

5C-1622



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 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
other names/site number N/A  
name of related multiple property listing Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

### Location

street & number 408 South Main Street

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

  
city or town Horseheads  
state New York code NY county Chemung code 015 zip code 14845

### 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

Michael P. Polyzos Deputy SAPO 7/26/17  
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):

Alexandra 9/18/17  
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	
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**

Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central NY

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

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

RELIGION/church

RELIGION/church

RELIGION/church related facility

RELIGION/church related facility

**7. Description**

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

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

Mid-nineteenth century/Gothic Revival

foundation: brick, stone, concrete

Mid-twentieth century/contemporary

walls: brick, concrete

roof: asphalt

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located in the village of Horseheads in the Southern Tier of New York State. The church property is located at the northwest corner of South Main and Steuben Streets and contains two buildings: a historic Gothic Revival style church built in 1866 and a two-story mid-century modern parish house built in 1965, both facing South Main Street (east). The church building is rectangular in form with a gable roof and a two-stage central engaged entrance tower capped with a pyramid shaped roof and plain metal cross. A wood door is centrally located in the base of the tower, set into a compound gothic arch. Two arched stained glass windows flank the tower and two smaller windows are above the entrance. Additional paired windows are in the other sides of the tower. The north and south elevations are identical to each other with four arched windows with stone sills evenly spaced in the brick walls. The west elevation contains three centrally placed arched windows and a one-story projecting entry at the north end. This entry has a concrete foundation, but the rest of the church building's foundation is stone. The church's decoration relies on brick corbelling. The interior of the church received some updates ca. 1948 (linoleum floor, central aisle and chancel carpeting, new pews), but retains its original wainscoting, interior wood doors, chancel furniture, 1939 baptismal font and scalloped wood ceiling beams with bracketed ends. The communion rail is a reproduction of the original, made of oak and installed in 1999.

To the north is the two-story, rectangular brick parish house with regular fenestration. Landscaping conceals the lower story. The main entrance is through an offset center projection clad in stone veneer, accessible by concrete steps. Access is through a double wood vertical board door with a multi-light transom. The south elevation has a secondary aluminum and glass entry with a flat roofed entry porch. The parish house interior is divided into classroom and office space with most classrooms in the lower level off of a central hallway. Offices and a large, open multi-purpose room are in the upper level. The parish house retains much of its period finishes, including large wood arches in the multi-purpose room, stairs, tile floor in the lower level, wood doors and combination aluminum and glass windows with hopper style lower openings.

St. Matthew's Gothic Revival building is identified in the multiple property document *Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York* (1996) as meeting the registration requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for retaining its historic exterior features (form, fenestration, entrance). The church originally had a steeple that was removed around 1890 due to structural problems, but the base survives, which is one of the registration requirements. Interior alterations were limited to church redecorating (1948, 1970s), giving the 1866 building a high degree of integrity. St. Matthew's parish hall falls outside of the multiple property document's period of significance (1786-1929); however, the building is more than 50 years of age, is considered contributing due to its association with the church and the fact that it retains its period form, features and materials. The parish house provides the end date for this nomination's period of significance (1866-1965).

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## **Narrative Description**

Horseheads is an incorporated village in Chemung County, in the Southern Tier portion of the state. The Southern Tier Expressway (I-86) runs through the southern section of the village and State Route 14 is another major roadway that runs through the western portion of the village. Newtown Creek forms part of the eastern boundary of the village, roughly paralleling South Main Street north to Franklin Street. The area north of Franklin Street is the commercial center of the village. Built in 1866, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located approximately four blocks south of Franklin Street on the west side of South Main Street at the intersection with Steuben Street. This intersection also features Teal Park, a small public park at the southwest corner. Directly across the street are the Horseheads Public Library and parking lot and the Barber Funeral Home. The sections of South Main adjacent to the church are a combination of residential and commercial properties, characterized by similar building setbacks, paved sidewalks and tree lawns, several with mature trees. Due to the creek, most side streets in this part of the village extend from South Main to the west. The streets adjacent to the church and park are mostly residential with most of the housing dating from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century.

St. Matthew's Church building is located on a piece of land that was originally smaller; however, in 1962 it purchased an adjacent north property for the construction of the parish hall. The entire current property is approximately .39 acres and is odd shaped due to the angle of South Main Street. A 1932 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that part of the corner was taken off, paralleling closer to the south elevation of the building. The 1962 parcel is longer than it is deep, which determined the configuration of the parish house (nine-bays along the façade and two-bays deep). A paved walkway runs between the two buildings with landscaping on either side creating gardens with flowering trees, shrubs and other decorative plantings.

