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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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property:

historic name State Street Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 357 State Street not for publication

city or town Fulton vicinity

state New York code NY county Oswego code 075 zip code 13069

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Rudolph Purpurt DBHPD 12/19/12
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Love
Signature of the Keeper
Edson W. Beall 2.20.13
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick (Church, School); Wood (Parsonage, School)

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

See continuation Sheet

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CONTINUATION SHEET

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church
Oswego County, New York

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description:

The State Street Methodist Episcopal Church was initially constructed in 1894 as a chapel with two attached classrooms. The building was expanded in 1900 with the addition of an auditorium and is laid out according to the Akron Plan of church architecture characterized by sloping floors and semicircle seating. The associated parsonage facing South Fourth Street was built in 1901. In 1906, a basement was added to the original chapel to serve as a Sunday School. In 1918, an additional building was added to church property for educational purposes. Renovations to the sanctuary occurred in 1953. An additional two-story wing, built in 1962, dedicated to social events and educational services is attached to the southeastern portion building along Park Street, with improvements to the chapel being made the following year. Adjacent housing and properties along Park and State Streets were acquired for the construction of a parking lot in 1976. Further renovations to the educational unit and kitchen unit were undertaken in 1982. In 1991, the outer structure was re-mortared in brick, with new lighting at the entrances to be added the following year. In 2000, the original cornerstone was replaced due to its deterioration and is currently in the church's possession.

The main church block is a rectangle formation consisting of a one story auditorium and a one and a half story educational wing. The external facade is red brick with red stone work and a red concrete foundation that serves to stabilize the original stone foundation. The roof of the entire building consists of slate shingles and is primarily cross-gabled with front-gables at the asymmetrical steepled towers on either side of the northwestern portion of the building. The main entrance and front of the church faces State Street. The main entrance to the church is reached by three concrete steps and consists of two pairs of heavy wooden doors capped with half circular stained glass windows and arched red stone work located at the western corner of the building. This entrance exists as part of the four story bell tower, which is composed of two layers of three rectangular stained glass windows (six total); semi-circular arched windows slatted for the belfry; and is topped with a steep roof that has four protruding semi-circular windows with their own peaks. The two story bell tower on the eastern corner of the building consists of one ground-level entrance, composed of three steps, two heavy wood doors capped by a semi-circular stained glass window and a semi-circular red stone arch; one layer of semi-circular arched stone work underneath semi-circular arched windows slatted for the belfry; and is topped with its own steep slate shingle roof.

The auditorium portion of the building contains three sets of semi-circular three stained glass windows, one large flanked by two smaller ones, with additional single semi-circular arched stained glass windows and circular stained glass windows serving as accents. The one and a half story attached educational wing comprises of the same material the main auditorium is constructed of. However, differs from the main church auditorium in that it consists of two rows of rectangular stained glass windows, with plain rectangular glass windows in its basement at ground-surface level. It also has a projecting facet which contains a side entryway, a triple set of rectangular stained glass windows, three semi-circular arched stained glass windows with red stone work arches, and a circular stained glass window also outlined in red stone work.

Main access to the interior of the church is via the side entry way in the northeast corner at the front of the church and the main entry at the northwest corner of the front of the church. Both doorways open into small vestibules, which in turn open via wooden doors to the main church auditorium. The ceiling is flat wooden beamed with ribbed sections and smaller embellishments in each section. A trio of semi-circular arched stained glass windows is located on three walls of the auditorium. The main seating consists of wooden pews organized in semi-circular fashion on a sloping carpeted floor plan facing the pulpit area. Along the eastern wall is a sectioned off choir area, while along the southwestern wall a sectioned off wood paneled classroom/ choir room area exists via a sliding

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divider. In between these two partitions, the pulpit area is a designated corner partitioned via a step and wooden divider. The altar and lectern are placed in front of a walled partition containing the church organ.

