United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name First Reformed Church

other names/site number Piermont Reformed Church, First Protestant Dutch Church of Piermont

## 2. Location

street & number 361 Ferdon Avenue [ ] not for publication

city or town Piermont [ ] vicinity

state NY code NY county Rockland code 087 zip code 10968

## 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**

Ruthann Pierpont DSHPO 9/21/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 Date

Title 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 11.9.15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

First Reformed Church
Name of Property

Rockland County, NY
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

| | |
|---|---|
| x | private |
| | public - Local |
| | public - State |
| | public - Federal |

**Category of Property**
(Check only **one** box.)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| **2** | **1** | **Total** |

**Name of related multiple property listing**
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION / Religious Facility
RELIGION / Church-related Residence

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION / Religious Facility
RELIGION / Church-related Residence

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN
LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS /
Colonial Revival

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Shingle
roof: Slate, Asphalt
other:

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

## Summary Paragraph

The First Reformed Church of Piermont is located in the Village of Piermont in Rockland County. Ferdon Avenue runs along the southern side of Sparkill creek; the creek is flanked to the north by Piermont Avenue. These two streets compose the historic core of the village. Both streets are primarily residential, though some remains of former industrial buildings exist along the river. The church is located to the east of the Rockland Road Bridge Historic District (NR, 2010), which is primarily made up of nineteenth-century buildings. The church property is situated on a slight rise above the creek. Two small flights of concrete steps lead up to the church from the road; hedges line the staircase, and small trees and bushes are scattered throughout the property. The church, which is located centrally on the lot, is flanked to the north by the parsonage. A driveway runs by the parsonage on the north edge of the property and leads to a parking lot behind the parish hall. A ca. 1960 garage and small green space are located at the rear of the property. The First Reformed Church of Piermont, its parish hall, and parsonage have been well-maintained by its congregation and retain a high degree of architectural integrity. The nominated lot is the parcel historically associated with the Piermont Reformed Church.

## Narrative Description

The First Reformed Church of Piermont, built in 1946, is a one-story, three-bay by four-bay, frame Wren-Gibbs type Colonial Revival church with a slate shingle roof. The front-gabled church has a central square tower capped by a steeple and rectangular massing with a shallow transept. The building is covered in white-painted shakes and rests on a concrete foundation. Completed in 1952, the side-gabled, I-shaped parish hall addition is located at the rear (east) side of the church. Both the original church and parish hall are remarkably intact on the interior and exterior and clearly retain their original design and decoration.

On the façade (northwest) elevation, the central square tower extends outward from the front-gabled church. The front-gabled church has one six-over-six window on either side of the central tower. The entrance, which has two four-panel doors capped by a leaded glass semicircular transom, is located at the base of the tower. A decorative surround with a broken pediment supported by fluted columns capped with rosettes frames the door; wood carved to imitate a stone arch is located within the pediment. A six-pane casement window is located above the door. An entablature with rosettes and triglyphs runs under the hipped roofline of the primary tower. A secondary, square tower section with plain pilasters at each corner rests on the hipped roof. Each elevation of the tower has a central circular window filled with square panes and decorated by four keystones. Dentils run under the tower roofline. A short fence with a cross-rail pattern runs along the edge of the roof; each corner post is capped by an urn. The hexagonal steeple extends from its roof.

The southwest and northeast elevations are each lit by two nine-over-nine wood-frame windows. A shallow, front-gabled transept extends from the third bay to the south on each elevation; it is also lit by a nine-over-nine window. The original rear elevation of the church and fourth bay is largely obscured by the ca. 1952 parish hall addition.

The one-story attached parish hall is seven bays wide; hipped and pyramidal roof sections extend from each end of the gable roofed building, forming an I-shaped plan. The parish hall is covered in white-painted shakes and rests on a concrete foundation. The primary (southeast) elevation has a small central courtyard flanked by hipped roof sections with entrances. On the southern end, a shallow gable and cantilevered entry porch mark the entrance; the section is lit by a six-over-six window. The central portion of the elevation has three sets of

three six-over-six windows. On the northern end, the pyramidal roofed section has an engaged porch leading to an entrance. The section is lit by two-six-over-six windows and has a brick chimney extending from the roofline. The southwestern and northeastern elevations of the parish hall have five and four six-over-six windows, respectively.

