

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 GRACE METHODIST CHURCH COMPLEX  
other names/site number GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### 2. Location

street & number 2895 STATE ROUTE 8  not for publication  
city or town SPECULATOR  vicinity  
state NEW YORK code NY county HAMILTON code 041 zip code 12164

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Richard Purpura DSHPO 12/16/14  
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:

- 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
Elsan H. Beall 2.12.15  
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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	<b>Total</b>

**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

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic (church)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial

Revival

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, CONCRETE

walls: VINYL, WOOD

roof: ASPHALT, METAL

other: GLASS

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**Narrative Description**

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**Summary Paragraph**

The Grace Methodist Church Complex, located in the Village of Speculator, Hamilton County, New York, contains two historic-era buildings, a frame church of Gothic conception dedicated in 1909, and an associated Dutch Colonial-style parsonage, which was completed and placed in service in 1928. The church consists of the original 1909 section, a gable-roofed construct with engaged tower built on a compact plan, to which was added, in 1957, a rear wing conceived for expanded church-related activities. While changes have been rendered to the exterior of the church, most notably the replacement of the upper stages of the bell tower, the building nevertheless retains its basic form, fenestration, and, on the interior, its early twentieth century plan and period finish work. The concrete-block addition has been deemed non-historic in the context of this nomination. As for the parsonage, it remains substantially intact to its late-1920s date of construction and is a representative example of Dutch Colonial domestic architecture. It bears favorable comparison with period mail order houses such as those offered in the catalogs of Sears, Roebuck and Company and Montgomery Ward. The two buildings are located on a small parcel of land west of Speculator's most prominent intersection, where New York Routes 8 and 30 converge.

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**Narrative Description**

**Location & Setting**

The Grace Methodist Church Complex occupies a prominent location in the Village of Speculator, Hamilton County. The nominated complex, consisting of two buildings—the church and an associated parsonage—is situated on the north side of New York Route 8, west of that road's intersection with New York Route 30. The village's principal area of development, consisting of both commercial and residential properties, is centered near the intersection of these two major regional routes, a short distance north of the northeast shore of Lake Pleasant, in the southern Adirondack region. The two buildings that form the complex were built on a low rise of land adjacent to the road with their facades oriented in relation to it, facing to the southeast. Three driveways lead from Route 8 onto the property, the central one of which is aligned between the church and parsonage; the two outer ones curve around the rear elevations of the two buildings and all three converge at a large parking area located behind the parsonage and on the southwest side of the church. A scattering of deciduous trees are present on the grassy lawn of the complex, which is situated between the road and the buildings. The nomination boundary includes a total of .82 acres of land.

**Synopsis**

Grace Methodist Church was completed in 1909 and the parsonage in 1928. The church, when built, was an excellent example of turn-of-the-twentieth-century Methodist church design as influenced by architect Benjamin Price, whose designs were widely disseminated at that time by this denomination. Of wood frame construction, it was built above a compact plan consisting of intersecting gable-roofed units and an engaged tower which contains the principal entrance; exterior detailing was Gothic in nature. On the interior the plan was given over to a worship space and an adjacent Sunday school room which could be set off from the larger area by means of moveable partitions. In 1957 a new concrete-block wing was dedicated, it having been added to provide additional space for educational and social functions. The exterior of the ca. 1909 section has been modified with the rebuilding of the original open bell stage and spire above the tower's base. The construction of a wheelchair ramp and an associated porch over the principal entrance and the installation of vinyl siding over the original wood clapboard, below eaves level, have also altered the building's historic appearance and original design intent. The interior of this section, by contrast, survives with a high degree of physical integrity with its original plan, pews, bead-board wainscot, liturgical center, and stained-glass windows, along with period plaster on lath walls and ceilings concealed by later materials.

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The parsonage represents the Dutch Colonial house type popular in the 1920s and displays attributes that relate it to contemporary catalog designs. It is of wood frame construction and was built above a roughly rectangular plan and has a high-breaking gambrel roof. The exterior of the building exhibits a high degree of physical integrity to its date of construction, as does the interior.