The southern wing of the building consists of a small number of classrooms serving as part of the church's original educational unit. Access to this wing of the church comes from a number of ways. Interior entry exists via connecting a doorway linked with the wood paneled choir room attached to the sanctuary. Exterior access occurs via a side entry door along the western side of the building along State Street. This door is led up to via two concrete steps meeting the sidewalk and consists of two metal doors topped with a semi-circular stained glass arch window and a red brick semi-circular arch. A set of concrete stairs leads into the building, equipped with railings. The secondary exterior access door is in the southern corner of the building facing Park Street. This door is a simple metal and glass exterior door that allows access to a two set stairway to gain access to the one and a half story wing.

The southern wing of the educational unit continues to serve as part of State Street's educational and social programming. These rooms feature rectangular stained glass windows with wooden framework, wood doors and door frames, and wallpapered plaster walls. Interior rooms of similar construction serve as church offices and private chapel areas. The large open basement area originally served as a social hall with associated kitchen features and clear rectangular glass windows at ground-surface level.

The two story educational wing constructed in 1962 is included as part of State Street Church property. Facing Park Street, this building serves additional educational and social purposes for the church. Access to the building is gained in two ways. Internal access occurs through connection to the church itself in the southeastern portion of the building. External access occurs via double metal doors led up to via sidewalk on Park Street. The building has high plated clear glass windows on its walls with square paneled clear glass windows at ground-surface level.

Parsonage (1900, contributing)

The building serving as the parsonage for the State Street United Methodist Church is located at 308 South Fourth Street, immediately neighboring the church itself on its west side. The two-story residential building was built in 1910 and consists of a cross-gabled roof of asphalt shingles, a stone foundation, and exterior walls of aluminum/polyvinyl horizontal shingling. The northwestern facing building consists of a covered front porch with a main wooden door, accessed by a walkway to the sidewalk, and flanked by a double window. A secondary path from the main pathway leads to an enclosed porch located on at the rear of the building on its east side. Individual single windows exist on three sides of the building on both the first and second floors; one double window and a single window are located at the front of the house on the second floor; and three single windows are placed in the eaves of the attic. All windows are modern fittings. Also located on the eastern side of the building is a stone chimney. The building has a full basement. A small detached garage was added to the back of the property in 1930 and constructed of similar materials to the residence itself.

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.

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1894-1962

Significant Dates

1894, 1900, 1901, 1906, 1962

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

JH Seeber (church)

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Statement of Significance:

The State Street Methodist Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as a local example of an architect-designed Romanesque inspired religious building in the city of Fulton. Designed by prominent local architect JH Seeber in 1894, the church was built for a congregation that dated back to 1826. Seeber (1853-1936) had a productive and varied career that spanned 45 years in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He designed wide range of buildings from factories to private houses, public buildings and churches—an obituary in the April 17, 1936 edition of the *Syracuse Journal* noted that he “designed practically all of Oswego's churches and business buildings.” In his design for the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church Seeber applied hallmarks of the Romanesque Revival, a popular style for religious buildings in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Elements of the Romanesque include rounded arch and circular openings, tripartite arrangements, monochromatic masonry walls with belt courses, and the church's asymmetrical towers. In addition, the building provides an example of distinct Methodist auditorium architecture in its stylistic Akron Plan construction of the late nineteenth century/early twentieth century. It retains substantial integrity to its period of significance and remains a distinguished architectural landmark in the city of Fulton.

The structure is historically representative of the prominence that the city of Fulton obtained during the late nineteenth century as a major commercial and manufacturing hub on New York's canal system. Since its inception, the building has provided a fixed location for religious worship, as well as an educational and social influence upon the community. The growth of the congregation and the changing role of the church edifice in the lives of the people of Fulton are evident in the building itself. In 1900 the addition of a new auditorium for sermons allowed the 1894 block to be turned into a Sunday School. The next year, the congregation had a parsonage erected for minister and a Ladies Aid Society formed to assist with the financial needs of the congregation and minister. A basement was added to the 1894 chapel in 1906 to accommodate a growing Sunday School program. The church underwent more expansions in 1918 and 1962 as the educational and social commitments of the congregation continued to expand through the twentieth century. Social programs based at the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church include Women's Foreign Missions, Home Missionary Society, Troop Thirteen of the Boy Scouts, the Crusader Class (a missionary society) and the Brotherhood Men's Sunday School Class. Many of these groups are still active organizations via the State Street Methodist Church today.

