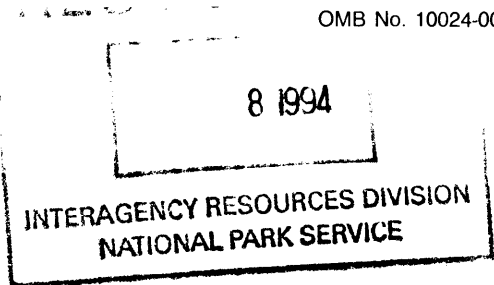


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 247 New Milford Turnpike not for publication

city or town Washington, (Marbledale) vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Litchfield code 005 zip code 06777

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 11/02/94
Signature of certifying official Title Date

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

12-9-94

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls brick

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

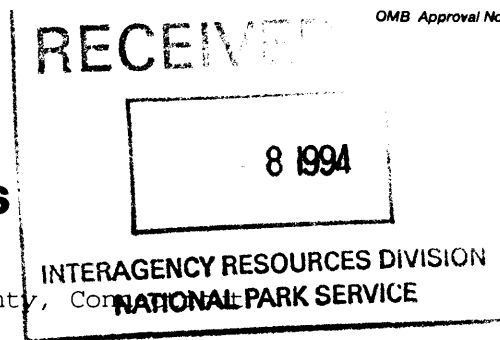
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Litchfield County, Conn.

Section number 7 Page 1



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is located in the village of Marbledale in the Town of Washington, part of the preservation planning region known as the Western Uplands. Situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of New Milford Road (State Route 202) and Wheaton Street, the building faces northwest and is set back on a level lot about 50 feet from the highway (Photograph #s 1, 2, 3, 4). The present structure consists of an 1822 Gothic Revival brick church set on a granite foundation, which is joined at the rear to a c. 1975 brick addition with a concrete foundation (Exhibit A). The addition contains meeting rooms and a kitchen.

The most prominent feature of the church is its bell tower, which is 12 feet square in plan and projects six feet from the facade. The upper portion is constructed of wood sheathed with weatherboard, surmounted by a belfry with louvered pointed-arched openings and capped by a simple spire. The brick masonry walls with lime mortar display a running bond with a header course at every sixth row. The shallow foundation has a crawl space rather than a full cellar. The exposed portion of the foundation and the underpinning of the front steps consist of two courses of ashlar gray gneiss.

Full-height, lancet-arched windows with light gray marble sills and wooden frames are displayed along the side elevations and flank the entrance (Photograph #s 5, 6, 7). A center mullion divides the windows into two arched openings, but the section under the point of the main arch more commonly reserved for plate tracery is fully glazed. The transept windows at the rear of the side elevations have the same form but no center mullion. The window frames originally contained clear glass, which was replaced with stained glass about 1880. All of the sash is protected by clear acrylic panels. A grouping of three narrower stained-glass lancet windows, located in the rear wall of the chancel, is presently visible only from the interior because of the rear addition. The color scheme and pattern of the chancel windows indicates that the stained glass there may have been original or at least replaced at a different time, since it appears to antedate that installed in 1880.

The composition of the tall, narrow entrance is unusual. It consists of reeded pilasters that terminate in a Gothic arch. They enframe double-leaf doors surmounted by another Gothic window. There is a marble tablet inscribed with the name and date of the church set between the window and the doorway. The six-panel doors and their hardware are original, including wrought-iron strap hinges and a case lock (Photograph # 8).

There were some changes to the church in the nineteenth century. As constructed, the original building had a simple rectangular main block (38' x 40') with a gabled roof that included the present bell tower. About 1855 it was enlarged with gabled transepts and a chancel at the rear. The transepts added 14 feet to the length of the building but they project only two feet beyond the side elevations. The full-height addition for the chancel (10' x 20') continues the line of the main gable roof. By 1948, when the building was documented by J. Frederick Kelly, a small addition for a vestry room was in place at the rear southwest corner. Other exterior changes include asphalt

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 2

in place at the rear southwest corner. Other exterior changes include asphalt shingles on the roof, which replaced the metal shingles present in the 1940s. Church records indicate, however, that the original roof was wood shingled. Throughout most of its history, the tower, including the brickwork, was painted red. Only the belfry and spire were white. Four large finials of pyramidal form, believed to be original and located at each corner of the belfry roof, were removed sometime after 1948.

