NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

746

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Blackwell Methodist Episcopal Church
Other names/site number: Blackwell Church
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 117 Blackwell Square
City or town: Morris Township State: PA County: Tioga
Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this _X_ 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 _X_ 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 _X_local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___A ___B _X_C ___D

Andrea L. MacDonald July 6, 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title: Acting Deputy SHPO Date
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
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/Title: Date

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:)

for Edson W. Beall 9.18.13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private:	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions
Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification: No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The 1892 Blackwell Methodist Episcopal Church (Blackwell Church) is located in the small village of Blackwell, in southwestern Tioga County. The modest, vernacular church building is frame, with distinctive wood siding cut to imitate brick walls with stone quoins, and reflects Gothic Revival influences. Also within the nominated boundary is a non-contributing outhouse. The church's interior is not extravagant, but features original trim, finishes, and furnishings. Overall, the building retains all aspects of integrity. The Blackwell Church is located on a one-acre lot on one of the few side streets in the village, with the gable end entrance facing west toward Pine Creek, which borders the village. Much of the surrounding area is state park, forest, or game lands.

Narrative Description

Setting

Blackwell Village is in a heavily wooded, sparsely populated part of southwestern Tioga County, near the Lycoming County line, and is approximately 17 miles south of Wellsboro, Tioga's county seat. Blackwell is currently a very quiet cluster of primarily 19th or early 20th century buildings, mostly residential, located at the edge of Pine Creek where Babbs Creek enters, in a narrow canyon. The village is at the foot of Fork Hill, and faces west to West Hill. A popular hiking and biking trail runs through the village on former railroad alignment. Across Blackwell Square from the church building is the location of a former railroad depot, now a vacant grass lot. (See current photo 7) Some of the buildings in the village currently serve as vacation rentals or seasonal homes or camps, as the immediate area is very popular for hunters and outdoor enthusiasts. The Blackwell Cemetery, a community burial ground, is located north of the church on Fork Hill, accessible by a dirt lane and path in a heavily wooded setting and is not easily visible from the church. It is not directly related to the church, but rather served the entire community.

Exterior

The church has a rectangular footprint approximately 28 feet wide and 40 feet long. There is no parking area on the church property, which is primarily lawn with a few mature hardwood trees along the property lines. A set of concrete steps provides access from Blackwell Square to a cement sidewalk leading to the church's entrance. (photo 1) A set of wood steps leads to a wood landing outside the vestibule's doors. These steps and landing were reconstructed in 1990. The church sits on a slightly-raised stone foundation, with basement-level windows on the north and south sides; the windows on the north side are in below-grade wells. An entrance to the basement is located at the south corner of the building's west end, under the vestibule. A cellar bulkhead is located on the south side of the church. (photo 2) The present basement was created in the mid-1930s, when men from the local Dixie Run CCC work camp dug out the basement, cemented the floor, and laid the stone basement walls. A furnace was also installed at that time.

The one-story church has a short bell tower extending from the vestibule that protrudes from the west end of the church. The paired wood panelled entrance doors (panels measuring 8 ¾ x 46in. and 8 ¾ x 17in.) are topped by a three-part Gothic arch window (82 in. at its widest and 51 in. high). (photo 8) The wood door and window surround tops the arch window with a rectangular finish. A shallow gable overhang protects the entrance, with cut wood brackets and modest wood vergeboard trim and a decorative crossbrace. The overhang's trim is carved with a simple repeating "X" and "II" design that is found on the vergeboard on the west and east gable ends of the building as well. Rafter tails are visible on the porch overhang and the main roof.

A circular window is found on the west end of the bell tower, above the gable overhang and below the bell cupola, with applied wood muntins that form a five-pointed star design. (photo 3) The top of the wood window trim encircling the round window features the same flat rectangle effect found below in the arch window above the doors. The bell tower ends with an open cupola that holds the original bell and is topped by a spire with finial. The lower portion of the cupola features a wood balustrade, and the upper portion has cut wood brackets with a circle design. The cupola spire and the roof of the church are both covered in asphalt shingles. Some of the tower's siding and supports were replaced in 1989.

The north and south sides of the church both have four evenly-spaced two-over-two, wood sash, double hung windows with slightly-pedimented wood trim with wood dentils. (photo 6) The windows are 28in. x 77in., and most retain original wavy glass panes.

The defining feature of the church is the exterior wood siding. From a distance, the building appears to be of brick construction. To create that effect, tongue and groove wood boards were cut and scored to imitate the appearance of brick masonry, with applied wood blocks that mimic cut stone quoins at each of the building's corners. The "bricks" are 3 ¼ inches high and 9 ¼ inches long and the "quoins" are alternating blocks either 6 ½ x 7in. or 6 ½ x 12in. A piece of wood siding at the bottom of the walls creates the impression of a stone water table stringcourse, with defined 5 ½ x 20in. blocks.

Currently, the church is painted to enhance the masonry effect, with each "brick" painted red, and the "mortar" joint lines, "water table," and "quoins" painted white.

Interior

The only entrance to the main floor of the church is through the west end vestibule. A second set of panelled wood doors leads into the sanctuary. The interior doors feature original staining, carefully applied in two tones emphasizing the panels. That two-tone stain application is continued on the interior wood door surrounds, wood window trim, and chair rail, accenting the center beaded grooves of the trim pieces and the corner block bullseye details. (photos 15 & 16) The wood trim surrounding the doors and windows is 5 ¼in. wide, with a four-bead groove in the center, stained darker than the remainder of the trim. A 4 in. wide chair rail tops the wainscoting, and features a single bead and two-bead grooves, both stained dark.

Wood wainscoting extends from the vestibule throughout the interior. The beaded wainscoting has alternating widths (3 ¼in. and 2 3/8in.) and also features original two-tone staining in an alternating diagonal pattern; the alternating colors are emphasized with a diagonal bead. (photo 17) A dark stain was applied to the 8in. trim at the bottom of the wainscoting and door surrounds, including the base blocks of the door surrounds, which feature a three-circle flower or clover design.

