

First Baptist Society of Bath
Name of Property

Steuben County, NY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Bath Village MRA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/church

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late-nineteenth century Romanesque Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: stone

walls: brick

roof: asphalt

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Located at 14 Howell Street, the church of the First Baptist Society of Bath is a late-nineteenth century Romanesque Revival building with features such as rounded windows, rounded brick lintels, corbel table and a substantial rough-faced stone foundation. The main structure was built in 1887, using a cruciform shape with a cross gabled roof and a tall spire on the northeast end. The gable ends form the main exterior walls of the building and the social hall attached to the west has a side gabled roof that also creates the steep gable end north and south walls. Attached to this is a flat-roofed, L-shaped 1952 fellowship hall, which was expanded in 1981. The church, social hall and fellowship hall are of brick construction with asphalt shingled roofs. The interior of the worship space is an auditorium plan with curved wood pews facing a chancel area that consists of a raised platform, choir seating and concealed baptistry. The interior of the west end social hall retains its large open space and pressed tin ceiling and can be closed off from the attached fellowship hall by a non-historic partition. In spite of the fellowship hall expansion and removal of the original exterior doors, the church retains historic and architectural integrity in terms of location, setting, materials, design, feeling and association.

Narrative Description

The First Baptist Society of Bath, also known as the Bath Baptist Church, is located on Howell Street in the village of Bath, Steuben County, New York. Bath is located in the Southern Tier region of Western New York, 73 miles east of Olean (Cattaraugus County) and 22 miles northwest of Corning (Steuben County), the two largest Southern Tier cities close to the village. The town of Bath is centrally located within the county, bounded by the towns of Avoca and Urbana to the north, Campbell and Cameron to the south, and Howard to the west. The village of Bath is roughly centered within the town. The topography of the area consists of hills and valleys, the most notable being the Cohocton Valley. To the southwest of the village are the Magees, Sharps and Herron Hills with the village nestled opposite, situated along the north bank of the Cohocton River and north of the Southern Tier Expressway (SR 17).

The church is located at 14 Howell Street, three and one-half blocks north of the river. Howell Street runs parallel to Liberty Street, the main thoroughfare through the village ending at Pulteney Square, the public and geographic center of village. The square and the buildings along Liberty Street are part of the Liberty Street Historic District (NR listed 1983). Oriented east, the church faces Buell Street, which runs between Howell and

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Liberty Streets. At the south end of the street (southeast of the church) is the Pioneer Cemetery, which is not associated with the church. The church for the First Baptist Society of Bath was not evaluated for inclusion in the Bath Multiple Resource Area Document (March 1983), but it certainly falls within the category of significant late-nineteenth century buildings reflective of the village's post-Civil War growth mentioned in the document. The church will be added to the MRA with this nomination. The current church was completed in 1887 and is located in a primarily residential neighborhood, which consists of late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century buildings of various degrees of historic and architectural integrity. The church is roughly near the center of the street on the west side of the road. It sits on a flat lot and is surrounded by an asphalt parking lot and a drive that allows access from Howell and Pine Streets on the east and west sides of the property. Overall the church retains the craftsmanship and its original character defining architectural elements.

Exterior

The church on Howell Street displays a late-nineteenth century Romanesque Revival façade of red pressed brick, corbelling, and masonry trim, along with distinctly rounded arch entrances and non-pictorial stained glass windows. The church was the design of Binghamton, New York architect Truman I. Lacey and constructed by local Bath, New York builders, Thomas Fogarty and Lafayette Small.¹ The main (east) façade on Howell Street presents an asymmetric elevation with the main part of the building under the steeply pitched gable roof and a square corner, multi-tiered bell-tower tapering to an octagonal spire on the north end. The façade is dominated by a double brick-arched rose medallion stained glass window with wooden tracery. Directly above, in the apex of the gable, is a smaller roundel window that mimics the rose window. Along the roof line of the center gable is distinctive brick corbelling. There are two main entrances on either side of the elevation. One entrance is in the base of the corner tower and the other is at the south corner of the building. Both have glass fanlight windows with wood tracery under Romanesque arches trimmed in a course of double brick. Both entrance vestibules contain a recessed single white-painted wood door and are paneled and flanked with sidelights.

The foundation on the facade is of molded concrete over fieldstone with an accented watercourse of white limestone at the top, which is carried around the building. Thin limestone sills are below each window and cap the stone buttress and decorative stone banding. The corner bell-tower tapers with false buttresses at each corner, and each level has a unique double-arch window combination. Each side of the spire has a single wood arched louvered opening with triangular roof projections. All of the arched windows were of clear glass,

¹ *Local Scraps*; Clippings from Vol. 58 (January & February 1887) on file at the Village of Bath Historical Society; Parish Records, Bath Baptist Church, Bath, NY.

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but have now been in-filled with wood because of damage. The roof and spire originally were slate; currently, the roof and spire are clad in asphalt shingles.²

The north elevation has four bays flanked on the left (east) by the square tower, which has the same foundation of molded concrete fieldstone and course of white limestone. The center section foundation lacks the course of white limestone that separates the brick from the fieldstone. The main facade is dominated by three wooden, double brick-arched windows. The center window is larger and topped with a rose window. Two small double brick, wooden arched windows are centered in the apex of the gable. Each window has a white limestone windowsill. Immediately to the right (west) is a narrow section featuring a similar arch stained glass window. The final bay contains what is referred to as the "Judson Parlor" (Sunday school and fellowship area). This section is part of the original 1887 plan and is present on the 1893 Sanborn Fire Map. The Judson Parlor has a steeply gabled roof with matching brick corbelling. Its center north-facing wall has traces of two round arch windows, which are now in-filled with brick and a small double brick wooden arch and louvered window are in the apex of the gable. The single story, flat roof educational wing known as the "Fellowship Hall" was first constructed in 1952. In 1963, the church purchased the property next door on the north side to demolish for parking, consequently allowing for further expansion of the Fellowship Hall in 1981. It is located to the rear of the building. It is a rectangular brick façade with rectangular double sliding windows and an ADA accessible ramp to a side entrance.³

The south elevation is similar to the north side of the building, but the east side bay has only one double brick-arch wood window with clear glass. The exterior section of the Judson Parlor on this side has three wooden, double brick-arched windows with the large center entry and window combination. The south side of the west transept has a small single, double brick-arched wooden window under the steeply pitched brick corbelled roof line flanked by two brick chimneys. The single story, flat roof 1952 Fellowship Hall addition continues west from the final bay and has one rectangular double sliding window. The west elevation of this section shows the full length of the 1981 expansion and has three rectangular sliding windows and a non-historic paneled door entrance protected by a projecting roof. Visible above the 1952/1981 addition is the gabled roof of the Judson Parlor.

