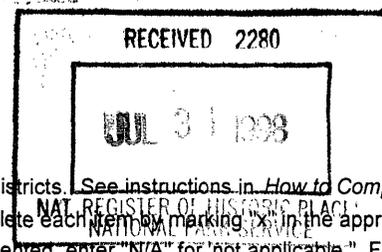


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking 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 from the instruction. 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: Bethel Methodist Protestant Church

other names/site number: Bethel Church

2. Location

street and number: SW Corner of intersection of Routes 61, 114 & 304

N/A not for publication

city or town: Andrews ville

N/A vicinity

state: Delaware

county: Kent

zip code: 19942

3. State/Federal/Tribal 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Donna DeStefano; State Historic Preservation Officer June 18, 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau American Indian Tribe

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 American Indian Tribe

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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:)

Patrick Anderson
Date of Action: *9/14/98*

Name of Property

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	
1	0	buildings
1	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**

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary
 Religion

Historic Subfunctions

(Enter subcategories from instructions)

Cemetery
 Religious Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary
 Religion
 Vacant/Not In Use

Current Subfunctions

(Enter subcategories from instructions)

Cemetery
 Religious Structure

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic
 Late Victorian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	Concrete
Walls	Synthetics
Roof	Asphalt
Other	Brick
	Shingle
	Wood

Narrative Description

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

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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Religion

Period of Significance

1871-1905

Significant Dates

1830

1871

1905

Significant Person

(Complete if criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder**

N/A

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
- See continuation sheet for additional HABS/HAER documentation.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
-
- Local Government (Repository Name:)
-
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: 2.00

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	444750	4301633	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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: Susan Taylor, Research Asst; Rebecca Siders, Research Assoc., Center for Historic Architecture & Design

organization: University of Delaware

date: 7/15/1997

street & number: 307 Alison Hall, University of Delaware

telephone: (302) 831-8097

city or town: Newark

state: Delaware

zip code: 19716-7360

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: Bethel Methodist Protestant Church

street & number: 172A Route 304

telephone:

city or town: Andrewesville

state: Delaware

zip code: 19942-

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.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church
Andrewsville Vicinity
Kent County, Delaware

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7. Description

Page 8

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church

Narrative Description

The Bethel Methodist Protestant Church is located at the intersection of Andrewville Road, Todd's Chapel Road, and Prospect Church Road in Andrewville, Mispillion Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. Situated on two acres of land, the church is surrounded by a grassy field and woods to the east, woods to the south, and a small walled cemetery to the west.

Facing north, the one story, gable-front frame building retains its exterior appearance as an 1871 country church, while the interior reflects the renovations made in 1905. The church is rectangular in form, measuring 30 feet 6 inches wide by 40 feet 6 inches deep and sitting on a foundation of unknown material skim-coated with concrete. A small apse extends from the south gable end, and a small porch protrudes from the north gable end. The exterior walls of the church, clad in vinyl siding that mimics the look of drop siding, rise to an asphalt shingle-covered gable roof pierced midway down the east and west elevations by brick chimneys.

The front (north) gable elevation is three bays wide with a central door flanked by two double-hung sash windows filled with non-figurative stained glass. A return box cornice and a small gabled porch highlight the north elevation. The porch extends the width of the entrance, which is filled with double raised panel doors. Above the doors is a stained glass transom which bears the inscription "1838-Bethel-1905." The meaning of the 1838 is unclear, though the 1905 date refers to the renovations of the church interior. Three steps lead up to the porch, which is characterized by alternating fishscale and diamond pattern shingles in the gable, and sawtooth trim below a spindle-work frieze. The porch and entry doors are flanked by double-hung, lead channel stained glass windows.

The east and west elevations of the church are identical, each containing four evenly-spaced double-hung sash windows filled with non-figurative stained glass. These windows are the only openings on the two elevations. The box cornice continues around the roof edge on all sides of the building.

The rear or south elevation of the church displays a small apse extending approximately five feet from the main section of the church. A single double-hung sash window filled with stained glass lights each of the east and west sides of the apse.

While the plain, white exterior of the church identifies the building clearly as a late nineteenth century rural church, simple and functional, the interior reflects the early twentieth century prosperity of the church with its use of an elaborated decorating scheme including a pressed metal ceiling, stained glass windows, and molded woodwork. Completely open on the inside, the church interior is divided by two side aisles into three seating areas. The ten central pews are divided in half by a central division wall. The side pews are set at an angle to the front apse. Running from the back of the church to the front, on the east side there are seven angled pews, a stove, a double pew facing both the stove and the apse, and another angled pew. At the very front of the church three pews sit parallel to the side walls, facing the apse. The west side is a reflection of the east side, with a few missing elements. The front facing pew directly next to the stove is missing, as are two of the front parallel pews.