The period of significance (1894-1962) has been framed to include the construction of the church and all of the contributing additions, up to and including the 1962 two-story kitchen and Sunday School wing.

History of Fulton¹

The area in which the city of Fulton currently exists has been a place of interest to the development of New York since early settlement in the area by Jesuit missionaries in 1654, followed by English exploration circa 1700. Under New York colonial government, the English established a trading post in Oswego in 1722, leading to the commencement of regular trade between it and Albany along the major waterways of the area, including the Oswego River where the city of Fulton was to be established almost two hundred years later. Due to its location of importance on Lake Ontario, both the French and English established military fortifications at the mouth of the Oswego River, and the English maintained a continued presence in the area at Fort Ontario that lasted until the

¹ Churchill, John C. 1895. *Landmarks of Oswego County New York*. Syracuse: D. Mason & Co. Publishers; French, J.H. 1860. *Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State*. Syracuse: R.P. Smith, Publisher.

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American Revolution. Significant settlement of the area did not begin until 1790 when George Scriba of New York City purchased large amounts acreage, with large-scale pioneer settlement coming in the following years.

Waterfalls located at a bend in the Oswego River approximately ten miles south of Oswego provided a significant location for the development of frontier milling, including grist, lumber, and flour mills that served to assist in establishing Fulton in its infancy. In 1797, Broughton White surveyed nearly 1,440 acres of land adjacent to the falls and eventually came into the holding of Ichabod Brackett, Joshua Forman and James Lyon, who further divided the land into lots for future settlement after 1815. Consisting of the "Upper Landing" and "Lower Landing," settlement of a village proper in 1825 was established as Oswego Falls with the arrival of a number of merchants that came with the finishing of the near-by Erie Canal and construction of the Oswego Canal the same year.

The Oswego Canal was established along the naturally formed Oswego River to serve as to link the advantageous path of the Erie Canal and Lake Ontario. Lock Numbers 2 and 3 of the Oswego Canal are located within the main settlement of Fulton and are still existent to this day. This waterway brought significant economic growth to the area, as it did with numerous settlements along the length of canal waters. Fulton, itself, has been heavily involved in industry since. Three grist mills were in operation by 1834 and the Village of Fulton was incorporated the following year. This was followed by further growth in the following years which included saw, flour, grain and plaster mills by 1851. In 1852, Henry Monroe and Charles G. Case erected a small paper mill at the Victoria Mills, which eventually formed the Victoria Paper Mill Company. By 1856, there were a number of additional milling companies located in the village, including W.S. Nelson's Cayuga Mills, Case & Chesbro's Genesee Mills, Clark & Pond's Telegraph Mills, and the Gilbert family's Empire and Oswego Mills. The larger Oswego Falls Pulp and Paper Company was established by 1886.

In addition to various forms of milling, the settlement of Fulton had an active role in industry in central New York. By the end of the nineteenth century, a significant number of varying manufacturing businesses had been established. Such businesses included the Fulton Manufacturing Company's production of the Cummings straw cutter, the Cortland Howe Ventilation Stove Company, and the Miller-Tooley Knife Company. The Hunter Arms Company, manufacturer of the Comstock gun, began in Fulton in 1889. The American Woolen Company had facilities within Fulton's milling industry by 1900 that later went on to make uniforms for the United States Army during both World Wars. Additionally, the Nestlé Company established one of their first factories in America in the city at the turn of the century.

History of the State Street Methodist Congregation²

The State Street Methodist Episcopal Church has served as a pillar to the local community since prior to the village of Fulton's incorporation in 1835. The forerunner of the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1826 as the First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of nearby Volney; its first house of worship being erected in 1830 on Oneida Street. Focus for the Methodist-affiliated settlers of the community of Fulton eventually focused on the southeastern portion of the village, with the first prayer meeting there held in 1888 at the home of A.W. Stonebrough. Reverend W. D. Chase of the Methodist Episcopal Church requested a permanent building at the southern end of the village, and in 1893 the local Methodist church members voted on organizing into one

² 2012. State Street United Methodist Church Website. <http://www.statestumc.org/about.html>; State Street Methodist Church. 2010. "History of State Street United Methodist Church." In *State Street United Methodist Church Cookbook*. Syracuse.

