

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100004012

Date Listed:

Property Name: First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

County: Niagara

State: NY

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



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

In Section 5 of the National Register nomination form, site has been removed as a category of property. Only one category of property is to be checked and building is the appropriate category of property. The cemetery is still a contributing site to nomination under the number of contributing resources in the nomination part of Section 5.

The NEW YORK SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

4012



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 16A). 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 First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

other names/site number Old Stone Church

name of related multiple property listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 505 Cayuga Street, Outerlot 17 Cayuga & Outerlot 18 Seneca [] not for publication

city or town Lewiston [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Niagara code 063 zip code 14092

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 as 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.)

R. Daniel Mackay
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/22/2019
Date

DS/R
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 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) _____

for celebration
Signature of the Keeper

6/7/2019
date of action

Name of Property

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	
1	0	buildings
1	-	sites
-	-	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

RELIGION/religious facility (church)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

RELIGION/religious facility (church)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cemetery: no style
 Church: LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
 Greek Revival, Gothic Revival,
 Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone; concrete

walls Stucco, brick, concrete

roof Asphalt shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

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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 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 that 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 boxes that apply.)

- 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

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):

- 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 Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1809 – 1951 (cemetery)

1830 – 1965 (church)

Significant Dates:

1809, 1830, 1840, 1844, 1875, 1882, 1906,

1939, 1951, 1953, 1965

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

1830 church: William Murray, architect; Robert Nichols, stone mason; Nathan Parker, superintendent of construction/1953 addition: Paul Harback, architect; C.C. Bremer & Co., contractor1965 addition: Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackelford & Fitzgerald; and, Highland and Highland architectural firms; Virtuoso Building Co., Inc., contractor

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.64 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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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 Karen A. Kennedy, Director of Architectural History and Joseph Duggan, Associate Architectural Historian

[Edited by Kathleen LaFrank & Jennifer Walkowski, NYSHPO]

organization Preservation Studios, LLC date 2/5/2018

street & number 170 Florida St telephone 716-725-6410

city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14208

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

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.*)

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, D.C. 205

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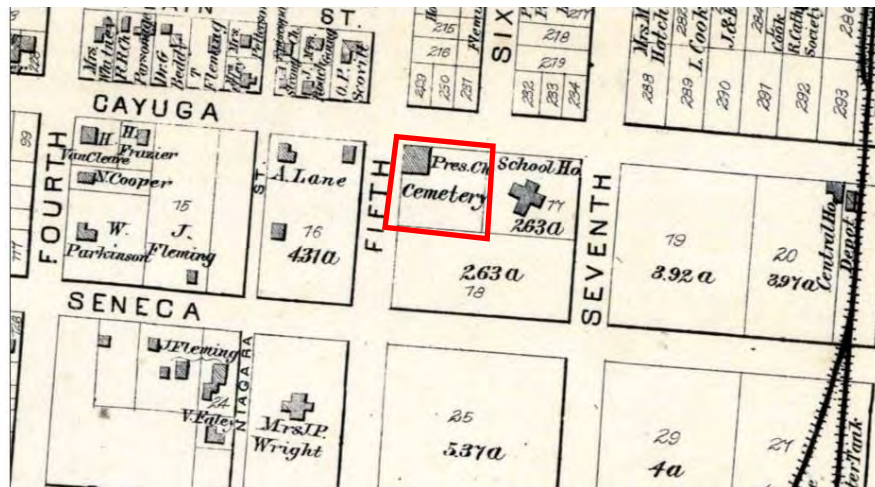
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Narrative Description of Property

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery are located adjacent to each other in the village of Lewiston, Niagara County, New York. The two properties are located in the middle of the village, two blocks south of Center Street, the major west-east thoroughfare in Lewiston, and a half mile east of the Niagara River. The church and cemetery are bordered by Cayuga Street to the north, South Fifth Street to the west, South Seventh Street to the east and Seneca Street to the south. Surrounding the church and cemetery is a largely residential neighborhood, containing mostly individual freestanding single family houses that date to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The church and cemetery occupy separate parcels and have never been directly associated through common ownership; however, each is individually significant, and both have strong associations with the settlement and development of the village. Many of those interred in the cemetery were members of the church, and the two resources have shared a symbiotic visual, landscape association since Lewiston's earliest era. The church parcel contains the church and a parking lot. The cemetery occupies two other parcels and wraps around the south and east sides of the church. The boundary of each resource was drawn to include the land historically and currently associated with it.

Lewiston Village Cemetery

The cemetery occupies a two-and-a-half-acre parcel of land in the area defined above. The land was informally identified as a burial ground in the early nineteenth century, with the oldest documented burial being William Armory who was buried in a crypt on September 2, 1809.¹ The original cemetery extends seventy-five yards south from the property line bordering Cayuga Street, encompassing a rectilinear field of about an acre and a quarter in size as shown on the 1875 map below.



1875 Map of Lewiston

¹ Alan C. Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery, 1801-1997*, 1.

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The second and final expansion in 1879 extended its southern boundary an additional seventy-five yards to the property line along Seneca Street for a total size of about two and a half acres as shown in the 1908 map of Lewiston below.



1908 Map of Lewiston

The nominated site slopes to the south, down to Seneca Street. There are mature trees grouped along the southern end of the cemetery, with coniferous trees at the center, and oak trees at the northern end. White oaks are at north and south ends, although the southern trees are much older. The central north-south axis of the plan corresponds to a single gravel pathway that extends between Cayuga and Seneca Street. At the center of the pathway, there is a remnant of a stone wall on the west side. The burial plots are oriented east-west and are laid in a rectilinear fashion. Overall, the cemetery does not have a single legible plan; rather, its parallel rows appear to have been laid out on an ad hoc basis. The development of the cemetery is shown in the maps listed above; the oldest section is to the north. From there the cemetery expanded to the south in 1879 down to Seneca Street; this section became known as Oakwood Cemetery. Early to late twentieth-century burials took place in the southern section of the cemetery near Seneca Street. The entire cemetery was built on land owned by New York State. The oldest section of the cemetery was deeded to the village by the state in 1840. The newer section which encompassed the 1879 expansion, was deeded to the village for the cost of one dollar in 1951.²

Grave markers include a full range of popular types from throughout the cemetery's nearly two-hundred-year history. The earliest ones are thin, upright slabs of white marble. There are also numerous obelisks and tall, four-sided block monuments as well as some tall thin granite slabs with low peaked tops. The Potter's Field

² Niagara County, NY, "Deed to the Cemetery, 1840." Village of Lewiston Clerk's Office; Village of Lewiston, Deed, Liber 1054, Page 518, June 29, 1951.

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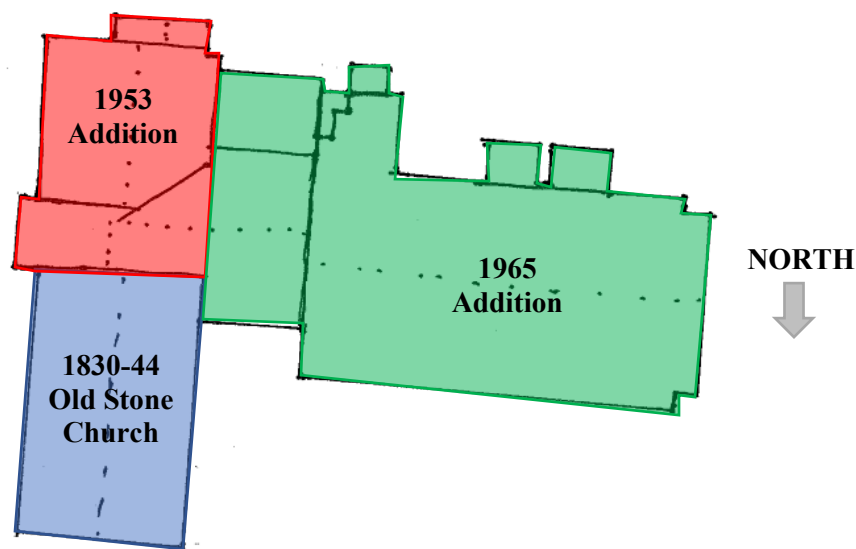
First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

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section of the cemetery has small raised-stone slant markers for early twentieth century internments but is devoid of markers dating to earlier burials. Other early twentieth century markers include a few bolster style (cylinder on base) headstones; later twentieth century markers are simpler stone die on base headstones.

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston



Exterior

The First Presbyterian Church was constructed in three major building periods: an original one-story, three-bay-wide by three-bay-deep stone building built ca. 1830-1835 (tower added 1844); a large 1953 wood-frame addition to the south that added a chancel and a five-bay deep parish hall; and a substantial pavilion to the west added in 1965. The latter is of steel frame construction and with brick-faced concrete block and painted concrete block walls.

The original section of the nineteenth century church has a foundation and walls of locally quarried stone (later coated with white painted stucco) and an asphalt shingle roof. The 1830-1844 church building is rectangular in form, three bays wide by three bays deep, with a front gable roof. The most prominent exterior feature of the building is its broad, pedimented tetrastyle entry portico and centrally placed steeple with a short, octagonal spire; the latter two features were added in 1844. The church building features a wide frieze that wraps around the building and is integrated into the front pediment as an entablature. The 1953 addition, which added a chancel and extended the building to the south, is also rectangular in form and features a front gable roof. Although it is of wood frame construction, it features a similar exterior stucco coating. The final addition (1965), a large, double-height side-gable pavilion to the west, is of steel frame construction with brick-faced

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concrete block and painted concrete block walls. This mid-century modern addition stylistically complements the original church with the integration and interplay of classical motifs in both the historic and modern sections.

The façade of the nineteenth century church faces north onto Cayuga Street, is set close to the sidewalk, and is sited on a raised grass-covered terrace faced in stone. This front-gabled symmetrical building features a full-width front entry portico that rises one-story in height with four fluted Doric columns. Two sets of stone steps lead to two entries, each with a pair of six-paneled doors with paired rectangular windows, all in casings set into the surface of the wall. Above each entry is a lancet arched window with intersecting tracery. The pediment features a molded, raking cornice and an entablature with an Adamesque flourish. Rising from the roofline behind the pediment is a square tower clad in vertical board. From the tower rises an octagonal wood belfry with a conical metal spire with finial. Louvers around the perimeter of the belfry are interspersed with both fluted and plain pilasters.

Side elevations of the nineteenth century church are symmetrical with three bays on each elevation that feature tall, lancet arch windows with intersecting tracery on the first floor and contain a wide frieze at the eaves. The east elevation has a non-historic stuccoed chimney between the north and center bays. The west elevation reveals four recessed one-over-one sash windows at the basement level that intersect a lower section of the foundation that has been covered in concrete stucco. The south elevation of the nineteenth century church is obscured by the later additions.

The 1953 addition consists of two double-height rectangular volumes with a stair tower off-set to the west at the rear. This addition is connected to the south elevation of the nineteenth century church. On its east elevation, the front gable roof steps up and projects out by one-bay on the northernmost section and then back and down to the south in conformance with the slope of the property. It rests on a poured concrete foundation and is clad in stucco on the base with an asphalt shingle roof. Windows are of wood and six-over-six sash. The smaller northern section contains vertical board in the gable and a plain frieze interrupted by a second story window. These materials mirror those on the nineteenth century church tower; the renovation of the tower was probably done at the same time. The gables in the southern section contain clapboard. Side elevations on the southern section are symmetrical in plan and contain a wide frieze interrupted by three second floor bays on each elevation. All bays are recessed. The west elevation is partially obscured by a later addition; there is a small casement window visible on the first floor and a stuccoed chimney rises from the roofline. A six-panel entry door to the stair tower is also located on the west elevation. The rear elevation has a pair of two-panel wood doors at the basement level. This addition includes offices, classroom, kitchen and bathrooms on the first floor and chancel, sacristy, office, music room and Sunday School on the second floor.

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The 1965 steel frame addition faces north onto Cayuga Street and is set back from the sidewalk on a westward sloping lawn with shrubbery and small trees. It is composed of two double-height volumes; both reflect rectangular massing, are side-gable in form, have asphalt roofs and poured concrete foundations. The smaller of the two volumes is connected to the west walls of the nineteenth century church and the 1953 addition. It is clad in light-brown brick laid in a running bond over concrete block. The front (north) elevation of this section is austere and devoid of ornament; it is symmetrical in form with twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second. The rear (south) elevation is more ornate and is asymmetrical in form. A paved walkway and concrete stairs lead from the parking lot to a glazed vestibule to the west. The vestibule contains paired entry doors; above is a row of five tall multi-paned windows beneath a steeply sloped roof. To the west, a series of eight bays set in wood frame on the lower and upper portions of the wall are divided by horizontal siding and are flanked by full-height fluted stone pilasters. Lower bays contain single-pane wood windows and upper bays have single-pane wood windows with transoms. Above the wall is a balcony with an entrance to the second floor and two sets of eight-over-eight sash wood windows. This section of the addition includes an entry hall and social room on the first floor and a recreation room and balcony on the second floor.

The larger section of this addition is sited to the west and contains the new sanctuary. It is clad in light brown brick laid in a running bond over concrete block on the front (north elevation). This elevation features a brick chimney rising from the roofline, a glazed entry beneath a broad stone segmental arch and four tall multi-paned wood windows with recessed panels, framed by fluted stone pilasters. The cornice is defined by brick dentils above a narrow band of stretchers that is interrupted by the four tall bays. Here, the land slopes noticeably to the west revealing a full floor basement clad in rough-cut stone.

The west elevation features a towering side-gable roof and a raised basement clad in rough cut stone with six-over-six sash wood windows. Above the basement is a vertical band of stone that wraps around the building to the south. The remainder of the elevation is clad entirely of brick over concrete block with no openings. Double-height fluted stone pilasters define the corners of this elevation.

The austere south elevation projects out slightly from the west and faces the church parking lot. It consists of a tall wide wall of white painted concrete block with a small paired casement window on the first floor to the east. A series of solar panels covers most of the roof on this elevation. In the center of the elevation are two wood frame front-gable structures: one enclosed entry way; and one shed. The enclosed entryway has an interior door that leads to a social hall, Primary rooms, bathroom, kitchen and storage space in the basement.

Interior

The interior of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston is characterized by separate congregating and meeting spaces and circulation relating to the nineteenth century church and its subsequent additions. The interior of the nineteenth century church is a simple rectangular, almost square, plan that is oriented north-south. Hallways on

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the first and second floors of the 1953 addition to the south lead to the 1965 addition to the west. Both additions have rectangular massing and serve various ancillary functions with the exception of the large sanctuary in the 1965 addition.