The interior woodwork has all been painted with a simulated wood grain. Sunken panels extend around the interior to waist level. The window and door openings are surrounded by plain casings topped by flat pediments. Each window is dedicated to a different person or group of people. The pews have curved arms. A small cupboard with a double-hinged door hangs in the northeast corner. The apse opening is characterized by a flat pedimented surround. An altar rail with turned, open spindles surround the pulpit area which is accessed by two rounded steps at the back corners. The interior space rises unimpeded to an angled ceiling of elaborately designed pressed metal. The rising side ceiling walls are covered with an interlocking Gothic arch pattern, rising to a flat patterned grid. Two ceiling fans are positioned in the center, and four lights

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church
Andrewsville Vicinity
Kent County, Delaware

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7. Description (continued) Page 9

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church

hang by chains from the four corners of the flat ceiling.

Several large shade trees stand around the church. The small cemetery on the west side of the church is very plain, with only a low concrete curb separating it from the surrounding grass. The cemetery contains no significant landscaping and holds only one or two gravestones.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church
Andrewsville Vicinity
Kent County, Delaware

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9. Major Bibliographical References

Page 10

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church

Bibliography

Deed Records, Kent County, Delaware

Hallman, E. C. The Garden of Methodism. Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: L.J.Richards & Co., 1888, reprint 1990.

Williams, William Henry. The Garden of American Methodism: The Delmarva Peninsula, 1769-1820. Wilmington, Delaware: Peninsula Conference of the United Methodist Church, 1984.

Daniel, Martha, Susan Taylor, and Rebecca Siders. "Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church National Register Nomination." Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware, 1997.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Bethel Methodist Protestant Church is significant under criterion C, for its representation of the rural Methodist Church built and rebuilt in mid- to late-nineteenth-century Delaware. These small rural churches are readily identifiable by both exterior and interior features. The interior of this church also represents the type of modifications made to some churches during the prosperous period of the early twentieth century.

Henry Boehm, one of the early founders of the Methodist movement in America stated that: "The Peninsula that lies between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays . . . was the garden of Methodism in America." Methodism in America began in Delaware with the preaching of George Whitefield on the Delmarva peninsula during the mid-eighteenth century. As an ordained Anglican clergyman, Whitefield had already gained a reputation as an evangelist in England and Wales, and aligned himself with a group of Oxford University religious reformers, headed by John and Charles Wesley, called Methodists. While he was in the Delaware region, Whitefield preached to large crowds, and made a profound impact on the religious organization of the area. His preaching led to the development of small congregations who practiced some of the tenets of Methodism, and were the direct ancestors of the Methodist churches that grew out of Francis Asbury's later mission.

In 1771, John Wesley sent an official missionary to America, Francis Asbury. In 1784, Asbury, together with Thomas Coke, another of Wesley's ambassadors, established a Methodist church independent from the rules and strictures of the Anglican church in America at a meeting in Barratt's Chapel in Kent County, Delaware. This newly independent church urged changes in individual lives, including an active participation in the church and with God. This emphasis on direct participation led to the development of camp meetings, an outdoor revival-type meeting that lasted for several days and involved thousands of people listening to God's word being spoken by an itinerant preacher. Methodism also raised questions concerning the nature of Delmarva's religious, social, political, and economic institutions, including the American Revolution and slavery. Throughout the history of Methodism, Peninsula Methodists worked hard at preserving the Wesleyan heritage that included a dedication to personal improvement, a strong work ethic, and a belief that one had to continually strive for spiritual perfection.

As Methodism evolved in the region, several different groups arose in response to questions of the organization and traditions of the church. Two such examples were the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church developed as the direct descendant of the Anglican church in America. The Methodist Protestant schism developed in 1828-30. It arose from a desire by the laity to be represented at the Annual Conference, which in the Methodist Episcopal Church was open only to itinerant preachers. Some members of the church were also concerned with the absolute power of the bishop to assign itinerants to circuits.

The Bethel Methodist Protestant Church in Mispillion Hundred was one of the very earliest Methodist Protestant Churches in America, having been organized prior to 1830. At that time the congregation had a church erected and were worshipping in it. The present church building was built in 1871, at a time when many rural churches throughout the state were being built and rebuilt. Masten's Methodist Episcopal Church in Mispillion Hundred was built in 1873; Prospect Church in Mispillion Hundred was rebuilt in 1877; the Kenton M. E. Church in Kenton Hundred was rebuilt in 1877; and the Methodist Episcopal Church at Milford was also rebuilt in 1871. Other than these bare facts, there is little documentation on the development and growth of the church.

