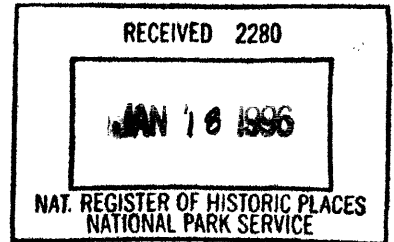


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Woodside Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number CRS#: K-5613; Woodside United Methodist Church

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Main Street not for publication
city or town Woodside, North Murderkill Hundred vicinity _____
state Delaware code DE county Kent code 001 zip code 19980

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Carroll P. Griffith Jan. 4, 1996
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

- other (explain): _____

George M. Sapping

2/16/96

Entered in the
National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

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

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion Subcategory: religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion Subcategory: religious facility

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt shingle
walls frame
other wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1889

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

B. W. Townsend and Bro.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 0.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	450900	4324720	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Hubert F. Jicha III, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Kent County Department of Planning date June 1992

street & number 414 Federal Street telephone 302-736-2020

city or town Dover state DE zip code 19901

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Nora Childers, parishioner; Woodside United Methodist Church

street & number P. O. Box 271 telephone 302-284-3488

city or town Felton state DE zip code 19943

=====
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. 470 et seq.).

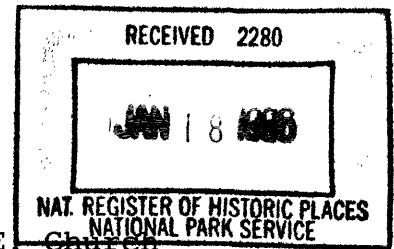
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Woodside M.E. Church
name of property
Kent County, Delaware
county and State



Woodside United Methodist Church is located in the small town of Woodside, North Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. The town is approximately 9 miles south of Dover on County Road 30 and is approximately 1 mile west of U.S. Route 13. The surrounding landscape is principally farmland located along the railroad.

The 1889 Gothic Revival church stands prominently on Main Street in the linear village established in 1864 as a train depot and shipping point for agricultural produce, in particular, peaches.

The frame church is roughly rectangular in plan, 50'4" long by 30'6" wide, and has a gablefront orientation. The gabled roof is steeply pitched with a cross gable on each side. The walls beneath the gables extend out creating a slight but definite cruciform plan. On the north gable end is an octagonal apse. On the southeast corner is a square bell tower. A gabled entranceway or narthex leads through the tower into the vestibule.

The bell tower is capped with a steepled, square belfry pierced on each side by a lancet arched opening with trefoil and plate tracery. The steeple is four sided and has a gold cross finial. The roof has asphalt shingles, and is trimmed with enclosed rafter feet, shingle molding and a wide frieze board.

The exterior of the church is clad in novelty board or German siding except for the upper quarter of the front elevation and the corresponding section of the bell tower which are clad with octagonal butt wood shingles. The foundation is brick laid in stretcher bond.

All windows in the church are lancet-arched. The larger ones on the cross gables and the south elevation have intersecting tracery. The windows are glazed with a star-burst patterned opaque glass. There are three notable exceptions: the two lancet-arched windows in the apse, and the rose window with quatrefoil tracery above the apse in the north wall. These windows have stained glass depicting traditional Christian symbols. The rose window has a descending dove; the other two have a loaf of bread and a wine goblet, and a proffered hand with water respectively. The stained glass was added in 1986. Other decorative features include pseudo-buttresses with canted tops at the corners of the building and around the gabled entrance, and sawed balusters of the gallery balustrade and tower stair visible through their respective windows.

The interior plan of the church is functionally divided into five

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sections: vestibule, gallery, area beneath the gallery, sanctuary, and chancel. The vestibule, or foyer, is entered through double doors in the gabled narthex. This area contains a wider stair with extant sawed balusters which leads to the gallery and belfry. The stair was enclosed c. 1945. Beneath the stair is a closet with a four panel door. Another door in the west partition wall leads into the area beneath another gallery. This area is used for Sunday School and for overflow seating. The Sunday School area can be sealed off from the sanctuary by accordion doors.

The sanctuary is entered through double doors at the north end of the vestibule. The doors have four lights over two raised panels and are hung on strong spring hinges which allow the doors to swing open in either direction.

Seating consists of unsecured wood pews original to the church. The pew ends have bulls-eye terminals at the top of the back, and at the end of the arm rest. The pews are arranged in two rows allowing for two side aisles and a center aisle. The sanctuary walls have beaded, tongue and groove wainscotting with a molded cap and baseboard. The ceiling has canted sides. The chancel is modest and is differentiated from the sanctuary through the use of slightly raised platforms for the choir and the organ. The electric organ and platform were added c. 1967, and the choir platform was probably added in 1945 when the church was renovated.