On the interior, the church is divided into a vestibule, sanctuary, and two small office rooms. From the vestibule, a small staircase leads to the nave and sanctuary. The wide entrance to the nave features an Adam-style wooden surround with simple pilasters, leaded-glass sidelights, and a leaded-glass semicircular transom with a central keystone. The nave has a central aisle with two rows of Colonial Revival style pews. A chair rail runs around the north, south, and west sides of the room; a picture rail marks the base of the sanctuary's delicate curved plaster ceiling. At the eastern ends of the nave, short colonnades with three archways provide access to one-bay-wide side aisles that project out on either side of the nave. Located at the eastern side of the church, the chancel, a square-shaped inset space, is two steps higher than the nave. On either side of the chancel, fluted pilasters with rosettes decorate the wall. Within the chancel space, fluted pilasters with rosettes and an entablature with triglyphs and a swag pattern run around the room. A central stained-glass arched window is the primary feature of the chancel; a screen is located on the north side of the room. A lectern and pulpit attached to a partial, wood-paneled wall are located on the north and south ends of the chancel. At the rear (west) of the sanctuary, two six-panel doors lead to closet spaces.

Each of the colonnaded aisles lead to small rooms flanking the chancel. Small staircases from each of these rooms lead to the parish hall. The parish hall is primarily one open hall space with a stage at the north end and a kitchen and bathroom on the south. Original flooring, doors, and trim has been retained throughout. Two small sets of stairs, one located at the center and one at the side, lead to the stage; an arched opening marks the stage opening. On the south end, a door and pass-through mark the kitchen.

Parsonage, ca. 1860

The parsonage is a three-bay by four-bay, two-story side-gabled, frame house. The building is covered in white-painted cedar shakes and rests on a stone foundation. A one-and-a-half story front-gabled window extends from the rear elevation. On the façade (north elevation), a one-story entrance porch supported by square columns shades the entrance on the westernmost bay; curved brackets are located over each of the columns. A two-pane transom is located over the paneled entrance door. Two six-over-six sash windows fill the remaining bays on the first floor; three six-over-six windows light the second floor. Paired brackets are located under the roofline. Two brick interior chimneys are visible on the east side of the roofline.

The west and east elevations are each lit by three six-over-six windows on the first and second stories and a single six-over-six window in the gable. A one-story, shed-roofed porch extends from the rear wing on the west elevation. The porch is supported by square posts identical to those on the façade; a square detail runs under the roofline. The wing is lit by one six-over-six window on each floor. The east elevation of the rear wing has an entrance and six-over-six window on the first floor and another window on the second floor. The rear (south elevation) is dominated by the rear wing. A one-story shed addition covered in clapboard siding covers the first floor. Two five-panel doors and two two-pane windows are located on the first floor and two three-over-six windows are on the second floor.

The parsonage has a cellar under the back section of the main block, two primary floors, and a third attic floor within the main block. The first floor is divided into an entry stair hall, a large living room, a dining room, back hall, back stairs, kitchen, and partial bath/laundry room; all but the back stairs, back hall, kitchen and partial bath are located within the main block. All of the rooms within the main block feature original trim, doors, and floors. The stair hall features a staircase with a turned balustrade and a large newel post and a historic light fixture. A simple baseboard capped by molding follows the exterior wall along the stairs. To the east, the living room retains an original fireplace with brick hearth. The dining room's formerly open fireplace has been closed in and contains the chimney for the heating system. The back hall, back stairs, and kitchen, located in the rear wing, have simple moldings and floors. The second floor has a central hallway, three bedrooms, one with

fireplace, and one bathroom, all in the main block. Two former servants bedrooms and a bathroom are located on the second floor of the rear addition; the floor level of these rooms is about three feet below that of the main block, and is reached by two short staircases. One bedroom retains original trim, doors and wood flooring. The second bedroom has linoleum flooring and the back hallway has tile flooring. The attic third floor has a finished central room under the peak of the roof, with two unfinished storage spaces under the eaves. It is reached by an enclosed staircase above the main stair which is accessed from the upstairs hallway.

