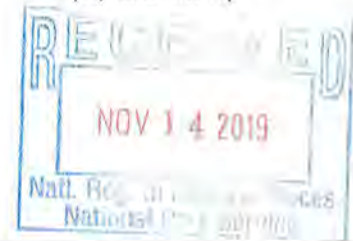


4/818

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name GLENCO MILLS METHODIST CHAPEL

other names/site number GLENCO METHODIST CHURCH; GLENCO MILLS CHAPEL

name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 142 OLD ROUTE 82

city or town GLENCO MILLS

state NEW YORK code NY county COLUMBIA code 021 zip code 12534

not for publication

vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

GLENCO MILLS METHODIST CHAPEL

Name of Property

COLUMBIA CO., N.Y.

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	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.)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD CLAPBOARD

roof: ASBESTOS-CEMENT SHINGLE

other: GLASS, METAL

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel was erected in 1869 in the eponymously named mill hamlet, which is located in the northeastern portion of the Town of Livingston, Columbia County, New York. It is a wood-frame edifice of modest dimensions consisting of a main block, an engaged vestibule block, and a bell tower; inside, the space is largely given over to a worship space, the remaining space being occupied by the vestibule. The exterior features distinctive wood ornamentation and features that relate it to the Gothic Revival style in a decidedly non-archaeological manner, among them its steeply pitched roofs, diamond-pane window sash and peaked door and window crowns. Delicate running bands of spade-like ornament serve as a unifying decorative exterior feature. As with the exterior, the interior is remarkably intact to the original 1869 building campaign and a reworking that occurred ca. 1900, at which time an elaborate decorative pattern of narrow bead-boards was added to replace existing plaster-on-lath treatments. Also of note are the original slip pews, the raised dais and liturgical center, a nineteenth-century Estey harmonium, and original kerosene wall and ceiling fixtures, which have been electrified. Erected to serve the needs of Glenco Mills's mill workers, but even more so for the benefit of those worker's children, the project was financed by Isaac Shaurman, who was born in Livingston and who, following a successful career in New York City, retired there. It remains a highly intact example of a rural religious edifice erected to serve the spiritual needs of a once-thriving Columbia County mill hamlet. In addition to the chapel, this nomination includes one additional building, a church hall dedicated in 1940; it has been deemed a non-contributing resource.

Narrative Description

Location, Setting & Site Orientation

Glenco Mills is an unincorporated hamlet located in the Town of Livingston, Columbia County, New York. It is located east of State Route 82, with its center-point being the convergence of two roads—Old Route 82 and Water Street Road—and a natural feature, the Claverack Creek. The nominated property is located on the north side of the former mill hamlet, immediately south of Weaver Road, on Old Route 82, the course of which generally follows present-day Route 82 in this immediate vicinity. The property, consisting of the church and, immediately south of it, a social hall, are located on the west side of the road and are oriented with their principal elevations facing eastwards towards it; the roof ridges of both are aligned on an east-west axis. The two buildings are located on a flat expanse of land, which is higher in elevation than the remaining portion of the hamlet to the south; the grade rises somewhat sharply as one travels northward on Old Route 82 from the bridge that conveys it over Claverack Creek, just south of its intersection with Water Street Road. The property consists of a largely open grassy expanse checkered with mature deciduous trees and bordered to the west and south by a stand of deciduous trees. Decorative landscape treatments are limited but include ornamental shrubs located to either side of the church's

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entrance. Immediately to the east, across Old Route 82, is a domestic property. To the north, on both sides of Old Route 82 beyond Weaver Road, the landscape consists of farmland, woods, and more recent housing; to the west, beyond the tree line, is a working farm.

Overview

The Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel is a modestly scaled and highly intact religious edifice erected in 1869 and modified ca. 1900. The nominated building consists of a main block and a small projecting vestibule block, both of which are one story and gable-roofed; an engaged bell tower, which terminates in a belfry with concave-profiled gable roof, is positioned where the two sections engage on the building's principal east-facing elevation. The building's form in many aspects represents the traditional Protestant rural meetinghouse type; stylistically, the exterior is of eclectic conception and executed in relatively straightforward terms. The exterior is sided with wood clapboard trimmed with corner-boards and is ornamented with distinctive wood detailing. Inside, the church is remarkably intact to the historic period, with both original and subsequent ca. 1900 features remaining substantially intact, inclusive of intricate tongue-and-groove bead-board wall and ceiling finishes, slip pews, a liturgical center situated on a raised dais, and kerosene wall and ceiling lighting fixtures. In addition to the chapel, the nominated property also includes a social hall completed in 1940; it is a light-frame building, self-contained and gable-roofed, the interior of which is given over to an assembly area and galley-type kitchen. The church is a contributing building; the parish hall has been determined a non-contributing resource.