Interior

The interior displays a square cross "cruciform" plan, with ceiling vaulting radiating from the center, which

² Harland K. Tuttle, *Historical Statement of the Bath Baptist Church*, (unpublished manuscript, March 16, 1938).

³ Sanborn-Perris Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Bath, Steuben County, New York*. New York: n.p., 1893; "Bath Baptist Church," *Baptist New Yorker* (New York, NY) May, 1963.

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forms a triplicate barrel vaulted ceiling effect. The ceiling trim is painted in the original turquoise blue and gold colors. In the chancel area, the vaulting over the altar is painted in gold. The round arched windows consist of simple diamond shaped pastel colored glass, outlined in primary colored glass. The rose medallion windows are also filled with pastel colored glass. The windows lack pictorial scenes and artist signatures, leading to speculation that the windows are factory made and installed on-site. Interior lighting is from suspended common cathedral style lights.

With the square cross plan, the interior allows for the most usable space in a relatively small interior. The seating is configured to accommodate 250 persons, following the auditorium plan with a slightly raked floor and custom curved wooden pews centered along the chancel. The interior of the church is finished in native woods. Wainscoting and pews are black birch. The chancel consists of a raised platform with small wood choir stalls on each side. The rear of the chancel is recessed into a large niche with a triple arched and wood paneled and lattice screen, concealing the baptistery. In front of the screen is another raised platform with a center wood floor panel decorated with the intertwined circles representing the Trinity and the Star of David. A formal wood paneled altar is placed in front of the chancel platform. Six chancel light fixtures were donated in the 1970s and six additional hanging fixtures and two wall sconces are from a 1985 renovation.

To the west of the worship space is the Judson Parlor, originally used as a Sunday School/nursery and providing access to the church basement and storage areas. When the congregation outgrew the space, a Fellowship Hall was added in 1952 to fulfill the need for additional church staff offices, nursery, kitchen, dining hall and choir room. The west wall of the Judson Parlor has a retractable partition (ca. 1952) that expands onto the dining hall of the Fellowship Hall, increasing the church's ability to host large gatherings and meetings. In 1981, the Fellowship Hall was expanded on the north side another twenty feet to allow for additional staff offices.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1887-1952

Significant Dates

1887, 1952

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

T.I. Lacey (architect)
Fogarty & Small (Builders)

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the extant Baptist church in 1887 and ends with the construction of the fellowship hall in 1952.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The church built for the First Baptist Society of Bath meets Criteria Consideration A because of its primary significance as a Romanesque Revival design by prolific Binghamton, New York architect, Truman I. Lacey and local builders, Thomas Fogarty and Lafayette Small.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Built for the First Baptist Society of Bath in 1887-88, the church on Howell Street is significant under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A as a distinguished intact example of a late nineteenth century Romanesque Revival building, designed by prominent Binghamton (New York) architect Truman I. Lacey (1833-1914) and constructed by local builders Thomas Fogarty and Lafayette Small. Lacey designed the church for the village's Baptist congregation, which was formed in 1842 prior to the construction of the extant church (1842). Lacey had a long career that spanned roughly forty-two years in the late-nineteenth and early- twentieth centuries. He designed a wide range of buildings throughout the Southern Tier from factories to private houses, schools and churches. Lacey himself was a Baptist and designed the Baptist church in Bath in accordance with the elegant simplicity favored by Baptist congregations. In addition, the building was an exercise in planning that combined the popular auditorium style arrangement of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries with a separate area known as Judson Hall for the more functional elements such as offices, a Sunday School, and other church related activities. Throughout the years, the church provided a substantial link to Bath's late-nineteenth century growth and development and remains an impressive architectural landmark in the village of Bath.⁴

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Bath

Established in 1793, the village of Bath, New York was first settled by Colonel Charles Williamson, the land agent for Sir Charles Pulteney who recently purchased the rights to sell over one million acres of land in Western New York from American financier Robert Morris. The land was originally part of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase, which helped open settlement of the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier areas of New York State. Williamson named the village after his daughter, Lady Henrietta Laura Murray, the first Baroness of Bath, England. Situated along the banks of the Cohocton River and surrounded on three sides by hills, Bath's first major industry was lumbering, harvesting the abundant supply of timber and utilizing the river for sending

⁴ Kenneth Foote, "Binghamton Architecture of 1875-1927" (M.A. Thesis, SUNY Binghamton, 1980), 39-42; Kenneth Foote, "Binghamton Architects 1863 - 1916" (Ph.D. diss., SUNY Binghamton, 1981), 24; *Burch Book: Comprising A General Study Of The Burch Ancestry In America, And A Specific Record Of The Descendants Of Jonathan Burch* (Council Bluff, Iowa: Monarch Printing Company, 1925), 44-46; Jeanne Halgren Kilde, *When Church Became Theatre: The Transformation Of Evangelical Architecture And Worship In Nineteenth-Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 170; Marilyn J. Chiat, *America's Religious Architecture: Sacred Places For Every Community* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1997), 231.