The communion table and the pulpit are further distinguished through separation by the altar rail. The pulpit platform is raised three steps and is partially contained within the hexagon of the apse. The windows which flank the pulpit and the rose window are described above. The chancel chairs are notable for their trefoil finials, sunrise motif headboard, and turned legs. The pulpit features quatrefoil element on the front. The pews, chairs, pulpit, communion table, and altar rail appear to be of local manufacture, and add considerably to the integrity of the interior. The alter rail consists of a chamfered 2" x 6" rail supported by irregularly turned balusters on a plain base.

A door west of the pulpit was cut through in 1967 when the education building was added.

The gallery has three stepped levels and is finished with a tre-foilated panel parapet. There is a balustrade across the back of the gallery to shield the large window. The sawn, decorative balusters are visible from the exterior as described above. The original oil lamps hang from the

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ceiling near the chancel. These were recently recovered and restored by Mr. Oakie Remus. The lamps were electrified and now serve as functional lights. Two small, globe oil lamps on cast iron hangs flank the apse.

Changes to the church have been minimal and many have been reversed. In 1945, the church was reopened after being closed for several years. At this time, the roof was replaced. On the interior, the stair was enclosed, the gallery was sealed off and the ceiling was redone with "celotex" (Childrens). The rose window was uncovered in 1986 at which time it was restored and reglazed with stained glass along with the two windows below it. Also in 1986, the gallery was reopened to the sanctuary and the parapet was revealed.

Two relatively substantial additions have been built onto the church, but have been designed and situated so that the visual impact has been minimized and the architectural integrity remains unblemished. Largely to the rear is the Reynold's Education Building built in 1966-7. When the stained glass was put into the apse windows, 1/2-round covers were made for the former exterior (now enclosed within the 1967 addition) and lights installed to illuminate the tracery design. The second addition was built in 1986, and is situated to the east of the first addition and well behind the church proper.

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Woodside M.E. Church
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Woodside Methodist Episcopal Church is significant as a well-preserved example of nineteenth-century church architecture and as an element of local history that documents the growth of religious and social movements in the late nineteenth century. This small Gothic Revival church was constructed in 1889 by the Woodside community who contracted the work to Townsend and Bro. also of Woodside. Springing from the foundation of an independent American Union Sunday School, the church has been associated from its inception with the Methodist denomination. Woodside Methodist Episcopal Methodist Church is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural importance.

Woodside Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1889 because of the growing population pressure and shift in population distribution caused by the opening of the Delaware Railroad in 1856. The triggering factor was the establishment and rapid growth of an independent Sunday School held in the local school building.

The community of Woodside was established in 1864 as a railroad depot after the completion of the Delaware Railroad in 1856. This was one of the smaller towns to develop after the introduction of this transportation system. Scharf relates that it was by the "exertions" of a wealthy farmer named Henry Cowgill that the depot and station-house were established. It comes as no surprise that, first, Henry's son, Ezekiel Cowgill, and then Henry himself, were appointed as railroad and express agents during the first years of Woodside's existence.

Woodside grew from two dwellings in 1864 to twenty five dwellings and nearly 100 people in population in 1888. Scharf relates that at that time there were "three stores, two evaporators, two canneries, one dealer in coal, lime, and grain, and one dealer in fertilizers." These enterprises dealt with the agricultural industry, and the canneries and evaporators with the fruit industry, in particular, peaches. In the latter 1880's, the center of the peach belt was in Wyoming, a scarce few miles north of Woodside.

The precursor to Woodside Methodist Episcopal Church was a Union Sunday School which was held in the upper room of the school building built in 1886. The Sunday School movement began in the late 18th century when Evangelical Protestants realized that society could be influenced through the education and evangelization of children. There were several organizations involved in the movement and one of the most influential was the American Sunday School Union founded in 1824. This was a Protestant evangelical organization which began when local groups of Sunday school teachers banded

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together to supply text books and curricular materials. The aim of the organization was to become a national institution embedded in the fabric American life. These "vehicles of cultural influence" were meant to instill the virtues of hard work, sobriety, and self discipline within children as a cure for society's ills. One of the main goals was to teach reading so children could read the Bible for themselves.

The Sunday School in Woodside soon outgrew its quarters under the leadership of Mr. R.K. Caulk, superintendent, and Rev. E.S.J. McAllister, a Methodist minister. In 1888, the Methodist Quarterly Conference decided to build a new church at Woodside. The circuit in this area included Canterbury and Viola. Previous to the establishment of the Canterbury church, the local "preaching-house" was Green's Chapel built in 1781 about one mile south of Woodside. By the late 19th century, many of these small communities were able to build their own churches, although they often had to share a minister. The ties between the Union Sunday School and the Methodist church are not known, but the organization was known to have had good relations with the mainline protestant denominations.

