

SG 3120

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
other names/site number Jacksonville Public Hall
name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 5020 Jacksonville Rd

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

city or town Jacksonville
state New York code NY county Tompkins code 109 zip code 14886

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide X local
Roger Daniel Murley 9/24/2018
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
DSHPS
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official Date
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)
[Signature] 11/9/18
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

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

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

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

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)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/church

Vacant

RECREATION & CULTURE/hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

foundation: stone

walls: wood

roof: metal

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 near the intersection of Trumansburg and Jacksonville Roads, the former Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville is a two-story, clapboard clad Greek Revival building with a stone foundation. It was originally constructed in 1827 but was remodeled in 1855 to add a second floor, indicated by a separation between the fifteen-light fixed windows in the first floor and the twenty-over-twenty double-hung windows in the second floor. It was at that time that the building assumed its mature and distinctive Greek Revival details and monumental façade consisting of large paneled doors, Doric pilasters, entablature and wide raking cornices. The interior consists of an entrance vestibule with two winding staircases that lead to the second floor; the first floor is divided into three rooms and a second floor of one large room with a raised platform at the north end. The building retains integrity after years of vacancy and some deterioration with much of its historic fabric still extant and surviving Greek Revival church design features. The building retains its setting within the small hamlet of Jacksonville despite being moved in 1899 a short distance from its original location.

Narrative Description

The former Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville fronts on Jacksonville Road, just east of the intersection of Trumansburg Road (State Route 96). The two roadways form the main intersection in the hamlet of Jacksonville in the northern part of the Town of Ulysses between the City of Ithaca to the south and the Village of Trumansburg to the north. Jacksonville Road also leads to Taughannock Falls State Park, a popular attraction on the west side of Cayuga Lake in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. Buildings at the intersection are mostly residential, varying in age from the early through the late nineteenth century with a few late twentieth century commercial buildings. The nominated property is clearly visible from the intersection, being the first building on the south side of Jacksonville Road and slightly setback from the road. Much of the larger area beyond the intersection consists of agricultural properties. The nominated building was originally located roughly one-quarter mile north on the east side the Trumansburg Road, now the present location of the Jacksonville Community Church. It was moved more than one hundred years ago, but was still accessible for the general public and easily seen from the main road. It has retained its setting since the move.

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When viewed from the road, the building's facade has two-stories divided into three bays with Greek Revival features such as a front-gabled roof with a raking cornice and a closed pediment. Below it is a wide frieze band and architrave that runs beneath the entire roofline. The tympanum lacks decoration except for a plain fascia board beneath the cornice and is clad with horizontal clapboard. Walls are also clad with narrow horizontal clapboards, except for the space between the façade windows that has flush vertical boards. A centrally placed entrance consists of two large, six-paneled wood doors slightly recessed into a door surround with flanking Doric order pilasters and an entablature with dentil molding and a deteriorated cornice. Large pavement stones step up to the wood door sill and end near the roadside, where non-historic wood beams form a small retaining wall. Windows are on either side of the entrance with fixed fifteen-light windows in the first floor and twenty-over-twenty double-hung windows in the second floor. A thin metal exterior conduit is positioned to the left of the door, extending from the frieze band to the midpoint of the first-floor window.

Continuing to the west elevation, a secondary entrance is roughly centrally placed. This twentieth-century renovation required the removal of a lower window and the partial infilling of the opening with wood to accommodate a glass door with a wood frame and bottom rail. A small shed roof shelters the entrance. It is cantilevered and clad with asphalt shingles. Directly over the door is a twenty-over-twenty historic window. Two fifteen-light fixed lower windows and two twenty-over-twenty upper windows are on either side of the door. Space between the windows has horizontal clapboards the same width as the window. A concrete slab extends from the wood door sill, roughly three-feet from the door. A small number of clapboards are missing on this elevation and are temporarily in-filled with non-historic materials, awaiting replacement/repair. An exterior electric cable is located south the door, extending most of the height of the wall. The east elevation is probably what the west elevation appeared as historically, with three evenly spaced bays of fifteen-light and twenty over-twenty double-hung windows. This elevation clearly shows the stacked stone foundation that is currently covered with wire mesh. A brick chimney is also visible on the roof and is a later addition, consisting of twentieth-century factory manufactured brick. Evidence of water infiltration is visible at the location of the chimney, indicated by discoloration and peeling paint in the exterior clapboards running from the roof to the watertable.

The south, or rear, elevation follows the same pattern of a door flanked by windows and two windows placed in the second story directly above the first-story windows. The second-story window openings are infilled with wood and the lower windows are partially covered with wood panels to protect the historic window remnants of

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original twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash. The door is a non-historic divided door with a lower four panel wood section and the upper part is wood with nine lights. The door is set into square-edged framing and all are stained dark. The wood door sill is painted to match the clapboards. Extending south from the door are the remnants of a non-historic raised deck, now deteriorated and overgrown with brush. The remnants of a PVC vent pipe are to the left (west) of the door. Another smaller metal vent is to the east of the windows. All of the historic windows retain squared window moldings and wood sills.

On the interior, the building retains its historic divisions, wood floors, and much of the original wainscoting. Originally, the walls were lath and plaster, but were replaced or covered over with wallboard when used as an apartment and retail store in the early 1980s. Due to severe deterioration, the wallboard was removed, revealing the historic post and beam construction dating to 1827. Overall, the building retains its original framing and roof beams, interior wood floors, and wainscoting, except in the entrance and first floor hall.

When entering the building from the main entrance (north elevation), the doors open into an entryway with enclosed large winding stairs on either end and a short hallway directly opposite the doors. The interiors of the recessed six-paneled entrance doors are painted white and the original hardware is missing, replaced with aluminum latches and padlocks. The walls around the door and windows are plaster and non-historic wood wainscoting extends from the door to the wall surface of the first five stairs. From that point, the original wood wall string continues, following the staircase as it rises to the second floor. The wainscoting and door molding are stained a light reddish brown. Stairs are wood risers and treads, painted green, as is the wall string. Random width floor boards are horizontally placed between the stairs and in the entryway before the short hallway. These boards are painted the same color as the stairs.