Church (1969-ca. 1900); contributing building

Exterior

The church building, inclusive of the main and vestibule blocks, is five-bays-deep by one-bay wide, and it was erected above a low stone foundation without an associated basement. The gable-roofed vestibule block, the roof pitch of which follows that of the main block, projects forward from the main mass of the building. It has a wide central entrance fitted with double-leaf two-paneled doors, the lower panels being square-shaped, the upper ones being taller and having angled heads, and all bordered by applied and rounded moldings; these doors, which are set flush with the exterior wall plane, are set within a simple decorative casing, which is shouldered and has a peaked crown. The threshold is approached by a low concrete platform with two steps; there an associated wood wheelchair ramp extends from its south side. The vestibule block's north and south side elevations each have a single window; both are hung with diamond-pane wood sash and have simple surrounds with peaked crowns mimicking that used for the entrance. A flush-boarded frieze, which follows the roof rake on the front-facing gable, is embellished on its underside by a running band of delicately scaled spade-like ornament, a motif which is also present on the main block's frieze and the bell tower. The roof has a slight overhang, as it does on the main block;

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the wood cornices have simple molded profiles and lack corresponding returns. The exterior is painted white, excepting the double-leaf doors, which have mint green rails, stiles and moldings framing gray panels, and the associated surround, which is grey.

The church's main block, which is wider on its east-facing gable elevation than the engaged vestibule block, is four-bays deep on the north and south flank elevations, which were conceived in identical terms. Each bay is occupied by a window, and the bay divisions are further articulated by the recession of the wall plane between vertical piers that rise to frieze level, where they terminate. The windows, inclusive of sash and casings, match those employed on the vestibule block, but are of larger scale; they have ground glass, lightly tinted. The frieze and cornices also match the treatments employed on the vestibule block, though the frieze on this section is deeper and thus more pronounced. On the north elevation an exterior brick chimney rises from grade through the eaves and cornice; a small wood-frame structure with pent roof is appended to it, and it shelters the building's furnace.

Rising from the roof of the vestibule block and engaged with the gable-end of the main block is a small two-stage bell tower, which is attenuated, if not spindly, in profile and square in plan. The base rises upwards from the roof of the vestibule block and through the eaves of the main block, where it terminates in a projecting cornice embellished with drip ornament matching that used below the friezes of the vestibule and main block. The bell stage has louvered openings set within round-arched openings with keystones on all four elevations; it houses a bell cast at the Meneely foundry in present-day Watervliet, New York. The terminal feature of the bell tower is a tall gable roof with concave profile. It has a wood-shingle roof, unlike the remaining roof surfaces, which are covered with diamond-shaped asbestos-cement shingles.

The rear elevation of the building is devoid of fenestration. The decorative features employed on the other elevations were not carried around to this elevation, excepting the molded cornice. Centered within this elevation is a vertical timber of unknown function; it does not appear to relate to the piers employed on the flank elevations. There is additionally a small and low pent-roof feature located adjacent to the northwest corner; it shelters an electric blower for the Estey harmonium located within.

Church Interior

The east entrance doors open into a small and narrow vestibule that, along with the adjacent worship space, composes the interior plan. The vestibule receives filtered natural light from the north and south-facing windows, which have ground glass, rendering it translucent but nontransparent. The walls have vertical bead-board wainscot to sill level, where it is capped by a rounded chair rail, above which is narrower beaded board aligned diagonally.

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Narrow beaded-board was also used to finish the ceiling surface. From the vestibule a four-paneled door provides access to the worship space.

The worship space was arranged with pews located to either side of a center aisle that leads directly from the vestibule door to the platform and liturgical center. The wood pews are of the slip type and have decorative sawn ends and scrolled armrests. Flooring is of a narrow hardwood type. Wall surfaces are covered with vertical bead-board wainscot to sill level, terminated by a rounded chair rail. Above the rail is narrower bead-board, aligned vertically, which rises to a frieze consisting of rectangular-shaped panels in which the bead-board is arranged vertically and horizontally. The panel divisions are articulated by a molded border with roundel blocks marking the lower intersections of the horizontals and verticals that form the border. The frieze gives way to a deep and heavily molded cornice that serves as the transitional element between the wall and ceiling surfaces. The ceiling continues the same motif as the walls, though in somewhat more complex terms. There is a perimeter border consisting of panels with molded borders and roundel blocks, which frames a number of larger panels and smaller diamond-shaped ones, from which original kerosene chandeliers, now electrified, are suspended. The windows on the north and south walls have eared and peaked casings, echoing those used on the exterior, and paired louvered blinds. The narrow bead-board walls are painted a muted mint green, which contrasts with the off-white hue of the lower wainscot, door and window trim, and the ceiling, the majority of which is painted off-white.

The liturgical center is located against the rear, west, wall and is located on a raised platform, which is partially enclosed by a low wood rail with turned balusters and newels. Centered on the dais is the altar, to one side of which are a lectern and baptismal font, and to the other side of which, against the west wall, is a later nineteenth century Estey harmonium (there is additionally a piano located off of but adjacent to the dais, along the south wall). The lower wainscoting that corresponds with the center of the rear wall of the dais curves upwards at that point, and the lower portion features two heavily molded panels; this treatment was conceived as an ornamental backdrop the liturgical center.

Church Hall (1940); non-contributing building

The Church Hall is a self-contained construct, one story with gable-front orientation and central entrance; the principal east-facing elevation is three bays wide while the flank elevations are four bays deep. Erected above a concrete foundation with partially excavated basement, it has wood novelty siding and an asphalt-shingle roof. The central entrance consists of paired glazed-and-paneled doors that are shielded beneath a pent-roof porch supported by square piers with corresponding bases and capitals. The entrance is flanked to either side by windows with one-over-one wood sash and simple casings with drip caps. A louvered vent is centered within the gable field.