At the east end of the sanctuary is a raised pulpit platform that covers three-quarters of the front of the sanctuary. A smaller platform is placed in the center of the room, on top of the larger platform, and holds the altar. A wood balustrade serves as the altar communion rail at the edge of the larger platform, with a kneeling step. Local residents reported that the pulpit platform was originally smaller, and located only in the center of the east end, instead of extending to the north wall as it does today. Original wood pews with fleur-de-leis type designs on the aisle ends fill the remainder of the sanctuary. Most of the pews are 2ft. x 9 ½ft., but two are shorter, only 8ft. long. The pews have a rounded back and seat edge and arm rests.

The church has its original wood floor and plaster walls. The plaster ceiling is now covered in acoustic tiles, due to the deteriorating condition of the ceiling's plaster, and has a chamfered effect, incorporating the slant of the gable roof above. Carpeting currently extends along the center aisle, the space in front of the platform, and the platform itself. Two simple globe lights hang from the middle of the sanctuary, installed in the late 1950s. A more ornate light graces the vestibule, but is not original (installed in 1990).

Exposed beams, log posts, and 3x8in. joists in the basement are local hemlock. The unfinished basement is used for storage and mechanical services. Two hopper windows provide ventilation, the other two windows are fixed. Electrical service was installed in the late 1950s, with support from the community and local sportsmen's groups. The electrical system and heating furnace (originally installed c.1933) have both since been upgraded. An internal brick chimney chase rises through the south side of the sanctuary.

Integrity

The Blackwell Church retains all aspects of integrity. The original workmanship, materials, and design of the interior and exterior remain evident and intact, which are the most important aspects as the building is nominated under Criterion C as an example of local vernacular architecture and the work of local artisans. The setting, feeling, and association also remain intact. Although the church is no longer used for weekly worship, it is still used for special services and events and it retains the same appearance it held when constructed. Blackwell is now a quieter hamlet than it was earlier in its history, but it was never a large village and many of the contemporary residences and commercial remain buildings remain. The railroad and depot are no longer present, but the path of the rail alignment is evident in its use as a popular recreational trail.

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.
- [x] 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.)

- [x] 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

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1892

Significant Dates: 1892

Significant Person : N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Blackwell Methodist Episcopal Church is nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an important example of local vernacular design and craftsmanship. As the church is nominated for its architectural significance, Criterion Consideration A is met. The period of significance is 1892, the year of construction. Constructed by as-yet unidentified carpenters and builders, the church features distinctive exterior wood siding that mimics brick masonry construction with stone quoins, and carefully executed exterior and interior features.

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

Significance and Historic Context

The simplest definition of "vernacular" architecture is that it is *ordinary* architecture. Often the term refers to the work of local builders not formally educated in architecture, who adapted popular styles and applied them local building forms. In this case, we are looking at the Blackwell Church as an example of regional building trends, using local materials and expert skills, even if the skills are not those of a professionally-trained architect. While this church shows some influences of the Gothic Revival or other "high" styles (arched window, vergeboard trim) it is not a significant interpretation of any particular style, but is rather a very good example of the use of local material—wood—and local craftsmanship (siding, exterior and interior trim) applied to a typical form—the gable-end church.

Tioga County is in north-central Pennsylvania, bordered on the north by New York State. It is in a region that was historically heavily forested and sparsely populated. The early economy of southwestern Tioga County was dominated by the timber industry. Blackwell was in an area considered remote even in Tioga County. The buildings around Blackwell, and in much of Tioga County, are overwhelmingly of frame construction. In the nineteenth century it would have been very rare to find a house or even a civic or religious building made of brick or stone.

Perhaps as an attempt to add status, and strengthen the perception of stability and prominence that a church generally held in a community, the builders of Blackwell Church used material readily available—wood—that was milled to mimic something more rare, brick masonry. Grooves were cut into tongue-and-groove boards outlining the shape and size of standard bricks, creating the appearance of mortar joints. Two sizes of wood blocks, with beveled edges to resemble cut stone, were nailed onto the building's corners to give the appearance of stone quoins. With careful painting, the frame, wood-sided church appears from a distance to be a brick building.

Wood imitation stone siding has an established history of use in the United States, although not particularly common. Similar brick siding seems to be even less common. Buildings scattered across Pennsylvania, from a church in Montrose, Susquehanna County, to a cluster of rural houses in Cumberland County, feature original wood siding consisting of wood boards milled to resemble cut stone courses. (Continuation Sheet figure 10) Despite searching, Pennsylvania

examples of wood siding cut to resemble brick masonry have yet to be identified, other than the Blackwell Church and nearby Middle Ridge Church in Tioga County.

The National Historic Landmark form for the 1747-1750 Redwood Library and Athenaeum in Rhode Island describes that building's siding as "rusticated wood" and claims that use of rusticated wood siding became fairly popular in New England after 1750. (figure 12) Rustication is a way of treating wood siding to make it look like stone. In describing the Library, the nomination explains that:

> Seeking the impressiveness of classical stone masonry with the inexpensiveness of wood, Harrison's [Peter Harrison, builder] specifications called for an exterior surface of "Pine Plank worked in imitation of Rustik." [Rustik refers to a stone masonry.] The history of the use of rusticated wood siding in Georgian Architecture has never been thoroughly explored but it seems possible that Peter Harrison may have been the one primarily responsible for its adoption. The Redwood Library is the earliest building in the colonies of definite date to employ the motive [or earliest known at this time].[1]

Mount Vernon is also sided with rusticated wood siding imitating stone. The effect is created by cutting and beveling wood boards (in Mount Vernon's case, the boards are pine) at regular intervals to simulate stone blocks, and then applying sand to the surface during painting to achieve the rough texture of stone.[2] Mount Vernon's website suggests that 18th century rusticated wood siding was less common in Virginia than in New England. An inventory form for a farm in Frederick County, Maryland, which features a log house with "rusticated wood and shingle siding applied in about 1880" suggests that the siding represents "a refining of wood building methods brought about by the proliferation of builders' guides and catalogs during the last quarter of the 19th century."[3] Whether that refinement is what drove the decisions made during the construction of the Blackwell Church remains to be proven.