A fifteen-light fixed window is on either side of the door. Both have delicate wood sash but newer framing and the remnants of display shelving within the frame. The windows provide natural lighting for the stairs and the entryway. The wall on the opposite side of the entryway also has non-historic wainscoting and wallboard over plaster. A short hallway is directly opposite the main door with wallboard over plaster and non-historic entryway trim, but retains the original wide horizontal board wainscoting and vertical floor boards. The end of the hall has an original pair of raised-panel wood doors with the historic hardware. These doors open into a large room that has its original wood floors, paneled wainscoting, wood ceiling and six evenly spaced turned wood posts. Two door openings are on either side of the paneled doors. These enter into rooms, roughly the same size

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on either side of the building that have smaller ante-rooms at the north end and fixed fifteen-light windows in the exterior walls. Both areas have the original door and window trim and wide board wainscoting. One room has a replacement wood floor and the other, the original wood floors.

The large room has other interesting historic features that include two more fixed fifteen-light windows with original sash in the east and west walls and original lath in the south wall. An inset cupboard in the south wall is believed to be historic, but this is anecdotal and needs more investigation. The cupboard has paneled doors and cabinetry that seems period appropriate. The divided, or "Dutch," door next to it is contemporary with the non-historic woodwork in the entryway. Fragments of historic windows are on either side of the door and cupboard. Enough of the windows are extant to provide a template for reproducing the original twelve-over-twelve lights. A small room was framed out in the southwest corner, but the studs and framing are late twentieth century; however, a historic wood paneled door with a ceramic door handle was used for this space.

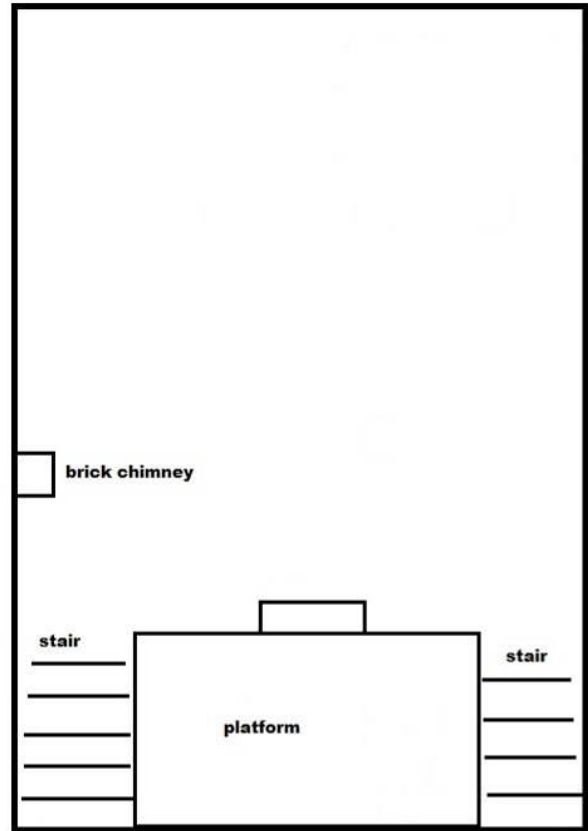
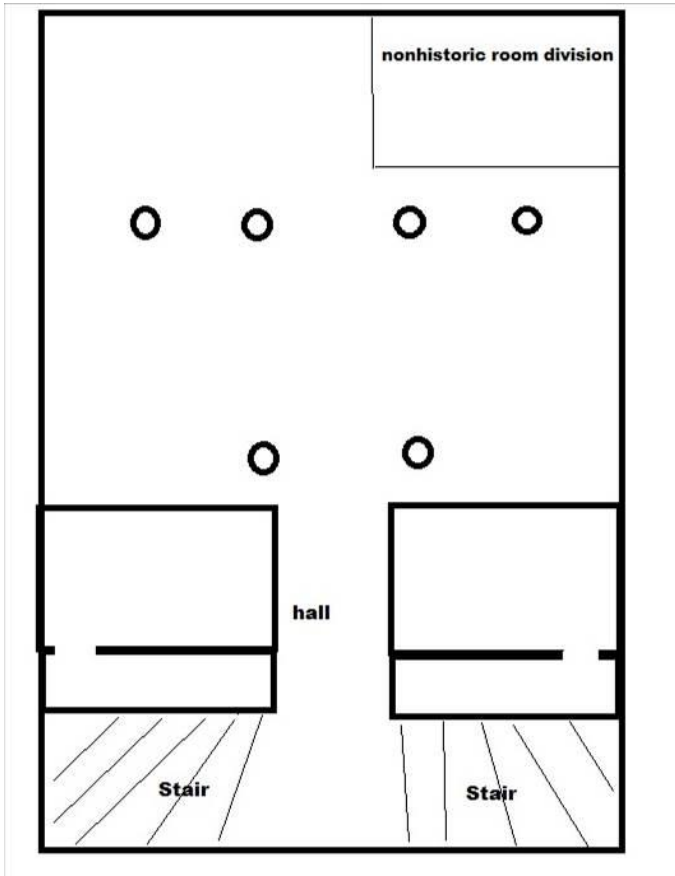
The second floor consists of a large open room with a platform on the north end. The platform has three wooden steps, a wood floor and recessed panels in the front. The platform side ends by the staircase have raised barrier walls of wide boards of wood similar to the original wainscoting seen in the parts of the first floor. Two salvaged barn beams are located at the opposite ends of the platform; these were added later and are non-structural. Narrow boards cut from barn beams are applied to part of the windows frames of the windows by the stairs. Second floor windows are twenty-over-twenty with delicate wood sash and large eared moldings, stained a light brown. Windows also have the original wood sills and some retain the original lower vertical board wainscoting. A portion of the wainscoting was faux grained and had the outline of the original pews that was later replicated on the remaining sections. A non-historic metal flue and brick chimney stack are on the east side of the room.

Walls and ceilings were covered with wallboard in the 1980s, which suffered severe water damage and has been removed, revealing the historic post and beam construction and wall framing. Visible in the south wall are horizontal beams with angled braces and evidence of lath and lime wash on the framing. Also visible is the roof structure, consisting of large beams with angled braces and metal support rods in the center which connect the upper and lower chords of the trusses. Framing for a monumental curved ceiling molding is perhaps the most striking visible feature, curving from the tops of the windows to the ceiling framing at the underside of the beams. Work is currently being done to repair the building and pieces of wainscoting, doors and other historic

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materials are being stored for restoration and replacement. A log framed stair and catwalk are at the south end of the building. These are not historic, and will be removed by the current owner who plans to keep the wood for use in in-kind replacement/repairs.



