

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 CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 85 LAKE HILL ROAD

	not for publication
	vicinity

city or town BURNT HILLS

state NEW YORK code NY county SARATOGA code 091 zip code 12027

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

Ruth A. Purpont DBSHPO 10/21/16
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): _____

Alexis Abernathy 1-17-17
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
 in the National Register**

N/A

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.)

MID-19th CENTURY: Gothic Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
 walls: WOOD (board and batten)

 roof: ASPHALT, SYNTHETIC
 other: GLASS, METAL

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Overview

Calvary Episcopal Church, a Gothic Revival wood-frame edifice the earliest section of which was completed in 1849, is located in the Burnt Hills area of the Town of Ballston, Saratoga County, New York. This church, the centerpiece of a small religious complex that also includes a parish hall with classroom wing and a small cemetery, exhibits physical characteristics which associate it with the so-called "Carpenter Gothic" mode, particularly as expressed in its exterior board-and-batten siding, steeply pitched roof, and simplified Gothic detailing rendered in wood. The original rectangular-plan building with central tower was augmented in 1858 with the construction of flanking transepts and, more recently, with additions in 1966 and 1978; meanwhile the wood-frame parish hall arrived at its present form during two building campaigns, 1877 and 1895, and to it was added, in 1962, an L-shaped addition with educational rooms and other spaces. Across Lake Hill Road and removed from the remainder of the complex is the organization's original rectory, which was built in 1856 in a suitably Picturesque idiom. Calvary Episcopal Church suffered a serious fire, set by an arsonist, in 1966; while damaged by this incident, the church survived, and a campaign was quickly mounted to rehabilitate and restore it and place it back into active service. The interior retains many aspects of its historic-period plan and some measure of historic period features, including wood plank flooring, slip pews, and some original and subsequent historic-period windows of both the clear sash and stained glass type; a memorial plaque for onetime pastor Parker Vanamee, designed by the artist Isabel Moore Kimball, is among the notable interior features. The nominated church, along with the adjacent cemetery, parish hall/school and rectory, remains an important historic resource in an area of the Town of Ballston which has witnessed dense residential development south of Lake Hill Road and the construction of a large school facility to the north. Its present physical characteristics represent a composite of the early 1849-58 building campaign and the restoration activities undertaken after the fire, implemented in the period 1966 to 1978 and executed under the direction of Schenectady-based architect Douglas Hedlund. Despite changes, the church remains an important example of antebellum Gothic Revival ecclesiastical design in Saratoga County and a recognizable Burnt Hills landmark.

Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The resources which compose this nomination are located on Lake Hill Road (County Route 339), west of Lawmar Lane and east of Kingsley Road (County Route 110), in that part of the Town of Ballston, Saratoga County long known as Burnt Hills. All but the rectory are situated on the south side of Lake Hill Road, and, as such, the nomination boundary straddles the road. The church, which was built on a conspicuous knoll which enhances its visual prominence as one travels westward on Lake Hill Road, is oriented with its façade facing westwards, while the parish hall/school, located southwest of it, faces northwards. The cemetery, with its north-south rows of graves, occupies a position on the southeast side of the nominated parcel. As for the rectory, which still functions in association with the church, it is located on the north side of Lake Hill Road and was oriented to face southwards, towards the road and the remainder of the complex. Vehicular access to the church property on the south side of Lake Hill Road is by means of a circular turnaround, asphalt-paved, from which both the church and parish hall/school are accessed. The larger setting is characterized in large measure by residential development aligned along the course of Lake Hill Road, of both earlier and more recent age; the area to the south of the nominated property has witnessed considerable recent development in the form of detached suburban housing erected on small lots. The next property east of the church property, beyond the bounds of the cemetery, is the Town of Ballston Community Library, while to the north, beyond Lake Hill Road and the rectory, is the sprawling Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School facility. Two residential properties of mid to later nineteenth century age are situated to the west of the complex, on the south side of Lake Hill Road. The immediate setting of the church property is characterized by manicured lawn, deciduous and coniferous trees, and ornamental plantings, which align portions of the perimeter of the church and parish

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hall/school. A section of cast-iron railing remains on the property's northeast side; it creates separation between the cemetery and the adjacent road and is cited as a contributing feature of this nomination.

Calvary Church (contributing building); 1849/1858/1966/1978

The church, originally erected above a self-contained rectangular footprint, now has an irregular plan following a series of nineteenth and twentieth century additions that have brought the building to its present form and appearance. The principal elevation, the west one, features an engaged central tower and, directly in front of it, a gable-roofed narthex addition built in 1978; its roof pitch echoes that of the main block. This elevation, like the remaining ones, features vertical board-and-batten wood siding. Entrance to the interior is via double-leaf doors set within a recessed Gothic-arched aperture, to the side of which are Gothic lancet windows and above which is a hexagonal-shaped window. The doors and hexagonal window were reused from the original tower entrance and were moved forward to this position when the narthex was built. Concrete steps with metal hand railing approach the entrance from the paved driveway and also communicate directly with Lake Hill Road. Prior to the construction of the narthex, entrance to the interior was made directly via the tower entrance, the paired doors and hexagonal window being situated beneath a steeply pitched superimposed gable with terminal crocket; the ghost of this gable feature and the hexagonal opening remain visible within the attic of the narthex. The square-plan tower, which projects slightly forward from the façade elevation and which rises to an open belfry stage, features projecting octagonal corners, and its board-and-batten siding terminates in a shallow Gothic frieze just below the belfry stage. A Gothic-arched window with double-hung sash is located below this frieze and just above the roof apex of the narthex addition. The bell stage has a total of eight Gothic-arched openings, two on each of its four elevations, above which rise steeply pitched gables, those on the north and south sides being terminated by crockets (all four were, originally). The area above the openings on the east and west sides of the belfry are now fitted with clock faces; these were installed after being salvaged from Union Station in Schenectady, which was razed in 1971. The board-and-batten siding is terminated on this, and all four elevations, by a principal cornice which exhibits distinctive Gothic Revival moulding profiles.

The north elevation fronts on Lake Hill Road. Moving east to west, there is a single Gothic lancet window; the gable-roofed north transept—which has a tripartite Gothic window centered in its end wall; and two lancets between the west wall of the transept and the northwest corner of the main block. By all indications this elevation (and the corresponding south one) had five lancet windows originally, before the construction of the transept; only three remain. However, it does appear that the upper portion of one of the two missing ones was retained and moved to a new and higher position so that it now is visible above the east pitch of the transept roof. There is additionally a horizontal string course which aligns this and the corresponding north elevation and which is positioned so as to correspond with the bottoms of the lancet windows; this feature appears in the earliest photographs of the church.

