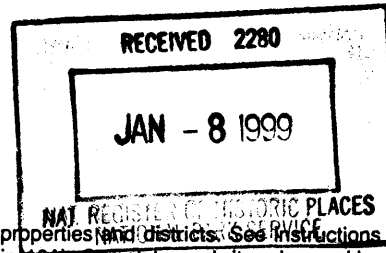


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



84

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 10A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, 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 Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Clarksburg United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 512 County Route 524 (Stagecoach Road) N/A not for publication

city or town Millstone Township vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Monmouth code 025 zip code 08510

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 12/23/98
Signature of certifying official/Title

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
2-5-99

Clarksburg United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Monmouth County, NJ
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Funerary/Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/Cemetery

Vacant/Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Fieldstone

walls Clapboard

roof Cedar Shake

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Clarksburg United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Monmouth County, NJ
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1845-1892

Significant Dates

1845

1854

1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gravatt, Thomas (Contractor)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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:

Millstone Township Historian

Clarksburg United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Monmouth County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property .50

Roosevelt, NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	5 4 6 6 9 0	4 4 4 8 9 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Doreen Polhemus, Township Historian

organization Millstone Township Municipality date June 1998

street & number 33 Clarksburg Road telephone 609-259-9567

city or town Clarksburg state NJ zip code 08510

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 Millstone Township

street & number P.O. Box 240 telephone 732-446-4249

city or town Perrineville state NJ zip code 08535

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 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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Clarksburg United Methodist Church was constructed in 1845 on the old Shrewsbury Road, known today as Route 524 or Stagecoach Road in the village of Clarksburg, one of two sections of Millstone Township, located in Monmouth County, NJ.¹ With the exception of up-to-date heating and lighting, the building has retained its mid-nineteenth century simplicity. It has been carefully preserved to reflect its mid-nineteenth century appearance (photograph 1).

The church is a frame building, which rests on a stone foundation. The plan is rectangular, modified slightly by a bell tower which projects in the front, while a rectangular opposite projection flanked by two storage rooms in the rear. The nave is the principal element, occupying one tall story under a gable roof. The room contains a thirty-three foot by fifty-seven foot nave illuminated with three windows on each side.

The present structure of the Clarksburg Methodist Church has experienced few alterations since its original construction in 1845.² It was built from oak trees felled from local woods; the giant trunks of these trees that frame the church are still visible from the attic, entrance located in the bell tower. The one and one-half-story structure rests on a field stone foundation, which is thinly covered with a cement veneer. The exterior wall fabric is clapboard, which has been painted white from the inception of the church, to enhance the delicately applied molding on the facade.

The original porch from 1845 was removed, along with the original paired plank doors in 1892. The remnants of the original entrance doorways are still visible slightly through the plaster walls. According to the local historian of that time, grandson of the founder of the church, Edward G. Fountain, these alterations made way for the present bell tower (illustration 2). The bell was cast by McShane Foundry in Baltimore Maryland in 1892, according to the inscription on the bell, and was donated by Mrs. Charles Allen in honor of her husband (a notable businessman and freeholder in the village).³ The louvered bell tower bears a steep pyramidal roof accentuated by flared eaves, cooper trim and, at its crest, by an ornamental weather vane. The shape of the stack has been altered, reason unknown, in the late 1920's from its original construction.

Above the arched double-leaf-panel entry doors is a square granite stone bearing the inscription "Clarksburg 1845 M.E. Church" which would have been incorporated with the tower construction. An additional distinguishing feature of the entry is noted in its semi-circular transom, which matches the round-headed windows installed on each side of the vestibule. (Photograph 4)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 2

Located at the rear of the church is a batten exit and attic door. The exit passageway is located in one of two bookend extensions added to the original building in 1854.⁴ One of these two rooms was a library, while the corresponding room served as a classroom. Ann Bowman, daughter of the Reverend Bowman, founder of the Clarksburg Methodist Church was a school teacher and taught school in that room until she moved to a schoolhouse built on a parcel of land (furnished by Rev. Bowman) adjacent to the church property. Each room approximately four foot by six foot, is amply lit by the original three over three windows. (Photograph 5). Additional fenestration consists of three bay by three bay stained glass windows. There are three sets of these windows on each side of the building. The original glass and shutters were replaced in the late 1920's. (Photograph 6). The roof of this edifice is a gable-style and is covered by cedar shakes. The new shakes were added in 1997 replacing the worn slate that was installed in the early 1900's over the original cedar covering. The roof supports a row of the traditional lightning rods. The only cellar of the building, with its entrance located on the east side, was dug out in the 1940's in order to accommodate a coal heating system. This area is a five-foot by twenty-eight foot space with a cement floor and brick-lined walls.

