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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG - 7 2015

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMPLEX

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 22 CHURCH STREET

not for publication

city or town GOUVERNEUR

vicinity

state NEW YORK code NY county ST. LAWRENCE code 089

zip code 13642

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Ruth A Purpont DSHPD 7/21/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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):

Joe Edsen H. Beall 9.17.15
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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility, church-related residence

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility
RECREATION & CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque, Queen Anne,
Colonial Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
 walls: STONE, BRICK

 roof: METAL, ASPHALT
 other: GLASS, WOOD

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The First Presbyterian Church Complex, consisting of the ca. 1893 First Presbyterian Church and the adjacent 1904 manse, is located in the Village of Gouverneur, St. Lawrence County, New York. Built with walls of Gouverneur marble, this imposing Romanesque Revival building is distinguished by its large scale, accomplished stone work, well-rendered detail, and, on the interior, by its expansive auditorium-plan worship space, the ceiling of which is spanned by expressed framing, and the Akron-plan relationship between this space and the adjacent chapel and classrooms. The façade features two hip-roofed bell towers, one of which rises 90 feet to its culmination, these framing an entrance loggia behind which rises a broad gable punctuated by a large semi-circular window that forms the upper portion of a larger Palladian motif. Though rendered without polychromy, some aspects of the stonework, such as the checkerboard pattern-work over the round-arched central bay of the loggia and the vertical window bands of the east tower, intimate the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style; the walls were laid up in rough-hewn, random-range ashlar, which is contrasted with smoother finished dressings employed for lintels and the voussoirs used to form the arches. The building was built on a modified cruciform plan with an intersecting gable roof, the façade facing northwards and a chapel and classrooms at the west end. The majority of the interior first-floor plan is given over to the worship space, laid out in the auditorium manner with a downward sloping floor and semicircular seating bisected by aisles which terminate in front of the dais, behind which rises a pipe organ installed in 1920. The balance of the plan is given over to the chapel, classrooms, a kitchenette, and circulation. The basement includes additional space, including offices, a library and conference room, and a large assembly room. As with the exterior, the interior is highly intact and retains most all of its historic-era plan as well as its finishes, including period plaster, woodwork and stained glass. In addition to the church, this nomination includes the adjacent 1904 manse, which is no longer associated with the church and which now functions as a local history museum. Both are contributing features of the nomination. These two buildings continue to stand as testament to the First Presbyterian Church's history in Gouverneur and represent the height of the congregation's architectural ambitions.

Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The nominated complex is located on the south side of Church Street, a small spur street located east of William Street (State Route 58) and south of East Main Street (U.S. Route 11), in the Village of Gouverneur, St. Lawrence County, New York. A short distance to the east, across William Street, is the Oswegatchie River, which U.S. Route 11 (West Main Street) crosses before continuing its southwesterly course. To the immediate north of the nominated resources is a small landscaped park the dimensions of which are defined to the south by Church Street, to the north by East Main Street, and the east by Grove Street. Both the church and manse are oriented with their facades facing northwards and are set back from Church Street, the intervening area occupied by manicured lawn, ornamental shrubbery and Japanese maple trees. Opposite the park, on the north side of East Main Street, is a long continuous row of nineteenth century commercial buildings which spans from Clinton Street (State Route 58) eastwards to Park Street. Walkways approach the principal entrances to both buildings from the public sidewalk aligning Church Street, in addition to a third one which runs between the buildings, while a driveway on the west side of the church provides access to a parking lot situated behind the church. To the east, beyond John Street, are two additional religious buildings, the historic First Baptist Church and, fronting on Grove Street, a Methodist church.

Church, 1892-93 (contributing building)

Synopsis: The First Presbyterian Church is a load-bearing masonry structure, built on a modified cruciform plan with a cross-gabled roof, with milled wood interior framing components. Masonry consists of both rough-hewn and smoothly dressed Gouverneur marble—referred to variously as “St. Lawrence” or “Whitney”

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marble—which was noted for a number of exceptional qualities relative to its durability and aesthetic appeal. The walls were laid up in random-range ashlar pattern and the original mortar joints appear to have had white lime pointing. Exterior detailing is in a late nineteenth century Romanesque vein, with indicators of the influence of that particular manifestation of the style developed by architect H.H. Richardson. The asymmetrical façade is distinguished by its twin-towered composition and entrance loggia with prominent central round-arched bay. The interior plan includes a basement with social/service areas, while the principal floor includes a large worship space, a chapel, and classrooms. An auditorium arrangement was employed for the worship space, the floor sloping downwards towards a broad raised dais, which is situated against the east wall and framed at its rear by a large pipe organ; seating consists of slip pews arranged in a characteristic semi-circular manner. The ceiling of the worship space is spanned by exposed framing consisting of scissor trusses and purlins, and is provided with natural light on the north and south walls by stained glass windows arranged as a modified Palladian motif. To the west of the worship space is a chapel, which has clerestory lighting and around which is clustered a series of classrooms, in addition to a kitchenette and a hall that communicates with the west entrance tower.

Exterior: The façade consists of the gable corresponding with the north wall of the worship space, it being fronted by the entrance loggia, with towers flanking it to the east and west, both hip-roofed and built on a square plan. The eastern tower is the taller of the two, rising some 90' in height, and distinguished on its east, north and west elevations by the arrangement of windows as tripartite vertical bands interrupted at two points by smoothly dressed horizontal bands, which are also present at the base and terminus of this feature, and by the Romanesque arches which mark the bell stage and which are enclosed with louvers; a square billet moulding frieze forms part of the terminal cornice, and it appears carved gargoyles once embellished the four corners above cornice level, only one of which (at the southeast corner) remains in place. The west tower, which is shorter than its opposite counterpart, is engaged by a circular-plan feature with conical roof at its northwest corner, providing further complexity to the façade composition. Its upper stage is handled on the east, north and west elevations as a recessed panel within which is centered a paired window, the two units of which are separated by a Romanesque column, the whole spanned by a smoothly dressed lintel. The terminal cornice on this tower features larger and smaller square billet mouldings, with a similar device being employed as a continuous band below the upper windows. Windows, like those in the east tower, are fitted with stained glass with rectilinear leading. The hipped roofs of the two towers are slate with copper flashing, while the smaller conical roof is covered with standing-seam metal and terminated by a pressed-copper finial. Pressed-copper finials also terminate the towers, the taller eastern one being surmounted by a wrought-iron finial.

