

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 "x" 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 instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 100-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery

other names/site number Delaware CRS #S-12192

2. Location

street and number 114 West State Street not for publication

city or town Millsboro vicinity

state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19966

3. State/Federal 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain). _____	_____	_____

St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery
Name of Property

Sussex County, Delaware
County and State

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian
Other: Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls METAL

roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheet

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 boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1848-1930s

Significant Dates

1848, 1871, 1884, 1930s

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheet

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery
Name of Property

Sussex County, Delaware
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .56 acres

UTM References (NAD 83)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,459</u>	<u>4,271,574</u>	3	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,490</u>	<u>4,271,514</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,505</u>	<u>4,271,557</u>	4	<u>18N</u>	<u>474,444</u>	<u>4,271,532</u>

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 Courtney L. Clark/Project Architectural Historian

organization John Milner Associates, Inc. date September 2010

street & number 1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor telephone 215-561-7637

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19107

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

Description

Narrative Description

This property is located along the south side of West State Street, at the southwest corner of Ellis and State Streets. The property includes a church surrounded by a cemetery, a Parish Hall to the rear, and a labyrinth and meditation gardens towards the northeast corner of the parcel. A large gravel drive/parking area enters the property from Ellis Street, lying between the front of the Parish Hall and the rear of the church. A brick wall stands along the west and north edges of the property. A concrete sidewalk spans the entire front, north boundary.

The one-story, rectangular-shaped, wood-framed, gabled-end church stands slightly back from the roadway, at the center of the property, facing north toward the State Street. A square-shaped tower, with open belfry, topped by a four-sided spire extends from the northwest corner. Two small, single-room additions extend from the rear of the main block, one full-width, gabled ell from the south wall, and another gabled ell from the south end of the west wall. The façade of the building measures three bays wide, with an additional opening also piercing the front wall of the bell tower. A gabled, enclosed vestibule extends from the center of the main block, sheltering the plain, wood, double-door main entrance. A brick and concrete handicap ramp, with iron railing, fronts the entry. A small stained-glass pentoid is featured above the doors, as well as along the east and west sidewalls of the vestibule. A small, circular, stained-glass opening is also featured above the vestibule, centered within the gable façade.

The west wall of the main block measures five bays deep, including the opening within the west wall of the tower. All five of these openings are fixed, peak-headed stained-glass windows. The rear addition section of this wall features two openings, a wood-paneled door and a set of six-paned casements. The entry opening has ghost marks that indicate it was originally a peak-headed window. The peaked-head is now been covered in wood, and the lower part of the opening is a door. This entry does not appear to be actively used as no stoop or steps access its elevated entrance.

The east sidewall of the church measures three bays deep with openings matching those on the west wall of the main block. The rear addition section of this wall features a two-bay deep gabled ell extending east. Both openings are like most throughout the church, peak-headed stained glass. The north wall of the gabled ell features two additional bays, a multi-paned casement, and a wood-paneled door sheltered by a shed-roofed hood. Like the entrance on the west wall, this door also appears unused as no stoop or steps access its elevated opening.

The rear wall of the church is made up of the two rear additions. It measures four bays wide and features a set of fixed, peak-headed stained-glass windows within the center of the gabled end, and two separate bays of multi-paned casements and a wood-and-glass door along the south wall of the ell that extends east. Concrete steps with iron railing to one side front this rear entry. A flat-roofed, open breezeway with wood post supports on concrete decking, leading from the rear of the church to the Parish Hall, shelters the door.

The entire building rests upon a brick foundation. The exterior walls are clad in aluminum siding, and the gabled roof in asphalt shingles. Diamond and fish-scale wood shingles cover the rooftop of the belfry and the spire. A brick chimney rises from the exterior of the west sidewall.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

Description (cont.)

Narrative Description (cont.)

