

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

726

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: St. Paul A.M.E. Church

Other names/site number: K02507

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 103 West Mispillion Street

City or town: Harrington State: DE County: Kent

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

 _____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	August 31, 2016 _____ 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	

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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):

Joe *Edson H. Beall* *10.17.10*
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility (church)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility (church)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling (parsonage)

St. Paul A.M.E, Church
Name of Property

Kent

Delaware
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN

Gothic Revival (vernacular)

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: vinyl siding over clapboards, concrete block foundation, composite shingle roof, stained glass windows

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story frame, rectangular church with a steep gable roof and two-story corner bell tower at the northeast corner of the building. Though constructed in 1895, in a vernacular Gothic Revival style, a one-story lean-to addition was added on the east elevation by 1986 and the chancel area was enlarged in 1994 at the south gable end of the church. The original clapboards are now covered with vinyl siding. It is located in a residential area on the west side of the town of Harrington in Mispillion Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. This church is situated on the south side of West Mispillion Street and is positioned approximately six feet from the sidewalk on a town lot measuring approximately .55 acres. Built to serve its African American community in 1895, its significant architectural features include an offset bell tower capped by a pyramidal roof with bell-cast eaves and pointed-arch shaped Gothic Revival style windows with multi-colored glass panes with scissor-like wooden muntins and mullions. Textured glass panes include a variety of colors such as off-white, golden yellow, orange, turquoise blue, light sage, and burnt umber. Interior accoutrements include a Mission style wooden altar, side and arm chairs, and pulpit as well as historic oak pews. Overall dimensions of the church are approximately 31'4" X 34'21". The projected bell tower's façade is 8'9" wide and 7'11" deep. Attached to the original rectangular edifice is a one-story lean-to addition on the east side measuring 30'4" X 5'7" and an expanded apse on the south side measuring 14' X 24'. A rough cast concrete block foundation supports the entire building. For more than 120 years, St. Paul A.M.E. Church has been associated with the ethnic heritage of

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent Delaware
Name of Property County and State

African Americans worshipping in Harrington. Though the lean-to addition caught fire in July 1993 as a result of a severe fire to a neighboring house, the church survived. Fortunately, the church suffered minimal fire and smoke damage. Despite this damage the congregation chose to repair the church without compromising the building's overall architectural and historic integrity.

The Main Façade

St. Paul A.M.E. is a one-story, three-bay, steep gable-roofed frame church resting upon a rough cast concrete block foundation with a cornerstone positioned at the northwest corner dated "1895-12". The northeast corner is flanked by an offset, two-story bell tower. Though other bell towers are associated with churches within Harrington, this is the only-known example that is projected about two feet from the façade instead of being nearly aligned with the façade. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof with bell-cast eaves and a pent-eave between the levels. According to a 1947 photograph, the second story level was open with square corner posts and a low square balustrade.¹ However, a 1978 photograph indicates that church trustees enclosed this area and painted letters "A.M.E." on the siding.² A Gothic Revival style pointed arched double-hung window with multi colored panes is centrally located on the east side of the bell tower. The second floor level section of the tower features elongated louvers on the north, east, and south sides. A small, metal louvered opening is positioned at the apex of the roof. The metal and glass double-door entrance is surmounted by an original three-light transom. Three pointed arched double-hung windows are symmetrically positioned across the façade with the wider window centered between two narrower windows. The arrangement of glass window panes with scissor-like muntins and mullions are combined with multi-colored glass border windows which are reminiscent of Queen Anne style windows.

East Elevation

This elevation features a one-story lean-to addition rebuilt in 1994 which houses the pastor's office and restrooms. One-over-one, double-hung windows are positioned near the southeast corner and at the south end of the addition. This addition was constructed on a concrete block foundation. A small, metal louvered opening is positioned near the joining of the original and modern sections of the church.

West Elevation

Three Gothic Revival style pointed-arched windows are symmetrically placed on the west elevation. Like the main façade, the largest window is centrally positioned and flanked by narrower windows. Each double-hung window features the same decorative-multi colored glass panes with scissor-like muntins and mullions.

South Elevation

The original apse was replaced when the sanctuary was enlarged in 1994. However, the addition was designed to fall within the footprint of the original church roofline. It is a one-story, frame

¹ Delaware Public Archives – Frank Zebley Church Photograph Collection, 1947

² Harrington Historical Society Photograph Collection – A.M.E. Church, 1978.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

addition with a steep gable roof. Centrally placed in the rear wall is a small Gothic Revival style pointed-arched window with one of the decorative multi-colored glass panes with scissor-like muntins and mullions. The eastern side of the addition features a modern metal door. This handicapped entrance features a wrap-around poured concrete ramp with wood framing. The apex of this addition includes a small centrally placed metal louvered opening below the roof peak.

The Interior

The bell tower provides access to the sanctuary, pastor's office, and restrooms. The original cast bell, pulled by a rope, survives within the tower. The rectangular sanctuary is designed in a center aisle arrangement and contains historic oak pews which flank the center aisle. Recently paneled walls below a narrow chair rail are featured on the east, west, and south plaster walls. Plaster ceilings are found throughout the building. The molded communion rail with turned balusters separates the enlarged altar area from the historic sanctuary. When the original apse was replaced in 1994, the chancel area was enlarged. It now contains original pews as well as a Mission style altar, side and arm chairs, pulpit, and baptismal font.

Parsonage (non-contributing)

In 1990, a one-story, double-pile frame house was constructed on the church property and positioned west of the church. It is covered with white vinyl siding and features a low-pitched gable roof. The six-paneled front door is covered by a metal storm/screen door with decorative crossbar trim on the bottom panel and is accessed by a three-step poured concrete slab with decorative metal handrails. The house features one-over-one, double-hung windows flanked by black vinyl shutters. The east four-part window on the main façade is also flanked by black vinyl shutters. A concrete block foundation supports the entire dwelling.

