrounding community.

The current Bridgeville Public Library building was constructed in 1866 to provide a place of worship for the First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeville which had been established immediately after the Civil War ended. The congregation, which previously held its services in a storehouse near the town bridge, organized construction of the new church in December of 1865, and with the help of citizens like Simeon Pennewill who donated all of the lumber for the building, the new church was soon completed. Reverend Alexander Gulic dedicated the building in March of 1866.

For the next half century the building remained in the hands of the congregation which used it for religious and social functions. By the end of the century, however, the church was faced with the problem of dwindling numbers and sometime shortly after the turn of the century the building was closed as a church. During World War I it was used both as a school and as a Red Cross station. Finally, in 1917, the Tuesday Night club (formerly the Ladies Society of the First Presbyterian Church) bought the building.

The Tuesday Night Club, the fourth oldest women's club in the state, used the building for their weekly meetings and for social events. This club was responsible for repairing and modernizing the building, adding the balcony to the front, the wing to the west, and the additions to the rear (which houses the stage area).

In 1919, Mrs. Leon C. Cannon (Margaret R.), one of the trustees of the Tuesday Night Club, and the club's Literary Guild organized a circulating library. Five hundred books were collected within the community and the town's first library opened in a room of the club house.

The State of Delaware had established a State Library Commission in 1901. This agency had a number of circulating collections of fiction and non-fiction books that was made available to the Library.

The Sixteenth Biennial Report for the State Library Commission for 1933 and 1934 noted that the library under Mrs. Cannon had 2124 volumes in the collection and that 400 patrons had pushed circulation to 4,500. The library's income for 1933 was \$54. In 1934 it was \$65. The State Library Commission reports are interesting since they continuously point out the demand for library service and the struggle that small towns made to provide this valuable service with almost no outside financial assistance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Page # 2

---

The Library Commission reports also note that this service was of prime importance in a state in which no bookstores existed outside of Wilmington, the state's largest city.

The Tuesday Night Club's efforts were the chief financial support for the library until 1937 when the Bridgeville Library qualified for its first state appropriation of \$150. This level of state assistance would remain the same until the early 1950s. At that time the aid was increased to \$200 per year.

Throughout this time Mrs. Cannon kept the library operating with Tuesday being its principal open day. Mrs. Cannon finally stepped down as Librarian in 1959 having devoted forty years to her community and library. She was succeeded by Mrs. Edward William.

In 1964, Mrs. Cannon and Mrs. William as the last surviving member of the Tuesday Night Club signed the building over to the Town of Bridgeville in order to ensure that it would remain a library after their deaths. The Bridgeville Public Library, an incorporated institution, currently owns and occupies the entire building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Page # 3

---

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING**

The Bridgeville Public Library is located in the Lower Peninsula/-Cypress Swamp region in Delaware. The construction of the building in the early part of 1866 places it in the period of industrialization and early urbanization. The library represent three themes; that of architecture as an example of a Gothic-influenced building, that of religion as a church, and that of education as a library. As a property type it represents both libraries and churches.



=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

NA preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

NA previously listed in the National Register

NA previously determined eligible by the National Register

NA designated a National Historic Landmark

NA recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

NA recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office

— Other state agency

— Federal agency

— Local government

— University

— Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: 0.45 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>18</u>	<u>447619</u>	<u>4288260</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Nominated property is all of that property listed on tax parcel map 1-31-10-16- 95 parcel number 24.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Nominated parcel has always been associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeville, The Tuesday Night Club, or the Bridgeville Public Library.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Donald A. Duhadaway, Jr., Historian; Kimberly R. Sebold,  
Research Assistant, Stephen G. Del Sordo, Historian

Organization: Bur. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Date: Aug. 1989

Street & Number: 15 The Green Telephone: 1-302-736-5685

City or Town: Dover State: DE ZIP: 19901

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

Page # 1

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

"A Short History of Bridgeville." pamphlet, 1920.

"Bridgeville, Delaware." pamphlet, 1930.

Hancock, Harold B. "Bridgeville: A Community of the Nineteenth Century." pamphlet, 1985.

Herman, Bernard L. Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware 1700-1900. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1987).

Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. (Philadelphia: Pomeroy & Beers, 1868).

Sanford Fire Insurance Maps, Bridgeville, DE, 1884-1950.