A mid-nineteenth-century cemetery surrounds the church. The graves are roughly arranged in rows, with headstones that face east-west. Some plots are spatially divided by iron railing or edging. Many of the headstones have elaborate low-relief carvings, with variations of bibles, biblical animals (lamb), and weeping willows. The simplest of the gravestones include obelisks, crosses, and pedestals topped with urns. Headstone materials include polished granite, chiseled granite, and finished and unfinished marble. Burial dates on the markings range from 1848 to 1974. The oldest markers are deteriorated and hard to read. In the mid-twentieth century, when the Parish Hall was built, some unmarked graves were encountered. These remains were re-interred elsewhere in the churchyard (Cash 2009). A late twentieth-century memorial garden and Columbarium lies to the immediate rear of the church, between the church and the Parish Hall, laid out in a crucifix formation.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance

Narrative Statement of Significance

St Mark's is a modestly designed, gabled-front church typical of the area from the late nineteenth-century. Its simple vernacular details of narrow windows, double front doors within an enclosed vestibule, and simple side steeple lends it an understated elegance that continues to reflect its spiritual purpose. The building is well preserved. Other than the addition of a handicap ramp at the front and small gabled ells to the rear, there have been few changes to its original form. Though it has been resided, the aluminum siding does not detract from its overall design or feeling. Its location on one of Millsboro's main thoroughfares and near the center of town reflects its role as an anchor for the local community, a sense further enhanced by the graveyard surrounding the church building. As a largely intact example of a typical late nineteenth-century vernacular Victorian Gothic style church, Saint Mark's is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. Because the church is being recommended eligible solely on architectural grounds, as judged in purely secular terms, it meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties.

Historical Narrative

Historic map documentation of this property clearly depicts a religious building at this location from as early as 1868, as seen on the 1868 Beer's atlas map. The property's boundaries are delineated within a square-shaped boundary marked "Epis.Ch." A 1917 map of the area also depicts the church using a cross symbol. The 1929 Sanborn Insurance map (Sanborn Map Company 1929) illustrates the property within a square-shaped parcel of land along the south side of State Street. The frame, rectangular-shaped building is located at the center of the property and labeled "St. Pauls P.E. Church." The main block is rectangular in shape and one-and-one-half-stories in height. A one-story extension is noted to the south, rear end. A one-story covered entry is denoted along the center of the façade, and a forty-foot tall spire at the northwest corner.

Two separate WPA records were located at the Delaware Public Archives and appear to include data regarding documents and activity at the church from as early as 1846 to 1934. These records include more detailed information regarding the property deed, minutes (1846-, 3 volumes), the register (1846-, 2 volumes), baptisms (1849-1943), burials (1848-1913), confirmations (1850-1933), marriages (1851-1929), pastors (1848-1930), finances (1924-, 1 volume), and Sunday school (1931-, 1 volume) (RG0740 binder 5B, RG0740.003).

A historic marker presented by the Delaware Public Archives stands in front of the church, just inside the bricked wall entry along State Street. The plaque briefly describes the local history of the Episcopal Church and the establishment of St. Mark's:

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance (cont.)

Historical Narrative (cont.)

The first organized services for members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this community were conducted by Rev. John A. Childs in a local schoolhouse in the mid 1840s. As a result of the declining condition of Prince George's Chapel in nearby Dagsboro, and in response to the needs of the town's growing population, a house of worship was built here on land that was purchased from Woolsey and Hetty Burton in 1849. In 1870, the old structure was removed and construction of the present building was commenced. The church was formally consecrated in May 1884. Two early rectors of note were Rev. William Ellis and Rev. Lewis W. Wells. St. Mark's Parish Hall was constructed in 1963. In 2006 a Community Labyrinth and Meditation Gardens were completed on the former site of the Church Rectory.

Reverend Childs was an ordained minister sent down to Delaware from the Diocese of New York in 1845. In addition to his work with the congregation at St. Mark's in Millsboro, he was also instrumental in formation and erection of a chapel in Long Neck, Chapel of the Comforter. Around 1848, Mr. Childs was transferred to Pennsylvania. His overseeing bishop stated that the two buildings that had been erected under his direction and leadership in Delaware would forever remain as monuments to his "untiring perseverance and good deeds" (Silliman 1982:72-74).

The decision to tear down the original church building in 1870 was mutually agreed upon by the Reverend Ellis and the congregation at St. Mark's, due to its unsafe conditions. Although rebuilding began immediately thereafter, the completion of the new church took many years as a result of financial conditions. Upon the new building's consecration in 1884, a bell was given by Governor Charles C. Stockley. Stockley was a member of St. Paul's Church in Georgetown, but he had once operated a general store in Millsboro, and had many friends in the area (Silliman 1982:145).

