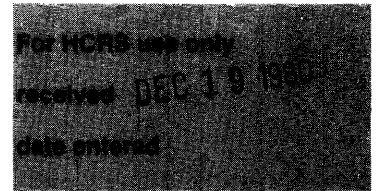


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Old St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church

historic

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South side of High Street

NA not for publication

city, town Odessa

vicinity of

congressional district

One

state Delaware 19730 code 10

county New Castle

code 0083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Women's Club of Odessa

street & number Main Street

city, town Odessa

vicinity of

state

Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Public Building

street & number Rodney Square

city, town Wilmington

state

Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

N-1617
title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Old State House, The Green, P.O. Box 1401

city, town Dover

state

Delaware 19901

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church is situated on the south side of High Street in Odessa, Delaware. It is the only known ecclesiastical building in Delaware documented to have been designed by the Philadelphia architect, Samuel Sloan.

Though the architect is primarily associated with his Natchez, Mississippi domestic dwellings, this is the only known, non-domestic structure in Delaware that is representative of the architect's interest in the Greek Revival style.

According to official church records, this religious, two-story, 45'X 65', brick edifice was begun on August 1, 1851 and was dedicated fourteen months later on October 23, 1852. The same church records indicate that Henry L. and David C. Rose, local builders and contractors, completed the structure in accordance with Sloan's plans and specifications. Materials, labor and construction costs were apparently included in the \$3,590 contract.

Samuel Sloan is considered by some architectural historians to be a chief protagonist of the new eclectic classic or Greek Revival style which was popular in America between 1820 and 1860.

This building is characteristic of the Greek Revival period with its smooth, pressed brick facade; its simple, 3 X 4 bay rectangular form with aspe; its low pitched gable roof with full pedimented returns and its trabeated doors and windows.

The elongated windows located on the north, east and west facades are typical of the period. The leaded facade casements may be the original church lights, since they typify the style of windows associated with similar religious structures built within the same time frame. According to tradition, stained glass windows were installed in Methodist churches late in the nineteenth century. Though the original stained glass windows were partially destroyed, the present owners have had the windows carefully reconstructed from fragments salvaged during the recent stabilization of the building.

Like other large, brick Methodist churches throughout the state, this building was designed as a two story structure with a large auditorium and gallery on the second floor level and classrooms below. Official church records for St. Paul's, however, note that a large, religious library was also developed on the first floor level in the 1880's.

Church records also indicate that the spacious interior was extensively improved between 1857 and 1859 which gave it "...the combined beauty and simplicity which made it so attractive." A late nineteenth century photograph of the auditorium illustrates a lavishly decorated interior with stenciled walls and ceilings; wainscotting; carpeted floors; stained glass windows and a large "Tracher" type pipe organ in the aspe flanked by fluted columns. Church records dated

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1851-2

Builder/Architect Samuel Sloan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Historically, Odessa was dominated by three principal religious groups: the Quakers, Presbyterians, and Methodists. Though both the Quakers and Presbyterians had become established religious factions within the community in the eighteenth century, Methodism did not emerge there until the 1830's. St. Paul's Church, therefore, represents the earliest, tangible structural evidence reflecting the development of Methodism within the community.

The town of Odessa is located approximately fifty miles south of Philadelphia, which served as a major style center in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and continuously affected the building trends of the town. The village developed in a portion of a tract of land along the banks of the Appoquinimink Creek which was granted to Edmund Cantwell in 1676. Throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Odessa was known as Cantwell's Bridge. It quickly emerged as a place of considerable economic importance because of its strategic location and eventually became a principal grain market. In 1855, the community's name was changed from Cantwell's bridge to Odessa, after Odessa, Russia, a large grain port on the Black Sea.

Written histories note that the first Methodist services were held in Odessa in 1831 with seven members: Wessel Aldrichs, Rebecca Pogue, Benjamin Fields, Nelson Naudain, Thomas Scott, and James Moore, many of whom were prominent local citizens.

Though the members were part of the Smyrna Circuit, they were anxious to hold services within the community. Local services were, therefore, held in an old schoolhouse for approximately two years until the structure was sold in order to erect a new educational facility.

New Castle County Deeds record that Joseph Griffith and his wife Ann conveyed the present church lot to the church trustees for \$30 with the understanding that a place of worship would be erected in the premises. This transaction occurred in January 15, 1833. Shortly thereafter, a committee was appointed to procure materials for the construction of a new church. This committee apparently purchased an old brick house for \$100 and was donated a second brick house that had been burned out. The bricks from these two dwelling houses were re-used and a 30'X 40' brick, white-washed structure was erected. This church was apparently utilized by the Methodists for twenty years until a larger, more accommodating structure was needed.

One hundred and ten church officers and subscribers, many of whom were leading

9. Major Bibliographical References

Documents and records found in corner stone of Old St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, Odessa, Delaware.

Records loaned by the new St. Paul's Church, Odessa, Delaware

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1/4 acre.

Quadrangle name Middletown

UTM NOT VERIFIED
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References - see continuation sheet

A NA
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes only the building itself.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Raymond B. Wallace, Chairman, Church Restoration

organization Women's Club of Odessa date April, 1980

street & number Odessa Heights telephone (302) 378-2789

city or town Odessa state Delaware

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Daniel R. Griffith

title Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation date 12/8/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Albion Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>5/13/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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received DEC 19 1988
data entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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February 18, 1888 note that the church was valued at \$7,000, that the building was insured for \$4,000 and that the organ was insured for \$900.

St. Pauls Methodist Episcopal Church not only represents a documented monument to its architect and the Appoquinimink Creek community, but serves as a reminder that the architectural styles which prevailed in Odessa throughout its history, continued to be influenced by the Philadelphia style.

**United States Department of the Interior
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date entered

Continuation sheet

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citizens of the community like the Vandegrifts, Enos, Janviers, Naudains, and Corbits contributed to the erection of Sloan's church. When the church was begun, there were approximately one hundred and fifty three members, most of whom were among the one subscribers who had contributed a total of \$2,650 towards the construction of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church.

Services were held in St. Paul's Church for over 100 years until a newer, more convenient, brick structure was erected on Main Street in 1955. Since that time, St. Paul's Church has been abandoned and has continued to decay. In 1974, the Women's Club of Odessa obtained ownership of the property and since that time has been actively involved with the stabilization and restoration of the structure. The building is being rehabilitated to accommodate a local museum and cultural center. Plans indicated that it will display artifacts and documents which relate directly to the building of the church and relate to the historical development of the community.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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Geographic Data

The Middletown U.S.G.S. map does not contain UTM references. The geographic coordinates are as follows: 39 27' 25" Latitude
75 39' 36" Longitude

DEC 19 1980

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

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

For NPS use only
received 4.27.82
date entered MAY 13 1982

Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Item number 10

Page 1

Clarifications Requested 3/31/81

The nominated property includes only the building on its foundations, cited in the item 7 description as measuring 45 X 65 feet. Only the building itself is maintained under the present, secular ownership. The structure is bounded on its immediate north by the public street and on the other three sides by a cemetery, still owned and maintained by a religious institution, St. Paul's M.E. Church.