The Setting

St. Paul A.M.E. church was constructed in 1895 and has continuously served Harrington's African American community for more than 120 years. The 1919 Sanborn Map of Harrington denotes that it was constructed approximately 102 feet from the western corporate city limits of Harrington. According to a 1918 topographic map of Harrington the block on which it was located included at least 16 houses, 2 churches, and a school. Though narrow, two-story frame houses were traditionally constructed in this neighborhood during the late teens and early 1920s, only two houses survive on Mispillion Street today. The .55 acres town lot on which the church stands included a one-story frame parsonage built c. 1918 and a community hall constructed c. 1968. The parsonage was sold and removed in 1990 and a new one-story frame parsonage was built [non-contributing]. Trees border the church lot on its south and west sides and a vacant lot exists west of church property. Though the neighborhood remains primarily residential in nature, the majority of the historic properties have been replaced with new one-story houses. A brick one-story school administrative office is located directly across the street from the church.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Modifications

Trustee records and photographs document information about the construction of the church and its modifications. On March 20, 1917 a meeting was held at the church and nine trustees were elected according to minutes taken by Annie E. Tharp, acting secretary. On April 23, 1917, the Quarterly Conference of the Delaware African American Episcopal Church met on site and Rev. E.D. Brown read scriptures. During the year of 1918 trustees approved expenses for chairs, benches, paint, nails, and lumber for the church. Painting continued into the year 1919. A historic photograph taken by Frank Zebley in 1947 shows the church as unpainted with ten-light double-hung sash windows within the Gothic Revival style pointed-arch window surrounds and an opened second floor level in the bell tower. A photograph dated 1978 indicates that the bell tower had been enclosed and the letters "A.M.E." painted on the enclosed portion. By 1986, the one-story frame lean-to section was added to the east side of the church. During Reverend Benjamin Rogers's ministry (1948 – 1955) the stained glass windows were installed, a choir box built, hardwood floors were laid, and the corner stone laid in the foundation. Historic oak benches were acquired and installed during the ministry of Reverend Benjamin Washington (1956-1968). An asphalt shingle roof was placed on the church in 1979, paneling installed on the walls in the sanctuary, carpeting and air conditioning in 1981. Unfortunately, the one-story lean-to addition burned during the fire which destroyed the neighboring house on July 14, 1993. Though the church survived the fire, damage included the charring of the south gable end of the church and apse. The apse was removed and replaced by an enlarged chancel. Heat melted vinyl siding on the rear church and the south side of the bell tower. However, the original bell and corner posts of the bell tower remained intact. Ventilation holes were cut by fireman in the roof and on the north façade of the church. Remarkably, the interior of the sanctuary sustained minor damage. While repairs were made, the congregation met in a building across the street until the church was rededicated on March 20, 1994.

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.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or 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.)

Religion
Ethnic Heritage -Black

Period of Significance

1895 – 1955

Significant Dates

1895 (construction)
c. 1917 (date church was relocated to property)
1948 – 1955 (stained glass windows and oak flooring installed)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

St. Paul A.M.E. Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of its association with the establishment of African Methodist Episcopal Church in Delaware during the early nineteenth century. The church represents the last of the eleven African A.M.E. Churches built in Kent County, Delaware between 1867 and 1895, according to Frank Zebley, a Delaware church historian.³ Records from St. Paul's A.M.E. Church indicate that its congregation was established in 1830 and that members met in various homes. This occurred just seventeen years after the African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1813 by Richard Allen and one year before his death.⁴ In 1895, the members constructed a church on New Street, located on the east side of town. The locally-known African American house mover named, Bobby Russ and mules named Susie and Jennie, physically moved the church to its West Mispillion Street location in the early 1900s. The period of significance 1895 – 1955 denotes dates of construction and improvements made to the church, based on the analysis of archival research and church records. Complementing Delaware's Statewide State Historic Preservation Plan 2013 – 2017, this nomination provides documentation about a historic property associated with the state's underrepresented communities.⁵

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The African Methodist Episcopal Church

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has its roots in Kent County, Delaware. The founder of the denomination, Richard Allen (1760-1831), was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as a house slave of the prominent attorney and Quaker, Benjamin Chew. Allen at the age of seven and his family were sold to a planter named Stokeley Sturgis who lived near Dover, Delaware. His personal conversion to Methodism occurred about the age of seventeen, c. 1777, after hearing the preaching of Methodist circuit riders. Allen joined the local Methodist society and attended clandestine classes in the Methodist faith under the leadership of John Gray. Allen's master encouraged religious worship among his slaves and was himself converted by the circuit riding

³ Frank R. Zebley, The Churches of Delaware. Wilmington Delaware 1947 p. 191-251

⁴ George, Carol V.R. Segregated Sabbaths: Richard Allen and the Rise of Independent Black Churches, 1760-1840. New York: Oxford University Press. 1973.

⁵ Delaware Department of State, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. *Delaware's Historic Preservation Plan 2013 2017*. Dover, Delaware 2013. Page 29. (Goal V: Maintain and expand access to information about historic properties and preservation. Strategy2: Increase information on Delaware's historic properties and improve its quality. Action 6: Explore opportunities to develop historic contexts and/or nominations for underrepresented communities.)

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent Delaware
Name of Property County and State

preachers. It was the charismatic preacher Freeborn Garrettson of Maryland who convinced Sturgis of the evils of slavery. Sturgis eventually allowed his slaves to purchase their freedom.⁶

Richard Allen and planter Stokeley Sturgis were not alone in this conversion. The Delmarva Peninsula was a hot-bed of religious persuasion, particularly Methodist fervor at this time. Methodism, with its tendency toward egalitarian philosophy and emotional preaching was a healthy alternative to rituals and traditions of the Anglican Church. Prior to the American Revolution, the Methodist circuit riders converted a good percentage of the population to the teachings of Francis Asbury and John Wesley.⁷

Richard Allen purchased his freedom in 1781, taking five years to pay off his former master, and relocated back to Philadelphia. Allen and other black preachers converted large numbers of blacks to Methodism. The Methodist church began to discriminate against the new converts, despite the messages preached from the pulpit making their entire religious program irrelevant to black people. The discrimination included the denial of seating to black congregants during church services. The needs of Allen's community were not being met, so in 1787, along with Absalom Jones he organized the Free African Society, a non-sectarian group formed to serve and support the black community in Philadelphia.⁸

Despite the quarrels with the white Methodist Church hierarchy, Richard Allen was firmly committed to the Methodist doctrine. He began a movement to form a separate parish in Philadelphia, whose goals were to minister to both the secular and the spiritual needs of the black community providing leadership for a wide range of community concerns, including temperance, moral reform, self-help, education, and economic co-operation.⁹

Similar problems of racial bias in Methodism and other white denominations in other cities caused the same activities among their black parishioners, producing the formation of separate black parishes. There was a need to formally establish a more formal organization. Challenged repeatedly by the Methodists for attempting to create black religious autonomy, Richard Allen won this fight in the courts and formally organized the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1813. Allen was elected its first Bishop. A book of discipline was adopted which embodied the same articles of religion and rules as the Methodist Episcopal Church. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was the first Christian denomination to be created for sociological, rather than theological reasons.