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logs to the sawmills. In 1794, Williamson made the first improvements to the village, ordering four acres to be cleared to establish Pulteney Square as a public gathering space and an official government center. By 1804, the village of Bath had a saw mill, two taverns, a jail, courthouse, a school and various houses and a horse race course, a mile in length, for gambling and entertainment. As late as 1841, the public squares and streets of Bath were still open pastures until a local group of politicians worked to pave the streets and plant trees throughout the village.⁵

Many of the settlers who moved to the central and western portion of New York after the American Revolution were from New England. Much of Bath's early success was attributed to its location along the Cohocton River, a tributary of the Susquehanna River, which aided with early migration to the region. The Susquehanna connected Bath via the Cohocton River to New York and the Chesapeake Bay, allowing merchants access to the important markets of Philadelphia and Baltimore. Once the Erie Canal opened (1825), much of the shipping and transportation shifted north and later, the advent of steam locomotives sharply curtailed the further development of Bath, putting it behind the growth of cities such as Buffalo or Syracuse.⁶

History of Bath Baptist Congregation

As the village grew, so did the religious needs of the inhabitants. Pioneer itinerant missionaries traveled the western New York area preaching the Gospel to eager populations. These charismatic preachers instigated religious revivals, which encouraged these frontier congregations to form churches in their communities. Early settlers described the religious meetings as highlights of pioneer life that were of great moral value to the settlements. The Presbyterian Church first erected a wood frame church in Bath in 1822 and replaced it with a High Victorian Gothic style stone church in 1877. St. Thomas Episcopal Church was first constructed as a wood frame structure in 1836 and replaced in 1869 with a Gothic Revival structure. The Methodist-Episcopal Church also replaced its 1835 wood frame structure in 1866 with a brick Romanesque Revival building and again with a completely new church in 1977.⁷

Founded in 1842, the First Baptist Society of Bath was one of the last congregations to be established in the

⁵ W.W. Clayton, *History Of Steuben County, New York: With Illustrations And Biographical Sketches Of Some Of Its Prominent Men And Pioneers* (Philadelphia: Lewis, Peck and Company, 1879) , 160-172; Clayton Mau, *The Development Of Central And Western New York: From The Arrival Of The White Man To The Eve Of The Civil War* (Dansville, NY: F.A. Owen Publishing Company, 1944) , 91-91; Guy H. McMaster, *History Of The Settlement Of Steuben County, NY: Including Notices Of The Old Pioneer Settlers And Their Adventures* (Geneva: NY, W.F. Humphrey Press Inc., 1975) , 162-166; Nora Hull, *The Official Records Of The Centennial Celebration: Bath, Steuben County, New York* (Bath: The Courier Press, 1893), 47-50.

⁶ McMaster, *History Of The Settlement Of Steuben County*, 19-21, 220-25.

⁷ John W Barber. and Henry Howe, *Historical Collections Of The State Of New York: Containing A General Collection Of The Most Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Sketches, Anecdotes, And Relating To Its History And Antiquities, With Geographical Descriptions Of Every Township In The State*, (New York: S. Tuttle, 1845) , 528; Clayton, *History Of Steuben County*, 178-182; "Bath Methodist Church," on line at <http://www.bathmethodist.info>.

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village. By the time the church was incorporated, the population of the town had grown from 800 in 1796 to 6,185 in 1842. The Baptist church was incorporated on March 16, 1842 with twenty-one members. Itinerant missionary Reverend Moses Rowley was elected as its first pastor. A wooden church was constructed in 1843. Rowley had an impressive work ethic, establishing seventeen Baptist churches, including the one in Bath. He was pastor to twenty seven churches and preached 6,000 sermons in his long career.⁸ Peter Colegrove, pastor from 1855-1858, was an ardent abolitionist who preached an anti-slavery message to the congregation. A later pastor, J.D. Barnes, served from 1862-1864 as a chaplain for the Rochester 13th Heavy Artillery regiment in the Civil War. He also campaigned for President Abraham Lincoln in 1864 in New York towns and villages from Binghamton to Buffalo. Even though the 1842 church burned in 1887, a new church was built on its ashes and remains a reminder of the zeal and willpower of these earlier spiritual leaders and their commitment to bringing the Baptist faith to the western frontier of New York State.⁹

Early in its history, the Baptist church congregation was active in the Temperance Movement in Western New York. Many early-nineteenth century clergymen considered America a nation of drunkards and therefore embarked on crusades to rid America of drunkenness and provide a countermeasure to the prevailing attitudes toward drinking. This unruly behavior encouraged leaders from the Bath church to participate in the first recorded efforts for Temperance Reform in Steuben County. Much later, in 1911, the church hosted a meeting in the Judson Parlor to discuss the Cuvillier Bill in the New York legislature, a measure that would have prohibited the sale of liquor on Belfast Street, thus encouraging spread of liquor sales into the village proper. The church continued its efforts against intemperance by organizing and hosting area ministerial association meetings at the church to discuss efforts to thwart the sale of liquor in "dry towns." In 1936, the church utilized its "methods of work which ministers had found from actual experiences of value to them in the church work," by lobbying support for the Hanley-Hallowell bill, also in the New York legislature, which prohibited summer hotels in dry towns from serving liquor.¹⁰ Through the 1930's and 40's, the Baptist church hosted many local and regional meetings of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) within the Judson Parlor and later in the Fellowship Hall.

The church supported other activities throughout its history such as Baptist missionaries, scout groups, counseling and educational services and public school commencement ceremonies. As early as 1895, the church sanctuary was used for the closing exercises for the primary and intermediate departments of the

⁸Thomas William Carter, *Centennial History Of The Steuben Baptist Association: And Of Its Original Churches And Pioneer Pastors* (Bath, NY: The Courier Press, 1917), 103; Thomas E. Stackpole, *The Heritage Of Bath, New York: Discovering The Facts, Families, And Folklore* (Bath, NY: Historical Foundation of Bath, 1998), 292-93; Mau, *The Development Of Central And Western New York*, 132-34.

