Form 10-300

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
   COMMON:
   Barratt's Chapel
   AND/OR HISTORIC:
   Barratt's Chapel

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   North U.S. 113
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Frederica
   STATE:
   Delaware
   CODE: 19946

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   □ District □ Site □ Building □ Site □ Structure □ Building
   □ Object
   OWNERSHIP
   □ Public □ Private □ Both
   STATUS
   □ Occupied □ Unoccupied □ Preservation work in progress
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   □ Yes: □ Restricted □ Unrestricted
   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   □ Agricultural □ Commercial □ Educational □ Entertainment
   □ Government □ Industrial □ Private Residence □ Religious
   □ Museum □ Other (Specify) □ Scientific
   □ Transportation □ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME:
   Commission on Archives and History of Peninsula Annual Conference
   STREEET AND NUMBER:
   Barratt's Chapel of the United Methodist Church, Inc.
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Frederica
   STATE:
   Delaware
   CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Kent County Court House, Recorder of Deeds Office
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   South State Street
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Dover
   STATE:
   Delaware
   CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   Historic American Buildings Survey, #Del-16
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   1936
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   Library of Congress
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Washington, D.C.
   STATE:
   CODE:
Barratt's Chapel is a two-story brick meeting house with a west gable-end frontage.

The south wall, facing the cemetery, is laid in Flemish bond with a glazed header pattern. In the center of this wall is a double door flanked by two windows. Three second-story windows light the gallery.

The west, or front, wall is laid in unglazed Flemish bond brick, with diaper patterns in glazed brick on the face of the attic story. Two belt courses appear on this facade; the lower one divides the first and second stories, and the upper one separates the second story from the attic. There are three doors in the first floor of this facade, and on the second story there are three windows. A window has been cut into the attic story, destroying a segment of the diapered brick design.

The north wall is laid in common bond, with three windows on each story. The east gable wall is covered with stucco. An off-center doorway in this wall provides access to the chancel.

Exterior shutters follow the Delaware tradition of solid shutters on the first floor, with louvered shutters above. The box cornices on the north and south facades are elaborately moulded, and return onto the gable end to create a seat to receive the bargeboard.

The interior is arranged as a traditional aisled hall. Square posts extend from the ground to the rafters, in two rows parallel to the north and south sidewalls. A three-sided gallery is hung from these posts and from the north, west, and south walls. A wooden floor and simple open bench pews, finished in rustic fashion, appear to date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Against the east
In the summer of 1780 Philip Barratt gave the Methodist Society a plot of land, near the Murderkill River in Kent County, Delaware. The two-story brick meeting house, named in honor of Barratt, was begun immediately.

Barratt's Chapel was the first church in Kent County that was built especially for Methodist worship, and one of the first two erected in Delaware.

For two generations, the interior remained in an unfinished condition, with only dirt floors and no heat; in spite of these primitive conditions, Barratt's Chapel was the best meeting house in America belonging to the Methodists as a house of worship. St. George's in Philadelphia was, at this time, serving as a barracks and stable for the British army.

Barratt's Chapel today is known as the "Cradle of American Methodism" because of its unique place in the development of the denomination. It was here that Dr. Thomas Coke and the Reverend Francis Asbury, later the first two Methodist bishops, met to make the preliminary arrangements for the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Here the sacramental ordinances were first administered to Methodist communicants on American soil by
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Barratt, Norris S. *Barratt's Chapel and Methodism*. Wilmington: Historical Society of Delaware, 1911.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39° 01' 28&quot;</td>
<td>75° 27' 34&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Rev. Charles E. Covington, President

ORGANIZATION
Commission on Archives and History of Peninsula

STREET AND NUMBER:
36 Baltimore Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Rehoboth Beach

STATE: Delaware CODE: 19971

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [x] State [] Local []

Name: Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins
Title: Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Date: 9-22-72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert E. Scopes
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Date: 10/10/72

ATTEST:

William H. Brumley
Keeper of The National Register
Date: 10-5-72
7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

wall is a high two-level pulpit, now enclosed with a balustrade but formerly panelled. Although the balustrade was installed around the middle of the nineteenth century, the bench behind the pulpit is said to be part of the original furnishings.
8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)—

duly authorized Methodist ministers, Dr. Coke and the Reverend Richard Whatcoat.

According to Scharf's *History of Delaware*, "The edifice was forty-two by forty-eight feet, two stories high, and had a vestry room connected with it. There is a tradition that the brick of which it was built were imported from Holland, which is improbable, as the clay in the immediate vicinity is as good as any in the world for bricks and the art of making bricks was already well-known...The house was furnished with a pulpit and occupied as a place of worship...The old fashioned high pulpit which was reached by a flight of steps and which almost concealed the preacher from his congregation has been remodeled to suit modern ideas; but the seat or wooden bench, upon which Bishops Coke and Asbury, and other pioneers of the church, sat, is still preserved as a memento. For the first sixty years of its existence the ground was the only flooring and the walls were left in an uncouth and primitive state."