

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 4 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mount Lebanon Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 850 Mount Lebanon Road, NA not for publication

city, town Wilmington vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 003

3. 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church

street & number 850 Mount Lebanon Road

city, town Wilmington  vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

street & number City/County Building, 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource

Survey, N-548 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976, 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Old State House, The Green

city, town Dover state Delaware

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mount Lebanon Methodist Episcopal Church, a small rectangular stone building dating to 1834, is located a quarter of a mile east of the Brandywine River in a hilly wooded area overlooking Rockland, a textile and paper milling community that originated in the eighteenth century. The gable end facade of the building faces Mount Lebanon Road on the northwest, and a small cemetery borders the northeast side of the site. Constructed of "Brandywine Granite," a commonly-found local building stone, the church follows a simple, one-story 40-foot by 60-foot center aisle plan topped by a gable roof. In 1873 the church was restyled by increasing the pitch of the existing roof, stuccoing the exterior walls and adding a frame vestibule to the entrance. Commemorative stained glass windows and a small bell enclosure were added in 1934. The building retains a considerable degree of integrity and it stands in excellent repair. Located to the rear of the church, and connected to it by a small, one-story connector, is a two-story, frame fellowship hall that was constructed in 1952.

The 18-inch thick rubble stone walls of the church rest on a stone foundation with three cross footings. Four-inch by nine-inch floor joists span these footings and a random-width chestnut floor still exists under a more recent floor. The gable roof consists of three main trusses with pegged joints. The ceiling joists are blind-mortised into the 11-inch by 11-inch bottom chords of the trusses. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The church measures three bays across its gable end facade and five bays along its length. The main entrance, which is located in the center bay of the facade, contains a pair of paneled doors. On the exterior, moldings forming a pointed arch create a transom effect above the door. Another entrance is located in the rear bay of the northeast elevation. It consists of a single, molded, four-panel door topped by a pointed-arch transom and a gabled hood. All of the windows are pointed arch lancets. In 1934, the church's one hundredth anniversary, the windows were reglazed with leaded stained glass. The window in the rear endwall is the only one that was not reglazed; it retains its four-over-four sash.

The interior of the church is arranged in a center aisle plan with nine rows of pews. The altar end is raised by one step, and has a curved railing with turned balusters surrounding its center section. Behind this railing is a square, raised platform. A two-tiered platform containing the choir chairs is located on the southwest side of the altar area, while the opposite side is reserved for the organ. The central portion of the altar wall is occupied by a large elliptically-arched recess with a door on either side of it. Both of these are raised and molded four-panel doors topped by pointed-arch moldings that create a lancet-type door surround. The arched area is filled with wooden tracery in a trefoil design.

Behind the altar wall is a small room that occupies the rear bay of the building. Recently, a dropped ceiling was installed in this room and a staircase was added to provide access to the attic, however, the original doors and molding remain intact.

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In 1852, according to the notes of an early pastor, the church was "reseated and fitted up". Since he did not elaborate on this, it is unclear as to what was accomplished. In 1873 some major changes were undertaken. In raising the roof, the rafters were unpegged at the ridge and lifted from a 6:12 pitch to a 9:12 pitch. Cribbing was installed at mid-span and scabs were added to close the ridge. The gap at the endwalls caused by this rise in pitch was filled in with brick, then the entire exterior of the building was stuccoed. Also, a gable-roofed, frame vestibule sheathed with German siding was added. This vestibule features a pair of paneled doors set within a pointed-arch frame, and a lancet window on each of the side walls. In 1934 a small, square bell enclosure with a pyramidal roof was placed on the ridge above the entrance, and the commemorative stained glass windows were installed. Also at this time, the church was equipped with a "pipeless" heating system, and a new floor was laid.

The most recent addition to the site is the two-story stucco and frame fellowship hall that was constructed behind the church in 1952. It is attached to the rear endwall of the church only by a small, one-story connector. Since this new building is distinctly separate and it was constructed in a manner that does not compete with the church, the integrity of the original is not compromised.

The cemetery on the northeast side of the church contains approximately 150 tombstones dating from 1840 through the present. A dry-laid rubble stone wall separates the cemetery from the road and a cast iron fence borders the cemetery adjacent to the church.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

**Specific dates** 1834, 1873 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Mount Lebanon Methodist Episcopal Church is significant for its architecture, for its importance in local history, and for its social relationship to the surrounding community. Constructed in 1834 and restyled in 1873, this church is a well-preserved example of a common nineteenth century church type displaying typical patterns of change. Situated between the paper and textile milling community of Rockland and the agrarian community of Talleyville, Mount Lebanon M. E. Church was an important facet to both communities. It is being nominated to the National Register on the basis of Criterion C, architectural significance. Since its significance rests primarily on its architectural characteristics, it is being nominated as an exception to the rule that does not allow properties owned by religious institutions to be considered eligible.