Garage, ca. 1960. Non-contributing.
Two-bay by four-bay, front-gabled concrete block garage.

First Reformed Church
Name of Property

Rockland County, NY
County and State

## 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.)

Property is:

- [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
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

### Period of Significance
1860-1952

### Significant Dates
1946, 1952

### Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder
Cherry & Matz

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1860 with the construction of the parsonage (the earliest extant building on the property) and continues through 1952 with the completion of the parish hall.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The First Reformed Church built in 1946, is significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of mid-twentieth century Colonial Revival architecture in Piermont. Organized in 1839, the First Reformed Church was the first congregation organized in Piermont. In 1850, the congregation purchased a parcel of land along the Sparkill Creek and built a new church. A vernacular parsonage was built next to the church a decade later; it received modest picturesque updates during the 1870s. Expanded and beautified, the church had served the community for nearly a hundred years when it was lost in an accidental fire; due to the quick response of firefighters, the parsonage was saved. Designed by the Manhattan architectural firm of Cherry and Matz which specialized in ecclesiastical architecture, the new church has many of the hallmarks of the traditional Wren-Gibbs type, including a central tower and steeple, squarish massing, and an interior designed to optimize lighting and sound quality. In reference to modest New England Congregational churches, the architects covered the church in white shakes and chose higher style Colonial Revival ornamental details to decorate the entranceway, central tower, and sanctuary. The firm returned in 1952 to design a simple parish house addition that was compatible with the architecture of the church and suited the congregation's needs. Cherry and Matz's design seamlessly meets with the church and nestles into the hill. Together, the church and parish hall reflect the aspirations of the vibrant congregation of the First Reformed Church in commissioning one of the most notable architectural contributions to the community during the mid-twentieth century and represent over 175 years

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

## Early History and Settlement along the Sparkill

Though the Tappan and Orange Patents were granted during the late seventeenth century, settlement occurred slowly in the region. By 1702, only 40 families lived in Orange County. The region's early population was largely Dutch; this cultural foundation left a strong imprint even after increased English settlement in the area. The Sparkill Creek, which offered an outlet to the Hudson River and an easy landing, was attractive as a small port. The shallow creek was dammed to provide enough water for a mill and deepened and rerouted to improve navigability; settlers called the creek the Tappan Slote, after the Dutch word for ditch. Henry Ludlow, an early town clerk and supervisor in Orangetown, built a small mill complex on the slote by 1745. The Revolutionary War was unavoidable for residents of Orangetown and particularly for those living near the slote. Both armies used the River Road (now Piermont Avenue) and the Sparkill Creek landing to move troops and supplies.[1]

The growth and development of the community was directly related to the construction of the New York and Erie railroad during the 1830s. The railroad's founder and first president, Eleazer Lord, had substantial landholdings in the community and chose it as the line's eastern terminus. As the railroad was restricted from crossing state lines, the community's location near the New Jersey border and the Hudson River was ideal. The small community grew to a population of thousands, as workers were brought in to build the terminus, shops, and factories surrounding the rail line and the long pier into the Hudson River. The terminus was

[1] Verplank Map of 1745, Available at <hvrh.org>; Frank Bertangue Green, *The History of Rockland County* (New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1886), 332, 358; David Cole, *History of Rockland County* (New York: J.B. Beers& Co., 1884), 198-200, 220.; Adrian C. Leiby, *The Revolutionary War in the Hackensack Valley: The Jersey Dutch and the Neutral Ground* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1980), 183; Green, *The History of Rockland County*, 106.

completed in the fall of 1838; the following year, Lord renamed the community Piermont. The railroad dramatically changed the economic bent and size of the community. It was formally incorporated in 1850.[2]