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church. The new church met at member homes until a room for services and Sunday school classes was obtained at the State Street School House.

In 1894, members voted on construction of a chapel and raised funds for its construction on a lot of land at State Street given by Erwin R. Redhead, president of Victoria Paper Mills, and Forrest G. Weeks, president of Oswego Falls Pulp & Paper Company. The initial service was held September 30, 1894 in the single room chapel, with two adjoining classrooms, and is visible on the 1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Fulton, New York. At this time, the community continued Methodist Church's commitment to education with the establishment of its Sunday School program on weekends, with its Friday night bible study sessions developing into a Youth Group.

In addition to its religious functions, the building served as the location from which numerous social activities for the local community have been conducted, including being home to a number of missionary groups, scout groups, and educational services. Many of these groups are still active organizations via the State Street Methodist Church today. The Women's Foreign Missions and Home Missionary Society were both established by 1896. By 1900, the church had expanded and in July a cornerstone for a new auditorium was laid, with dedication occurring the following year. The original chapel became the Sunday School for the congregation, with sermons occurring in the new seating auditorium. In 1901, the church provided a house for the minister and the parsonage, which was built next to church along South Fourth Street, and is still in use today. This construction is shown on the 1901 and 1906 Sanborn Maps. The Ladies Aid Society was established in 1905 to assist with church and minister needs. A basement was added to the original chapel in 1906 for further facilitation of the growing Sunday School program.

In September of 1912, the local Troop Three of the Boy Scouts began meeting at the State Street Methodist Church and became officially registered as Troop Thirteen fourteen years later. With the continued growth of the educational and social commitments of the State Street congregation, a new educational building was constructed in 1918, which serves as today's one and a half story educational wing and the alterations are visible on the 1924 Sanborn Insurance Map. That same year, the church served as a hospital for victims of the Spanish Influenza Epidemic. April 1919 saw the organization of the Crusader Class, which existed as a volunteer group for home and foreign missionary work. By October 1922, the Sunday School Department was organized; the Brotherhood Men's Sunday School Class was organized two years later. By the late 1940s, State Street's Sunday School program averaged 300 students each Sunday. At the same time, State Street's congregation was also continuing to contribute to community service projects, including providing Christmas dinner to soldiers at Fort Ontario and supplying provision packages to soldiers overseas.

In April 1953, the sanctuary was renovated for basic upkeep in the pews, altar and organ, and the basement of the educational unit updated. In 1962, a two-story addition was built along Park Street where the upper story would serve as a kitchen-dining area and the lower floor would feature classrooms for the Sunday School. At the same time, a room dedicated to a social hall/chapel purposes was renovated off of the sanctuary. In 1968, the church changed its name to the United Methodist Church. By 1973, the congregation dedicated the "Thomas Window" of stained glass located along the eastern wall of the main auditorium. The congregation also bought adjacent property along Park and State Streets and had it demolished for the construction of a parking lot.

Further improvements to the State Street Methodist Church were made to the downstairs kitchen area and educational units in 1982 to keep the building up to code. In 1991, the exterior of the building was re-mortared and sealed, with new lighting being installed and roof improvements being undertaken in the following two years. While

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these improvements were being made to the building itself, the congregation continued its tradition of community service by establishing the Helping Hands Cupboard, a "soup kitchen" and other similar services in conjunction with the Salvation Army to help the community. The Sunday School program continued to hold regular attendance and in 1999 while learning about the building, recognized the church's cornerstone was badly deteriorated. The cornerstone was replaced and rededicated the following year in a ceremony with the Masons.

Architecture³

The State Street Methodist Episcopal Church represents a Romanesque Revival construction of urban religious buildings. Early Romanesque Revival architecture began in Germany circa 1830 with the adoption of the Romanesque style of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Called Rundbogenstil or "round-arch style," it relied on round arches, stonework over windows, and crenellation under roof eaves. This picturesque style made its way to America via German immigration and the Romanesque Revival became an architectural staple in building construction for the latter half of the nineteenth century. Three of the earliest and most notable examples of the Romanesque Revival are the Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn Heights in New York, designed and built by Richard Upjohn in 1844, the Bowdoin College Chapel, also designed and built by Richard Upjohn in 1845, and the Smithsonian Institution Building in Washington, D.C., built in 1847 by James Renwick Jr.