The entrance loggia, approached by a tall flight of stone steps, has five round-arched bays, a larger central bay which is flanked by smaller paired bays. The voussoirs forming the arches are smoothly dressed, and above the central bay is a checkerboard-pattern frieze within which is centered a panel which carries the carved inscription "FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" in raised lettering against a bush-hammered background. Rounded features with acorn-form finials terminate this central frieze and distinguish it from the flanking sections, which are lower and embellished with a square billet frieze. The loggia partially screens the lower portion of what is internally expressed as a modified Palladian window, the large upper portion of which rises behind it on the north gable, which has a squared terminus with checkerboard patterning. The principal entrances to the interior correspond with the towers and consist of double-leaf hardwood doors which have surface-mounted strap hinges of foliate inspiration.

The west elevation corresponds with the chapel and classrooms and presents as a two-story elevation with a clerestory level above, the roof on this elevation terminated in a half-hip, unlike the remaining roof sections, which terminate in gables. Fenestration on this elevation is rendered as tripartite units spanned by rectangular lintels, the upper windows being taller and divided into larger and smaller units by a horizontal transom bar. The lower range of windows correspond with the basement while the upper windows light the classrooms; the

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clerestory, recessed behind the plane of the stone wall, consists of a continuous ribbon fitted with square-shaped units with horizontal transom bar. The area between the stone wall and the clerestory is covered by a low-pitched hipped roof which is presently clad with rubber membrane. The principal roof is covered with asphalt.

The principal feature of the south elevation is the broad gable that corresponds with the south wall of the worship space. Centered within it is the modified Palladian motif, consisting of a large round upper arch, below which is a band of four windows, these being flanked by an additional window to either side. The gable on this elevation rises to a point and is not squared as it is on the opposite, north, elevation. A large stone chimney of square plan rises to the west of this gable. As for the east elevation, it is the most utilitarian of the four, and it is in large measure defined by the broad gable corresponding with the east wall of the worship space and includes an at-grade entrance to the church office.

Interior: The plan at first-story level is largely given over to the worship space, which occupies a position on the east side of the plan. There are two points of access to it from the north loggia, via vestibules positioned in the base of the towers. The west vestibule additionally communicates with a hallway that opens into the chapel and also provides access to a circular stair that leads downward to basement level and which is located within the rounded feature that is engaged with the west tower. The worship space and chapel can be opened up to one another, or otherwise segregated, by means of sliding partitions, a distinctive aspect of Akron-plan religious design, while the worship space, the floor of which slopes downward from the chapel towards the dais and has semi-circular seating, embodies the principles of the so-called auditorium plan. The chapel ("Leak chapel"), conceived originally as a session room, is roughly rectangular in plan and aligned on its north, west and south sides by classrooms, and there is additionally a small kitchenette accessible from it. As for the basement, it includes office space and an assembly area, the latter situated beneath the chapel. There is additionally a library and conference room, referred to as the Westminster room.

The worship space contrasts historic-period plaster and wood finishes; principal character-defining features are the Palladian-inspired windows—which are fitted with stained glass, the upper arched sections having curvilinear tracery—and the ceiling, which features the exposed lower portions of two large scissor trusses which are longitudinally aligned in relation to the principal elevation. The trusses, embellished with Romanesque detailing, sustain a series of transverse purlins, with the ceiling surface being formed of narrow-width wood boards, the framing and boarding being more deeply stained than the other woodwork, namely the wainscot, pews, and doors, much of which was fashioned from chestnut. Wall finish consists of smooth plaster above bead-board vertical wood wainscot. Pews are of a semicircular slip type with scrolled armrests. The focal point of the worship space is the raised dais against the east wall, which is framed by a large semi-circular opening which houses the pipe organ, installed in 1920 and first used in September of that year.

Communication between the worship space and chapel (former session room) is controlled by means of sliding glazed and paneled wood partitions, each individual leaf of which consists of two rectangular wood panels, above which are two larger, square-shaped glazed panels consisting of stained glass. The chapel contrasts wood and plaster finishes; the wall between it and the flanking classrooms reads as a paneled wood screen fitted with colored glass in a rectilinear pattern, the doors having paneling with frosted glazed panels above. This wall screen is terminated by a moulded wood cornice. As for the ceiling, it consists of expressed framing components and thin-width wood boards. Immediately below ceiling level is the clerestory window band that provides natural light to this space.

The basement level includes the large room underneath the chapel, which has a carpeted floor and dropped acoustic tile ceiling; its west wall is occupied by large window bands with inward splayed jambs and is finished with plaster.

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Manse, 1904 (contributing building)

The First Presbyterian Church's manse, which in 1974 was sold to the Gouverneur Historical Society and now functions as a museum, is a Queen Anne-inspired dwelling erected with load-bearing masonry walls consisting of yellow pressed brick with rough-hewn dressings of Gouverneur marble. The building was erected on a roughly square-shaped plan with a round three-story tower and verandah corresponding with the façade and a one-story projection at the rear. The composition includes gables on the façade and west elevations, which intersect the tall hipped or pavilion-type roof that covers the principal section; three-sided bay windows correspond with the gables, both of which rise to a squared apex. The front verandah is deep and spans most of that elevation, including the tower, and is sustained by unfluted Tuscan columns of Gouverneur marble, which are footed on a low wall of random-range Gouverneur marble. Cornices—inclusive of those corresponding with the porch, bay windows, and tower—are wood and have widely spaced modillions. Smoothly dressed Gouverneur marble was employed as copping for the two gables. Windows are fitted with replacement sash though the one-over-one configuration likely matches the original configuration, thereby lessening the aesthetic impact. Roofing consists of brown asphalt shingling, except the conical roof of the tower, which is covered with standing-seam metal and surmounted by a globe finial. The one-story rear wing, which dates to the original construction campaign, is of frame construction with a hipped roof.

The interior plan and finishes are, like those of the church, largely intact. Both plaster and wood finishes are largely intact; the latter, while of a somewhat generic Late Victorian character, might most accurately be termed Colonial Revival in nature. These include the principal staircase, with its newel post with fluting, a fireplace with paneled and bracketed frieze, and the window casings, which are treated as paneled pilasters spanned by simple entablatures.