According to Dorothy Hudson, a local historian, the construction of the first church building began in 1847, and parts of the building were being used as early as a year later, in 1848, even though the church had not yet been completed. The oldest marked tombstone in the graveyard is that of Susan Weston, who died in 1848. The entire Ellis family (Rev. Robert Ellis, wife, children and their respective spouses) are also buried in the church graveyard (Hudson 1975:17).

The earliest stated improvements to the church after its reconstruction were the removal of the gallery and the addition of a steeple in 1880. A new altar and reredos (screen behind the altar) were erected in 1895-1896, and the building, which originally rested on brick piers, was placed on a full brick foundation in 1896-1897. New pews were installed in 1900-1901, and new cast-iron fencing was erected in 1902-1903. The spire atop the belfry was built and added in 1915 (Zebley 1947:294).

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance (cont.)

Historical Narrative (cont.)

In 1950, due to an increase in church-related activities, an addition was made to the church building. A one-room, multi-purpose room was added to the rear of the main block of the church, and used as a vesting room and church school. This addition was built by I. John Collins for \$3,700. Three years later, new lights and kneeling pads were installed in the sanctuary, primarily funded by various families. In 1969, the exterior church was resided in aluminum, covered by a new roof, and a new heater was installed. Five years later, in 1974, the exterior trim was painted, and new brick steps were installed to the front of the building. At the same time, a concrete walk was poured leading from the sidewalk to the front entry and from the front entry to the Parish Hall, through a portion of the eastern graveyard (Hudson 1975:18-19). In 1991, the steeple was replaced with a replica of the original (church website).

Improvements to the property as a whole included the church rectory, which was built during the 1860s for the use of Reverend Robert Ellis and his family. In 1887 the dwelling was purchased for use by Reverend Lewis W. Wells and his wife. The house underwent substantial remodeling at this time, designed to accommodate various congregational, community, and civic uses. Not until 1955, in preparation for Reverend Elmer P. Baker's use, were additional improvements made to the house. Nearly twenty years later, after much debate between more renovations versus the construction of a new building, the building was renovated again (Hudson 1975:17-19). The building was finally demolished in 1996 because it once again needed costly and extensive repairs. In 2006, a labyrinth and gardens were installed on the site.

Other property included the replacement of the iron fence that once encompassed the property with a brick wall, sometime during the 1930s. Around the same time the need for a Parish Hall became apparent, and fundraising began in the early 1940s (Hudson 1975:18; Murray 1987:89). A church organ was installed in 1941 (Zebley 1947:294).

Grounds for the Parish Hall were purchased from E.C. Ryan and Mrs. Ellingsworth. Construction of this building was awarded to Collins Construction Company, with ground breaking ceremonies held in May of 1962. The building was completed by 1963. Furnishing for the Parish Hall came in the form of memorials from members. The exterior of the building was resided in aluminum in 1975 (Hudson 1975: 18-19).

According to the present-day chair of the memorial committee for the church, no plot maps are known to exist for the cemetery. In more recent years (c. 2006), a survey and probing study was undertaken in order create a map, locate unmarked graves, and to determine the location of available space in the yard for new burials; the results of this survey were not provided to JMA. No one of significance is known to be buried in St. Mark's churchyard (Collins 2009).

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

Major Bibliographic References

Cash, Randel.

2009 St. Mark's Episcopal Church member and chair of cemetery committee. Telephone interview with Courtney L. Clark, JMA architectural historian, 10 November 2009. Notes on file, JMA, Philadelphia, PA.

Collins, Roberta.

2009 St. Mark's Episcopal Church member and chair of memorial committee. Telephone interview with Courtney L. Clark, JMA architectural historian, 10 November 2009. Notes on file, JMA, Philadelphia, PA.

Hudson, Dorothy Warren

1975 *Millsboro, Delaware: Bicentennial Commemoration*. Dover Graphics, Dover, DE.

Murray, Aubrey P.

1987 *Rambling Around Millsboro*. The Countian Press, Georgetown, DE.

Sanborn Map Company.