Architecturally, Mount Lebanon Church's rectangular, gable front plan is typical of rural areas in Delaware throughout the nineteenth century. Most churches of this type are frame. However, in this extreme northern portion of the state, a stone building tradition is more dominant due to the abundance of "Brandywine Granite" and fieldstone. Mount Lebanon is a particularly well-preserved example of this church form. The alterations made to the building in 1873 are indicative of the general trend toward Gothic Revival ornamentation that occurred in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The increase of the roof pitch, the addition of the Carpenter Gothic vestibule, and some of the interior details, though subtle in their overall effect on the building, do convey this awareness of stylistic trends. The increase in roof pitch is perhaps an unusual alteration for such a simple structure. More common would be the addition of ornamental elements to the existing form, such as the imbricated exterior shingles and pressed tin interior that modify Wesley M. E. Church (NR 1983, CRS no. N-6758), an 1854 church that was originally designed as a Greek Revival style building.

Located approximately 800 feet east of the boundary that defines the Rockland Historic District (NR 1972), Mount Lebanon Church has historically been an element of this mill community. Originating in 1724 as the site of a saw and grist mill, Rockland developed into a small textile and papermilling hamlet in the nineteenth century. A Presbyterian church, which is no longer extant, was constructed at Rockland in 1802 under the auspices of William Young, owner of the paper mill there. The congregation of Mount Lebanon Church, however, was not organized until 1833 when Thomas J. and Hannah Aldred, who lived in West Chester, Pennsylvania, donated a parcel of land they owned in Delaware for the erection of a Methodist Church. These were the only two churches ever constructed at Rockland.

Mount Lebanon M. E. Church holds social significance as well, since it established a link between industrial Rockland and the outlying agrarian communities. The group of trustees who were appointed to accept the land donation from the Aldreds consisted of

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 3.03 acres

Quadrangle name Wilmington North, Del.-Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA
state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas J. Walters, Registered Architect (Edited by Valerie Cesna)  
Thomas J. Walters, A.I.A.  
organization (New Castle County Dept. of Planning) date December 1983  
1525 Concord Pike 302-655-8859  
street & number (2701 Capitol Trail) telephone (302-366-7780)  
Wilmington  
city or town (Newark) 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David R. Griffith*  
title \_\_\_\_\_ date March 30, 1984

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
*for Allouez Byers* Entered in the National Register date 5/3/84  
Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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two farmers, two millmen and a shopkeeper. The contrast between this kind of community-generated church and a millowner's provision of a church for his workers is an important one. William Young certainly had a vested interest in building a church at Rockland since it provided a focus and a facility for his workers. Mount Lebanon Church was established by people from several different locations, thereby drawing together a wider range of people with varying backgrounds.

Mount Lebanon Church was situated far enough from the heart of commercial Wilmington to allow the agrarian population of Talleyville reasonable access and close enough to the Brandywine River to serve the millworkers. Because of its location and its diverse congregation, Mount Lebanon Church established a connection between farm and factory in this northern Delaware community during the nineteenth century.

Level of Significance

The level of significance claimed for Mount Lebanon Methodist Episcopal Church is local since its primary sphere of influence was limited to its neighboring communities.

Justification of Boundaries

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the 3.03 acre legal parcel on which it stands. These boundaries contain all of the significant resources on the site and provide a slight buffer to the development that has occurred east of the site.

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Mount Lebanon Methodist Episcopal Church  
Major Bibliographical References

Baist, F. Wm. Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware.  
Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1893.

Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia:  
Pomeroy and Beers, 1868.

Heald, Henry. "Roads of New Castle County". A map,  
surveyed and printed by Henry Heald, 1820.

"Historical Record of Mt. Lebanon U. M. Church,  
Rockland, Delaware 1774-1934". Unpublished  
paper, 1934.

Map of New Castle County, Delaware. Philadelphia:  
G. M. Hopkins and Co., 1881.

New Castle County Land Records:  
Record D. Volume 4, Page 499, September 20, 1826.  
Record S. Volume 4, Page 133, March 7, 1834.

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MOUNT LEBANON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