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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

1892- 1920

Significant Dates

1892-93; 1904; 1920

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.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Badgley, Sidney Rose; architect

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, 1892-1920, is initiated with the construction of the church and includes the construction of the adjacent manse in 1904. It additionally includes the installation of the present pipe organ in 1920, the terminal date.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The church has functioned continuously as a place of worship since it was built; as such, Criteria Consideration A has been cited.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The First Presbyterian Church Complex is an exceptional architectural resource located in the Village of Gouverneur, St. Lawrence County, New York. The church, designed by the Cleveland, Ohio-based architect Sidney Rose Badgley and completed in 1893, was the third house-of-worship erected for this congregation, following those previously built on the same property ca. 1820 and 1844. Badgley, a native of Ontario, Canada, was a prolific architect who executed commissions in both his native country and the United States, and whose American work is most closely associated with the City of Cleveland. The nominated church is representative, stylistically, of the Romanesque Revival style, with palpable indicators of the influence of architect H.H. Richardson's personal interpretation of this mode, and is additionally significant for its interior, which incorporates distinctive elements of both the auditorium and Akron plans, which were popular in this era of ecclesiastical design and characteristic features of churches designed by Badgley. Heightening the effect of the building's imposing scale and fully developed design was its construction with locally quarried Gouverneur marble, a regional stone known for its tremendous quality and durability. The commercial quarrying of this distinctive stone represented one aspect of the region's remarkable mineral wealth, which brought prosperity to Gouverneur in this era. The sophistication of the church's design was not lost on period observers in St. Lawrence County, as noted in an account offered at the time the building was dedicated, "It is an ornament to the village and should be an object of pride to the entire county." It remains remarkably intact, inside and out, to the date of its erection at the end of the nineteenth century, with minimal alterations. In addition to the church, this nomination includes the adjacent manse, which was built in 1904 and which offers itself as an example of Queen Anne-style domestic design. Like the church, it is highly intact and retains most of its original character-defining architectural features. The property is being nominated in association with Criterion C, in the area of architecture, as both buildings are highly intact specimens of their representative type, period and style. The church's significance in this context is manifold; it embodies any number of principles of large-scale Late Victorian-era religious design, with its Romanesque styling, aspects of both the auditorium and Akron plans, and as an important example of the work of Canadian-born architect Sidney R. Badgley.

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

Historic Context

Gouverneur was erected as a town in 1810, though subsequently reduced in scale in 1841, with the creation of Macomb. Its lands were first patented to Alexander Macomb in 1787, after which it passed through various owners to Gouverneur Morris, whose name it bears. The town features varied topography and is traversed by the Oswegatchie River, upon the banks of which the present-day village of Gouverneur was established. Settlement was initiated after 1800, under leadership of Dr. Richard Townsend, who served as a land agent for Morris. Many of the first pioneers of what was known at that time as Cambray, among them Townsend, came to the region from Washington County, New York. By 1809 a saw and grist mill had been erected on behalf of Morris within the town, known for a time as Morris's mills, and that same year the first district school was opened, tangible evidence of advancement from a primitive state. This area remained a veritable frontier in the first decade of the nineteenth century, where encounters with wolves and bears were frequent: the bear "trampled down and carried off the corn, stole maple sugar when left in the bush, stuck his nose and paw into boiling syrup, tipped over sap troughs, and carried off pigs, calves and lambs."¹ Log buildings predominated at an early date, with the first frame house being built for Dr. John Spencer by Rockwell Barnes and Isaac Austen, the former a renowned early builder who arrived in this area in 1808 and subsequently erected many mills and other buildings in that vicinity.

¹ Curtis Gates, ed., *Our Country and its People: A Memorial Record of St. Lawrence County, New York* (Boston, MA: Boston History Company, 1894), chapter XXXII.

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Gouverneur's location near the Canadian frontier brought tremendous foreboding for citizens with the onset of the War of 1812 and necessitated the erection of a block house and a stockade, though the threat of enemy incursion there never materialized. By 1816 the village population numbered nearly 200 inhabitants; however, growth tailed off for a period until picking up again after 1830. Agriculture in the outlying areas followed a characteristic pattern, with dairying eventually becoming the principal focus of regional farms as the cultivation of cereal grains became less important. Cheese-making was an important industry in the post-Civil War period, the first commercial operation being established in 1869 by A. G. Gillette.

The Village of Gouverneur was formally incorporated in 1850 and developed on both banks of the Oswegatchie River, which was first spanned by a bridge in 1808. Located at the center of the town, the village developed as a small commercial center where staple farm products such as potash, maple sugar and other products were marketed for shipment to outlying areas. In 1814 a fulling mill was established, encouraging the local sheep husbandry. A distillery was also established around this time, though, as noted by historian Curtis Gates, "What the effect of the distillery alone may have been on the morals of the community, we cannot say, but it was not beneficial, according to the recollection of the older inhabitants." The first saw mill was established in the village in 1815, its site in later years occupied by a sash and blind factory and a planing mill, and the first grist mill was erected for Israel Porter around 1820.²

The First Presbyterian Church of Gouverneur was the second religious group formed in Gouverneur, following the First Baptist Church, established in 1811 by Baptists from Washington County. It was organized in 1817 as a mixed Presbyterian-Congregational organization and remained as such until 1863, when it fully assumed a Presbyterian character. The Reverend Nathaniel Dutton of Champion, Jefferson County, was a principal figure in this group's formation, having served as a missionary to this end. Formal incorporation occurred in 1820, and in that year the group's first meetinghouse was begun, believed to have been the work of builder Rockwell Barnes; it was not completed until 1824—"the house was long enclosed before the inner part was finished...how the wind whistled through the crevices..."—its costs largely borne by subscription. Land for the building was acquired from the Morris family through the exertions of Dr. John Spencer, a church trustee. The Reverend John Murdock was the first regular pastor.³ The year 1825 was an important one for the church, given the series of revival services conducted by the evangelist Charles G. Finney, which helped account for a swell in membership. The first meetinghouse remained in service until 1844, at which time it was replaced by a more finished and commodious building that served as a bridge between the first and present edifices. The 1844 building was updated on a number of occasions, including in 1866, the year the group's first parsonage was built.

