

1097

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage  
other names/site number CRS # N-1209

2. Location

street & number 1009 Philadelphia Pike (Business U.S. Route 13)  
not for publication N/A city or town Wilmington, Brandywine Hundred  
vicinity X state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003  
zip code 19809

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

July 8, 1998  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

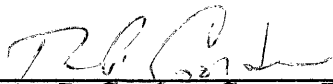
Section   03   Page   01  

Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church & Parsonage  
New Castle County, DE

---

*Agency Certification*

In my opinion, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage  
 meets  does not meet  
the National Register criteria.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas P. Gordon, County Executive  
New Castle County, Delaware

5-22-98  
Date

=====

**4. National Park Service Certification**

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is

*Edson H Baall* 9-25-98

- 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

**5. Classification**

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply).

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  2  </u>	_____ buildings
<u>  1  </u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
<u>  1  </u>	_____ objects
<u>  4  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   N/A

=====

**6. Function or Use**

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Religion</u>	Sub: <u>religious facility</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
<u>Religion</u>	<u>church-related residence</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Religion</u>	Sub: <u>religious facility</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>government office</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

**7. Description**

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century, Vernacular (Church)  
Late Victorian, Queen Anne Revival (Parsonage)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stucco over stone (Church), fieldstone (Parsonage)  
roof asphalt shingles (Church & Parsonage)  
walls stucco over stone (Church)  
Weatherboard (Parsonage)  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet

=====

**8. Statement of Significance**

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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.
- C** Property 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 prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1838-1930

Significant Dates 1838  
1893  
1894  
1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Church: George Harvey  
Parsonage: Lewis Springer

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheet

=====

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

=====

**10. Geographical Data**

=====

Acreage of Property 1.2

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	457976	4403141	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title Martha L. Daniel and Susan L. Taylor, Research Assistants; Rebecca J. Siders, Research Associate

organization Center for Historic Architecture and Design

date May 18, 1998

street & number University of Delaware telephone 302-831-8097

city or town Newark state DE zip code 19716-7360

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- USGS map
- Tax parcel map
- Floor plans
- Photographs

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

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

name Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Parks and Recreation

street & number 89 King's Highway telephone 302-739-5285

city or town Dover state DE zip code 19901

=====  
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.).  
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.  
=====

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7   Page #   1   Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State



The Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage property faces southeast onto Philadelphia Pike in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The church and parsonage are located on a small 1.2 acre portion of the larger 330-acre Bellevue State Park. The property contains a church that faces southeast toward the Philadelphia Pike with a cemetery located northwest of the building. The parsonage is located southwest of the church. A wooded area surrounds the site on its west, north, and east sides.

**Church**

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story, one-room plan, gable-roofed, fieldstone building covered with stucco scored to resemble quarried stone. Measuring roughly forty feet wide by fifty feet deep, the church rests on a stone foundation covered with stucco. Wood shingles cover the gable roof. A brick chimney rises through the stone wall of the northeast elevation, extending above the roof line. The southeast elevation contains the current entrance to the church, composed of an enclosed gable-roofed vestibule constructed in 1893. A small stone stoop with a concrete foundation, a wrought-iron rail, and four stone steps leads to the entrance. This vestibule is fronted by double four-paneled doors topped by a paneled transom with a stained-glass window. A single tall stained-glass sash window flanks each side of the vestibule. A box cornice with gable end returns finishes the edge of the main roof and the vestibule. The 1838 date stone is centered near the top of the gable.

The southwest elevation exhibits the same scored stucco as the southeast elevation, topped by the box cornice. Three stained-glass sash windows, the same height as those on the southeast elevation, are evenly spaced across this elevation.

The northwest gable elevation contains only two stained-glass windows, identical to those on the other elevations and also evenly spaced. The box cornice and gable end returns continue on this



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	<u>7</u>	Page #	<u>2</u>	<u>Mount Pleasant M. E. Church</u>
				Property Name
				<u>New Castle County, Delaware</u>
				County and State



elevation.

The northeast elevation is almost identical to the southwest elevation, with three evenly-spaced stained-glass sash windows and the continued box cornice. The only difference is the appearance of a bulkhead opening located at ground level, between the eastern and central windows.

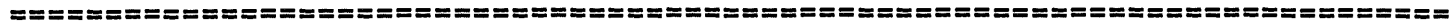
The inside of the vestibule has a stained glass window on the northeast and southwest elevations and a decorative chandelier suspended from the ceiling. Paneled double doors divide the vestibule and the sanctuary. The sanctuary has hardwood floors with decorative dark brown floor moldings and a squared-off ceiling with six decorative chandeliers. There are three elaborate stained-glass sash windows evenly spaced on the northeast and southwest elevations, as well as two similar windows on each gable end, all surrounded by dark brown molding. A central aisle is flanked by eleven rows of slightly curved rows of pews on either side. The pews are stained golden brown. The ends on the aisle are straight, but the pews actually curve slightly towards the chancel at the northwest end of the sanctuary. The pulpit is centered on a semi-circular raised platform at the northwest end of the room. A curved chancel rail with turned balusters and newel posts separates the pulpit area from the pews and the aisle. A second pulpit and a reader's desk are located at either end of the curved platform. Three ornate wooden chairs for the minister and deacons or readers are located against the northwest wall behind the pulpit.