## **CHURCH EXTERIOR**

The building's façade is three-bays across with the center bay being an entrance tower. The church displays its Gothic Revival form with a pitched roof and gable end facing South Main. The exterior of the church is brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern except for decorative elements around the door and windows, cornice and entrance tower. Almost all of the church's decorative detail is expressed in corbelling, which demarcates a cornice, frieze, "cornerboards," bandcourses, etc. The windows and door are set into compound arches with brick header lintels. Windows have stone sills. Two arched windows flank the tower and two more arched windows are over the main entrance. Both the north and south sides of the tower have two more windows in each level. The door is located in the first level of the tower and consists of a double wood entry with inset wood arched panels. A fixed wood transom is over the door and consists of one large recessed arch panel set into an arched wood surround. Directly over the door is a metal and glass lantern. The door is accessed by four poured concrete steps with a non-historic metal railing. Short pier walls are to the right (north), recently added when an access ramp was installed. To the left (south) of the door is a small raised stone garden bed with landscaping and poured concrete steps that lead to another wood door, allowing access into the basement. Non-historic metal railings fence off the adjacent lawn portion.



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Both the tower and main body of the church have a stone foundation and small rectangular windows are visible in the south elevation foundation. Landscaping obscures any foundation windows on the north elevation, but they are present. Each side elevation has four evenly spaced arched windows with stone sills. They are otherwise similar to the façade. Visible from the north elevation is a brick chimney stack extending from the roof near the west end. The chimney is also partially visible from the west elevation, but partly hidden by the pitch of the roof. The west elevation has three arched windows indicating the location of the chancel, but the stone sills of two of the windows are hidden by part of the roof of a projecting rear entrance, added in 1956. This entrance is one story, with a CMU foundation, brick walls, a small six-light window and an asphalt roof. The door is wood paneled with two small upper lights and set into a wide surround.

Roofs are clad with asphalt shingle (church, tower and rear entrance addition). The tower roof is a pyramid shaped cap topped with a metal cross. This configuration was the result of removing the steeple in 1890 when structural repairs were made to the church. The tower also has a small metal and glass front sign to the right (north) of the entrance door.

#### **CHURCH INTERIOR:**

Primary access to the church sanctuary is through a vestibule in the entrance tower on the east side of the building and an interior door in the center of the east wall. This door is similar to the main entrance, being a double wood door with recessed panel and wood transom, all set into a Gothic arch. Set into the transom is a stained glass window dedicated to the memory of Roy Miles Gilmore who died in 1957 at age 22. The window depicts Christ holding the elements of the Eucharist with the dedication to Gilmore below. The designer/maker of the window is unknown. The window looks toward the chancel at the west end of the sanctuary that is set into a large apse, flanked by another wood door with arched wood transom to the left (south) and organ to the right (north). The arch is edged with wood and a wood cross is at the apex of the arch. The chancel has a lower platform with wood communion rail of large turned posts and a simple, flat topped railing. Behind it is another raised platform with the wood altar and chancel furniture against the back wall. The furniture consists of chairs that appear to be original. Four have pronounced Gothic carving in the backs with the two most prominent placed between the large windows in the west wall. Historic photos show the original communion rail that was replicated in 1999. The altar dates from 1960. The pulpit/lectern is also original but was moved from the chancel to its current position between the pews and organ on the northwest end. The original pulpit/lectern is wood with plain recessed arches along the outside and rests on a curved wood pedestal.

Noticeable throughout the church is the original wood wainscoting to the chair rail and plaster above. The carpeting dates from 1980, with uncarpeted sections under the pews being linoleum, possibly dating from 1949 when repairs were made to the building. The current pews were purchased from another church ca. 1970. The pew arrangement follows the same as the original pews being placed in two straight rows. The first pew on the south side is shorter than the rest to accommodate the historic marble baptismal font.

The sanctuary is a large rectangular room with a gabled ceiling and exposed decorative beams supported by brackets along the side walls. An 1895 historic image shows the ceiling much as it is at present, with its gradual slope and scallop

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edged beams with decorative end brackets. This image also shows that the walls of the church (and possibly the ceiling) were decoratively painted (or papered) right up to the beams, thus accounting for their somewhat truncated appearance.

There is also a center beam and two beams midway between center and sides. Round lanterns with candle-form bulbs hang along the side beams. Wood beams are stained a dark brown while the rest of the sanctuary woodwork is lighter, showing the natural lighter color of the chestnut wainscoting and doors. Plaster walls are painted pale yellow. The simple stained glass windows contain religious symbols and date from the 1970s, except for the stained glass windows in the sacristy, which date from the late nineteenth century.

The door in the chancel leads to the rear entrance and to a stairs descending into the church's full basement. The basement is divided into a former kitchen area and large open room, a configuration dating from 1918, when the basement was remodeled for use as a parish hall. It retains its wood and concrete floor and vertical wood doors and walls. Exterior foundation walls are finished with concrete. The basement is currently used for storage and part of it contains heating equipment and ductwork.