The interior plan of the nineteenth century church is relatively simple and reflects a Wren-Gibbs inspired “auditory” type of function. A full-width narthex is entered into from the two main entrances. Each entry contains a pair of six-panel wood doors; the center panels have leaded stained-glass windows. These wood doors appear to be from the early twentieth century and most likely do not date to the 1844 reconfiguration of the entry or the 1882 installation of stained-glass windows. It is likely that the stained glass was salvaged and repurposed in the current configuration. Above each of the entrances is a lancet arched window with intersecting tracery. Like other windows in the nineteenth century church, these have a floral design at the peak, bands of red and green stained glass outlining the edges and diamond patterned leading in the window. The narthex flows directly into the nave, which consists of a large open seating area filled with wood pews divided by a wide central aisle and narrow side aisles. The nave is a large rectangular volume with a deeply coved plaster cornice and a flat ceiling, clad in decorative painted tin. The white plaster walls have raised panel wainscot. The raised panel design is repeated on the pews as well as in the chancel, and was installed in conjunction with the later, 1965 addition.

At the front of the space, at the south end, is the chancel, expanding the original space into the addition made in 1953. Elevated podiums and raised panel knee walls flank the central altar and frame two doors to the east and west. The east door leads to a hallway with ancillary spaces and the west door leads to the private space of the sacristy. Three steps lead up to a raised altar entered beneath a segmental arch and sited below a barrel-vaulted ceiling. An Art Nouveau baptismal font is located to one side of the platform. This space contains a centrally placed pulpit in front of a raised panel knee wall with pews behind. A central alcove on the south wall of the chancel features a lancet arch stained-glass window with a broad wood surround. The pattern differs from the other windows in the sanctuary; it has multi-colored banding at the edges and a large repetitive diamond pattern in the center. The space is lit by modern brass chandeliers that were installed in conjunction with the 1965 addition and redecoration campaign.

From the chancel, the 1953 addition extends to the south and contains the sacristy, offices and an unfinished basement. A hallway in this section leads to the Parish Hall (ancillary spaces) to the south and the 1965 addition to the west. The larger section of the 1953 addition interior features a rectangular plan with modern stair at the beginning of a double-loaded corridor. The corridor runs north to south on each floor with an unfinished walk-out basement below. First floor spaces in this section include a large classroom, kitchen and two bathrooms. Second floor spaces include a large music room and Sunday School. The finishes in the 1953 additions consist of plaster walls and ceilings, paneled wood doors and wood windows in simple wood casings, all dating to the 1953 construction. Recent carpeting and vinyl flooring are in the rooms and circulation spaces. At the basement

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level, the walls and floors are concrete, and the wood rafter ceiling is painted white. Placed against the basement walls are historic gravestones that were displaced when the addition was built. A stair tower at the rear accesses each floor of the 1953 addition and also has a ground level exit door.

The double-height 1965 addition consists of two sections, both rectangular in massing and running east-west. This addition is accessed through first and second story hallways of the 1953 section of the church. On the first floor, a pair of six-panel doors opens up to the smaller section of this addition named "Heritage Hall." This section features a reception area to the north and social room and stairway to the south over a finished basement room used for storage. Finishes in this section consist of plaster walls, acoustical tile ceilings, paneled wood doors and wood trim, all dating to the 1965 construction. Recently laid carpeting and vinyl flooring are in the rooms and circulation spaces. On the second floor, a wood door leads to a recreation room with rear stairway access to the south. This section features a gabled roof with tongue and groove industrial wood ceiling and exposed rafters, unpainted concrete block on the east gable and a partially exposed masonry chimney projecting from the east wall into the roofline. Other finishes in this section include vinyl flooring, wood paneled walls and wood trim, all dating to the 1965 construction.

The larger section of the 1965 addition projects out and above the smaller section to the west. On the first floor, it is accessed through Heritage Hall, which transitions without interruption to the vestibule of the new sanctuary to the west. The vestibule runs north-south and is also accessed by exterior entrances with wood paneled doors on the same axis. The vestibule features a carpeted floor, barrel-vaulted ceiling and access to the sanctuary on its west wall. Here, three sets of six-panel wood doors lead into the sanctuary. The center doors feature central panels with stained-glass windows representing various religious symbols: doves, cruciform objects, the bible. The entry doors lead into a full-width narthex below the choir loft. The narthex flows directly into the nave, which consists of a large open seating area filled with four banks of pews divided by three aisles. The nave is a large, double-height rectangular volume with a vaulted coffered ceiling, coated in plaster. The north, south and east walls are of white-painted plaster above raised wood panel wainscot painted a pale blue-green. The raised panel design is repeated in the pale blue-green painted pews which are accented in natural finished wood. Four tall tinted multi-paned windows are interspersed with simple engaged columns on the north wall; the south wall mirrors the column configuration without any fenestration.

At the front of the space, to the west end, is the chancel. Elevated podiums and raised panel knee walls flank the altar. Additional seating is located between the knee walls and a balustrade with turned spindles that defines the entrance to the altar. Three steps lead up to the altar, which is recessed among tall white-painted raised panel wood walls and centered beneath the west gable. This space contains a centrally placed octagonal wood pulpit beneath dark paneled walls which are flanked by wood screens that cover some of the pipes for the church organ. The remaining pipes are exposed at the opposite (east) end of the space in the choir loft. The sanctuary is lit by large, multi-light brass Colonial Revival style chandeliers and recessed lighting in the ceiling. Carpeting

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covers the floors throughout the sanctuary space. At the rear (east) wall of the sanctuary, is the choir loft on the second floor. The choir loft is accessed via a stair to the south. It is defined by a simple raised panel wall topped by a brass rail. It houses the pipe organ console in the east gable end and has tiered seating for the choir members. A single recessed window allows exterior light to brighten the space. Finishes here mirror those in the sanctuary.

Beneath the sanctuary are ancillary spaces, including a social hall, primary rooms, bathroom, kitchen and storage space in the basement. This section is entered from the parking lot through double doors in the south wall of the basement. Finishes in this section consist of vinyl flooring, plaster walls, acoustical tile and acoustical plaster-work ceilings, wood doors and wood trim, all dating to the 1965 construction.

Overall, the original nineteenth century church and its subsequent additions have been well maintained by the congregation during their nearly one-hundred-ninety years of ownership. The church reflects the growth of the congregation and their needs for increasingly larger worship and meeting spaces in the building. The building, both on the exterior and interior, demonstrates the evolution of the church over more than a century of use and development.

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Statement of Significance:

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery are adjacent, individually significant resources that each have strong associations with the settlement and development of the village of Lewiston. While the two resources developed independently, many of those interred in the cemetery were members of the church, and the two resources have shared a symbiotic visual landscape association since Lewiston's earliest era. The Lewiston Village Cemetery is significant under criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement as the primary burial ground for the village of Lewiston from the settlement era until the mid-twentieth century. With nearly two thousand and five hundred internments over almost two centuries, Lewiston Village Cemetery documents the history of the village of Lewiston from the earliest European-American settlement to contemporary times. It provides valuable information about the area's early history and serves as the resting place for almost all of the settlement families, for numerous individuals who were involved in the development of the town, for many prominent persons and community leaders from later generations, and for military veterans from six wars, including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War the Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II. Lewiston began to develop in the late 1780s when settlers started to travel west from New England and Europe into New York State's frontier region. The village of Lewiston developed along the eastern side of the Niagara River and served as the main point of entry to the United States from Canada in the early 1800s.³ The town's first burial ground was established near the river crossing in the early 1800s on land later acquired by the village of Lewiston, and the earliest burial of record was William Armory in 1809. By 1812, when the burial ground came under the stewardship of the village of Lewiston, there were thirteen burials of record.⁴ During the next century, the cemetery expanded to the south with new sections laid out in 1879 and 1951.⁵ Today, the two-and-a-half acre cemetery spans a period of almost two centuries and features an intact collection of funerary art from throughout this long period. As the primary burial ground for the village, Lewiston Village Cemetery provides information about the origins, intermarriages, ethnicity and religious affiliations of its citizens as well as a record of the village of Lewiston. The period of significance begins in 1809 with the first recorded internment and ends in 1951 with the final expansion of the cemetery.

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston is significant under criterion C in the area of Architecture as a representative example of a typical Greek Revival style meetinghouse in the Wren-Gibbs tradition that was updated and expanded numerous times over a more than a century, embodying different eras of church

³ Judith Wellman, "Survey of Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism, and African American Life in Niagara Falls and Surrounding Area, 1820-1880, Historic Resource Survey Report," prepared for Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Area Commission, April 2012, 183.

⁴ Niagara County, New York, "Deed to the Cemetery, 1840," Village of Lewiston Clerk's Office. Also, Alan C. Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery, 1801-1997*, 14-85.

⁵ Alan C. Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery, 1801-1997*, Site plan; Niagara County, New York, "Deed to outer lot 17, 1951," Liber 1054, Pages 518-520, Village of Lewiston Clerk's Office.

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architecture to meet the changing needs of its congregation as it evolved from a pioneer era church building to a modern twentieth century facility while retaining an overall compatible design vocabulary based on the Neoclassical tradition. The original portion of the church was constructed in several stages between 1830 and 1844 and generally reflects the Wrens-Gibbs type church type rendered in the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles. Built of stone with stucco covering, this section of the First Presbyterian Church features many characteristics of the Wrens-Gibbs type church, including the pronounced pedimented front entry portico, centrally located tower on a front-gabled building, and a large open auditorium-style worship space. Late nineteenth century changes include the addition of stained-glass windows and other interior decorative changes; however, the general form and spatial divisions of the mid-nineteenth century church generally survive. The first large addition was added in 1953, which added a chancel and parish hall. Although wood frame rather than stone, the building was of a similar size and form and its exterior was covered in stucco to match the older church. The final addition was a large mid-century sanctuary and ancillary spaces added in 1965. This addition stylistically complements the earlier portions of the church with the integration and interplay of classical motifs in both the historic and modern sections and demonstrates the continuity of classical style within a modern context. At that time, the interior of the original section of the church was updated in a complementary Colonial Revival style aesthetic, using the same pews, raised paneled wall detail and Colonial Revival style light fixtures. William Murray provided the congregation with drawings for the nineteenth century church and subsequent additions were constructed to the designs of architect Paul H. Harbach in 1953 and the architectural firms of Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton & Fitzgerald, and Highland and Highland in 1965.

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston is also significant under criterion A in the area of Social History as the oldest religious building in the village of Lewiston and for its long and close association with the history and development of the village of Lewiston. Soon after the Lewiston Village Cemetery was created, a group of settlers formed a religious society under the leadership of the Reverend Miles Squier, a missionary from Buffalo. The Reverend Squier's religious society developed into the current Presbyterian congregation and in 1826 the group organized a building committee to erect the oldest section of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, which was built in 1830-1835 and remodeled in 1844. The church continued to serve the village of Lewiston throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the post-war period, the church expanded substantially, first to accommodate growth as a result of the "baby boom" and the subsequent shift of urban populations to suburbia, and later to accommodate a large number of new congregants moving into the area as a result of local industrial growth. The period of significance begins with the construction of the church in 1830 and ends with the final addition to the church in 1965.

History of Lewiston

The present day village of Lewiston, Niagara County, New York, has been a center of human habitation since the Tuscarora Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy established a village on the banks of the Niagara River in the

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seventeenth century.⁶ The Tuscarora village sat along one of the main Iroquois trade routes and the village was one of the most important transit points across the Niagara River and into present day Canada.⁷ European explorers from France first came to Lewiston in 1678 and for the next century the French and British vied for control over the Niagara frontier, building a series of trading posts and fortresses in and around Lewiston. These outposts were meant to control the portage route around Niagara Falls and by extension the valuable furs trapped and sold by Native Americans.⁸

After the United States of America won the Revolutionary War and gained independence from Great Britain, Lewiston and the Niagara frontier passed into American control. By 1788 American traders had set up outposts in Lewiston and settlers from New England and Europe started to move west into New York State's frontier region.⁹ Many of these incoming settlers purchased land from the Holland Land Company, a consortium of Dutch investors who bought most of western New York in 1792. In 1798, the Holland Land Company hired Joseph Ellicott to survey its land and Ellicott spent the next three years surveying and plotting out communities such as New Amsterdam (later Buffalo) for his Dutch clients.

While the Holland Land Company owned much of western New York, New York State retained control over the Mile Strip Reservation, a one-mile wide band of territory that ran the length of the Niagara River from Lake Ontario south to New Amsterdam/Buffalo. New York retained the strategic land for military uses and industrial functions, and fewer than 1,000 people lived on the territory.¹⁰ Though New York State controlled the land, state surveyor Simeon DeWitt requested that Joseph Ellicott survey the territory and select a site for a village on the reservation.¹¹ Ellicott selected the location of Lewiston and soon after Americans started to settle in the area.¹² The village was originally named "Lewis Town" in honor of the governor, Morgan Lewis, and a survey of streets and building lots was completed in 1805 by Simeon DeWitt. DeWitt laid out a large village, complete with a public green and cemetery, on Ellicott's selected site.¹³ Lewiston's current layout largely follows DeWitt's street grid; however, the sites that he proposed for public spaces, a cemetery and public green, did not develop as outlined in the plan. Instead, in 1810, the village petitioned the state legislature to divide the public green for building lots, a request that led to the first portions of the green being sold in 1815.¹⁴

⁶ William Pool, *History of Niagara County, New York* (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1897), 50

⁷ William Pool, ed., *Landmarks of Niagara County* (Syracuse: D. Mason & Company, 1897), 6.

⁸ Pool, *Landmarks of Niagara County*, 31.

⁹ Pool, *Landmarks of Niagara County*, 40.

¹⁰ Jennifer Walkowski, *Elmwood Historic District (West)*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, September 14, 2015, Section 8, Page 4.

¹¹ Pool, *Landmarks of Niagara County*, 42.

¹² Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 258.

¹³ Simeon DeWitt, "Plan of Lewiston," New York State Archives, State Engineer and Surveyor, Survey Maps of Lands in New York State, ca. 1711-1913, Map 8.

¹⁴ Historic Lewiston, New York "History of Lewiston," <http://historiclewiston.org/history/>.