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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.)

Settlement/Exploration

Architecture

Period of Significance

1827-1959

Significant Dates

1827, 1855, 1899, 1959

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Daniel Elmore (1855 remodeling)

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. [not owned by a religious inst. 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 begins in 1827 when the building was initially constructed and ends in 1959 when it ceased being a public building as it was sold to a private owner.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) Although built as a church, it has not been used for religious purposes since 1898; it was a public meeting hall for sixty years and is now in private ownership.

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

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville is significant under Criterion A in the area of settlement/exploration for its association with the early settlement history of the Town of Ulysses, in particular, the post-revolutionary westward migration in New York State, and in representing the spread of Methodism which coincided with the settlement of the region. After the American Revolution, the rights to vast land holdings were granted to various land companies and some of the lands were held in reserve as payment to veterans, which encouraged migration and additional land speculation. Jacksonville, originally known as Harlow's Corners, was part of the Military Tract in the Town of Ulysses, with settlement beginning in the 1790s. Methodist circuit riders were dispatched to these newly settled areas around the same time, and the result was the founding of several small Methodist house-centered groups that expanded into church congregations. By 1875, the Methodist Episcopal denomination was the largest in Tompkins County with thirty-one churches, followed by the Baptists with fourteen churches.¹ Jacksonville was part of the Seneca Circuit, established in the 1790s, and was the earliest Methodist group to form in Jacksonville, in 1803. By 1827, it was large enough to build the nominated church. In the 1850s, the congregation updated the building to be more contemporary with the other churches in the area, indicating the transition of Methodism from a frontier movement to an accepted protestant denomination. The church is also significant under Criterion C as a modest version of Greek Revival religious architecture; much of the building as it exists today is attributed to an 1855 renovation by Daniel Elmore, who also built the Greek Revival Second Baptist Church of Ulysses (NR listed 2001) in 1851 in nearby Trumansburg. Elmore was active in the Trumansburg area from 1840 through 1888, and the Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville is one of a few known surviving examples of his work. The church had a steeple as part of the renovation; however, it was presumably removed during the move to its present location in 1899. The church had a second life in its new location as the Jacksonville Public Hall from 1899 until 1959, serving as a community gathering space for local meetings, lectures, concerts, and other events. At present, it has lost some interior finishes due to deterioration, but it retains substantial integrity and illustrates the character defining features of its period, type, and style.

¹ D. H. Hurd and H. B. Pierce, *History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, New York* (Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Ensign, 1879), 381.

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Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Settlement (The Military Tract and Early Settlement in Ulysses)

During the American Revolution, offers of land bounties were used as enticements for enlistments for the American army and once the war ended, it was time to honor those promises. As New York State settled land claims and solidified the borders with its neighbors, it designated roughly 1.8 million acres in the center of the state as a Military Tract reserved for war veterans. Congress awarded an allotment of 100 acres to each veteran and New York State added another 500 acres, with officers allowed more, all to be drawn by lots or ballots. To accommodate the balloting, the tract was surveyed, beginning in 1789, by New York State Surveyor Simeon DeWitt, who divided the land into twenty-eight towns that contained one hundred lots of six hundred acres each. DeWitt also laid out the village of Ithaca at the southeast end of Cayuga Lake that became the major commercial center of the region and the county seat when Tompkins County was created in 1817. One of the towns, designated number 22, was along the southwest side of Cayuga Lake and was later named Ulysses. It was bounded by the Town of Seneca to the north and Hector to the west. Over time, a new town called Dryden separated from Ulysses in 1803, followed by Enfield and Ithaca in 1821.

DeWitt's map of the Military Tract was published in 1790 and once lots were selected, the new owners were required to take possession of the land by January 1, 1797. One of the early settlers in Ulysses was Abner Treman (sometimes spelled Truman), who was mustered out of the army as a sergeant-major, which allowed him 640 acres in the tract. He drew lot number 2 in the northwest part of Ulysses, an area known for its fine soil of gravelly loam that was excellent for farming. The north quadrant of the town followed the shoreline of Cayuga Lake, containing bluffs and steep gorges and the Taughannock Falls, the highest known waterfall in the state.² The first settler in the town was Samuel Weyburn, who built his cabin at Goodwin's Point, where the Taughannock Creek entered Cayuga Lake.

Abner Treman's land was in the northwest portion of Ulysses and consisted of a strip of land two miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide with a creek running through a portion of it. He sent his brother and nephew out to

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clear the land in June 1792 and moved to his new lands the following winter along with his wife, three children and brother-in-law. In addition to establishing a farm, he built a gristmill and sold lots from his parcel that became known as Treman's village or Trumansburg. It officially incorporated as the village of Trumansburg in 1872 and, by that time, developed into an important milling and commercial center, second only to the city of Ithaca to the south.

Lack of passable roads impeded migration into the newly opened Military Tract. In 1797, the population of Ulysses numbered 52 and one year later, 60.³ Farmers waited to harvest crops until winter to take them to mills and markets over more passable frozen ground. The state decided to remedy the situation in 1807 by authorizing a road that went north from Ithaca through the town of Ulysses and on toward Geneva at the north end of Seneca Lake. Completed in 1811, the road provided a direct link between Trumansburg and Ithaca. A small hamlet developed at the midpoint between the two villages on the Trumansburg Road where it intersected with another roadway that headed toward Goodwin's Point. The hamlet was originally known as Harlow's Corners, named after a local innkeeper, but was later referred to as Van Courtland Village in honor of Colonel Philip Van Cortland, who was Abner Treman's commanding officer during the American Revolution. He visited Treman shortly after his move to Ulysses and apparently owned land in or near the hamlet, donating a portion for a school and burial ground. Members of the community abandoned all previous names of the hamlet in 1815 when they officially changed the name to Jacksonville, in honor of Andrew Jackson following his victory at the Battle of New Orleans.

Jacksonville was depicted in an 1866 Tompkins County atlas as containing roughly 50 buildings, one of them being a hotel and another a church. Some residents in the hamlet attempted to establish manufacturing in the 1830s, opening factories for potash and manufacturing lead pipes, but these were gone by the 1840s. Much of the hamlet's commerce was related to the surrounding farms since it lacked a water source similar to the creek that ran through Trumansburg. The 1866 atlas mentioned three agriculturally related businesses, which included the Jacksonville Nurseries, suppliers of ornamental and fruit trees. The other two were a dealer in grain drills

² John H. Selkreg, ed., *Landmarks of Tompkins County, New York* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Company, 1894), 205.