## **PARISH HOUSE**

Completed in 1965, the parish house replaced the church basement as the primary gathering spot for church functions and Sunday School and allowed office functions to move from the sacristy into the newly completed building. The parish house is a two-story building with the first story partly below grade. Built of concrete block, the building is faced with brick to be compatible with the 1866 church. It was built on a long, rectangular lot on the north side of the church and the building's form reflects that of the lot size and orientation. The parish house façade is nine-bays wide with a prominent off-center bay containing the main entrance. This portion of the building is faced with stone veneer and the raised door is accessible by four concrete steps with metal railings. The door is a double, vertical wood door set into a metal surround with a multi-light wood and metal transom. The entrance roof is an overhanging modest front gable that contrasts with the side gabled roof of the parish house. The entrance is flanked by two one-over-one overhanging windows and the rest in the upper level are paired versions of the same. Windows in the lower level are obscured by large shrubs and are paired aluminum and glass windows with lower hopper style opening sections and fixed five-light uppers. A concrete cornerstone is also partly obscured by plantings in the south end of the façade. The entire building is set back to match the church building, which provides a lawn area ending at the sidewalk.

The rear or west elevation of the parish house is also nine-bays wide and the lower level is partially obscured by a wood access ramp that ends at a metal door at the north end. Windows are evenly spaced as in the façade but are single rather than double in the upper level. The windows in the lower level are the same as in the façade (metal and glass with lower hopper style openings.) The north elevation contains two-bays of four evenly spaced windows following the same pattern and style as seen in the rest of the building. The south elevation differs from the north as a three-bay configuration with a central secondary entrance flanked by double-hung windows in the upper level. The entrance consists of a concrete base with a flat roofed porch supported by narrow square support columns. The door is a large glass and aluminum entrance with two flanking clear sidelights. Over the entrance is a large metal and glass window/transom of clear glass rectangular sections arranged in a varying pattern. A metal vent is visible in the wall over the entrance near the roofline. A concrete

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walkway extends in both directions from the entrance platform east toward the sidewalk and west toward the rear entrance of the church building.

Both entrances have open stairs that descend to the lower level or ascend to the upper level. Stairs are stone with concrete support bases with board railings with square metal supports. Layouts on both floors consist of double loaded corridors with classrooms on either side, except for the upper level that has a foyer area at the end of the entry stairs with offices to the south. Another difference is that floors in the upper level are wood while the lower level is concrete covered with tile. Interior doors are a variety of solid wood or wood with a narrow, tall, off-set window. The far north end of the upper level contains a large, open room (Judson Hall) used for both community and church functions. The room features an arched ceiling and large wood curving arches that extend from the floor to the along the ceiling. The original tile floor was replaced with wood in 1980. Walls and ceiling in this room are finished with wall board while most of the classroom walls are exposed and painted concrete block. The large open room has the door to the access ramp the northwest. This area also contains storage space and a pair of doors in the north wall. Other than the large arches, the only other decorative feature in this is a large wood cross centered in the upper part of the west wall, over the paired doors.

## **INTEGRITY**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is one of several churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York determined eligible by the multiple property document *Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York* (1996). Although the registration requirements listed in the document only apply to the church building, both buildings owned by the parish retain a high degree of integrity relative to their periods of construction and provide the beginning and end dates of the period of significance (1866-1965). Both occupy their original locations in the 400 block of South Main Street in an area that was, and still is, largely residential. St. Matthew's Church building is a good example of a modest mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival village church with its rectangular form, entrance tower and arched windows and entrances. The parish house is also a good example of its design type, reflecting the clean lines and simple form of a mid-twentieth century modern building. Both exhibit a type of masonry construction representative of their respective periods. Built a century apart, the church and the parish house share in the history of St. Matthew's founding and in their continued presence in the village.

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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

**Period of Significance**

1866-1965

**Significant Dates**

1866, ca. 1890, 1965

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

John Cogan & Peter B. Howell  
(builders for 1866 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 begins in 1866 with the initial construction of the church and ends with the construction of the parish hall (1965).

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

The buildings derive their primary significance from architectural distinction and association with the history of Horseheads.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church property is significant as an intact example of a modest, intact example of mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. The church was built in 1866, constructed with locally produced brick from one of the largest, flourishing manufacturers in the Village of Horseheads. St. Matthew's was established in 1862 with a small congregation holding worship services in a private building before taking on the challenge of building a permanent home. The resulting brick church was modest in size, reflecting the needs and resources of a congregation emerging from a wartime economy and from being overshadowed in growth and status by the city of Elmira to the south. For nearly a century, the building served most of the needs of the congregation as it fluctuated in size until it stabilized in the mid twentieth century. By this time, the congregation required more space beyond the traditional house of worship and a new parish house was built in 1964-1965 to fill this need. Again, reflecting the resources of the congregation, the building committee chose a popular style that was as economical as it was stylish. They adapted the mid-twentieth century residential Bi-level or split ranch form to serve as office, classroom and community meeting space that allowed them to make the best use of a long and narrow lot north of the 1866 church. The building was largely concrete construction, but was faced with brick to more closely match the historic church. Both buildings have gone through some interior changes (mostly redecorating), allowing outward appearances of both buildings to stand as excellent examples of building designs separated by nearly a century.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Any discussion about Horseheads, New York, normally begins with how the village got its name. As found in one town history:

The origin of the name of the town is historic. From the best authenticated sources, it appears that during General Sullivan's encampment on the plains surrounding the village, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1779, the officer in command issued an order for the slaughter of a large number of superfluous horses. This was done, and their bones were afterwards arranged along the route by the Indians, and were thus found by the first settlers... This name, therefore, though not as euphonious as some, is still cherished by the few remaining pioneers with great respect, and efforts to change it have always met with very decided opposition, notably at the time the post office was altered to Fairport [1837], the old citizens never ceased their endeavors until the restoration of the old name was effected.<sup>1</sup>

Various accounts state that the horses were killed since they were starving and some accounts, like the previous, hint that the deed was done for military reasons. Later, the village of Horseheads became a port on the Chemung Canal and was officially incorporated in 1837 under the name of Fairport. Fond of the old name, the residents managed to get it restored in 1845. The village predated the incorporation of the Town of Horseheads, which was formed from the Town of Elmira in

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<sup>1</sup>*History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties, New York: with illustrations and biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers.* Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Ensign, 1879, 339.

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1854, adopting the same name as the village. Residents tried once more to change the name in 1885 to North Elmira, but one year later, the name was changed back to Horseheads.

For most of its early history, the village rivaled that of Elmira, to the south, as the social and early commercial center of the area. When the Chemung Canal began operating in 1829, the village became a port, collecting tolls from boats using the waterway that connected the Chemung River to the south with Seneca Lake at the north. This was a period of growth and prosperity for the village, attracting businesses and industries, creating the commercial core around Franklin Street where five roads met. Industry located near the canal and Newtown Creek, with the most prominent being a foundry, established by C. A. Granger in 1849 that made iron storefronts, fences and agricultural tools, and a brickyard. Larger than the foundry was the Horseheads Brickyard, established in 1840 William Albright and was purchased and expanded in 1855 by William Westlake. Other early industries included a tannery, opened in 1808 that produced up to 7000 tanned hides per year by the 1870s, but by far, the most prominent were the brickyards.

By the 1860s, Elmira surpassed Horseheads as the premier village in the region with a population of just over 7000 to Horsehead's 1000. Despite the small numbers, Horseheads continued to prosper, even after the Chemung Canal ceased operating and the toll office was closed in 1876. In 1879, the village was described as containing "three dry-goods, two drug, and two hardware stores, one boot and shoe store, three millinery establishments, one flour and feed store, one furniture warehouse, two meat markets, three harness shops, four blacksmithies, one carriage and wagon shop, one iron foundry, one machine shop, one steam saw and two steam grist mills, one tannery, a cooper's shop, and one woolen mill."<sup>2</sup> The account continued, stating that Horseheads had a bank, two hotels, "three good restaurants," one livery stable and four churches.

One of these churches was St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, founded in 1862, following the founding of the Presbyterian Church in 1832, the Methodist Church in 1834 and the Baptist Church in 1840. It was founded as a mission church from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Big Flats (no longer extant) with just seven members who met in a shop on Main Street before holding worship services in a building on the estate of farmer Matthew Sayre, whose widow, Fanny, was one of the founders of the new parish. The parish was officially recognized by the Right Rev. William H. DeLancey, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York, headquartered in Geneva, New York. According to the multiple property document *Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York* (1966), Bishop DeLancey encouraged new parishes to build a worship building to promote stability, but to build within their means, starting with a small, affordable building rather than run the risk of burdensome debt and an elaborate building ill-suited to its needs. The new parish raised enough money to build a modest sized brick building on South Main Street that was dedicated by the Right Rev. Arthur Coxe, the new bishop for the diocese. The following year (1868), St. Matthew's was included in the newly created Episcopal Diocese of Central New York and remains under its jurisdiction at present.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid, 342.

<sup>3</sup>The history of the Diocese of Central New is outlined in the National Register MPDF *Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York* (1996).



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According to a 1934 letter from a past Diocesan historian, the early fortunes of St. Matthew's waxed and waned, largely due to the inability of the parish to retain a priest. The Rev. Martyn Brown was the first rector who was able to increase the number of communicants from seven to 39. He left for another parish in 1871 and St. Matthew's began a long period of short term rectors, serving from a few months to one or two years. This pattern lasted throughout the church's history with some rectors staying for three or four years until 1980, when the Rev. Robert Adkins broke the pattern by serving for fourteen years. In spite of the high turnover of clergy, the congregation stabilized by the 1920s with a steady average weekly attendance of forty worshippers and a return of the church Sunday school. Improvements were made to the church building (explained later in this document) and several debts paid off.

By the 1960s, the church reached the point of being self-supporting and was able to call the first full-time rector in its history (the Rev. Warren Lane, 1959-1963). In 1964, the church purchased a house and lot north of the church in anticipation of using it as housing for a new rector, but the needs of the parish superseded those of the clergy. The large number of children and youth required adequate classroom space than what was provided by the church basement. It was decided to use the north property for a new parish house. Ground was broken in April 1965 and the new building was completed and dedicated in September 1965. Since its opening, the parish hall served both the church as well as the community as a local gathering place. It continues its various roles to the present, which includes offices, classrooms, Thrift Shop, community food pantry and meeting space for the Horseheads Youth Bureau and other various community groups.