In 1843 some members left to organize a fully Congregational Society, the Second Congregational Church of Gouverneur, to distinguish it from the original group, the Presbyterian Congregational Church. This off-shoot was short lived and disbanded in 1862, at which time many rejoined the original church, the balance affiliating themselves with the Methodists. By this time the complexion of the church had changed to a largely Presbyterian complexion, influenced by an influx of Scotch Presbyterians and the weakening of the Congregational aspect with the formation of the separate Congregational church. In 1863, during the pastorate of Baruch Beckwith, the church became wholly Presbyterian and abandoned its Congregational features. One nineteenth-century source suggests the motives behind this denominational redefinition may have been in part financial: "The time arrived when it became necessary to repair and refurnish the [1844] church, and it was

² Ibid

³ Jane Ann Williams Parker, *A History, Gouverneur: Its Past and Present* (Gouverneur Free Press, 1890), 29.

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intimated that if the name was changed to Presbyterian, the means to make the repairs would be readily furnished.”⁴

Architectural Analysis

The group’s first building, erected 1820-24 at a cost of \$1,200, was a roughly 30’ by 50’ heavy frame building, with galleries present on three sides of the worship space. Though incomplete, it was first used as a place of assembly in 1821, albeit with a certain level of comfort absent. This building continued in service until 1844, at which time the organization’s second building was completed. Measuring 60’ by 40’, the new building cost \$3,500, and aspects of its architecture can be gleaned from historic images. Although built near the mid-point of the nineteenth century, the building nevertheless was conceived along the lines of the Wren-Gibbs meetinghouse as popularized during the first decades of that century by architect Asher Benjamin, whose 1797 book, *The Country Builder’s Assistant*, offered a similar representation of the type. The similarities between the Benjamin plate and the 1844 church’s massing are uncanny, in terms of the use of a projecting central pavilion motif and the arrangement and massing of the bell tower. Two entrances of distinctively Greek Revival character provided entrance to the building’s interior from the center pavilion, which was spanned by stairs. It was by all indications an extremely conservative design for its date and one rooted in an earlier period of American religious design. One local observer, writing in 1917, noted somewhat wryly that “The Romanesque or Gothic in church architecture was slow in reaching these wilds, and this meetinghouse was, perhaps, the squarest building ever designed.”⁵ In 1866 the meetinghouse received modifications, notably the addition of pews, but largely functioned and appeared as first built, “with only occasional repairs.”⁶

The present building was erected between 1892 and 1893, during the pastorate of Reverend William F. Skinner, who led Gouverneur’s First Presbyterian Church between the years 1887 and 1929. The construction campaign was coincidental with a period of relative prosperity in the region, largely on account of its abundant natural resources. As noted by the historian Jane Ann W. Parker, writing around the time of the building’s erection, “The mineral resources of Gouverneur are of world-wide reputation.” This area of St. Lawrence County is marked by the presence of iron ore, lead, silver, mica, soapstone, granite, and marble, and all were quarried or mined in the region. Gouverneur marble, which forms the walls of the church, was a product in great demand in this era, having been used sporadically at an early date and first sawn in 1825 at a mill in Hailesboro.⁷ While first used for only local purposes, including headstones and architectural components, by 1880 commercial quarrying had begun, and the material was being shipped to distant locales such as Chicago, Illinois, for construction projects. Of the Gouverneur marble industry Parker noted that it had “...opened a fountain of wealth without a rival in Northern New York.”⁸

Plans for the new building were well underway by 1891. The following account was published in Ogdensburg’s *Daily Journal* in September of that year:

PLANS for the new Presbyterian church in Gouverneur, have been submitted by an architect named Badgley, of Cleveland, O., and were accepted by the church at a meeting held Monday evening. The building is to be 110 feet long and 100 feet wide, with a tower about 90 feet in height. It is to stand on the old site and will cost about \$35,000.⁹

⁴ Ibid, 37-38; Gates, *Our Country*.

⁵ Sarah H.A. Parker, *A Brief Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church; Written in Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Organization of this Church, May 24, 1817* (Gouverneur: The Cox Press, 1918).

⁶ Gates, *Our Country*.

⁷ Parker, *A History*, 61.

⁸ Ibid, 61-62.

⁹ *The Daily Journal* (Ogdensburg), 21 September 1891.

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The architect of the First Presbyterian Church, Sidney Rose Badgley (1850-1917), was a native of Ernestown, Ontario, Canada. He apprenticed in the architectural office of R.C. Windeyer in Toronto before relocating to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was active from 1887 to 1916. From 1904 to 1913 he worked in partnership with William H. Nicklas, who had formerly served as a draftsman in the Badgley office. Badgley's work is well represented in Cleveland but he also executed commissions outside of Ohio; buildings erected to his designs are also to be found in Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, New York, Michigan, Rhode Island and Tennessee, in addition to the provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec in Canada. Ecclesiastical design was a particular specialty of Badgley and formed the focus of his sometime professional association with Nicklas. While no longer extant, Badgley's design for the Epworth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church in Cleveland, ca. 1893, a design contemporaneous with the Gouverneur building, was noted for its innovative use of steel domes unsupported by intermediate columns. For the Pilgrim Congregational Church, ca. 1894 and also in Cleveland, the auditorium and Sunday school rooms could communicate with one another by means of moveable partitions. Both it and Epworth Memorial featured similar plans, the worship space being of the auditorium type and communicating, as needed, with an adjacent Sunday school area. Eric Johannesen, in *Cleveland Architecture, 1876-1976*, indicated Badgley's direct role in the innovation of this particular plan, an Akron plan variant, as it related to Pilgrim Congregational: "This widely adopted idea was claimed to have been originated 'in its typical and successful application' by the architect..."¹⁰ The first example of the Akron plan appeared in the First Methodist Church there, built ca. 1867, whereby classrooms were clustered around the periphery of the sanctuary but could be opened or closed as needed. Badgley offered his own account of the advantages of the Akron plan in its various manifestations in an essay entitled "The Evolution of a School of Religion," published in 1917.¹¹ The auditorium-plan church also became popular in this era, predicated on the semi-circular arrangement of seating oriented towards a broad dais and built with a sloping floor so as to allow for improved sight lines. It is a type directly associated with the delivery of the spoken word and one that shares associations with large urban congregations. The renovated worship space at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Manhattan, New York, ca. 1850, offered itself as an influential early model, and the type was popularized subsequently by architects such as Lawrence B. Valk, a well-known ecclesiastical designer.