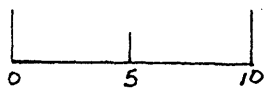
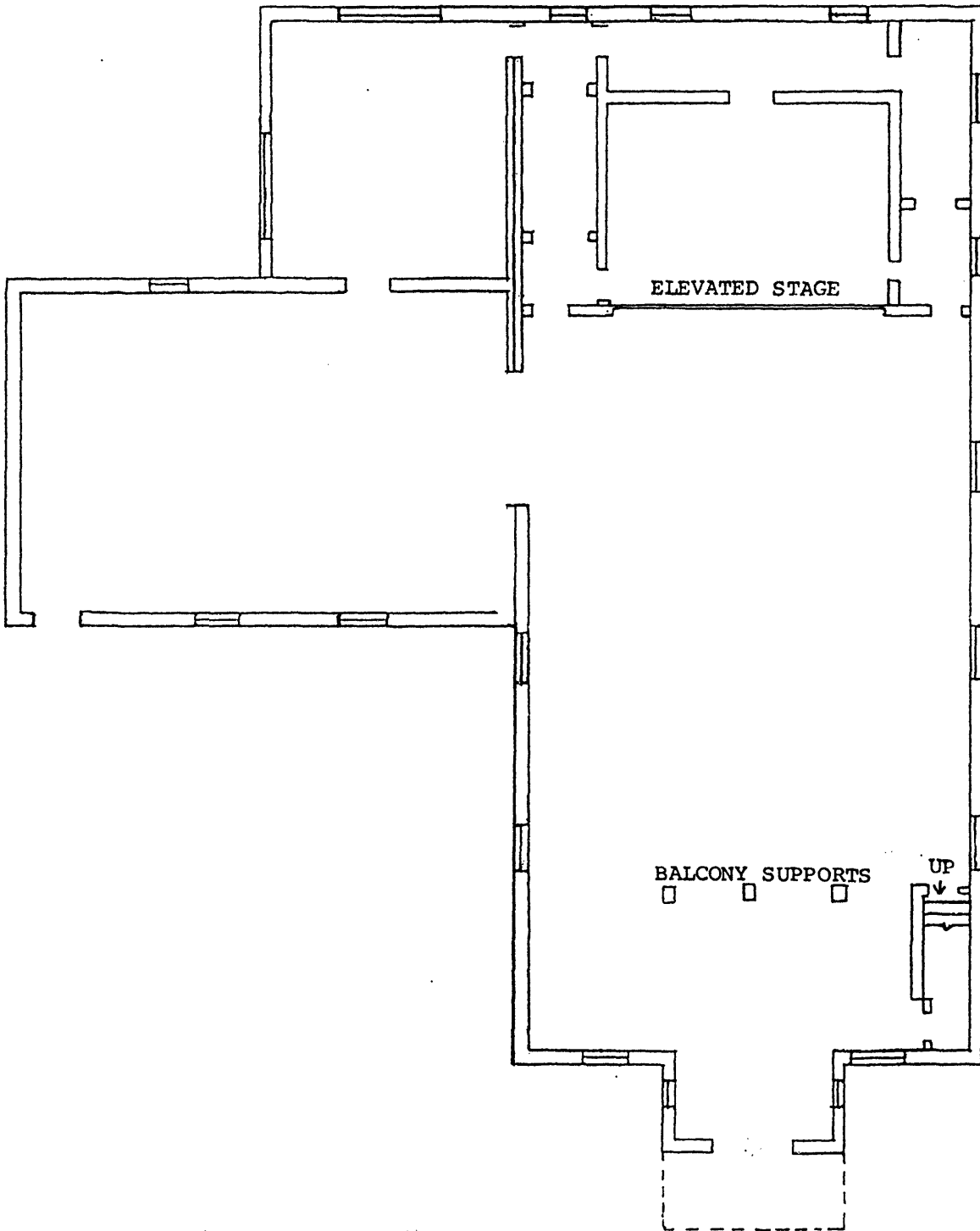
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of the State of Delaware (Philadelphia: L. J. Richards and Company, 1888).

State Library Commission, "Reports 1901 - 1968." (Dover, DE: State Library of Delaware).