By 1830, within seventeen years of the establishment of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, at least two congregations were formed in Kent County, Delaware. One was established near Cheswold and the other in Harrington. The Cheswold area church was known as Sutton's Meeting House. It was located at Bishop's Corner and continued to serve its rural community until 1886 when a new church, named Manship, was constructed. Today, Manship Church is known as Immanuel Union Methodist Church. According to its history, it became part of the

⁶ Krawitz, Robin Bodo. Star Hill A.M.E. Church National Register Nomination. Delaware: 1995.

⁷ IBID

⁸ IBID

⁹ IBID

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Peninsula Methodist Conference in 1964.¹⁰ St. Paul A.M.E. Church now represents the earliest-known remaining congregation established in Kent County in 1830.

African Methodist Episcopal Churches in Kent County, Delaware

Though several A.M.E. Churches located in Kent County are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, St. Paul represents the last constructed in the nineteenth century. Zion A.M.E. Church (listed in the NRHP in 1994 - #94001388) is located in the middle of the county in Camden. Built in 1889, it was designed in a Classical Revival style. It is a one-story, frame church with a gable-fronted façade with partial returns, elongated six-over-six double-hung sash windows with multi-colored panes, and features an apse on the rear gable end. Byrd's A.M.E. Church (listed in the NRHP in 1982 - #82001023) is located in northern Kent County in Clayton. Designed in a vernacular style Queen Anne style, this modest frame church has narrow double-hung sash windows surmounted by segmental arched window surrounds. Like St. Paul A.M.E. Church, it features a frame two-story, off-set bell tower. Unlike St. Paul A.M.E. Church the middle section of the tower features scalloped-shaped shingle trim.

Harrington, Delaware

Harrington is a two-square mile municipality located in the southwest portion of Kent County, Delaware. As the largest town within Mispillion Hundred, this rural community was known as Clark's Corner in the nineteenth century. In the year 1856, the Delaware Railroad Company established rail lines and changed this rural crossroad community into a major railroad center connecting it to large cities like Philadelphia and New York. Its post office was established in 1857, the town was incorporated in 1869 and named after Samuel M. Harrington (resident and Chancellor of the State of Delaware 1857-1865).¹¹

Byles 1859 Map of Kent County, Delaware portrays Harrington as a small railroad community with approximately thirteen houses and commercial enterprises including a hotel, and two stores. Less than a decade later, Pomeroy and Beers Atlas of the State of Delaware, published in 1868, depicts Harrington as a community with at least forty-two buildings. Among the structures represented on the map are twenty-four dwellings, one schoolhouse, and seventeen businesses: a railroad station, post office, three stores, two hotels, one shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, two wheelwright shops, one carriage and wagon manufacturer, a timber and lumber shop, and a dealer in grain and fertilizers. Though a Methodist Episcopal parsonage is listed among the residences, no churches had been constructed by 1868. Zebley, in *The Churches of Delaware*, explains many congregations met in the local schoolhouse, a shirt factory, and the railroad engine house. He also states that there were two colored churches: St. Paul A.M.E. and Metropolitan M.E. Church.¹² Many churches were constructed from 1870 to 1900s and were rebuilt/remodeled during the 1920s as the town prospered economically. Census records note

¹⁰ <http://nativemaericansofdelawarestate.com>

¹¹ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware 1609-1888* (Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co. 1888), 1180.

¹² Frank R. Zebley, *The Churches of Delaware* (Wilmington, Delaware 1947) 191-251.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

significant growth in population as well. For example, in 1880 a total of 745 people resided in Harrington and by 1930 the population increased to 1,812 residents; a 41% increase.

Local African American History

Harrington is situated within Mispillion Hundred, one of the original political subdivisions established in the colonial period. Among its residents were a number of African Americans both enslaved and freed. Comprehensive Kent County tax assessments dated 1797, 1837, and 1845 provide detailed information about the status of colored residents who resided within Mispillion Hundred. Within these years the free colored population increased 48%, enslaved individuals decreased by 79%, and slave owners decreased by 70%.

Research suggests that the African American population concentrated in areas east and west of Harrington's corporate city limits. Records maintained by St. Paul A.M.E. Church trustees indicate that though the congregation was established in 1830 members met in houses and other buildings until they erected a church on New Street in 1895. The church was incorporated on March 11, 1896. This church building was moved to the West Mispillion Street location by the town's well-known African American house mover Bobby Russ and his mules. This location is verified by the 1918 U.S. Geological Survey Map of Harrington Quadrangle which shows that the church was situated in the neighborhood bounded by Mispillion Street on the north, West Street on the east, and Milby Street on the south. It was one of two churches on the block which served the African American community who lived in the surrounding 17 houses and attended the school located on Milby Street.

This area continued to develop throughout the 20th century. By 1919, the Sanborn Insurance Map notes that the church was within 102 feet of the western boundary of the town. By 1931, the Sanborn Insurance Map illustrates the rectangular church with a two-story bell tower and a one-story apse as well as a one-story frame dwelling constructed as a parsonage on the church property. By 1955, Harrington's topographic map indicates the neighborhood had increased in size and included more than 30 houses, 3 churches, and a new school across the street from St. Paul's.

The 1918 to 1955 timeframe represents a period of prosperity for St. Paul A.M.E. Church. During these years several improvements were made including repair and painting of the church, the installation of oak flooring, construction of a choir box, cornerstone laid, and addition of stained glass windows.