The rear or east elevation, corresponding with the chancel within, is marked by a tripartite Gothic window; like that in the north and south transepts, it features a taller central window flanked by two shorter and slightly narrower units. Set nearly flush with the rear gabled wall of the main block is the rear wall of the sacristy, a low-slung addition which is punctuated by three windows—two paired windows flanking a single central unit—which brings natural light into that part of the interior. The chancel was extended in this direction in 1966, after the fire, and the sacristy was added in 1978; while both employ vertical siding mimicking original treatments, they were built above concrete block foundations, rather than stone.

The south elevation is the most complex, consisting of the original flank elevation of the 1849 church, the 1858 gable-roofed transept addition, and the 1978 sacristy addition. The sacristy's south elevation is punctuated by two paired windows, evenly spaced, and moving east to west what is otherwise a flat roof rises to a gable, the west pitch of which shields an entrance porch. There is also now a small frame shed-roofed addition on the west elevation of the transept. Fenestration on the main block, moving west to east, consists of two original

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lancet windows west of the transept and two smaller Gothic-arched windows that rise above the roof of the sacristy; these again appear to be reused portions of what were formerly full-height lancets prior to the installation of the transepts.

Inside, the worship space exhibits relatively simple and straightforward finishes. Although extensively damaged in 1966 by fire and associated smoke and water damage, it nevertheless conveys aspects of the 1849-58 building, notwithstanding the alteration of the chancel arch and the chancel's extension eastward. The worship space has slip pews aligned in rectilinear ranks to either side of a central aisle which leads directly from the entrance eastward towards the raised chancel; although expressed as a clearly differentiated space within, the chancel area is not expressed outside the building and is instead contained within the principal volume of the main block. To either side of the chancel area, and immediately in front of it, are the recessed areas provided by the 1858 transepts, which accommodate a pipe organ (in the north transept) and additional rows of seating. The pews have squared ends with a simple cut-out detail and octagonal arm rests, and below them is visible the original wide plank pine flooring (carpeting covers the center aisle and the chancel steps and floor). Walls appear to have flat sheetrock finish, as does the ceiling; it is not presently known whether any of the nineteenth century plaster and lath was retained after the fire. The ceiling finish is punctuated by expressed framing that appears in pre-fire images; it consists of the finished lower chords of the scissor trusses which sustain the roof in concert with common rafters, in addition to longitudinal purlins aligned between them. This arrangement in turn dictated the shallow Gothic-arched ceiling profile. Cast-iron columns are situated at the center point of the transepts and these, too, appear in pre-fire images; they represent a relatively straightforward and practical structural solution to the opening up of the original frame wall membrane at those points. The most conspicuous change made to the worship space after the fire was the reworking of the chancel area and its corresponding arch. Prior to the fire the chancel was narrower in width and shallow in depth and contained doors to either side accessing flanking rooms; now the arch is "flatter" and the chancel extends to the full width of the main block and is deeper, as well. The three walls of the chancel have simply paneled wood wainscot above which is a flat expanse of wall punctuated by the central tripartite window. On the opposite wall the entrance to the narthex is marked by a classically inspired surround that fails to comport with overall Gothic design program of the early building.

Windows were all originally clear multi-pane glass sash until, beginning in 1862, these started to be replaced with stained glass. A number of existing windows were destroyed by the 1966 fire, which also completely destroyed a rare Johnson tracker-action pipe organ located originally in the south transept. Among the surviving earliest windows is that against the rear wall of the chancel, which features Episcopal iconography; it is among those windows installed in 1862 (though it was moved when the building was extended eastward) and was given to the church by Belinda Emott Davis, wife of the first rector, the Rev. Edward Davis. So far as other notable finishes, on the north wall of the worship space is a memorial plaque honoring Parker Vanamee, who served as rector of Calvary Episcopal Church between 1911 and 1916 and who was killed in action in October 1918 during the First World War. Cast in bronze and simply conceived, it is signed by the sculptor Isabel Moore Kimball, an Iowa native who studied art at the Art Institute of Chicago and who worked for a time in New York State.

A physical inspection of the attic and close examination of Hedlund's restoration drawings indicate that most of the 1849-58 building's timber frame superstructure survived the 1966 fire. Although individual framing components show distinctive charring from the fire episode, framing was by all indications retained where possible. The building's original 1849 roof frame and tower construction largely survived the fire; the tower was largely undamaged and the roof truss/common rafter/purlin roof frame—along with some areas of original roof boards—survived and were not replaced. The transepts, which were added in 1858, also largely survived as only the north roof framing had to be replaced; that of the south transept was repaired.

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Parish Hall/School (contributing building); 1877/1895/1962

This is a U-plan wood-frame building, the footprint of which was established in 1877 and 1962. The original building, erected in 1877 and raised to a full two stories in 1895, is the westernmost section; it was erected on a narrow rectangular plan and is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof. It is two bays wide on its north elevation and three bays deep on its east and west elevations. Siding is of the wood novelty type and the roof is clad with slate shingles; the principal cornice is boxed and moulded. The larger windows have six-over-six wood sash, the small ones two-over-two wood sash. Access is by means of narrow glazed-and-paneled double leaf doors located at the building's northeast corner. Two brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge. In 1962 the school addition was made, consisting of a one-story hyphen (which presents as two stories on the south elevation, due to differences in grade between the front and rear) and a one-story section on the east side which completed the current U-plan. Both have board-and-batten wood siding, exposed purlin tails and asphalt shingle roofs. The gable roofs of both sections have kicked eaves.

Inside, the first floor of the parish hall has an open plan and communicates on the south side with a galley-type kitchen that is contained within the hyphen; the division between the parish hall and hyphen is made clear by the exposed frame posts and braces which mark the original position of the south end wall. Finish in this area consists of narrow hardwood strip flooring, stained knotty pine wainscoting, plaster on lath walls and a dropped acoustical tile ceiling (the area above the ceiling was not observed). Upstairs there are rooms arranged in single-loaded corridor fashion, the hall being located on the west side of the plan; at one time this was an open area, which was only partitioned off later. The rake of the roof is expressed in the hallway, and a portion of it, along with the walls, is finished with narrow bead-board and the windows have heavy Late Victorian-era mouldings with roundel corner block; a six-panel door on the north side of the hall provides access to stairs. The remaining areas of the interior, corresponding with the 1962 work, feature characteristic finishes for that time.