In the interior, the vestibule walls are lined with wainscot paneling. The double-hung swing-away doors open to a center-aisle nave (photograph 7). Two rows of wooden pews on each side of the center aisle fill the thirty-three by fifty-seven foot long room. Outstanding features of the room consist of a simply designed raised pulpit and an oak wrap-around communion rail. The pulpit is flanked by the two small rooms mentioned earlier. The inside panels of the doors to these rooms have retained their original pale lavender paint. A wide band of arched crown molding connects two columns erected on each side of the pulpit. A small platform stands to the right of the pulpit, erected in the 1920's to support a piano. The original wide floor boards are visible in these areas, while the rest of the original flooring has been covered with narrow pine that was installed about 1940. The wide molding around the stained glass windows is plain, in contrast to the beaded floor molding. The seventeen foot high plaster walls lead the eye upward to the focal point of this, other wise unadorned interior, Herringbone designed squares. They are beautifully arranged to form a unique ceiling. Each of the thirty-five squares runs counter in design to its neighbors. The blocks are contained in a raised molding and each corner is marked off with a rosette. The center of the ceiling has a diamond-shaped raised panel for the oil chandelier that once hung there. It is believed that the installation of the wooden ceiling belonged to the same time frame as the construction of the tower. It is noted that both the vestibule and the ceiling above the nave are lined with the same type of wood paneling.

Restoration work on the church building started in the spring of 1997. The worn slate roof was removed along with the original roof, which was a cedar shake. A new cedar roof was installed. In the summer of 1997 work began on the outside to restore the old clapboard and repaint. After extensive research, it was decided to remove the paint surface. Cracking, flaking, and alligating over the years couldn't provide a sound base for a new coat. An oil base solid stain was then applied. The original style fencing, has been installed and is in the process of being painted. In the fall, plans have been made to have the old damaged monuments in the cemetery repaired along with a few of the stained glass windows that have bowed over the years. These repairs have been possible by a grant furnished by the Monmouth County Historical commission. Work started in February of 1998 in the inside to restore the painted ceiling to its natural varnished finish. The most exciting find was red and green color on the heavy molding around the ceiling. This will enhance the ceiling once again. The funding for this project is being supported by Millstone Township.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 3

Returning to the exterior of the church; the total church property contains less than an acre. Except for a tiny front yard, the land surrounding the church is totally occupied by the cemetery.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAVEYARD (CONTRIBUTING SITE)

The graveyard encompasses all of the land except for the church structure and a small lawn. Markers at the gravesites are still legible and collectively form an archive in stone of the name's of local families. The oldest gravestone was placed in 1846, the most recent was added in 1995.

The east side and the rear of the property are bound by wire fencing. The west side and the front are bordered by a recently installed old style picket fence.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 4

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clarksburg Methodist Church on Stagecoach Road (Route 524) in Millstone Township, New Jersey is historically significant as a well-preserved and little altered example of a mid-nineteenth century small rural Protestant church. The unadorned rural design is based on a center aisle plan. The original church structure was constructed in 1845, with two small rooms added at the rear almost immediately. In 1892 a front porch was removed, and a bell tower was installed. These few alterations, as well as current restoration to the exterior and interior of the building are totally compatible with the original structure. The church has been minimally modernized, and as such, has retained to a great extent its mid-nineteenth century fabric. This Methodist Church is the sole survivor in Monmouth County of attempts at modernization. It is today fundamentally what it was architecturally in 1845. Moreover, it enjoys the distinction of being the second oldest surviving Methodist Church in Monmouth County; (the oldest structure is located in Long Branch).⁵

This church was part of the original Methodist circuit riders' route in Monmouth County, which also included the Imlaystown church, which was built in 1866 and the Emleys Hill church which was built in 1790. This building burned and was replaced in 1807. It later was torn down and replaced with a building identical to the Clarksburg church in 1855. (Photograph 8). Both Imlaystown and Emleys Hill churches are located in Upper Freehold, New Jersey.