An extant collection of books archived in the church illustrate the concerns of the Sunday School movement and the late-19th century Methodist Episcopal Church. The books, some 60 in number, range in date from 1886 to 1893, with the majority being morality-tale novels. The stated purpose of Evangelical Protestant groups was to use religious education to teach the virtues of hard work, sobriety, and self-discipline. These books illustrate one of the methods to inculcate these characteristics. For temperance, there is The Naresborough Victory (a Prize Temperance Tale) published by The United Kingdom Band of Hope Union out of London, and Old Benches with New Props published by The National Temperance Society and Publication House in New York. The Fall of the Staincliffes by Alfred Colbeck was a "Prize Tale on Gambling", published by Fleming H. Revell Company, "publisher of Evangelical Literature" in 1890. In addition, there is a book published by the Philadelphia American Sunday School Union. Most of the books are covered with construction paper and stamped "Woodside M.E. Church." Another interesting aspect of these books is that many of them are also stamped "M.E. Sunday School Shelton, Conn." It appears that the Connecticut church was a sister organization which assisted the fledgling group get started. The lot for the church was donated by Ezekiel Cowgill, and the lot for the parsonage across the street from the church was donated by W.S. Barger, a local merchant. A building committee was appointed consisting of R. Kemp Caulk, E. Cowgill, T.P. Lindale, and F. Townsend. Fund raisers for the effort were identified as R.K. Caulk, Thomas Lindale, and Mrs. Mary Caulk. The

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Woodside M.E. Church
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contractor hired to build the church was B.W. Townsend and Bro. of Woodside, assisted by Walter S. Green, a future mayor of Camden. The cornerstone was laid at 2 p.m., Monday, December 9, 1889. Within the cornerstone, a metal box was placed containing the following items: an 1889 Bible, an 1878 Methodist hymnal, The Doctrines and Disciplines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1884, a December 5, 1889 copy of "the Christian Advocate", and a November 7, 1889 copy of "the State Sentinel". The cost to build the church was approximately \$2500. The first bell was purchased in 1896, and a successor was put in place in 1920.

Woodside shared ministers on several different "charges" or circuits. At one time it was placed with Canterbury, Viola, and Willis Chapel as the Canterbury Charge, and finally with Camden on the Camden Charge. During this period, Woodside closed at least twice because of disagreements over worship service schedules. The church was active in the early 1930's when a short informative history was written by Salida B. Killen. The handwritten copy is still in the church's possession and was invaluable in compiling this history.

Sometime after the writing of Ms. Killen's history, Woodside closed yet again until about 1945, when the church was reopened. At this time, the wood shingle roof was replaced with asphalt shingles, the ceiling of the sanctuary was replaced with "celotex," the choir platform was probably constructed, the gallery and stair were closed off and the textured glass may have been installed, as church records show that money was donated for windows. It was probably at this time the rose window was enclosed.

The church appears to have been constructed of fir lumber with braced-frame and balloon-frame technology. The bell tower is constructed with the posts canted to achieve the battered effect. In other words, the posts were "leaned in" to create the gradually smaller tower. The roof was constructed with king-post scissor trusses made of 2" x 6" fir planks half-lapped and spiked with four nails at each joint. The girt and the scissor legs were lathed and plastered to create the vaulted effect and a high ceiling. This was a common variation of roof and ceiling construction for public buildings in the late 19th century.

The local influence behind the plan of the church is not known. Little research has been done on prescriptive literature for church architecture. One of the few references to church plans comes from the Methodist Discipline. A quote from the 1884 edition, the same edition as that placed in the cornerstone, describes very generally what a Methodist church should

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look like:

"Let all our churches be built plain and decent, and with free seats whenever practicable; but not more expensive than is absolutely unavoidable (paragraph 381).

Although no systematic study has been done on Delaware rural churches, these buildings are known for their simplicity of plan and finish as dictated both by taste and finance. The typical Delaware rural church is rectangular in plan with a gable front. Later examples of the late 19th and early 20th century often added a narthex, apse and bell tower. Methodist churches in Delaware are subject to frequent changes and additions because of their ongoing use. Thus, the survival of Woodside Church, with its architectural integrity, original furnishings and library intact, is something which should be lauded and recognized.

This plan, like many other small Delaware churches, is an interesting hybrid of basilica and Gothic cathedral. The oblong plan, gallery and apse refers to the basilica type, while the tower, lancet windows and cruciform sanctuary nods at the Gothic influence. Overall, however, the impression is of thriftiness plainness and decency.

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Woodside M.E. Church
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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

State Plan Link:

Zone Upper Peninsula
Period 1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
Theme Religion
Property Type Church

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Woodside M. E. Church
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a .5 acre parcel bounded on the south by Main Street, and on the north, west and east by adjoining property lines. The property is delineated as Kent County Property Map Tax Parcel NM-19.00-01-14.00.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary contains all the property historically associated with the Woodside Methodist Episcopal Church.

Woodside M.E. Church
Main Street
Woodside, Kent County, DE

Tax Map 1" = 200' N ↑