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As for DeWitt's proposed cemetery, the current site of the Lewiston Village Cemetery was already in use as a burial ground prior to DeWitt's plan, which likely discouraged the use of that land for alternative purposes. Additionally, DeWitt showed the proposed cemetery east of Ninth Street, outside of the street grid. However, this plan was not compatible with development along Center Street, Porter Road and the extension of the Ridge Road [See maps in Section 11]. Instead villagers continued to use the existing cemetery for burials and used part of DeWitt's proposed cemetery lot to erect the Lewiston Academy, the community's main school building.¹⁵

During the early 1800s Lewiston served as the main port of entry to the United States from Canada and the village was heavily trafficked by settlers moving west into the Michigan and Illinois territories.¹⁶ The movement of people and goods across the Canadian border at Lewiston helped the village develop into a wealthy community and in 1805 one of Lewiston's largest business ventures, Porter, Barton, Company, formed.¹⁷ Augustus Porter and Benjamin Barton founded the company as a means of regulating the business transactions that took place by way of the-Niagara Portage, which served as a route around Niagara Falls and terminated in the village of Lewiston. Below the falls, the Niagara River cuts a deep gorge between Canada and the United States, preventing travelers from returning to the water at any point before Lewiston. From the village, travelers and goods could travel to Canada or move east by way of Lake Ontario, the Oswego Canal, and the St. Lawrence River, reaching destinations as far away as Europe.¹⁸ The Porter, Barton, and Company purchased and leased land along the Niagara River from the State of New York and designated landings for the transfer of goods between the United States and Canada.¹⁹ Other businesses opened along Centre Street, which became the village's main commercial strip, while farmers outside of the village center supported themselves by growing fruit and cereal grains such as barley.²⁰ By 1807 the village of Lewiston consisted of a half dozen log cabins and a few frame dwellings surrounded by small fields where the villagers grew corn and other vegetables. The village also contained a tavern, tannery, as well as warehouses and docks controlled by Porter, Barton, and Company making it one of the most well-established settlements on the Niagara Frontier. The village also had a relatively well-developed network of roads that connected it to distant communities like Canandaigua and regionally important locations like Fort Niagara.

The War of 1812 arrested Lewiston's growth as the Niagara frontier was a critical theater in the conflict. Lewiston served as the staging ground for American soldiers during their disastrous invasion of Canada, which

¹⁵ Pool, *Landmarks of Niagara County*, 295.

¹⁶ Judith Wellman, "Survey of Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism, and African American Life in Niagara Falls and Surrounding Area, 1820-1880, Historic Resource Survey Report," Prepared for Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Area Commission, April 2012, 183.

¹⁷ Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 251.

¹⁸ Wellman, "Survey of Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad," 16.

¹⁹ Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 303.

²⁰ Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 259.

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culminated with their defeat at the Battle of Queenston Heights on October 12, 1812.²¹ A year later, in December of 1813, British forces crossed the Niagara River and burned Lewiston, along with the nearby communities of Black Rock and Buffalo, to the ground. As a result of the British raid, Lewiston was abandoned, and the village remained uninhabited until April 1815.²²

After the War of 1812, tensions along the Niagara frontier settled and, because of its continued strategic location, Lewiston returned to its position of local prominence. The community quickly rebuilt and had a population of 869 people by 1820. In 1825 Lewiston's prominent role in transportation and trade along the Niagara frontier was drastically altered and reduced due to the completion of the Erie Canal, which cut a path across New York State and shifted the nexus of trade in the Niagara frontier to communities like Lockport and Buffalo, both of which developed into major industrial centers due to their proximity to the canal.²³ Rather than industry and trade, tourism came to dominate Lewiston's economy, and travelers from across the United States and around the world came to Lewiston and the nearby community of Niagara Falls to view the waterfalls. As early as 1816 daily carriages traveled from Buffalo or along the Ridge Road to Lewiston, filled with travelers eager to view Niagara Falls.²⁴ Hotels were erected in the village and ferry services were initiated to offer tourists unfettered views of the different waterfalls.²⁵ Many of these ferries also travelled to Canada, where a similar tourist industry developed. Tourism served as Lewiston's main business and because of this, the village had fewer than 1,000 residents until 1930.²⁶

The village of Lewiston experienced significant growth between 1930 and 1960, tripling its population, while the broader town of Lewiston grew from 3,420 residents in 1930 to 13,686 in 1960. Much of this growth occurred between 1950 and 1960 and can be attributed to the growing purchasing power of white middle-class Americans who left larger urban centers like Buffalo and Niagara Falls for the suburbs.²⁷ This trend occurred throughout Niagara County, and townships like Cambria, Lockport, and Wheatfield saw similar population growth in the 1950s and 1960s. With its historic village core, Lewiston was a popular destination for many of these newly minted suburbanites. In addition to the suburban atmosphere, Lewiston was located near the Niagara Power Project, which was constructed between 1957 and 1961 and provided employment to local

²¹ Daniel P. Glenn, "'Savage Barbarities and Petty Depredations': Supply Shortages and Military-Civilian Conflicts in the Niagara Theater, 1812-14," *New York History* 94, nos. 3-4 (Summer/Fall 2013): 182.

<http://0www.jstor.org.library.stlawu.edu/stable/pdf/newyorkhist.94.34.182.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A694754594073d768039c5e8fbab43ac0>.

²² Wellman, "Survey of Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad," 183.

²³ Wellman, "Survey of Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad," 183.

²⁴ Pool, *Landmarks of Niagara County*, 68.

²⁵ Wellman, "Survey of Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad," 184.

²⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States: Fifteenth Census, 1930* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1910), 324.

²⁷ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States: Eighteenth Census, 1960* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1960), 34-17.

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residents.²⁸ In addition to providing cheap electricity, the Niagara Power Project led to the development of transportation improvements, parks, and public recreation facilities that made the area even more attractive to suburbanites. New residents were also attracted to Lewiston by the opening of the Earl W. Brydges Artpark State Park, which gave artists spaces to create sculptures and land art projects and later offered a venue for musical performances. Currently, the village of Lewiston is a significant population center on the Niagara frontier and is well known for its historic downtown, nearby country club, and annual music and art festivals.

Lewiston Village Cemetery

The Lewiston Village Cemetery began as an unofficial burial ground for the deceased homesteaders of the early village and burials were purported to have occurred as early as 1801, preceding Simeon DeWitt's plan for the village, which designated land for a cemetery east of Ninth Street. The first identified burial was that of William Armory in 1809. The cemetery was under the stewardship of the village of Lewiston by 1812 and the oldest section of the cemetery to the north was conveyed to the village by the state of New York in 1840. Under the ownership of the village, the Lewiston Village Cemetery was the primary burial place for most early settlers, as well as numerous other important citizens in the village of Lewiston.

Many of the village's earliest graves are unmarked. Given the affordability and availability of lumber, families often favored wooden monuments as an alternative to stone for the earliest burials and monuments constructed prior to the War of 1812 did not survive the frequent raids on Lewiston. The smashing and burning of these monuments rendered the identification of many those interred in the pre-war period impossible. Nonetheless, the settlers who returned to Lewiston following the War of 1812 restored the cemetery, identifying and replacing a few of the destroyed monuments in the process.²⁹

The frequency of death associated with the hardships of settlement necessitated the designation of an official cemetery ground in Lewiston, and an association to oversee the cemetery formed when settlers returned to the village after its burning in 1813. After selecting the plot, the cemetery association drafted a layout for the cemetery and received approval for its plans from the village board of trustees following the end of the War of 1812. The association parceled the land into several sections for the purpose of sales and designated the parcel directly behind what later became the site of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston as a potter's field owned by the Village of Lewiston. After the cemetery came under the stewardship of the Village of Lewiston, in addition to maintaining a Potter's Field for the indigent, the village later hired a sexton to care for the entire cemetery.³⁰ Although the cemetery is nondenominational, the cemetery association invited local clergy to

²⁸ Joseph W. Shannon, "Newest Attraction at Niagara Falls is Power Vista atop Moses Plant," *Rockland County Journal*, July 24, 1963, 23.

²⁹ Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery, 1801-1997*, 1.3.

³⁰ Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery, 1801-1997*, 1.5.

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consecrate the cemetery as hallowed ground. The cemetery thus served both as the primary burial ground for the village and as the cemetery for the adjacent First Presbyterian Church. It is not known whether local clergy included those outside of the Presbyterian church.

The earliest internments occupy the northern section of the cemetery in sections A through D and P (for Potters Field), where burial plots vary in length from seven to ten feet. In addition to Betsey Clark, this section contains the graves of many of the town's early European-American settlers. The next and final expansion in 1879 resulted in the development of sections E through H in what would become known as Oakwood Cemetery. At this time, additional property was attained, surveyed and mapped out along the southern border and the cemetery reached its current size.³¹ Overall, the cemetery does not have a single legible plan; rather, its parallel rows appear to have been laid out on an ad hoc basis. However, the plots in sections E through H vary in size depending on whether the burial site was for a family or an individual and do not conform to the standard length of plots in the older section of the cemetery. The entire cemetery was built on land owned by New York State. The oldest section of the cemetery was deeded to the village by the state in 1840. The newer section which encompassed the 1879 expansion to the south, was deeded to the village for the cost of one dollar in 1951.³²

Lewiston Village Cemetery is significant because it provides important information about the settlement, growth and development of the village of Lewiston. As the principal burial ground for the village, the cemetery is the resting place for almost all of the settlement families. Names such as Clark, McDole, Irish and Leonard suggest Irish descent, while others reveal New England ancestry. Prominent early citizens include: Benjamin Barton, a patriot and public service figure who managed a portage route for commercial goods between the United States and Canada; Josiah Tyron, a local tailor associated with the Underground Railroad; Lemuel Cooke, settler and patriot; the Hewitt family (Joseph, John and other family members), settlers, patriots and a major agricultural power in the area; and William Smith, a doctor, patriot and prominent member of the First Presbyterian Religious Society. Other early graves include those of Rufus Spalding, Joshua Fairbanks and the Hooker Family. The Hooker family started the Hooker Chemical Company based in Niagara Falls. The family was very important in the history of the town, first as a major employer on the Niagara frontier and later with the company's involvement in the Manhattan Project during World War II.³³ There are also many local and regionally prominent persons interred at Lewiston Village Cemetery. Community leaders from later generations include: Bates Cooke, congressman; Isaac Cooke, town supervisor; Peter Porter Barton, international

³¹ Alan C. Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery, 1801-1997*, 1-9, 12-85.

³² Niagara County, NY, "Deed to the Cemetery, 1840." Village of Lewiston Clerk's Office; Village of Lewiston, Deed, Liber 1054, Page 518, June 29, 1951.

³³ Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 251, 252, 256, 257, 259; Historic Association of Lewiston, "Freedom Crossing;" Lucy William Hawes, "Lewiston: Past, Present, and Future," Lewiston Public Library, 5; Peter A. Porter, "The Old Cemetery at Lewiston," 2; Michelle Anne Kratts, "Transcripts and Recordings of C. R. Jones, May 22nd, 2007," Lewiston Public Library; Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery*, 2-32, 72; Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives," 1.

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businessman; and Hertzl Colt, Ruling Elder of the First Presbyterian Religious Society.³⁴ Finally, military history is represented by the graves of veterans of six wars, including the Revolutionary War (5), War of 1812 (3), Civil War (36), Spanish-American War (1), World War I (11), and World War II (2). An analysis of the information recorded here allows us to reconstruct the economic and social history of the town and village over its long history.

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston

The First Presbyterian Religious Society of Lewiston

After the War of 1812, Western New York became an epicenter of religious fervor. Western New Yorkers embraced the principles of the religious movement known as the Second Great Awakening with greater vigor than settlers in other parts of the country. This enthusiasm led to the formation of numerous Protestant congregations throughout the region, including the many that formed in Niagara County.³⁵ Western New York became known as the “Burned-Over District,” an epithet referring to the lack of an unconverted population throughout the region.³⁶ The regional phenomenon earned Western New York a reputation for religious revivalism, including the Anti-Masonic sentiments closely tied to this revivalism.³⁷ Most of the Protestant sects in the area, including Presbyterianism, boasted a swell in adherents throughout the 1820s and 30s. The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston emerged out of this boom in religious participation and also as a result of the easing of hostilities after the War of 1812. The end of the war allowed for increased settlement into western New York and many of the settlers arriving from New England carried their religious beliefs with them. New Englanders had a tendency to establish public worship as soon as they arrived in New York. Typically, these pioneers would meet at a centrally located house in the neighborhood where the deacon of the settlement would preach. As they reached a critical mass and accumulated enough resources, they sought to establish their own churches.³⁸ On January 20, 1817, the Rev. Miles Squier, a missionary from Buffalo, met with John and Elizabeth Robinson, Aaron and Lucy Childs, and Polly Huggins in the home of Jonas Sealy in order to baptize the children of Robinson and Childs.³⁹ Together, they formed the First Presbyterian Religious Society of Lewiston. During this first recorded meeting, the members also elected the two men present as elders. For

³⁴ Hawes, “Lewiston: Past, Present and Future,” 7; Peter A. Porter, “The Old Cemetery at Lewiston,” First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive, 1; Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 263.

³⁵ Whitney R. Cross, *The Burned-over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800–1850* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015), 7-8.

³⁶ Cross, *The Burned-over District*, 1.

³⁷ Cross, *The Burned-over District*, 1.

³⁸ Lois Kimball Mathews, *The Expansion of New England: The Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River, 1620-1865*, Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston and New York, 1909, 161-162.

³⁹ First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, “History of Lewiston Presbyterian Church,” *Pictorial Directory*, First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive; Arline W. Gidlow, “Days of Our Lives: Chronology of Events, People and Sidelights,” Local History of First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, 175th Centennial Committee, First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive, 1.

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unrecorded reasons, Sealy did not attend the meeting. During the next several months, the First Presbyterian Religious Society of Lewiston held its first communion of eleven members. Niagara County officially recognized its Charter of Incorporation on June 12, 1817. David M. Smith, a teacher at Lewiston Academy, was ordained and became the society's first pastor in October of 1817.⁴⁰ Over the course of the next nine years, the Reverend Smith founded Presbyterian churches throughout Niagara County, including Niagara Falls, Lockport, Cambria, Wilson, and Porter. The Reverend Smith also became the principal at the Lewiston Academy during this time.⁴¹ By 1820, the society had a membership of twenty-six individuals and the budding congregation met in various homes and worshipped with the people of the Tuscarora Nation, who had established a Presbyterian church on their nearby reservation in 1805. The young congregation also established a Sunday school using private homes to provide children and adults with religious education.⁴²

Community development and initial construction of the church

Although the society had fewer than thirty members in 1820, the group decided to move forward with the construction of a house of worship.⁴³ The Holland Land Company had previously proclaimed that the first house of worship erected in any township was entitled to one hundred acres of land to support its ministry. In 1822, the trustees of the First Presbyterian Religious Society accepted the Holland Land Company's land, purchasing one hundred acres along Upper Mountain Road, approximately two miles south of the village of Lewiston, for one dollar.⁴⁴

By October 1826, the Reverend Smith, Benjamin Barton, and Amos Tryon established a building committee for the society's church. In 1827, plans for the church were drawn by William Murray, Nathan Parker was appointed as superintendent of construction, and Robert Nichols as stone mason. Smith and Barton proved themselves as community organizers during this time: both of these prominent villagers also served on the building committee for the Lewiston Academy, which was completed in 1828. The Reverend Smith undertook a four-month fundraising trip in order to elicit support for the construction of the church, complete with stops in Boston, Albany, and Hartford. The trip raised \$594 and the Reverend Smith also returned with donated lumber and sold it to Lewiston Academy for \$500. The building committee put the money the Reverend Smith raised toward the purchase of stones that would complete the foundation of the church. Many local men contributed

⁴⁰ Arline W. Gidlow, "Our Heritage," *Our 150 Year Legacy in Lewiston*, First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive, 1.