## **CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE**

In August 1866, John Cogan of Corning, New York and Peter B. Howell of Horseheads were contracted to build a brick church for St. Matthew's.<sup>4</sup> Howell was at times described as an architect, but it was more likely that the design of St. Matthews was a collaboration of the vestry and the builders. Bishop DeLancey was also influential in the choice of Gothic Revival and was known for promoting the style while stating that design decisions should rest with the parish. An extensive discussion about the Gothic Revival style and Bishop DeLancey was included in the multiple property document *Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York* (1996). As stated in the document, Gothic Revival architecture was introduced in the United States in the late 1830s by Richard Upjohn with the construction of a group of churches in New York City, one being Trinity (now Trinity Wall Street). These churches were regarded as too large and elaborate for most parishes, so Upjohn designed the Church of the Holy Communion (1844), a more modest version of the style, based on English parish churches. This became the model for small Episcopal church construction throughout the country, especially with the growth of the denomination in the 1840s. Upjohn's English parish church plan was asymmetrical with a side entrance and offset bell-tower.

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<sup>4</sup> Little is known about Cogan and Howell other than Cogan later building a chimney at Corning Glass Works and Howell's accidental death in 1885 while supervising construction at the Elmira Reformatory (now the Elmira Correctional Facility).

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The style chosen for St. Matthew's more closely resembled a Gothic church in Lyons (Wayne County), New York designed by James DeLancey Walton, a relative of Bishop DeLancey. The church in Lyons featured a central entrance tower and rectangular form, more closely resembling the older Wren-Gibbs church plan. This form was also adopted by another parish close to Horseheads, St. James Episcopal in Watkins Glen (NR listed 2012). The church built for St. Matthew's by Cogan and Howell was of solid masonry construction, completed in 1867 at a cost of \$8000, and dedicated in October 1867. Brick was supplied by the Horseheads Brickyard, which by the time of the church construction, was a major industry in the village. It is unknown if the brickyard supplied the brick used in the construction of St. James, but it is entirely possible, with Watkins Glen being located at the terminus of the Chemung Canal.

When finished, the church faced Main Street on a corner that jutted out at the north side of Steuben Street, following the path of the roadway. Facing the street resulted in the altar being placed in the west end of the church rather than at the normal or liturgically approved position of the east end of the building, which later became a source of contention. Around 1900, several members of the church advocated for changing the location of the altar, but it remained in the west end. Repositioning the chancel would also have resulted in additional costs and the entrance tower losing its prominent position on the street.



St. Matthew's Chancel, ca. 1891

A few changes were made to the church; the first was in 1890 when structural damage to the bell tower required the removal of the steeple and upper section. A pyramid shaped roof was added that was topped with a cross. Both the roofs of the church and tower were then covered with slate. The next major change to the building came in 1918 when the undercroft was enlarged, giving the church a full basement and

the congregation usable space for a church school and parish functions. According to church records, the undercroft was considered a "cluttered hole" underneath the church that was wasted space. The church went into debt to turn the undercroft into a basement with parish rooms, kitchen, lavatories, and furnace room. New pavement was laid in front of the church along with a new east entrance into the basement. The gamble of additional debt paid off when the declining membership rebounded from a weekly attendance of twelve to forty. The debt was finally dissolved in 1921.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Chemung County, NY

County and State

Changes made since the addition of the new basement were limited to redecorating the interior, with the exception of a west entrance addition (1956) allowing convenient access to the basement furnace room for service and routine maintenance. The first instance of redecorating the sanctuary was in 1925 when the church was repainted, new lights installed, windows repaired and the wainscoting and pews refinished. In 1939, a new baptismal font was dedicated, donated in the memory Thomas Hibbard and first used to baptize his granddaughter. Hibbard and his wife, Elmira, were two of the original members of St. Matthew's. In 1960, a new altar was installed and a final redecorating in the 1970s resulted in new stained glass windows. The failing slate roof was replaced with asphalt, also in the 1970s.

In 1948-1949, St. Matthew's entered into a capital campaign that raised over \$5,000 for repairs that included work on the eaves, dry well, oil burner, electrical wiring, kneelers and chancel carpeting. The church building was closed for the duration and the parish worshipped with St. John's Church in Elmira Heights. A rededication ceremony took place after the work was completed in September 1949.

The next major capital campaign by the church took place in 1964 when \$115,000 was needed to build a new parish house on the newly acquired north property. As previously stated, the house on the property was intended as a rectory, but it proved inadequate for the new rector. The church needed new space for the church school and growing youth programs and it was decided to demolish the residence and build a new building to house the church offices and provide adequate classroom and meeting space. A building committee was appointed, and following in the footsteps of the original members of the church, devised a plan for the new building. Their design was for a 40-foot by 100-foot modern building with a split level arrangement and a scale model of the building was presented at a fundraising dinner held at a local hotel.