The original fieldstone gable-roofed structure, built in 1838, was updated in 1866 with extensive renovations that included the squaring of the vaulted ceiling, the doubling of window height, and the addition of three fourteen-inch pine roof trusses mortised with wooden pegs. In 1893, the congregation covered the building in patterned stucco, added an entrance vestibule on the southeast gable end, and replaced the windows with stained glass Queen Anne windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 3 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State



During the 1893 renovation, a second-floor balcony was removed, and a pulpit reached by three semi-circular steps and eleven rows of ash and poplar semi-circular pews with a central aisle were added. An 1893 journal article in *Every Evening* claimed, "All that remains of the original structure are the walls, which have been plastered and blocked to represent light gray granite. The auditorium is lighted by eight stained-glass windows. The walls and ceiling are delicately colored, the walls in pale yellow and the ceiling in blue gray. The pulpit furniture and the chancel rail are of oak and poplar finished in natural color. The chancel rail sweeps around the pulpit platform in a semi circle the ends of which almost touch the west wall, and the pews conforming to this form make a succession of curves in bright colored, highly finished wood work."<sup>1</sup> The present church has been restored to this description as closely as possible.<sup>2</sup>

**Parsonage**

The Mount Pleasant Parsonage is a four-bay, L-shaped, two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, frame dwelling that rests on a fieldstone foundation. Built in 1894, the wooden frame is covered on all sides with clapboard siding, except for the attic level of the gable ends, which are sheathed with gray-green fish-scale shingles. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof.

A cement sidewalk leads from the roadside, through a fieldstone wall with stone posts, to the frame steps accessing the front porch. A frame hip-roofed porch with a small cross-gable over the entry, extends across the entire front or southeast elevation. Four turned wooden posts support the porch roof. This elevation exhibits four

---

<sup>1</sup>Every Evening, (Wilmington, DE, December 11, 1893), 1.

<sup>2</sup>Herbert T. Pratt, "A History of Mount Pleasant Meetinghouse," presented at the Rededication of the Meetinghouse, 9 October 1966.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 4 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

unevenly-spaced bays on the first floor. The two westernmost bays hold one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows. The third bay to the east contains the main entrance doorway, a paneled double door with one small pane in the top half of each door and a decorative Queen Anne transom above the door. A larger one-over-one-light, double-hung sash window occupies the easternmost bay on this elevation. On the second floor, three evenly spaced windows pierce the wall. Each is a double-hung sash window with two vertically-divided panes in the bottom half and a large pane surrounded by small squared panes forming an outer rectangle. In the attic level, a cross-gable dormer in the central bay contains three evenly-spaced six-over-two-light double-hung sash windows.

On the southwest elevation, the rear ell and kitchen wing are visible as cross-gable elements. There is a single first-floor window opening in the front block of the house, containing a one-over-one-light double-hung sash window, and placed toward the southern end of the elevation. The rest of the front block contains no windows. In the rear ell, there are two evenly-spaced one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows. Window openings on the second floor are directly above those on the first. These windows are similar to those on the second floor of the southeast elevation. In the center of the front block gable at the attic level is a six-over-two-light double-hung sash window. A chimney stack protrudes from the northern end of the front block at the edge of the gable, terminating the blank area of that section. The kitchen wing is only one-story in height. The wing contains two openings in the northern two-thirds of the elevation: a modern door to the north and a square four-pane window to the south. These openings are part of a wall that encloses a former shed-roofed porch area.

The northwest (rear) elevation of the dwelling is broken into two sections. The first floor of the rear ell is obscured by the one-story kitchen wing. The kitchen wing contains two small windows, one in the former porch area and the other further east along the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 5 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

elevation. Above the gable roof of the kitchen, at the second floor level, a double-hung sash window similar to the other second-floor windows lights the rear ell. Two square four-pane windows light the attic level of the rear ell, placed on each side of an interior gable-end chimney. The other section of the northwest elevation is that of the front block. Two windows are visible, one above the other on the first and second floor. They follow the same pane division pattern as the windows on the previous two elevations. A bulkhead opening is located directly below these two windows.

The northeast elevation can also be divided into several sections. On the front block, a bay window covers the central portion of the first and second floors. A single window is located on each of the three sides of the bay window. The pane patterns for these windows follow those of the other elevations. The rear ell contains two openings at the first floor level. A modern door opens in the southern corner of the elevation and a rectangular six-pane window is located to the north. A double-hung sash window like the other second floor windows occupies the space above the six-pane window. A large two-over-two-light double-hung sash window lights the kitchen wing on this elevation.