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Fenestration on the south flank elevation consists of three windows and a door and on the north elevation consists of four windows. A brick chimney rises from the rear, west, elevation, which has two windows. Inside, the building retains its original features and spatial configuration, though the flooring in one area has become uneven due to damage to the framing below. Wall surfaces in the main assembly area are fitted with vertical boards of varying width and the ceiling has fiberboard panels with battens aligned between, as does the west wall between the larger room and kitchen. The galley-type kitchen is located across the rear of the building; a door located in a bump-out against the south wall provides access to a stair that leads downward into the excavated portion of the basement. Schoolhouse-type pendant lights are suspended from the ceiling in the main assembly area.

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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 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1869- ca. 1900

Significant Dates

1869; ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance, 1869- ca. 1900, is initiated with the church's construction and terminates with interior changes rendered to the building ca. 1900. The ca. 1940 parish hall has been excluded from the period of significance.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Criteria Consideration A has been invoked, given the building's continued use, albeit sporadically, for religious purposes.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel, located in the eponymously named hamlet in the Town of Livingston, Columbia County, New York, is an architecturally significant religious building. Erected in 1869, the chapel's construction was funded by Isaac Shaurman, a Livingston native who, following a successful career in New York City, retired to Glenco Mills towards the end of his life; he later endowed the church to ensure its future and that of the religious activities it sheltered. Shaurman recognized that Glenco Mills, which by the 1860s was flourishing as a mill seat within a larger agrarian community, lacked a dedicated house-of-worship to serve its population. Thus, some Glenco Mills residents had to travel outside of the hamlet to practice their faith, while others—and the hamlet's children in particular—failed to observe the Sabbath at all. It was that situation that Shaurman had sought to remedy, and to ensure that his efforts would continue unabated, beyond his own lifetime, he endowed the building with a trust. Architecturally, the building's eclectic Picturesque stylistic vocabulary and diminutive scale mark it as distinctive; those responsible for its design and construction remain anonymous, though it might be surmised that Shaurman, a former carpenter-builder and lumber merchant, took an avid interest in its design. As it stands today, the building is little altered from its 1860s appearance, save for the reworking of the worship space's original plaster wall and ceiling surfaces ca. 1900 with the addition of elaborate bead-board finishes. Most of the building's original or subsequent historic-period features, inclusive of exterior treatments, slip pews, and lighting fixtures, remain. The nominated building remains an important legacy of its benefactor, Isaac Shaurman, and the once-bustling mill hamlet of Glenco Mills. It is being nominated to the NRHP in association with Criterion C, in the Area of Architecture, as a highly intact example of rural ecclesiastical architecture erected ca. 1869 in an eclectic vein, with interior modifications rendered ca. 1900.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Historical Context

The Town of Livingston is among those Columbia County towns that were once located within the bounds of Livingston Manor, which was chartered in 1686 by New York colonial Governor Thomas Dongan on behalf of the English Duke of York. Although obsolete and by that time illegal in England, the manorial system was used in several localities in New York, as well as in other colonies, in areas where settlement lagged and the lack of population stunted regional development. Proprietors of those manors—“manor lords” or “patroons” as they were sometimes styled—were obliged to contract with tenant farmers who, early on, worked to clear and develop untamed land. Located in the southern third of modern-day Columbia County and comprising the present towns of Livingston, Clermont, Germantown, Taghkanic, Gallatin,

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Copake and Ancram, Livingston Manor was bordered on the west by the Hudson River and extended 20 miles east to what would become the Massachusetts and Connecticut state lines. It was one of the most successful of New York's various manorial holdings, and for more than 80 years it remained a vigorous enterprise, despite incursions made by New Englanders, who settled on and claimed undeveloped parts of the manor to the east. Farms, saw and grist mills, and New York's first iron works, located on the Roeliff Jansen Kill in Ancram, formed the backbone of the early rural economy.

The interests of the Livingstons were not restricted to the manor, as family members also invested themselves in government and public service as well as in commercial affairs. The first proprietor, Robert Livingston (1654-1728), probably made greater profits by importing goods from Europe and reselling them in the colony; and he assuredly established the family's prominence when he served as Albany County Clerk, as an Indian negotiator, and other provincial positions that established a high place for him in regional affairs. His sons were raised with an eye toward their respective futures; and it was understood that the eldest son would inherit the entire manor property. However, in his will, the first Robert Livingston left a generous portion of the property to a younger son and namesake. That represented all the land between the Hudson River and the southwest side of the Roeliff Jansen Kill, excepting 6,000 acres that were previously sold to Queen Anne, for the settlement of Palatine German refugees. That bequest established what is now the Town of Clermont, a portion of the original manor that descended to the heirs of this Robert of Clermont, so-called, with a somewhat separate history from the Livingston Manor proper. However, most of the manor's lands went to the first Robert's eldest surviving son, Philip. In turn, Philip's eldest surviving son, Robert, inherited the manor property when Philip died in 1749. Philip Livingston, and then Robert, continued to cultivate business interests in Albany and New York City, and they also maintained a political presence in the affairs of the colony. By 1774 the third manor proprietor determined that his eldest son was not an adequate future proprietor, and he thus instead gave substantial properties to his four sons along the Roeliff Jansen Kill and at Ancram. His fifth son evidently preferred living in the city, as there is no record of any house or plantation set aside for Robert C. Livingston. Between 1774 and 1790, when he died, Robert also devised a plan for dividing the remaining manor lands. East of the Post Road, the manor would be divided into four great lots intended for his sons Walter, Robert C., Henry, and John. Four small lots, situated along the river, further provided for their future interests. His eldest son, Peter R., received only the large farm on which he had built a great house, "The Hermitage," before the Revolution; that house no longer remains—it was demolished in the 1980s. Walter Livingston built the house called "Teviotdale" (NRHP-listed) around 1774; meanwhile, John built a great mansion that stood in the modern Livingston