Comparisons with Neighborhood Churches

Within the immediate neighborhood of St. Paul A.M.E. Church are two religious buildings which continue to serve the African American community. The Metropolitan M.E. Church, located around the corner on West Street, was constructed in 1893. Like St. Paul it is a frame rectangular church which was improved during the 20th century. The 1931 Sanborn Map notes the addition of a two-story bell tower which is slightly recessed from the façade. The roof

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent Delaware
Name of Property County and State

configuration of the tower is similar in design to the bell tower on St. Paul. Pointed Gothic Revival style windows feature similar double-hung stained glass windows with single glass surrounded by colored glass borders. Mt. Moriah Church of the Living God is a one-story frame church with a brick narthex and rear addition. It is located at the west end of Mispillion Street and was constructed in the late 1920s. Like St. Paul A.M.E. Church, the Gothic Revival style double-hung windows feature scissor-like muntins and mullions as well as a center glass pane surrounded by a colored glass border.

Church Transactions

Archival research revealed information about prominent individuals within Harrington who were involved with St. Paul A.M.E. Church for decades. Henry C. Wolcott, an alderman, and his wife Annie M. Wolcott conveyed the land on which the church was originally constructed on New Street as well as land at the Mispillion Street location. The Wolcott family owned multiple properties in the Harrington area and conveyed parcels to several denominations including the Baptists, Methodists, as well as the congregation of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is interesting to note that Annie M. Wolcott owned and conveyed lots situated along Mispillion Street, west of the church, to its African American neighbors. St. Paul A.M.E. Church was incorporated in 1896.

Church Brothers and Sisters

Church trustees and their descendants were employed and lived as property owners or tenants in and around Harrington for decades. U.S. Census records for the years 1870 – 1920 document that several resided in town on Climer and Railroad Avenue as well as Church and West Streets which are in the Mispillion Street neighborhood. Louder Benson, Charles Sorden, Howard Masten and Charles Johnson worked as laborers in the town's lumber mill. Charles Johnson was also employed as basket rast in A.C. Creadick's Basket Factory on Mill Street. Emory Masten lived in Farmington (south of Harrington) and worked as a stable manager in 1910 but moved to Church Street in Harrington when he was employed at the sawmill. Richard Fisher lived on Church Street and worked in the saw mill. Alex Benson, owned his home on Church Street and worked as a farm laborer. Pastor Rev. William Stewart, clergy at the time of the church's relocation in 1917, resided as a tenant on Church Street (now Milby Street) behind the church.

Names of the following women were identified as "stewardesses" in the church journals. Supplementary information about them was extracted from the 1920 U.S. Census. Martha Benson (wife of Alex Benson) and Nellie Masten (wife of Howard Masten) were wives of trustees. Emma Cropper and her husband Harry owned their home on Church Street. Harry worked as a section hand at the railroad. Rosa Flammer, houseworker, rented a dwelling on Church Street. Widow Emma Hoxter, laundress, rented a dwelling on West Street. Her daughter, Gertrude, was a teacher, presumably at the neighborhood African American school. Sallie Benson (wife of Herman) owned their house on West Street and did general housework.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Construction-Related Businesses in Harrington

Though detailed information about the construction and maintenance of St. Paul A.M.E. Church does not survive, lumber, paint, nails, and brushes were among the items noted repeatedly in church journals. Therefore, it is plausible to assume that these materials may have come from Harrington's A.C. Creadick Saw Mill and Basket Factory, J.P. Masten Lumber Yard, G.E. Laws Concrete Block Manufacturing, J.D. Short, and Co. Lumber and Building Materials. Unfortunately, details about the manufacturer or source from which the stained glass windows were obtained and installed in the church between 1948 and 1955 are unknown.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Delaware Public Archives:

Primary Sources:

Aerial View of the Town of Harrington, Delaware (1885). O.H. Bailey & Company. Lithograph & Publishing: Boston. 1885.

Byles Map of Kent County, Delaware: 1859.

Kent County, Delaware Deed Books: B volume: 8, page 4 (1898); K volume: 12, page 277 (1923); Y volume 7, page 416-418 (1894)

Pomeroy and Beers, Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers. 1868.

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Harrington, Delaware: Years 1885, 1891, 1897, 1910, 1919, 1940, 1931.

United States Census Records: Years 1880-1920.

Secondary Source:

A Tri-Centennial View of Harrington, Delaware 1683-1983. Dover, Delaware. 1985.

State Historic Preservation Office:

Aerial Photographs: 1937- 2012.

Cultural Resource Inventory Forms of St. Paul A.M.E. Church: K02507 (church), K02508 (parsonage).

Kent County Tax Parcel Map

U.S.G.S. Historical Topographic Map: 1918 and 1955.

Miscellaneous A.M.E. Church National Register Nominations (DE, KY, IN, NV, MT, Washington, D.C.)

Harrington Historical Society:

1978 Photograph of St. Paul's A.M.E. Church

Article: *Rebuilt AME Church Holds Joyful Service*. Carlos Holmes. Delaware State News and Daily Whale, Sunday, March 20, 1994.

St. Paul's A.M.E. Church Records:

Trustee Journal. March 20, 1917-January 16, 1938.

Record Book: Missionaries of St. Paul A.M.E. May 18, 1949-1980.

Church Commemorative Pamphlets (1986, 1993, 2000, 2001, 2005, 165th Anniversary)

On-line Sources:

Delaware Public Archives Frank R. Zebley Photo Collection, Churches of Delaware Photographic Collection. Photo # K97N.

Kent County Online Mapping: St. Paul A.M.E. Church, 103 West Mispillion Street, Harrington, Delaware. Accessed 2/10/2016.

Brief Histories of Immanuel Union Methodist & Little Union Churches (Manship).

<http://nativeamericansofdelawarestate.com>. Accessed 3/1/2016.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Publications:

George, Carol V.R. Segregated Sabbaths: Richard Allen and the Rise of Independent Black Churches, 1760-1840. New York: Oxford University Press. 1973.

Zebley, Frank R. The Churches of Delaware. Wilmington, Delaware: 1947.