Simple trim surrounds the windows and doors on all elevations. A barge board trims the roof. All of the second floor windows appear to be original, still retaining the decorative panes in the upper portion of the window. Non of the first floor windows contain this decoration, but all seem to retain the original frames for the sash. If the upper portion of the windows contained the decorative panes, they have all been removed and replaced with plain glass.

**Interior.** The first floor has a central stair passage that opens to rooms on the northeast, southwest, and northwest. There is a wooden stairway leading to the second floor on the northeast wall of the central passage. The balustrade has turned balusters, a square newel post with two recessed panels on each face and a spherical newel cap.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 6 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

A small closet is located under the stairs.

The northeast room has an enclosed chimney stack on the southwest wall and the bay window on the northeast side. The southwest room has an enclosed corner chimney stack in the west corner of the room, and a pair of pocket doors on the northwest wall. These doors open into the northwest room, located in the rear ell. This room has been altered from its original configuration. Initially the northeast wall of this room contained a door opening into the porch, but the porch space has been enclosed and converted to a small bathroom and a new entryway. A centrally-placed door on the northwest wall of the room accesses the kitchen wing.

The kitchen wing is divided into several spaces. A pantry occupies the south corner of the room, accessed by a door in the southwest wall of the kitchen. The pantry has built-in cabinets on the southwest wall and a hinged window on the northwest wall. The cabinets are original and match those in the kitchen. In the west corner of the kitchen wing is a porch that has now been enclosed. A second door on the southwest wall of the kitchen opens into the porch area, as does the pantry window. Along the southeast wall of the kitchen is an enclosed chimney stack with a stovepipe hole, a door to the winder stair accessing the second floor of the rear ell, and a door to the basement. The kitchen retains its original built-in cabinet in the northern corner. The cabinet has upper and lower cupboards covered by double paneled doors, and a counter space in the middle fitted with two drawers.

The second floor is divided into four rooms, all of which open onto the stair passage. At the top of the stairs a door on the northwest wall leads to an early twentieth century bathroom located in the rear ell. On the northwest wall of this room is the narrow winder stair leading to the kitchen. On the southeast side of the stair hall, two doors access the two rooms on that wall. A door connects these two rooms. On the east end of the northeast wall is a door to

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 7 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

the fourth room, located near the door to the attic stair. This chamber has a bay window overlooking the church.

Directly above the main staircase is an enclosed staircase leading to the attic. At the first turn of the stairs a small paneled door leads to a crawlspace over the rear ell. The stair continues and opens into a small landing along the southeast side of the house. One room is located on each side of the main block. These rooms are finished with lath and plaster, like the rest of the house, with knee walls along the southeast and northwest walls. Small windows in the gable ends light the attic rooms. Each contains an chimney stack, on along the southwest wall of the northeast room and one in the west corner of the southwest room.

All floors in the house are hardwood, and the walls are painted over lath and plaster. Protective and decorative moldings are visible on some of the corners. There are also unusually tall floor moldings with toe molds and molded door and window frames with corner blocks with bulls eyes.

### **Cemetery and Stone Wall**

A 154 by 134-foot cemetery enclosed by a fieldstone wall is located northwest of the church and parsonage. This wall is part of the fieldstone wall that surrounds the entire property on all four sides. The stone wall is approximately four feet high and was built at several different periods from local stone. The wall serves to separate the cemetery from the church and parsonage buildings as well as delineating the property line for the entire parcel.

Cemetery stones are made of sandstone, marble, and granite, and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7   Page #   8   Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State



dates on the stones range from 1841 to 1982.<sup>3</sup> A wrought-iron gate located in the western half of the cemetery division wall permits access into the cemetery. The cemetery division wall does not run all the way to the northeast wall of the property. A gap in the wall identifies the location of the earlier carriage shed or stable that was demolished in the twentieth century.

The cemetery and the stone wall are considered contributing elements of the property.

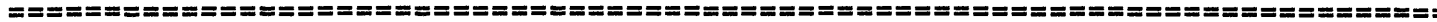
---

<sup>3</sup>Herbert T. Pratt, "Mt. Pleasant Cemetery," Delaware Genealogical Society 2, (April 1984): 50.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	<u>8</u>	Page #	<u>1</u>	<u>Mount Pleasant M. E. Church</u>
				Property Name
				<u>New Castle County, Delaware</u>
				County and State



The Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church is significant under criterion C, for its representation of the rural Methodist Church built and rebuilt in mid- to late-nineteenth-century Delaware. These small rural churches are readily identifiable by both exterior and interior features. A simple rectangular form, one-room plan, and the absence of religious ornamentation or extensive architectural finish were typical of rural churches often erected to serve simultaneously as public meeting places. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, many of these small churches underwent a wave of renovation that marked their role as religious places of worship through the installation of ornamental treatments such as stained-glass windows and more formal chancels with decorative rails and furniture.