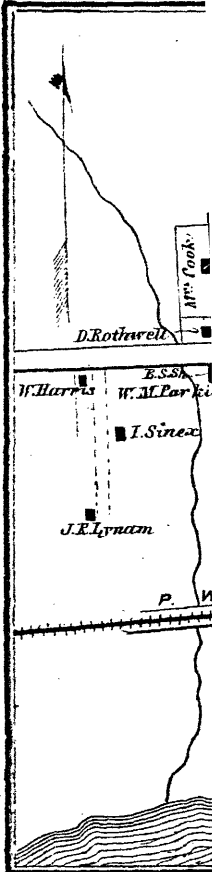
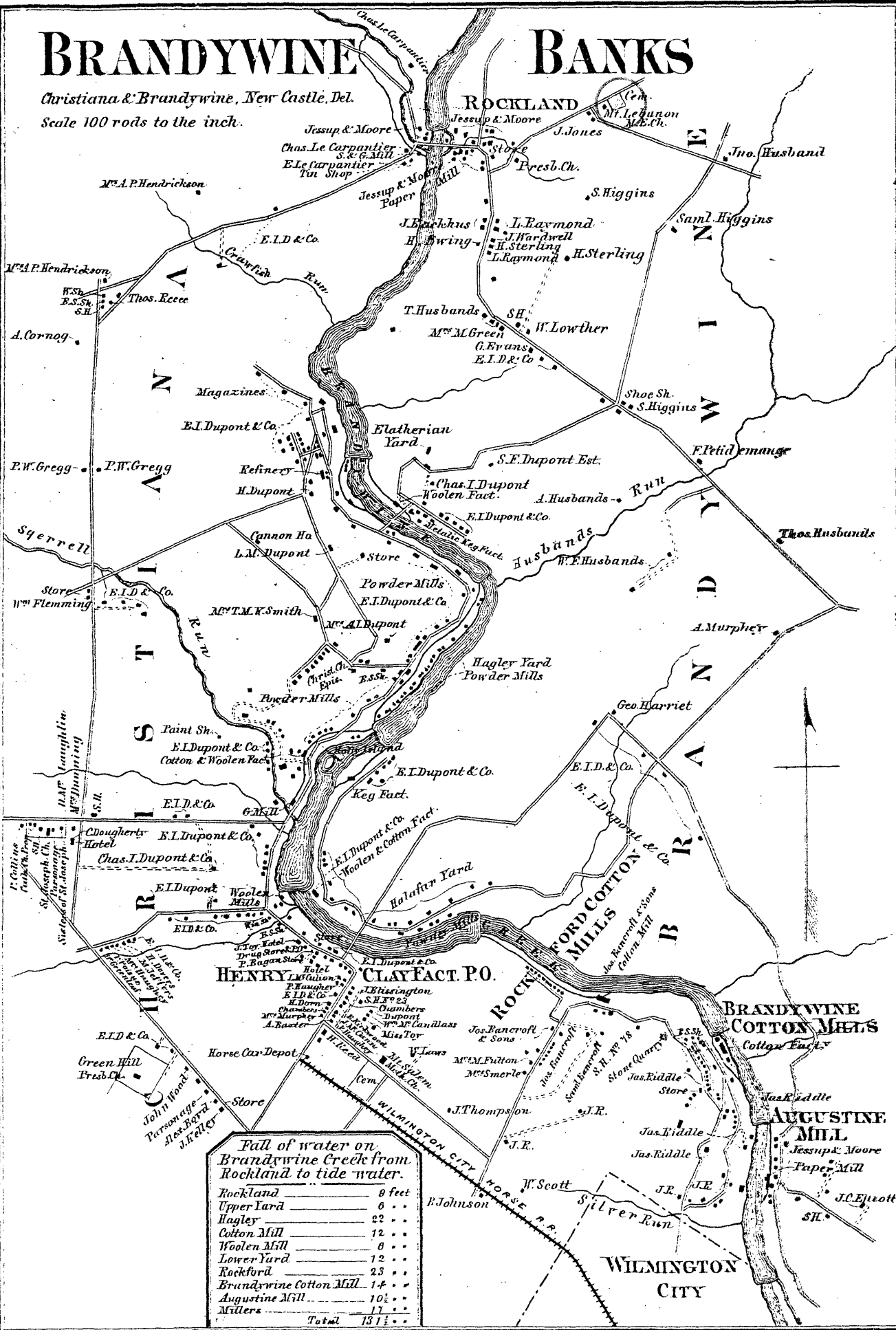
Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at the westernmost point of the nominated parcel, which is located at the southwest corner of the junction of Mount Lebanon Road and Sharpley Road, proceed approximately 457 feet northeast along the southeast side of Mount Lebanon Road; then turn southeast and travel 402.37 feet along the rear property lines of 800 Mount Lebanon Road, and 607, 605 and 603 Wynard Road; then turn southwest following the rear property line of 601 Wynard Road and continue in a straight line to the southwest side of Sharpley Road; then travel approximately 500 feet in a northwesterly direction along the southwest side of Sharpley Road; then travel north-northwest for approximately 135 feet to the point of origin, enclosing an area of 3.03± acres. This boundary is shown as the bold black line on the attached sketch map, titled 1981 New Castle County Property Tax Map, Parcel Number 06-076.00-004. The boundary encompasses the entire legal parcel.



# BRANDYWINE BANKS

Christiana & Brandywine, New Castle, Del.  
Scale 100 rods to the inch.



A. A. I.  
Jos. W.  
S. M. J.

Crans

C. B. I.  
Lewis  
John

D. G. Beers, Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers, 1868, Page 9.

BRANDYWINE

ROCKLAND

BRANDYWINE

WILMINGTON

ROCKLAND

BRANDYWINE

WILMINGTON

ROCKLAND