A survey of Badgley's contemporary work from this period indicates an eclectic tendency common in the Late Victorian era; for his religious work the prevailing stylistic theme was Romanesque, and there is abundant evidence of Henry Hobson Richardson's influence. For the First United Presbyterian Church in Cleveland he designed a building in the Romanesque Revival style with indicators of Richardsonian influence, which is also felt on the Gouverneur church.¹² Pilgrim Congregational reveals similar influences, the imprint of Richardson being particularly manifest in the handling of the bell tower. For the Epworth Memorial building, the architect turned to a design described as of "modernized Byzantine" form, but with architectural detailing in a mixed Romanesque-Renaissance vein, "assembled with little regard for purist consistency."¹³ While not an ecclesiastical work, Badgley's Massey Music Hall, Toronto, ca. 1894, is of an entirely different character, having a Palladian-inspired Neoclassical exterior which was combined with a distinctive Neo-Moorish interior.

For the Gouverneur church Badgley framed an entrance loggia on the façade with flanking towers of differing height, the verticality of the taller tower being emphasized by narrow vertical bands, a variation of a device used by Richardson; the checkerboard pattern work employed on the tower and above the entrance bay, which is subtly polychromatic with marble of varying light and dark hues, is another Richardsonian device. Though a

¹⁰Eric Johannesen, *Cleveland Architecture, 1876-1976* (Western Ohio Historical Society, 1979), 51-53.

¹¹*The Sunday School Journal*, vol. 49, no. 1 (January 1917), 6-15.

¹²Foster Armstrong et al, *A guide to Cleveland's Sacred Landmarks* (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1992), 27.

¹³Johannesen, *Cleveland*, 52-53.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMPLEX

Name of Property

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County and State

design of largely Romanesque lines, the architect employed modified Palladian windows as an important aspect of the interior design and as the principal sources of natural light for the worship space, corresponding with the north and south walls. While rendered in light gray-blue marble with only subtle color variation, the richness of texture and solidity of the stone work—along with the massive entrance arch centered within the loggia—reflect Richardsonian influence but at the same time relate the building to its particular location in a way other materials could not. The plan of the nominated church was well regarded and appeared, along with other Badgley designs, in a discussion of various Akron and auditorium-plan variations in *The Architectural Record* in 1916.¹⁴

The First Presbyterian Church of Gouverneur was dedicated on October 31, 1893, a day described in the *Daily Journal* as “long looked forward to and long to be remembered by the members.” A few brief descriptions of the “present magnificent structure,” albeit flawed in its understanding of the building’s stylistic attributes, followed:

The church was begun one year and a half ago. It is built of Gouverneur marble, rough ashlar, with patent hammered trimmings. It is Gothic in its architecture and quite imposing... The building will seat eight to ten hundred. It is so constructed that the session room can be thrown open and utilized with the audience room. Its cost was in the neighborhood of \$60,000. It is an ornament to the village and should be an object of pride to the entire county.

The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Reverend Henry Stebbins of Rochester, “a pleasant and forcible speaker,” and the ceremonies included religious leaders from Gouverneur’s other congregations in addition to some from out of town. Afterwards a banquet “was served by the ladies of the church in the commodious parlors in the basement, with over 200 in attendance, which was followed by a keynote address delivered by Dr. L. Merrill Miller. The church survives largely as dedicated in 1893, notwithstanding the installation of the present pipe organ in 1920 and a general renovation campaign undertaken ca. 1950-51 under the direction of architect Robert Witt.

In addition to the church, the nominated property also includes the former manse, which was placed in service in 1904 and which has served as a museum since 1974. Erected with pressed brick and Gouverneur marble dressings, the building is a representation of Queen Anne-style residential design as expressed in its rounded corner tower and complex roof plan consisting of a tall hip intersected by gabled sections. The earlier manse, erected in the 1860s, was not demolished but instead moved to a new location on John Street. This move and the preparations for it were a source of much curiosity, with an observer noting wittily in the *St. Lawrence Weekly Democrat*, “It is recommended that the army of lookers-on and volunteer directors should take the building on their shoulders and carry it to the wall which has long awaited its arrival.” The construction costs associated with the project were sustained by Mrs. Myra Dean and her daughters. It was noted in a centenary history of the church, published in 1917 and authored by Sarah Parker, that in 1904 the church property “was enriched and beautified by a new parsonage... a modern convenient house built of brick, with trimmings of Gouverneur marble.” The construction of the manse in 1904 brought to a close a 12-year period during which time the First Presbyterian Church of Gouverneur brought their architectural ambitions to realization.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

N/A

¹⁴Richard F. Bach, “Church Planning in the United States,” *The Architectural Record*, vol. XL, no. 6 (December 1916).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMPLEX
 Name of Property

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 County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Armstrong, Foster et al, *A Guide to Cleveland's Sacred Landmarks*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1992.
- Bach, Richard F. "Church Planning in the United States." *The Architectural Record*, vol. XL, no. 6 (December 1916).
- Gates, Curtis, ed. *Our Country and its People: A Memorial Record of St. Lawrence County, New York*. Boston, MA: Boston History Company, 1894.
- Johannesen, Eric. *Cleveland Architecture, 1876-1976*. Western Ohio Historical Society, 1979.
- Parker, Jane Ann Williams. *A History, Gouverneur: Its Past and Present*. Gouverneur Free Press, 1890.
- Parker, Sarah H.A. *A Brief Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church; Written in Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Organization of this Church, May 24, 1817*. Gouverneur: The Cox Press, 1918.