The Bethel Methodist Protestant Church is an excellent example of the small, frame country churches commonly built towards the end of the nineteenth century. Usually built of frame, rectangular in shape, one story high, with an open plan and small apse at one end, the churches were simple and functional, but recognized as distinctive elements on the rural landscape of Delaware. These churches were often the only public building in very small rural communities, and reflected not only the pride of the people in building and maintaining their own place of worship, but also their beliefs and sense of community. The Bethel Church retains much of its architectural integrity, with the only significant change being the addition of vinyl siding that reproduces the look of the original siding. Many other churches of the same period have been altered with the addition of Sunday School wings and bathrooms, but the Bethel Church retains its original form and plan.

The interior of the Bethel Church is an excellent example of early-twentieth-century church architecture. The angled pews, restrained Gothic moldings and surrounds, and the elaborate Gothic pressed-metal ceiling suggest the financial ability and desire of the local congregation to renovate their church building to reflect the strengths and traditions of the Methodist Church in Delaware. By choosing a Gothic style with which to decorate their church, the congregation elected to emphasize the strength of their faith, in much the same spirit as the Gothic cathedrals from which they drew their patterns. The interior renovation also served as a testimony to the congregation's willingness to maintain and improve their place of worship, just as they were directed by the teachings of the church to maintain and perfect their own characters and faith. Serving not only as a testimony to the strength of the church, but also as a tribute to the people who made the church possible, the Bethel Church building is a unique and artistic interpretation of the common rural church tradition.

Bethel Methodist Church is significant under criterion C for its architectural representation of the values associated with the Methodist Church in Delaware. Its significance is evidenced through its history as one of the first congregations who chose to separate themselves from the Methodist Episcopal Church in order to seek more freedom of choice at a time when the freedoms of men were still relatively new in America. More importantly, the church displays its significance through its architecture. Built as a symbol of faith and community at a small, rural crossroad in Kent County, the congregation embellished and improved their church with care. They chose to glorify their faith and belief in their church not on the outside, which would have differentiated the building to all who passed by, but on the inside, where only those who worshiped could appreciate its inner strength and beauty. The church preached self-improvement, not self-glorification. The congregation of the Bethel Church took this to heart, not only in terms of their individual actions, but in terms of their church, which was the outward representation of their faith.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church
Andrewsville Vicinity
Kent County, Delaware