³ Selkreg, *Landmarks of Tompkins County*, 6.

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and another person producing wine and cider.⁴ The church indicated on the map was the Methodist Episcopal Church, located on the east side of the Trumansburg Road a short distance north of the center of the hamlet.

Methodism in Ulysses (Tompkins County)

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville was one of thirty-one Methodist Episcopal churches built in Tompkins County by 1875.⁵ The Presbyterians were the first denomination to build churches in the newly opened territory, but only five buildings were counted in the same 1875 census. This reflected the growth of the American Methodist Church, particularly in the years following the American Revolution and in the early settlement period of Central and Western New York. According to historian John Wigger, Methodist membership expanded nationally from 1000 to over 250,000 between 1770 and 1820 and by the 1850s, Methodists made up thirty-four percent of American Protestantism.⁶ Factors pushing this growth were evangelism and Methodism's appeal to a broader spectrum of the general public, especially those on the periphery of society, or as stated by another author, Methodists were "more literal, more emotional, and better understood by common folk."⁷ Whereas some denominations claimed that only the elect received salvation, the Methodists proclaimed that full salvation was available to all.⁸

To proclaim their message, the Methodist Episcopal Church used the circuit rider as an effective method of evangelism. Bishop Francis Asbury, a former circuit rider himself, recognized the need to send preachers into the newly settled territories and established a number of new circuits, beginning in 1793. One was the Seneca Circuit, which sent riders from Tioga, Pennsylvania, through the area between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes and north to Lake Ontario, which included Tompkins County. The territory was described as "enclosing a very fertile and pleasant part of Western New York. There was a small showing of Methodism here as early as 1795."⁹ Like the first disciples, the itinerant preachers often stayed with families, preaching to congregants in

⁴"Jacksonville Inset," *New Topographical Atlas of Tompkins County, New York* (Philadelphia, PA: Stone & Steward Publishers, 1866), 55.

⁵ Hurd and Pierce, *History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties*, 381.

⁶ John H. Wigger, "Taking Heaven by Storm: Enthusiasm and Early American Methodism, 1770-1820." *Journal of the Early Republic*, vol. 14, no. 2 (Summer 1994), 167-168.

⁷ Whitney R. Cross, *The Burned-Over District* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1950), 9.

⁸G. Laning, "Historical Methodism—Seneca Lake Circuit, 1793—First Paper." *Northern Christian Advocate*, November 21, 1872, 1.

⁹G. Laning, "Historical Methodism—Seneca Circuit, 1805." *Northern Christian Advocate*, December 5, 1872, 1.

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the houses, barns and, weather permitting, in the fields of their hosts.¹⁰ The house of H. Camp in Trumansburg became a regular stop for Methodist preachers traveling along the circuit.¹¹ By 1803, the successful efforts of the circuit riders resulted in the need to split the Seneca Circuit into the Seneca and Genesee districts, with roughly 200 members in each.¹²

Anning Owen (1769-1814) was one of the early circuit riders, preaching and establishing “classes” along the Seneca Circuit before settling in the Town of Ulysses. Classes were small groups, meeting weekly at a member’s house where the group would examine each member’s moral and spiritual dealings, pray for each other and listen to a preacher, if one was present. One the early classes to form was at Goodwin’s Point in 1803, headed by Richard Goodwin, who formed another class near Jacksonville, followed by a third class headed by Benjamin Laning. A history of early Methodism in the region praised the inhabitants of Jacksonville and its surrounding farms in embracing the faith:

It was fortunate for the cause that many persons of means and influence united with the M. E. Church in these parts from the beginning. Seventy-seven years have elapsed since first planted at Jacksonville and vicinity. No other denomination has been established here...Methodism between the Seneca and Cayuga lakes has been a glorious success. All glory to the Great Head of the Church! Of the country, I must say, I love her sylvan hills, her wild ravines, her reverberating cataracts, and her fertile plains and smiling villages and churches as well. [G. Laning, 1872]¹³

In 1826, a lot was purchased along the east side of the Trumansburg Road in Jacksonville and one year later, a Methodist Episcopal Church was built, indicating the increase in Methodist membership and the move from homes to churches as the primary worship space. More members could organize into congregations, support the construction of buildings and ministers signifying the acceptance of Methodism as a primary protestant denomination. The construction of the church in Jacksonville followed the building of the Methodist church in Ithaca (1820). More Methodist churches followed, including the church in Danby, organized in 1830 and built in 1836 and the organization and construction of the Methodist church in Trumansburg in 1831.

Criterion C: Architecture

¹⁰Wigger, “Taking Heaven by Storm,” 181.

¹¹This is presumed to be the first house of Hermon Camp. He had a new house built in 1845 that is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1973).

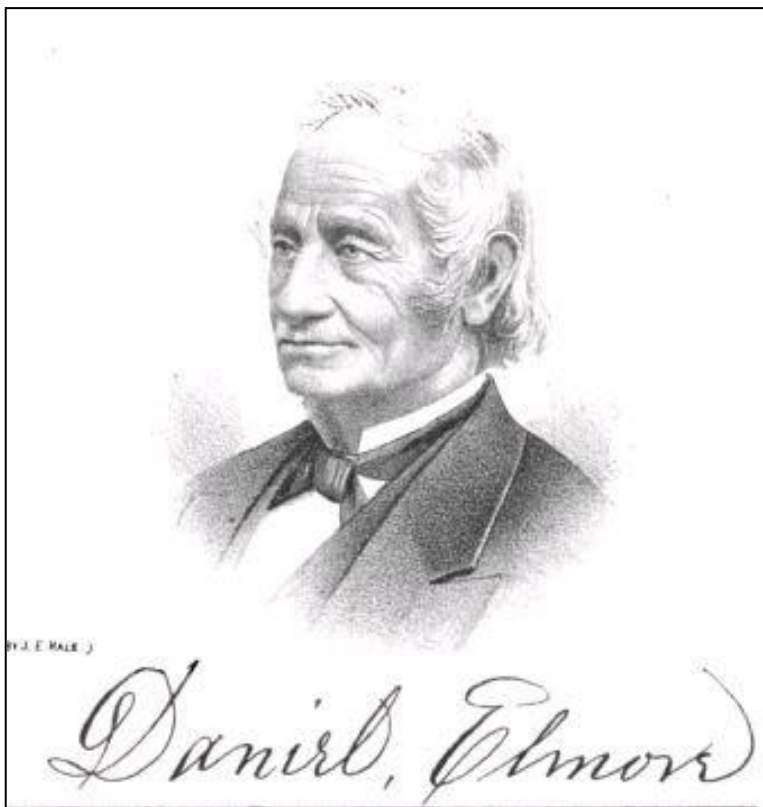
¹²Laning, *Northern Christian Advocate*, December 5, 1872, 1.