⁹ Carter, *Centennial History Of The Steuben Baptist Association*, 103; Ann Elizabeth Colegrove to Colegrove Family Reunion, December 26, 1888, Bath Baptist Church archive; J.D. Barnes to Thomas W. Carter, November 29, 1915, *Ibid.*

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public school. In 1952, the church hosted the Baccalaureate Service for the graduating class of Haverling Central School. Its amphitheater arrangement was ideal for the ceremonies. In 1954, the Northeast District of the Boy Scouts of America held its annual business meeting in the newly constructed Fellowship Hall. The church also formed Boy Scout Troop #80 in 1961 and later, Boy Scout Troop #134 and Brownie Troop #123 (Girl Scouts) in 1968. Recent efforts include offering counseling services, including the Police Chaplains Program, for providing counseling services to under-age offenders, which allows them to work through a one-year probation term. Upon a successful completion, the record is expunged from the offender's criminal record.¹¹

Architecture

When the Bath Baptist congregation needed to rebuild the church in 1887, members approved a plan for a more fire-proof construction of a brick Romanesque Revival design, one of many styles prevalent for urban religious buildings in the late-nineteenth century. Nineteenth century church architecture in America was dominated by the Gothic Revival, a style made popular through designs promoted by British architects and influenced by the mid-nineteenth century ecclesiastical movement in England. Another revival style began to make inroads into America in the late-nineteenth century, known as the Romanesque Revival, which had its origins in Germany. Whereas the Gothic featured pointed arches and steeply pitched roofs, the main characteristic of the Romanesque Revival was the rounded arch used in stonework over windows and doors. Other common features were the use of corbelling, stone belt-courses, brick and masonry construction. The Baptist church's tall pointed spire reflected an earlier Gothic idea consistent with English writer A.W.N. Pugin's view that Christian architectural design depends on "pointed architecture" to give the correct expression to a church building, but the architect elected to follow the newer fashion. He used monochromatic red brick and limestone masonry trim along with distinctly rounded arch entrances and windows. The brick corbelling and a bell-tower were part of its asymmetrical elevation. The use of rounded, double brick arched rose medallion tinted glass windows with wooden tracery and semi-circular arched window, particularly in the sanctuary and Judson Parlor, were characteristics typical of Romanesque Revival style.¹²

¹⁰ "Petition Against Bill," Unidentified Newspaper Clipping, n.d. [likely 1911], Bath Baptist Church archives; "Would Affect Belfast Street," Unidentified Newspaper Clipping, n.d. [likely 1911], Bath Baptist Church archives; "Ministers Favor Liquor Petition Under Option Bill," *The Corning Leader* (Corning, NY), Tuesday, March 3, 1936).

¹¹ "Bath Public School," *Albany* (New York) *Evening Journal*, June 23, 1895; "Shay, Calder, Kelly, Chamberin, Markham Elected Members-At-Large At Annual District Boy Scout Session," *Dansville* (New York) *Breeze*, September 21, 1954; Church Records, Bath Baptist Church archives; Harry Bulkley, Personal Interview with Author, December 17, 2012; "The Baccalaureate Service: Haverling Central School Class of 1952," June 22, 1952, Bath Baptist Church archive.

¹² A. W. N. Pugin, *An Apology For The Revival Of Christian Architecture In England*, (London: St. Barnabas Press, 1843), 15-16; "American Religious Buildings: The Romanesque Revival," NY Landmarks Conservancy, *Common Bond*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (May 1997).

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The plan that the church used was a square cross plan, with vaulting radiating from the center, forming a triplicate barrel-vaulted ceiling effect. The square-cross plan also allowed for the most efficient use of space within a confined interior. The church seating was configured to accommodate 250 worshippers in an amphitheater arrangement utilizing curved wooden pews facing a platform. The congregation was able to salvage most of the pews from the 1842 church as well as two pulpit chairs and one bench which were cleaned and repaired for use in the new sanctuary.

The new Baptist church also displayed the next generation of arranging worship space beyond the characteristics of the Akron Plan of urban church architecture that was popular between 1870 and 1915. The first time the Akron plan was used was at the First Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1869 in Akron, Ohio which focused seating toward the preacher/pulpit and offered an efficient and flexible way to utilize special requirements for Sunday school design by allowing the spaces used to be closed off or opened to the sanctuary through moveable partitions. The use of rolling partitions to separate Sunday school spaces from sanctuaries became universally accepted, and the term Akron Plan meant virtually any church sanctuary with an attached room separated by a retractable wall.¹³ The new Baptist church opted for placing the Sunday School into a more private space beyond the chancel. This area, known as the Judson Parlor, had large doorways on either side of the chancel but lacked the folding or moveable wall sections between the Sunday School and sanctuary. The more intimate classrooms were later joined to the new fellowship hall by moving partitions.

As evidenced by Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the Baptist church was constructed on the same property as the earlier wood frame 1842 church. Newspaper reports of the 1887 fire stated that the alarm was given at 10:05 pm on January 18th but efforts to save the church were unsuccessful. It was decided to build a new church on the site of the old one and in February, the contract for construction went to a local building firm known as Fogarty & Small. (The 1891 Bath Village Directory listed Thomas Fogarty as a carpenter and Lafayette Small as a contractor and builder.) The cornerstone of the building was laid on May 19, 1887, and the first worship service took place exactly one year to the day from the 1887 fire, on January 18, 1888. Pieces of the bell from the original 1842 wooden church were put into the cornerstone. The church was completed at a cost of \$10,485. In 1906, the bell from the demolished Tyrone Baptist Church was donated to the Bath church. The bell was bronze, weighed 700 pounds, with a thirty-three inch diameter and twenty-nine inches in height.

¹³ Kilde, *When Church Became Theatre*, 176-179.