Cemetery (contributing site); 1849 & later

The cemetery has interments arranged in north-to-south rows and was established at the time the church was constructed; although some of the individuals interred there have death dates predating 1849, their remains were by all indication moved here subsequently, after this land was conveyed to the organization for construction of the church. The cemetery boasts a relatively modest collection of nineteenth and twentieth century funerary art, though it is not without a number of more ambitious markers, including a number of the obelisk type and related variants, fashioned from marble and dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Prominent among the graves is that of the Rev. Edward Davis, the first rector and major benefactor of Calvary Church. His stone in part bears the inscription "Eminent for the gentleness of his spirit and the simplicity and the purity of his character, of vigorous intellect and varied acquirements, he was respected and beloved by all who knew him for his faithfulness as a minister of the gospel, his virtues as a Christian, his worth as man."

Rectory (contributing building); ca. 1856/1966-68

The rectory is a two-story wood-frame dwelling of Picturesque characteristics that was built on a cruciform plan and which has a brick foundation, aluminum siding, and slate shingle roof. The aluminum siding was installed during a substantial later 1960s rehabilitation and mimics the earlier board-and-batten wood siding it replaced, which was meant to associate the rectory architecturally with the church (as the original cruciform plan also did). Although sided in aluminum, and expanded with an addition on the north side that included an automobile garage and breezeway, the 1856 portion retains its original form, fenestration pattern—predicated on narrow paired windows that were originally fitted with four-over-four wood sash (they are presently hung with six-over-one sash)—and the original entrance porch, with its bracketed posts. The interior was substantially rehabilitated in the period 1966-68, at which time the kitchen and bathrooms were modernized, some partitions were moved, the original flooring resurfaced and wall-to-wall carpeting introduced. The

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building's interior, as constituted presently, represents both the original building campaign and the 1960s rehabilitation. Early features include the original staircase as well as one anomaly: a wood fireplace mantel of distinctive Federal-style lines likely dating to the period ca. 1800-10.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1849- 1966

Significant Dates

1849; 1856; 1858; 1862; 1877; 1895; 1966

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hedlund, Douglas E.; architect, 1966-78 work

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance, 1849-1966, is initiated with the construction of the church and terminates at 1966, the year that a fire damaged the church edifice, which in large measure survived and was repaired and placed back into active service that same year. Although the 1970s work was developed as part of a restoration plan developed by architect Douglas E. Hedlund, it has not been deemed significant to the context of this NRHP nomination, and instead the period of significance terminates at 1966. The cited period of significance includes the construction of the church, the addition of transepts, and the 1966 restoration work, in addition to the construction of the parish hall/school, rectory and cemetery.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Calvary Episcopal Church, located in Burnt Hills, is an important and relatively early example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture in Saratoga County, New York. The nominated building, first used for religious services by its organization on Christmas Eve 1849—and dedicated the following year by Maryland Bishop William Rollinson Whittingham, acting on behalf of the New York Episcopal Diocese, once the parish was freed from its construction debts—was subsequently modified in 1858, at which time transepts were added to accommodate seating for additional parishioners. Its exterior is characterized by a number of original or early features, among them vertical board-and-batten siding, an engaged central tower with open belfry, low gable-roofed transepts, and Gothic ornamental features crafted from wood. While conservative in overall form—the use an engaged central tower in concert with a gable-roofed main block represented the continuation of longstanding Wren-Gibbs church traditions, albeit cast in Gothic stylistic terms—the building nevertheless displays distinctive attributes of the Gothic Revival mode as applied to frame construction, the board-and-batten sheathing furthering the verticality manifest in this architectural style. The Rev. Edward Davis, Calvary’s first rector—who served this parish tirelessly for its first six years, and without salary—was instrumental in the formation of this church and the building’s construction, which he helped to finance personally. Both he and his wife, Belinda Emmot Davis, were constant patrons of the fledgling parish, and also donated the lot and paid for the construction of the rectory, the land on which a sexton’s house was built, and stained glass windows in the church, among other items. The establishment of Calvary church and the construction of a dedicated house of worship was driven by the arrival in Burnt Hills of large numbers of English mill hands, who had come there to work in a wallpaper factory established by Cady Hollister, another influential figure in the church’s early history. In 1966 the building was damaged by fire, the result of arson; after swiftly debating the merits of restoration, the parishioners decided to hire Douglas Hedlund, a Schenectady-based architect, to guide the repair and augmentation of the building, which occurred between 1966 and 1978. The church today presents itself largely as a result of two major phases of development, those being the initial 1849-58 campaign and the 1966-78 restoration campaign, the latter which was responsible for the building’s rehabilitation following the fire. Given its relative rarity as an important early example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture in this region north of Albany, and its survival alongside a complex that includes the 1877-95 parish hall (since expanded), the 1849 cemetery and the 1856 rectory, the building and associated features are being nominated in association with Criterion C, in the area of Architecture. The cited period of significance terminates at 1966, given the work undertaken to restore the building following the fire, but thus excludes the 1978 work, which was nevertheless part of a plan first developed following the fire. Additional significance is being claimed under Criterion A, in the area of Social History, given the parish was formed in direct response to the arrival of mill hands and artisans who came to Burnt Hills from England. It was the desire of these British natives to practice their Episcopal faith that formed the basis for the establishment of Calvary parish.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Overview

The Town of Ballston, within which the hamlet of Burnt Hills is located, is located in southwestern Saratoga County, New York, and was along with present-day Schuylerville, Stillwater and Waterford among the county’s earliest settlement areas. Its lands largely correspond with what was termed historically the “Five-mile Square,” which was set off from Kayaderoseras patent and contained lands of considerable value. Ballston was settled about the same time that Stillwater was first populated by pioneers from Connecticut and the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian congregation of Dr. Thomas Clark, the latter which later relocated and settled permanently in Salem, Washington County. The first pioneer homestead in the town was established in 1763 by the McDonalds, two brothers, who settled near Ballston Lake. The town takes its name from Eliphalet Ball, a Presbyterian minister who purchased land from the McDonalds and came there, from Bedford, Westchester County, with three sons and members of his congregation; together they founded the town’s first religious

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group, established in 1775, the same year that the District of Ballston was established. During the American Revolution, in 1780, the nascent settlement at Ballston was attacked by a hostile force of Tories and Native Americans, at which time captives were taken and brought to Canada. The end of the war brought stability to the region and allowed settlement there to proceed unchecked.¹

