

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 12 1977  
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  ~~COMMON~~  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: 13 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN: West Orange  
STATE: New Jersey  
VICINITY OF: 11th - Joseph C. Minish  
COUNTY: Essex  
CODE: 34  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 013

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME: Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
STREET & NUMBER: 13 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN: West Orange  
STATE: New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Essex County Hall of Records  
STREET & NUMBER: High Street  
CITY, TOWN: Newark  
STATE: New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE:  
DATE:  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
CITY, TOWN:  
STATE:

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mark's Church was first erected in 1828 but has undergone substantial changes. An article published in the 12/20/1912 edition of the Orange Advertiser gives a description of the original church.

"It was a plain rectangular stone building, 40 x 60 feet, of which the east and west were in part coincident with the walls as they now stand, and a line drawn across the present nave between the south corners of the transepts would make the rear. The chancel was at the south, or street end of the building, between the two front doors, and, of course, the seats faced that way. Immediately behind the chancel was the tower, the ground floor of which was used for the vestry or robing room. The furnishing of the chancel was of the old-fashioned, so called "three decker" type, the pulpit was built against the wall about ten or twelve feet above the level of the church floor, the reading desk, at which Morning and Evening prayers were said, was immediately below and front, and attached to the front of the desk, about two feet still lower down, was the altar, and around the whole was a communion rail of a semi-circular form, reaching around nearly to the church doors on either side. The only access to the pulpit was from the vestry room on a flight of steps invisible to the congregation, and through a door in the back. There were two aisles in the church, and the pews were furnished with doors. The ceiling was flat and the windows were of plain glass immovable sashes. There was a gallery across the rear or north end of the building, in which the organ was placed and the choir sang."

In 1851 St. Mark's church was redesigned in the gothic revival style. Both its interior, with exposed heavy wooden truss work, and its exterior resemble English country church architecture. The entire structure is built of triassic sandstone. The window traceries and mullions in the original structure were wood and the traceries and mullions of all subsequent additions were of stone.

The south facade of St. Mark's has a square tower surmounted by an octagonal spire which located in the south-west corner of the building. The tower is divided into three stories by horizontal moldings. The first story contains a pointed window with two lights and an oriel between on the west side and a pointed doorway on the south front. There is a single slender pointed window in the center of each side of the second story. An interesting feature of the third story which helps one to see the subtle

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1829, 1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1869--Richard M. Upjohn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church has two main areas of significance: architecture and religion. Architecturally it is the best example of the gothic revival style in West Orange. It was also re-designed in 1869 by Richard M. Upjohn. St. Mark's is the third oldest episcopal parish in Essex County and is the second oldest church in the Oranges.

Originally under the pastoral charge of a church in Newark. Orange became a missionary station in 1825. The pastor had several other stations under his care and could only visit Orange once a month. Because of this a group of churchmen were motivated to form a parish which was incorporated two years later.

In 1829 there were 54 families and pew holders in the parish. The cornerstone of the original church was laid May 12, 1828. With the building of the church and securing a pastor St. Mark's began to grow. In 1831 the vestry decided to build a tower and purchase a bell. In 1833, an organ was installed in the gallery at the North end of the church.

In 1837, Reverend James Williams became the pastor of St. Mark's. His rectorship lasted 46 years until 1883. During this time many changes were made to the church building. In 1845 the present rectory was built. There were two major changes to the church structure itself. In 1851, the nave was extended and the two transepts and a chancel were added to the northern end of the building. A partial basement was also added. In 1852 the basement of part of the church was completed for use by the Sunday School, In 1861, the nave was extended approximately fifteen feet toward the south, the old tower church stood in the middle of the west facade was iron down and a new facade was built with a tower and spire in the southwest corner.