Groundbreaking took place in April 1965. The new building was of concrete block construction that was faced with brick to make it compatible with the 1866 church. Similar to the church, decoration was limited, in this case to the entrance facing South Main Street. The form of the building was similar to a long, side gabled bi-level split ranch residence, a variation of the ranch style that became popular with the introduction of post-World War II residential subdivisions. The Bi-level or raised ranch became the most popular form of the ranch house in the 1960s and would have been a form quite familiar to the building committee. This form worked well for St. Matthew's, being bound by a lot that was long and narrow, allowing the new parish house to make maximum use of a confined space.

Like the 1866 church, the parish house lacked extensive decoration with its main feature being the entrance that appeared to occupy both floors. This was also a signature feature of the style adding to the illusion of being large. The entrance was faced in stone rather than brick, giving contrast to the exterior. Including a plain wood vertical board double door added to the restrained minimally decorated exterior. Windows became the most noticeable feature and consisted of paired windows on the façade and single windows on the remaining elevations. When the building was dedicated in September 1965, it had rooms for offices, classes, and parish and community functions in a fellowship hall in the north end of the upper level. In 1980, the original tile floor was replaced in the fellowship hall and upper level corridor with wood. After an

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

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access ramp was installed on the west side (1994), a portion of the fellowship hall was made into an entry vestibule and storage area.

Redecorating the sanctuary continued into the 1990s, but the parish hall remained much as it was since its dedication. Inward appearances may change; however, the exterior of both the church and the parish house remain true to their original architectural forms. The 1866 church still dominates the corner of South Main and Steuben Streets with its Gothic Revival design and the low profile of the parish house literally steps back from the church, allowing the church to assert its role as the primary building of St. Matthew's.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

*A biographical Record of Chemung County, New York.* New York: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1902.

French, J. H. *Gazetteer of the State of New York.* Syracuse, NY: R. Pearsall Smith, 1860.

*History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties, New York: with illustrations and biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers.* Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Ensign, 1879.

History Writers Group of the Chemung County Historical Society. *Chemung County...Its History.* Elmira, NY: Chemung County Historical Society, 1961.

Lozner, Christine B. *Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York Multiple Property Documentation Form*, May 1996.

Murphy, Lawrence E. *Horseheads, N. Y., Your Community, its History and Services.* Horseheads, NY: Horseheads Chamber of Commerce, 1953. Online at <https://www.joycetice.com/booksc/1953horse1.htm>.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Archives, Horseheads, New York. Three important documents used from this collection were *St. Matthews Episcopal Church One Hundred Years of History 1862-1962*; *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church into the Second Century (1963)*; and *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, A Parish History 1862-1999*.

Towner, Ausburn. *A Brief History of Chemung County, New York.* New York: A. S. Barnes & Company, 1907.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Our County and Its People: A History of the Valley and County of Chemung.* Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., Publishers, 1892.

**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: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

---

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Chemung County, NY  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>349695</u> Easting	<u>4669686N</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing	4	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing

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

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary reflects the original property that contained the 1866 church and the addition of the 1962 north lot where the parish house was built (1964-1965).

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gary Packard (edited by Virginia L. Bartos, Ph.D., NYS OPRHP-DHP)  
organization St. Matthew's Episcopal Church date 15 June 2017  
street & number 408 South Main St telephone N/A  
city or town Horseheads state NY zip code 14845  
e-mail virginia.bartos@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:**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Chemung County, NY  
County and State

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.

Name of Property: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Horseheads

County: Chemung State: New York

Photographer: Virginia L. Bartos

Date Photographed: 29 June 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0020: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, east & north elevations, looking southwest.
- 0002 of 0020: East elevations of church and partial view of parish house to the north, view looking west.
- 0003 of 0020: North elevation of church and partial view of west elevation, view looking southeast.
- 0004 of 0020: South elevation of church, looking north from Teal Park.
- 0005 of 0020: West elevation of church and view of south and part of west elevations of parish hall, view looking east.
- 0006 of 0020: Interior of church, looking west toward chancel.
- 0007 of 0020: Detail view of north side of sanctuary, showing pews, windows, & organ.
- 0008 of 0020: Detail view of chancel.
- 0009 of 0020: Historic window in sacristy, southwest end of church.
- 0010 of 0020: Detail of chancel showing historic churches between windows.
- 0011 of 0020: View of sanctuary, looking toward vestibule (looking east).
- 0012 of 0020: View of church building undercroft.
- 0013 of 0020: East elevation of parish hall, view looking west.
- 0014 of 0020: South entrance of parish hall, view looking northwest.
- 0015 of 0020: West elevation of parish hall, view looking northeast.
- 0016 of 0020: View of lower level interior of parish hall.
- 0017 of 0020: Hall of lower level of parish hall, looking toward south entrance.
- 0018 of 0020: Typical parish hall classroom, lower level of parish hall.
- 0019 of 0020: Judson Hall, (north end) upper level of parish hall.
- 0020 of 0020: Stair from south entrance to upper level of parish hall showing open railing.