Harrison's rusticated wood siding seems to be just one early example in generations of cheaper or newer materials being manipulated to imitate rarer or more expensive materials. Following the Civil War, industrialization was bringing rapid changes to the materials used in the building trades. The imitation stone or brick siding made of wood shares similarities with 19th century pressed steel siding (figure 13), and then the rolled asphalt siding, or asbestos shingles, or Permastone of the 20th century.

In Pamela Simpson's book *Cheap, Quick, and Easy* she delves into imitation materials used for interior finishes—such as lincrusta and linoleum—and includes chapters on exterior materials like concrete block and ornamental sheet metal, but unfortunately does not discuss evolving wood siding options. Simpson explains that by the late 1880s, improvements in sheet-steel production and drop presses made it possible to stamp larger decorative panels, enabling

[1] Redwood Library, National Historic Landmark file
[2] www.mountvernon.org/educational-resources/encyclopedia/rustication
[3] Josephus Palmer Farmstead, Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

purchase of exterior cladding that imitated rockface stone or pressed brick.[4] Nailing the pressed panels to a frame building's exterior instantly gave the appearance of a substantial masonry building. While no documentation has been found yet to trace the use and development of wood siding that imitates brick or stone, it would seem to follow many of the same trends and motivations.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Blackwell Church is the use of wood siding imitating brick and stone masonry. Hopefully further research will establish whether a local mill supplied the siding, and if there were once many other examples in the region that are now covered by newer materials.

The builders of the Blackwell Church were obviously using honed skills and practiced techniques, along with readily available, affordable materials, to create appearances that looked more exclusive or fashionable than the budget allowed. In addition to the imitation brick siding, the interior wood finishes feature very careful and thoughtful staining and patterns to create striking door and window surrounds and wainscot. The church is the landmark of the village. If any of the known builders in the area are found to be associated with the construction of Blackwell Church, it would be an important step in establishing their role as master craftsmen or artisans of the area in the late 19th century.

Even without definite identification of the individuals involved, and full examination of their work, it is clear that this is an important local vernacular building exhibiting a high level of craftsmanship.

Comparisons and Local Builders

The identity of the carpenters and builders who constructed the Blackwell Church has not yet been determined. One of the two local churches that share similarities, and identified builders, is the c.1895 Middle Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church, on Route 660 near the entrance to the Leonard Harrison State Park. (figure 6 and 9) This church is much more visible than the remote Blackwell Church, and is still in regular use. The frame church features the same distinctive wood siding that imitates brick masonry and stone quoins. The builder of the Middle Ridge Church is identified as Galusha Dean Warriner Phillips, or a man with some variation of that name (including Deane Phillips and G. Deane Phillips). Various census data lists Phillips' occupation as "house carpenter" or "carpenter." [5] The gable-end church's plan is a bit more involved than the Blackwell Church's plan, incorporating two entrance vestibules, and features stained glass windows. Currently, the siding is not painted to emphasize the "brick" effect, and is all one color, instead of using a contrast to emphasize the mortar joints.

Another church that shows similarities to Blackwell Church is the1895 Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Nauvoo Road, just off Route 414, in an area known as Hartsfield, Liberty Township. (figure 7 and 9) The Salem Lutheran Church features its original wood siding, which is quite intricate in the gable ends, but does not have the faux-brick or stone treatment. Here, the

[4] Simpson, *Cheap, Quick & Easy*, page 41.
[5] BHP Historic Resource Survey files; wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com; www.joycetice.com/director/tcdir054.htm

obvious similarities with Blackwell Church are in its round windows with star-shaped muntins, and the "X" and "II" pattern found on the gable end and roof trim. The ell-shaped cross-gable frame church has a bell tower vestibule incorporated inside the "ell" with a later addition to its side. A 1945 50th Anniversary bulletin notes the builders of the current church building as Ambrose and George Cochran, "architect and contractor" and Murry Smith, carpenter, with Abe and Jacob Reed as masons. The cost was reported to be $1,900 (nearly double the cost of Blackwell's church).[6] News items of the period identify an Ambrose Cochran, of Liberty, as a cabinet-maker.[7] The 1870 Liberty Township census data recorded both Ambrose and George Cochran as carpenters. Their ages in 1870 (32 and 25, respectively) suggests they are brothers or cousins.[8] Nothing further regarding Murry Smith has been uncovered.

Perhaps one local saw mill supplied the wood siding imitating bricks for both the Blackwell and Middle Ridge churches, while one of the Cochrans or Smith was responsible for the "X" and "II" pattern on the Blackwell and Salem Lutheran churches. No other churches in Morris Township or the Liberty area have been reported to feature either the imitation brick siding or the trim found on these churches. The other churches in Morris Township are frame, but most have been more altered than Blackwell's, so original features may now be obscured or replaced.

There are two houses in the area, east of Blackwell and in Liberty, that feature wood siding similar to Blackwell Church's but instead of imitation brick the siding is imitation cut stone, with stone quoins. (figure 8 and 9) There are houses or churches with imitation stone siding found elsewhere across Pennsylvania, from at least Susquehanna County to Cumberland County. (see figures 10 and 11 for a few examples) Evidently, imitation brick siding is more rare, as no other examples in PA have been identified to date (based on research in the Bureau for Historic Preservation's files).

History of the Property

The village of Blackwell traces its origin to the 1811 arrival of Enoch Blackwell Sr. in the sparsely populated area when he acquired 1,200 acres of timber land along the Pine Creek, at the mouth of Babb's Creek.[9] Blackwell, an immigrant from Gloucestershire, England, began cutting lumber and rafting it down the Pine Creek, an activity continued by the family members who settled here with him. His son William is credited with establishing the village of Blackwell, which by 1824 had 18 taxable adults. The rugged area remained very rural—in 1840 the population of the entire township was only 120 people.[10] Sawmills and gristmills were soon established on Babb's Creek by the Blackwells and their neighbors. The Blackwell village businesses extracting and transporting pine and oak trees from the forests were accompanied by tanneries using hemlock bark.