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): K02507

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property .55 acres

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.922016 Longitude: -75.583037

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The St. Paul A.M.E. Church property is located on a .55 acre rectangular-shaped town lot, parcel number 6-09-17907-01-1300-00001. It is bounded on the north by West Mispillion Street. A grove of trees on an unimproved town lot, identified as number 13, is situated west of the church. A two-story frame residence built c. 1994 is situated east of the church on town lot number 15. Town lots with two-story dwellings c. 1900 and sheds, numbered 18 and 19, are separated from the church property by a tree-lined boundary on the southeast. The southern boundary features brush and trees which separates the church from town lots numbered 22 (vacant lot) and 23 (recently constructed one-story frame dwelling).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Trustees recommended the listing of their property using their current tax parcel.

Time Period: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization, 1880 - 1940

Historic Period Theme: Religion

Geographic Zone: Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jennifer L. Hewett, Graduate Student – Historic Preservation Program and
Volunteer Research Intern
organization: Delaware State University and Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 21 The Green
city or town: Dover state: DE zip code: 19901
e-mail Hewett_J@comcast.net
telephone: 302-736-7417 (DE SHPO)
date: March 11, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Paul A.M.E. Church

City or Vicinity: Harrington

County: Kent

State: Delaware

Photographer: State Historic Preservation Office

Date Photographed: 2015 - 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 01 of 13 Three-quarter view of church with parsonage looking southeast
- 02 of 13 Three-quarter view of church with neighboring dwellings east of church
- 03 of 13 Interior of sanctuary looking south
- 04 of 13 Stained glass window (c. 1948) on west elevation of church
- 05 of 13 South elevation of church
- 06 of 13 c. 1948 stained glass window reinstalled in enlarged apse, south elevation
- 07 of 13 Original 1895 corner stone northwest corner of church
- 08 of 13 West side of sanctuary with original pews and c. 1948 stained glass windows
- 09 of 13 Interior of sanctuary looking north
- 10 of 13 Backyard of church looking southeast with the Metropolitan M.E. Church in the distance
- 11 of 13 West Mispillion Street looking east
- 12 of 13 Lake Forest School District Office, north side of West Mispillion Street, directly across the street from the church

Figure 1 Chronological List of Kent County, Delaware African Methodist Episcopal Churches 1830 - 1906

St. Paul A.M.E, Church
Name of Property

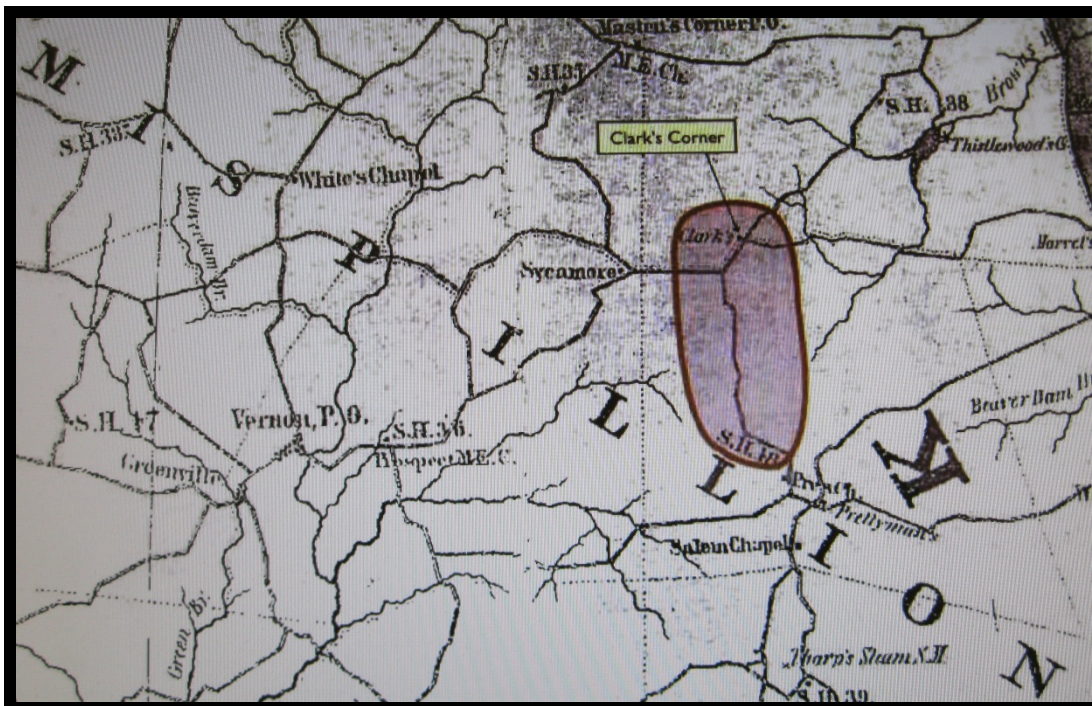
Kent

Delaware
County and State

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 100 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.

Historic Maps



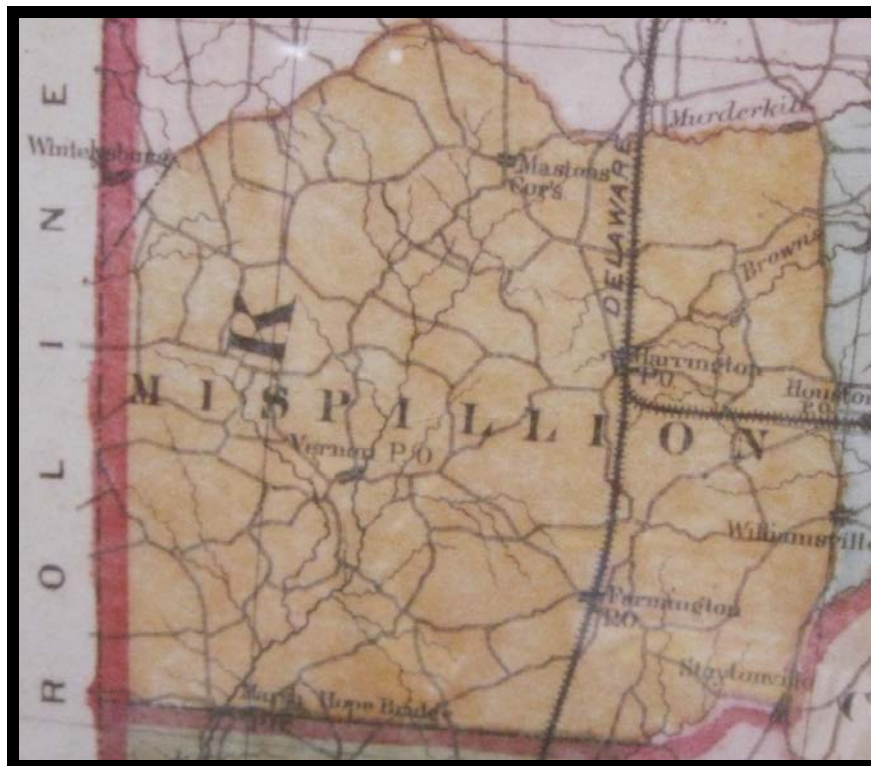
Clark's Corner became Harrington – Price and Rae Map of Harrington, Delaware 1850