Burnt Hills takes its name from its distinctive appearance as recorded at any early date. The first settlers there were confronted with a large burned over expanse, its cause unknown; some theorized this to be the result of Native American efforts to clear the underbrush. The first settlers in the Burnt Hills area of Ballston were members of the Hollister family, a descendant of which would later emerge as a key player in the development of Calvary Episcopal Church. This area of Ballston was described by N.B. Sylvester in his 1878 *History of Saratoga County* as “a pleasant rural village in the south part of the town.”²

The following account of Calvary Episcopal Church in Burnt Hills—and the circumstances of its initial formation—are also drawn from Sylvester’s work:

In 1848 this village had a new growth, by the establishment of a paper-mill, which brought into the community a large number of English artisans, and added new life and business to the place. For these men, quite a number of new dwellings were erected. Many of the operatives were members of the Church of England, reverencing its ancient faith, and loving the forms of worship known to their childhood. To provide for these men and for the families residing there, who had previously worshipped at Charlton, a church was established, and incorporated May 7, 1849. This was principally due to the labors of Rev. Edward Davis, and the cordial co-operation of Cady Hollister, the proprietor of the paper-mill. The land for a church edifice was a gift from Mr. Hollister and Isaac Woolsey. During the summer of 1849 the building was completed, at an expense of \$2500, a large proportion of which was the gift of Rev. Mr. Davis himself, and the first service was held in it on Christmas-day of the same year. The church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Wm. R Whittingham, of Maryland, at the direction of the standing committee of the [New York] diocese, July 11, 1850, being free from debt... The first wardens were Daniel K. Smith, who died October 11, 1876, and Wm. Wheeler, who died April 1871, both of whom were highly esteemed as zealous friends of the church. Rev. Edward Davis continued his abundant labors both here and in Charlton until failing health compelled him to relinquish his work in part, and in 1863 he was called from earth to the hope of a brighter future.³

As noted by Sylvester, it was the establishment of a paper mill by Cady Hollister which created the conditions which ultimately gave rise to the formation of Calvary Episcopal Church, and which also spurred new development activity in Burnt Hills. Prior to this time there was only one other established religious denomination with a house of worship in Burnt Hills, that being an organization of the Baptist persuasion.⁴ Calvary Church remains one of Saratoga County’s earliest established Episcopal parishes, having been formed from the southern portion of the parish of Christ Church, Ballston, after the latter decided to remove its seat from Ballston Center to Ballston Spa.⁵

Hollister established his business enterprise for the manufacture of wall paper, a pursuit which required a skilled and experienced workforce composed of a considerable number of English natives who came to Saratoga County for this expressed purpose. The facility was located a short distance from the nominated church

¹ N.B. Sylvester, *History of Saratoga County, New York* (Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1878), 246-51; *Our Country and Its People: A Descriptive and Biographical Record of Saratoga County, New York* (The Boston History Company: 1899).

² Sylvester, *Saratoga County*, 254-55.

³ Ibid

⁴ “Burnt Hills Church Looks With Optimism to Future,” *Schenectady Gazette*, 21 April 1949.

⁵ “Calvary Church One of the Oldest Parishes in County,” *The Daily Saratogian*, 7 November 1903.

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property, on land adjacent to the present rectory.⁶ In the political realm Hollister served as the supervisor for the Town of Ballston from 1846 to 1848 and also represented Saratoga County for a time in the New York State legislature. He was also involved in efforts to establish a plank road between Schenectady and Saratoga Springs, which was viewed as advantageous to the economic interests of local farmers; as noted in one period account, “plank roads are to the farmer what rail roads are to the commercial community.”⁷ According to an obituary, Hollister was “a wealthy farmer and manufacturer of wall paper... he built and equipped a mill for the manufacture and stamping of his paper at an outlay of \$80,000. This crippled him financially, and a disastrous fire soon completed the wreck of his fortune.”⁸ Hollister removed for a time to Minnesota before returning Saratoga County, “where he lived until his death in honorable and respected poverty.”⁹

A review of the 1850 federal census for the Town of Ballston reveals that a number of English natives, in addition to large numbers of residents of Irish, Scottish and German extraction, formed a component of the town’s population at that date. It appears that the foreman of Hollister’s mill was Reuben C. Barnes, a Connecticut native, who listed his occupation as “Paper Hanging Manufacturer,” and who was residing in a boarding house or hotel with other mill workers, among them a German-born “print cutter.” Many of those who were noted to be of English birth recorded their occupation at the time of the 1850 census as “none,” likely indicating a downturn in the business’s fortunes at the time. Although Hollister’s business failed at an early juncture, the parish which was established to satisfy the worship needs of many of its first English workers survived and thrived. As noted in one account published in 1935, Calvary church, along with the Buell mansion—at one time the home of Rev. Edward Davis and in years prior that of his father-in-law, Judge Beriah Palmer—and the Seelye house, were “the chief connecting links of historic Burnt Hills and the village of today.”¹⁰

The Rev. Edward Davis was, like Cady Hollister, a central figure in the early affairs of Calvary parish. Davis, along with his wife, Belinda Emott Davis, was among the parish’s most important and constant benefactors. In 1850 Davis was living in Ballston with his family and two Irish-born natives, his real estate valued at the considerable sum of \$15,000. As noted in a centennial church history published in 1949, “The history of the birth and early life of Calvary Church and the biography of Dr. Davis are inseparable.”¹¹ A native of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York and a graduate of Union College in Schenectady, Davis had formerly succeeded in missionary activities that led to the 1830 incorporation of the Bethesda parish in Saratoga Springs, New York, and prior to accepting the charge of the Calvary parish had served as rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal church in nearby Charlton, also in Saratoga County. The Davis family lived in the house that came to be known as the Buell mansion, which had been given to Davis’s wife, Belinda Emott, by her mother, Zilpha Palmer, a daughter of Judge Beriah Palmer, a prominent early Saratoga County figure.¹² Davis served as the Calvary rector for over six years without salary, all the while spending his own monies towards the construction of the church and other projects; his wife, too, gave much to the young parish.

As noted in the Sylvester account, Calvary Episcopal Church was consecrated the year following its completion by William Rollinson Whittingham, Bishop of Maryland, acting on behalf of the New York Diocese. In his report to the annual Episcopal convention of 1850, Whittingham noted the following account of the duties he dispensed on July 11, 1850: “...I consecrated to the honor and service of Almighty God, Calvary Church, Burnt

⁶ Ibid

⁷ “Plank Road from Schenectady to the Village of Saratoga Springs,” *The Cabinet* (Schenectady), 12 December 1848.

⁸ Obituary, *The Saratoga Sentinel*, 25 March 1880.