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hamlet, then called Johnstown, which was also demolished in the 1980s. Henry Livingston's house was erected in Ancram in 1743 and demolished about 1843, at which time a new house was rebuilt on its site, which overlooked the iron works. About 1802 Henry Livingston acquired his brother John's house and relocated there; the latter had built on his "Small Lot" the house called known as "Oak Hill" (NRHP-listed).

Glenco Mills, or Glencoe, as it was known variously, was once a place of considerable consequence in the affairs of the Town of Livingston. The first settlers, members of the Brusie, Shipper and Whitbeck families, leased lands from the Livingston family there prior to 1700.¹ The nascent settlement centered on present-day Claverack Creek, which was known for a time as the Maryburg Creek, which would in time give rise to a number of successful mill enterprises. The name Glenco, of Scottish origin, appears to have first come into usage around 1830, and the full name of Glenco Mills was in common usage by the latter portion of the century.² The place was also known for a time by the name Sober.³ The nineteenth century historian Franklin Ellis described the hamlet in 1878 as being home to "a good flouring-mill, a saw-mill, several large shops, a neat chapel of the Methodist church, and about eight inhabitants."⁴

Henry P. Hermance (Heermance variously) was a pivotal figure in the development of Glenco Mills in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. A relation by marriage to other families that resided there, he purchased land from Mary Livingston in 1843; it consisted of 17 acres, water rights on the creek, and an old tenant farm house in which he would reside.⁵ Shortly thereafter he constructed a wood dam and grist mill, and in order to advance and protect the interests of this new enterprise, in 1850 he purchased the area's only other mill, that established by William Gardner a quarter-century prior.⁶ The hamlet, located on the Hudson-Ancram Turnpike, which was a segment of a larger overland transportation route linking New York and Connecticut, was further developed with the construction of a hotel, established around 1850 by Stephen H. Ham, and a store, which was operated in succession by James Bogardus and Ira Williams, and another established in 1872 by Milton Shaurman. Postal service at Glenco Mills was initiated in 1856 with Hermance serving at the first postmaster.⁷

¹ Mary J. Howell, *Livingston: Then and Now* (Livingston, N.Y.: Town of Livingston, 1988), 119.

² Howell, *Livingston*, 119.

³ Franklin Ellis, *History of Columbia County, New York* (Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Ensign, 1878), 259.

⁴ Ellis, *Columbia County*, 259.

⁵ Howell, *Livingston*, 121.

⁶ Howell, *Livingston*, 121.

⁷ Ellis, *Columbia County*, 259.

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Mary Howell, longtime Livingston resident and Columbia County historian, noted the three principal reasons for the ascendancy of Glenco Mills in the second half of the nineteenth century: the fertile soil of the immediately adjoining area, the water-power afforded by the Claverack Creek, and the hamlet's position on the Hudson-Ancram Turnpike.⁸ A deep ravine on the creek at that location proved ideal for water-powered industry, and it gave rise to a series of profitable mill enterprises, among them the mills established under Hermance's guidance. Upon his purchase of the Gardner Mill, Hermance quickly sold it to a relative by marriage, Peter P. Hamm, on the condition that he cease milling flour and plaster; he additionally required Hamm to give him that mill's two runs of stone and cloth-bolting machinery. Hamm acquiesced by refitting the mill for the manufacture of carriage and wagon hubs, and in time he came to build a large mill with circular saw that could produce 4,000 board feet of lumber a day in 1877. He also came to develop a cider mill, which was powered by three hydraulic turbines, thought to be the earliest that industrial technology was placed in usage in Columbia County.⁹

Hermance continued to play a central role in the community's manufacturing affairs until 1865, when he sold his grist and plaster mill to Edward Livingston, who refitted the mill to produce a better grade of flour, prior to selling it four years later to William Miller of Claverack; he in turn sold it shortly thereafter to John Felts of Gallatin, an experienced miller who later served as sheriff of Columbia County.¹⁰ The mill was later converted by Martin Potts to function as a rye-straw paper mill, and then towards the end of the nineteenth century by Douglas Weaver, who refitted it yet again, this time to function as a high-output flour mill, known for a time as the Glenco Roller Mills, a name reflecting the advanced iron-roller machinery he had installed. Weaver also erected a saw mill, which remained in active use into the 1930s.¹¹

In addition to its mill and manufacturing interests, which came to include wool carding, a rope works and mattress factory, the hamlet of Glenco Mills was also the home of other characteristic trades and services typical of period rural communities, among them a blacksmith, cobbler, wagon-maker, and cooper. The hamlet's last blacksmith, Fred Brunning, ceased operating for the last time in 1935; blacksmithing had been previously undertaken by Henry Avery, John Eitleman, and William Stickles.¹²

⁸ Howell, *Livingston*, 119.