⁴¹ Arline W. Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives: Chronology of Events, People and Sidelights," Local History of First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, 175th Centennial Committee, First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive, 1.

⁴² Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives," 1.

⁴³ "First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston, New York, Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953," First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive.

⁴⁴ Property Deed between the Holland Land Company and the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Society, April 24, 1822, First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive.

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their services to quarry and draw the stones used to lay the foundation and later to raise the church walls. However, despite having purchased one hundred acres of land outside the village, the society did not build on that site; instead the congregation opted to build its church in the center of the village on land owned by New York State.⁴⁵ This land was later deeded to the congregation by an act of state legislature in 1839.⁴⁶ Although it is unknown why the congregation chose to build the church in its current location, this site was likely more convenient to the congregation's members and the builders. Between 1846 and 1848, the Church Society sold the 100 acres of land granted to them by the Holland Land Company to Benjamin Hewitt, the town supervisor, for eighteen dollars an acre.⁴⁷

First Period of Construction – ca. 1830-1844

Little is known of William Murray, the drafter of the plans for the original church. However, it is possible that he was the same William Cranston Murray (1788-1873) who emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1819. Cranston Murray was a carpenter, building contractor, and architect who is credited with being a talented builder and craftsman in Miramachi, New Brunswick, Canada, where he designed many cottages, churches and public buildings. Although few of Murray buildings have been identified and documented, his name is associated with the construction of St. Paul's (1823), St. James's (1829), and the Rankin House (1837) in Douglaston, Canada. Although St. James's Church has since burned down, St. Paul's is remarkably similar in style, design and plan with the exception of the tower, which is placed in front of the pediment rather than behind it. Murray relocated to Newcastle, Ontario, Canada, not far from Lewiston, in 1828 after his home burned. Louise Manning, a local historian, described his building style:

Murray's buildings were of the utmost simplicity in design, always with a roof very low in pitch, and have a kind of understatement that gives them a subtle and appealing charm.⁴⁸

In 1828 a rift formed between the congregation and the Reverend Smith over the reverend's support of freemasonry. Ultimately, the Reverend Smith was forced out of the congregation, which also lost a substantial portion of its membership, shrinking to eleven people. Despite the loss of the Reverend Smith and other members of the congregation, construction commenced in 1830, with Lovell Lewis leading the building committee. Robert Nichols, stone mason, who previously assisted in the construction of the Hennepin Tower in Niagara Falls, purchased the cornerstone of the church edifice for one dollar and fifty cents from the Queenston Quarry in Canada; Nichols laid the cornerstone in 1830. Construction continued over the span of the next five years, and the lack of available funding due to low membership likely accounted for the prolonged construction

⁴⁵ "First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston, New York, Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953," First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive; Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 260; Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives," 1.

⁴⁶ First Presbyterian Church, "Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953."

⁴⁷ Cornelia E. Brooke, "The Frontier House." Section 8, Page 2.

⁴⁸ "Dictionary of Miramichi Biography; Murray, William Cranston (1788-1873)," Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Canada, 662. <https://archives.gnb.ca/Search/Hamilton/DMB/>; St. Paul's Anglican Church, 2004, www.historicplaces.ca

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period. The congregation conducted the first funeral in the church for Robert Nichols in 1834. During the ceremony, mourners sat on barrels connected by planks as the church remained unfinished. The church still lacked a complete roof, and the congregation carried out the service under open sky. In 1835, the congregation held its first annual meeting inside the church. The docket for the meeting included the auctioning of box pews to pay the minister.⁴⁹

Financial difficulties impressed by the construction of the church strained the congregation and forced it to sell the building in 1844 in order to pay the mortgage. The building was sold at auction on the front steps of the Frontier House for \$100 and was immediately sold back to the church for \$101.⁵⁰ The financial fortunes of the Presbyterian congregation improved after the church was sold back to the congregation. The congregation started to generate income by renting space to worshippers of the Episcopalian, Methodist, and Baptist faiths. In 1844, repairs and redecoration of the church included blocking the central entry and replacing it with side entry doors, as well as the addition of a bell tower with bell, Doric columns, and a pedimented portico. On the interior, the gallery was removed and replaced by a semi-circular space where the choir would sit. A new pulpit was added and hanging lights were installed.⁵¹ Additionally, an historic photo from 1892 reveals front wall decoration and detailing including the use of classical elements such as raised panel on the walls and engaged pilasters framing the pulpit. These alterations also likely took place in 1844 as both interior and exterior changes appear to be influenced by the classical forms made popular in New England by Benjamin Asher at the time.⁵² By 1844, the first period of construction had been completed and the older section of the church had achieved its current exterior appearance.

Growth of the community and renovation of the church in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century 1870s-1939

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston maintained a steady but small congregation during the late nineteenth century and the group completed a few small building projects and maintained a strong support for social movements like temperance.⁵³ In 1875 the congregation built a manse for the minister (non-extant) as well as wagon sheds for the horse teams, though these sheds were subsequently destroyed by snow and wind. Later, as automobiles became the primary mode of transportation, worshipers from outside the village of

⁴⁹ Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives," 1.

⁵⁰ "First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston, New York, Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953," First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive; First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, NY, "History", www.firstpreslewisston.org

⁵¹ "First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston, New York, Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953," First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive.

⁵² Asher, Benjamin, *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter*, Boston: L. Coffin, 1843; Suzanne Simon Dietz, *Lewiston*, Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006, 16.

⁵³ "The Lewiston Presbyterian Church," *The Buffalo Courier*, March 31, 1912, 9.

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Lewiston drove to services. By 1878, the congregation numbered one-hundred and forty-nine.⁵⁴ Other projects during the late nineteenth century included the purchase of stained-glass windows in 1882 and a new organ in 1885. The stained-glass windows remain in place today. The church's congregation declined in the 1890s and interest in the church ebbed until the pastorate of the Reverend John Ross, who instituted new church programs and worked on building improvements to improve services in the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston.⁵⁵

One of the first building projects undertaken during Rev. Ross's pastorate was the expansion of the church's basement. In order to increase the space of the church building and better accommodate the communal needs of the congregation, a committee composed of Frank S. Hall, William Powell, and Dr. T. A. Kerr organized the excavation of the church basement in 1906. The additional space in the basement accommodated new Sunday school rooms and a small kitchen, and the congregation organized a dedication dinner on June 24, 1907. By 1915, church membership had grown to two hundred and twenty people and rose again in 1932 with a total of two hundred members. In 1939, the congregation extended the excavation under the remainder of the church in order to accommodate the installation of an oil-burning furnace and more rooms. This extension of the basement also allowed them to reinforce the foundation in the front part of the building.⁵⁶

The installation of a pipe organ donated by a local family in the 1920s spurred the first conflict between the interests of the congregation and the integrity of the cemetery. The installation required the excavation of a crypt below the church in order to make room for the motor and a blower. This excavation ignited a controversy, as it required the removal of graves from the Lewiston Village Cemetery. With little room left elsewhere in the church, the congregation identified the rear of the church as the only area able to accommodate the necessary equipment for an organ. The excavation of the rear of the church therefore required the removal of the land occupied by a portion of the Potter's Field in the cemetery. Negotiations with the village board and the state legislature eventually allowed the church society to remove these graves in favor of the required organ hardware. The relocated headstones remain in the basement of the church; however, it is not known how the remains in the removed graves were handled. The congregation had to temporarily remove the front windows of the church to install the organ as well.⁵⁷

First Mid-Century Addition 1944-1953

Like so many other churches nationwide, the First Presbyterian congregation experienced a tremendous period of growth in the decades following World War II. As soldiers returned home from overseas, many religious

⁵⁴ Pool, *History of Niagara County*, 262.

⁵⁵ Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives," 3.

⁵⁶ First Presbyterian Church, "Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953," Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives," 3, First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, *Board of Trustees Reports, 1915-1934*.

⁵⁷ Gidlow, "Days of Our Lives," 4.

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leaders feared “secularization theory,” or the idea that the desire for religious affiliation would decline alongside the emergence of a prosperous, modern society that coincided with the return of these veterans.⁵⁸ However, the opposite phenomenon occurred, and religious participation soared in the years following World War II. In 1940, 40 percent of Americans were members of a religious organization. That number increased to 57 percent in 1950 and reached its peak at 63 percent in 1958, marking the highest point of religious participation in American history.⁵⁹ This membership growth, linked with the “baby boom” and the subsequent shift of urban populations to suburbia, led to a “building boom,” as religious groups constructed new buildings and additions that they had put off during the Great Depression.⁶⁰ The First Presbyterian Church had a tremendous swell in membership in the 1950s. While membership numbers are not available for the 1940s, the congregation eventually grew to over 1,000 in 1958. As a result of this tremendous growth, the First Presbyterian congregation looked to accommodate the expanding congregation by drafting plans to enlarge the church building. A joint meeting of the board of trustees held on March 19, 1944 appointed a committee consisting of Warren Morgan, Mrs. William Mitchell, and Leo Hapeman to investigate potential courses of action. The committee eventually proposed a two-story expansion on the congregation’s property at the rear of the church building to the south. The proposed expansion would add a chancel to the original building and provide a parish hall behind it, and the board of trustees accepted the plan.⁶¹ In order to amass the necessary funds for the addition, the First Presbyterian Church mortgaged the property with the Erie County Savings Bank for \$60,000.⁶² The substantial sum of money put forth by the First Presbyterian congregation was a small fraction of the funding allocated by congregations nationwide during this building boom: in 1947 alone, the amount of money spent on church construction in the United States reached \$126 million.⁶³ That amount exploded in the following years, reaching \$474 million in 1953 and, by 1960, climbing to over \$1 billion.⁶⁴

The building committee hired architect Paul Harbach and contractors C. C. Bremer and Co. to design and carry out the construction of the addition, which began in June of 1952.⁶⁵ The process quickly stalled: the building team encountered problems as it discovered unmarked graves during the excavation.⁶⁶ Again, the integrity of the cemetery and the intentions of the church were at odds. The conflict put a month-long hold on the building process until the First Presbyterian board of trustees held a special meeting in August 1952. The trustees agreed that the construction required the reburial of the uncovered remains in a crypt under the lower end of the

⁵⁸ Jay M. Price, *Temples for a Modern God: Religious Architecture in Postwar America* (n.p., 2013), 50.

⁵⁹ Price, *Temples for a Modern God*, 50.

⁶⁰ Lisa Mausolf, *Mid-20th Century Architecture in NH: 1945-1975* (Concord: NH Employment Security, 2012), 14.

⁶¹ First Presbyterian Church, “Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953.”

⁶² First Presbyterian Church, “Mortgage of Church Property, 1951,” First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive.

⁶³ Jay M. Price, “When Traditional Could be Modern: Religious Buildings in Kansas after World War II,” *Kansas Preservation* 26, no. 2 (2004): 5.

⁶⁴ Price, “When Traditional Could be Modern: Religious Buildings in Kansas after World War II,” 5.

⁶⁵ First Presbyterian Church, “Dates and Data Related to Our Building History, 1826-1953.”

⁶⁶ Unconfirmed rumors persist that these unmarked graves contained the remains of escaped slaves who passed away on the Underground Railroad.

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addition.⁶⁷ Construction proceeded, and on May 5, 1953, Karl M. Bromwell, chair of the building committee, presided over the dedication ceremony witnessed by the congregation.⁶⁸ As completed, the church addition extended seventy-two feet into the potter's field section of the village cemetery. The congregation now keeps the removed graves in a locked crypt below the addition.⁶⁹

Architect, Paul H. Harbach (1893-1984)

The building committee of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston hired Buffalo architect Paul H. Harbach to design the new addition and approved his plans in 1949.⁷⁰ Harbach was a prominent architect in Western New York during the twentieth century. He graduated from Masten (City Honors) High School in Buffalo and earned a degree at the Cornell University School of Architecture in 1917.⁷¹

Harbach partnered with Kidney Associates while designing his most notable work, the Central Library of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. Completed in 1965, the International style building won several design awards including the American Institute of Architects/WNY Design Excellence Award for its success as both a functional library and a civic design statement.⁷² Harbach also designed multiple schools in western New York, including Amherst High School, Grand Island High School, and Orchard Park Middle School.⁷³

Harbach's design for the First Presbyterian Church consisted of a two-story, wood-frame, gable roof addition that echoed the massing of the nineteenth century church with similar roof pitch and proportion. It included the addition of a chancel, sacristy, parish hall and offices.

Second Mid-Century Addition 1956-1965

Not even a decade after the completion of the addition, another major population swell forced the congregation's leadership to reconsider the limits of the church building. For the first half of the twentieth century, the dominant source of hydroelectricity on the American side of the Niagara River was the Schoellkopf Power Station, located on the east wall of the gorge adjacent to Niagara Falls. After the structural failure and terminal collapse of the Schoellkopf plant in 1956, the New York Power Authority drafted plans to construct the largest hydroelectric power plant in the United States to date between the City of Niagara Falls and Lewiston.

⁶⁷ First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, Board of Trustees Reports 1817-1958, (8/17/1952), 277.

⁶⁸ 1953 Trustees Annual Report, First Presbyterian.

⁶⁹ Johnson, *The Village of Lewiston Cemetery*, 1.10.

⁷⁰ 1949 Board of Trustees Annual Report, First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston Archive.

⁷¹ Buffalo News, "Paul H. Harbach Dies; Designed Central Library," *Buffalo News*, February 5, 1984.

⁷² Pan American Consultants Inc., Preservation Ready Survey of Buildings Downtown, Northland and Fougerson/Urban Survey Areas, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York (n.p., 2013), 4-28.

⁷³ Buffalo News, "Paul H. Harbach."