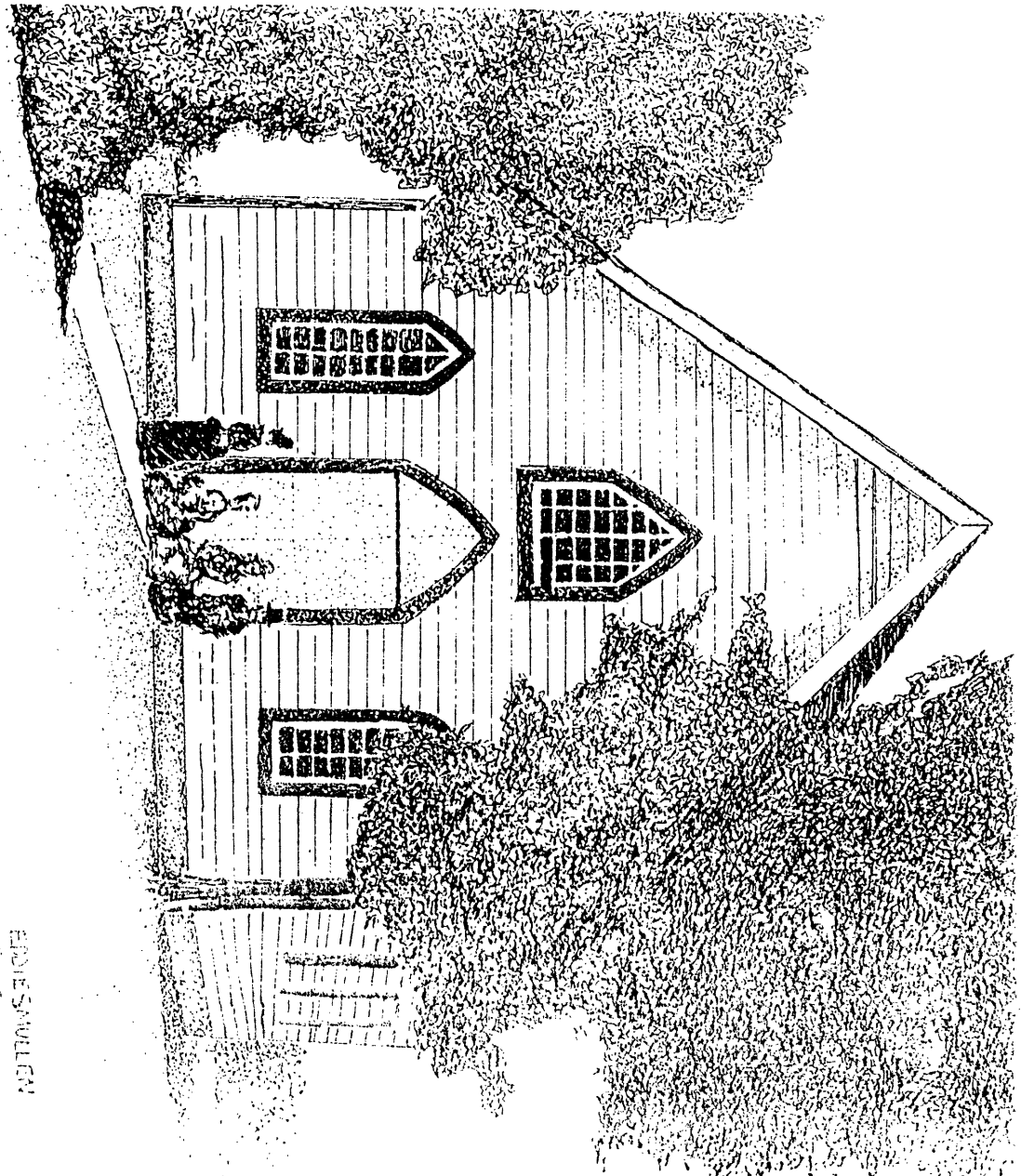
Van Slyck, Abigail A. "A Room With No View: Women's Clubs and American Town Libraries, 1890-1910." Vernacular Architecture Forum Meeting, 1985 (Unpublished paper).

Zebley, Frank R. The Churches of Delaware, Wilmington, DE: By the Author, 1947.

Bridgeville  
Public Library  
Sussex County  
Delaware



Bridgetown Public Library  
Bridgetown, DE  
Copy of historic rendering



Presbyterian Church of Bridgetown dedicated March 1866. This building is still standing today as the Bridgetown Public Library. Drawing by artist Eddie Smellen. From an old photograph, courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Lester C. Willey of Bridgetown, DE.

Bridgville Public Library  
 Bridgville DE  
 portion - Bridgville Tax parcel map  
 library bounds = parcel # 24  
 scale = 1" = 100'

S-257

1

14.23 Ac.S

BRIDGEVILLE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION



10.15

DELAWARE

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 90001065

Date Listed: 7/23/90

Bridgeville Public Library  
Property Name

Sussex  
County

DE  
State

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*em* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

9/14/90  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

In Section 6 of the nomination form Religion is included as a Historic Function for this building. As this function predates the building's Period of Significance it should not be included (per instructions in National Register Bulletin 19). This function will not be recorded in the National Register Data Base.

-----  
**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)