

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number N-6758

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INVENTORY FORM: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

8. A. Property Name: Wesley M. E. Church (N-6758)  
DE Route 896  
McClellandville, Delaware

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

Wesley M. E. Church is located on the west side of Delaware Route 896 approximately 800 feet north of its intersection with Appleton Road. It is situated on a 0.5 acre lot with a frontage of 198.7 feet along Route 896 and a depth of 111 feet (1982 New Castle County Property Tax Maps; Map Number 9-5, Parcel 69).

UTM Reference: 18/433210/4395840

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: Newark West, Md.-Del.-Pa.

- C. Owners: Marvin R. and Harriet R. Sachs  
3513 Concord Pike  
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

D. Property Description:

Wesley M. E. Church is a frame, one story, gable-roofed Greek Revival building that was constructed in 1854. Its rectangular one bay by three bay gable front plan rests on a rubble stone foundation with a full basement below. The roof is covered with wood shingles and has a molded box cornice with partial returns and a dentil frieze. Weatherboard and plain corner pilasters sheathe the exterior walls. In addition, decorative wood shingles were applied to the facade gable late in the nineteenth century in a pattern that alternates two rows of pointed and square shingles. The facade entrance is contained in a small gabled vestibule that mirrors the decorative details of the main block in its use of weatherboard siding, corner pilasters, and gable shingles. The double doors, which have a large rectangular transom above them, are modern replacements. A small shed wing has been added to each side of the vestibule. At the rear endwall a small, square apse with a window on its southeast wall projects from the main body of the Church; a small wing has been added to its northwest side. The side elevations of the main block are lit by two-over-two sash with plain board surrounds.

The interior is arranged in a simple center aisle plan with the alter located on a raised platform behind a turned baluster railing. Of particular interest is the pressed tin ceiling and wall covering. The ceiling design is coffered and has a light fixture hanging from the central medallion.

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E. Justification of Boundaries:

The boundaries of the nominated area coincide with the property lines of the legal parcel on which Wesley M. E. Church stands. The modern dwelling that occupies land to the south and west, the farmland to the north, and the road to the east define the Church property as a discrete environmental unit that is represented by the legal parcel.

F. Significance:

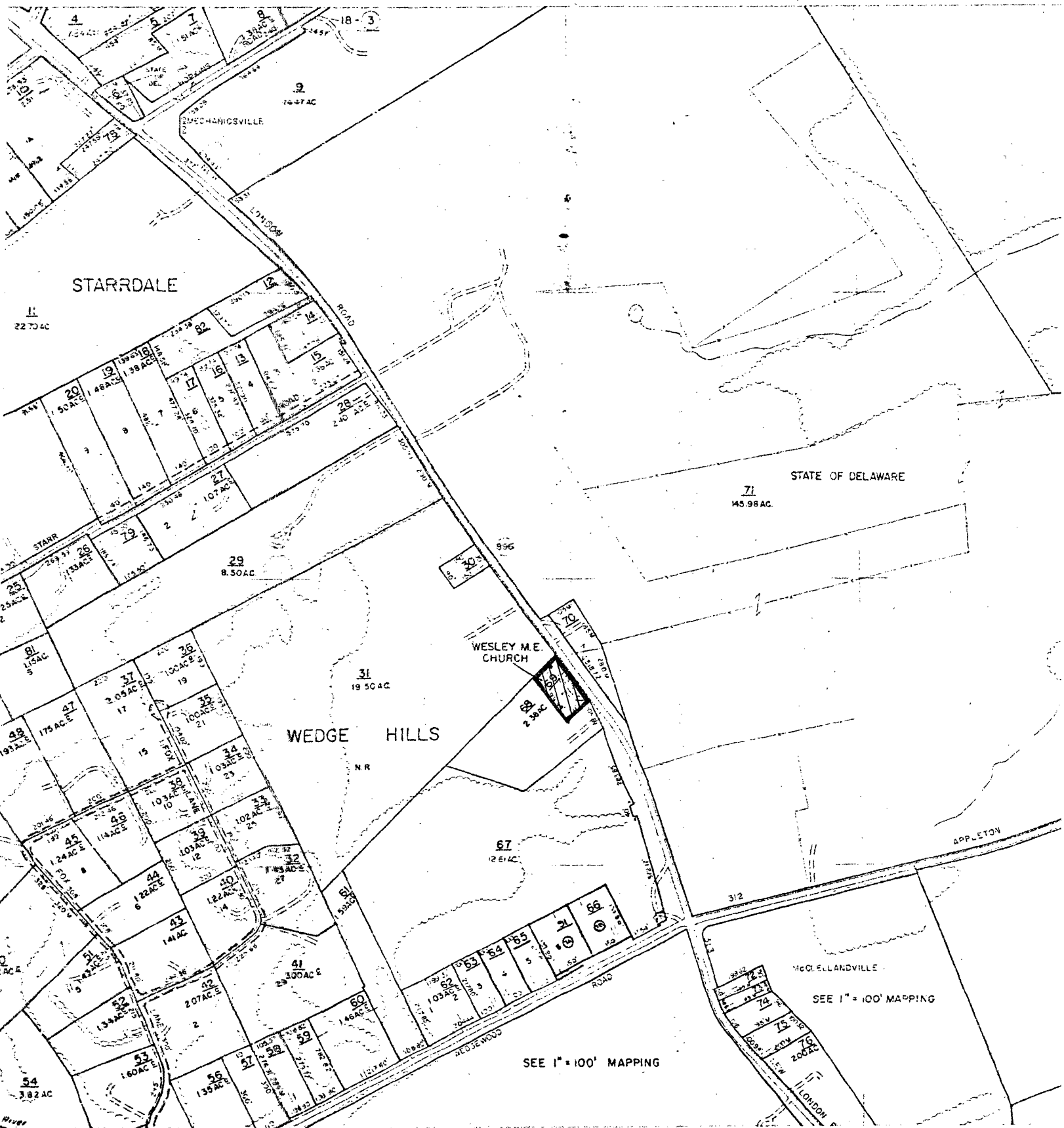
Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church is significant as a well-preserved example of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture. It is being nominated to the National Register on the Basis of criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The one story, gable-roofed church plan of the nineteenth century has been found throughout Delaware with minor stylistic variations on its basic form. The use of lancet windows on some churches hints at the Gothic Revival style, while plain sash windows, a heavy cornice, and corner pilasters on this same form indicates a tendency toward Greek Revival. During the 1830 to 1860 period, the Greek Revival style was very popular in Delaware in both rural and urban settings. Although Wesley M. E. Church is not an unusual example of this type, it is important as a well-preserved example. In addition, the exterior decorative wooden shingles and the fine pressed tin interior are significant late nineteenth century alterations.

Prior to 1853 the inhabitants of the northwestern part of White Clay Creek Hundred attended worship service at the Flint Hill Church located near Strickersville (PA). In that year the church burned and Wesley M. E. Church was built at McClellandville in 1854, for a total cost of \$1,500. This Church was connected with the Newark circuit for many years. In 1932, the Church was sold by the Newark M. E. Church to a private individual. Then, in 1951, the structure was bought by the Maple Grove (PA) Mennonite Congregation and was used by them until 1979, when it was sold once again. Since 1979, the structure has been for sale, and within recent months has been sold to an individual who will convert the Church into a private dwelling.

Level of Significance:

The level of significance claimed for Wesley M. E. Church is local since it is a typical example of a recognized type.



SKETCH MAP

8. Wesley M. E. Church (N-6758)  
 New Castle County Property  
 Tax Map, 1982  
 Map No. 9-5, Parcel 69  
 Scale 1 inch = 400 feet

