

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Harmony Church, as part of the Nanticoke Indian Community, in Sussex County, Delaware, reference number 79003308, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 4/26/1979, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, March 18, 1980, Part II, Vol.45, No. 54, page 17451. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/9/2008  
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Nanticoke Indian Community

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

PROPERTY INVENTORY

NANTICOKE INDIAN COMMUNITY

1. Indian Mission Church (S-759)

Location: Intersection of Route 5 and County Road 48.

Description: Indian Mission Church is an early-twentieth century religious structure that retains its original use. It is a wood frame, clapboard-covered, gothic style, building typical of rural churches in southern Delaware. The gable front has a large lancet window with intersecting tracery. The main entrance is through the base of a two-story, hipped-roof tower with a bracket cornice. The double door and window above from a lancet opening with y-tracery. Side windows are simple lancets. All windows have stained glass borders with textured glass center panes.

Significance: The present Indian Mission Church replaced the simple chapel constructed after the strongly Indian families of the Nanticoke community separated from Harmony church over the hiring of a black minister. It continues to serve the separatist faction of the community, and illustrates the effort to maintain ethnic identity through institutional separation.

Acreage: One acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is all that land owned by the United Methodist Church, Peninsula Conference, and includes the church grounds and neighboring graveyard.

Longitude: 75 14' 05" W

Latitude: 38 40' 25" N

2. Harmony Church (S-753)

Location: Harmony Church is located on the north side of Route 24 about a quarter mile east of County Road 313.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

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Description: Harmony Church is a late-nineteenth century gothic style religious structure that retains its original use. The wood frame building is covered with asbestos siding and rests on a rock-faced concrete block foundation. The gable front has a lancet window with Y-tracery. Entrance is through a two-story crenelated tower at the junction of the main block and a lower two-bay wing. The door and window above form a wide lancet opening. The windows along the east side are lancets. All windows have stained glass borders with textured glass center panes. On the west side is what appears to be a more modern wing.

Significance: Prior to 1888, Harmony Church served all the remnant Indian families of the Nanticoke community. After a bitter controversy over the hiring of a black minister, many of the separatist families withdrew. This property illustrates the institutional assimilation of some remnant Indian families into black society.

Acreage: One acre

Verbal Boundary Description: This property consists of a 208' by 208' piece of land fronting on Route 24, and bounded on the east by a cultivated field, and on the north and west by woods.