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ “Legends About the Naming of Burnt Hills,” *Ballston Spa Daily Journal*, 17 May 1935.

¹¹ Frederick D. Curtiss, *History of Calvary Episcopal Church, Burnt Hills, N.Y., 1849-1949* (New York: 1949), 8.

¹² Ibid., 9-10.

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Hills, Ballston, Saratoga county, preaching, confirming seventeen persons, and administering the Holy Communion on the occasion.”¹³

Among those who served as rector of the Calvary parish in later years was Parker Vanamee, who held that position between 1911 and 1916. In 1917 Vanamee entered service with the United States Army as a First Lieutenant in a machine gun company of the Twenty-third Infantry, and in November of that year he was wounded in combat at Cambrin, France. He returned to the battlefield in 1918 and saw action at Chateau Thierry, Soissons, Pont-A-Mousson, and was wounded again at St. Mihiel, September 1918. On October 2 of that year Vanamee was killed in action in France at Vauclaire, Montpont, Dordogne. A memorial plaque, located on the north wall of the nave, commemorates his military service. It was made by the artist Isabel Moore Kimball, who was a friend of Helen Moore Sewell, a member of Calvary Episcopal Church.

Architectural Analysis

The nominated church building is an early representation of the Gothic Revival in Saratoga County, New York, as expressed in religious architecture; as an Episcopal parish Calvary’s design was undoubtedly influenced by the increasing influence of the Ecclesiological movement, which gained a substantial footing in the United States during the 1840s. The following is a short account of the building as it appeared in the latter 1870s, as recounted by Sylvester:

The edifice was first built with an open nave and recess chancel, but was enlarged in 1858 by the addition of two transepts, making sitting for 250. The church had formerly plain glass windows, but in 1862, Mrs. Belinda Davis, wife of the rector, presented the parish with new stained windows, which were immediately put in.¹⁴

Conspicuous among the building’s physical features is its board-and-batten exterior siding, a distinctly American innovation which became a mainstay of Picturesque design during the antebellum period. Its use as an exterior siding material was first promoted, for residential purposes, by the architect A.J. Davis and his sometime partner and fellow champion of Picturesque design, A.J. Downing; its application to religious buildings of Gothic conception is generally credited to Richard Upjohn, a pioneering figure in the development of the ecclesiastical Gothic Revival style. Upjohn’s 1851 Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, New York, demonstrates the architect’s successful use of this exterior treatment in concert with a rural parish church of the bell-cote type. The earliest example of its use on a religious building is likely Upjohn’s ca. 1846 First Parish Church in Brunswick, Maine; while more “muscular” in appearance and with more competently handled Gothic detail, that building nevertheless shares with Calvary Church the long-established engaged central tower format. The use of board-and-batten siding in 1849 marks the Burnt Hill building with considerable interest from an architectural standpoint; although it’s possible that this treatment could have been retrofitted at the time of the 1858 modifications, it is presently assumed to be original, as there is no documentary nor physical evidence indicating otherwise. As such its use here would predate Upjohn’s 1852 book, *Upjohn’s Rural Architecture*, which provided designs and specifications for economical board-and-batten Gothic churches meant for rural Episcopal parishes with limited budgets and without direct guidance from a professional architect.

Although first promoted by Davis for residential applications in his narrowly circulated 1836 book *Rural Residences*, board-and-batten wood siding found widespread application for wood frame churches during the 1850s. Principal among its advantages, from an aesthetic standpoint, was the effect it imparted to the exterior, by enhancing the play of light and shadow on surfaces, and its incessant verticality, which only furthered a

¹³*Journal of the Proceedings of the Sixty-Sixth Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New-York* (New York: Daniel Dana, Jr., 1850), 56.

¹⁴Sylvester, *Saratoga County*, 255.

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building's Gothic qualities. Although of English birth, Upjohn nevertheless seized on this treatment during the later 1840s and 1850s, in some measure as a consequence of his understanding of the peculiar conditions of American parish churches and their need, within limited budgets, to construct wood-frame—and not brick or stone—churches.

As built in 1849, Calvary Church offered itself as an acknowledgment of the increasing influence of the Ecclesiological movement in America while at the same time its design failed to satisfy particular architectural mandates of that movement. The church was completed just a year after the establishment of the New York Ecclesiological Society, which is credited with the proliferation of Ecclesiological architectural doctrine in the Episcopal Church in New York State during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. During the 1840s Upjohn, the leading light of the American Episcopal architectural scene, was only beginning to fall fully in line with Ecclesiological theory, thereby helping to signal the beginnings of the so-called ecclesiastical phase of this movement, which moved beyond the earlier Gothic efforts of Ithiel Town and Josiah Brady and helped establish the medieval English parish church—exemplified by St. Michaels, Longstanton, an early thirteenth-century example—as an appropriate model for American design.¹⁵ Calvary Church in many ways is more akin to the earlier Gothic efforts of Town and Brady, its design still reliant on longstanding Wren-Gibbs meetinghouse models, being rigidly symmetrical in form with an engaged central tower. Sources such as Edward Shaw's 1843 book *Rural Architecture* continued to promote this arrangement, in that instance for two designs of otherwise distinct Gothic character.¹⁶ However, in the case of Calvary church, the classically pitched roof has given way to a more appropriate steeply pitched Gothic roof, and board-and-batten was used in concert with Gothic-arched windows and distinctive Gothic mouldings and cornices. The building's most glaring deficiency, in the context of the Ecclesiological movement, was the failure of the chancel to be expressed as a separate entity from the remainder of the church on the exterior; instead, it was contained within the main block, though expressed as distinct from the worship space inside. Notwithstanding these criticisms, in the context of local and regional architecture in the later 1840s, some aspects of the building's design represented a radical departure from established norms and longstanding Neoclassical influence.

In the absence of documentary evidence relative to the original design and the 1849 building campaign, only assumptions can presently be made. It would seem likely that one of the principal early figures in the establishment of the church—among them Rev. Edward Davis and Cady Hollister—were in some manner involved with the building's construction and possibly consulted with a professional architect or otherwise advised local builders on the desired nature of the design. Existing parish records, as well as those of the diocese, are silent relative to these important details.