¹³Laning, *Northern Christian Advocate*, December 5, 1872, 1.

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Unfortunately, no early images of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville or descriptions of it have yet to be discovered, except for a vague reference to it being “the Old Colonial Church.”¹⁴ As the church membership continued to grow, a debate took place in 1851 over the question of selling the small church or remodeling it to fit present needs. In the end, the membership decided on remodeling and hired builder Daniel Elmore to do the work. Elmore (1805-1888) was originally from Spencertown in Columbia County, New York, where he was raised by his grandmother, having lost his parents at an early age. When he turned sixteen, he chose to apprentice as a carpenter. After five years, he moved to Albany, where he was employed by master-builder William James, but as a biographical account states, “preferring a country life, he was employed during the next decade in the practice of his trade in his native village.”¹⁵ In 1840, he moved from Warwarsing in



Ulster County to Trumansburg, along with his wife, Helena, and their five children. In addition to being a builder, he was also an ordained Methodist minister and “a strong advocate of the cause of temperance, and in 1878, was elected excise commissioner by a large majority.”¹⁶ Elmore died in 1888 and was buried in Grove Cemetery in Trumansburg. His known works included the 1854 Trumansburg Academy (no longer extant), the Second Baptist Church of Ulysses (1851, NR listed 2001), and, presumably, his Italianate style residence on South Street, as depicted in the 1879 *History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties, New York* (currently a funeral home).

Elmore may have been chosen for the work on the Jacksonville church due to being nearby in Trumansburg and for recently completing the Second Baptist Church of Ulysses, located on Congress Street in Trumansburg. The

¹⁴New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. *Former Methodist Episcopal Church Building Structure Inventory Form 10909.000055*, 1983/1997, 4.

¹⁵D. Hamilton Hurd and Henry, B. Pierce (Philadelphia, PA: Ensign & Everts, 1879), 550.

¹⁶Hurd and Pierce *History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties*, 550-551.

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Baptist church was a temple-fronted Greek Revival style building with four fluted columns across the façade supporting a pedimented roof with a raking cornice and a wide frieze decorated with triglyphs and metopes. It had tall, thin paired windows and two large entrances with paneled wooden doors set into shouldered surrounds, all classical features of the Greek Revival style that was popular in America from roughly 1825 through 1860.

As an architectural form, it represented American democratic ideals recognizing ancient Greece as the birthplace of democracy and expressed through the use of ancient Greek design features. This was bolstered further in the 1830s by American sympathy for the Greek struggle for independence against Turkey. Throughout the period, publications such as Asher Benjamin's book, *The Practical House Carpenter (1830)*, had an enormous influence in directing builders towards the Greek Revival style and away from the earlier, more British/Georgian classical styles. Asher Benjamin (1773-1845) was the first American-born author to publish builder's guides and pattern books, which were influential in bringing architectural history, style and technique to American builders in the early half of the nineteenth century. As representing American ideals, it was a style that would appeal to a Methodist congregation as being expressive of democracy and the common man.

Elmore's task was to take the old church and make it new again. Updates included a new roof and a second floor to accommodate the growing congregation. He strengthened the roof supports in the façade end to allow for a tower (removed at a later date). Elmore also used a roof support system similar to the one in the Baptist Church, with the Jacksonville church having double angled trusses with a central metal support rod connecting to the roof ridge. On the exterior, the new roof had a triangular closed gable end at the façade and cornice returns at the opposite end. A new entrance of large double doors was set into a surround of wide Doric order pilasters surmounted by a large entablature with a dentil molding and plain cornice. He also used the upper portions of the tall, narrow windows for natural lighting for what became the new, upper floor worship space that was laid out in the conventional arrangement of pulpit platform at one end and evenly spaced rows of pews facing the platform. As for decorative elements, Elmore added new, eared window moldings, paneled wainscoting and a large, curved crown molding throughout the upper room. To provide some protection for the clergy, he continued the wainscoting along both sides of the platform to prevent falling into the stairs on both sides.

Each corner at the entrance contained a wide staircase with deep treads and large winders, excellent for preventing tripping on the stairs as they ascended the corner. Elmore divided the first floor into three rooms: two