## Establishment of the Piermont Reformed Church

As the railroad neared completion, Eleazer Lord began to focus his efforts on building community institutions and amenities in Piermont. Most families living along the slote attended churches in nearby communities, such as the Tappan Reformed Church. On January 27, 1839, Lord met with three other community leaders to organize the First Protestant Dutch Church of Piermont. Abraham D. Vervalen and William Lawrence were the church's first elders, and Cornelius Blauvelt and Eleazer Lord served as its first deacons. Soon after, they built a modest frame church on the hill on the west side of the hamlet. To help better attract new pastors, the congregation built its first parsonage nearby in 1847.[3]

The congregation soon outgrew its modest church and began making plans to rebuild by the late 1840s. However, church members were divided over whether to rebuild in the same location or build on the east side of the Sparkill Creek. After a close vote to build on the new site, a group of 17 dissenting members, including Eleazar Lord, split to form a Presbyterian congregation at the old site; most returned a few years later. In 1850, the new, larger church was completed next to the Sparkill Creek at a cost of $5,000. The congregation purchased land from J.W. Ferdon and built a new parsonage east of the church in 1860 at a cost of $3,000. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay by four-bay vernacular side-hall building was simply finished, but provided comfortable lodging and plenty of space for pastors; Reverend Henry E. Decker, the first to live in the parsonage, served the church from 1860 to 1865. The wide cornice band with brackets under the roofline may date to the building's initial construction.[4]

During the last half of the nineteenth century, the congregation grew steadily under the leadership of a series of reverends, even as Piermont's importance as a railroad hub shrank. After regulations regarding interstate railroad traffic were changed in 1852, the New York and Erie decided to move the railroad terminus to Jersey City. The abrupt change transformed Piermont from a primary stop to the end of a branch line that received one train a day. Though it maintained some shops and a passenger station, the railroad slowly closed its buildings and decreased its presence in the community. The church, however, thrived and was expanded in 1872 and 1873 to allow for an additional lecture room and a prominent new steeple. About a decade later, the parsonage was updated and "beautified within and without." A one-story, porch with decorative millwork was added to the façade; by this time, a front-gabled, two-story wing had built to the rear of the house. By 1893, a side porch with square detailing under the roofline was built on the north elevation of the addition. The church remained vibrant into the twentieth century; the congregation dedicated the week of May-14-21, 1939 to the celebration of the church's centennial.[5]

## Construction & Design of the new First Reformed Church

Early in the morning on August 20, 1944, the First Reformed Church caught fire; the origin of the blaze was never determined. Firefighters from Piermont, Tappan, Sparkill, and Nyack, approximately 90 men and seven

[2] Julie Jackson, *Piermont: Three Centuries* (Piermont: Friends of the Piermont Library, 1996).
[3] Piermont Reformed Church, *A History of the First Reformed Church of Piermont, New York, 1839-1960* (Piermont: Piermont Reformed Church, 1960), 2-3, 8.
[4] Church, *A History*, 5-8.
[5] Julie Jackson, *Piermont: Three Centuries* (Piermont: Friends of the Piermont Library, 1996); Church, *A History*, 2, 10-11, 18; Sanborn map of Piermont, Nov. 1887; Aug. 1893

fire trucks, rushed to the scene. While they were able to keep the fire from spreading to the parsonage and nearby residences, they could not save the church. A crowd of neighbors and church members gathered and watched in shock as the steeple fell and the organ and clock melted. Nearby churches and organizations offered up space to the homeless congregation, which began meeting at the village hall.[6]

Undaunted, church members soon began making plans to rebuild and hired the architectural firm of Cherry and Matz. William John Cherry (d. 1942) and Herbert E. Matz (d. 1965), both of whom specialized in ecclesiastical architecture, began working together during the early twentieth century. The firm maintained an office in midtown Manhattan; the majority of their designs are located in the five boroughs and counties in the lower Hudson Valley. During the early 1930s, the firm created a book spotlighting their portfolio of religious architecture. A study of their portfolio, as well as other churches that have been attributed to them, indicates that they primarily offered and built in traditional styles for religious architecture. Gothic, Romanesque, Classical, and Colonial Revival styles are most common in their work; their Art Deco design for the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, is a notable exception.[7]