According to church records, Methodism in Clarksburg received its strong start from a man named David Bowman. Mr. Bowman coming from Crosswicks, New Jersey, twenty miles from the village of Clarksburg, brought his skill in business and his strong faith to the community. Prior to 1832 the only other churches in the area, were a Presbyterian Church located in Perrineville, and a Baptist church in Upper Freehold, both outside the village. This local preacher quickly formed a class, securing services from other preachers. This class met in Mr. Bowman's home or other neighboring homes near by. The class grew and became a society, which was then the charge of the Crosswicks circuit. The society continued to meet in neighboring homes, until 1843 when it was decided to erect a house of worship. A small band of believers numbering fifteen to twenty dedicated their efforts in this project. Mr. Bowman sold to the trustees a plot of land for \$50.00 that was next to his general store, for the erection of a house of worship. Upon purchasing the land, the trustees hired carpenter Thomas Gravatt to accomplish the task. Having completed his work just short of one year's time, the church building was dedicated on November 1, 1845.⁶

This church from its conception was Methodist in name only. The people of this village took pride in opening the doors for all denominations. It played a very important part in the spiritual growth of this township. One hundred and fifty-two years later, the current community still prides itself on the beauty of this monument, in the still small hamlet called Clarksburg. Declining membership and economics forced the closure of this once vibrant building. The remaining members merged with the Emleys Hill church in Upper Freehold. After nine years of vacancy the decision to take down this antique structure was inevitable. Only the commitment from the townspeople and surrounding neighbors wouldn't let it die. A rally of support made it possible to restore it to its original beauty. Once again it will be put in to service for the community.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 5

Historic significance to the property is a graveyard containing the names of many citizens who were notable in the nineteenth century Millstone Township. The Clarksburg Church is the second oldest Methodist Church in Monmouth County and meets National Register criterion C for architecture because it is an outstanding example of the pre-civil war vernacular design.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CLARKSBURG METHODIST CHURCH

The Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church is Monmouth County's second oldest. It remains surrounded by virtually the same rural atmosphere that it enjoyed in the mid 1800's. Clarksburg is one of two sections of Millstone Township. Millstone, which dates back to the days of the Lenni Lenape Indians, is duly proud of its past. The Clarksburg church opened its doors one-year after the founding of the Township. It joins the ranks of many homes and public building that have survived here from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Except for heating and electrical updates, the building remains untouched by modern conveniences. It's name was changed in 1968 to the Clarksburg United Methodist Church.⁷ The building and congregation played a continuing and important role in the shaping of early Millstone. The Clarksburg United Methodist Church is the oldest church building in the township and a proud and prominent landmark in the community.

The church building was abandoned in 1989. After standing vacant for nine years, it was determined that the building should be torn down. Concerned residents appreciative of its historic role and the integrity of its mid-nineteenth century rural architecture, united to raise funds to restore the church to its prime condition and appearance.⁸ The building has been restored with scrupulous attention to historical and architectural detail. In addition, the church has been donated to the Township of Millstone in December of 1997, under the direction of the Historical commission. Future plans are to use it as a local museum for the community.⁹

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GRAVEYARD (CONTRIBUTING SITE)

Soon after the completion of the construction of the church, the remainder of the land surrounding the church was designated as a cemetery. Its oldest plot is dated 1846 and is in the section located directly behind the church. The cemetery is no longer in use since the Township assumed ownership. The total property occupies .52 of an acre. The funerary ground is a significant contributing site on the property because of its archive of old burial stones, offering a veritable chronicle of Millstone Township's heritage, as well as that of surrounding areas.