**Grace Methodist Church, ca. 1908-09 (contributing building)**

The church consists of two steeply pitched gable-roof units which intersect one another at right angles, in addition to an engaged bell tower. The building is three bays wide on its northeast, southeast and southwest elevations, not inclusive of the tower, which engages the building at its southeast corner and which is one bay wide by one bay deep. The façade, or northeast elevation, has three symmetrically placed Gothic-arched windows—a larger central one and two narrower ones flanking it—corresponding with the gable-front block, in addition to a circular window and an octagonal-shaped vent, both of which are located in the gable field. A fourth bay is provided for by the entrance, which is situated in the base of the tower, the tower being recessed from the plane of the façade. A wood wheelchair ramp and an associated flight of stairs provide for access to the tower entrance from grade level. Although non-historic siding presently covers the building at the first-story level, the façade gable retains its original wood fish-scale shingles and exposed purlin tails. The double-leaf doors located in the base of the tower are original and are of a vertical six-panel type; above them is a stained-glass transom. There is additionally a circular window higher up in the base of the tower, also original and fitted with stained glass. The two bell stages and spire above the base are not original nor do they accurately reflect historic-period conditions. As for the foundation, it is formed of coursed sandstone ashlar bedded in lime mortar.

The southwest, eaves-front elevation is punctuated by three narrow Gothic-arched windows which are symmetrically placed within the wall plane. The roof projects beyond the wall plane; sawn rafter tails with a curvilinear profile are present at the eaves. As for the northeast elevation, it is gable-fronted and has three narrow Gothic-arched windows at first-story level and a circular window in the gable field. There is additionally, and corresponding with the tower base, a narrow Gothic window at first-story level and a circular window matching the position of that on the adjacent southeast side. The rear elevation is now all but obscured by the 1957 addition, save for a small area of the upper gable field.

The main doors lead into a small vestibule which in turn communicates with the body of the church by means of two doorways, one of which leads into the worship space, located on the southwest side of the plan, the other into the Sunday school room, situated on the northeast side of the plan. These two areas communicate by means of a large rectangular opening that could be separated by means of a moveable partition. Both areas have deeply stained and varnished bead-board wainscot and plaster and lath walls and ceilings, though the plaster has been concealed under later material. The wood door and window casings are stained and varnished in a manner matching the wainscot, as are the pews, which are of a slip type and curved, and the ends of which are embellished with Gothic panels and decorative armrests. The pews are arranged astride a center aisle that leads to the liturgical center, which is situated against the northwest wall. It consists of a raised dais set before a recessed apse, with a balustered handrail aligning the perimeter of the dais. Small windows once brought natural light into the apse but are now obscured by the addition.

The memorial stained glass-windows are an original installation. The windows, which are formed of translucent, opalescent stained glass and have leaded comes, feature characteristic Christian religious iconography and have panels along their bottom which carry the names of those for whom they were dedicated. The manufacturer of the windows is not presently known.

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The 1958 addition is formed of concrete block walls and extends from the northwest elevation of the original church edifice. It is accessed via entrances from the southwest and northwest elevations and the southwest elevation has three large square-shaped windows which bring natural light into the interior, in addition to two smaller windows that light the basement. A small frame shed is appended to the rear, or northwest, gable elevation. The interior has two levels of finished interior space; the basement was designed to provide for a kitchen and dining hall, while the first-floor was laid out to accommodate a large auditorium area and three classrooms.

Parsonage, ca. 1928 (contributing building)

The parsonage is a two-story wood frame building with a gambrel roof and second-story wall dormers on the front and rear elevations. A porch with fully pedimented gable shields the front door from the elements. The dwelling has a mortared stone foundation (excepting the porch foundation, which is concrete), wood siding and asphalt roofing. The building is self-contained save for a small one-story bump-out corresponding with the rear elevation. The façade is three bays wide with a central entrance, which consists of a door flanked by large sidelights; the flanking windows are of a tripartite type with larger central units flanked by narrower lights. The larger windows are hung with eight-over-one sash while the smaller ones have four-over-one sash. The central upper window is also treated as a tripartite unit, consisting of a single six-over-one sash flanked by narrow two-over-one sidelights. The outer windows, meanwhile, are paired and hung with six-over-one sash. Moulded wood cornices are present at first and second story level and correspond with the first story eaves, where the wall and gambrel meet, and at eaves level on the wall dormer. The rear elevation has a similar though less formal arrangement of windows that includes one tripartite unit matching that used on the first-story on the façade and two paired units at second story level. The interior is, like the exterior, substantially intact to the ca. 1928 date of construction. The first-floor plan consists of a central stair hall and includes a living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom; bedrooms are located at second-story level. Finishes are modest and reflect typical later Colonial Revival treatments.