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Truman I. Lacey of Binghamton was engaged to draw the plans and specifications for the new building. He designed a sanctuary following a square format, with sloped flooring and semi-circular pews arranged around the main pulpit. This seating configuration helped to facilitate interaction between congregation and minister. Lacey designed the baptistery to be located under the floor of the pulpit, which entailed extensive moving of chancel furniture whenever it was to be used. This changed in 1960 when the baptistery was moved behind the pulpit and featured an open window for viewing.¹⁴

In 1952, the Baptist church found it necessary to expand the Sunday school space to meet the needs of its growing educational and social programs. Plans for a new education wing, known as the Fellowship Hall, were drawn up by church member and local draftsman Kenneth Miller and constructed by Harold Lippincott at a cost of \$35,000. Built of uniform red brick, it provided ten additional classrooms, as well as a hall and kitchen in the basement. In 1981, the hall was expanded to add more staff offices and relocate the kitchen to the first floor.¹⁵ Further improvements were made in 1981 with an addition to the Fellowship Hall by widening it by twenty feet to add staff offices and enhancing the kitchen to support a "Meals On Wheels" senior assistance program. The Sunday school program continues to meet in the hall and its classrooms.¹⁶

Architect: Truman I. Lacey

Truman Isaac Lacey (1833-1914), was the founder of a well known and respected architectural firm in Binghamton, New York that involved his brother James and nephew Sanford. Born in Wyalusing, Pennsylvania, the Laceys were involved in the building trade and Truman moved to Binghamton, New York in 1871, beginning the architectural firm in 1872. His earliest commissions were for building private residences in the Dwightsville area of Binghamton and in 1880, published plans for "A Frame Cottage," which displayed his use of "chalet" designs and the balloon frame construction method. His first major commission was to complete the Dwight Block, a large resort hotel, after the first architect, Isaac Perry, was fired by the developer. Lacey and his firm went on to design a prolific number of buildings in the Binghamton area, some of them extremely notable such as the buildings in Binghamton's Court House Square. After his son Bascom Taylor Lacey joined the firm in 1892, Lacey changed the firm's name to T.I. Lacey & Sons. His other son Arthur T. joined the firm in 1895 and his daughter Genevieve joined after his death in 1914. The company was

¹⁴ *Local Scraps*; Clippings from Vol. 58 (January & February 1887) on file at the Village of Bath Historical Society; Bath Village Directory, (Syracuse: John Single Paper Company, 1891); "Bath Baptists Dedicate Anniversary Projects With Sunday Rite, Speaker," Unidentified Newspaper Clipping, n.d.[likely 1960], Bath Baptist Church archives.

¹⁵ *Local Scraps*; Clippings from Vol. 58 (January & February 1887) on file at the Village of Bath Historical Society; Elmira Gazette & Free Press, February 9, 1906. Accessed 12/10/12; "The First Baptist Church: The One Hundred And Tenth Anniversary And Dedication Of New Education Building," (Bath, NY) May 4, 1952, Bath Baptist Church archive.

¹⁶ Church Records, Bath Baptist Church, Bath, NY.

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in existence in Binghamton from 1872 to 1976.¹⁷

The Baptist church in Bath was an early commission for Lacey, but marked the development of his architectural aesthetic. His interpretation of the Romanesque fluctuated between the use of heavy massing, unusual proportions and a profusion of stone detailing in his early religious buildings, such as the 1883 Tabernacle Methodist Episcopal Church (Binghamton), to a more understated use of brick and stone-arched details seen in the Bath church (1887). Brick construction became the signature building material for Truman Lacey's Romanesque Revival buildings during the early period of his career. In his churches (including the Bath church), Lacey utilized corbel table bracketing in the eaves of the gable, as well as contrasting light stone for window sills, buttress caps, and belt courses. His practice of using decorative surface brickwork, such as the brick arches over windows and doorways, and his penchant for lowering the stone belt courses from lintel height down to the windowsill level, are tell-tale signs of his architectural designs.¹⁸

By combining the Gothic verticality of the pointed spire with the use of decorative brickwork and rounded heaviness in the semi-circular doorways and window arches, Lacey created a design reminiscent of late-nineteenth century Romanesque Revival in the Bath church. Also, by incorporating an auditorium plan for the sanctuary's spatial formation, his design accommodated the church's need for the most efficient use of worship space. His scrupulous attention to budgetary concerns for this project insured that the building came in on time on within the budget of \$10,485 when it opened in 1888.¹⁹

Builders: Thomas Fogarty (1848-1919) and Lafayette Small (1845-1940)

While four other contractors bid on the church project, the contract for the Baptist church in Bath was awarded to the local building firm of Fogarty and Small. Thomas Fogarty was a carpenter and builder who went on to build the schoolhouse in Campbell, New York in 1888. He later went on to become the staff architect for the Soldiers and Sailors Home (now the Bath Veterans Administration Medical Center). For thirty years, he designed and supervised the construction of many of its principal buildings, such as the 1895 dining hall, which he based on a similar design that he saw at the Soldiers Home in Hampton, Virginia. In 1911, Fogarty was commissioned to design and supervise the building of the Bath Village Hall (part of the Liberty Street Historic District--NR listed 1983). Completed in 1923, the Bath Village Hall was a two-story, five-bay public

¹⁷U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles [database online], www.Ancestry.com. Accessed 11/28/12; U.S., Indexed Country Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918 [database online], www.Ancestry.com. Accessed 12/12/12; "A Frame Cottage," *Carpentry And Building: A Monthly Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 10, (October 1880), 182; Foote, "Binghamton Architecture," 24; Foote, "Binghamton Architects," 39-42.

¹⁸Foote, "Binghamton Architects," 39-42.

¹⁹ Ibid.