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The undertaking required a massive labor force, and between 1957 and the dam's completion in 1961, over twelve thousand workers flooded Niagara County.⁷⁴ The power plant offered a substantial number of employment opportunities, including mid-managerial positions often filled by people who settled in Lewiston with their families.⁷⁵ Many of these arriving villagers chose to worship at the First Presbyterian Church: a detailed membership report from 1961 claims that the church had approximately 1,100 members.⁷⁶ The report also exhibits the intensification of enthusiasm among its membership, citing "an increasing number participating in church activities and a remarkable healthy attendance at church services." Driven by this continued influx in membership and participation, the church again looked into expansion. A building committee formed in April of 1962 and drafted a plan for a substantial addition to the church, complete with a new sanctuary as its centerpiece. The committee relied on a combination of two architectural firms to design the addition: Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton & Fitzgerald; and Highland and Highland.⁷⁷ Architects Charles Thiele, Robert Fitzgerald and John Highland Jr. were all members of the congregation.⁷⁸ The design also included provisions for future expansion when funds permitted. When built, the future expansion would consist of a three-story building to be added to the south which would provide permanent space for a nursery, a fully-equipped kitchen, musical rehearsal rooms, the sacristy and additional offices.⁷⁹ To date, this proposed expansion has not taken place.

Finding space for the new addition was challenging. The church was already surrounded by the cemetery on two sides, and the spatial relationship with the cemetery had caused problems with the previous expansion. The only feasible location for the new wing was to the west, where Fifth Street continued south from Cayuga Street and bordered the western wall of the church building. Therefore, in 1963, before construction could begin, the building committee negotiated a deal with the New York State Legislature for the purchase of the segment of Fifth Street between Cayuga Street and Seneca Street in order to have access to the land immediately adjacent to the extant building. In exchange for this additional space, the First Presbyterian Church agreed to construct a new street, connecting Cayuga to Seneca fifty yards to the west of the original stretch, and consign it back to the Village of Lewiston. This new segment of road retained the name South Fifth Street despite its dislocation from the rest of Fifth Street.⁸⁰

The congregation held a groundbreaking ceremony in September of 1965, and the placement of the cornerstone occurred the following September. The completion of the addition in 1965 allowed the church to commence full

⁷⁴ International Water Power and Dam Construction, "A Powerful 50 Years at Niagara," <http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/>.

⁷⁵ Ibid; Frank Carey in discussion with Joey Duggan, August 31, 2017.

⁷⁶ 1961 Annual Report, First Presbyterian, 16.

⁷⁷ Robert Fitzgerald, "The Structure Itself," *What's Going on in Lewiston*, December 1965, Issue No. 74.

⁷⁸ "Presbyterian New Addition Ceremony Set," *Niagara Falls Gazette*, September 12, 1964, 3.

⁷⁹ Rev. Paul L. Denise, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, "A Link Forged for the Future," *What's Going on in Lewiston*, December 1965, Issue No. 74.

⁸⁰ 1963 Annual Report, First Presbyterian, 26.

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operation in time for its sesquicentennial celebration in 1967. During a ceremony recognizing both the completion of the addition and the anniversary, Pastor Paul L. Denise highlighted the role of the congregation's devotion by drawing attention to the quick pace of the construction of the addition: "nothing is impossible if God sets afire the people of the congregation and they in turn ignite with the flame of love heretofore unreached."⁸¹

The 1965 addition employed classical elements throughout the interior and exterior, and carried many of these same elements through into the interior of the nineteenth century church. New pews and raised panel walls were installed to match those in the 1965 addition. Colonial Revival style chandeliers were also fitted into each of the sanctuary spaces, tying them together stylistically in a modern context.

Architectural Firms

Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton & Fitzgerald

Founded by William Cannon Sr. in Niagara Falls in the 1910s, Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton & Fitzgerald earned widespread attention for its designs of healthcare facilities.⁸² The firms projects in the 1960s included the construction of Carthage Hospital in Syracuse, involvement in the planning of Salamanca Hospital in Olean, and the design of an addition to Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston.⁸³ Outside the field of healthcare design, the firm helped design the former La Salle High School in Niagara Falls, along with an addition to the Niagara County Courthouse in Lockport.⁸⁴ Following a move to Grand Island in 1972, Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton & Fitzgerald incorporated as CannonDesign. This new iteration of the company earned a reputation as one of the leading healthcare architecture firms in the Northeast.⁸⁵

Today, CannonDesign boasts worldwide acclaim, and ties architects, engineers, industry experts and builders together in fifteen offices across the globe.⁸⁶ It continues to uphold a reputation as a leader in healthcare design, ranking in the top ten as a global health and global science and technology firm, as well as ranking in the top twenty for education and interior firms in the United States.⁸⁷

Highland and Highland

⁸¹ First Presbyterian, 1967 Annual Report, 3-A.

⁸² "Our History," CannonDesign, <https://www.cannondesigns.com/our-history>

⁸³ "Contracts Signed for Construction of Carthage Hospital," Syracuse Post Standard, January 23, 1965, 6; "Dr. Bourke to Speak at Hospital Ceremony," Olean Times Herald, April 18, 1962; Jill Nowicki, *Mount St. Mary's Hospital*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, July 16, 2015, Section 8, Page 15.

⁸⁴ Norma Higgs, "School Bell Rings for LaSalle High School," Niagara Gazette, September 23, 2013; "Niagara County: County Courthouse-Lockport," American Courthouses, <http://www.courthouses.co/us-states/n/new-york/niagara-county/>.

⁸⁵ Buffalo News Staff, "Will A. Cannon Jr., Founded Design Firm," Buffalo News, September 5, 2003.

⁸⁶ "Our History," CannonDesign.

⁸⁷ "Awards & Rankings," CannonDesign, <https://www.cannondesign.com/about/recognition/>.

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Highland and Highland partnered with Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton & Fitzgerald for the design of the 1965 addition to the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston. Architect and builder John H. Highland Sr. of Buffalo started the firm in 1947 with his son, John H. Highland Jr. Prior to their partnership, John H. Highland Sr. worked with other architects on several notable buildings in Buffalo. These include Kleinhans Music Hall (NR listed) and Shea's Buffalo Theater (NR listed). Highland and Highland drafted plans for buildings and also specialized in construction supervision. By mid-century, the firm designed and constructed shopping centers and residential subdivisions in a number of communities, including Snyder, Niagara Falls, Lewiston, and Rochester.⁸⁸

John H. Highland Jr. continued the practice in Western New York after the death of his father in 1949. Highland designed a number of churches and religious buildings in the second half of the twentieth century, including Trinity United Methodist (1965) in Grand Island, New York, and the Chapel of the Abbey of Our Lady of Genesee (1975) in Piffard, New York.⁸⁹ He also partnered with Russell Larke to design and construct the Griffon Manor Projects (c.1969) in Niagara Falls.⁹⁰

Architecture

The Wren-Gibbs Church Type

When the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston erected the church in 1830-1835 and renovated it in 1844, it followed design principles that had been in place for nearly two centuries. The Wren-Gibbs church type emerged in English architecture after the English Parliament commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to reconstruct London's churches after the Great London Fire of 1666.⁹¹ Many of the incinerated churches had been erected for Roman Catholic parishes and later converted for Anglican religious services. Given this, Wren decided to rebuild London's churches in a way that better reflected the liturgical needs of Protestant worship.⁹²

Seventeenth century Anglican liturgy and services were often more participatory than Catholic services, focusing on preaching, and parishioners were required to interact with the minister, listening to his sermon and reading passages from their prayer books. Because of this, Anglican churches needed room for large numbers of parishioners, suitable acoustics and lighting. Wren typically addressed these needs by designing square

⁸⁸ *Buffalo Courier-Express*, "Brief Illness Is Fatal to Noted Architect," August 14, 1949, 17.

⁸⁹ Chuck LaChiusa, "Trinity United Methodist Church," Buffalo as an Architectural Museum, <http://buffaloah.com/a/gi/trin/trin.html>; *Livingston Republican*, "Trappist Invitation," May 6, 1976, 1.

⁹⁰ *Niagara Falls Gazette*, "City Plans Paving in Griffon Manor," January 16, 1969, 10.

⁹¹ William H. Pierson, Jr., *Technology and the Picturesque, the Corporate and Early Gothic Styles: American Buildings and Their Architects, Volume 2*, Oxford University Press: New York, 1978, 100.

⁹² Walkowski, *First Congregational Church of Albany*, Section 8, 10.

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churches that had large clear glass windows, open auditoriums, curved plaster ceilings and pews situated near the pulpit.⁹³ Sir Christopher Wren also altered the exterior appearance of many of the churches he rebuilt in London, utilizing Greek and Roman architectural forms as opposed to the Gothic forms often associated with the Catholic churches. Many churches inspired by Wren's work featured columns and a center spire or bell tower. This use of classical ornamentation associated the Protestant faith with order, rationality, and clarity, traits that Protestants held up in opposition to the more dogmatic belief system of Catholicism.

Scottish born architect James Gibbs modified Wren's archetype by placing the church steeple behind the pediment rather than adjacent to the church. His design for St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London, developed in the 1720s, became the prototype for many American churches in New England. Books published by architects such as James Gibbs were widely disseminated in America and congregations started to recognize advantages of the Wren-Gibbs church type, which offered superior auditory qualities and was adaptable to local building materials.⁹⁴ The original section of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston is a good representative example of an early nineteenth century church executed in the Wren-Gibbs type and designed in the Greek Revival style. The church employs many of the characteristics of the type and style, containing a large auditorium, pronounced pedimented entry portico, classical elements such as fluted Doric columns and a central tower with spire behind the pediment. At the time of construction, the church featured clear glass windows to allow for sufficient lighting in the interior.

The addition of the stained-glass windows to the church in 1882 expresses the later influence of the Gothic Revival style. Although it is not known what the shape of the original window openings were, careful inspection of the exterior church near the frieze reveals slightly uneven openings around the 1882 lancet arches, leading to speculation that original windows may have been rectilinear.

The majority of Wrens-Gibbs churches feature an arched or vaulted interior; the original church space has a coved cornice and flat ceiling. The coving of the cornice suggests a barrel vault and the ceiling is most likely original to the structure. The congregation's decision to apply these typical Wren-Gibbs elements reflects the popularity of the designs of Sir Christopher Wren and James Gibbs and the desire of Protestant congregations to associate their buildings with architectural ornament from the Classical era. An 1892 photo shows pews are located near the pulpit, as well as front wall decoration and detailing including the use of classical elements such as raised panel on the walls and engaged pilasters framing the pulpit. These alterations likely took place in 1844 as both interior and exterior changes appear to be influenced by the classical forms made popular in New

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid., 11.

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England by Benjamin Asher at the time.⁹⁵ By 1844, the first period of construction had been completed and the older section of the church had achieved its current exterior appearance.

The Educational Wing

Exactly one-hundred years after its last building campaign, the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston made the decision to expand as the post-war population increased and demands for additional space in the church building grew. Plans to build a wing began in 1944 with the formation of a committee to investigate potential courses of action. Construction commenced in June of 1952 and on May 5, 1953, the new addition was dedicated in a ceremony viewed by the congregation. Paul H. Harbach's design utilized both a form and materials that complemented the nineteenth century church. His use of rectangular massing, symmetrical window placement, gabled rooflines, and a continuous plain frieze all mirror the classical elements of the original church. Harbach was a prominent architect in Western New York during the twentieth century. He designed an award-winning library in Buffalo and many schools in Western New York. His plan for the church involved first expanding the church itself with the addition of a new chancel and then adding a new parish hall behind it that would include offices, classroom, kitchen and bathrooms on the first floor and chancel, sacristy, office, music room and Sunday school on the second floor. Aside from the construction of the chancel south wall, the interior of the original church remained unchanged.

1964 Expansion

Less than ten years after the construction of the educational wing, the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston embarked on another expansion plan to accommodate a large influx of new members who had moved to Lewiston as a result of the construction of the Niagara Power Plant. Membership had doubled and participation in church activities and services was robust. Plans for the expansion began with the formation of a building committee in 1962. The committee drafted a plan for a substantial addition to the church, complete with a new sanctuary as its centerpiece. Two architectural firms were selected to design the addition: Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton and Fitzgerald; and, Highland and Highland. Designed in the Colonial Revival style, the addition stylistically complements the nineteenth century church with the integration and interplay of Classical motifs in both the historic and modern sections and demonstrates a continuity of Classical style within a modern context. In this framework, the architecture of additions can be viewed as a creative paradigm that drives the creation of combined works that utilize old architecture in their exploration of contemporary expressive schemes. Instead of imitating historic style, the design differentiates between the old and the new, honoring the

⁹⁵ Asher, Benjamin, *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter*, Boston: L. Coffin, 1843; Suzanne Simon Dietz, *Lewiston*, Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006, 16.

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past while meeting the needs of the present.⁹⁶ For example, the application on the exterior of rough-cut stone, fluted pilasters, denticulated brick frieze and gabled rooflines all mirror classical elements of the nineteenth century church through the use of modern materials. On the interior, parallels in ornament and design are easily drawn. In the new sanctuary, the large rectangular space is almost identical in plan to the nineteenth century sanctuary; narthex, nave and chancel are all traditionally placed. Engaged columns on the north elevation flank four tall bays; the south wall mirrors the column configuration without fenestration, conveying the allusion of symmetry. The use of raised panel wood wainscot on the walls and pew-ends of the new sanctuary was simultaneously employed in the nineteenth century sanctuary, tying both spaces together visually. Similarly, the installation of contemporary Colonial Revival style chandeliers was replicated in the original sanctuary. The architects plan for this addition involved the design of the sanctuary and ancillary spaces including social and recreational rooms, classrooms and storage space.

Conclusion

For almost two-hundred years, the Lewiston Village Cemetery and the First Presbyterian Church in Lewiston, New York have been an integral part of village history. Individually and together, the church and cemetery are significant under criterion A and C, for their significance under Settlement, Social History, and Architecture. Following the burning of Lewiston by the British during the War of 1812, the formal creation of the Lewiston Village Cemetery and the construction of the church corresponded with the repopulation and rebuilding of the town. The Lewiston Village Cemetery is the burial site for most of the early settlers, many of whom played a critical role in the early development of Lewiston. A walk through the cemetery offers the chance to reflect on the dynamic historical legacy of the town. The church offered villagers with religious inclinations a place to congregate and worship as Lewiston evolved from a frontier settlement to a municipal center. The original church building, constructed beginning in 1830, continues to reflect the early Wren-Gibbs church type, in spite of twentieth century additions reflective of the growth and needs of the congregation.⁹⁷ Until the 1930s the village and Presbyterian congregation remained small, reflecting Lewiston's status as a quiet village frequented by tourists eager to see Niagara Falls. With the post-war increase in suburban population and church attendance on both a local and national level, church additions were constructed in 1953 and 1965, providing additional meeting and worship space to accommodate the needs of its expanding flock. Today, the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston has approximately three hundred members. It continues to be an important part of the village, hosting organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Red Cross, Alcoholics Anonymous and Recovery International, in addition to regular services, Sunday School classes, choir rehearsal and other church events.