The Romanesque Revival was used in a wide number of building types during this time period but gained popularity among church groups such as the Episcopal, Congregationalist, Baptist, and Methodist denominations. According to Robert Dale Owen in his publication *Hints on Public Architecture* (1849), these Christian groups found it a "less ostentatious" style that could provide more focus on the congregation itself. In addition, the Romanesque Revival proved less cost-worthy in its simplicity than preceding fantastic styles of Gothic Revival churches. This was particularly appealing to the Methodist denomination, which condemned excessive interest in the embellishment of church architecture due to prohibitions against materialism and the assumption of debt.

The Romanesque Revival has a number of defining characteristics, most notably being its round and semi-circular arches for window and door openings. Tripartite arches, belt courses, and arcaded corbel tables serve as simplistic design elements to draw attention to the picturesque quality of the building. Roofs are often gabled with a pyramid formation, and are flanked by paired square or polygonal towers of varying heights, roof shapes, and styles. Walls are typically monochromatic brick or stone with thin mortar joints. The State Street Methodist Episcopal Church exemplifies a number of the Romanesque Revival's characteristics. The building is constructed of monochromatic red brick, with red stone work highlighting arches, and has a cross-gabled roof. It has a number of the characteristic semi-circular arched windows, particularly in the sanctuary/ auditorium portion of the church. Round arches are found over the main entryways at the northern corners of the building and the side entrance on the west side. Circular stained glass windows are also featured at the peaks of three walls of the church. Three sets of tripartite stained glass windows are set into the sanctuary, and four and two sets of tripartite on the western and eastern towers, respectively. The towers themselves are asymmetrical heights with gabled roofs in pyramid formations and belt courses near the tops and bases.

³ "American Religious Buildings: The Romanesque Revival" NY Landmarks Conservancy, *Common Bond*, Vol. 13, No. 1, (May 1997); Meeks, Carroll L.V. 1953. Romanesque before Richardson in the United States. *The Art Bulletin*. 35(1): 17-33; Steege, Gwen W. 1987. The "Book of Plans" and the Early Romanesque Revival in the United States: A Study in Architectural Patronage. *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. 46 (3): 215-227; Lippy, Charles H. and Peter W. Williams. Eds. 2010. *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. Volume 1. Washington, DC: CQ Press; Jenks, Brother Christopher Stephen. 1995. "American Religious Buildings: The Akron Plan Sunday School." NY Landmarks Conservancy, *Common Bond*.

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The State Street Methodist Episcopal Church also represents the Akron Plan of urban church architecture that was constructed in the years between 1870 and World War I. Named for the First Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1869 in Akron, Ohio, this type of plan has become a distinctive feature of period Methodist auditorium church construction with its emphasis on the Sunday school tradition of educating the local community. The Methodist denomination experienced a surge of growth in membership, and subsequently church construction, throughout the country in the second half of the nineteenth century with this emphasis on education and morality that reflected the social attitudes of reform at the time. In response to the need for education of the community, the Akron Church Plan was developed. These auditorium-style churches were often placed on street corners with large square or circular interiors. Characteristic components of this form of architectural planning are a main rotunda with sloping auditorium floors and a podium at its center, semicircular seating to facilitate congregation interaction, and graded classrooms at the back of the building that could be sectioned off into individual groups for specific educational curriculums and have them join together as one large group for worship. As contemporary needs have presented themselves to congregations, it has been noted that many of these churches over the years incorporated domestic features, such as kitchens and parlors, and educational spaces have been adopted for use as social halls, musical recital halls, counseling rooms, or church offices.