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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**

ca. 1908-1928

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1908-09; ca. 1928

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Blowers, Cyrus; contractor-builder, church

**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 period of significance for this NRHP nomination, ca. 1908-1928, encompasses the construction of the church and associated parsonage. The 1957 addition has not been deemed significant in the context of this nomination.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

This complex was built for, and continues to function as, a religious facility; however, its primary significance is architecture.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Grace Methodist Church Complex is an architecturally and historically significant resource located in the Village of Speculator, Hamilton County, New York. Dedicated in 1909, this church exhibits distinctive features which are expressive of American Methodist attitudes towards religious architecture at the turn of the twentieth century. In particular, the building relates strongly to design precedents established by the architect Benjamin D. Price, whose work was widely disseminated by the Methodist church beginning in the later 1870s. Price, whose practice was based in Philadelphia, catered to smaller religious organizations by offering construction documents for new church projects by means of a successful mail-order business. While many specifics of the building campaign to erect Grace Methodist Church are not presently known, outside of the contractor responsible for overseeing the project, the building nevertheless compares favorably with other rural New York Methodist churches of this era and Price designs as offered in catalogs and the architect's book *Church Plans*. Although alterations have been made to the building's exterior, notably the reconstruction of the belfry and spire of its bell tower, it nevertheless retains its basic form and key aspects of its interior plan and finish work. A rear wing was added in 1957 to further church-related initiatives but is not deemed significant in the context of this nomination. The complex additionally includes a parsonage, completed in 1928; it is a building of Dutch Colonial style and retains a significant level of physical integrity inside and out. Collectively these two buildings portray the history of an important institution in Speculator, the roots of which extend into the mid-nineteenth century and one which served, and continues to serve, the religious needs of both permanent and seasonal residents. The complex is being nominated in association with Criterion A, in the area of social history, given its association with Speculator's seasonal population and the contributions made by non-permanent residents in its construction and ongoing use. It is additionally being nominated under Criterion C as an interpretable example of early twentieth century church design which exhibits aspects linking it to larger trends in contemporary Methodist church design. The complex is being nominated at the local significance level in consideration of its importance in the history of Speculator, where it remains a central institution and visible local landmark.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Historical Context**

The Village of Speculator was incorporated in 1925. It evolved from a settlement at the foot of Lake Pleasant which was for a time known as Newton's Corners, a name adopted following the establishment of postal service in the nineteenth century by Joel Newton, who had built a store and hotel there. Lumbering was a pivotal early industry, with the Sacandaga River serving as a vital conduit to deliver felled timber to distant saw mills on the Hudson River at Glens Falls. In the later 1890s the hamlet received a new name, Speculator, taken for the mountain that rises prominently to the southeast of Lake Pleasant. It was during the latter stages of the nineteenth century that the hamlet witnessed considerable development in association with a robust tourist economy as new hotels, boardinghouses, commercial enterprises and houses were erected to meet this growing demand. Following its incorporation the village worked to improve its infrastructure; it purchased a small water system, which it subsequently augmented, and established a power generating plant and waterwheel at Christine Falls, allowing it to produce electricity for residents in 1926. Between the First and Second World Wars Speculator emerged as the preferred training site for a number of prominent heavy-weight boxers, among them Gene Tunney, Max Baer and Max Schmeling.

Although Methodist "circuit riders" had visited the Speculator area as early as 1804, it would not be for another century that a permanent house-of-worship was erected there. During the 1850s the first concerted efforts were mounted locally to establish a Methodist organization, or class, which resulted in organized Bible meetings, church services and Sunday school work; the schoolhouse on Page Street was used as a place of

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assembly in the absence of a dedicated church building. Spearheading the efforts that led to the formation of Grace Methodist Church were Mrs. Amos Page, Samantha Slack, Mrs. David Satterlee, Elizabeth Wilber, and Eliza Sturges; ministers from the Wells charge conducted services. In 1891 the Speculator church was separated from the Wells charge and established as a separate organization belonging to the Troy Conference of the Methodist Church. Finally, in 1896, a parcel of land from the Satterlee estate was purchased, at the cost of \$100, from Elmer Patterson. Nevertheless, it would not be for another decade that Grace Methodist Church would be erected.<sup>1</sup>

In 1907 the first shovels of dirt were excavated from the site by the Reverend Frank Finkle and Henry B. Slack, a trustee and member of the church's building committee. In November of the following year a special dedication ceremony was conducted with Dr. Fred Decker, the district superintendent, presiding, and at which time the church's cornerstone was laid. The foundation stone, sandstone, was quarried at nearby Sturges Mountain. The construction project was overseen by Cyrus Blowers, a Northville-based contractor and builder who was also a trustee of the Methodist church there. In June 1909 articles of incorporation were drawn up and the name Grace Methodist Church was officially adopted, and in October of that year the building was completed and formally dedicated.