UTM: 18/480930/4272860

3. Robert Davis Farmhouse and Environs (S-754)

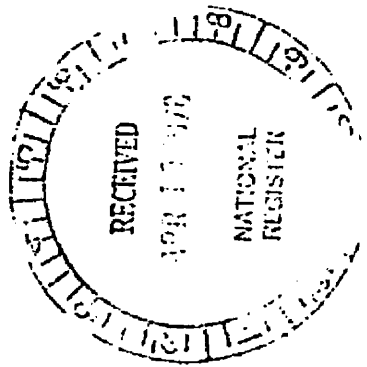
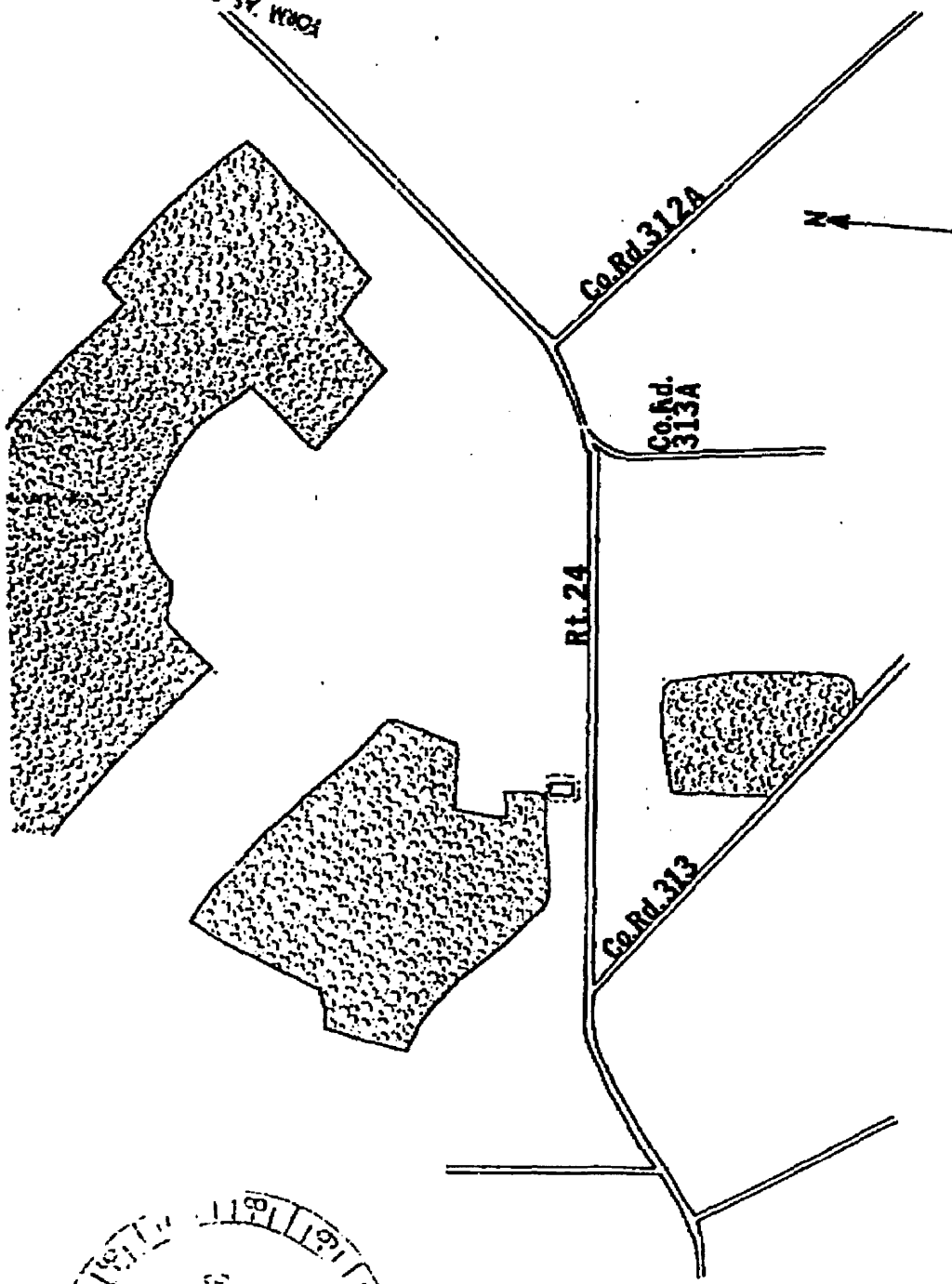
Location: South of Route 24 about a quarter mile south of the intersection of Route 24 and County Road 297.

Description: The Robert Davis Farmhouse is a five-bay, two-story, single pile, wood frame building with asbestos siding, built about 1900. There are 2/2, double hung windows, with a lancet window in the corss-gable. The original three-bay, shed-roofed porch with cross-gable has been enclosed in recent years. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and the interior end-chimneys are corbelled. Several additions, including a side porch, have been made to the building since its construction. Of the outbuildings on the property, the log corn cribs deserve special attention. The splayed log walls feature saddle-notched corners and the structures rest on brick piers. There are openings in both the gable and the end wall with hinged doors. The gables have vertical sheathing, and the roofs are covered with wood shingles. Wood floors rest on top of square hewn sills.

Significance: This property exemplifies the material and economic assimilation of the Nanticoke Community into the culture of rural Sussex County. The distribution of features and artifact categories should provide data regarding the degree of difference of similarity between separatist Indian and other farmers in the area.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO GAMA

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OARR.



DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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DRAWN BY DRG DATE 4/78 SCALE 1:9600

FILE S-753 TITLE NANTICOKE

Harmony Church  
 Parish # 2

Name: Harmony Church

Location: Rt. 24, near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank W. Porter III

Date: September 1977

Location of Negative: Div. of Hist. & Cultural Affairs,  
D/AHP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: View to West

Photograph Number: 2

*Harmony Church*

AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.R.