One notable name found in the church's burial site is that of David Bowman, founding father of the church and a local preacher. Active in the community, David Bowman owned the town tannery and general store, served as the first postmaster in the village, and functioned as superintendent of the school, which is still standing.¹⁰ Other influential families buried there include: Claytons, Debows, Eldridges, Elys, Fountains, Gravatts, Longsreets, Perrines, Thompsons, and Waltons.¹¹

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 6

ENDNOTES:

1. Mount, Jean E. *The History of the Township of Millstone* pertaining to Shrewsbury Road, p 35.
2. *Property deed to Methodist trustees by David Bowman*, August 21, 1845, recorded in deed book 75, p. 254
3. Ellis, Franklin *History Of Monmouth County*, biography of Charles Allen, p. 2664
4. *Diary of Ann Bowman*, daughter of David Bowman, founder of the Clarksburg Episcopal Methodist church (now the Clarksburg United Methodist Church) Bowman file, Millstone Historical Commission.
5. *First Methodist Church of Long Branch, N.J.* Department of Environmental Protection, Officer of Historic Preservation. Historic site inventory number 1353-11.
6. *Newspaper article from Edmond G. Fountain*, grandson of David Bowman, Bowman file, Millstone Township Historical Commission
7. Steelman, Robert B. *What God has wrought* explanation of name change, Chapter 19, p. 281
8. Newspaper articles recording history of the Clarksburg United Methodist Church and the progress of restoration work; *Examiner*, April 17, September 18, November 20, 1997; *Asbury Park Press*, June 20, 1997; *Messenger Press*, May 8, September 11, October 23, 1997.
9. *Property deeded to the Township of Millstone*, deed date December 12, 1997 recorded in deed book 5682, p. 514.
10. *The story of the Methodist Circuit "Who's Who in Clarksburg"*, biography of David Bowman.
11. The history of founding family names can be found in Jean E. Mount's book *The History of the Township of Millstone* and in Doreen Polhemus's book *The History of a Methodist Circuit*. Both are listed in section 9 biographical references.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 7

MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bowman, Ann. "*Diary of Ann Bowman.*" 1852-1853 Millstone Township Historical Commission.

Ellis, Franklin. *The History of Monmouth County, New Jersey* 1885 Reprinted in 1974
The Shrewsbury Historical Society.

Mount, Jean E. *The History of the Township of Millstone.* Heidelberg Press, 1982.

Polhemus, Doreen. *The History of a Methodist Circuit.* (Forthcoming) , Old Hights Print Shop, 1998.

Steelman, Robert B. Interview by Doreen Polhemus. June 20, 1990

Steelman, Robert B. *What God Has Wrought, A history of the Southern New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church.* Pennington: Southern New Jersey Annual Conference of Archives and History, 1986.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 8

UTM REFERENCES

18	546690	4448940
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As shown on the accompany tax map of Millstone Township, the Clarksburg United Methodist Church and graveyard occupy lot 34/13.02, encompassing approximately .52 of an acre.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATIONS

The nominated property includes the entire parcel of property, .52 of an acre, as originally sold by David Bowman to the Methodist trustees in 1844.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