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**Property Owner:**

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

---

name St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
street & number 408 South Main Street telephone (607) 739-5226  
city or town Horseheads state NY zip code 14845

**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.

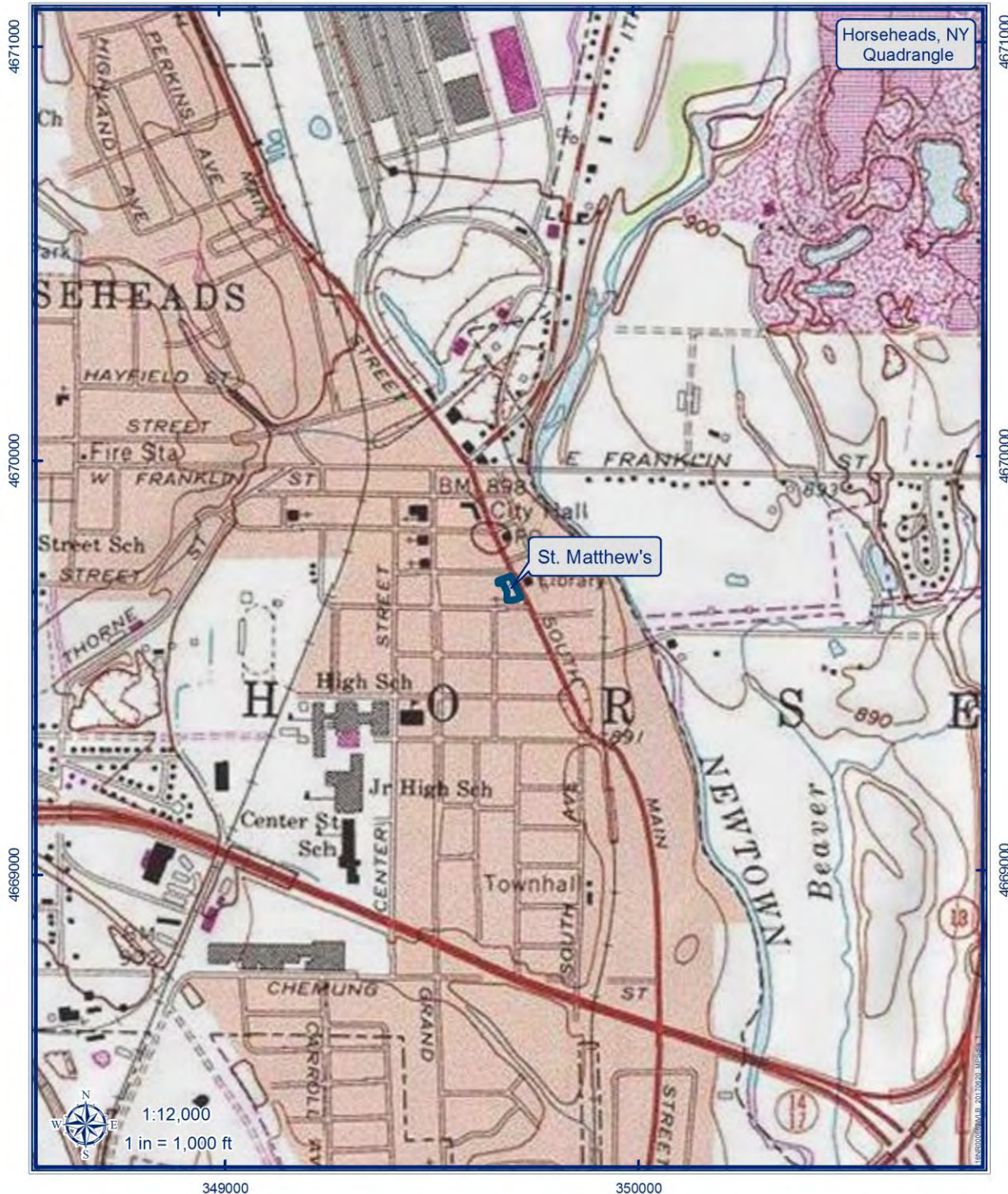


St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Chemung County, NY  
County and State

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Horseheads, Chemung Co., NY

408 South Main Street  
Horseheads, NY 14845



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





St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Chemung County, NY  
County and State

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Horseheads, Chemung Co., NY

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



St. Matthews



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Chemung County, NY  
County and State



**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
408 S. Main St. Horseheads, NY 14845  
607-739-5226

[www.stmatthews.steepleconnect.com](http://www.stmatthews.steepleconnect.com)

**Vestry Retreat Minutes**  
**February 19-20 2016**

**Present:** Gary Packard, Sr. Warden, Albert Comfort, Jr. Warden, Mark Armstrong, Terry Fox, Stephanie Lewis, Allena McGlaughlin, Barb Talbot, Mary Vasey, The Rev. Wanda Copeland.

**Excused:** Ruth Slator, Gloria Oldfield

Minutes from the January vestry meeting will be deferred to the March meeting for approval.