St. Paul A.M.E, Church
Name of Property Kent

Delaware
County and State



Harrington – Pomeroy and Beers Atlas of Delaware 1868



Mispillion Hundred – Pomeroy and Beers Atlas of Delaware 1868

Southwest corner of Kent County, Delaware – bordered by Caroline County, Maryland on west and Northwest Fork Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware on south

St. Paul A.M.E, Church
Name of Property Kent

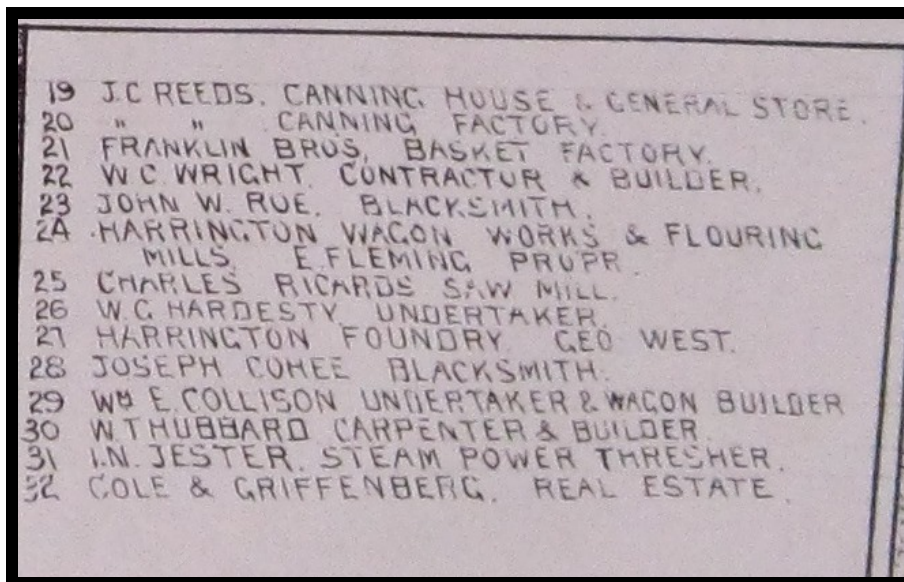
Delaware
County and State



Bird's Eye View Map of Harrington, Delaware 1885 – looking south

Approximate location of
the original church when
constructed in 1895.

Site of relocated
church in 1917.



Sample Business Directory – Harrington, Delaware
1885 Bird's Eye View Map

St. Paul A.M.E, Church
Name of Property Kent

Delaware
County and State



St. Paul's
A.M.E. Church
after relocation.

1918 USGS Historical Topographic Map – Harrington, Delaware

West Street – Harrington
western town boundary



Fire and smoke damage caused by a fire in neighboring house in July of 1993.
Fire fighters cut smoke ventilation holes in main façade.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State



The 1986 lean-to addition was damaged by fire from neighboring house. The original corner posts of bell tower, the bell and pyramidal roof and bell survived. The vinyl siding melted on the east and south sides.



Clapboards on south gable end of church were charred after vinyl siding melted; apse damaged on east side.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church
Name of Property Kent

Delaware
County and State



Interior of sanctuary and apse not damaged by the 1993 fire.
The original pulpit, baptismal font, altar side and arm chairs
located in the chancel area also survived.



Though the apse was removed after the fire and the chancel area expanded,
the original roofline of the church was not altered.