The interior plan consists of the vestibule, with access to two sets of stairs to the gallery, the audience room or nave, and the chancel (Photograph #s 9, 10). Entrance to the nave from the vestibule is through a set of interior double-leaf doors at the center. Single doorways, which open from the nave at either side, also access the stairs. A plastered Gothic barrel vault runs down the center of the otherwise flat plastered ceiling of the nave. The oak trusses that support the roof are fully concealed behind the plaster and lack a continuous bottom chord, an unusual design. Below the ceiling, there are decorative oak brackets under each end of the trusses. Originally stained dark, they are now painted white. The chancel is set within a lancet-arched recess and its floor is slightly elevated. Interior finishes include rough-textured plaster and vertical board wainscot around the main room at the height of the window sills. The gallery is supported by two plain, square posts and its enclosed railing is decorated with a continuous row of small recessed Gothic panels.

Other than a slight extension of the chancel apron and the replacement of the flooring, which raised the nave floor to the height of that of the vestibule, the interior and its furnishings are largely intact. Although it is not presently installed, the raised octagonal pulpit is original. Both it and the pews are in the process of being removed for refinishing. The oak pews, which were taken from an Episcopal church in Salisbury and cut down to fit, replaced the original slips in 1895. Lighting fixtures, which are suspended from the inner edges of the flat portion of the ceiling, are replacements for those installed when the church was electrified, probably in the early twentieth century. Some larger more ornate suspended electric fixtures that hung from the center of the vault are now in storage. In their place are ceiling fans.

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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

1822 - 1880

Significant Dates

1822; 1855

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rev. Nathaniel Wheaton (1885 addition)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Litchfield, CT

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.3

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	6 3 5 7 6 0	4 6 1 3 4 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 6/6/94

street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (203) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

street & number 247 New Milford Turnpike telephone _____

city or town Marbledale state CT zip code 06777

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 1

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is a significant example of a vernacular country church which may be one the first expressions of the Gothic Revival style in rural Connecticut. Exceptionally well-preserved, it derives added significance from its late nineteenth-century appointments, including the stained-glass windows and furnishings.

Historical Background

The Town of Washington was incorporated in 1779 from parts of Woodbury, Litchfield, Kent, and New Milford. Marbledale, the site of the church, is a village located between New Milford, six miles to the north, and New Preston, one mile to the south. First settled by Joseph Wheaton from Sekonk, Rhode Island, the village became noted as a major marble-quarrying site. The first stone-saw mill in the state was located in the village center and eventually 21 mills of this type were operating in the nineteenth century along the East Aspetuck River, the outflow from Lake Waramaug. The locally produced stone was highly prized and in peak years about 30,000 feet of marble were sold annually throughout New England and the East Coast and into the Midwest as far as Ohio.

The present edifice is the third church built or occupied by this denomination. St. Andrew's was founded in 1764 and services were held by the Reverend Thomas Davies in a simple structure located in New Preston, but the actual site is not known. Under considerable harassment during the Revolution, the congregation temporarily abandoned this building and held services in private homes. After the war the church was reorganized and chartered by the state as the New Preston Episcopal Society and by 1791 had made plans to move the original building to a site near the Congregational Church. These plans never materialized and that church was sold. After hiring the Society of Friends meeting hall for at least a year, the Episcopalians bought the building, which was located just over the New Milford line. Although repairs were made to this meeting hall in 1816, a vote was taken to build a new church on New Preston Hill. After several years of controversy about its location, the present structure was begun in late 1821 or the early part of 1822. The "raising" was facilitated with ten gallons of cider brandy, the first expense item on the subscription list, but since it was a masonry building, only the roof was raised. The church was completed for a cost of \$1600 in 1823 and the first services were held there that year. The records also indicate that wood stoves and oil lamps were in use in 1832 and there was a bell installed in the tower by at least 1833.

The enlargement of the main block in 1855 was designed by the Reverend Doctor Nathaniel Wheaton, who probably underwrote most of its cost. After serving as the first president of Trinity College, founded in Hartford in 1824, Wheaton retired to the village of Marbledale. It had been settled by his ancestors and may have been his birthplace. Wheaton was a major benefactor of St. Andrew's and may have conducted services, but he was not the rector. The records indicate that in fact, he recommended that the church engage a full-time rector when he first became associated with the parish. His

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

contributions included the painting and refinishing of the interior at his own expense after the 1855 alterations. Apparently he also underwrote the expense of the remodeling with a loan, because at a later date he remitted an unspecified balance due him and accepted a \$250 note from the parish as his only remuneration. Wheaton also bequeathed his home to the church later in the century.