⁹⁶ Paul Spencer Byard, *The Architecture of Additions: Design and Regulation*, W.W. Norton & Company: New York, 1998, 161.163.169.

⁹⁷ Walkowski, *First Congregational Church of Albany*, Section 8, Page 14.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 9 Page 2

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property

Niagara County, New York

County and State

Section 9 Page 3

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 9 Page 4

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property

Niagara County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are defined with a heavy line on the attached maps with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries have been drawn to reflect all land currently owned by the Lewiston First Presbyterian Church, as well as the boundaries for the Lewiston Village Cemetery owned by the village. These boundaries encompass land historically associated with the cemetery and church from their construction through the church's expansion in the 1950s and 1960s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

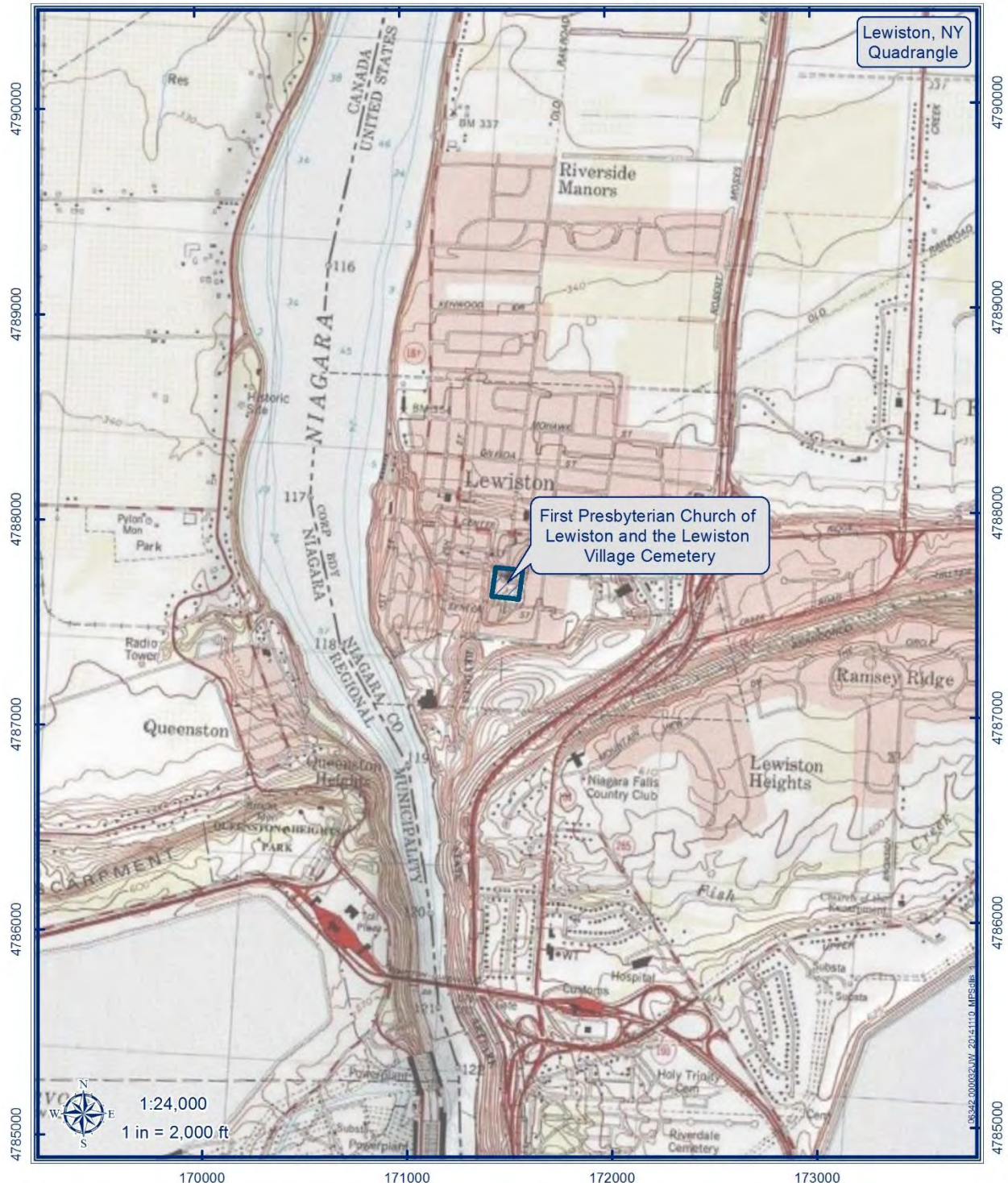
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 10 Page 2

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery 505 Cayuga St., Outerlot 17
Cemetery-Village of Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY Cayuga & 18 Seneca- Lockport, NY 14094



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 600 1,200 2,400 Feet



First Presbyterian
Church of Lewiston
and the Lewiston
Village Cemetery



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

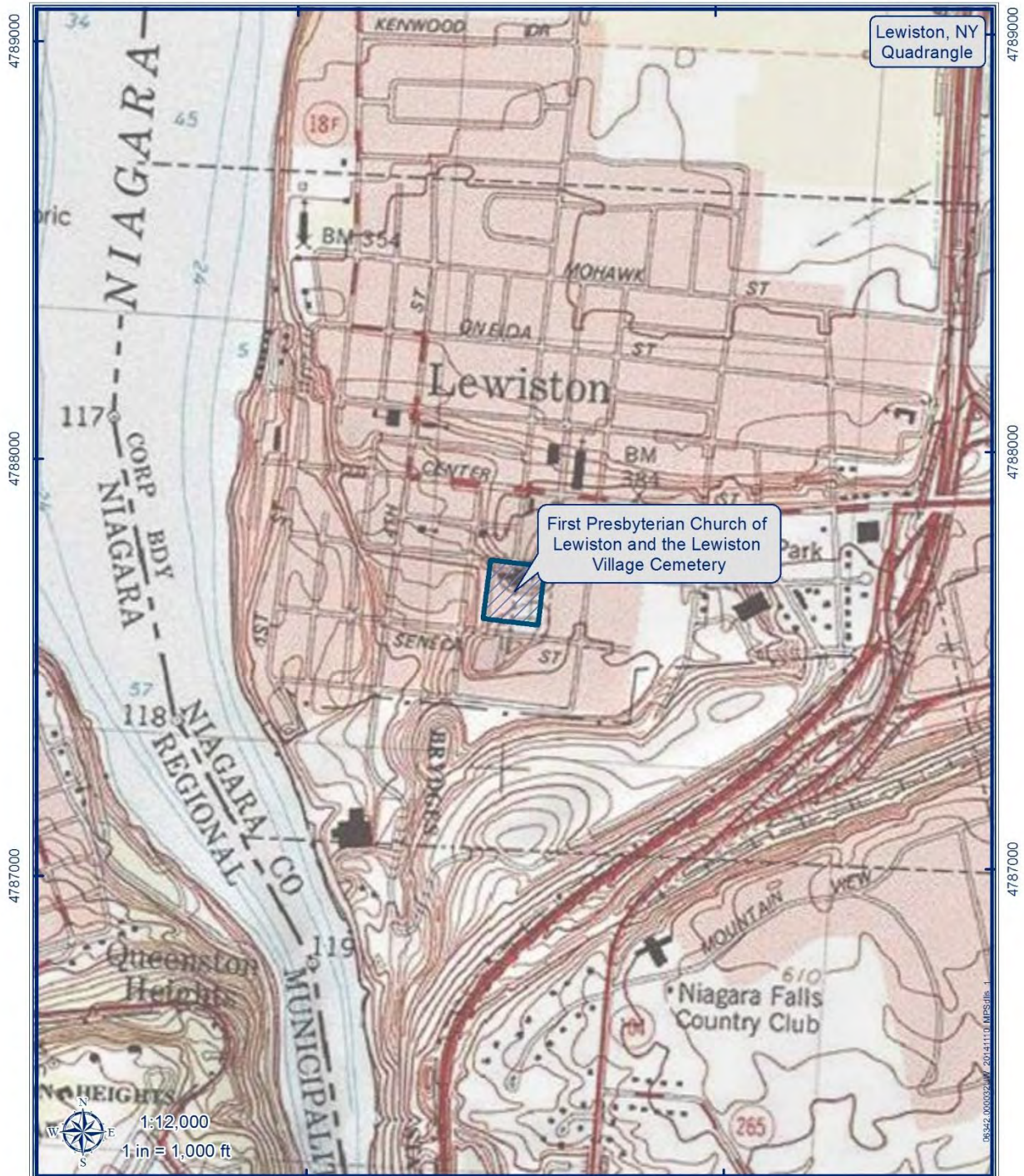
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 3

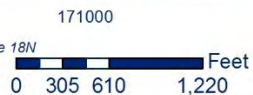
First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery


Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery 505 Cayuga St., Outerlot 17
Cemetery-Village of Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY Cayuga & 18 Seneca- Lockport, NY 14094



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery

 NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 4

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery 505 Cayuga St., Outerlot 17
Cemetery-Village of Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY Cayuga & 18 Seneca- Lockport, NY 14094



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



First Presbyterian
Church of Lewiston
and the Lewiston
Village Cemetery



NEW YORK
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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 10 Page 5

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and the Lewiston Village Cemetery 505 Cayuga St., Outerlot 17
Cemetery-Village of Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY Cayuga & 18 Seneca- Lockport, NY 14094



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: North American 1983
 Units: Meter

0 100 200 400 Feet

171200 171400 171600 171800

First Presbyterian
 Church of Lewiston
 and the Lewiston
 Village Cemetery

NEW YORK
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 OPPORTUNITY

Parks, Recreation
 and Historic Preservation
 Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 1

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

Additional Information

Photo Log:

Name of Property: First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston
Village Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Village of Lewiston
County: Niagara
State: New York
Name of Photographer: Kelsie Hoke
Date of Photographs: October, 2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Preservation Studios, 170 Florida St., Buffalo, NY 14208

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0001
Looking south, showing main façade

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0002
Looking north, showing 1965 addition

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0003
Looking west, showing rear additions

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0004
Looking northwest, showing cemetery

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0005
Looking north, showing cemetery

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0006
Looking northeast, showing cemetery

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0007
Looking south, showing original church sanctuary

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0008
Looking northwest, showing 1965 addition sanctuary

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0009
Looking west, showing 1965 addition vestibule

NY_Niagara County_First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery_0010
Looking northeast, showing gymnasium

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

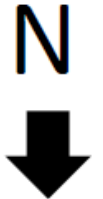
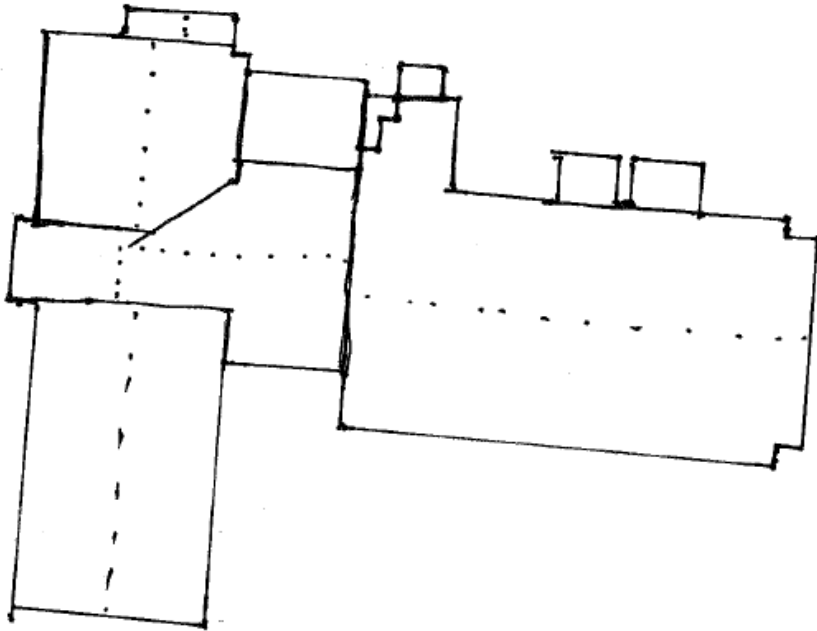
First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property

Niagara County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 2



Lewiston Presbyterian - Plan

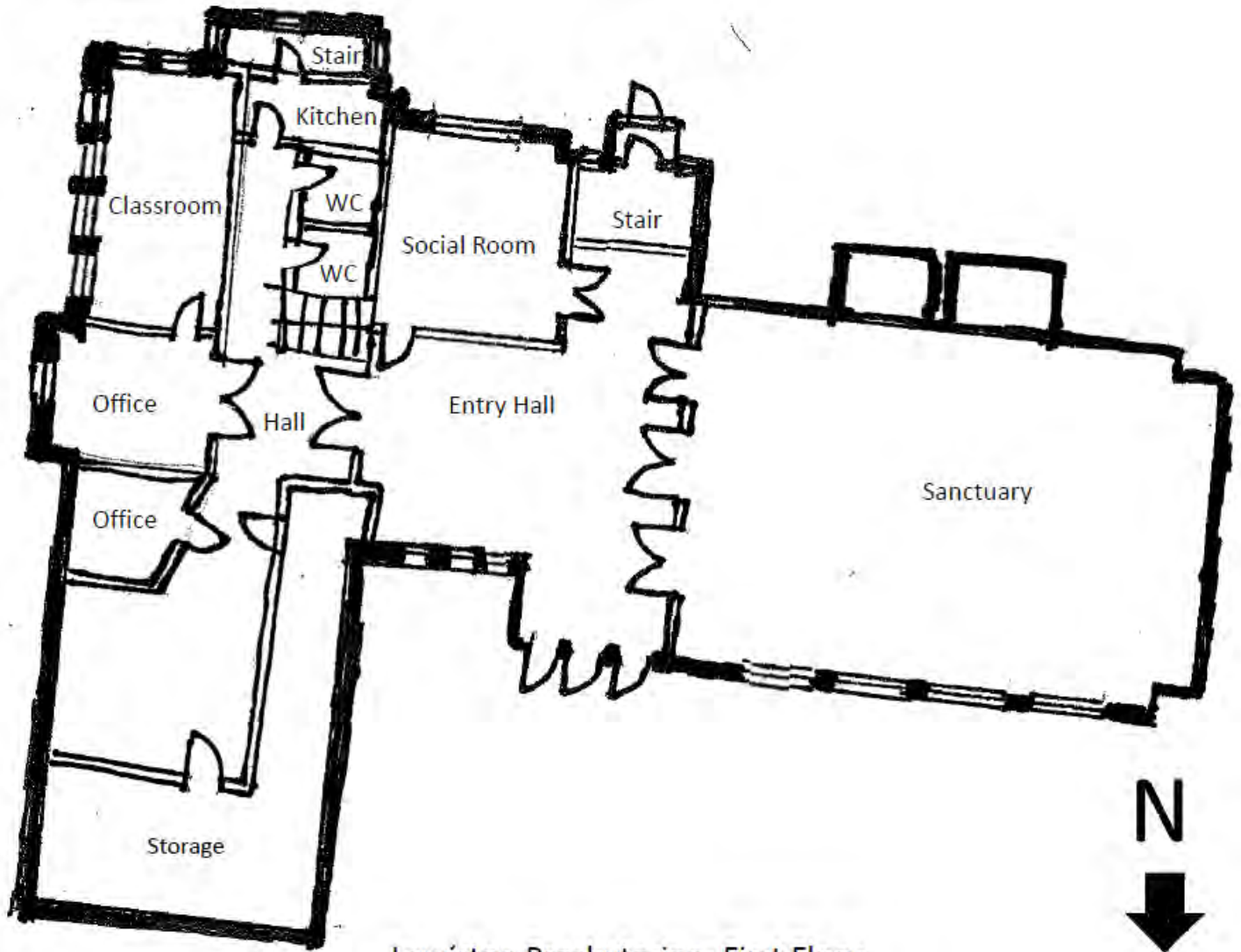
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