The transepts were added due to the increasing membership of the organization and during the period in which the Rev. J.H. Betts served as rector of the parish. The following account in the New York Diocese's parochial reports for 1858 noted the work at Calvary church and recounted the considerable personal efforts made by Rev. Edward Davis on behalf of the organization:

The church edifice in this Parish was found insufficient to accommodate the congregation.
Hence the people, with commendable zeal and unanimity, have nearly doubled its capacity

¹⁵Gothic Revival churches such as Town's Trinity Church in New Haven, Connecticut, 1817, and Brady's St. Luke's, Rochester, slightly later, offered what architectural historian William H. Pierson called a more "authentic" Gothic, thereby providing a bridge from the earlier applied "Gothick" period to the more informed American Gothic Revival work that began to emerge in the 1840s. Nevertheless these works by Town and Brady remained firmly indebted to the Wren-Gibbs meetinghouse form, rigidly symmetrical with engaged central towers fronting the body of the church, and classically pitched roofs. St. Paul's in Troy, New York, 1827, is another such example of this more "authentic" Gothic type.

¹⁶Edward Shaw, *Rural Architecture* (Boston: James B. Dow, 1843), plates 31-32.

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by the addition of transepts. The Rev. Edward Davis, D.D., has also given to this Parish a parsonage, and house for the Sexton, and a Cemetery. May others imitate his example!¹⁷

At the time the church was built a cemetery was established on the grounds, and during the 1850s a rectory was established; a sexton's house, no longer extant, was also built and was situated adjacent to the parish hall, which was expanded in the early 1960s. The rectory reflected the influence of the Picturesque movement in its massing, decorative detail and vertical board-and-batten siding, and it was built on a cruciform plan which, it would seem, formed an intentional attempt to relate it with the church following the introduction of transepts.

1966 Fire & Restoration Campaign

On June 23, 1966, Calvary Church was set afire by an arsonist. Were it not for Bob Boice, Assistant Fire Chief of the Burnt Hills Fire Department, who was fortuitously driving past, the church would likely have been entirely consumed. Using a portable radio only recently installed in his vehicle, he was able to call in the fire and avert complete disaster. Prior to the fire being quelled, a number of individuals hazarded the flames and retrieved items from within the church, among them pews, prayer books and sacred vessels, and the marble altar remained unharmed. The fire followed closely on the heels of a \$3,000 refurbishment, which only added further sorrow to the event. The building was temporarily shored while its future was debated, though it was quickly decided that the damaged church would be restored and placed back into service:

The parishioners unanimously voted confidence in the vestry, and urged them to proceed at once with the entire plan for restoring the church with the additions as proposed by the architect, Douglas Hedlund of Schenectady.

In the immediate future, the trees to be removed will be felled and footing laid for the addition at the east side of the building to enlarge the seating capacity.

The building has been enclosed and weather-proofed, the heat has been turned on so that contractors can work during the winter months.

The architect will now prepare specifications for contractors to bid on the work. It is hoped that the church may be used for Easter service in March, although it may not be completed.¹⁸

Douglas E. Hedlund was a graduate of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York and also attended the Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to being granted a license to practice architecture in New York State in 1959, Hedlund worked as the principal draftsman in the architectural office of Cadman, Klinger & Droste in Troy. In 1963 he was working with architect Randall F. Atkinson who was involved at that year with the construction of a new wing on Ellis Hospital in Schenectady.¹⁹

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

¹⁷"Calvary Church, Burnt-Hills," *Journal of the Proceedings of the Seventy-Fifth Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New-York* (New York: Daniel Dana, Jr., 1858), Parochial Reports, 205.

¹⁸"Fire Damaged BH Calvary Church to Be Restored," *Schenectady Gazette*, 30 November 1966.

¹⁹"Douglas Hedlund Passes Test As Architect," *The Times Record* (Troy), 21 November 1959; "Ellis Hospital Awards Construction Pact," *Schenectady Gazette*, 22 May 1963.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

- Curtiss, Frederick D. *History of Calvary Episcopal Church, Burnt Hills, N.Y., 1849-1949*. New York: 1949.
- Journal of the Proceedings of the Sixty-Sixth Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New-York*. New York: Daniel Dana, Jr., 1850.
- Our Country and Its People: A Descriptive and Biographical Record of Saratoga County, New York*. The Boston History Company: 1899.
- Sylvester, N.B. *History of Saratoga County, New York*. Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1878.

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 2.31 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>590475</u>	<u>4751419</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on the enclosed mapping, rendered at a scale of 1:24,000, 1:12,000, and 1:3,000; all maps are entitled "Calvary Episcopal Church, Burnt Hills, Saratoga Co., NY."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for this NRHP nomination includes two separate tax parcels, both of which are historically associated with the church organization and the cited period of significance. These collectively consist of 2.31 acres of property. A third irregular-shaped parcel owned by the church, located to the south and west of the nomination boundary and lacking any physical features—historically or presently—has been excluded; it presently serves in large measure as a natural buffer between the church property and the housing development to the south. The nomination boundary does not include any additional or "buffer" land and instead consists of the main parcel, which contains the church, cemetery, and parish hall; and that which contains the rectory. These two parcels are separated by the east-west course of Lake Hill Road.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date May 2016; edited January 2017
street & number PO Box 189 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, November 2015; TIFF file format, original digital files maintained at NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Waterford NY 12188.

- 0001 EXTERIOR, church, view looking eastward towards façade and south flank elevation
- 0002 EXTERIOR, church, view looking to northwest showing south and east elevations; cemetery in foreground
- 0003 EXTERIOR, parish house and school, view looking to southwest
- 0004 EXTERIOR, rectory, view looking north across Lake Hill Road
- 0005 INTERIOR, church, view looking west towards main entrance
- 0006 INTERIOR, church, view looking from south transept across nave to north transept
- 0007 INTERIOR, church, pew detail
- 0008 INTERIOR, church, Parker Vanamee memorial plaque

Property Owner:

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

name Calvary Episcopal Church
street & number same as nomination form 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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Rev. Edward Davis, undated historic image

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Calvary Church, appearance ca. 1950

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ABOVE, chancel ca. 1950, prior to fire; BELOW, chancel following post-1966 reconstruction



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ABOVE, rectory, view looking north 1950; BELOW, church, sexton's house and garage, (razed) and parish hall, view 1950.



