

PH 0664 201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 28 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAY 23 1978

# 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 Old Newburgh Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON  
Newburgh Town Hall

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
North State Street at West Main St.

CITY, TOWN  
Newburgh

STATE  
Indiana

VICINITY OF  
8th

COUNTY  
Warrick

CODE  
018

CODE  
173 ✓

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
8th

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

## CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Town of Newburgh

STREET & NUMBER  
North State Street at West Main Street; P.O. Box 6,

CITY, TOWN  
Newburgh

STATE  
Indiana

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana

47630

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Warrick County (Indiana) Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN  
Boonville

STATE  
Indiana

47601

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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 checked="" 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1851, the Old Newburgh Presbyterian Church, now known as the Town Hall, is located in Newburgh at the northwest corner of North State and West Main Streets.

The simple rectangular brick structure has two stories capped with a gable roof and a wooden bell tower over the main entrance. The roof has close eaves and plain returns on the east and west ends. The front facade faces North State Street and has two windows on the ground level flanking a central double-door entry. The wood paneled doors have a rectangular transom and a wooden hood supported by square columns and pilasters. A sign on the hood identifies the structure as the Town Hall while another sign below the first indicates the date of construction. On the second level two windows are set in a recessed panel. All windows have stone lintels and sills.

The bell tower has a square frame base with vents on each side. A domed, eight-sided cupola rests on the square base.

The other sides of the structure are fairly simple. The north and south sides have four windows on the first floor; these have double-hung sashes with four over four lights. The south side has an entrance with a modern storm door which is a recent addition. The four windows on the second story of each side are set in recessed panels; these are opalescent stained-glass windows assembled with zinc came.

Many of the structure's interior features are original. The bell was evidently installed soon after the church was finished in 1853 because it was in use during the Civil War. The black walnut pews in the old sanctuary on the second story are used for town meetings, and some of the original brass wall fixtures remain.

The existing exterior is much like the original although a number of changes have taken place over the years. In 1927, the brick exterior was covered with a yellow stucco. Probably at the same time the original cupola was removed and replaced with a square wooden structure with a hipped roof. A porch roof was constructed over the main entrance. The cupola was restored in 1948. In 1968 the stucco was removed, the bricks repointed, and the main entrance restored. In 1971 and 1973 changes were made on the interior so that the structure could accomodate city offices.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 1851-53

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Newburgh Town Hall is significant as a structure that has many local historical associations and has survived from the town's early years.

The first permanent settler in the area came in 1803. Although he established a town, about 1820 another small community was established nearby. In 1837 the two settlements were united under the name of Newburgh. In the same year the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation was established as the first church in the community. The church was founded by Abraham M. Phelps and his wife.

Phelps settled in Newburgh in 1830 and built a fortune from trading on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and speculating in land. Among the local causes which benefited from Phelps' generosity was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The congregation met in a number of places in its early years, and in 1851 began construction of a brick structure. The church building was completed in 1853 at a cost of \$4,000. The project was made possible by Phelps who donated much of the building's cost. The dedication service was held on June 25, 1853.

Later in 1853 the Newburgh Cumberland Presbyterian Church became the home of Delaney Academy. The Delaney Academy was a school established in Newburgh in 1842 by the Cumberland Presbyterians. At first the two teachers conducted classes in a frame building, but in 1853 the school was moved to the Presbyterian Church basement. Students could elect courses in natural sciences, teaching, rhetoric, mental and moral philosophy, logic, Latin, Greek, and mathematics. When the Academy was in session, Newburgh hotels and boarding houses were crowded with students, and Newburgh became known as the educational center of southern Indiana. After meeting for four years in the church, the school moved to its own building which was donated by Phelps. The Delaney Academy was unable to compete with the expansion of free public schools supported by the state, and in 1867 the school moved to Illinois and became the nucleus of Lincoln College at Lincoln, Illinois.

During the Civil War, southern Indiana was well aware that Kentucky's loyalty to the Union was dubious at best, and Morgan's Raids in 1863 removed any false hopes that the war would remain south of the Ohio River. In Newburgh the Presbyterian Church bell was used to summon the home guard in times of danger. As added insurance, a rope was run from the bell to the house next door in the event that the church could not be reached in time.

Later events associated with the structure were more commonplace. Baptisms, weddings, and funerals marked the passage of generations. In 1906 the congregation voted to leave the Cumberland denomination and join the main Presbyterian Church. In 1965 the congregation voted to relocate, and the structure was sold to the town for \$14,000. Since 1965 it has served as a town hall.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fortune, Will. Warrick and its Prominent People. Evansville: Courier Co., 1881.  
History of Warrick, Spencer, and Perry Counties, Indiana. Chicago: Goodspeed, Brothers,  
 & Co., 1885.  
 Title Abstract and Deed Records  
A Bicentennial Look at Newburgh, Indiana. Newburgh: Newburgh Public Library, 1976. Records  
 of the Town of Newburgh, Indiana

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	4 6 4 3 8 0	4 1 9 9 6 4 0	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: Sally K. Diaz Clerk-Treasurer

ORGANIZATION: Town of Newburgh, Indiana DATE: 2/2/77

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 6 TELEPHONE: 812-853-7111

CITY OR TOWN: Newburgh, Indiana STATE: 47630

# 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: *[Signature]* DATE: 2/20-78

TITLE: Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION: *[Signature]* DATE: 5 23 78

ATTEST: *[Signature]* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: May 23, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Newburgh Town Hall is the oldest surviving church structure in the community. Certain features such as the square pillars at the main door and the recessed panels along the sides, suggesting brick pilasters, denote a Greek Revival influence in the design. In addition to its architectural significance, the structure is a reminder of Newburgh's connection with the Civil War and its brief time as a center of higher education in southwestern Indiana.