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
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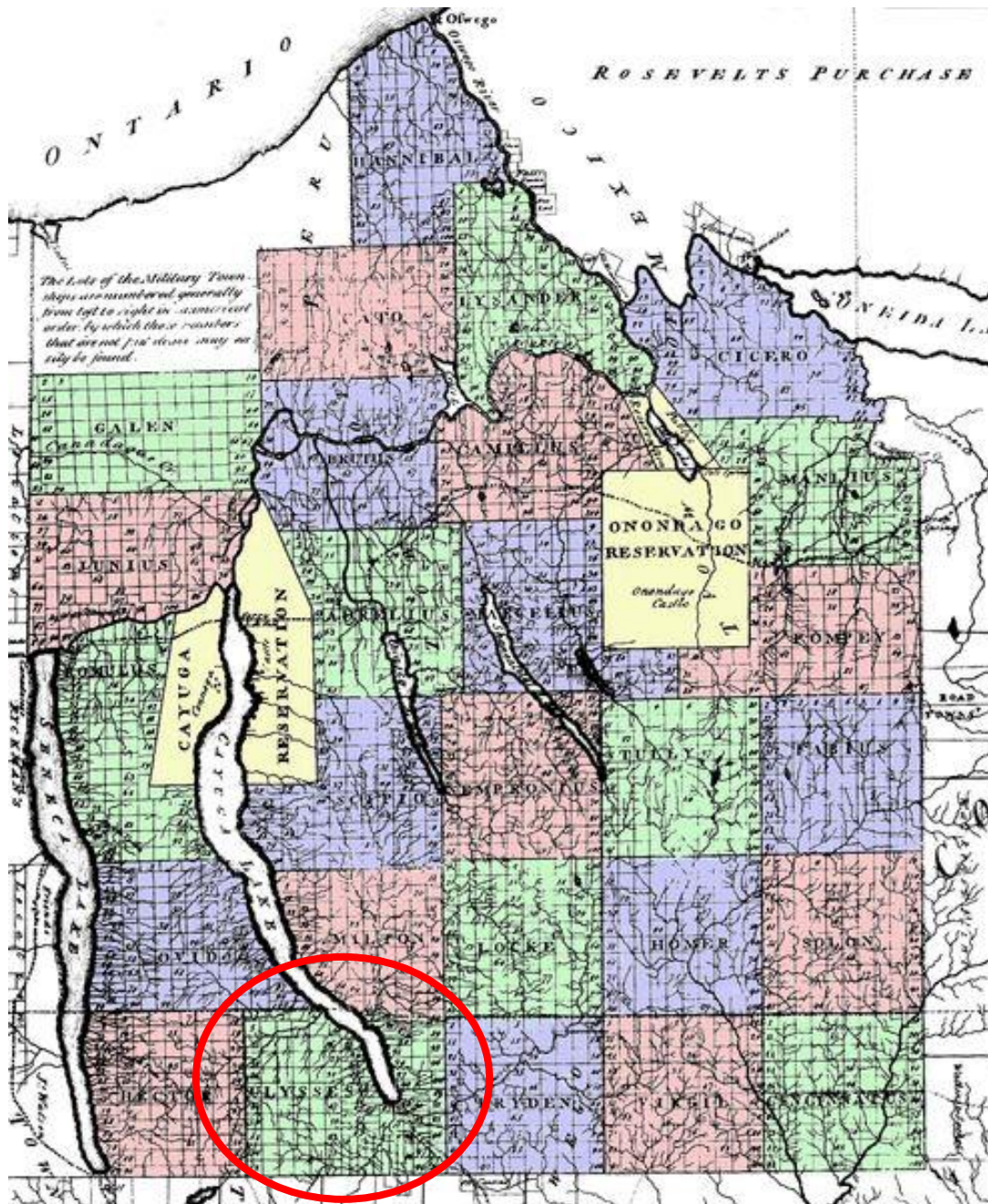
smaller rooms off the entrance that opened into one large open area. The larger space has six evenly placed, heavy turned floor-to-ceiling posts to support the new upper floor. The large space could be closed off by a set of large paneled doors, a feature he also used in the Trumansburg Baptist Church. Natural illumination came from reusing the lower portions of the windows, but the windows were fixed and retained only three rows of lights, instead of four. Two new windows were added in the rear wall, both double-hung sash to allow for ventilation.

The remodeled building served the Jacksonville congregation until the 1890s, when it decided to build a new building. Instead of demolishing the old structure, some of the local residents recognized that the building could be used as a much-needed public or town hall and formed the Jacksonville Public Hall Association in 1898. The association sold shares, initially for securing a location and preparing the building for being moved. It may have been at this time that the tower was removed from the front of the building. Preparations were finalized in December 1898 and the building was moved the following January to a small plot of land on the Jacksonville Road just east of the Trumansburg Road. It was used as village hall and community center, hosting meetings and various events (lectures, concerts, etc.). During this period side and rear entrances were added and the corner of the first floor enclosed, possibly for an office.

By 1959, the building was no longer needed as a public hall and was sold to a private owner who resold it in 1972. The new owners used the building as an antique store and residence until the 1980s when it became apartments (first floor) and a bait and tackle shop in the second floor. The building was purchased by Exxon Mobil around 1990 as part of a plan to deal with a massive gasoline spill from a station on Trumansburg Road. The company bought a number of impacted properties and began demolishing the buildings, but the former Jacksonville church was saved through the efforts of the Jacksonville Community Association. Abandoned for several years, the church was purchased by the Town of Ulysses from ExxonMobil in 2017 and put on the market. It was purchased in 2018 by a private owner and the town place a restrictive covenant on the property, ensuring that the building will remain part of the Jacksonville landscape.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
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Map of Military Tract

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
Name of Property

Tompkins County, NY
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
Name of Property

Tompkins County, NY
County and State

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Wigger, John H. "Taking Heaven by Storm: Enthusiasm and Early American Methodism, 1770-1820." *Journal of the Early Republic*, vol. 14, no. 2 (Summer 1994), 167-194. Online at [HTTPS://www.jstor.org/stable/3124220](https://www.jstor.org/stable/3124220).

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: Town of Ulysses Historian's office

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> Zone	<u>367362</u> Easting	<u>4707565</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> 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 boundary is the same as for the period of 1899 to the present, reflecting the historic move of the building and its location at the main crossroads in the hamlet of Jacksonville.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
Name of Property

Tompkins County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia L. Bartos, Ph.D., Historic Preservation Program Analyst
organization NYS OPRHP date September 20, 2018
street & number DHP-PIRC PO Box 189 telephone 518-268-2213
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail virginia.bartos@parks.ny.gov

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 2000x3000 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Tompkins State: New York

Photographer: Virginia L. Bartos (photos 0001-0007, 0010-0014)
Christine O'Malley, Historic Ithaca (Photos 0008-0009)

Date Photographed: August 1, 2018 and February 18, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0014: North and west elevation of church, view looking southeast from Jacksonville Rd.
- 0002 of 0014: North elevation/façade view looking south from Jacksonville Rd.
- 0003 of 0014: South and west elevations, view looking northeast.
- 0004 of 0014: South and east elevations, view looking northwest.
- 0005 of 0014: Detail view of main entrance door interior.
- 0006 of 0014: 1st floor hall, looking south from main entrance.
- 0007 of 0014: Detail view of 1st floor inner door, showing hardware.
- 0008 of 0014: Overview of first floor showing turned support posts, looking toward northeast room.
- 0009 of 0014: Detail view of northeast room.
- 0010 of 0014: Detail view of northwest room looking into north anteroom.
- 0011 of 0014: West stair to second floor.
- 0012 of 0014: Looking toward second floor northeast corner, showing platform, faux beam and low barrier to stairs.
- 0013 of 0014: Detail view of exposed roof framing, looking south.
- 0014 of 0014: Overview of second floor, looking south from platform.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
Name of Property

Tompkins County, NY
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Property Owner:

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

name N/A
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.).