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Name of Property

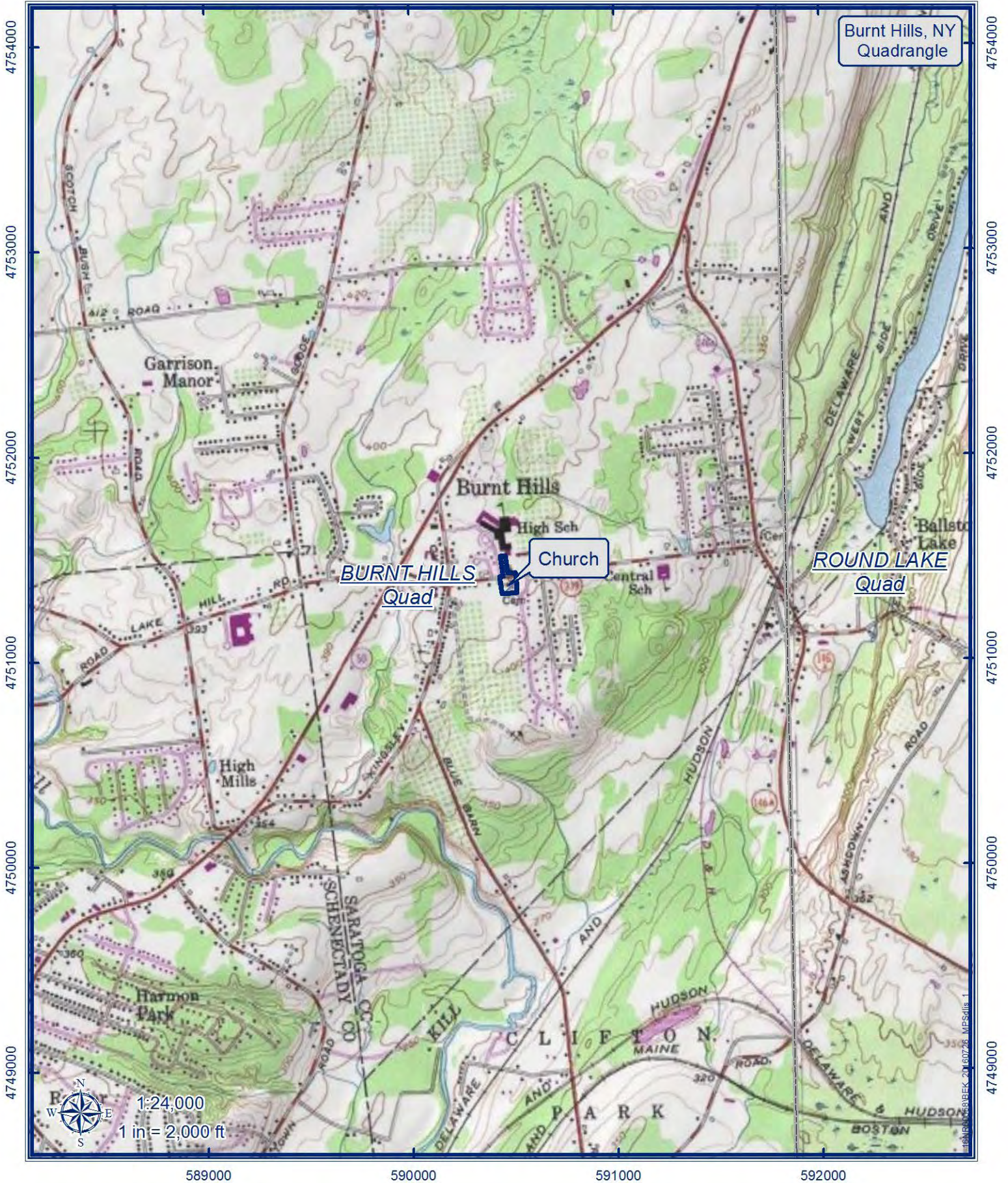
SARATOGA COUNTY, NY

County and State



Gothic Revival board-and-batten churches by Richard Upjohn: ABOVE, First Parish Church, Brunswick, Maine ca. 1846; BELOW, St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, New York, ca. 1851.