First Baptist Society of Bath

Name of Property

Steuben County, NY

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building in a Romanesque Revival style completed in red pressed brick and light stone trim and designed to accommodate the village clerk and police office as well as the fire department.²⁰

Lafayette Small's father, Hiram Small, built many of the early residential houses in the village of Bath. The younger Small continued in his father's profession and beginning as a carpenter. Small lived on East Washington Street, just a couple of blocks from Thomas Fogarty, who lived on Purdy Street in Bath. Small's association with Thomas Fogarty began around the time of the construction of the Bath Baptist Church and continued when Fogarty became the staff architect for the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Bath. In 1900, Small was awarded the contract to build three cottages and a barn on the grounds of the home. Small went on to build other public buildings, such as the vault for the Surrogate's Office and the laundry building at the County House, both in 1905. In 1908, Lafayette Small was awarded the contract to remodel the Steuben County jail. According to local histories, Small "was in constant demand because of his skill and energy."²¹

Overall the church built for the First Baptist Society of Bath retains the craftsmanship and its original character-defining architectural elements, features and materials to communicate its significance as a late-nineteenth century Romanesque Revival Baptist church. The building is also a good example of the design of important regional architect Truman I. Lacey, and two local builders, Thomas Fogarty and Lafayette Small.

²⁰"Bath Baptist Church Bids," *Steuben Courier*, February, 11, 1887;"Vicinity Deaths," *The Evening Leader*, September 25, 1919; "Local Matters," *Corning Journal*, April, 26, 1888; "An Addition To The Soldiers Home To Be Erected," *Elmira Daily Gazette And Free Press*, July 11, 1895; "Liberty Street Historic District," *National Register Of Historic Places* (NR#90NR02027, 1983), 6.

²¹ U.S. Census-1870, Bath, Steuben County, New York; Roll: M593_1094; Pg. 447B; "Obituaries," *The Courier* (Bath, NY), April 26, 1940; "Bath," *Elmira Daily Gazette And Free Press*, September 22, 1900; "Steuben," *Rochester* (New York) *Democrat And Chronicle*, June 13, 1905; "Laundry Building At County House," *Corning Journal*, May 17, 1905; "County Jail Has Been Remodeled," *Rochester Democrat And Chronicle*, June 4, 1908.

First Baptist Society of Bath
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Steuben County, NY
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First Baptist Society of Bath
Name of Property

Steuben County, NY
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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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: First Baptist Society of Bath

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u>	<u>308744</u>	<u>4689560</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
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	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundary is the same as during the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon Williams Leahy, Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date 21 March 2013
street & number 230 Chemung St. telephone (607) 973-2612
city or town Corning state NY zip code 14830
e-mail sharon_leahy@hotmail.com

First Baptist Society of Bath
Name of Property

Steuben County, NY
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: First Baptist Society of Bath (Bath Baptist Church)

City or Vicinity: Bath

County: Steuben State: New York

Photographer: Sharon Williams Leahy

Date Photographed: December 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0014. 1952 of façade of church of First Baptist Society of Bath.
- 0002 of 0014. East façade of church from Buell Street looking west.
- 0003 of 0014. Cornerstone of church (northeast corner).
- 0004 of 0014. South and east elevations, view looking northwest from Howell.
- 0005 of 0014. East and north elevations, view looking southwest from Howell.
- 0006 of 0014. Detail view of north elevation, view looking southwest from drive/parking lot.
- 0007 of 0014. West end of north elevation (Fellowship Hall), view looking south.
- 0008 of 0014. Interior view looking toward chancel.
- 0009 of 0014. Interior view of sanctuary looking toward south elevation windows.
- 0010 of 0014. View of pews/seating viewed looking southeast.
- 0011 of 0014. Windows in south elevation.
- 0012 of 0014. Windows in east elevation.
- 0013 of 0014. "Rose Window" in east elevation.
- 0014 of 0014. Interior view of Judson Parlor showing pressed metal ceiling.

First Baptist Society of Bath
Name of Property

Steuben County, NY
County and State

Property Owner:

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

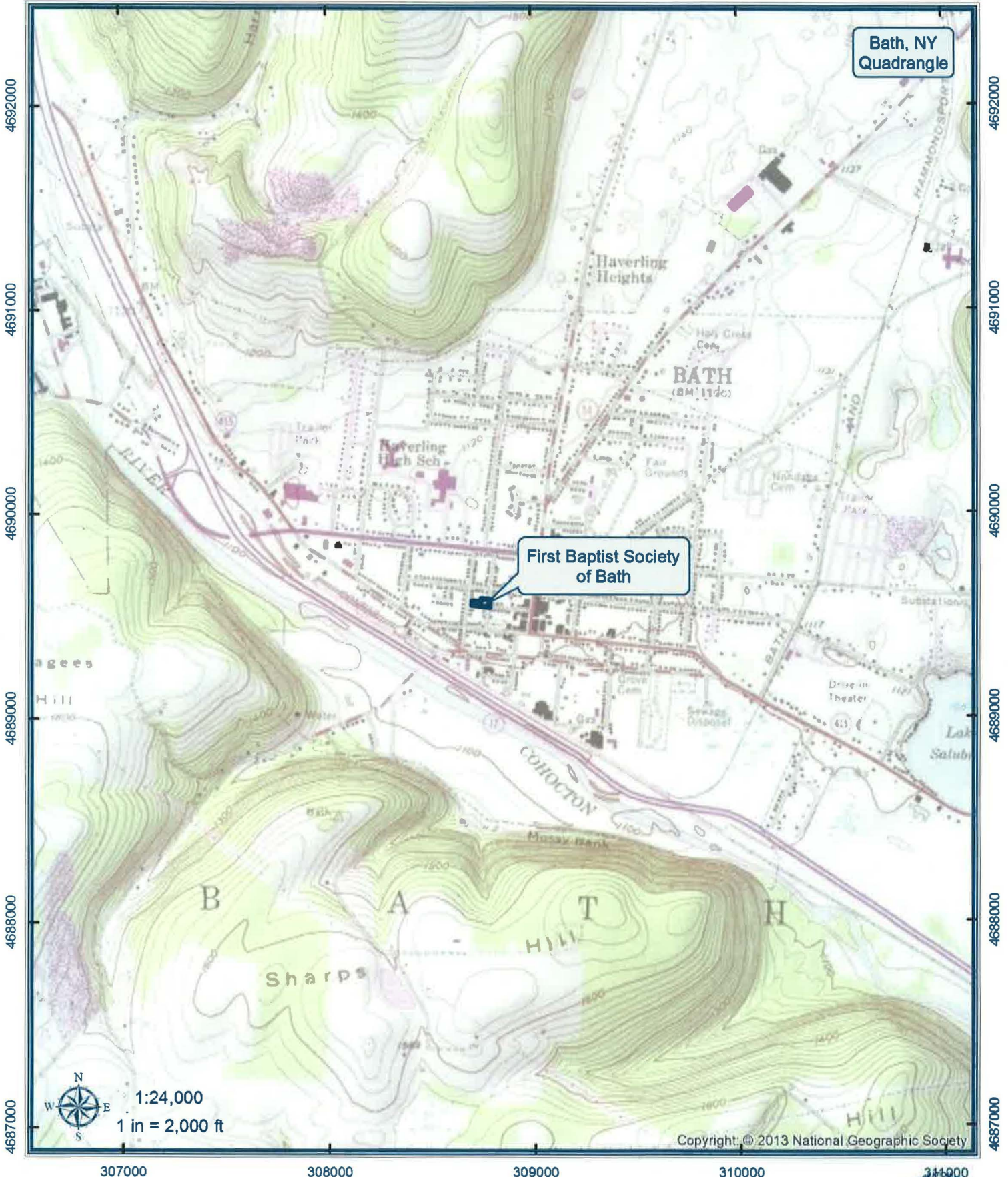
name Bath Baptist Church
street & number 14 Howell St telephone (607) 776-2382
city or town Bath state NY zip code 14810