After working with the congregation and its pastor, Cherry and Matz developed a Colonial Revival design that drew upon the traditional Wren-Gibbs church type. The type, which is named after English architects Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) and James Gibbs (1683-1774) is broad but is defined by several shared characteristics. The most prominent feature of a Wren-Gibbs type church is a prominent central tower with a spire or cupola extending from the front of the church. In addition, they typically feature a more square than rectilinear plan and large clear or stained glass windows.[8]

Initially developed by Sir Christopher Wren, the type was created to meet the religious and liturgical needs of London's Protestant congregations. Numerous older parish churches, which had built for Roman Catholic services, were lost in the 1666 London fire. Wren oversaw the construction of the city and offered the design, which better suited Anglican services focused on preaching, reading passages from prayer books, and greater participation by the congregation. Wren's churches had spacious interiors with clear sight lines to the pulpit, curved plaster ceilings to amplify the minister's voice, and large windows to provide more reading light to the congregation. Wren ornamented his churches with a Classical Revival vocabulary and transformed the traditional Gothic spire, which had become strongly associated with Catholic churches, into delicate classical steeples. During the early 18th century, Gibbs refined Wren's model with the introduction of the large pedimented front entry portico and Palladian window to the form.

Protestant congregations in America frequently built new churches in the Wren-Gibbs type, both for its functional qualities and its availability to builders and architects in architectural texts and pattern books. The type also provided American Protestants an architectural manifestation of the clear religious and philosophical division that they sought from the Roman Catholic Church. Easily modified to suit elaborate and vernacular versions, the type was widely adaptable and became particularly popular with Congregational churches in New England. The Wren-Gibbs type was predominant in American religious architecture through the mid-19th century, when Gothic and Romanesque Revival styles became fashionable. However, it never truly faded from

[6] Church, *A History*, 21-24.
[7] Cherry & Matz, *Ecclesiastical Work of Cherry and Matz* (n.d.); For a list of other projects completed by Cherry and Matz, please see Tony Robbins, "The Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist," National Register Nomination, New York, New York County.
[8] This discussion of the Wren-Gibbs type is taken from "American Religious Buildings: The Wren-Gibbs Church," *New York Landmarks Conservancy Common Bond*, December 1994, www.sacredplaces.org/PSP-InfoClearingHouse/articles/American%20Religion%20Buildings.htm; Calder Loth, "The Gibbs Church: A Paradigm for America," Classicist Blog, Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, November 3, 2011, http://blog.classicist.org/?p=3281.

use and underwent a resurgence in popularity during the 1890s, when the Classical Revival became stylish. The type was incorporated into the Colonial Revival style, often with simplified ornamentation, after its emergence during the early twentieth century.

In their design for the First Reformed Church, Cherry and Matz closely adhered to the Wren-Gibbs model to create a compact, efficient building reminiscent of a New England Congregational church. The firm's design has all of the hallmarks of Wren's model: a central tower and steeple, a plan that is more square than rectilinear, large clear windows, clear interior sight lines, and a curved plaster ceiling. To decorate the simple building, the firm turned to the Colonial Revival style. In an homage to its more modest precedents, they covered the building in wood shake siding. This simple material is contrasted with higher-style exterior elements, including double doors capped by a semicircular leaded glass window framed by a decorative surround, a frieze band with rosettes alternating with triglyphs, and round windows filled with small square panes and decorated with four keystones on the tower. Cherry and Matz carried these design elements into the interior. A central, arched stained glass window framed by pilasters with rosettes is the centerpiece of the chancel; an entablature with rosettes, triglyphs, and swags runs around the wall of the space. A three-arch colonnade marks the partial east and west aisles off from the nave. The firm's design drew upon and dressed up the Wren-Gibbs plan to create a functional space that referred to tradition while still serving the needs of the Piermont congregation.