⁹ Howell, *Livingston*, 121.

¹⁰ Howell, *Livingston*, 121.

¹¹ Howell, *Livingston*, 121.

¹² Howell, *Livingston*, 122; 123.

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The Shaurman Family & The Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel

The hamlet of Glenco Mills's development into a crossroads commercial and industrial center precipitated its growth, albeit somewhat modestly, during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. There was no religious organization located within its bounds, and instead devout citizens were required to travel some distance to practice their faith. During the 1860s that situation became apparent to Isaac Shaurman, who noted that while some residents traveled to practice their faith, others did not, while many of the hamlet's children spent the Sabbath, in Howell's words, "in play."¹³ In order to rectify the situation, Shaurman, a devout Methodist, financed the construction of the nominated building at the cost of \$2,500 and later endowed it. The building was described by Ellis in 1878 much as it appears today, as "a neat little frame chapel, with one hundred fifty seatings."¹⁴ Upon its completion, Shaurman gave the building to the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church of West Taghkanic, as the chapel would fall within the charge of that larger organization.¹⁵ In September 1869 the first trustees were elected—Ira Williams, Norman Niver, John Schemerhorn, Jonas Rockefeller, Solomon Avery, R.A. Roarbeck, Simeon Decker, and Samuel L. and Abram M. Myers—all of whom were prominent in the affairs of Glenco Mills.¹⁶ The chapel soon became the center of the hamlet's religious life and the home of a large Sunday school, thereby satisfying Shaurman's reasons for seeing to its construction.

Isaac Shaurman was born in the Churchtown area of Livingston in 1796 and was a descendant of early Palatine German settlers. He worked for a time as a carpenter in his native Columbia County prior to moving to New York City, where he was listed as a carpenter in the 1829-30 Manhattan directory. He later engaged in the lumber trade, from which he profited considerably during the 1840s, in the partnership of Miller & Shaurman, and he was additionally the director of and a principal stockholder in the Dry Dock Savings Bank.¹⁷ During his New York City residency he became associated with the Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church of Manhattan; in later years he provided a significant legacy of \$10,000 to that organization, for which he was praised in an account offered in the *Hudson Daily Star*:

The example thus set by Mr. S. in giving to the cause of Christianity, dear to his heart, such a liberal share of this world's goods, is worthy of emulation at home by our capitalists, who are hoarding their treasures like misers—tenaciously clutching their money bags as if fearful that some fiend in human shape would rob them of their ducats. The life of a pure life, such as is illustrated in the history of Isaac Shaurman, is truly

¹³Howell, *Livingston*, 122.

¹⁴Ellis, *Columbia County*, 263.

¹⁵*Columbia County at the End of the Century*, vol. II (Hudson, N.Y.: Record Printing and Publishing, 1900), 726.

¹⁶Ellis, *Columbia County*, 263.

¹⁷Howell, *Livingston*, 122.

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“a beacon star of salvation,” and the only reward he desires for remembering the church of his love is the consciousness of having done his simple duty—nothing more.¹⁸

After a successful career in New York City, Shaurman retired. He spent his final years in Glenco Mills, where he resided with his daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Jonas Rockefeller, until his death in 1874. In the year prior to his passing, Shaurman created a \$4,300 trust for the Glenco Mills chapel, which he had previously financed the construction of. He named Solomon Avery and Ira Williams as trustees and charged them with using the monies to ensure that Sunday services would continue unabated, to ensure the salary of the minister, and for other miscellaneous expenses.¹⁹ Following Avery’s death in 1901, Williams remained as the sole trustee, and in 1905 he successfully petitioned the court to name Elias Fingar, S.F. Avery and D.H. Weaver as new trustees; following their deaths the West Taghkanic Methodist Church and Glenco Mills chapel petitioned the courts successfully in 1940 to name the New York Annual Conference of the Methodist Church as the singular trustee overseeing Shaurman’s legacy.²⁰

At Shaurman’s funeral, the Reverend Hunt of West Taghankic praised Shaurman’s example and the fact he lived by the admonition “Freely ye have received, freely give.”²¹ Following the funeral his remains were conveyed to the train station at Hudson, and from there to New York City, where a second funeral was staged prior to his interment.²² While the manufacturing fortunes of the Glenco Mills hamlet would ebb and disappear in the early twentieth century, and although its mill structures have long since fallen away, the chapel remains to document an important episode in the life of the community and the contributions of an important local family to its historic affairs.

The Glenco chapel continued to serve the community faithfully into first half of the twentieth century. Announcements in area newspapers kept residents abreast of when services would be conducted, including those for Thanksgiving and Christmas, often in association with the Methodist church at West Taghkanic, but sometimes with ministers associated with other churches.²³ The minister would oftentimes hold Sunday

¹⁸“A Generous Donation,” *Hudson Daily Star*, 18 January 1872.