Henry Boehm, one of the early founders of the Methodist movement in America stated that: " The Peninsula that lies between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays...was the garden of Methodism in America."<sup>1</sup> Methodism in America began in Delaware with the preaching of George Whitefield on the Delmarva peninsula during the mid-eighteenth century. As an ordained Anglican clergyman, Whitefield had already gained a reputation as an evangelist in England and Wales, and aligned himself with a group of Oxford University religious reformers, headed by John and Charles Wesley, called Methodists. While he was in the Delaware region, Whitefield preached to large crowds, and made a profound impact on the religious organization of the area. His preaching lead to the development of small congregations who practiced some of the tenets of Methodism, and were the direct ancestors of the Methodist churches that grew out of Francis Asbury's later mission.

In 1771, John Wesley sent an official missionary to America, Francis Asbury. In 1784, Asbury, together with Thomas Coke, another of

---

<sup>1</sup>William Henry Williams, The Garden of American Methodism: The Delmarva Peninsula, 1769-1820 (Wilmington, DE: Peninsula Conference of the United Methodist Church, 1984), xiii.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page # 2 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

Wesley's ambassadors, established a Methodist church independent from the rules and strictures of the Anglican church in America at a meeting in Barratt's Chapel in Kent County, Delaware. This newly independent church urged changes in individual lives, including an active participation in the church and with God. This emphasis on direct participation led to the development of camp meetings, an outdoor revival-type meeting that lasted for several days and involved thousands of people listening to God's word being spoken by an itinerant preacher. Methodism also raised questions concerning the nature of the Delmarva peninsula's religious, social, political, and economic institutions. Throughout the history of Methodism, Peninsula Methodism worked hard at preserving the Wesleyan heritage that included a dedication to personal improvement, a strong work ethic, and a belief that one had to continually strive for spiritual perfection.

As Methodism evolved in the region, several different groups arose in response to questions of the organization and traditions of the church. Two such examples were the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church developed as the direct descendant of the Anglican church in America. The Methodist Protestant schism developed in 1828-30. It arose from a desire by the laity to be represented at the Annual Conference, which in the Methodist Episcopal Church was open only to itinerant preachers. Some members of the church were also concerned with the absolute power of the bishop to assign itinerants to circuits.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church on the Philadelphia Pike in Wilmington, Delaware, originated from members of a camp meeting held by the Chester Circuit in local resident Adam Talley's woods.<sup>2</sup> Prior to the erection of the meeting house, the congregation

---

<sup>2</sup>Ernest Clifton Hallman, The Garden of Methodism (Wilmington, DE: Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1947), 236.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   Page #   3   Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

worshiped as early as 1833 in informal meeting places in the neighborhood, such as the Mount Pleasant School House (N-1208).<sup>3</sup> The Chester Circuit was an affiliation of eight or ten area churches with rotating pastors.<sup>4</sup>

In 1838, the original trustees for the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church included George McCorkle, William R. Weldin, Jesse Kendall, Harmon Justison, Richard Kellam, Samuel Lodge, Joseph Lloyd, Joseph Grubb, and Jacob S. Weldin. These men were also trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Society of Brandywine Hundred.<sup>5</sup> In this same year, building committee members William R. Weldin and Joseph Grubb commissioned local builder George Harvey to build a forty by fifty foot, one-room plan, stone meeting house with clear glass windows. The building itself was not considered sacred; it was a community space used by its members for a variety of functions.<sup>6</sup>

In 1839, the congregation initiated a cemetery. Approximately 135 feet square, the cemetery is now enclosed by a stone wall built in the late nineteenth century.<sup>7</sup>

The meeting house received general repairs in 1866 and again in 1883, when the congregation hired pastor Reverend W.B. Gregg. The ministers of the church, like Gregg, were usually members of the

---

<sup>3</sup>Weldin and Weldin, 1.

<sup>4</sup>Hannah R. Weldin and G. W. Weldin, "The Early History of Mt. Pleasant M.E. Church to March, 1917," unpublished manuscript, 5.

<sup>5</sup>New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Book B, Volume 5, page 447.

<sup>6</sup>Herbert T. Pratt, "A History of Mount Pleasant Meetinghouse," presented at the Rededication of the Meetinghouse, 9 October 1966.

<sup>7</sup>Herbert T. Pratt, "Mt. Pleasant Cemetery," Delaware Genealogical Society 2, (April 1984):50.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page # 4 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State



Chester Circuit of ministers.<sup>8</sup> In 1893, the congregation embarked on a major renovation project for the meeting house. They covered the building in patterned stucco, added an entrance vestibule on the southeast gable end, and replaced the windows with Queen Anne-style stained glass windows.

During the 1893 renovation, a second-floor balcony was removed, and a pulpit reached by three semi-circular steps and eleven rows of ash and poplar semi-circular pews with a central aisle were added. An 1893 journal article in *Every Evening* claimed, "All that remains of the original structure are the walls, which have been plastered and blocked to represent light gray granite. The auditorium is lighted by eight stained-glass windows. The walls and ceiling are delicately colored, the walls in pale yellow and the ceiling in blue gray. The pulpit furniture and the chancel rail are of oak and poplar finished in natural color. The chancel rail sweeps around the pulpit platform in a semi circle the ends of which almost touch the west wall, and the pews conforming to this form make a succession of curves in bright colored, highly finished wood work."<sup>9</sup> This description clearly demonstrates the changes to both the interior and the exterior of the Mount Pleasant Meeting House as the building evolved into a religious rather than secular space.