[6] www.joycetice.com/church/libluthr.htm, History of Liberty's Salem Lutheran Church, Tioga County, PA
[7] www.joycetice.com/clippings/tcobt373.htm, Tri-County Obituaries and Newspaper Clippings, 1887
[8] www.joycetice.com/census/liberty/1870 , 1870 Liberty Township Census, Tioga County, PA
[9] Kagan, p.1
[10] R.C. Brown, 1897 history

Based largely on an economy rooted in the timber industries, Blackwell grew to include several stores, a doctor's office, and hotels catering to early lumbermen and later railroaders. A school was located about a mile away from the Blackwell village. The community's first and only church, in the Methodist Episcopal denomination (later United Methodist), was organized in 1859 and meetings were held in the nearby school or local homes. Blackwell's church is thought to be the first congregation organized in Morris Township.

The Pine Creek Railway was completed in 1884. Travelers and local mail delivery could then take a stage to the slightly-larger village of Morris, five miles to the northeast. By 1890 Morris Township's population reached 1,849 people, with 560 of them living in the largest village of Hoytville. In 1892 the Blackwell Methodist Episcopal Church's first formal building was constructed at an advertised cost of $1,000. Jonathan and Angie Latimer donated the acre for the church property, located across from the rail station. In 1897, the congregation numbered 42 members.

As the lumber industry declined in the early 1900s, no new industries were established to fill that void, and population gradually declined. The post office closed in the 1930s. A nearby Civilian Conservation Corps camp (Dixie Run) established to boost employment took on a project at the church in 1932, when they began digging out a basement under the building. The rail station was demolished in the 1950s. The economy increasingly became tied to seasonal visitors to the area, such as those with family hunting camps or visiting to enjoy the "little grand canyon" of Pennsylvania, as the Pine Creek gorge is known. Fewer and fewer year-round residents lived in Blackwell, and the area became dominated by hunters, fishers, and eventually recreational users of the local and regional trails, including the rail-trail that follows the alignment of the former Pine Creek Railway.

In 1992, the Blackwell Church's membership was 14. The congregation continued to struggle with low membership until the decision was made by the United Methodist Church's district conference to close the church. In 2005, the property's deed was transferred to the Blackwell Church Preservation Association on the condition that the property continues to be used as a site for religious worship. The Association organizes occasional non-denominational services and special events, and the building is available for community gatherings.

9. Major Bibliographical References (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Blackwell United Methodist reaches important milestone." *Gazette*, Wellsboro, PA. April 1, 1992, page 5.

George Washington's Mount Vernon website, www.mountvernon.org/educational-resources.

Historic American Building Survey online database, Library of Congress, Washington DC. www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/.

Josephus Palmer Farmstead Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form.

Kagan, David. "Blackwell is Still the Blackwells' Village." Article published online on Kagan's website www.pinecreekvalley.com. December, 2007.

Largey, Gale and Rhoda English Ladd. *Life in Morris Township*. Williamsport, PA: Lycoming Printing, 1976.

R.C. Brown and Company. *History of Tioga County*. Harrisburg, PA: Press of Harrisburg, 1897.

Redwood Library and Athenaeum National Historic Landmarks nomination. National Park Service: Washington, DC. n.d.

Simpson, Pamela H. *Cheap, Quick & Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1999.

Tri-Counties Genealogy and History website, founded by Joyce Tice. Extensive collection of materials about Tioga County including census and church records. www.joycetice.com/jmtindex.htm.

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): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

Latitude: 41.5574345 Longitude: -77.3802814 (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The nominated boundary matches the current tax parcel (25-04B00-062) as recorded in the Tioga County Courthouse, Wellsboro, found in deed book 0763, page 7657 (matching historic 1892 deed found in book 100, page 72).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The nominated boundary corresponds to the one-acre historic tax parcel, which matches the current tax parcel, and includes the church, outhouse and historically-associated land. No resources formerly associated with this church building or contributing to its architectural significance have been excluded.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Jane Sutley and PHMC/BHP staff date: 5/4/2013
organization: Blackwell Church Preservation Association
address: 78 Grist Mill Lane
city: Morris state: PA zip code: 16938

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Blackwell Methodist Episcopal Church
City or Vicinity: Morris Township County: Tioga State: PA
Photographer: Ken Wolensky (1); April Frantz (2-18)
Date Photographed: 2010, 2012
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

#	date	Description of view
1	9/28/2010	Church and immediate setting, from Blackwell Square, facing E
2	2/28/2012	West and south elevations, facing N
3	2/28/2012	West and north elevations, gable-end entrance, facing E
4	2/28/2012	East and south elevations, facing W
5	2/28/2012	East and north elevations, outhouse at rear of church, facing W
6	2/28/2012	Detail of north elevation, showing windos trim
7	2/28/2012	View across Blackwell Square from church, facing W, toward Pine Creek; vacant lot in center of image is location of former rail depot
8	2/28/2012	Detail of west gable end, note especially the "X" and "II" design carved into vergeboard trim, star window below bell tower, and compare to Figure 7, Salem Lutheran Church
9	2/28/2012	Detail of "bricks" and "quoins" adjacent to entrance
10	2/28/2012	Detail of NE corner, showing "X" and "II" design
11	2/28/2012	Church interior, facing E toward altar
12	2/28/2012	Church interior, facing W toward vestibule entrance
13	2/28/2012	Church interior, altar area showing raised platform, altar rail, wainscoting
14	2/28/2012	Church interior, facing N wall
15	2/28/2012	Church interior, facing W and looking into vestibule
16	2/28/2012	Church interior, detail of window trim and wainscoting
17	2/28/2012	Church interior, detail of wainscoting
18	2/28/2012	Church interior, detail of corner block at base of vestibule doorway

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.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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.

Figure 1: USGS map excerpts, top showing church in oval. From Cedar Run Quadrangle. Blackwell is a small community located in a very rural area of southern Tioga County, along the Pine Creek. The former rail line that runs through the village, or hamlet, has been converted into a popular biking and hiking trail.