St. Paul A.M.E, Church Kent
Name of Property

Delaware
County and State

Historic Photographs



1947 Frank Zebley Church Photograph Collection (Delaware Public Archives)



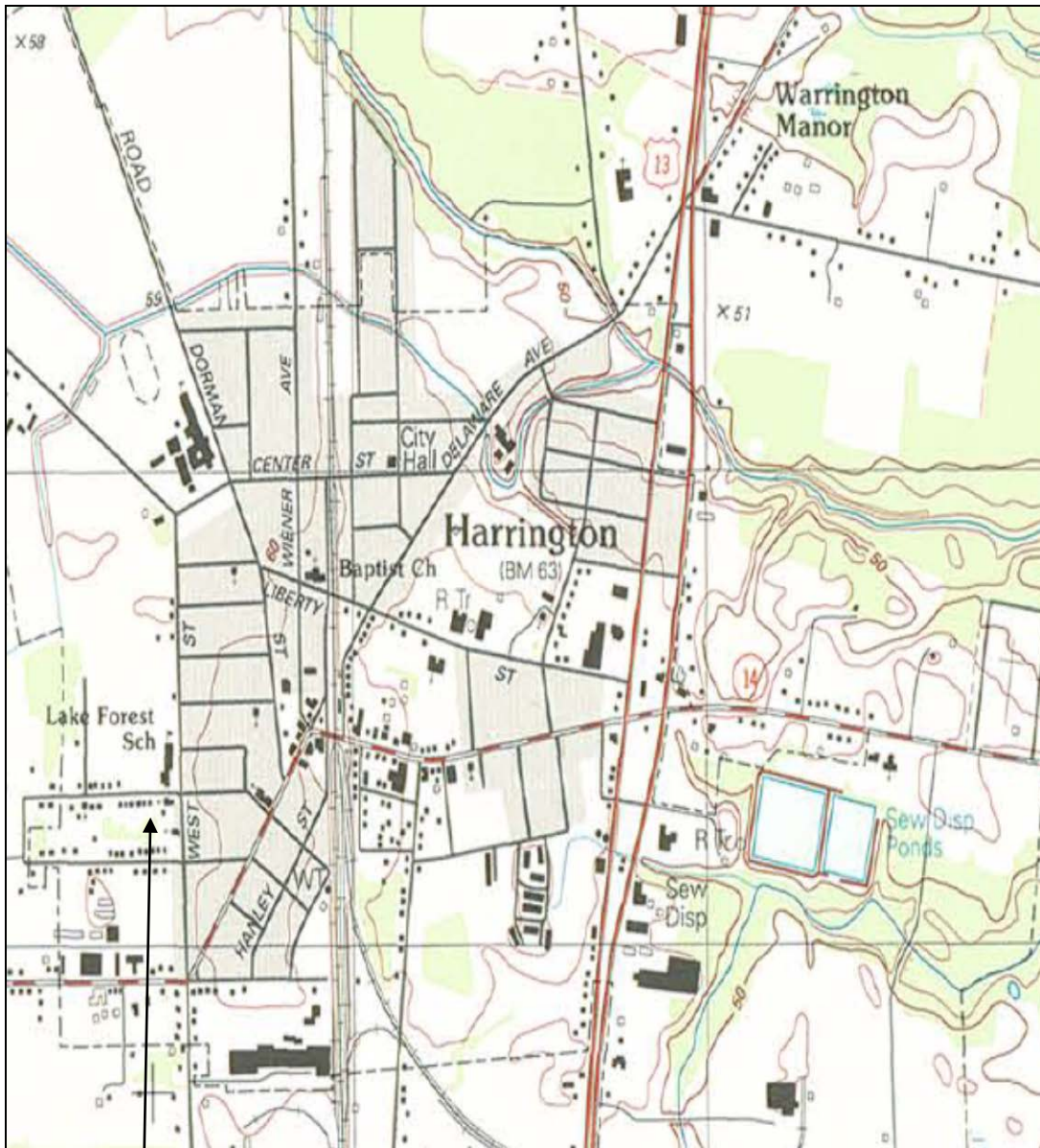
1978 photograph (Harrington Historical Society)

St. Paul A.M.E, Church
Name of Property

Kent

Delaware
County and State

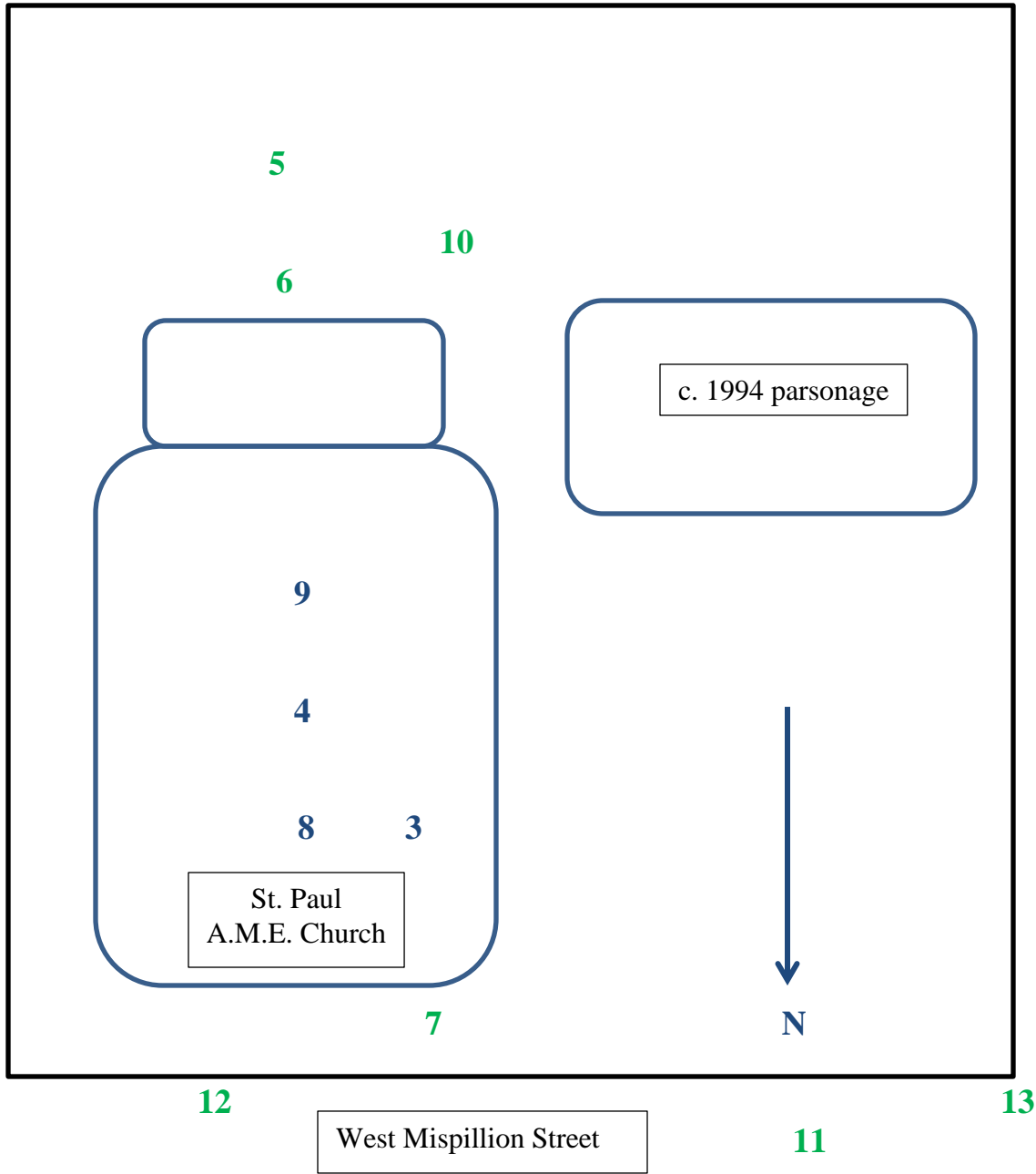
USGS Map



State of Delaware Geological Survey
Harrington Quadrangle – Delaware 1993

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Latitude: 38.922016
Longitude: -75.583037