The history of the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church, supported by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, shows that the church was initially constructed on the corner of State and Park Streets in 1894 as chapel with attached classrooms, befitting the Methodist movement. Congregation growth required the expansion of the building and 1900 saw the construction of the auditorium portion of the church in the Akron Plan. The auditorium is of square format, with sloped flooring and semi-circular seating around the main rotunda. The rotunda itself is slightly elevated and features a podium and altar area, with an organ directly behind it, as music played a significant role in Methodist services, and sectioned off choir seating to one side. On the other side of the central rotunda, is the sliding door partition that sections off a choir room/ class room for not only musical portions of church services, but also for individual curriculum education. The chapel and initially constructed classrooms were adapted as further educational and social spaces. This Methodist church also participated in the trend of incorporating domestic space by adding its basement in 1906 with kitchen facilities. With the growth of their educational movement, State Street constructed an additional one and a half story wing to the building to facilitate needed educational and social space in 1918. While renovations to the church have been carried out over the years for upkeep, the basic form of the church's construction has not changed.

Architect John H. Seeber

The designer of the State Street Methodist Church, Architect J.H. Seeber (1853-1936), had one of the longest and most productive careers in Oswego County. He was born in Oswego and worked as carpenter for his father and uncle's well-known and respected contracting firm, Seeber and Brother Contracting Company.⁴ After three years as a carpenter, Seeber became a draughtsman in the architectural office of D. Albert Earl and in 1881 he left Oswego to study architecture in Buffalo. When Seeber opened his office in Oswego, the *Oswego Palladium* noted:

Mr. John H. Seeber, son of well-known builder H.W. Seeber of this city [Oswego], has opened an architect's office at room 12, Arcade block. For the past five years Mr. Seeber has been associated with R.A. Waite, one of the most competent architects in the city of Buffalo. Besides being a first-class architect, Mr. Seeber has a practical knowledge of building.⁵

⁴ Cynthia Carrington Carter, "Tanner Block, 175-177 West First Street, National Register of Historic Places Nomination," 2009.

⁵ [Oswego]*Palladium*, March 11, 1885. www.fultonhistory.com.

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Seeber's office in Oswego remained open for the next 45 years and a search of local newspaper records revealed that he designed a substantial number of buildings both in his home city of Oswego, and in the region. A 2009 National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Tanner Block, designed by Seeber in 1890, noted that "it appears that no other late-nineteenth-century architect had as long a career in the city of Oswego," and that Seeber "helped shape the face of the city [Oswego] at the turn of the twentieth century." A review of his works bears out this contention. As noted, Seeber designed all types of buildings—houses, industrial complexes, commercial structures and churches; a list of some of his commissions for new construction, additions and rehabilitations gives an impression of his career:⁶

- 1888 English Lutheran Church and the 1924 parsonage, Oswego
- 1888 The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Fulton, NY
- 1889 Syndicate Block, Oswego
- 1890 19' Boat for H. Eason, Oswego
- 1892 Shillinger's Inn, an 1891 refectory, and 1898 cottages for Burt's Point [summer resort], Oswego
- 1892 Mrs. Robert Gordon house, Oswego
- 1892 Hon. W.A. Poucher house
- 1893 Fitzgibbons Boiler Works, Oswego
- 1894 Dr. Bulger house, Oswego
- 1894 Oswego Cycling Club Clubhouse
- 1894 State Street Methodist Church, Fulton, NY (nominated building)
- 1895 Oswego County Jail
- 1895 Oswego County Savings Bank building.
- 1895 Captain Stephen Lafaiwer house, Oswego
- 1896 Richardson Theater, Oswego
- 1897 Hotel for Captain David Boyd, Mexico, NY
- 1897 Receiving Vault, St. Peter's Cemetery, Oswego
- 1897 Union Free School Dist. No. 7 Building, Mexico, NY
- 1898 Thomas Burden house, Oswego
- 1898 Ousterhout Stores, Oswego
- 1898 Parish House and Parsonage, Grace Church, Oswego
- 1898 The City Alms House in Oswego.
- 1899 R.G. Holbrook Block, Oswego
- 1899 P.R. Schilling Hotel, Oswego
- 1899 Gerry Sash and Bind Factory, Oswego
- 1900 YMCA Building Oswego
- 1902 Side altar for St. Paul's Church, Oswego
- 1905 St Mary's School, Oswego
- 1906 First Baptist Church, Oswego
- 1908 Rehabilitation of the Thomas Gordon Malting Company Plant in Oswego
- 1910 Professor Lester G. Turney House