In 1894 a parsonage was built on property adjacent to the meeting house. Constructed by Lewis Springer, this dwelling replaced an earlier parsonage sold to William du Pont. The new parsonage was built in a Queen Anne style and included a formal parlor on the first floor for weddings. The size and scale of the parsonage, as well as the level of architectural finish and the presence of designated service space, demonstrate the congregation's commitment to supporting

---

<sup>8</sup>J. Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware: 1609-1888 (Philadelphia: L. J. Richards and Company, 1888), 913.

<sup>9</sup>Every Evening, (Wilmington, DE, December 11, 1893), 1.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page # 5 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

a full-time parson rather than relying on the circuit riders. The dwelling clearly met relatively high standards of living for the time period and would have been a factor in attracting a prominent minister.

The church congregation remained strong until the turn of the century, when attendance began to wane. By 1930, the church was inactive, although an occasional anniversary service was still held there.

In the 1960s a new congregation purchased the building. They restored the meetinghouse to its 1893 form, based on physical evidence in the building and the newspaper description from December 1893.<sup>10</sup>

In conclusion, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church is significant under criterion C for its architecture, which is representative of the type of rural meeting house built during the mid- to late-nineteenth century in Delaware. The style includes simple lines and a lack of religious ornamentation. These early meeting houses were not considered holy or sacred space and were used simultaneously for other community purposes, making religious ornament inappropriate. The embellishments and improvements to the church over time show the congregation's commitment to the Methodist Episcopal Church and its beliefs. The alterations in 1893 clearly demonstrate the shift from a more secular, multi-function, space to one with a solely religious purpose. The parsonage reflects an architectural style popular during the 1890s for private residences. Its original service space, level of architectural finish, and floor plan with formal receiving rooms are indicative of the increasing formalization of Methodism. The house remains virtually unchanged from its original state, except for the 1930s installation of plumbing.

---

<sup>10</sup>Every Evening, (Wilmington, DE, December 11, 1893), 1.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page # 6 Mount Pleasant M. E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

=====

Both buildings have a high level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Integrity is clear in these areas due to the careful restoration of the church to the 1893 remodeled form, as well as the virtually unchanged state of the 1894 parsonage. The resources retain integrity of location since neither of the principal buildings have been moved. Integrity of setting for the resource is provided by the wooded surroundings, the continued presence of Philadelphia Pike, and the survival of the cemetery and stone wall around the property. The combination of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship support integrity of feeling for the resource as well.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page # 1 Mt. Pleasant M.E. Church  
Property Name  
New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State



Bibliography

Delaware Church Records. Dover, DE: State Archives, 1838-1913, Vol. 27.

Every Evening. Wilmington, DE: December 11, 1893.

Hallman, E.C. The Garden of Methodism. Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948.

"Mt. Pleasant Methodist Sunday School Records." The Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, DE.

Pratt, Herbert T. "A History of Mount Pleasant Meetinghouse," presented at the Rededication of the Meetinghouse, October 9, 1966.

Pratt, Herbert T. "Mount Pleasant Cemetery." Vol. 2. Delaware Genealogical Society, April 1984.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Vol. II. Philadelphia, PA: L.J. Richards & Co., 1888, reprint 1990.

Property deed for the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, Book B, Volume 5, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, DE.

Weldin, Hanna R. and G.W. Weldin. "The Early History of Mt. Pleasant M.E. Church to March, 1917." Unpublished manuscript.

Williams, William Henry. The Garden of American Methodism: The Delmarva Peninsula, 1769-1820. Wilmington, DE: Peninsula Conference of the United Methodist Church, 1984.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	<u>10</u>	Page #	<u>1</u>	<u>Mount Pleasant M. E. Church</u>
				Property Name
				<u>New Castle County, Delaware</u>
				County and State

=====

Boundary Description

Located in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage sit on a 1.2 acre parcel of land located on the northwest side of Philadelphia Pike (Business U.S. Route 13). The property is situated 303 feet south of the Bellevue Parkway intersection (entrance to Bellevue Corporate Center) on Philadelphia Pike. The property is bounded on the northwest and southwest sides by Bellevue State Park, on the southeast by Philadelphia Pike, and on the northeast by Bellevue Corporate Center.

The nominated boundary for the Mount Pleasant Church and Parsonage is the boundary line of the legal parcel on which the buildings are located (parcel # 06-124.00-002), on the northwest, southwest, and northeast sides. On the southeast side of the property, the nominated boundary extends into the DelDOT right-of-way area approximately twenty feet, to the edge of the existing curb. The nominated boundary is shown on the accompanying map marked "Site Plan."