Section 11 Page 3



Lewiston Presbyterian- First Floor

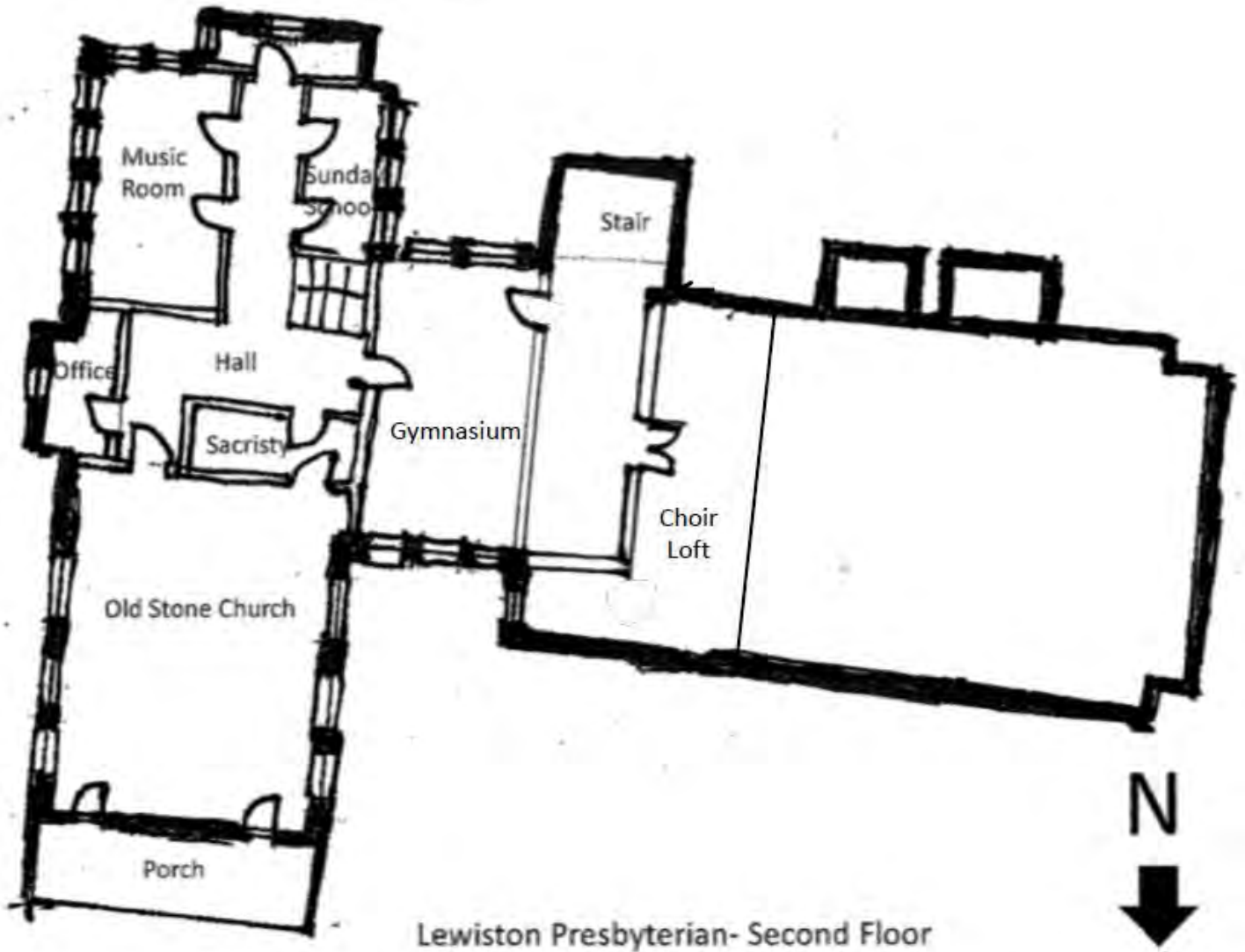
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

Section 11 Page 4



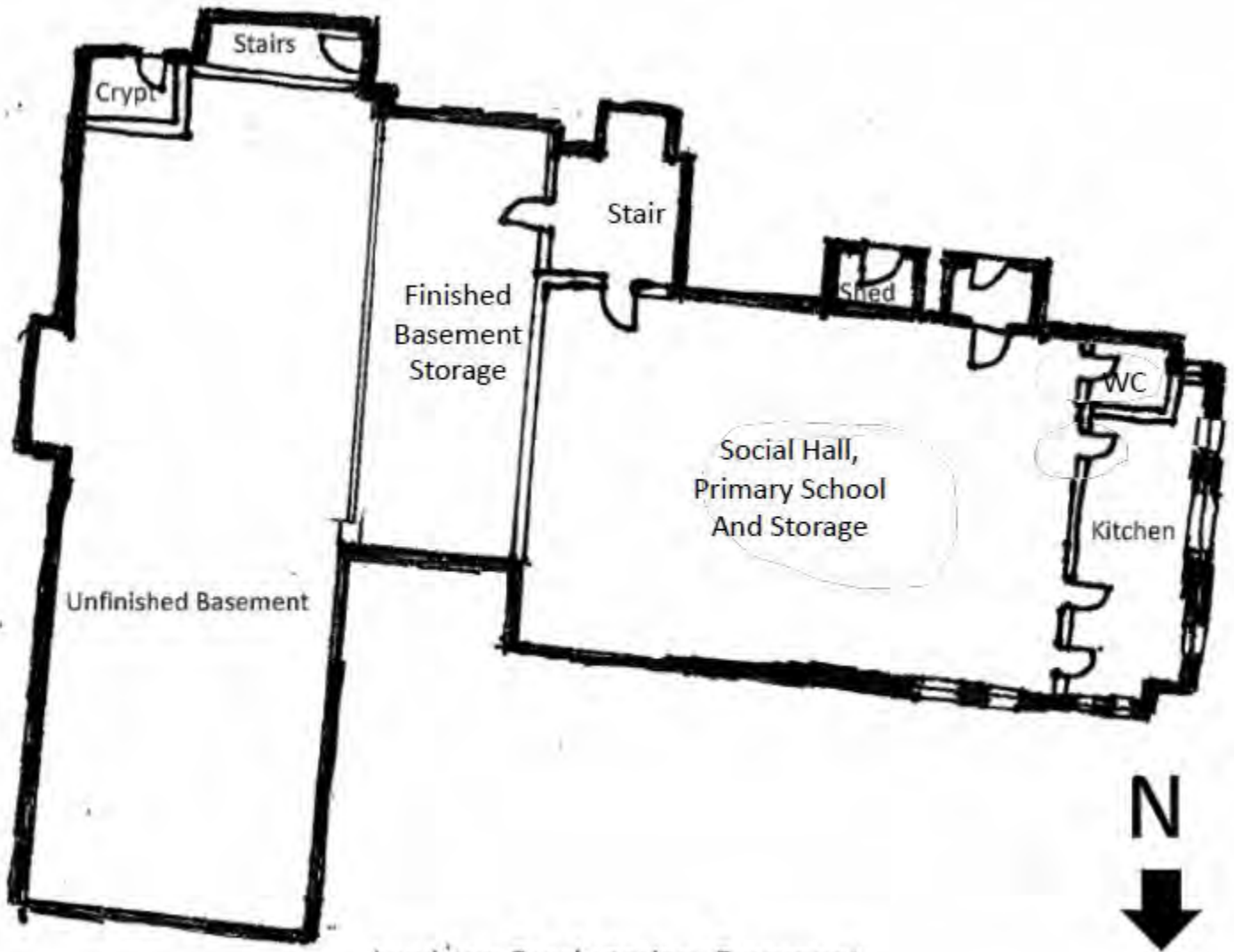
United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
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Section 11 Page 5



Lewiston Presbyterian- Basement

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State

Section 11 Page 6



United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

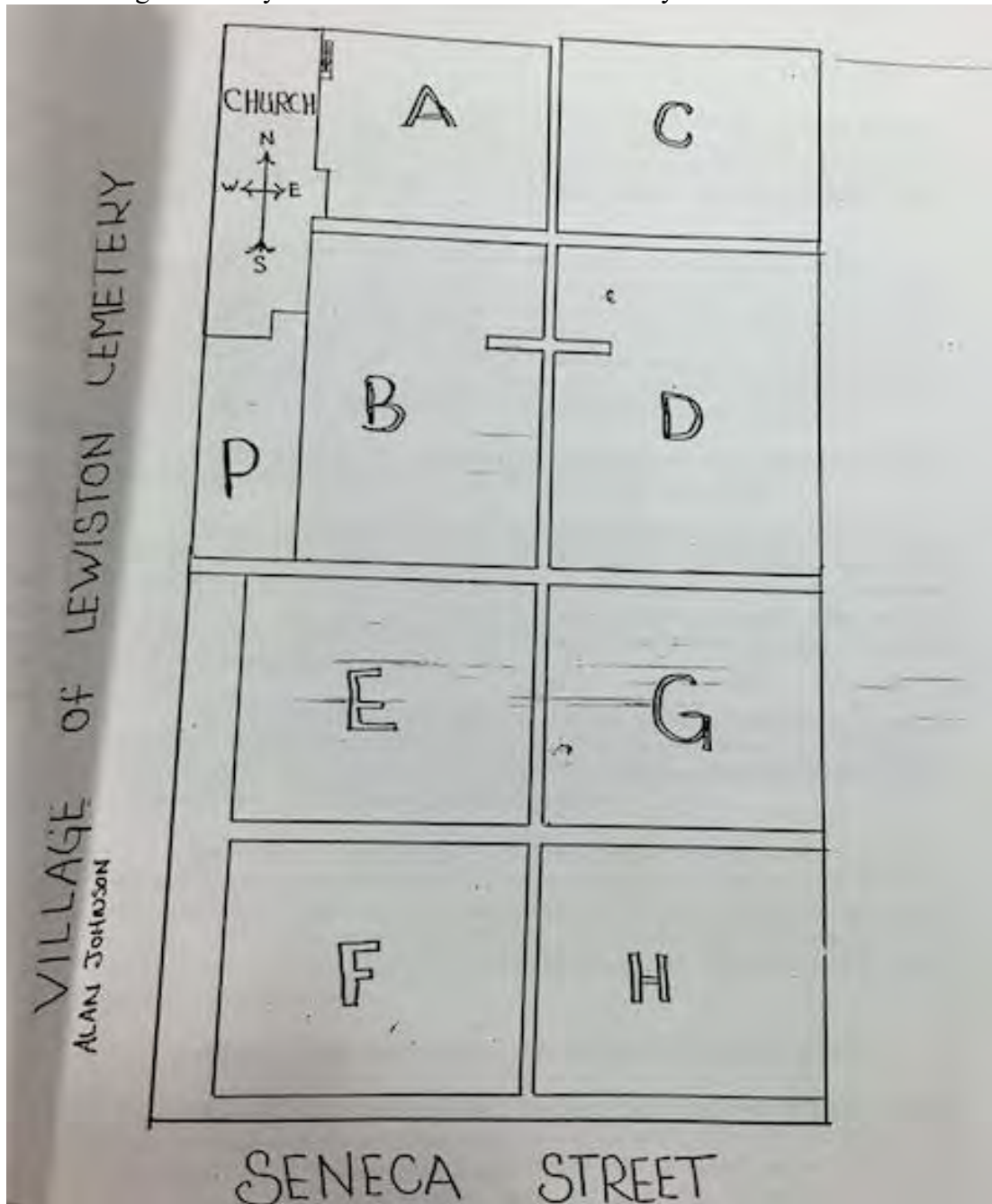
Name of Property

Niagara County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 7

Niagara County GIS aerial of the Lewiston Presbyterian Church and Lewiston Village Cemetery.



Site Plan of Cemetery,
by Alan Johnson from
1986.