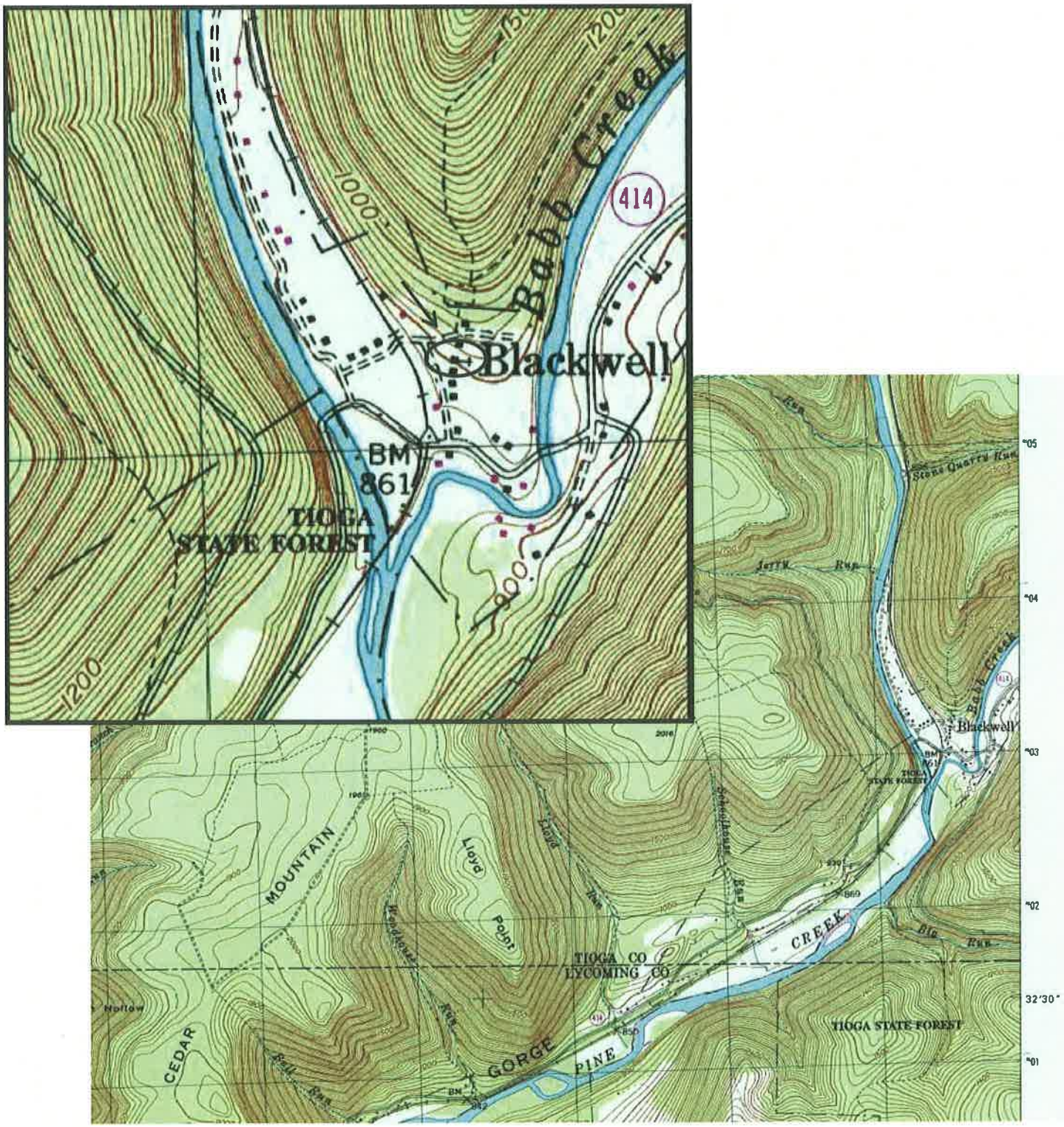


Figure 2: Site Plan and Exterior Photo Key

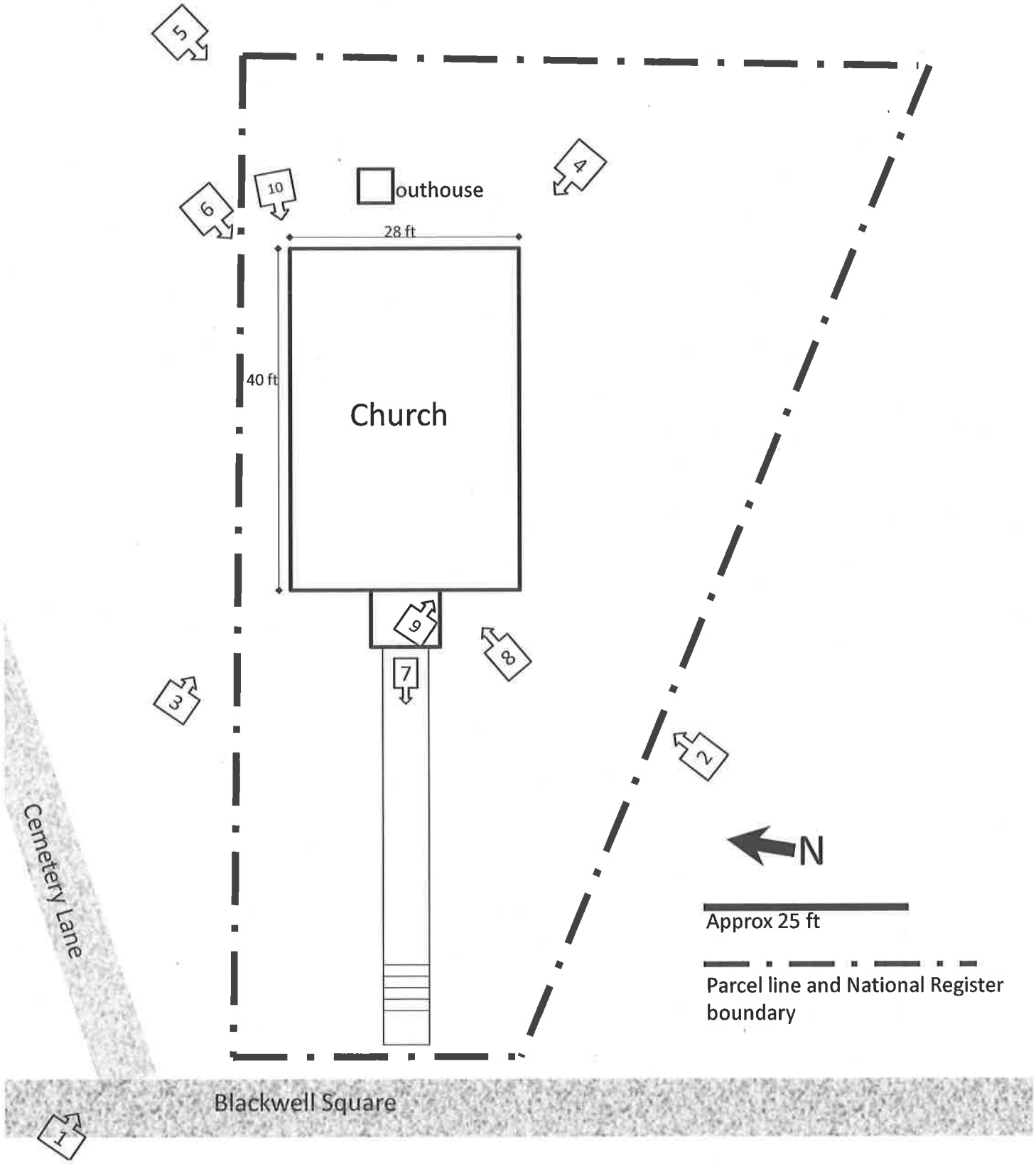