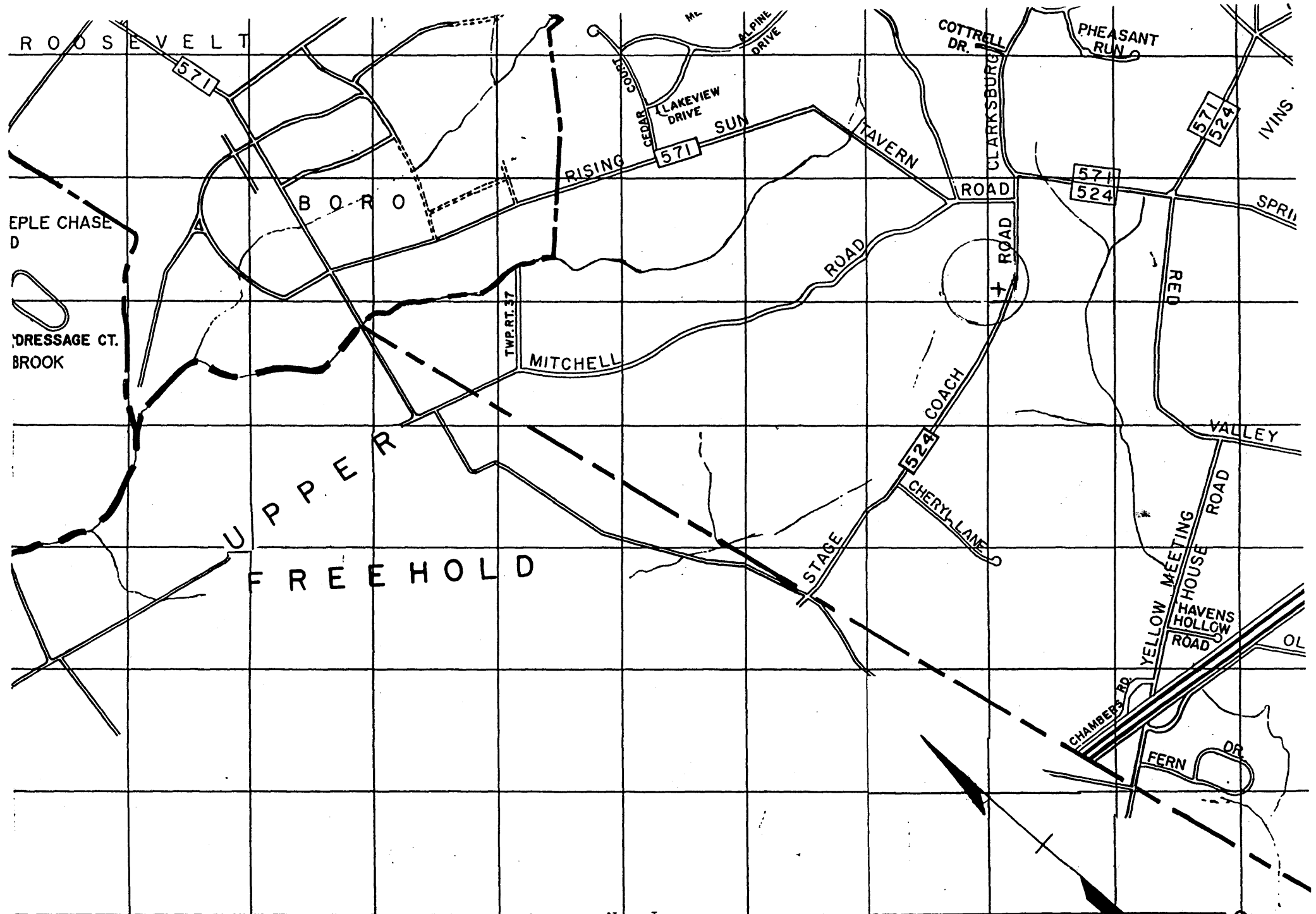
Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number photo Page 9

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following pertains to all photographs:

1. The Clarksburg United Methodist Church, 512 Stagecoach Road, Clarksburg, New Jersey
2. Monmouth County, New Jersey 08510
3. Gail Hunton, Photographer, Historian, Preservation Specialist
4. December, 1997
5. Negatives held by:
Monmouth County Park Systems, Acquisition and Design Department Newman Spring Road, Lincroft New Jersey 07738 (732) 842-4000, ext. 259
6. View of church from West Elevation.
 7. Photograph 1 of 7
6. Artist's rendering from West Elevation.
 7. Photo/illustration 2 of 7
6. View from North/Northwest Front Elevation.
 7. Photograph 3 of 7
6. View from Northwest Front Elevation.
 7. Photograph 4 of 7
6. View from South Back Elevation.
 7. Photograph 5 of 7
6. View from West Elevation.
 7. Photograph 6 of 7
6. View showing center nave plan from Northwest Elevation.
 7. Photograph 7 of 7
6. Photograph of Emleys Hill Church, Upper Freehold, N.J.
 7. Photograph 8 of 8