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary includes the church, parsonage, stone wall, and cemetery. This is the land that has been historically associated with the church and cemetery. The property line for the legal parcel is defined roughly by the outer edge of the historic stone wall that surrounds the property. The southeastern side of the stone wall closest to Philadelphia Pike forms the boundary with DelDOT and defines the right-of-way. Although the church and parsonage have historically been located close to the Philadelphia Pike, both the setting and the stone wall would be jeopardized if the nominated boundary line were drawn at the edge of the stone wall. In order to protect the historic resources and their setting, the nominated boundary is drawn to include part of the existing right-of-way as indicated above and on the site plan.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage (CRS #N-1209)  
1009 Philadelphia Pike  
Brandywine Hundred  
Wilmington vicinity  
New Castle County, Delaware

Photographer: Rebecca Siders

Date of Photographs: March 1997

Location of original negatives: Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware

- 1 Environmental view of the southeast and northeast elevations of the church and the parsonage, looking west
- 2 Environmental view of the southwest elevations of the parsonage and church, looking northeast
- 3 View of the southeast and northeast elevations of the church looking west
- 4 View of the southeast elevation of the church looking northwest
- 5 View of the northwest and southwest elevations of the church looking east
- 6 Interior of church: view of the entrance door looking southeast
- 7 Interior of church: view towards the chancel looking northwest
- 8 Interior of church: view of the southeast and northeast walls looking east
- 9 View of the southeast and northeast elevations of the parsonage looking west
- 10 View of the northeast elevation of the parsonage looking southwest
- 11 View of the northwest and southwest elevations of the parsonage looking east
- 12 First floor interior of parsonage: view of the bay window in the northeast wall in the east room looking north
- 13 First floor interior of parsonage: view of the pocket doors in the south room looking northwest
- 14 First floor interior of parsonage: view of stairwell and south room looking southeast from the central room
- 15 First floor interior of parsonage: view of cabinet on the northwest wall of the kitchen looking north
- 16 First floor interior of parsonage: detail of newel and stairwell looking north
- 17 Second floor interior of parsonage: view of the stairwell and front door looking southeast
- 18 Second floor interior of parsonage: view of the bay window in the northeast wall in the east room looking north
- 19 Second floor interior of parsonage: view of the southeast and southwest walls in the south room looking south
- 20 Second floor interior of parsonage: detail of bulls eye molding on door surround
- 21 Third floor interior of parsonage: view of the access hatch to the attic of the kitchen ell, looking northwest
- 22 Third floor interior of parsonage: view of southwest wall looking southwest