Albert informed us that there are slight changes to the 2016 budget as approved by the vestry in December: Carol Drake, salary; Rev. Wanda R. Copeland, Health Insurance, and an increase in mileage. We approved an amended budget.

The vestry received the 2015 Parochial Report. Moved by Gary Packard to approve, seconded by Barb Talbot. Approved.

Gary updated the new members on our discussions about applying for putting St. Matthew's on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Barb made a motion we move forward with exploration of the process. Mary Vasey seconded. Approved.

We spent significant time discussing the move of Mother Wanda from FT to HT, and the sharing of ministry with Trinity, Elmira. Concerns include clergy accessibility, service times (and number of services) clergy over-functioning, concern about losing kids, and how to make this 'good' for everyone. Mother Wanda and the Wardens will craft a letter to go out to the congregation when they get the 'go ahead' from Bishop Adams' office.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Wanda Copeland





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St. John's  
Lutheran Church  
1000 N. 1st St.  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
Phone: 651-291-1234

NO  
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Katie Best

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ST MATTHEW'S  
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ST MATTHEW'S  
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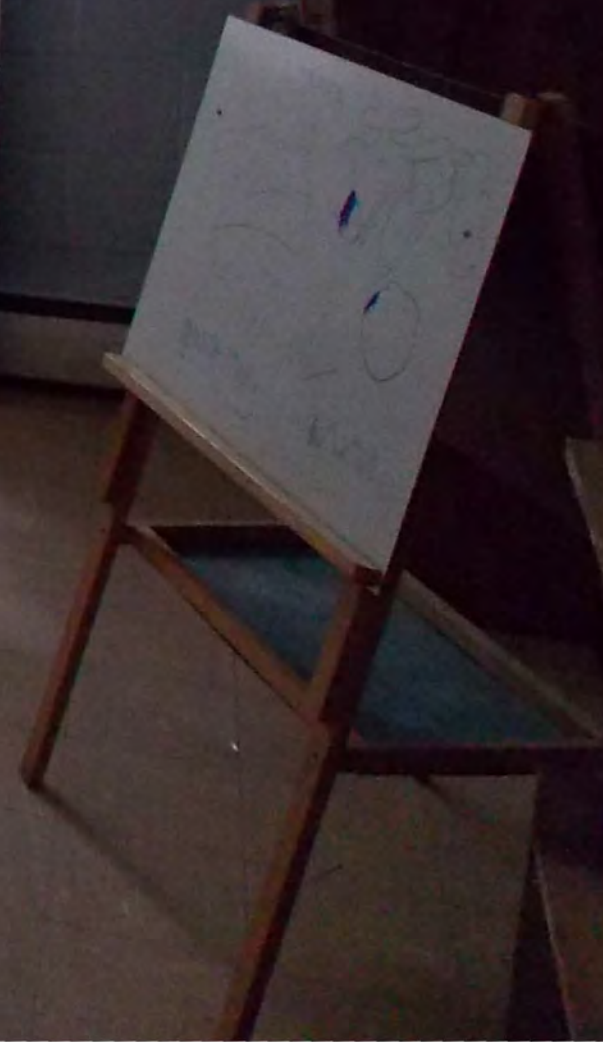
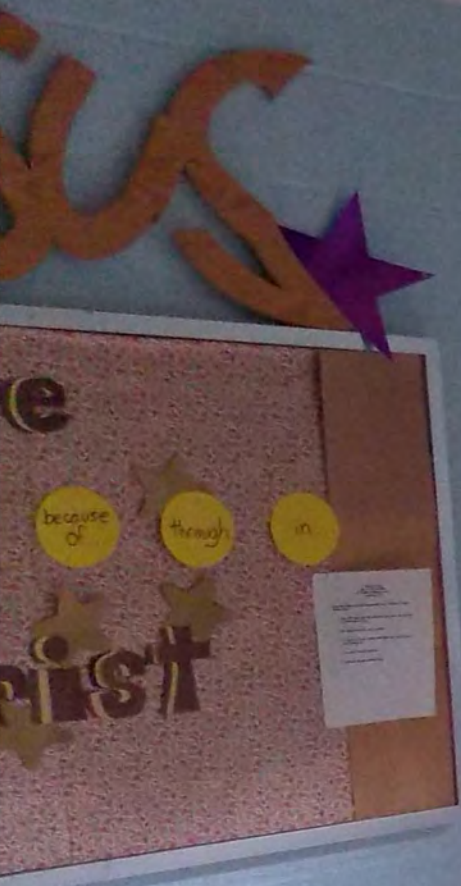
Play and Learn





MEN















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: 8/3/2017      Date of Pending List: 9/1/2017      Date of 16th Day: 9/18/2017      Date of 45th Day: 9/18/2017      Date of Weekly List: 9/21/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      9/18/2017 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



28 July 2017

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

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:

Gumaer Cemetery, Orange County  
Stillwater Mountain Fire Observation Station (Fire Observation Stations of the New York State Forest Preserve), Herkimer County  
Sagamore Apartment House, Onondaga County  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chemung County  
Crandell Theatre, Columbia County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office