On December 8, 1946, the congregation held its first services and a dedication in the new church. The local newspaper praised the "gem-like" building, which it described as "a typically small New England Church architecturally, perfect in every detail, and as much at home on the banks of the Sparkill Creek as it would be sheltered by New England's hills." Though the church's interior remained spare for the first service – it still lacked an organ, pews and memorial lights – the congregation was happy to worship once again in its own space. Twelve pastors from churches around the county spoke at the church's dedication. Over the next several years, members of the congregation donated money to purchase the pulpit, communion table and set, and chancel furnishings large and small as memorials. Likely due to minor fire damage as well as a desire to make the parsonage match the church, the parsonage's front porch was shortened to an entry porch and the building was covered in white shakes around this time. As the oldest remaining building on the property, the parsonage provides context for the church's history and is complemented by the church.[9]

In 1940, the First Reformed Church had been honored by a $27,000 donation at the bequest of Mrs. J. Edward Cole. In her will, she offered specific instructions that $10,000 be used to build a parish house to provide additional space for the church's social ministries. In the aftermath of the 1944 fire, these plans were deferred. In May 1951, the consistory once again began making plans to build. They commissioned Cherry and Matz to design the building. Complete with furnishings for the theater, the project promised to cost $55,000. They pared the project down to $27,000, planning to finish the interior properly in the future. Mr. Thompson, a contractor from Tappan, oversaw the construction of the parish hall in 1952.[10]

Cherry and Matz's design for the parish hall respected the grander church building. Located up the hill at the rear of the church and partially screened by landscaping, the parish hall was largely hidden from view. In contrast to the highly ornamented church, the parish hall was designed to be simple and efficient while still matching the architectural vocabulary of the church; the building was sided in wood shakes and lit by wood sash windows. The functional interior of the parish hall, which included a theater, meeting hall, kitchen, and small meeting rooms, is simply finished and provided for the needs of the congregation. The space was quickly put into use for Sunday School classes, plays, church dinners, celebrations, and meetings. On June 2,

[9] Church, *A History*, 24-25.
[10] Church, *A History*, 21.

1953, the Tappan Zee High School held their Baccalaureate Service at the church and a reception afterward in the parish hall.[11]

In 1954, the Reformed Church of Piermont joined other churches and community residents to protest a proposed New York Thruway route that would bring the road through Grandville, Piermont, and Sparkill. Along with 25 other churches from Palisades to Stony Point, the Reformed Church of Piermont rang its bells for half an hour on October 24. Fortunately, the proposed spur was never built. The congregation has continued to play an active role in the social, cultural, and religious life in Piermont into the 21st century.

[11] Church, *A History*, 27.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"American Religious Buildings: The Wren-Gibbs Church." *New York Landmarks Conservancy Common Bond* December 1994, www.sacredplaces.org/PSP-InfoClearingHouse/articles/American%20Religion%20Buildings.htm.

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Robbins, Tony "The Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist." National Register Nomination, New York, New York County.

Verplank Map of 1745. Available at <hvrh.org>.

**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): _____

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 1.33
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 18 | 591081 | 4543332 | 3 | | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | | |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary incorporates the entire lot on which the Piermont Reformed Church has been historically located.