Photo Key
St. Paul A.M.E. Church
103 West Mispillion Street
Harrington, Delaware



Green	exterior
Blue	interior

2

1



DE_Kent County_ St. Paul A.M.E. Church Three-quarter view of church property with parsonage looking southeast along West Mispillion Street 01 of 13



DE_Kent County_St. Paul A.M.E. Church Three-quarter view of church with neighboring dwellings east of church along West Mispillion Street 02 of 13



DE_Kent County_ St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Interior of sanctuary looking south toward altar 03 of 13



DE_Kent County_ St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Stained glass window added c. 1948 04 of 13



DE_Kent County_ St. Paul A.M.E. Church
South elevation of church



DE_Kent County_St. Paul A.M.E. Church c. 1948 stained glass apse window reinstalled in south elevation of expanded altar area 06 of 13

ST. PAUL'S
A.M.E. CHURCH
1895-12



DE_Kent County_St. Paul A.M.E. Church
West side of sanctuary, original pews, c. 1948 windows 08 of 13





DE_Kent County_St. Paul A.M.E. Church Southeast corner of backyard
with the Metropolitan M.E. Church in the distance



DE_Kent County_St. Paul A.M.E. Church
East view of West Mispillion Street 11 of 13



DE_Kent County_St. Paul A.M.E. Church Lake Forest School District
Office - north side of West Mispillion Street, directly accross from church



DE_Kent County_St. Paul A.M.E. Church Adjoining property west of church where small, frame houses with gable end facades once stood





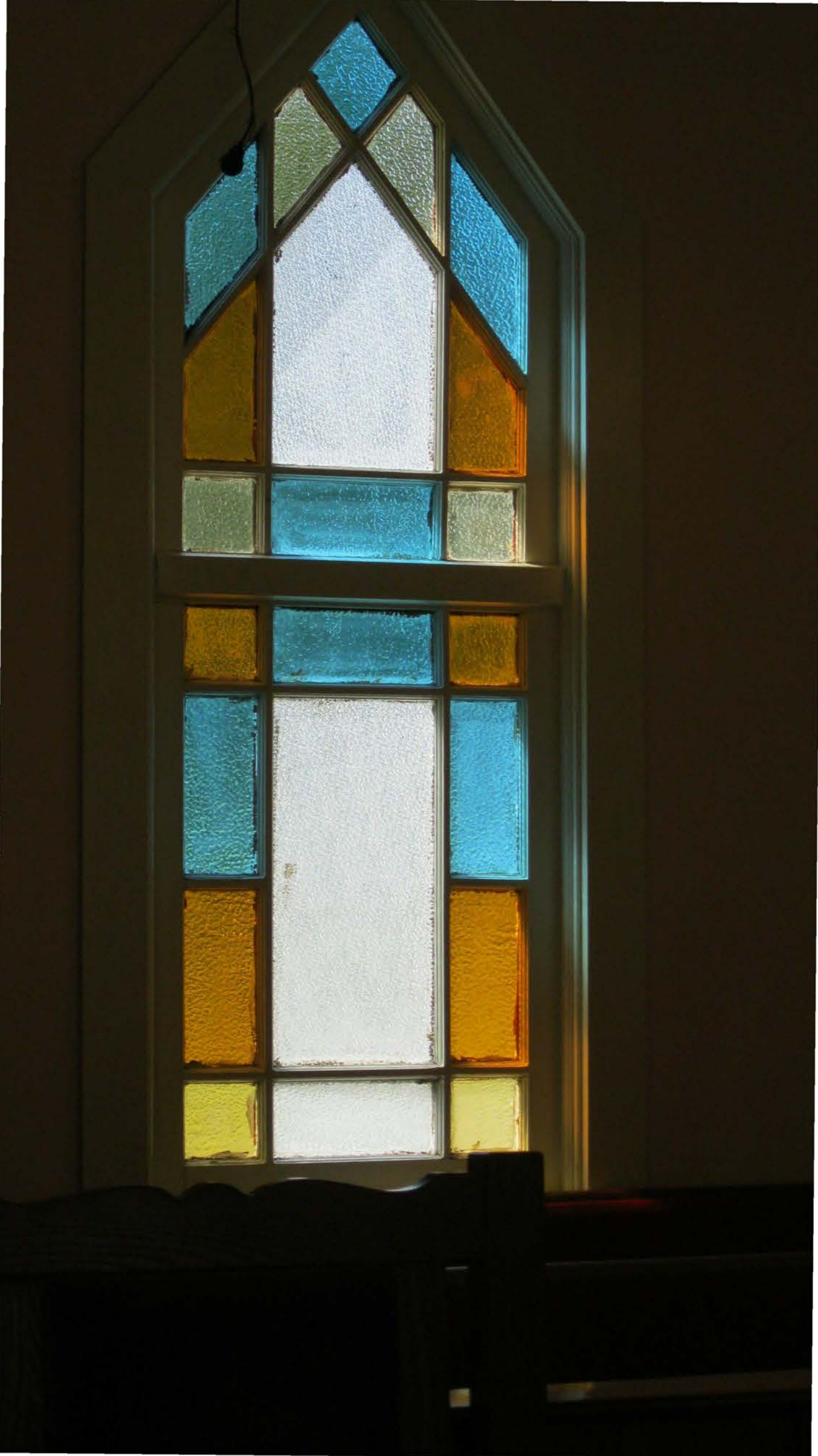
St Paul
A.M.E. Church



King
of
Kings

Jesus
of
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ST. PAULS
A. M. E. CHURCH
1895-12









St Paul
A.M.E. Church
1234 Main St
New York, NY





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. Paul A.M.E. Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DELAWARE, Kent

DATE RECEIVED: 9/2/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY:

~~11/07/16~~
10-18-16

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000726

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10-17-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

State of Delaware
Historical and Cultural Affairs

21 The Green
Dover, DE 19901-3611



Phone: (302) 736.7400

Fax: (302) 739.5660

August 31, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Toothman, Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street NW (2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Toothman:

Enclosed please find the following nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

- St. Paul A.M.E. Church – Harrington, Delaware

If there are any questions regarding this document, please contact Madeline E. Dunn, National Register Coordinator-Historian for the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office at 302-736-7417 or madeline.dunn@state.de.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TAS".

Timothy A. Slavin, State Historic Preservation Officer
and Director Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Enclosures