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.0 acre
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>462666</u> Easting	<u>4909164</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 for this NRHP nomination is depicted on the enclosed maps, all of which are entitled "First Presbyterian Church Complex, Gouverneur, St. Lawrence County, NY," and which were drawn at a scale of 1:24,000; 1: 12,000; 1: 2,600; and 1: 2,400.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes two separate tax parcels, that of the church and that of the former manse, the latter which now functions as a museum. These represent the historic extent of the complex during the cited period of significance. No additional land has been included.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMPLEX
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ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date April 2015
street & number PO Box 189, Peebles Island State Park telephone (518) 268-2167
city or town Waterford State NY zip code 12188
e-mail William.Krattinger@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:

Photographs by William E. Krattinger, September 2014

Original digital files at NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, Waterford, NY 12188

- 0001 EXTERIOR, church, view looking east showing church façade; tower of manse in middle background
- 0002 EXTERIOR, church, view showing entrance loggia and base of tower; manse in background
- 0003 EXTERIOR, church, view south showing west elevation
- 0004 EXTERIOR, church, west elevation, view looking to northeast
- 0005 EXTERIOR, church, south elevation, view looking north
- 0006 EXTERIOR, church, detail view showing stonework over principal entrance bay
- 0007 EXTERIOR, church, north and west elevations of east tower
- 0008 INTERIOR, church, view showing worship space, looking towards north wall
- 0009 INTERIOR, church, organ arch
- 0010 INTERIOR, church, view of worship space looking towards south wall
- 0011 INTERIOR, church, view from former session room through sliding partitions into worship space
- 0012 INTERIOR, church, view in session room showing classroom doors and clerestory windows
- 0013 EXTERIOR, manse, view looking south towards principal elevation
- 0014 INTERIOR, manse, view showing west parlor

Property Owner:

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

name Multiple (two owners)
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.).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMPLEX

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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.