Architectural Significance

Although the Gothic Revival dominated ecclesiastical architectural design in the United States in the nineteenth century and continued to be favored well into the twentieth century, the style was almost unknown in Connecticut at the time St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was constructed. Trinity Church on the New Haven Green, designed and built by Ithiel Town, had been completed in 1814, only 12 years before. The earliest documented example in Connecticut and the third in the country, Trinity introduced the style in the state. The replacement of meetinghouses with adaptations of English churches was more common at this time; the trend had begun at the turn of the century in some of Connecticut's major cities.

Ecclesiology, the last major influence on church architecture, began in England and was not fully launched in the United States until the mid-nineteenth century. Ecclesiologists believed that the medieval Gothic was the only pure ecclesiastical form and style, one that would provide an appropriate setting to recapture the intensity of medieval piety and faith. The impact of ecclesiology at St. Andrew's is evident after the church was remodeled in 1855 by Dr. Wheaton, a learned clergyman. As originally constructed, however, the building appears to have some unusual features which antedate the medieval ecclesiologist movement and place St. Andrew's outside the mainstream of church architecture of the early nineteenth century.

As constructed, St. Andrew's was a transitional building, one that combined the late eighteenth-century meetinghouse plan and form with medieval Gothic features. The location of the entrance in the facade tower rather than on a side elevation is typical of the last stage of meetinghouse development, as is the partial incorporation of the tower within the main block. The vestibule, with its simple finishes and plain staircases, is a clear borrowing from those found in most Congregational meetinghouses. Only two features can be considered Gothic Revival: the interior vaulted ceiling and the lancet windows. The vaulting of the nave, a modest attempt to display some medieval stylistic influence in an essentially plain interior, is clearly original construction because of the specially designed trusses. The lancet windows, a more major stylistic influence, may be original construction, but the evidence is not conclusive. Even though the brickwork around the openings appears original and unaltered and church records do not mention window enlargement or alteration at a later date, these features cannot be dated with any certainty at this time. A more traditional medieval plan emerged with the addition of the transepts and chancel, or apse, in 1855. Still lacking, however, were the

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 3

side aisles of the nave, although the ceiling's design suggests this arrangement.

Even a limited use of Gothic Revival elements as early as 1822 by an Episcopal country parish is quite remarkable. There were compelling reasons for a more conservative approach at that time and place. This denomination was only just getting established in Connecticut. Reorganized from the earlier Anglican church with a Connecticut bishop in the late eighteenth century, the Episcopalians were still struggling with the Congregational dominance of higher education in the state. The founding of Trinity, their own college in Hartford, did not take place until 1824. In Marbledale the parish was not yet well accepted and the harsh treatment received during the Revolution was still a living memory. Furthermore, the use of the style at this time clearly antedated the period in which the American ecclesiastical movement became popular.

The significance of St. Andrew's is enhanced by its nineteenth-century integrity. With the exception of new flooring, all the interior finishes remain and the late nineteenth-century stained-glass windows add to the building's significance. The craftsmanship displayed in the brick masonry is exceptionally fine. Although some repointing is probable in a structure of this age, the original material and appearance of the struck joints were so well replicated that later work is not apparent.

At the present time, however, some inherent construction weaknesses threaten the structural integrity of the building. The primary concern is the failure of the trusses. Their design without a continuous bottom chord has allowed lateral movement of the side walls, mainly evidenced today by some cracking of the plaster. A secondary problem is the condition of the floor framing and sills, which have deteriorated from moisture and a lack of ventilation, due to the low foundation and/or the lack of a basement. Because of these problems, the nave is considered unsafe and church services are presently held in the meeting rooms at the rear. The Episcopal diocese has plans to demolish the building. Local fund-raising efforts are underway to buy and repair the structure, but its ultimate fate is still undecided.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 9/10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographic References

Guide to New Milford, Connecticut And Its Environs, Including Washington, Roxbury
Bridgewater, Sherman, and Warren. New Milford, Connecticut: The Tunxis Print
Shop, c. 1930.

Kelly, J. Frederick. Early Connecticut Meetinghouses, Vol. 1. New York: Columbia
University Press, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the Washington Town Records in volume 56,
page 341, which are located in the Washington Town Hall.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes all the land and the building historically
associated with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church since it was constructed in 1822.