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

First Baptist Society of Bath
Bath, Steuben Co., NY

14 Howell St.
Bath, NY 14810



Bath, NY
Quadrangle

First Baptist Society
of Bath

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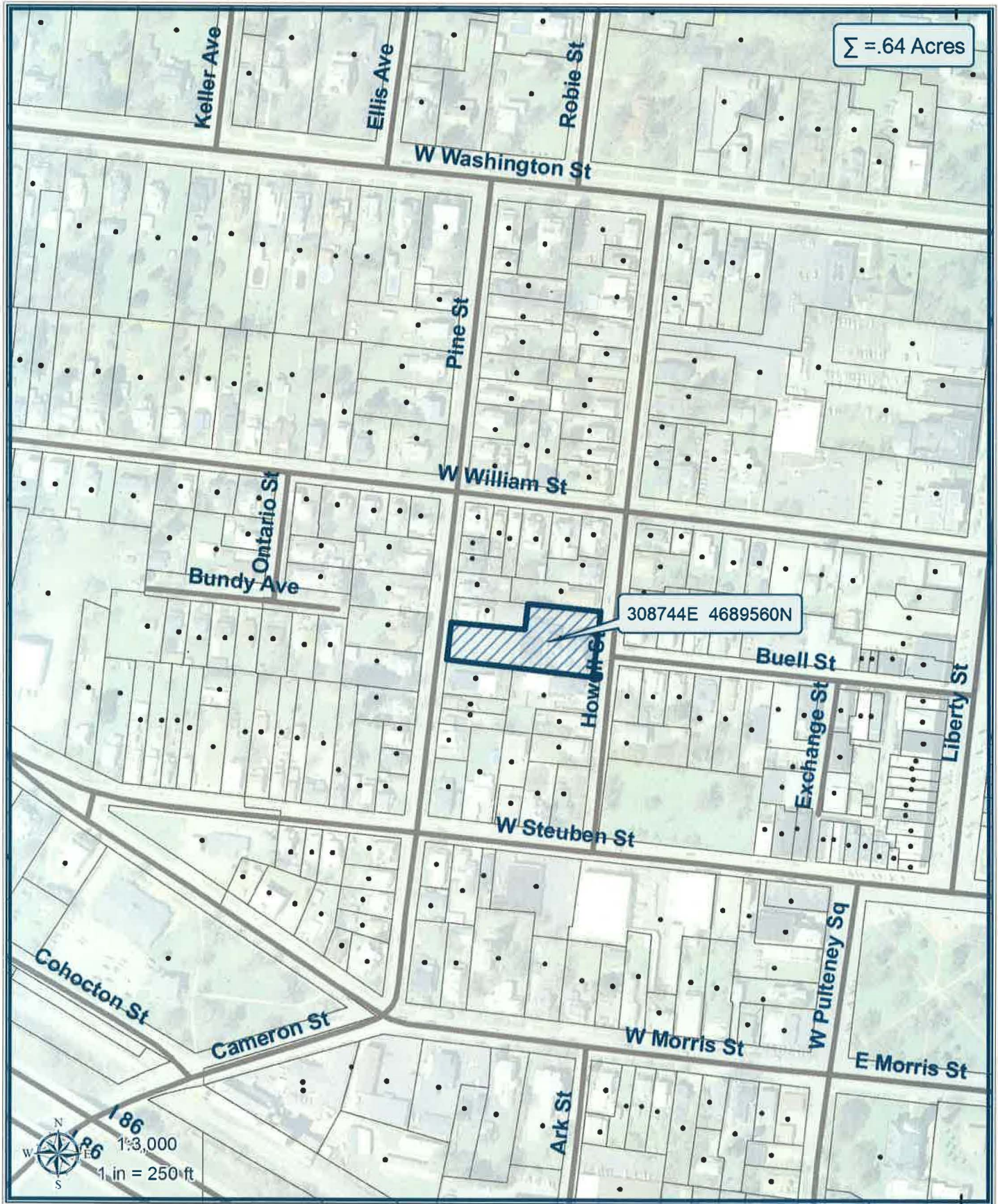
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 First Baptist Society

Tax Parcel Data:
Steuben Co. RPS
<http://www.steubencony.org>





Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 First Baptist Society

Tax Parcel Data:
Steuben Co. RPS
<http://www.steubency.org>







BATH
FARTLE

UNIVERSITY
CHURCH OF THE
DISCIPLES
1888



1887























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National Register of Historic Places