⁶ A non-inclusive list compiled from archives of *Oswego Daily Times*, *Oswego [Palladium] Times*, *Fulton Times*, *Auburn Citizen*, and the *Syracuse Journal* available at www.fultonhistory.com.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church
Oswego County, New York

Section number 8 Page 7

-
- 1910 Nurses Home at the Oswego Hospital
 - 1911 Oswego Yacht Club Clubhouse
 - 1912 Rectory for St. John's Church, Oswego
 - 1912 Addition to St. Francis Home Oswego
 - 1913 New Oswego Candy Works Factory
 - 1914 Mongin Ice Cream Factory, Oswego
 - 1914 Burden & Marsden's Dry Goods Store, Oswego
 - 1916 St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Mexico, NY
 - 1917 School No. 7 and rehabs for No's 4 and 9, Oswego
 - 1919 McDonald Block, Oswego
 - 1919 Garage and Gas Pump house addition to the O'Keefe Building in Oswego for A.D. McIntyre
 - 1920 Salvation Army Home, Oswego
 - 1921 George Chanucey house, Fulton, NY
 - 1921 Christian Scientist Church, West 3rd St. 1921 Syracuse
 - 1921 Nurses Home at Orwell, NY.
 - 1922 James Buckley house, Albion, NY
 - 1923 Church of Our Fathers by St. Joseph, Oswego
 - 1924 Clubhouse for the Golf Course at FA Emerick State Park (today Battle Island SP)
 - 1926 Kline's Store Building, Oswego
 - 1926 Joseph Gaskell house, Oswego
 - 1927 Elks Lodge, Oswego
 - 1928 Oswego Star Dry Cleaning & Dyeing Co Inc plant complex
 - 1934 Office Building for Kingsford & Sons Machine Works, Oswego

Several of Seeber's buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of historic districts, and as noted, the Tanner Block in Oswego is individually listed. In addition to designing the 1894 chapel, Seeber also designed the 1900 expansion of the nominated State Street ME Church.⁷

⁷ "Fulton's New Church," *Fulton Patriot*, March 14, 1900. www.fultonhistory.com.

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Oswego County, New York

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	385704	4797179	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Samantha Wolf, M.A.

organization _____ date 10/10/2012

street & number 179-4 Crestmount Ave. telephone 585-356-2133

city or town Tonawanda state New York zip code 14150

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Trustees of the State Street Methodist Church

street & number 357 State St. telephone 315-592-4559

city or town Fulton state NY zip code 13069

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church
Oswego County, New York

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church
Oswego County, New York

Section number 10 Page 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

As indicated by the heavy black line on the attached boundary map, the nominated property consists entirely of tax parcel lot numbers 236.73-05-04 and 236.73-05-05 in the City of Fulton, Oswego County, NY.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes all parcels under current and historical ownership.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church
Oswego County, New York

Photo Log (Prints from Digital Photos)

Name of Property: State Street Methodist Episcopal Church

Location: Oswego County, New York

Photographer: Travis Bowman

Date: March 31, 2012

Location of Negatives: CD-R Included

NY_OswgCo_STMECh

PHOTO LOG

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION
0001	Exterior view, NW; $\frac{3}{4}$ view of State Street elevation.
0002	Exterior view, N; Rear elevation and 1962 school.
0003	Exterior view, SW; Parsonage.
0004	Interior view, Akron plan seating.