LOP...  
5/25/77

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. The Vestry Books of St. Mark's Church
2. A Scripbook presently in the office of the Rector which contains numerous newspaper clippings mostly from the "Orange Chronicle" and other memorabilia.
3. Microfilm records of the "Daily Chronicle" and the "Orange Adviser"

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	564200	45141060	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city lots # 2 & 3, block 60 and is approximately 583' X 374' in size

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Nanci Kostrub,  
Historic Sites Section  
N.J. DEP Trenton)

Joseph Esposito, Architectural Historian

DATE

ORGANIZATION

Attention: Mr. Jacob Shteir  
West Orange Bicentennial Commission

10/19/76

STREET & NUMBER

66 Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

West Orange

STATE

New Jersey 07052

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*David J. Bond*

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE March 28, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles H. Herring DATE 9.22.77  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION *Atty* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Walter Cole DATE 9.22.77  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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St, Mark's Episcopal Church  
West Orange  
Essex County

NEW JERSEY 031  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION

shift from the horizontal motif of the cornice moldings and the verticality of the spire is the fact that the cornice separating the third story continues around the four sides between the buttresses, while it is not continued on the buttresses themselves. The third story is articulated by a pointed louvered belfry opening on each of its sides. The entire tower recedes on each of the three levels, gradually tapering inward and upward into an octagonal spire pierced by twelve small gabled windows and topped by a cross. The narthex with its pitched roof and heavily splayed front portal is situated to the right of the tower on the south facade. Two recessed heavy wooden doors, each with a small rectangular recessed window next to them, are located on the sides of the narthex. A large pointed window containing five lights and an oriel with a quadrifoil motif can be seen behind the narthex in the upper portion of the south facade. Immediately above this window is a small mandorla shaped window flanked by two rosettes with a trifoil motif in each. Two lancets below these rosettes are on either side of the narthex.

The east facade has five buttresses between which are five bays containing two sets of double lancets surmounted by an oriel. The corner buttresses between the south and east facades have gabled tops while the others do not. All the buttress piers taper in a two level tiered recession. The Sunday school addition is connected to the east facade at the east transept. The east transept is articulated by a single light on each side and corner buttressing. One can visibly distinguish additions to the structure, eg., the Sunday school room, the chancel, and the rector's office, since the brownstone encasing these areas is rusticated rather than smoothly cut and adzed as it is on the main body of the church. In the narthex and transept additions, the brownstone is smoothly cut but the blocks are longer and narrower in these areas.

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St. Marks Episcopal Church  
West Orange°  
Essex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION

The chancel appears on the north side of the church. Its rusticated brownstone rear wall is pierced by a large pointed window containing three lights, each surmounted by an oriel, with the two outermost lights being smaller than the one in the middle.

The west facade has the rector's office which is connected to the chapel in the west transept and the rest of the church by the sacristy. The west transept has a pointed door above which a rosette with a quadrifoil motif is located. The remainder of the west facade has four buttresses between which are four bays that alternately contain two sets of double lancets and no lancets. The tower stands in place of the corresponding fifth bay on the west facade.