It has been previously noted, by the historian Minnie Stanyon in 1965, that Grace Episcopal Church was in part established and sustained through the efforts of seasonal residents:

One should not overlook the part played by summer residents in contributing to the growth of the Speculator church. It is not possible to mention by name the many guests who have found a church home at Speculator during their summer vacations. Hundreds have contributed generously of their time and money, and their faithful attendance at services of worship throughout the season, has been an inspiration to local members. Visiting members and layman, as, for example, Rev. William Hudnut, Charles F. Southard, and countless others, as well as talented musicians, have enriched the services of worship by their presence and active participation. In a very real sense, these summer guests are entitled to entertain a feeling of belonging to the Grace Methodist Church.<sup>2</sup>

This phenomenon was not uncommon in the Adirondacks, where seasonal populations continued to grow from the nineteenth into the early twentieth century, particularly as improved transportation made remote locations more broadly accessible. In some instances, such as the Church of the Transfiguration at Blue Mountain Lake (NRHP-listed 1977), houses-of-worship were conceived almost exclusively for seasonal residents. The large numbers of tourists which visited Blue Mountain Lake drove the demand for increased services and amenities there, among them opportunities for visitors to practice their faith. The Church of the Configuration, completed ca. 1885, satisfied this essential need, and its architectural program, devised by architect Manley N. Cutter, fit into the prevailing Adirondack rustic aesthetic of that era. Prior to the construction of present-day Route 30, parishioners reached this church by way of boat. Another example is the ca. 1890 Shingle style St. William's Catholic Church (NRHP-listed 2004), the construction costs of which were footed by William West Durant, a seminal figure in the emergence of the Adirondacks as a tourist destination and the development of the seasonal Adirondack camp and related rustic mode. Designed by the architectural office of J.C. Cady, St. William's was conceived to serve the Catholic residents of Raquette Lake, many of whom were employed on a seasonal basis by Durant in his various enterprises. Churches which all or

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<sup>1</sup> C.D. Schwartz, *A Spreading Flame: The Story of the Churches of Troy Annual Conference* (Troy: United Methodist Conference, 1986), 287; Minnie P. Stanyon, *The Quiet Years* (1965), 103-05.

<sup>2</sup> Stanyon, *Quiet Years*, 106.



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otherwise in part served seasonal residents were by no means a development exclusive to the Adirondack region nor New York State; other tourist areas, such as the White Mountain region of New Hampshire, witnessed similar developments. Grace Methodist Church in Speculator accommodated both year round residents as well as those who spent only a portion of the year in the Adirondacks. Accounts such as that offered by Minnie Stanyon indicate the important role that both played in the formation and continued vitality of this church organization.

In 1928 the Grace Methodist Church parsonage was completed; its first occupants were the Reverend L.W. Ward and his family, and the debt for it was cleared in 1953. In 1957 the new education building was erected behind the church. The addition, which cost \$15,000, was designed by Jack McAfee of Speculator and the contract was awarded to Thomas Novosel, also of Speculator. Period accounts indicate it was meant to provide additional room for the church's Sunday school activities as well as for social purposes.<sup>3</sup>

Architectural Context

Inherent in Grace Methodist Church are distinctive features which are expressive of American Methodist attitudes towards religious architecture at the turn of the twentieth century. As the nineteenth century progressed many Methodist organizations were compelled by growing architectural ambitions meant in part to spur increased membership and as a pronouncement of that faith's progressive spirit. It was during the latter decades of the nineteenth century that the straightforward meetinghouse form was supplanted by more complex, stylish and often times costly edifices. By the 1870s the Methodist Episcopal Church began to take a more active view of architecture at the national organizational level, and in 1875 it established a Department of Architecture, which disseminated appropriate church designs by means of catalogs of architectural plans. Methodist Clergyman William M. Patterson's *Manual of Architecture*, 1875, was conceived for building committees which were determined not to contract with professional architects for the design of new church buildings. By the early twentieth century many Methodist groups had erected buildings which they hoped would further their evangelical mission and serve as testimony to Methodist influence in contemporary society.<sup>4</sup> Many of these buildings were erected using mail order plans.

Grace Methodist Church relates to a period in which the architect Benjamin D. Price (1845-1922) exerted significant influence over Methodist church design. A native of Pennsylvania, Price established an architectural practice in Philadelphia and in the 1870s began to devote himself to the marketing of church plans by mail. During the mid-1870s, at which time the Methodist Church was becoming increasingly concerned with suitable church designs, Price was engaged with the Methodist Episcopal Board of Church Extension developing a series of plans which were in turn conveyed by mail, at modest cost, to Methodist organizations. Price's book *Church Plans* was published in a number of editions between 1885 and 1906 and he claimed, in 1891, to have sold over 5,300 sets of plans by that time and 600 in that year alone. As noted by Sally Svenson in *Adirondack Churches*, Price—who she termed “the most successful mass marketer of church plans”—employed a highly successful marketing strategy by which he publicized his offerings in denominational journals.<sup>5</sup> In the 1892 version of *Church Plans*, Price offered, under the heading “My Specialty,” clarification relative to his ownership of the designs he had generated:

Church plans of moderate cost, adapted to the use of Church Builders in all sections of the United States.