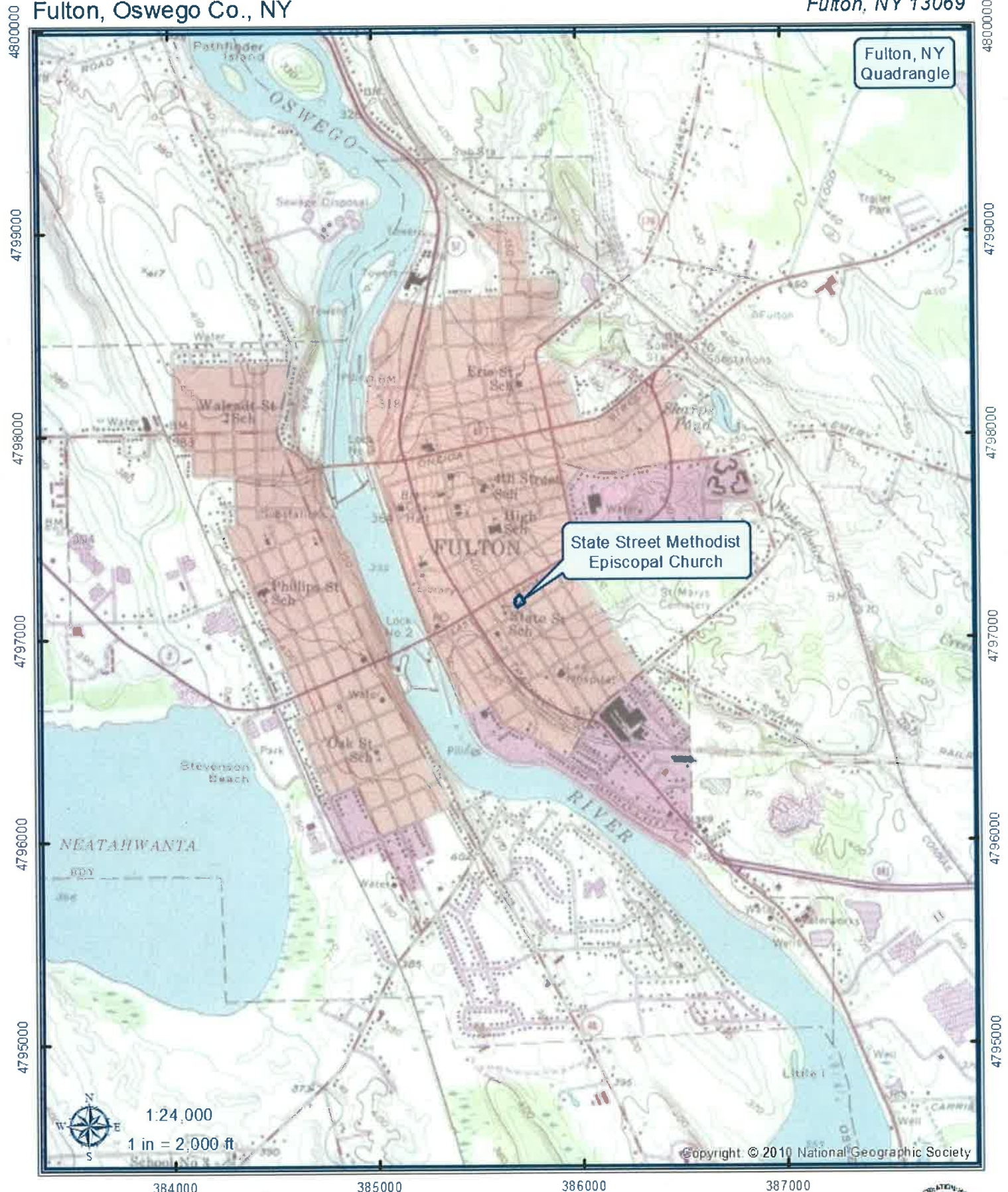
Σ = .45 Acres

385704E 4797179N



State Street Methodist Episcopal Church
Fulton, Oswego Co., NY

357 State Street
Fulton, NY 13069



Fulton, NY
Quadrangle

State Street Methodist
Episcopal Church

1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft

Copyright © 2010 National Geographic Society

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



Tax Parcel Data:
Oswego Co. RPS
<http://www.oarsystem.com/ny/fulton>











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: State Street Methodist Episcopal Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Oswego

DATE RECEIVED: 1/04/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/20/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000030

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 2-20-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



State Street United Methodist Church

Rev. Joseph I. Kim, Pastor

357 State Street, Fulton, NY 13069

Church (315) 592-4559

March 15, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

The Trustees of State Street United Methodist Church approve the application to have our church considered by the Historical Registry as a Historical Site.

Furthermore, we appoint Patricia Laxton to represent the church as the contact person.

Yours in Christ,

Leroy Raymond

Leroy Raymond
Chairman

Pc: file





New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

26 December 2012

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following three National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Oswego County
Morris Village Historic District, Otsego County
John J. Aiken House, Cattaraugus County

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office