Figure 3: Floor Plan & Interior Photo Key

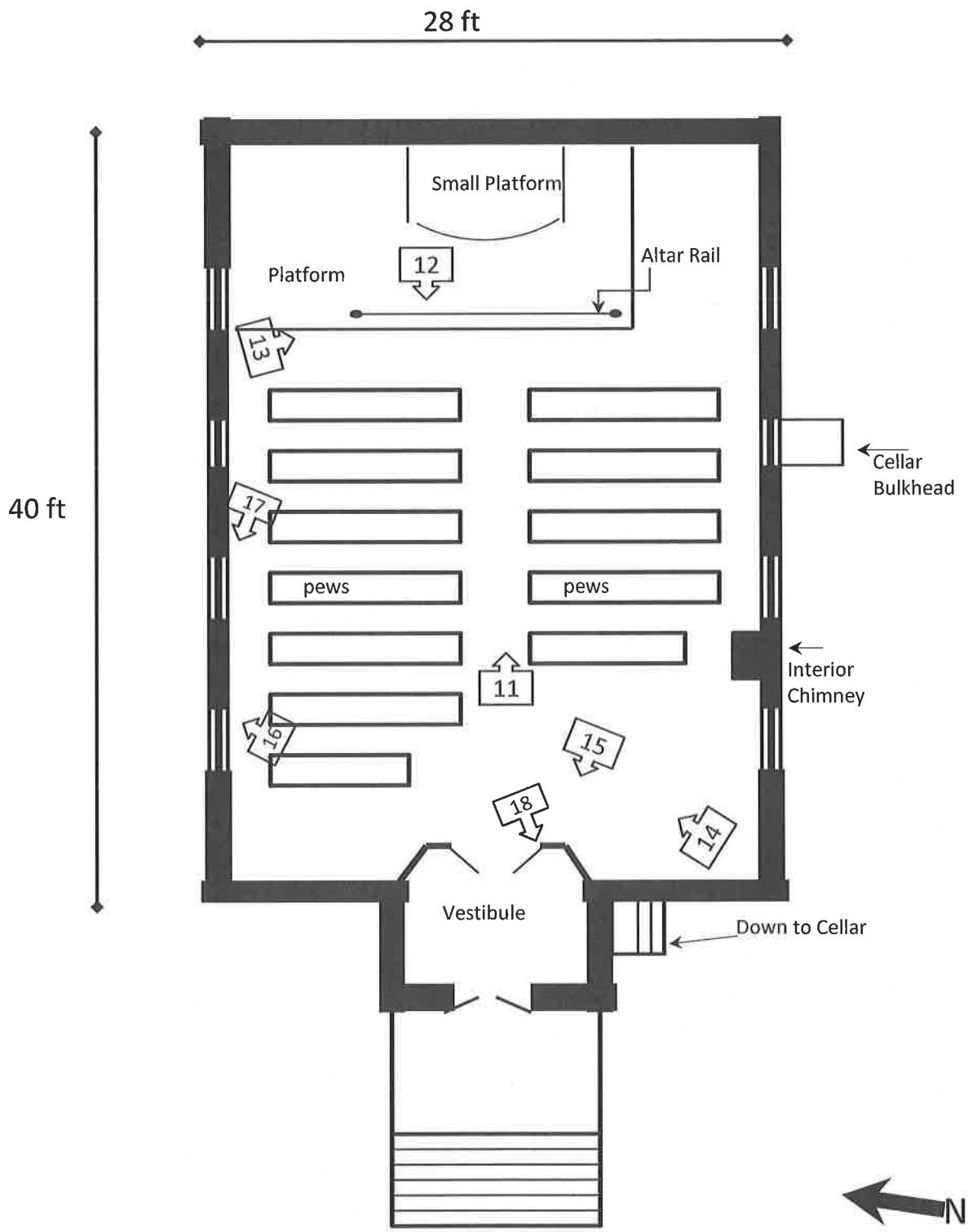
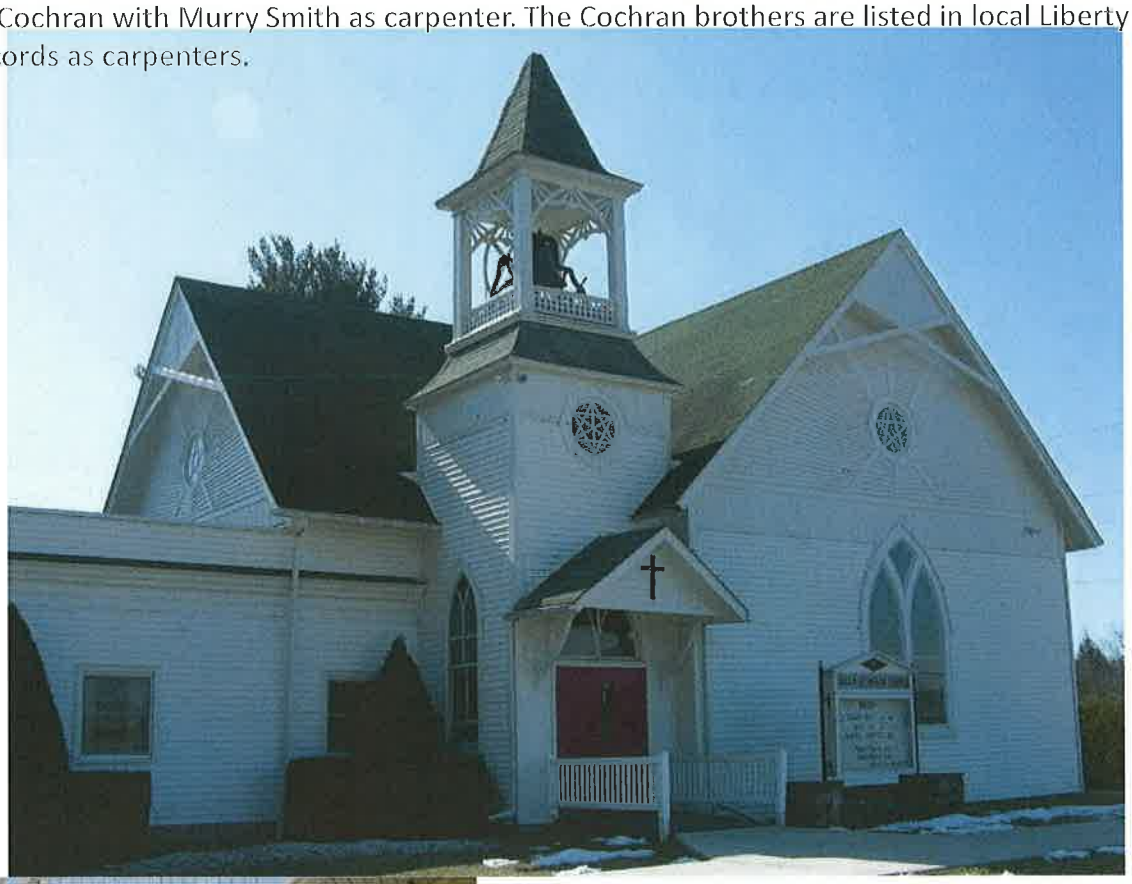