<sup>3</sup> “Rev. Worrall Breaks Ground for New \$15,000 Addition to Grace Church,” *The Leader-Herald* [Gloversville and Johnstown], 9 April 1957.

<sup>4</sup> Karen B.W. Tucker, *American Methodist Worship* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 240- 252.

<sup>5</sup> Sally E. Svenson, *Adirondack Churches: A History of Design and Building* (Adirondack Architectural Heritage, 2006), 116.

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In the *New York Independent* of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1892, Secretary A.J. Kynett, D.D., referring to my designs, says: "Within fifteen years, and especially for the cheaper class of churches in the country towns and villages, the Methodists have taken the lead in the grace, beauty and convenience of their houses of worship." He then adds that the Board [of Church Extension] "has accumulated the largest and best variety of designs for cheap churches in the world." This was inadvertent as I made, and always retained possession of the designs, and became sole owner of them by purchase, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1889.

Since then the Board of Church Extension of the M.E. Church and other societies sell them on commission to those who prefer to buy in that way and I sell direct to those who wish to deal direct with me.<sup>6</sup>

The 1892 edition of Church Plans included perspective views and plans for 10 churches of varying scale and sophistication ranging in price from \$300 to \$11,000. Additionally included were advertisements for building materials, including metal roofing, church furnishings, lighting fixtures, heating systems, brick, wood varnish, and "paper imitation of stained glass."

While specific documentary references to the design and construction of Grace Methodist Church are not presently available, some conclusions can be inferred based on the building itself and comparison with other Methodist churches in the region. As built, the Speculator church exhibited patent aspects of Price-designed churches, in form, plan and finish, and its similarity to the Methodist church erected at nearby Indian Lake ca. 1903—an observation made by Sally Svenson—is unmistakable, suggesting the possibility that the latter church inspired the ultimate form and appearance of the nominated building.<sup>7</sup> Among those Price designs which both buildings display an affinity with is a perspective view that was published in the architect's *Small Catalogue* of 1890. The two Adirondack churches, like the cited Price design, are predicated, form-wise, on intersecting gabled sections which combine to form an L-shaped footprint, the principal entrance being located in an engaged multi-stage bell tower. Detailing is of a distinct Gothic nature, though not of "archaeological" derivation as was customary in earlier phases of the Gothic Revival, and the treatment of the three towers, in terms of their division into separate stages, including an open belfry and faceted spire, is largely identical.

Similar, as well, is the way in which this form dictated the division of interior space, with the principal gabled block accommodating the worship space and the intersecting block accommodating a lecture room or school room; these areas could be left in direct communication with one another, or otherwise temporarily separated by means of moveable partitions. The principal entrance, into the tower vestibule, included separate doorways into each room. The pews have curved backs, a type popularized in auditorium type churches, with ranks aligned to either side of a center aisle. Memorial stained-glass windows provided filtered natural light to the interior while honoring the memory of vital contributors to the organization.

The interior of Grace Methodist survives with a high-degree of physical integrity to the early twentieth century, notwithstanding some minor and largely cosmetic changes. The exterior has unfortunately suffered from the loss of the belfry and spire, a signature feature of the design, and its replacement with a two-stage belfry and spire. While non-historic siding currently obscures the clapboard beneath, the building's original form can still be understood, notwithstanding the 1958 addition, and it retains its original fenestration, windows and double-leaf entrance doors, decorative rafter and purlin tails, and wood-shingled gable fields. Prominently situated in the center of Speculator, it remains a recognizable local landmark.

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<sup>6</sup> Benjamin D. Price, *Church Plans* (Philadelphia: 1892), 1.

<sup>7</sup> Svenson, *Adirondack Churches*, 118.