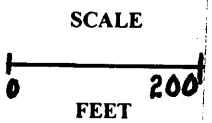
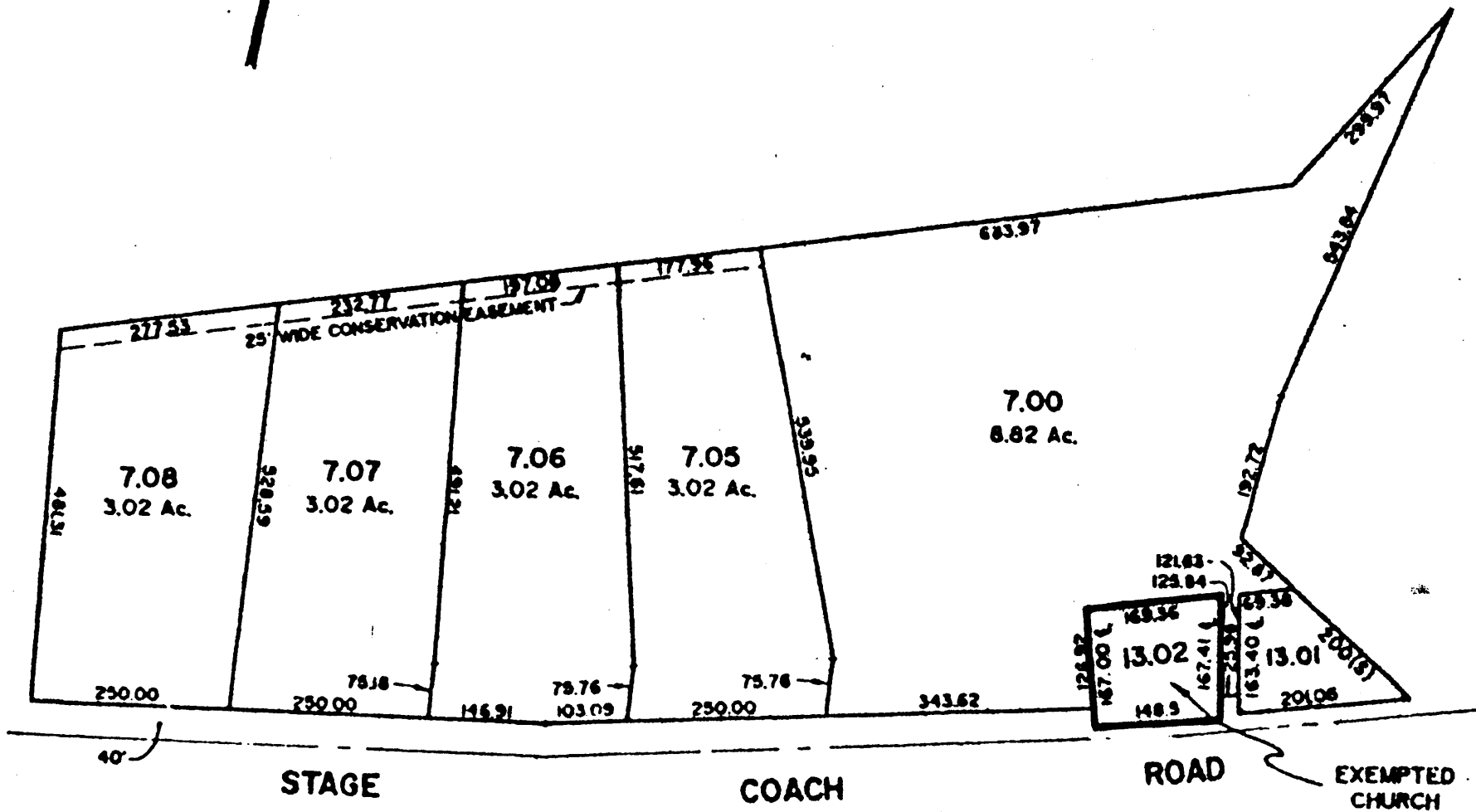
Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church, Monmouth County, New Jersey