## First Reformed Church of Piermont
## Piermont & Orangetown, Rockland Co., NY

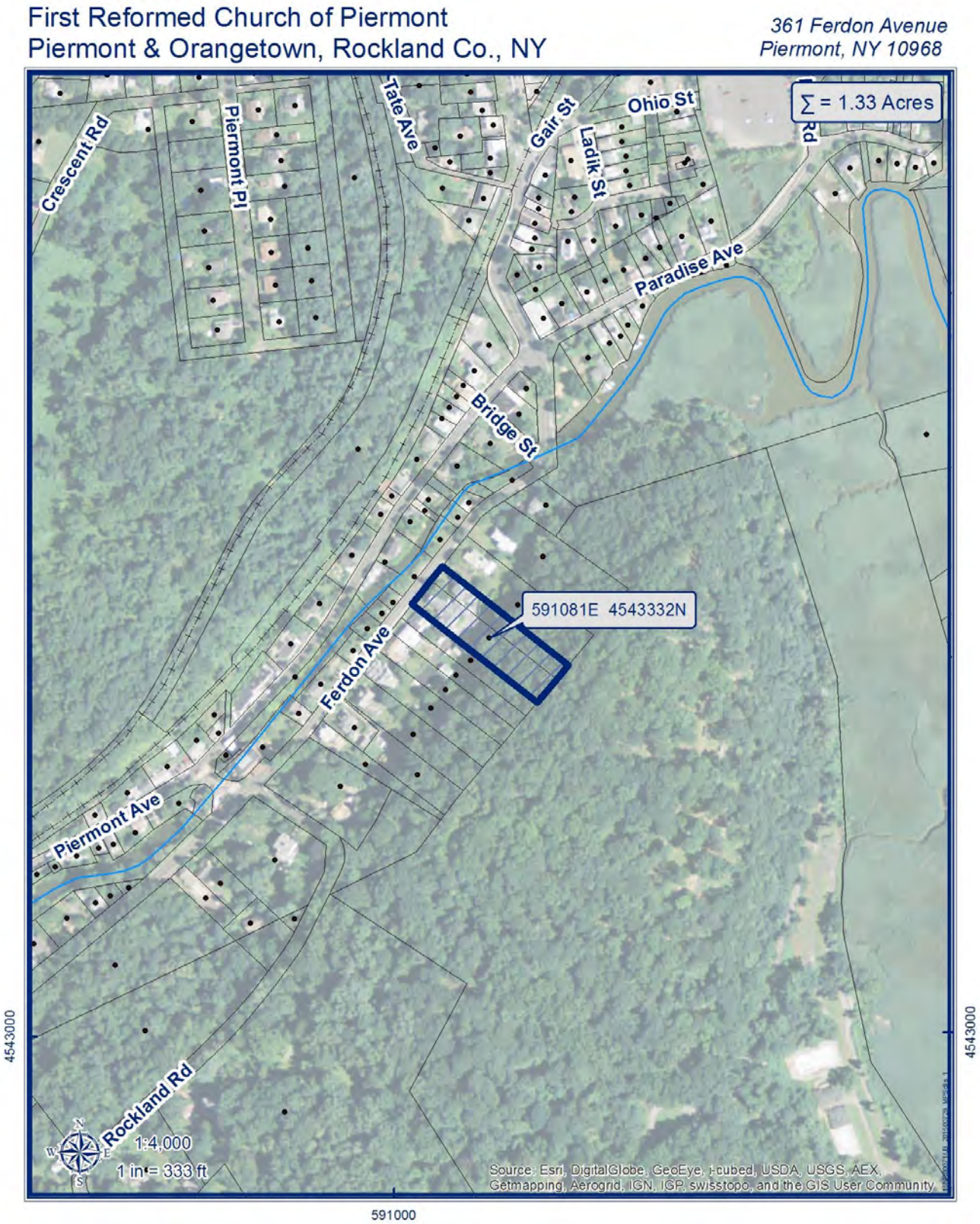
*361 Ferdon Avenue*
*Piermont, NY 10968*

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

Feet
0 330 660 1,320

First Reformed Church

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation




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

0 110 220 440 Feet

First Reformed Church

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Betsworth (NY SHPO)

organization _____ date July 14, 2014

street & number Peebles Island State Park telephone (518) 268-2189

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

e-mail Jennifer.Betsworth@parks.ny.gov

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: First Reformed Church of Piermont

City or Vicinity: Piermont

County: Rockland State: NY

Photographer: Jennifer Betsworth

Date Photographed: February 19, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0001
Church, Façade, facing southeast

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0002
Church, Façade and south elevation, facing northeast

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0003
Parish hall, facing southwest

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0004
Parsonage, facing southeast

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0005
Parsonage, north elevation, facing south

First Reformed Church
Name of Property

Rockland County, NY
County and State

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0006
Church interior, facing northwest

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0007
Church interior, facing southeast

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0008
Church interior, facing south

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0009
Parish hall interior, facing southeast

NY_RocklandCo_First Reformed Church_0010
Parish hall interior, facing northeast

**Property Owner:**

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

name Piermont Reformed Church

street & number 361 Ferdon Avenue telephone

city or town Piermont state NY zip code 10968

**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 18 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.

Slow!
Children Playing

EXIT

READING
HYMNS
185
81 85
369
READING
HYMNS
185
81 85
369

READING
HYMNS

OCCUPANCY
BY MORE THAN
155 PERSONS
IN THIS SPACE IS
UNLAWFUL