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The parsonage, completed in 1928, exhibits traits which link it to contemporary Dutch Colonial design and which suggest the possibility of its derivation from a mail order catalogue. While a specific design precedent has yet to be identified, favorable comparisons are found in the mail order houses offered by Sears, Roebuck and Company and Montgomery Ward in this era. House designs such as Sears's "Rembrandt" and "Amsterdam" (ca. 1921-26) and "Van Jean" (ca. 1927-32), as well as Montgomery Ward's "Sovereign" (ca. 1930), all exhibit the characteristic high-breaking gambrel roof that is the definitive feature of this mode, along with second-story wall dormers such as that used for the parsonage. These catalogs spurred the visibility of this house type and its continued popularity into the 1930s. Between 1908 and 1940, Sears, Roebuck and Company sold over 70,000 houses by means of its "Modern Homes" program. The company provided 447 different dwelling options in that period, ranging from simple, inexpensive cottages to larger and more pretentious offerings. This variety allowed customers to select a model that would suit their personal tastes and budgets. Individuals could also submit blueprints of their own design to Sears, which would fabricate and ship precut and fitted materials, putting the home owner in full creative control. Sears was by no means the only purveyor of kit homes in this period, as other companies, among them Montgomery Ward, with their "Wardway" program, offered similar services.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Price, Benjamin B. *Church Plans*. Philadelphia: 1892.

Schwartz, C.D. *A Spreading Flame: The Story of the Churches of Troy Annual Conference*. Troy: United Methodist Conference, 1986.

Stanyon, Minnie P. *The Quiet Years*. 1965.

Tucker, Karen B.W. *American Methodist Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Svenson, Sally E. *Adirondack Churches: A History of Design and Building*. Adirondack Architectural Heritage, 2006.

**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** .82 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>551273</u>	<u>4816655</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on the three enclosed maps, drawn at scales of 1:24,000, 1:12,000 and 1:3,000.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary selected for this nomination includes two resources, the church and the parsonage; all of this land is historically associated with the historic development of the church complex and the cited period of significance, ca. 1908- 1928.

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH COMPLEX

Name of Property

HAMILTON COUNTY, NY

County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title William E. Krattinger  
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date August 2014  
street & number Peebles Island State Park PO Box 189 telephone (518) 237-8643  
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188  
e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

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**Additional Documentation**

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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:**

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

PHOTOGRAPHS by William E. Krattinger, March 2014

TIFF file format, original files at NYS DHP, Peebles Island State Park, Waterford NY 12188

- 0001 **EXTERIOR, church, northeasterly perspective view showing façade and southwest flank elevation**
- 0002 **EXTERIOR, church, easterly perspective view showing rear addition to church**
- 0003 **EXTERIOR, parsonage, westerly perspective view showing façade and northeast elevation**
- 0004 **INTERIOR, church, worship space, view looking towards southeast wall**
- 0005 **INTERIOR, church, view looking north towards Sunday school room**

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**Property Owner:**

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

---

name Grace Methodist Episcopal Church c/o Barbara Schoonmaker  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH COMPLEX

Name of Property

HAMILTON COUNTY, NY

County and State



ABOVE, church complex ca. 1940; BELOW, church prior to completion ca. 1909





GRACE METHODIST CHURCH COMPLEX

Name of Property

HAMILTON COUNTY, NY

County and State



ABOVE, Grace Methodist Church ca. 1910



GRACE METHODIST CHURCH COMPLEX

Name of Property

HAMILTON COUNTY, NY

County and State



ABOVE, early interior view

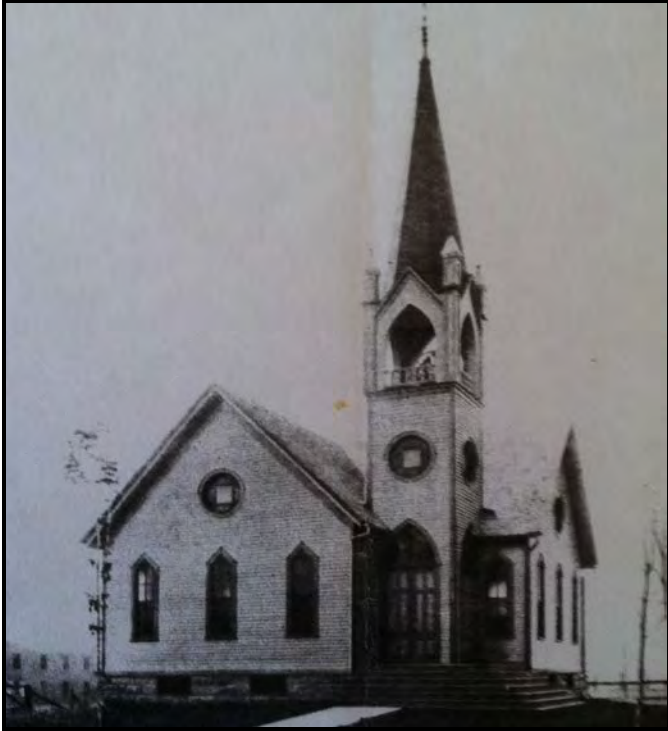


GRACE METHODIST CHURCH COMPLEX

Name of Property

HAMILTON COUNTY, NY

County and State



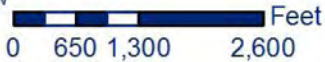
ABOVE, Indian Lake Methodist Church; BELOW, design from B.D. Price's *Small Catalogue*, 1890