Figure 4: Blackwell village, recent aerial view.

Figure 5: Blackwell Village, 1938 USDA aerial view; www.pennpilot.psu.edu. A rail depot was previously located across from the church.

Figure 6: Middle Ridge Church, Route 660, Shippen Township, Tioga County. Like Blackwell Church, this was also built for a Methodist congregation and uses wood siding that imitates brick with stone quoins. PHMC files note the builder as Deane Phillips. Constructed c.1895. Unlike Blackwell Church, this building is not currently painted to emphasize the brick effect; the "mortar" lines are painted the same red as the "brick." Galusha Dean Warriner Phillips (or variations of that name) of Shippen Township is noted in local census records as a house carpenter.

Figure 7: Salem Lutheran Church, Nauvoo Road, Hartford area near Route 414. Possibly constructed by the same individuals who built Blackwell Church. Note the similar star window elements, and Roman numeral scoring on gable end trim. Joyce Tice's website identifies the church's "architect and contractor" as Ambrose & George Cochran with Murry Smith as carpenter. The Cochran brothers are listed in local Liberty Township census records as carpenters.



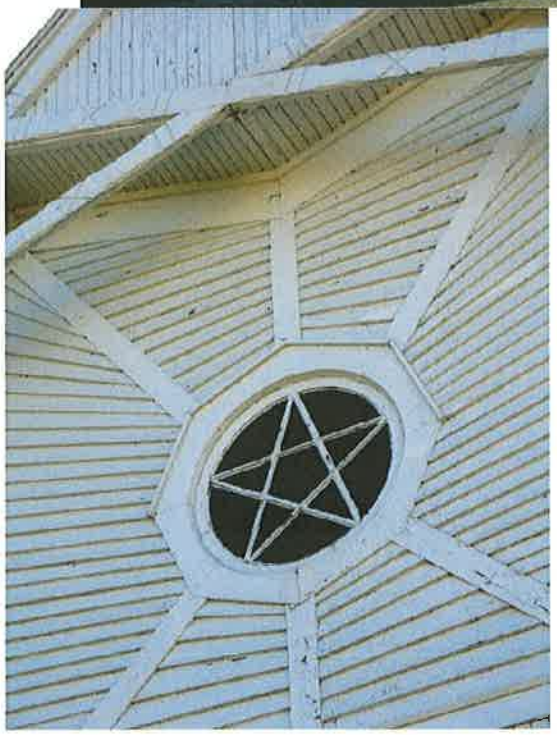


Figure 8: Houses near Blackwell featuring wood siding imitating stone, both with quoin effect. Top photo: 5270 Route 414, south side of 414 between Kreger and Plank Roads; Bottom photo: 8793 High Street, in Liberty. No local examples of imitation brick siding were found other than the two churches.

Figure 9: Map showing proximity of Blackwell Church to houses or churches shown in figures above, featuring similar elements or imitation brick or stone siding.

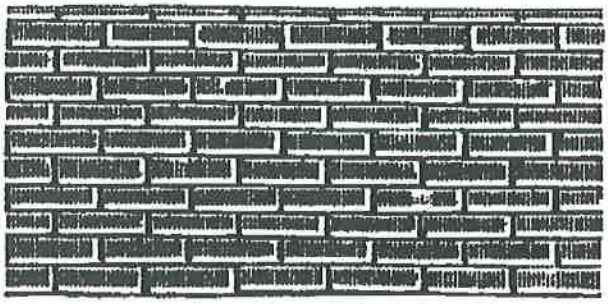
Figure 10: Photos of three houses (c.1885) in an area known as Craighead Station, Cumberland County, south-central Pennsylvania. All three feature at least a front façade of wood siding imitating cut stone.