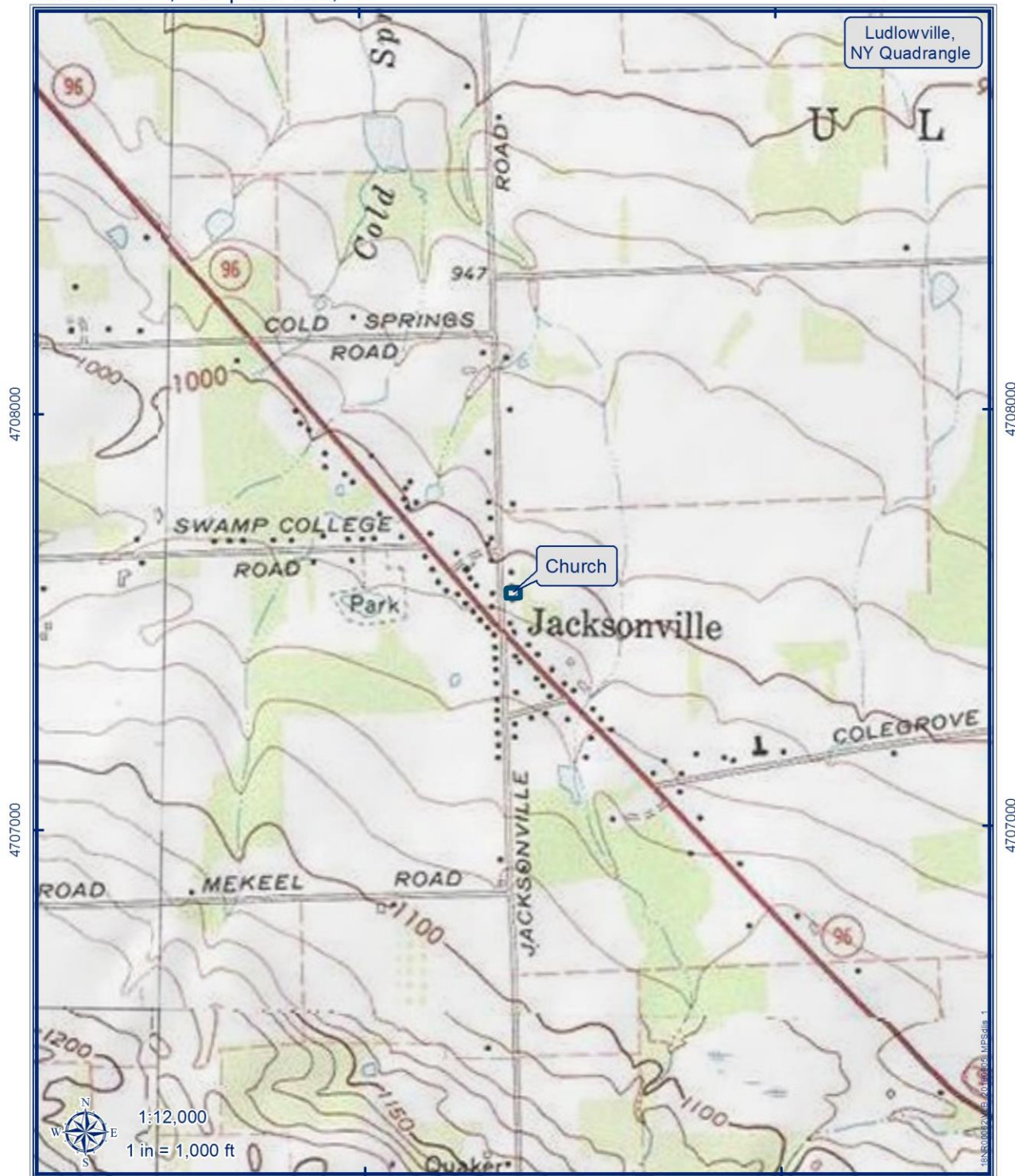
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
Name of Property

Tompkins County, NY
County and State

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
Jacksonville, Tompkins Co., NY

5020 Jacksonville Road
Jacksonville, NY 14886



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



Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville

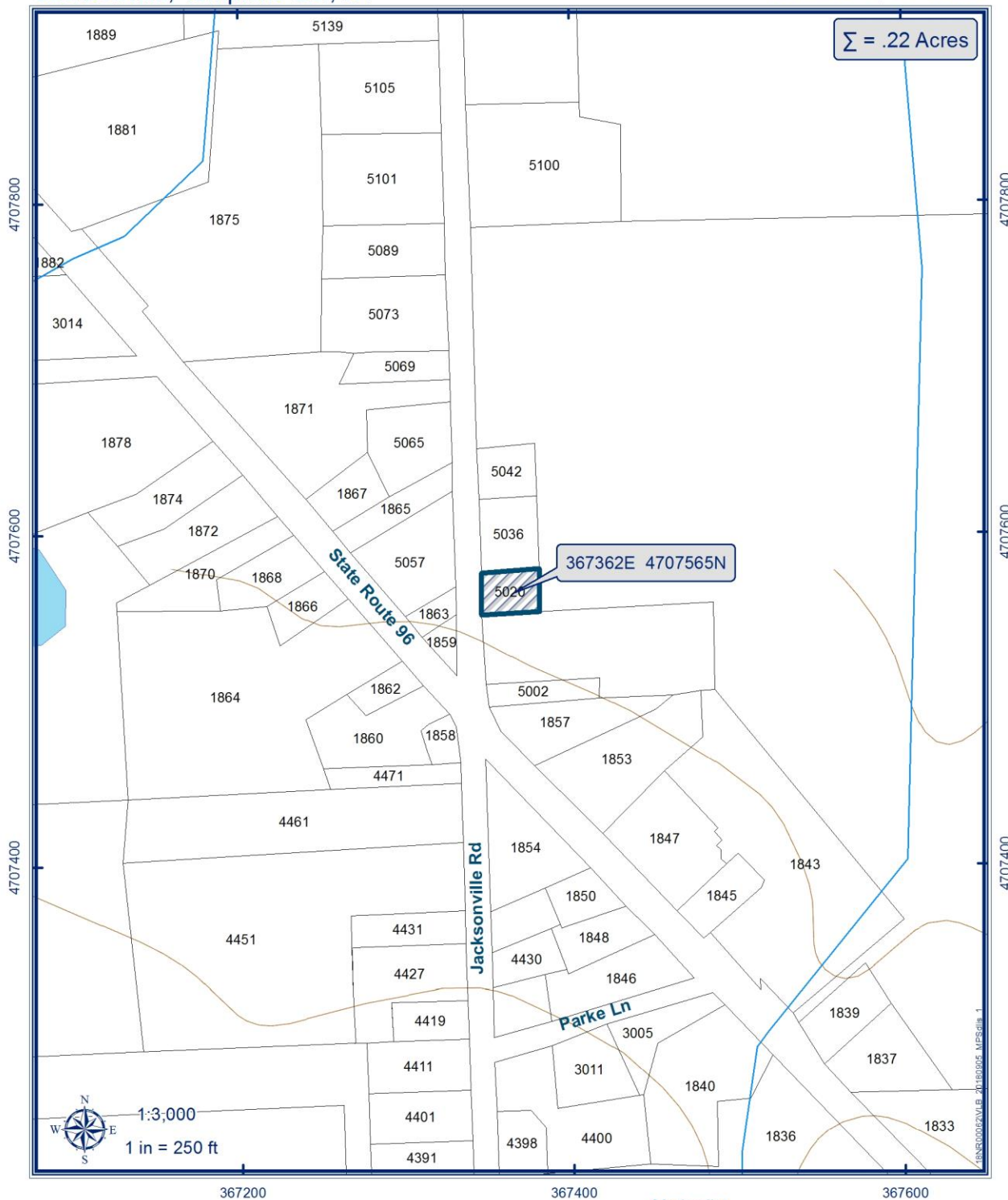
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
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Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville