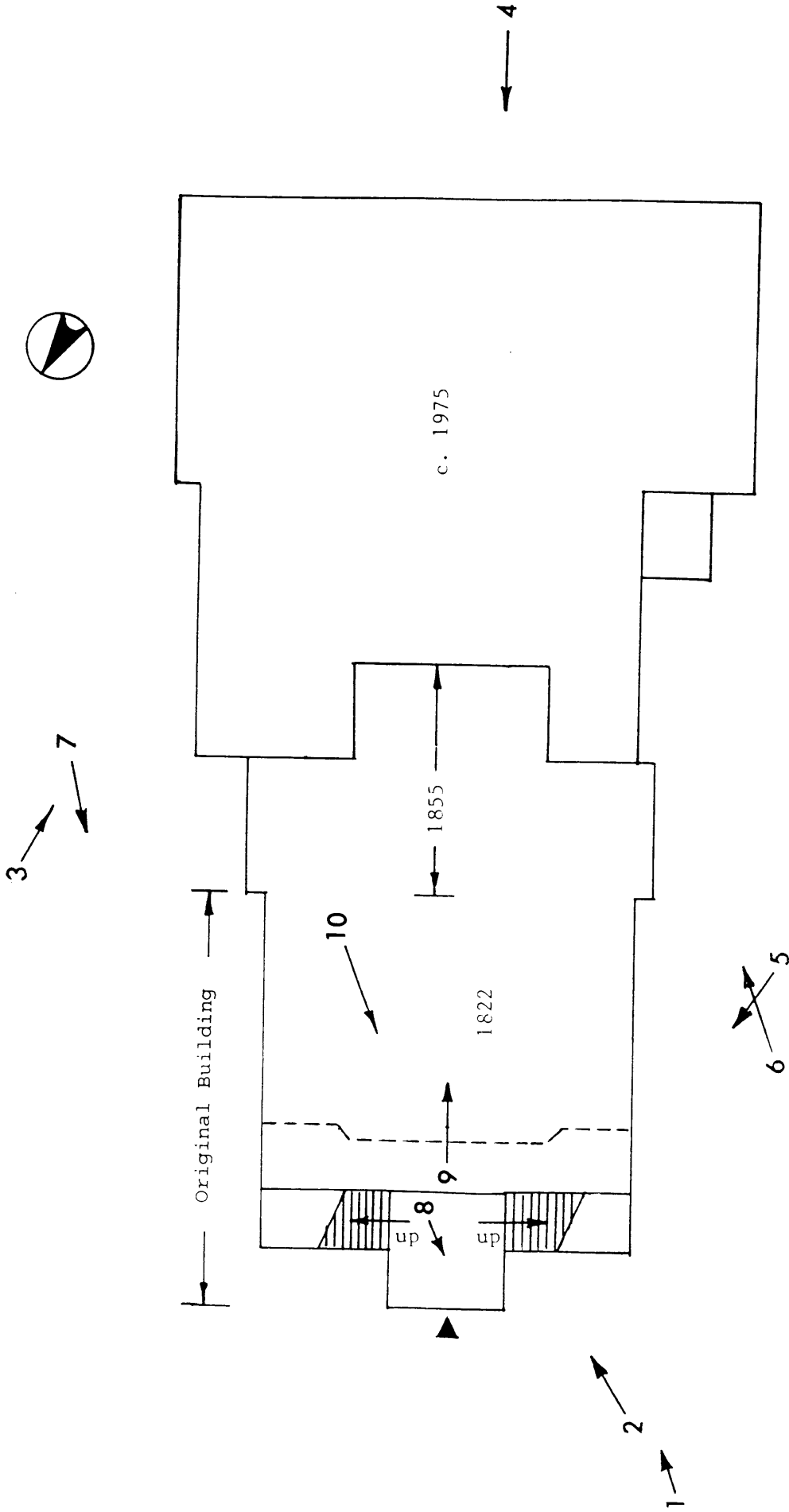


EXHIBIT A:

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM, ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Photograph views indicated by arrows

Scale: Approximately 1/16" = 1'

Cunningham Associates Ltd. 6/94

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Washington, Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number Photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.

Date: 4/94

Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

1. View: General of building and site
Facing: E
2. View: Facade and southwest elevation
Facing: E
3. View: Rear addition
Facing: S
4. View: Rear addition
Facing: NW
5. View: Southwest elevation (front)
Facing: N
6. View: Southwest elevation (rear)
Facing: E
7. View: Northeast elevation
Facing: W
8. View: Vestibule with exterior doors
Facing: NW
9. View: Nave
Facing: SE
10. View: Nave
Facing: SE