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



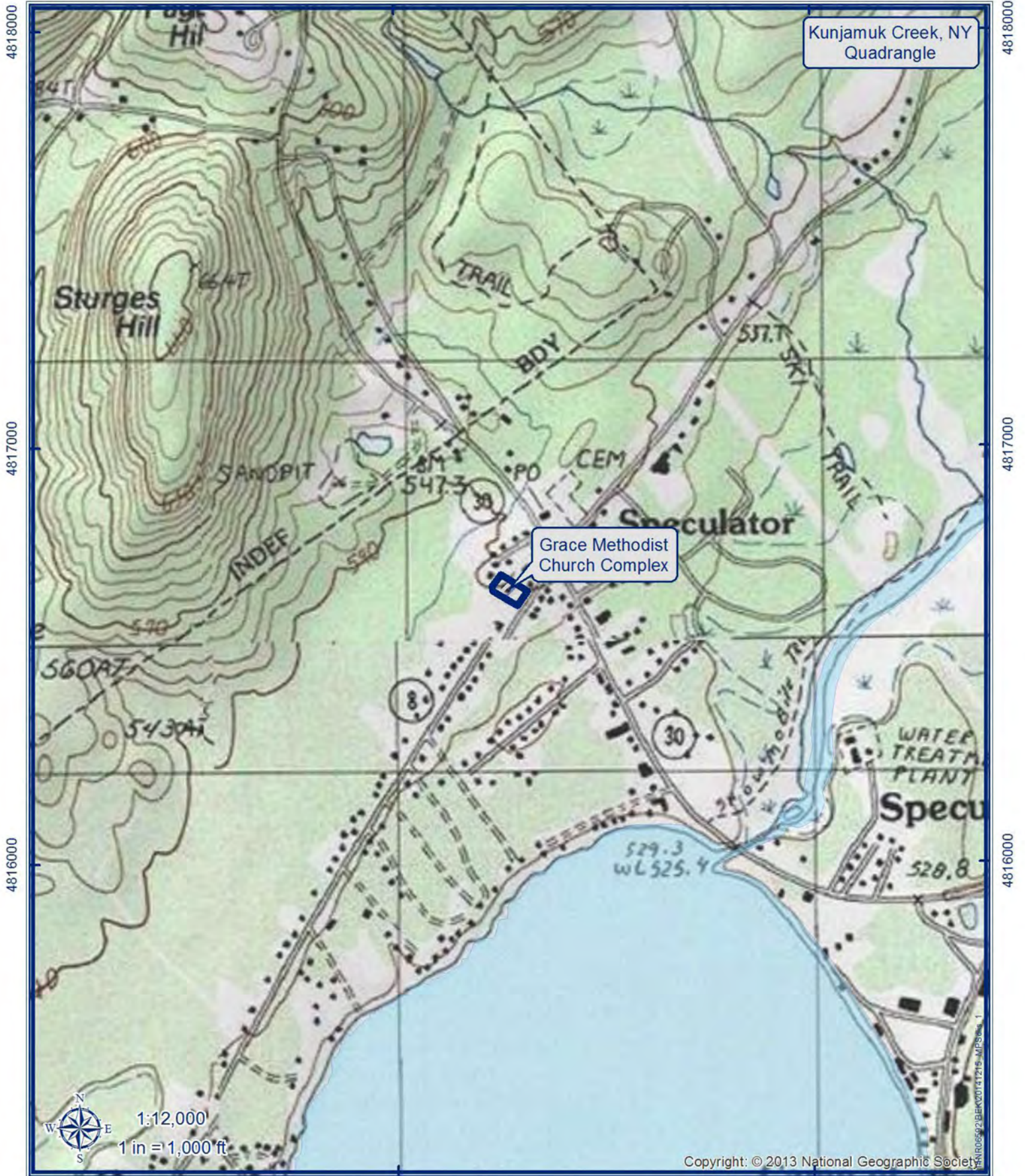
 Grace Methodist Church  
 USGS quad index

Tax Parcel Data:  
Hamilton Co, RPS  
[hamcomaps.net/hamilton](http://hamcomaps.net/hamilton)