ABOVE & BELOW, historic postcard views

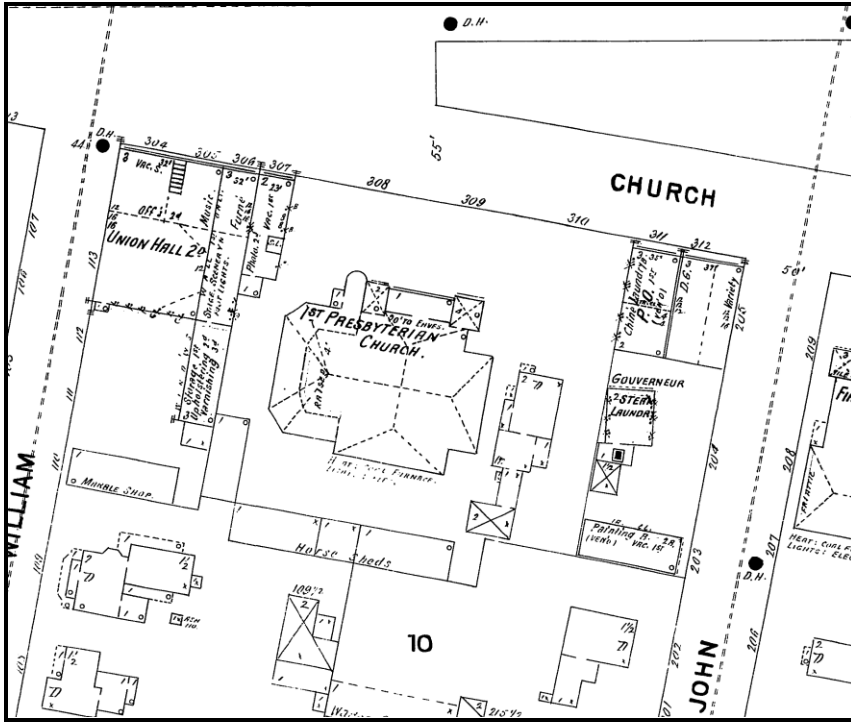


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMPLEX

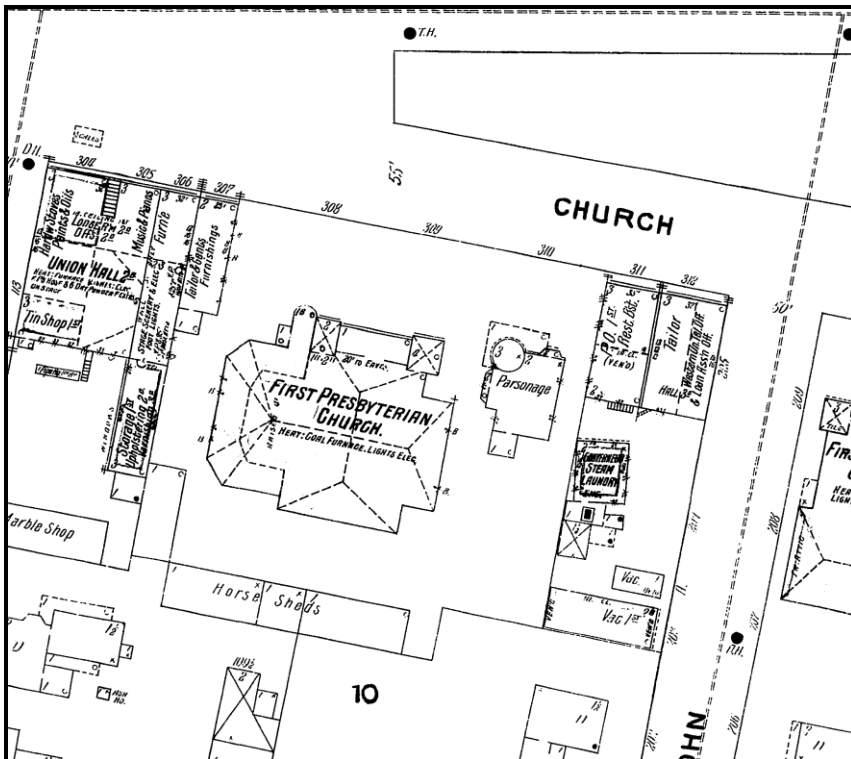
Name of Property

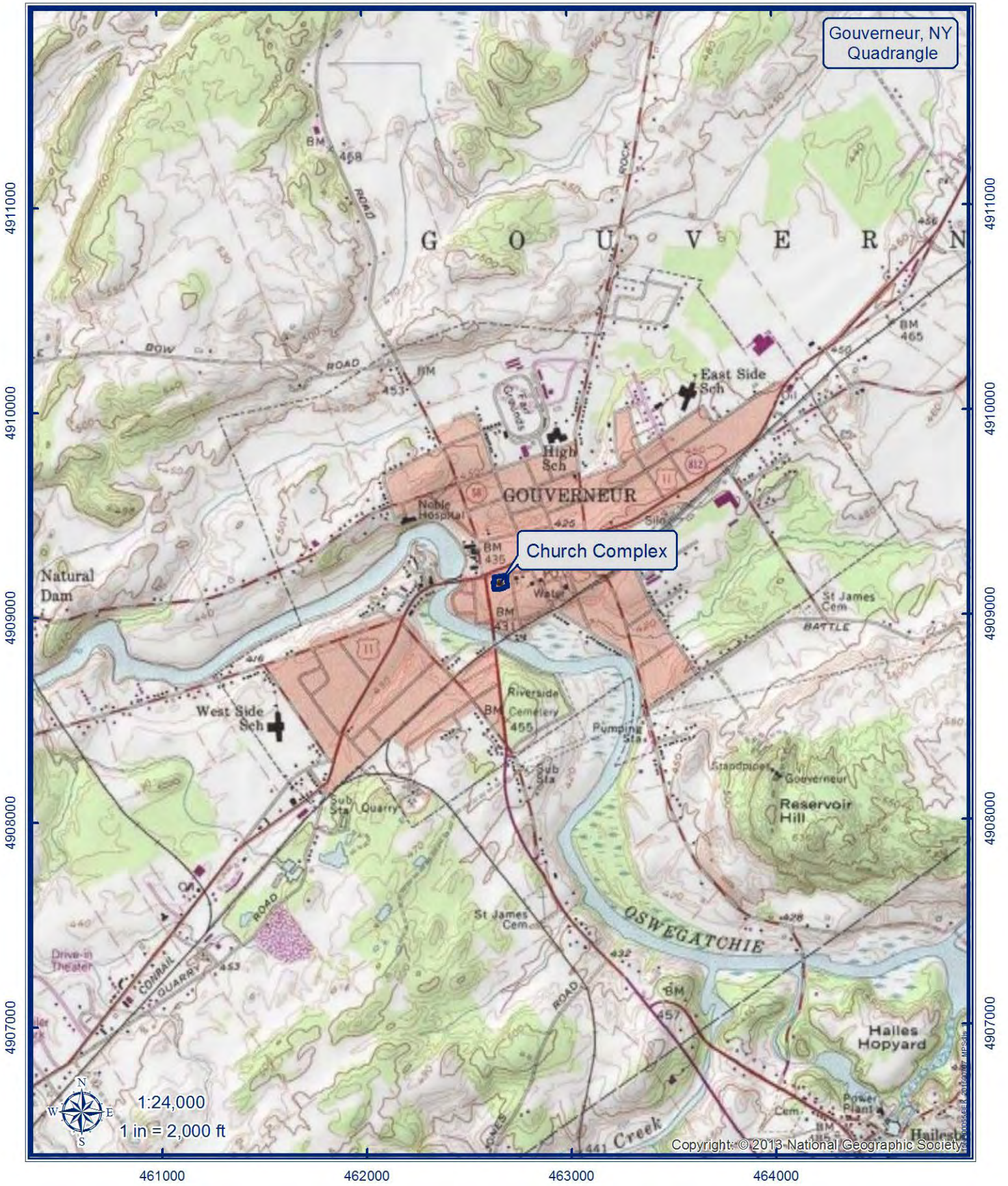
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK

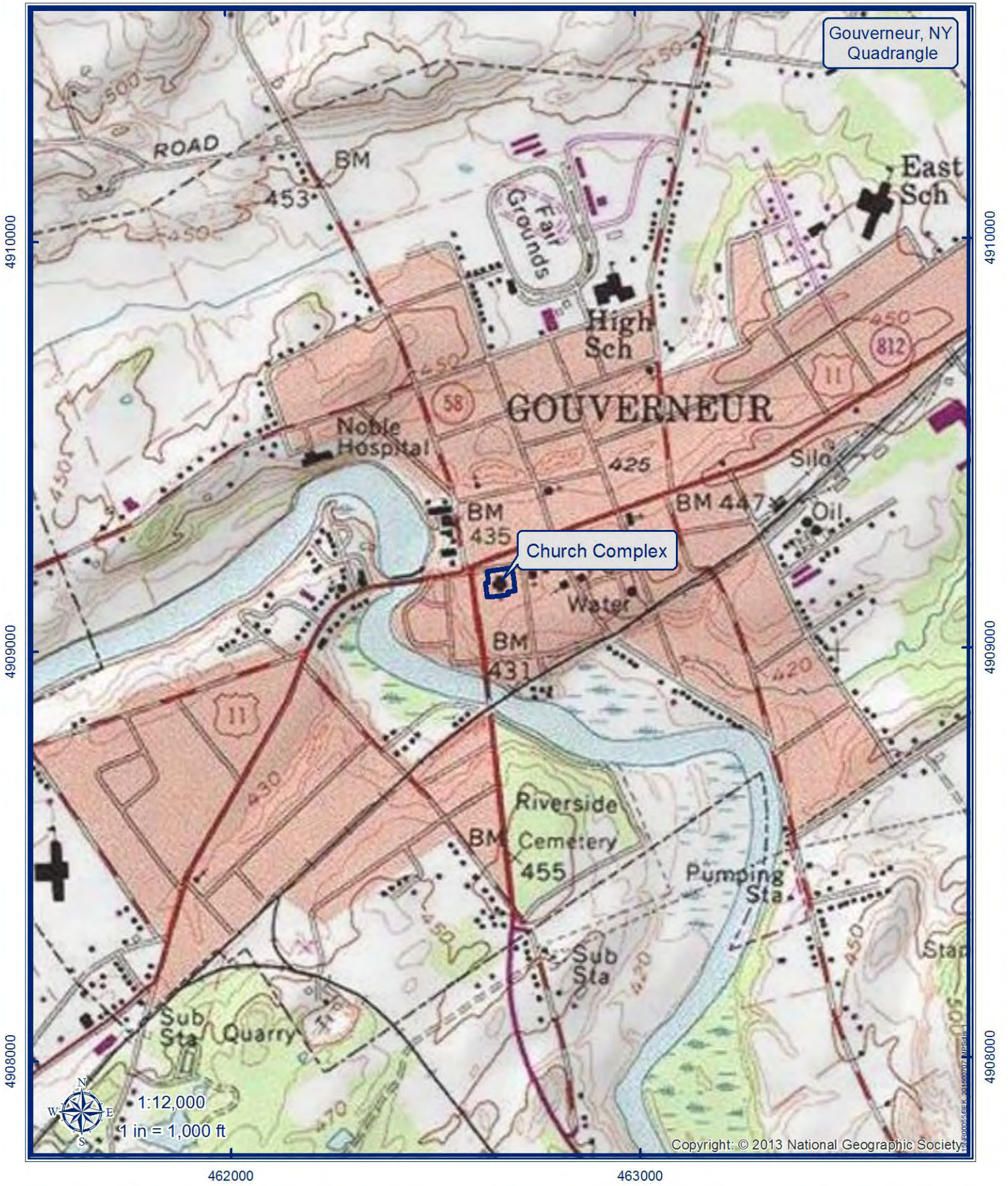
County and State



Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: above, 1898, below, 1905







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

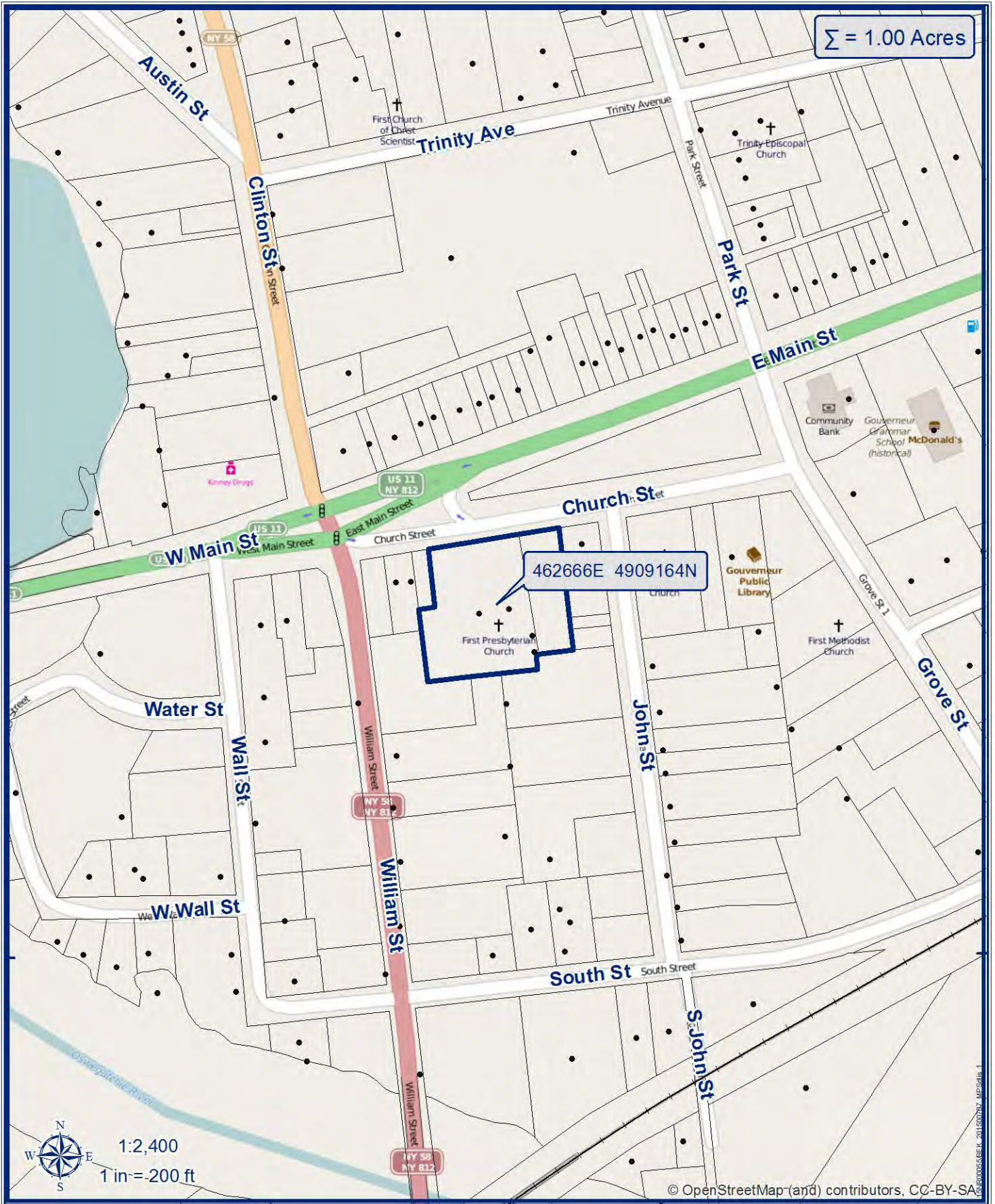


 Church Complex



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

















FIRST FLOOR















WILSON'S MEMORIAL
BORN [illegible]
DIED [illegible]
[illegible]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church Complex
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, St. Lawrence

DATE RECEIVED: 8/07/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/28/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/14/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/22/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000607

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 9.17.15 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.



Gouverneur Historical Association

30 Church Street
Gouverneur, New York 13642
(315) 287-0570



May 18, 2015

Mr. William Krattinger
Division for Historical Preservation
Peebles Island State Park,
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

Dear Mr. Krattinger:

I am very much in favor of the First Presbyterian Church of Gouverneur being named to the National and State Registers of Historical Places. This beautiful 1892/1893 building has been well taken care of over the years, and still is with many of the stained glass windows being preserved due to the generosity of several parishioners.

It is the biggest and most beautiful church in Gouverneur and has the best pipe organ, which was donated and paid for by the Dean Family who also provided the funds for the manse, which is now the Gouverneur Museum.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Laurenza
Curator of the Gouverneur Museum





**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

AUG - 7 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

24 July 2015

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 submit the following three nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

West Side Unitarian Church – Congregation Ramath Orah, New York County
First Presbyterian Church Complex, St. Lawrence County
Burton Hall, Washington 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