¹⁹“Appoints Methodist Church Conference Trustee of Fund,” *The Hudson, N.Y., Evening Register*, 17 September 1940.

²⁰“Appoints Methodist Church Conference Trustee,” *Evening Register*.

²¹Howell, *Livingston*, 122.

²²Howell, *Livingston*, 122.

²³“Church News,” *Columbia Republican* (Hudson, N.Y.), 28 June 1912; Glenco Mills news items, *Columbia Republican*, 16 July 1912; Glenco Mills news items, *The Hudson, N.Y., Evening Register*, 12 December 1943.

GLENCO MILLS METHODIST CHAPEL

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services at the West Taghkanic church in the morning, and then at the chapel in the afternoon or evening.²⁴ Funerals were also staged there occasionally, as in the case of Burton Hawver, a Glenco Mills teenager whose life was claimed by pneumonia in 1917, as were civic meetings and Sunday school.²⁵ Presently the chapel is used more intermittently, but it remains active as a religious venue, and continues to play host to a Christmas Eve service, now a nearly half-century tradition.

The parish hall was completed and dedicated in September 1940.²⁶ Its construction provided additional space for programming, including lectures, meetings, and social events such as Gay Nineties suppers.²⁷ It has in more recent times fallen into disrepair and is not currently in active service.

Architectural Analysis

The Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel's exterior is decidedly eclectic in nature and not precisely definable in stylistic terms. It is probably best defined as being of Picturesque Gothic derivation, though only vaguely so when its character-defining ornamental features are thoroughly considered. The building's form is suggestive of the rural Protestant meetinghouse type derived from distant English Wren-Gibbs precedents; however, at the same time, it also vaguely recalls the small bell-cote type Gothic Revival churches popularized by architect Richard Upjohn for rural Episcopal parishes in the second quarter of the century, a number of which were built in the region. Although it has a steeply pitched roof and slender bell tower that gives it additional vertical, and thus Gothic, emphasis, it by no means approaches an authentically Gothic building. The peaked window crowns and diamond-pane sash, in association with the vertical emphasis—which is furthered by the narrow piers that articulate the bay divisions of the flank elevations—associate it with Gothic design motives, though by no means in a strict sense. The use of traditional clapboard—as opposed to vertical board-and-batten siding, which was popularized in the antebellum era for domestic and religious architecture—relates it more to the traditional meetinghouse type than the rural Episcopal parish churches of Upjohn and his contemporaries. The deep unmodulated friezes, meanwhile, recall the lingering classical taste of the Greek Revival style. Although the delicate spade-like ornament serves as a unifying

²⁴Glenco Mills news items, *The Republican* (Hudson, N.Y.), 2 August 1888; West Taghkanic news items, *Columbia Republican*, 16 November 1905.

²⁵"Pneumonia Claims Glenco Young Man," *The Hudson Evening Register*, 13 March 1917; West Taghkanic news items, *The Republican*, 22 October 1896.

²⁶*The Hudson, N.Y., Evening Register*, 21 September 1940.

²⁷"Annual Gay Nineties Supper," *The Hudson, N.Y., Evening Register*, 16 September 1941; *The Knickerbocker News* (Albany, N.Y.), 21 May 1955.

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motif, the round-arched and keystone openings in the bell tower strike a discordant note from the remaining Gothic-inspired fenestration, and the entrance doors have their closest precedents in the contemporary Italianate style. In both form and ornamentation, the building's design draws freely from available architectural precedents and it does not appear to comprehensively relate to religious buildings illustrated in mid- to late-1860s pattern books authored by the likes of Henry Holly, Samuel Sloan, and George Woodward, among others.

Spatially, the interior remains largely as it was first built, with a small vestibule that opens directly into the worship space; upon entering the latter, a center aisle flanked by slip pews leads to the dais and liturgical center. The most striking feature of the interior is the ca. 1900 treatment of the worship space's walls and ceiling, which consists of decorative bead-board, molded trim with roundel blocks, and a molded cornice. It, along with the earlier and original 1869 treatments, survive with very little alteration, and thus the chapel remains remarkably intact to the 1869- ca. 1900, with only slight modifications, among them the installation of electricity.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Columbia County at the End of the Century, vol. II. Hudson, N.Y.: Record Printing and Publishing, 1900.

Ellis, Franklin. *History of Columbia County, New York*. Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Ensign, 1878.

Howell, Mary J. *Livingston: Then and Now*. Livingston, N.Y.: Town of Livingston, 1988.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .59 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 603940 4667249
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is depicted on the enclosed mapping, which was drawn at a scale of 1:24,000, 1: 12,000 and 1: 4,000; all maps are entitled "Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel, Glenco Mills, Columbia Co., NY."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was drawn to reflect historic circumstances and the development of the chapel property, which in addition to the meetinghouse came to include the adjacent ca. 1940 parish house. All land included within the boundary is historically associated with the church and its development; no additional or "buffer" land is included.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger

organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation

date May 2019; new edits November 2019

street & number PO Box 189, Peebles Island State Park

telephone (518) 268-2167

city or town Waterford

state NY

zip code 12188

e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Photographs by William E. Krattinger, January 2019, TIFF file format; original digital files at NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, Waterford N.Y.