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

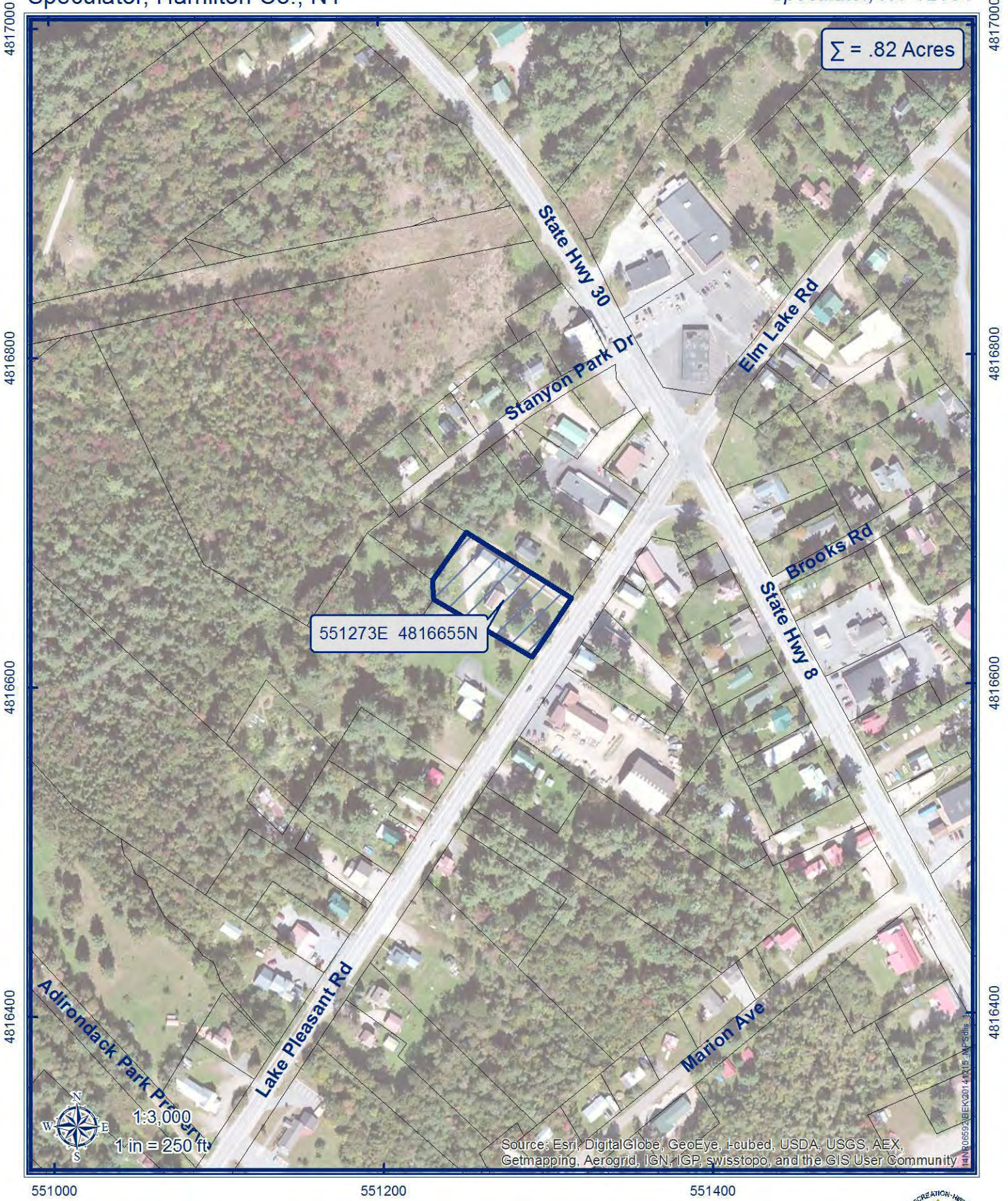


Grace Methodist Church

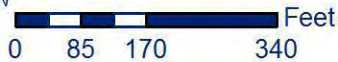
Tax Parcel Data:  
Hamilton Co, RPS  
[hamcomaps.net/hamilton](http://hamcomaps.net/hamilton)







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



Grace Methodist Church

Tax Parcel Data:  
Hamilton Co, RPS  
[hamcomaps.net/hamilton](http://hamcomaps.net/hamilton)















2898









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Grace Methodist Church Complex  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Hamilton

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/17/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000006

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 2-12-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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.



**New York State Office of Parks,  
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189  
518-237-8643



**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

19 December 2014

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Broadway Historic District, Erie County  
Cuba Cemetery, Allegany County  
Grace Methodist Church Complex, Hamilton County  
Cox-Budlong House, Monroe County  
Watkins Gel High School, Schuyler County

Please feel free to call me 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office