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St. Marks Episcopal Church  
West Orange  
Essex County New Jersey 034  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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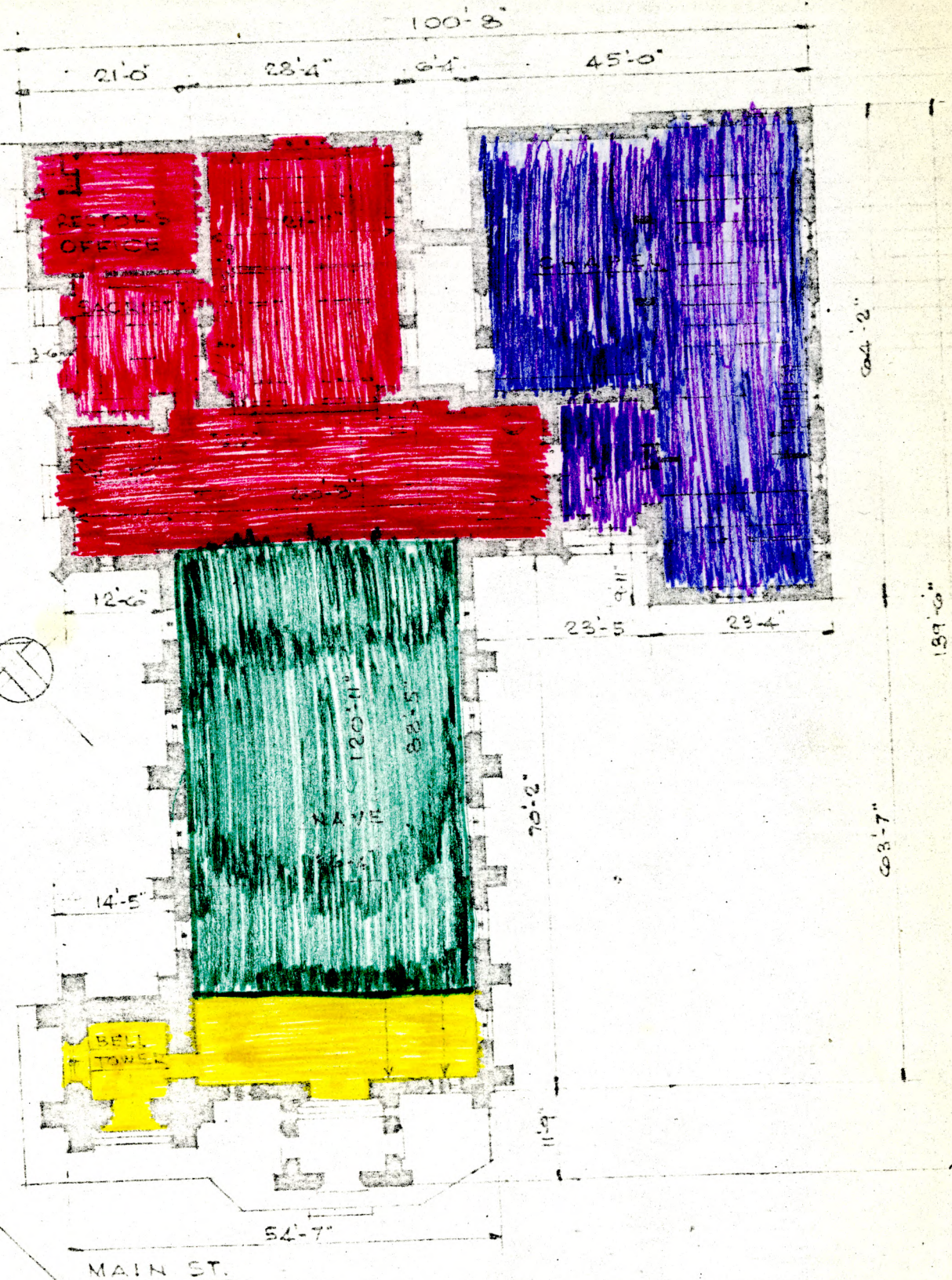
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1869, plans for a new roof, including decorative trusses, brackets and interior ceilings and also, a slate roof were drawn by Richard M. Upjohn. The work was done in the summer of 1869 at a cost of \$10,637.37. In 1877 the parish building on the east side of the church was built.

St. Mark's has not undergone any significant changes in the past 75 years. Except for minor repairs there have been no alterations that have changed the character of architectural significance of the building in its community.

West Orange grew into a fairly significant and affluent community and because of this its is easy to understand the attitude that would have prompted the remodeling of the church in the 1860's and its style in relation to the rest of the community presents the same outlook. It is the best example of gothic revival architecture in West Orange and is a noted mark in the community and is worthy of inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

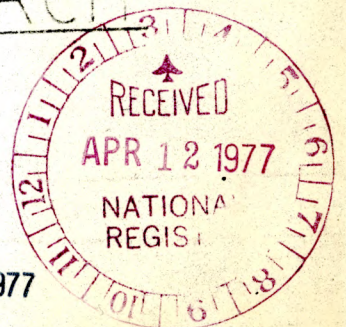


# ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

13 MAIN ST., WEST ORANGE, N.J.

■ 1861  
■ 1829

■ 1851  
■ 1877



SEP 22 1977