- 001 EXTERIOR, chapel, view looking to southwest showing north and east elevations
- 002 EXTERIOR, chapel, view looking west showing east façade
- 003 EXTERIOR, chapel, view looking to northwest showing south elevation
- 004 EXTERIOR, chapel, view looking east showing west gable elevation
- 005 EXTERIOR, view looking roughly north showing south and east elevations of parish hall and chapel
- 006 EXTERIOR, chapel, view showing hand-painted sign, east façade
- 007 INTERIOR, chapel, vestibule, south wall, view showing window and bead-board finish
- 008 INTERIOR, chapel, worship space, view looking west towards dais and liturgical center
- 009 INTERIOR, chapel, worship space, view looking east towards vestibule
- 010 INTERIOR, chapel, worship space, detail view showing bead-board wall and ceiling treatments
- 011 INTERIOR, chapel, worship space, detail view showing bead-board wall treatment and baseboard
- 012 INTERIOR, chapel, worship space, kerosene wall lamp
- 013 INTERIOR, parish hall, view looking east towards principal entrance
- 014 INTERIOR, parish hall, view looking west towards galley kitchen

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.460 et seq.).

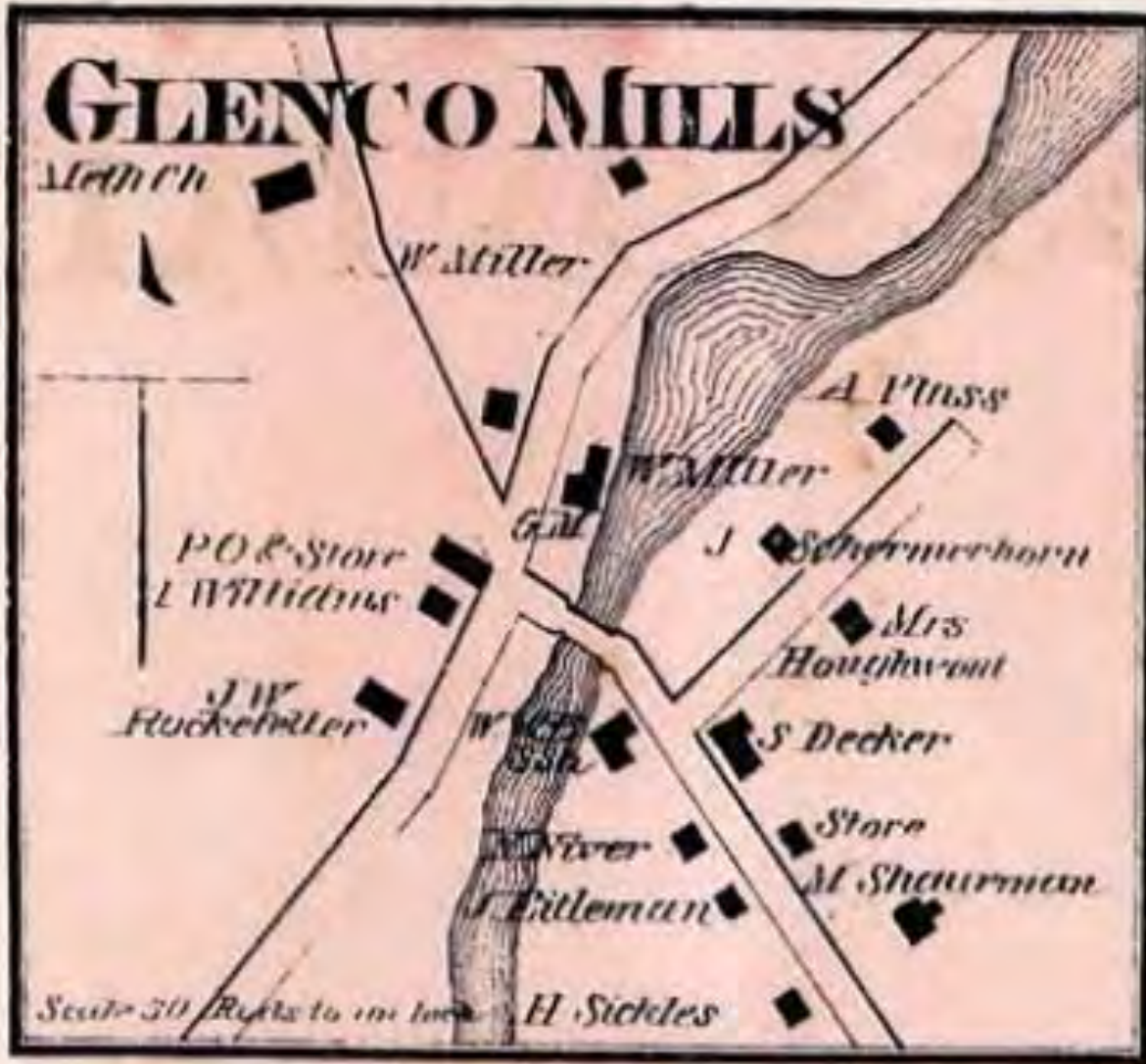
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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ABOVE, inset map of Glenco Mills from D.G. Beers & Co. Columbia County atlas, 1873. The chapel is shown in the extreme upper left-hand corner ("Meth Ch").

Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel
Glenco Mills, Columbia County, NY

142 Old Route 82
Glenco Mills, NY 12534



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

0 650 1,300 2,600 Feet

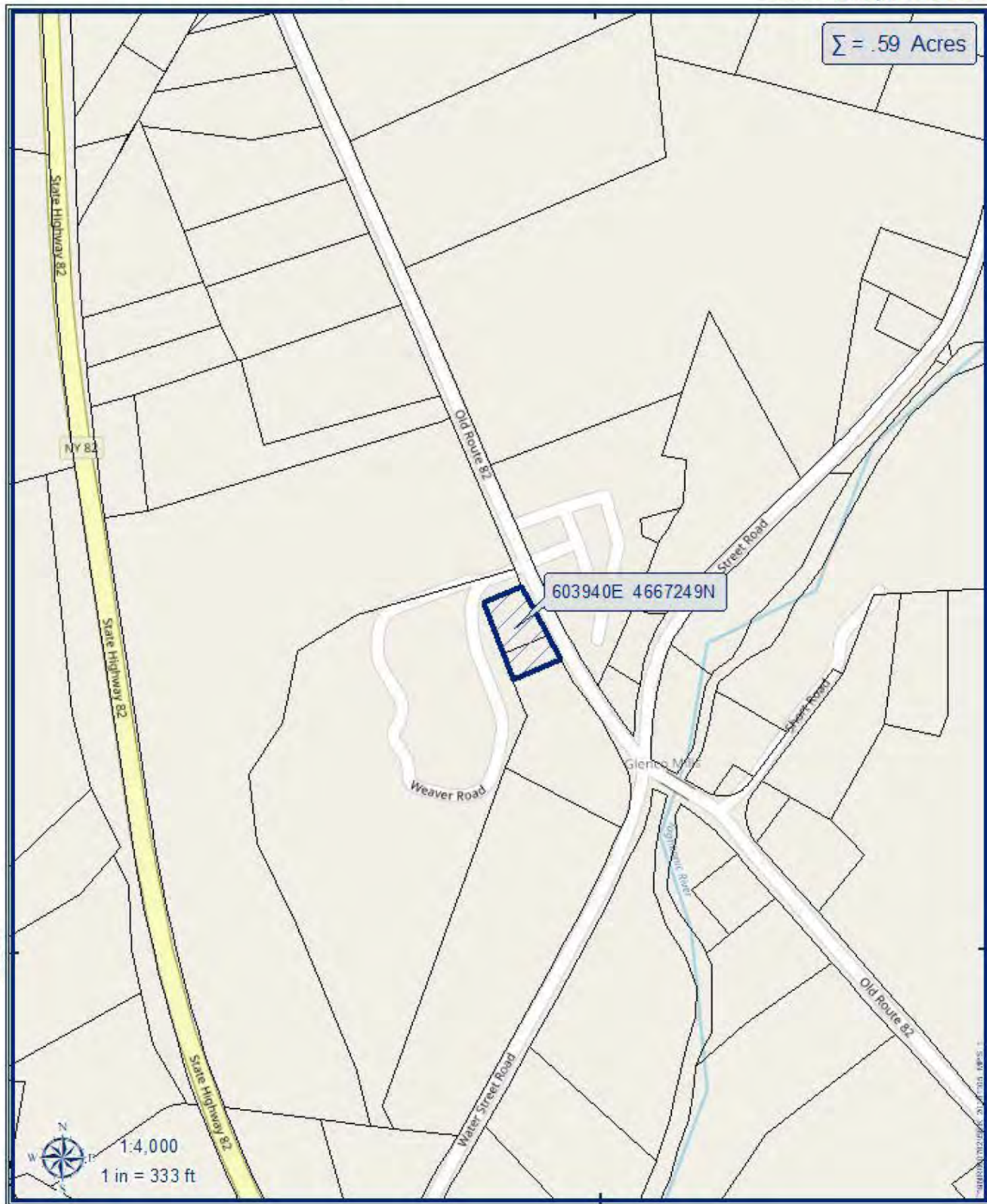


Glenco Mills
Methodist
Chapel



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation



















A little child

shall lead them

GLENCO METHODIST
CHURCH

A CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

FOUNDED BY
ISAAC SHAUERMAN
1869

SERVICES

*1st Sunday of Month 1:30 P.M.
Christmas Eve, Holidays, Weddings & Special Events
are Announced on this Board as Held
Everyone is Welcome in this Sanctuary
HISTORY: GREEK REVIVAL STRUCTURE - HUDSON RIVER COTTAGE STYLE
TOWER BELFRY - MID-VICTORIAN INTERIOR PRESERVED*

PASTOR

REV. KEN CODDINGTON

2864















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: 11/14/2019 Date of Pending List: 12/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 12/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 12/30/2019 Date of Weekly List: 1/3/2020

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 12/30/2019 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.



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

8 November 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 two nominations, both on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Danascara Place, Tribes Hill, Montgomery County
Glenco Mills Methodist Chapel, Glenco Mills, Columbia 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