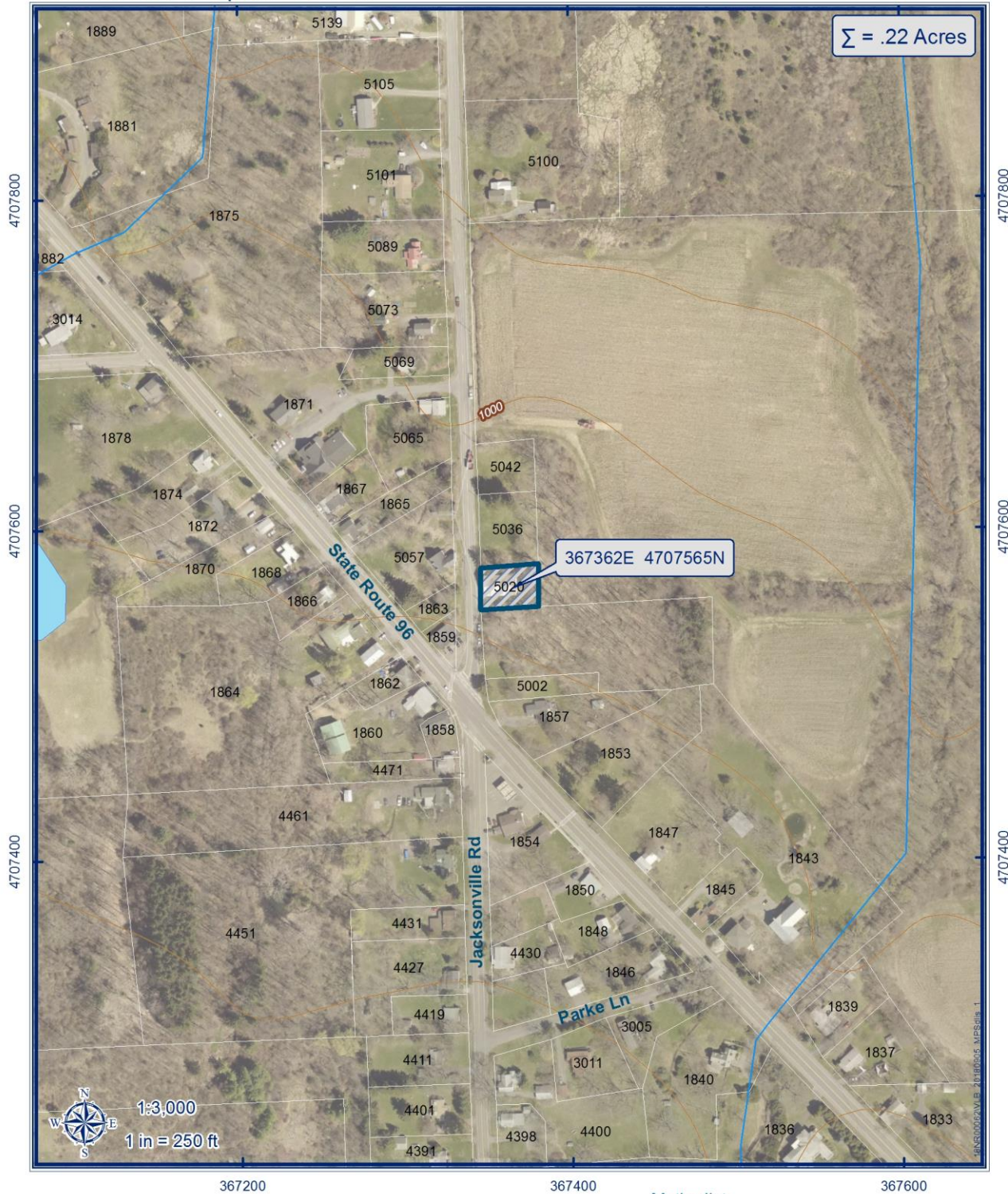


Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
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Tompkins County, NY
County and State

Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville
Jacksonville, Tompkins Co., NY

5020 Jacksonville Road
Jacksonville, NY 14886





5020

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Alternative
Waste
Services
607.564.7717



PRIVATE PROPERTY



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/2/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/25/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/9/2018 Date of 45th Day: 11/16/2018 Date of Weekly List: 11/9/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/9/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



27 September 2018

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following eight nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Norwich Pharmacal Company Warehouse, Chenango County
Christ Church, Nassau County
First Reformed Church of College Point, Queens County
First African Methodist Episcopal Church: Bethel, New York County
North Park Branch Library, Erie County
Methodist Episcopal Church of Jacksonville, Tompkins County
Chandler Street Industrial Buildings, Erie County
Abingdon and New Abingdon Apartments, Jefferson County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office