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10. Geographical Data

Page 11

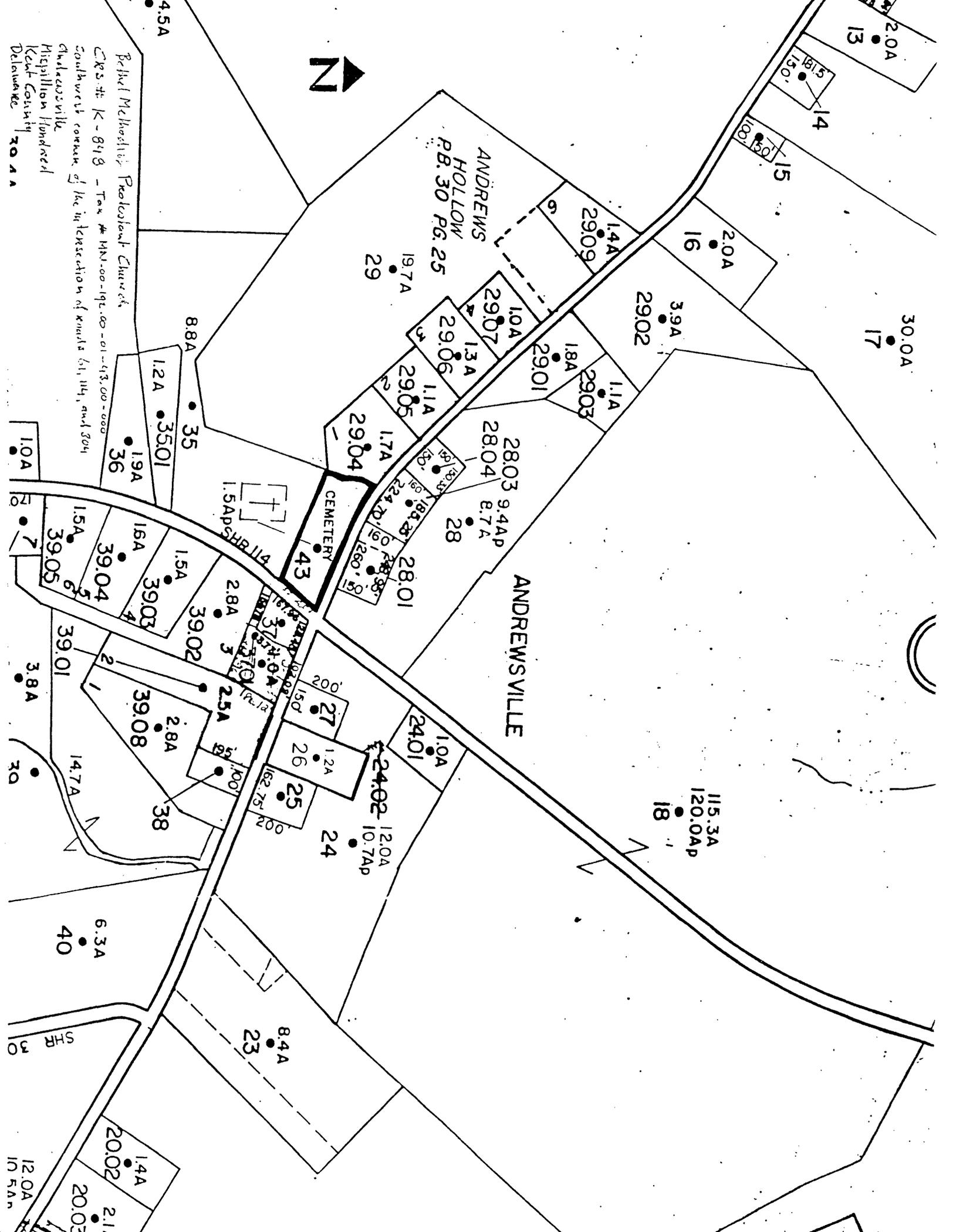
Bethel Methodist Protestant Church

Verbal Boundary Description

Located in the town of Andrewsville, in Mispillion Hundred, Kent County, Delaware, the Bethel Methodist Protestant Church sits on a 2-acre parcel of land located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Andrewsville Road, Todd's Chapel Road, and Prospect Church Road. The property is bounded on the north side by Andrewsville Road and on the east side by Todd's Chapel Road. From the intersection, the property extends west along Andrewsville Road 500 feet, then turns and runs back 200 feet in a southerly direction. At that point the line turns and runs east 400 feet to Todd's Chapel Road. The property line follows Todd's Chapel Road 175 feet back to the corner. These property boundaries are delineated by a thick black line on the enclosed tax parcel map. It is described as parcel MN-00-192.00-01-43.00-000 on Kent County property map dated October 14, 1977 (revised April, 1994).

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the land on which the church sits are the same boundaries given in a deed dating from 1908, at which time the property was divided from a larger tract. This boundary includes the small walled cemetery historically associated with the church and its congregation.



Bethel Methodist Protestant Church
 CR 83 to K-84 B - Tax # M1-00-192.00-01-43.00-000
 Southwest corner of the intersection of roads 64, 114, and 804
 Andrewsville
 Higginbotham Hundred
 Kent County
 Delaware
 20 4 A

ANDREWS
 HOLLOW
 P.B. 30 P.G. 25

ANDREWSVILLE

CEMETERY

SHR 14

SHR 30
 12.0A
 10.5A

4.5A

13 ● 2.0A
 14 ● 1.5A
 15 ● 1.5A
 16 ● 2.0A
 17 ● 30.0A

19.7A ● 29
 1.4A ● 29.09
 1.0A ● 29.07
 1.3A ● 29.06
 1.1A ● 29.05
 1.7A ● 29.04
 1.8A ● 29.01
 1.1A ● 29.03
 1.0A ● 28.03
 9.4AP ● 28.04
 8.7A ● 28
 28.01

1.5A ● 35
 1.2A ● 35.01
 1.9A ● 36
 1.5A ● 39.05
 1.5A ● 39.04
 1.5A ● 39.03
 2.8A ● 39.02
 1.5A ● 39.01
 3.8A ● 38

1.0A ● 7
 1.0A ● 24.01
 1.0A ● 24.02
 10.7AP ● 24
 1.2A ● 25
 1.2A ● 26
 1.0A ● 27
 1.0A ● 28
 1.0A ● 29

1.0A ● 30
 1.0A ● 31
 1.0A ● 32
 1.0A ● 33
 1.0A ● 34
 1.0A ● 35
 1.0A ● 36
 1.0A ● 37
 1.0A ● 38
 1.0A ● 39
 1.0A ● 40

1.0A ● 18
 115.3A ● 18
 120.0AP ● 18

6.3A ● 40
 8.4A ● 23

2.1 ● 20.03
 1.4A ● 20.02