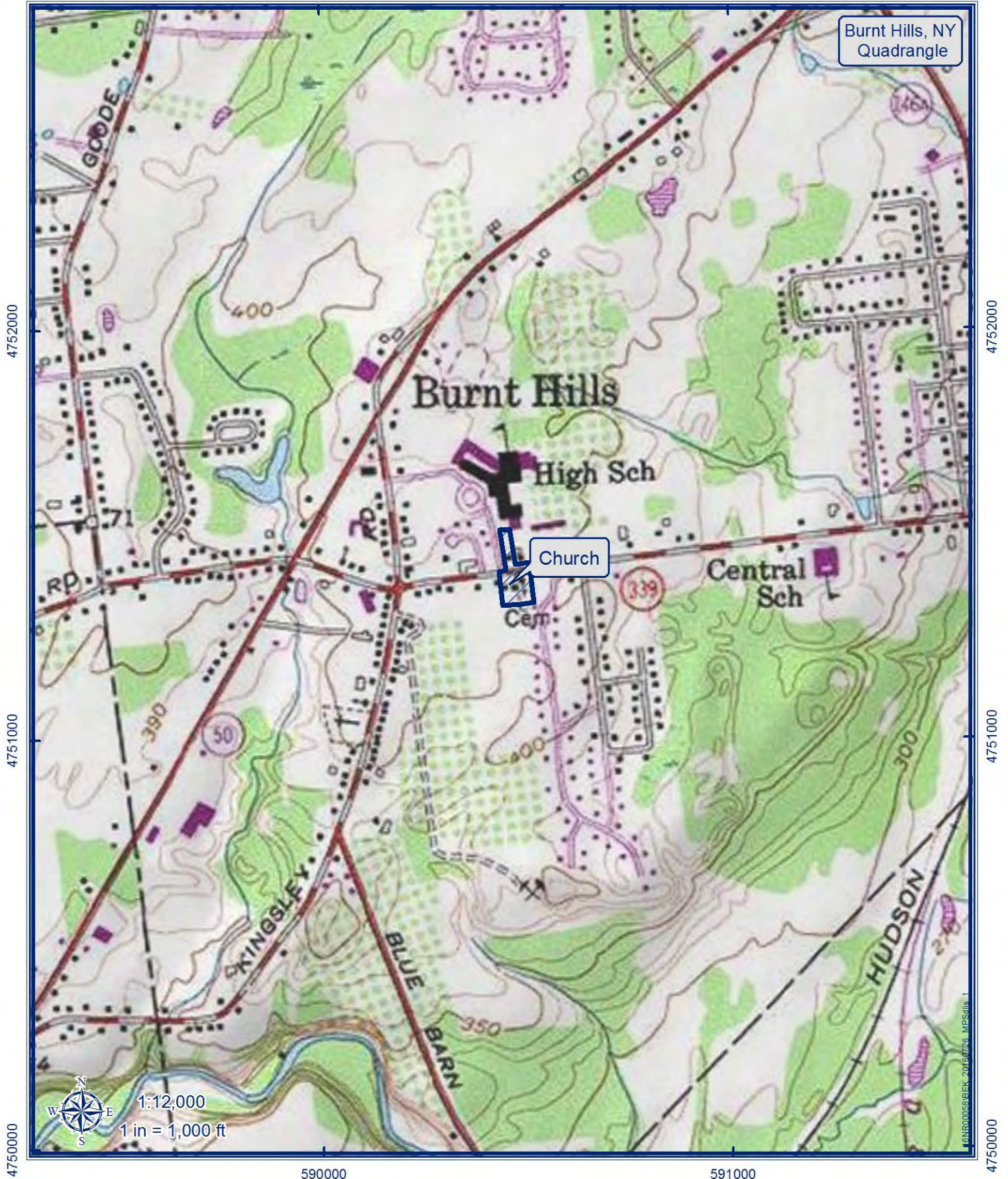


Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Burnt Hills, NY
Quadrangle



1:12,000
1 in = 1,000 ft

590000 591000

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



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

$\Sigma = 2.31$ Acres



590200

590400

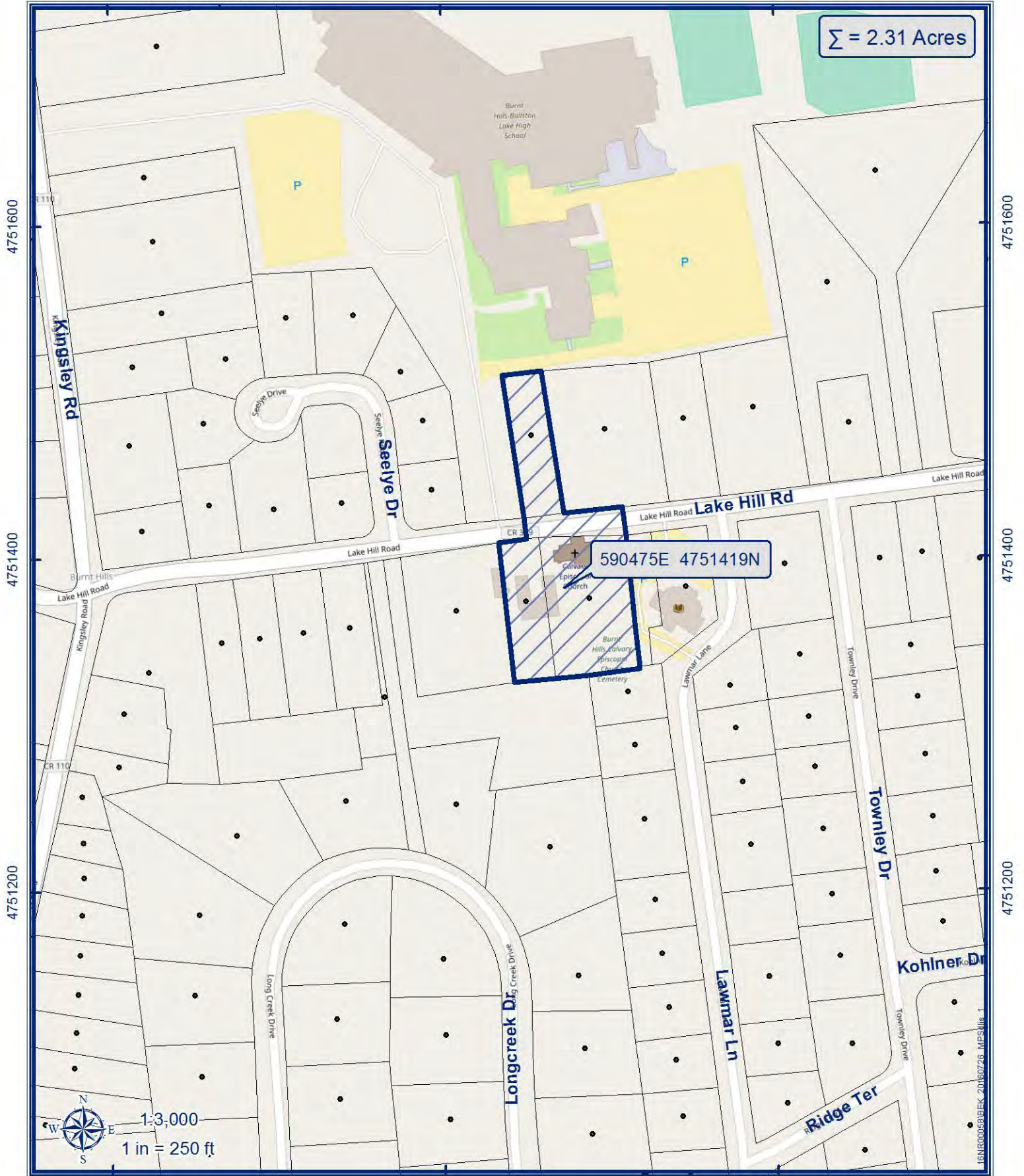
590600

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



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

$\Sigma = 2.31$ Acres



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



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation













Christ the King

Calvary Church
Burnt Hills N.Y.



HE IS RISEN



ALLELUIA!



PARKER VANAMEE

FIRST LIEUTENANT - MACHINE GUN COMPANY
TWENTYTHIRD INFANTRY UNITED STATES ARMY
COMMISSIONED AT PLATTSBURG AUGUST 1917
ASSIGNED BRITISH MACHINE GUN SCHOOL OCTOBER 1917
WOUNDED AT CAMBRIN FRANCE NOVEMBER 9 1917
ASSIGNED MACHINE GUN COMPANY TWENTY
THIRD INFANTRY SECOND DIVISION JULY 1 1918
FOUGHT AT CHATEAU-THIERRY SOISSONS PONT-A-MOUSSON
WOUNDED WHILE IN COMMAND OF HIS COMPANY
AT ST-MIHIEL SEPTEMBER 12 1918 ★ ★ DIED AT
VAUCLAIRE MONTPONT DORDOGNE FRANCE OCTOBER 2 1918
RECTOR OF THIS PARISH 1911-1916

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: 12/2/2016 Date of Pending List: 12/27/2016 Date of 16th Day: 1/11/2017 Date of 45th Day: 1/17/2017 Date of Weekly List: 1/25/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

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

Accept Return Reject 1/17/2017 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

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



16 November 2016

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Calvary Episcopal Church, Saratoga County
Syracuse Lighting Company, Onondaga County
Terminal Building, Monroe County
Ancram Hamlet Historic District, Columbia County
George Washington School, Chemung 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