Archivist note to the record

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Baptist Society of Bath, The
NAME:

MULTIPLE Bath Village MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Steuben

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/12/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000372

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.12.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, Thomas A. Walker, Chairman Board of Trustees
(print or type trustee or board member name and title)

am an officer of the religious corporation that owns the property at:

14 Howell Street Bath NY 14810
(street number and name, city, state of nominated property)

and I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Thomas A. Walker
(signature and date)

213 Burton St.
Bath, New York 14810.
(mailing address)

Village of Bath

110 Liberty Street Bath, New York

(607)776-3811

Dr. Virginia Bartos
NYS OPRHP Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188



Dear Dr. Bartos,

As Mayor of the Village of Bath, NY, I was pleased to learn that Bath Baptist Church is being nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a goal of my administration to improve the economic vitality of our area while at the same time preserving the historical integrity of our small rural village. The Village of Bath is proud of the fact that we are a certified Local Government in support of our many historic properties.

The work done by and for Bath Baptist Church in its nomination NR clearly parallels and compliments the work being done by our village. The church has long stood as a reminder of the history and roots of our village, not only due to the architecture of the structure, but due to the significant part its people played and still play in the fabric and culture of our village.

It is with great pleasure that I write today to support this impressive nomination.

John Franges
Mayor

Virginia Bartos
NYS OPRHP
Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford NY 12188



Dear Ms. Bartos:

I am writing to you in regard to the Bath Baptist Church in Bath, NY. We are very anxious to have our church designated on the Historic preservation registry list for New York State and on the Federal list.

I have been a member of the church since 1945 and have seen many changes over the years. I know that people have great ideas for changes and many of the old buildings have been replaced by totally new modern ones. It would be a shame if this church was not preserved. Too many old historic buildings are being destroyed. I understand if our church is put on the Historic Registry no one can decide to destroy it. I believe it is vital that we get on the Registry at this time.

Please consider this registry at this time. My parents (deceased) were members of this church and so is my husband and children. This is a very important matter to all of us. Thank you for your consideration.

Marian Bulkley (Church Clerk)
Harry Bulkley husband

Marian Bulkley
hbulkey@stny.rr.com

7268 Wildflower Way
Bath, NY 14810

January 23, 2013

Dr. Virginia Bartos
NYS OPRHP Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P O Box 189
Waterford NY 12188



Dear Dr. Bartos:

As a nearly life-long resident of the Village of Bath, NY and a member of the NR committee of the Bath Baptist Church, I was thrilled when reviewing the final nomination of our church for the National Register of Historic Places. The level of detail concerning the architectural elements of our church is very impressive. When our small church committee began to look into the nomination process, we knew we were not up to the task alone. Thankfully a Master's Degree student was able to assist us throughout the entire process.

In particular, our committee has been fascinated with the contextual information about the significance of our building and its congregation in the period leading up to and after the construction of the present edifice. By literally searching through boxes and boxes of information stored in our basement, we were able to rediscover our roots, all of which recently led to a fabulous celebration of the 125th anniversary of our church building. Additionally we are now in the process of working with the library at Cornell University regarding the permanent storage of the most valuable documents which have been found.

In gathering support for our nomination, I recently learned that our village is also undertaking activities in the area of historic preservation with the formation of a special committee to preserve our historic treasures and by the recent CLG designation. We are delighted to be a part of what is occurring towards revitalizing our village.

Thank you for your interest in our nomination and for your work on our behalf in this process.

Respectfully yours,

Linda M. Tetor, Deacon
Bath Baptist Church

January 25, 2013

Virginia Bartos
NYS OPRHP Division for Historic Preservation
Pebley Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford NY 12188



To whom it May Concern:

Our Baptist Church (Bath Baptist) is being considered for the National Historic Registry. I wish to enter my personal recommendation for your consideration in making your decision.

I have attended the church since a child and became a member upon my baptism and declaration of the faith I have in my Saviour Jesus Christ. At the present time I am undoubtedly one of the eldest members, having been born on Sept 17, 1932.

I have been a part of and have witnessed many changes and growth over the years. This is one of the most exciting possibilities and I sure have hope for your consideration of our being entered in the registry.

Yours very truly
Betty J. Nichols
4 Magnolia St
Bath NY 14810

Becky Stranges
Historic Preservation Commission Chair
Village of Bath
110 Liberty St.
Bath NY 14810

New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island,
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Dr. Bartos,

I am writing to endorse the listing of the Bath Baptist Church on the National Register of Historic Places. The Bath Baptist Church is within a block of the Liberty Street Historic District as well as other historically significant properties. The prominence of this architecturally significant building is evident in this neighborhood. The church was built in 1887 and fortunately the parishioners have taken great care of it since. It maintains its original features and is a great example of Romanesque architecture in our village. Upon reviewing the application for National Register, the Bath Historic Preservation Commission fully supports the nomination of the Bath Baptist Church to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Becky Stranges
Bath Historic Preservation Chair
Village of Bath

FEB 27 2013

HISTORIC PRESERVATION
FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

John Stranges, Mayor
Village of Bath
110 Liberty St.
Bath NY 14810

New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island,
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Dr. Bartos,

I am writing to endorse the listing of the Bath Baptist Church on the National Register of Historic Places. The Bath Historic Preservation Commission (CLG) has reviewed the application of the Bath Baptist Church and has recommended that the Bath Village Trustees and I endorse this application. Our Village Trustees have voted to fully support the Bath Baptist Church to pursue the enlistment on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



John Stranges
Mayor
Village of Bath

FEB 27 2013



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

19 April 2013

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose four National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register. Three of these are submitted on disc. They are:

Tonawanda Municipal Building, Erie County
Knights of the Maccabees Hall, Ontario County
Cherry Grove Community House & Theatre, Suffolk County

The other one is submitted on paper. It is:

The First Baptist Society of Bath, Steuben County

Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office