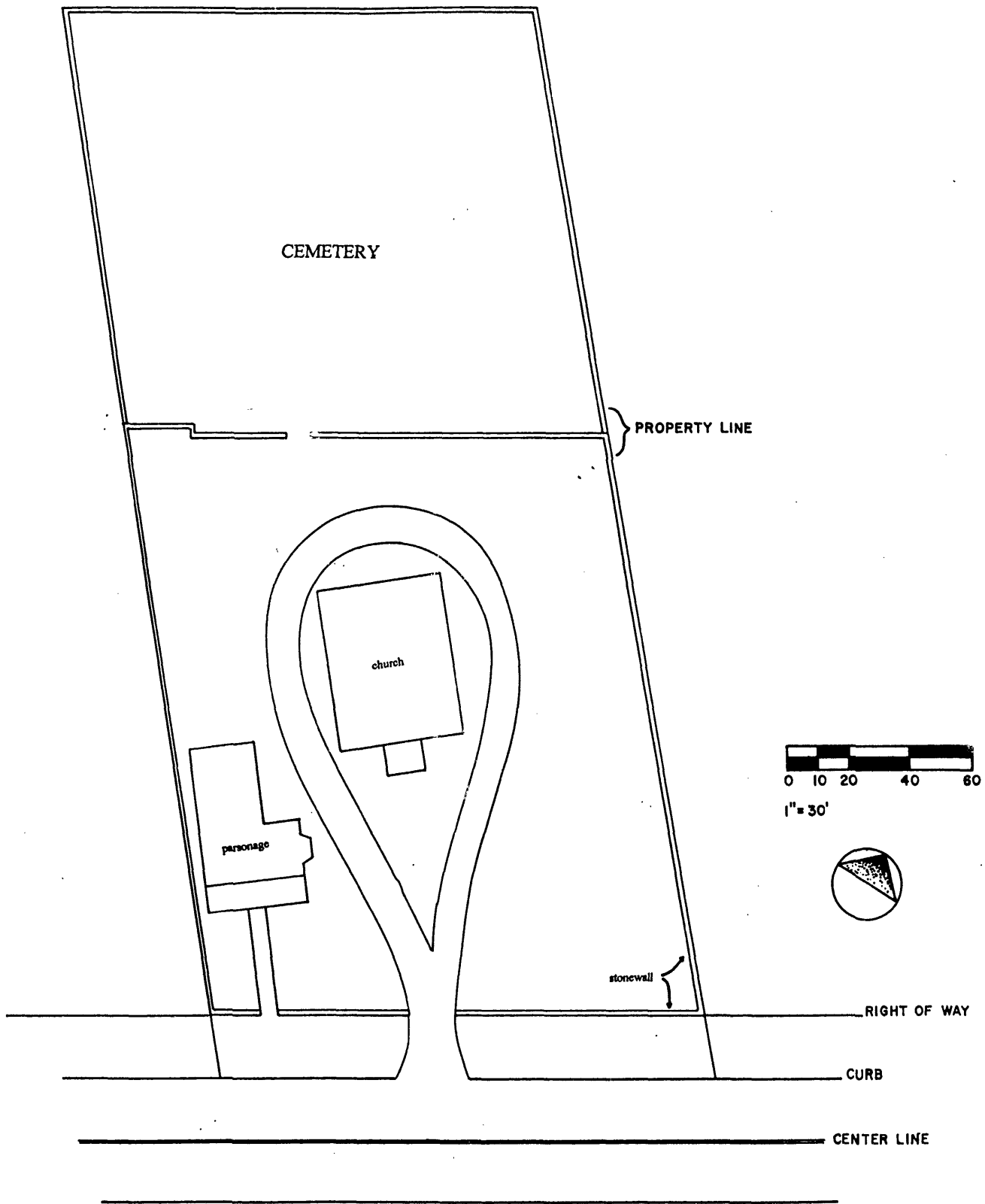
Photographer: David Ames

Date of Photographs: June 1997

Location of original negatives: Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware

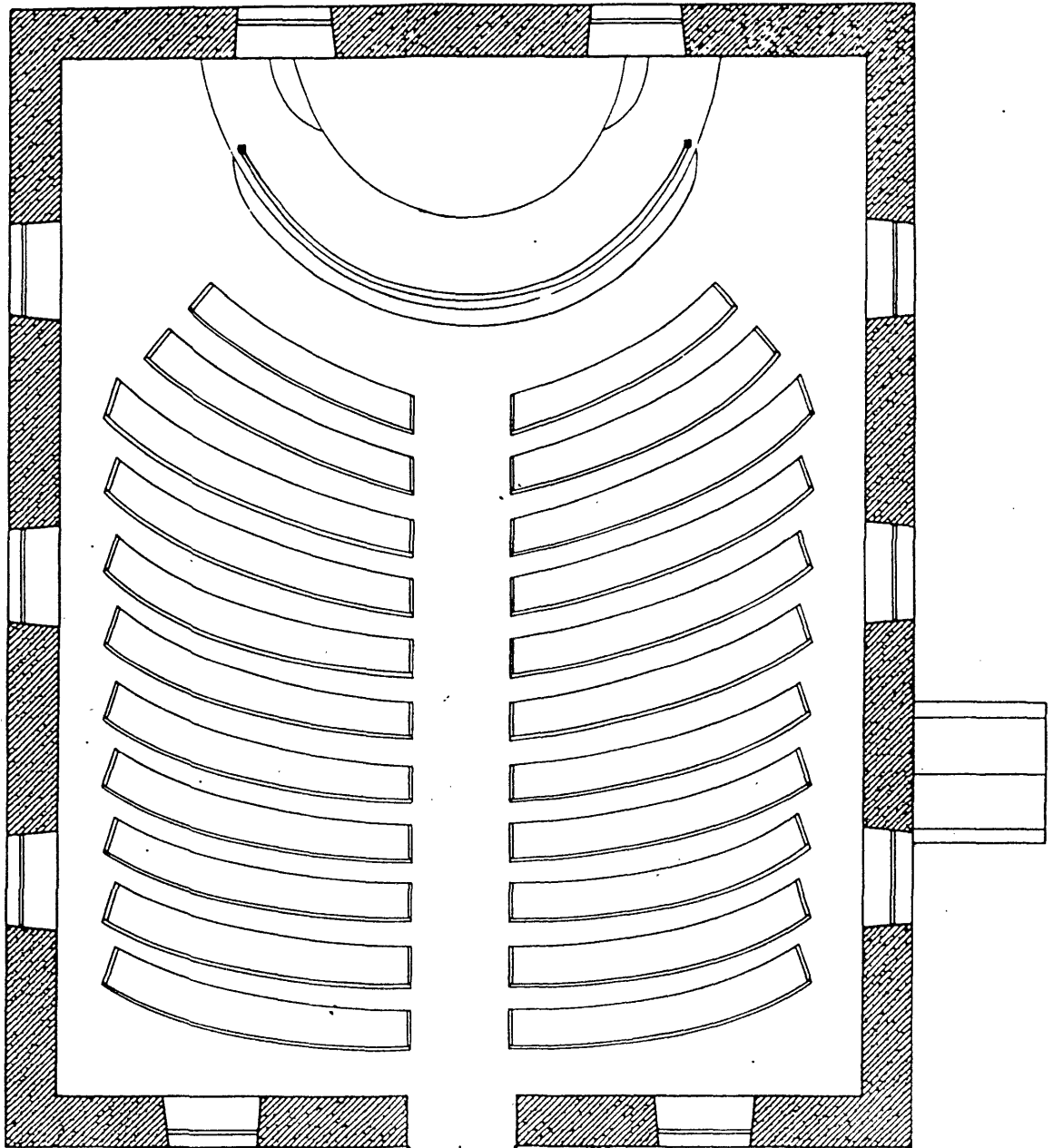
- 23 View of cemetery, stone wall, and church looking east
- 24 Detail view of gravestones in cemetery, looking southwest