Key:

A-D: Original cemetery

E-H: Oakwood Section

P: Potter's Field

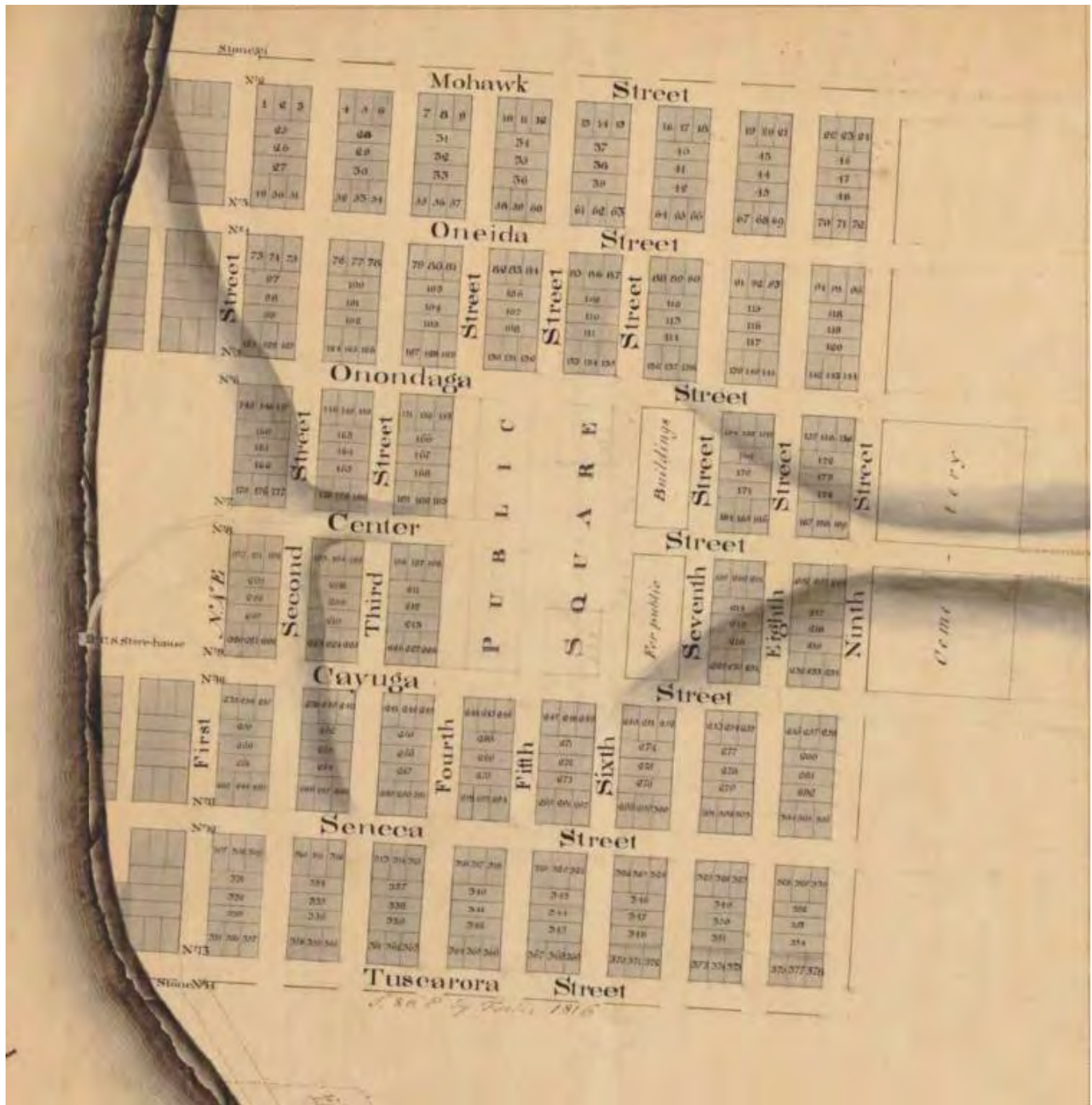
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 8

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



This map from 1805 was created by New York State's chief surveyor Simeon DeWitt and shows the surveyors plan for the Village of Lewiston which incorporated a large public square and cemetery on the outskirts of the village. While many of the street in the plan developed along DeWitt's outline, spaces such as the public square and cemetery along Ninth Street did not.

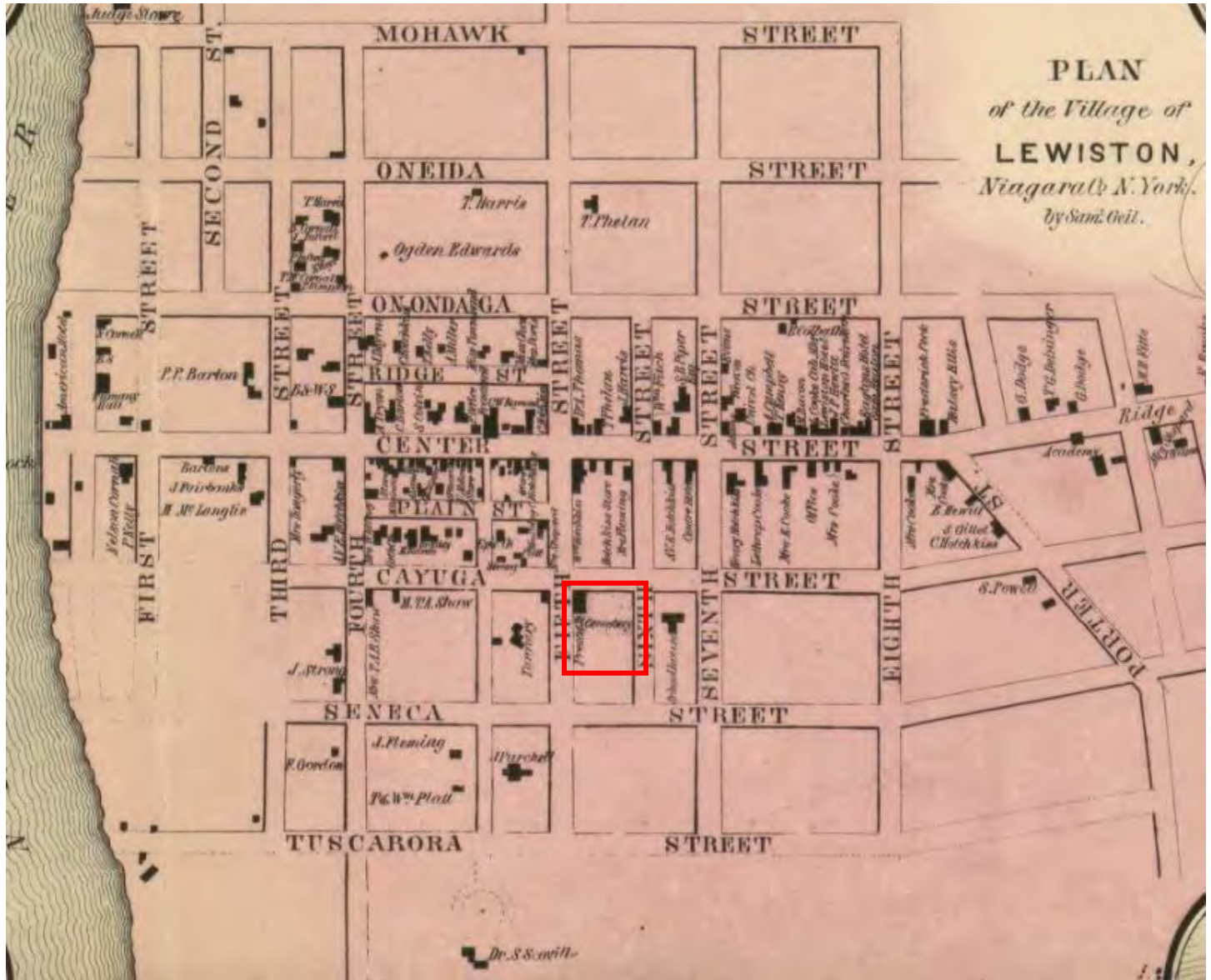
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 9

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



This map from 1850 shows the layout of the Village of Lewiston. Many of the streets correspond to Simeon DeWitt's 1805 layout however DeWitt's proposed public square was developed after 1815 and the land east of Eight Street was developed for residential purposes rather than as a cemetery. Streets like Ridge Road and Porter Street (Portage Street) were also important as they connected Lewiston to other major population centers in Niagara County and New York State.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 10

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



This map from 1860 shows the Village of Lewiston with substantial developments and differences from the 1850 map. The map shows Centre Street as a major business district; along Eighth Street the New York Central Railroad's branch line to Lewiston is present. This railroad brought many tourists to the village for sightseeing. The location of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery is marked with a red arrow.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 11

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston, New York. Undated historic photo looking southeast. This picture shows the church after the 1844 renovation that relocated the central entrance to two doors at either end of the front façade and added a Doric-columned portico, tower and spire.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 12

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



Early photograph from "Freedom Crossing," *Historic Lewiston, New York*, <http://historiclewiston.org/freedomcrossing/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 13

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



Interior of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston from 1892.
Suzanne Simon Dietz, *Lewiston* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 16.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

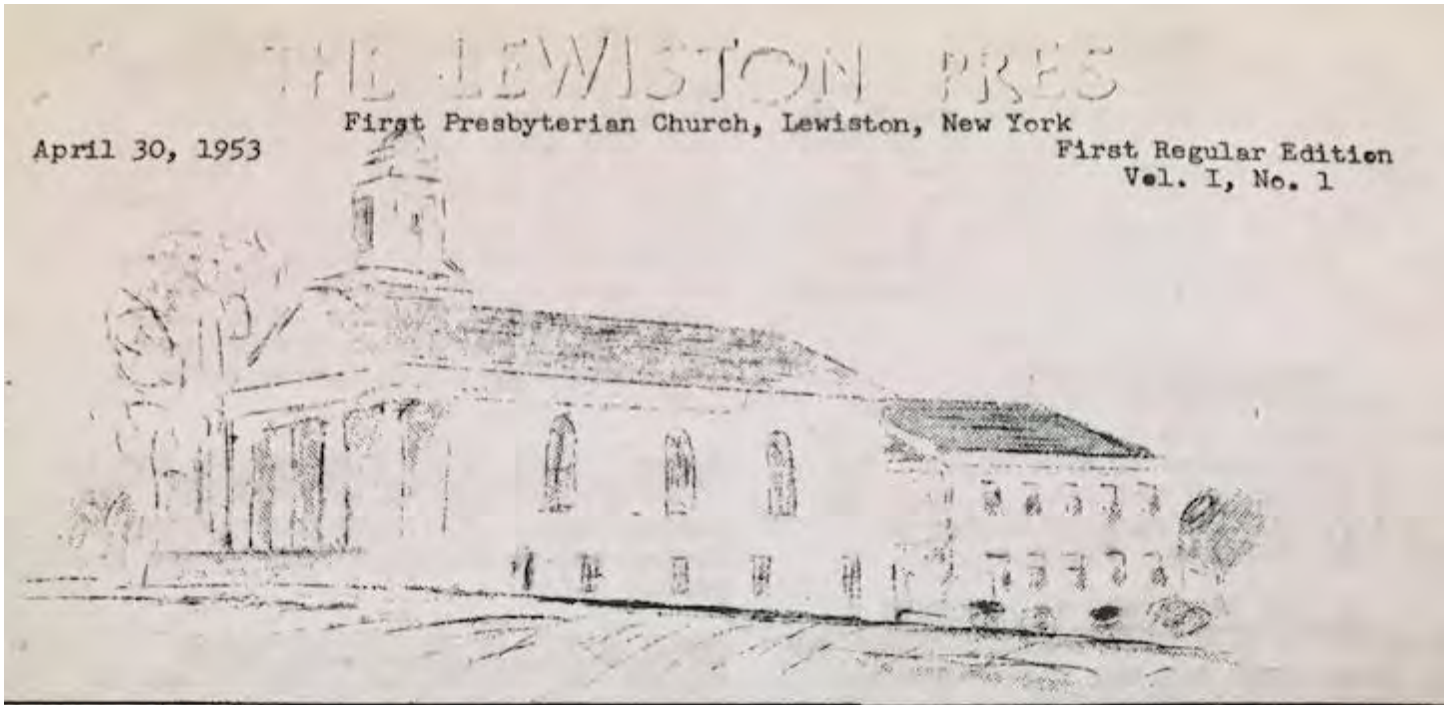
First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Name of Property

Niagara County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 14



Drawing from 1953 showing the church and the addition which was completed in 1953.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 15

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



Photo of the Presbyterian Church from a Historic American Buildings Survey from 1983. To the left the cemetery is visible.

Historic American Buildings Survey, First Presbyterian Church, 505 Cayuga Street at Fifth Street, Lewiston, Niagara County, New York, 1983, Photograph.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery

Section 11 Page 16

Name of Property
Niagara County, New York
County and State



Photograph of the tower and spire from the 1983 Historic American Buildings Survey.



Lewiston's
Oldest Church
1817-2017



STOP

Julia A. Gatto Call 725-8191
JLawrence Realty 564-1618

JLAWRENCE
REALTY
564-1618
JLawrencerealty.com







RAYMOND

WILLIAM B. BOSTON
MAY 10 1845
OCT 10 1915





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 4/23/2019 Date of Pending List: 5/9/2019 Date of 16th Day: 5/24/2019 Date of 45th Day: 6/7/2019 Date of Weekly List: 6/7/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 6/7/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

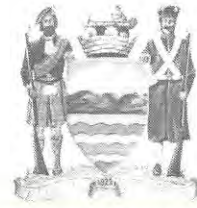
Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Village of
LEWISTON

145 North Fourth Street • P.O. Box 325
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092-0325
716-754-8271 • FAX 716-754-2703



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2019

DIVISION FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

March 1, 2019

Dear Mr. Mackay,

Pursuant to the instructions in your letter dated January 18, 2019 the Village of Lewiston Historic Preservation Commission sought public input at our regular meeting held Monday February 25, 2019 and for two weeks prior to that date. There were no new comments proffered on this matter.

Therefor the Commission upon motion duly made and seconded, voted to direct this letter be written to you stating that there are no impediments remaining, nor reasons against, the designations as applied for to the National Register. It is the opinion of this Commission that this nomination meets all criteria for such designation.

As further directed in your letter cited above, you may expect to hear from the Village Mayor as well.

Thank you for all assistance in this important community project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth M. Slaughenhoupt".

Kenneth M. Slaughenhoupt
Chair, Village of Lewiston HPC

cc.

Mayor Anne Welch
Village Trustees
HPC Commission
First Presbyterian Church, Lewiston, Louise Wasco

Village of
LEWISTON

145 North Fourth Street • PO Box 325
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092-0325
716-754-8271 • FAX 716-754-2703



RECEIVED

MAR 11 2019

DIVISION FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

March 1, 2019

Mr. R. Daniel Mackey

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Division of Historic Preservation Peebles Islands

P.O. Box 189

Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Mr. Mackay,

In regards to First Presbyterian Church and Village Cemetery:

I am in favor of having the First Presbyterian Church located at 505 Cayuga Street in the Village of Lewiston and the attached village cemetery designated on the national register. These two properties are a rich part of the heritage in the Village of Lewiston.

Please contact me if you should have any questions.

Yours truly,

Anne C. Welch
Mayor



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Acting Commissioner

19 April 2019



Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following three nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Buffalo Public School #51 (PS 51), Buffalo, Erie County
Seneca Plumbing and Heating Company Building, Buffalo, Erie County
First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and Lewiston Village Cemetery, Lewiston, Niagara County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office