TOWNSHIP OF MILLSTONE

ROAD MAP

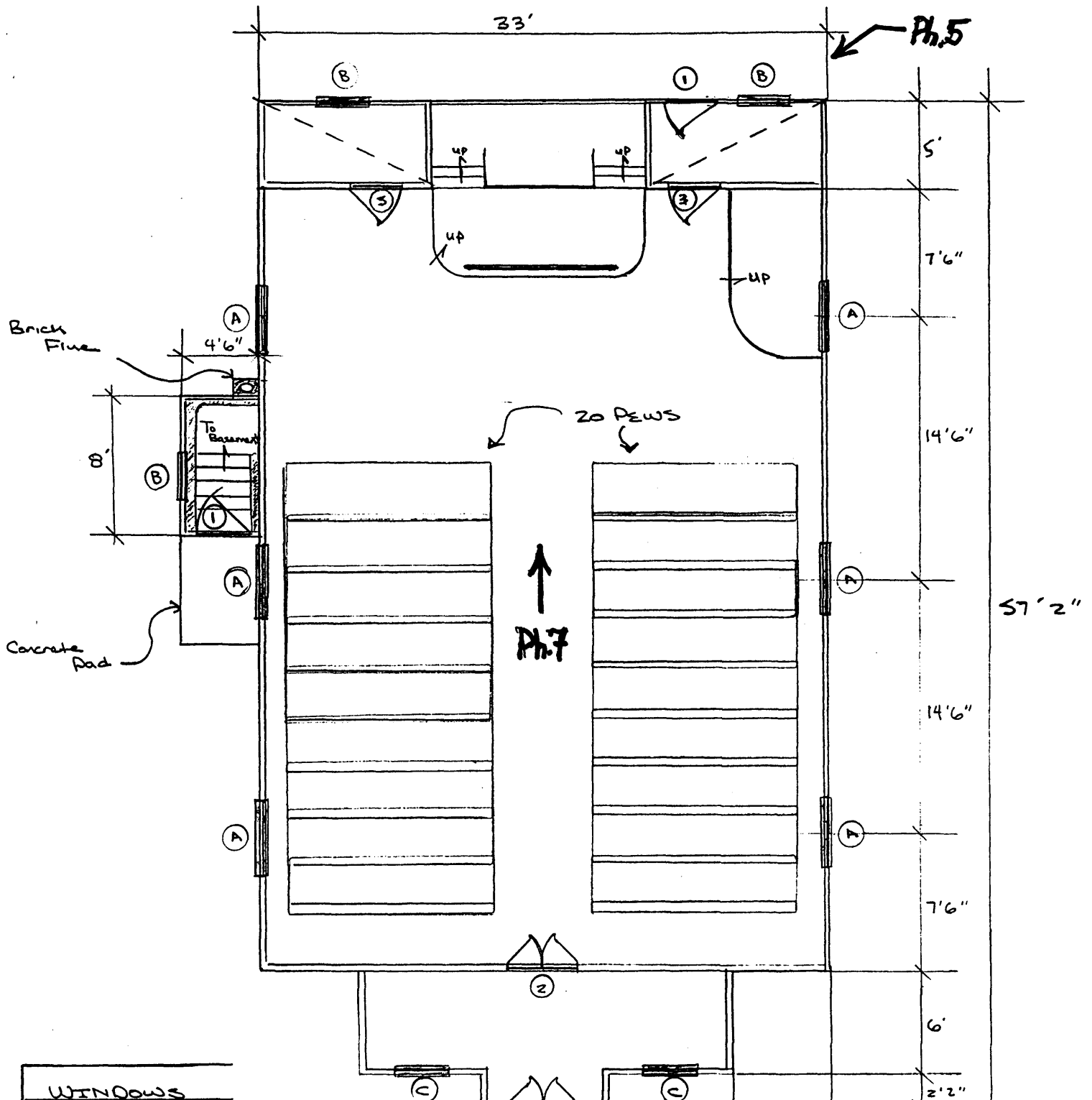
SCALE 1" = 2,000'

S H I



"INSET"
BLOCK 34, LOT 7
1" = 200'

NJ & National Registers of Historic Places
Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church
 Site Map
 NJ Monmouth County September 1998
 Millstone Township D. Polhemus



- WINDOWS**
- Ⓐ 46 x 80 Stainglass w/storms
 - Ⓑ 20 x 40 DBL. Hung
 - Ⓒ 30 x 36 Stainglass w/storms
- DOORS**
- ① 28 Ext. wood w/ 1/2 Glass
 - ② 26 DBL Ext wood
 - ③ 26 Int. wood

↑
Ph.3

↑
Ph.4
↑
Ph.8

Photo Locations

↑ Ph.1, Ph.6

CLARKSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MONMOUTH COUNTY N.J.