

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 11 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC **
Rockaway Valley Methodist Church
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *n.w. of Boonton*
Valley Rd. 300 ft. N.W. of Washington Avenue
CITY, TOWN Boonton Township VICINITY OF
STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Morris CODE 027
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13th

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of the Rockaway Valley Methodist Church
STREET & NUMBER Valley Road R.D. #2
CITY, TOWN Boonton Township VICINITY OF New Jersey STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records
STREET & NUMBER Court Street
CITY, TOWN Morristown STATE New Jersey 07005

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#4636)
DATE 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Office, Department of Environmental Protection
CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rockaway Valley Methodist Church faces Valley Road. It is a small white one story clapboard building nestled amid maple trees and surrounded by the cemetery.

The original church was built without the front vestibule and cupola. A complete cellar was dug and rooms built in the basement in later years.

There are four stained glass windows on each side and two in the back and two in the front. These were donated by members of the church in honor of their ancestors in 1900.

The church is reputed to have been built on the site of an ancient Indian burial ground and the site of an old school house. The church was built in 1842. A slate roof was added in 1894. In 1912 the new hearing plant and banquet hall and social room were added in the basement. The cupola was added about 1895-1900.

The church proper is a rectangular 38 feet by 25 feet with an added front vestibule. The interior has two columns of seating with twenty pews divided by a center aisle. There are also narrow side aisles. While the pews occupy three-quarters of the floor space the last section is the chancel with a choir, alter, organ box, and pulpit.

Originally there was a gallery across the entrance for the use of a choir. This was removed as was the pulpit platform which was between the windows and raised so that three or four steps were needed to reach the pulpit. When the platform was changed four church seats, two on either side, in the corners facing the pulpit were removed. These seats were called "Amen" seats. Later the seating was changed due to the generosity of the Morristown Church which was remodeling and the present seats were presented to the Rockaway Valley Methodist Church.

The Vestibule was added and took the place of an open porch about 1912.

In 1900 the twelve stained glass windows were donated by church members.

The cemetery dates to the building of the church (1841-42).

A carriage house once stood to the east of the church's front door but has long disappeared.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1842

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rockaway Valley Methodist Church, built in 1842, is a plain rectangular frame and clapboard church building which is characteristic of the Protestant edifices erected throughout the nation in a agrarian or rural based environment. The needs of farmers were simple and the Rockaway Valley Methodist Church reflects their desires and life-styles.

Within a mile of the Morris Canal the area shows little evidence of being effected by this major 19th century transportation route although materials for the church were apparently brought in from Newark via the canal to Powerville and then carted to Rockaway Valley by John Decker, who also housed the church carpenters.

Decker was among the first trustees for the church which also included Jacob Van Winkle, William M. Dixon, and Caleb W. Edwards - all prominent citizens in Rockaway Valley. The valley was the only portion of Boonton Township, formed in 1867 from Pequannock, which was arable.

The church has long been the center of community life in rural Boonton Township. The descendents of many of the earliest families are buried in the cemetery.

To this day people travel surprising distances to be married in this picturesque church.

The twelve stained glass windows of the church donated in 1900 represent the lives of the early residents of the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Rockaway Valley Methodist Church Centennial of Worship in the Present Building. Sept. 20, 1942
2. Rockaway Valley Methodist Church, 125th Anniversary 1967.
3. Munsell, W.W. & Co. History of Morris County, 1882 (p.436)
4. Conversations with Church Trustees, minister, members of church.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.51 (church only)

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>547440</u>	<u>4580690</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

James A. Bolan, Co-chairman (Revisions by: T. Karschner, Historic Sites, DEP) 609-292-2023

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Township of Boonton Bicentennial Comm.

April 26, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

229 Sheridan Lane R.D. #1

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Township of Boonton

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

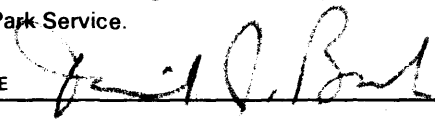
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE




TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE December 13, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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


 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HISTORIC AND MONUMENTS PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: Charles H. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/11/77
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 11-8-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Rockaway Valley Methodist Church
Boonton Township
Morris County - 027
New Jersey - 34
CONTINUATION SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 31 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 11 1977

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

The Rockaway Valley Methodist Church was the center of community functions in this small village in the second half of the 19th century. The church continues as a focal point of the township to the present time.