Figure 11: Photos of a house at 203 Main Street, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, south-central Pennsylvania. This house features wood siding imitating cut stone, with quoins, similar to the Tioga County examples in Figure 8.

Figure 12: (Top) Redwood Library, 50 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island; 1747-1750. HABS 1970 photograph. The National Historic Landmark nomination for the library describes the exterior as wood cut to resemble rusticated stone. HABS RI,3-NEWP,15—3; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.
(Bottom) Brooks House, 260 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA. HABS photographed the house in 1958 and noted that the frame 1851 house had rusticated wood siding with quoins. HABS MASS,5-SAL,47—1; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

Figure 13: Advertisement from the Montgomery Ward catalog, 1895, for imitation brick siding made from steel, not wood. A remarkably similar ad appears in the 1897 Sears, Roebuck catalog, but neither contain any ads for similar wood siding. In the 20th century, rolled asphalt siding with a brick or stone appearance became popular, as did other composite materials such as asbestos siding and Permastone. Below, examples of rolled asphalt (left) and Permastone-covered houses.

Steel Pressed Brick Siding.

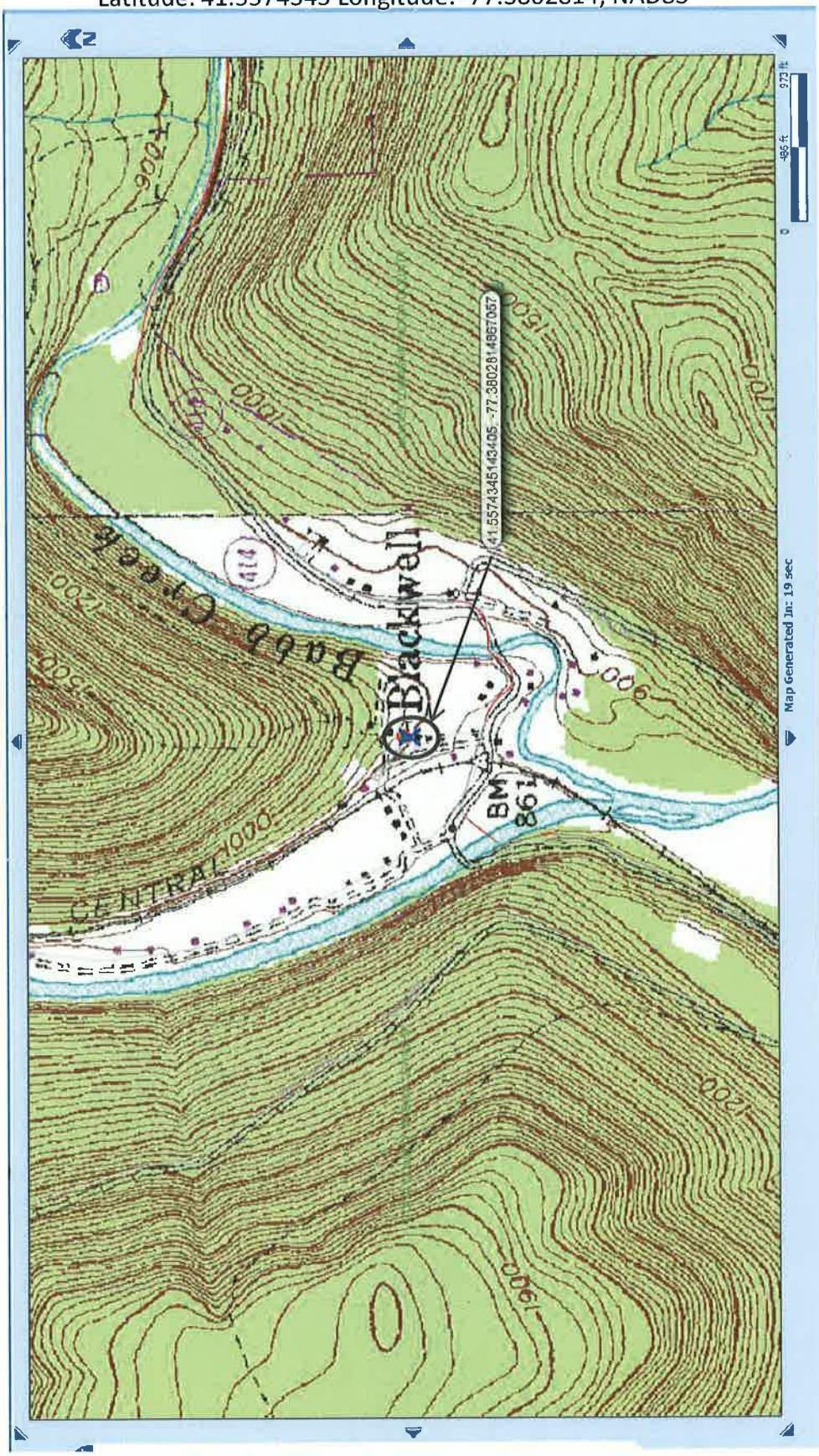


This is an excellent imitation of pressed brick. It is made of the best grade of annealed sheet steel, painted on both sides with the best iron ore paint. It is put up in squares, containing 11 sheets, 50½ inches long by 26 inches wide (or its equivalent), with sufficient nails to put it on, and dry paint for second coat. Weight, per square, 75 pounds.

42047 Price, per square, for less than 5 squares..$3.10
Price, per square, for more than 5 squares..... 2.90
We do not sell less than one square.

Blackwell Methodist Episcopal Church, Tioga County, PA

Latitude: 41.5574345 Longitude: -77.3802814; NAD83



CEMETERY LN
BLACKWELL
COMMUNITY CHURCH

BLACKWELL
CHURCH
1892

HOLY + HOLY + HOLY

HOLY ✠ HOLY ✠ HOLY