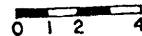


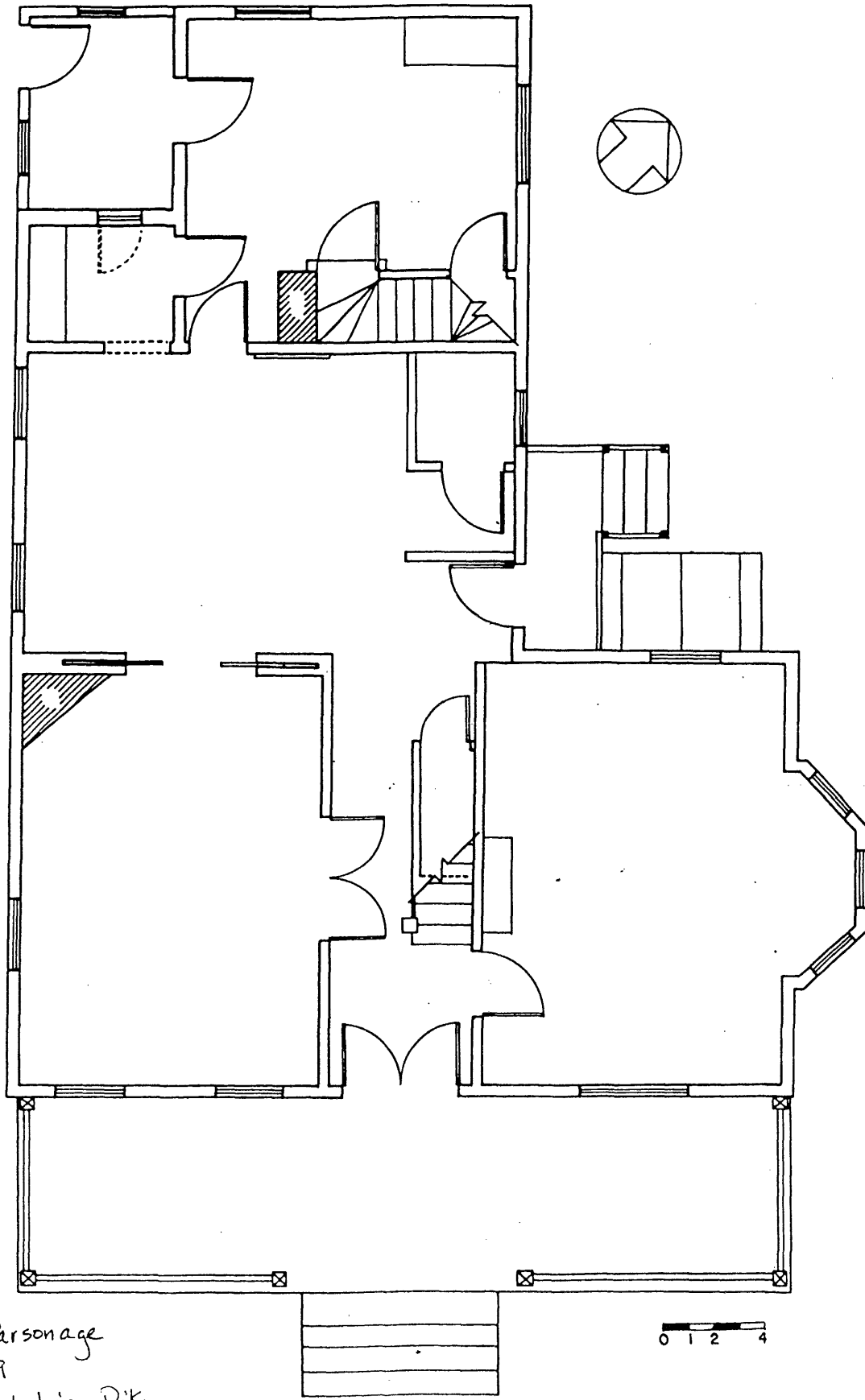
Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage  
 CRS # N-1209  
 1009 Philadelphia Pike  
 Claymont vicinity  
 Brandywine Hundred  
 New Castle County, Delaware

Site plan showing National Register boundary and DelDOT right-of-way



Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church  
 CRS # N-1209  
 1009 Philadelphia Pike  
 Brandywine Hundred  
 New Castle County  
 Delaware  
 First floor plan





Mt. Pleasant Parsonage  
CRS # N-1209  
1009 Philadelphia Pike  
Brandywine Hundred  
New Castle County  
Delaware  
First floor plan