1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map - Millsboro, Delaware. Available at The Delaware Historical Society Research Library, Wilmington, Delaware.

Silliman, Charles A.

1982 *The Episcopal Church in Delaware, 1785-1954*. Diocese of Delaware, Wilmington, DE.

Zebley, Frank R.

1947 *The Churches of Delaware*. Privately published, Wilmington, DE.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

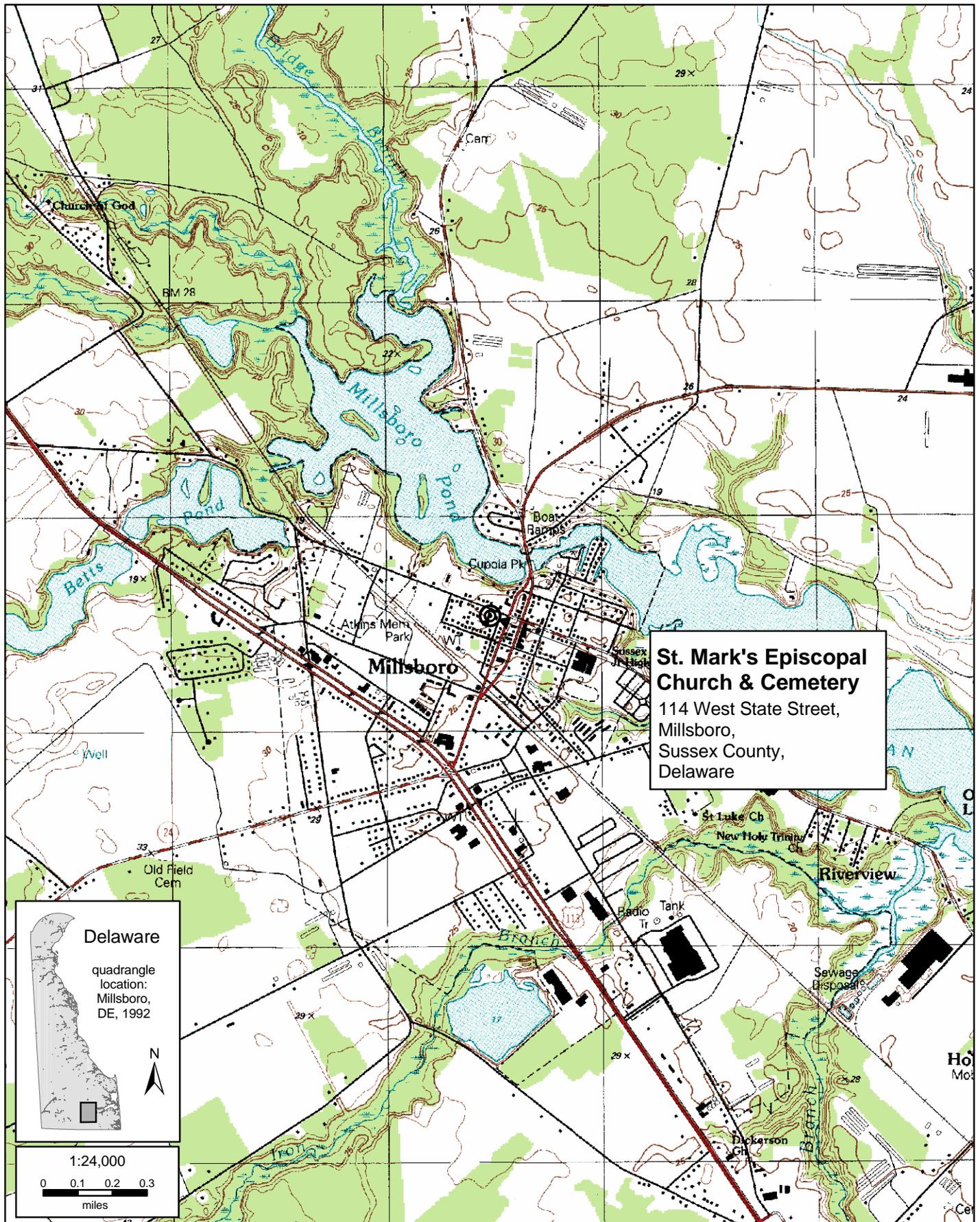
Geographical Data

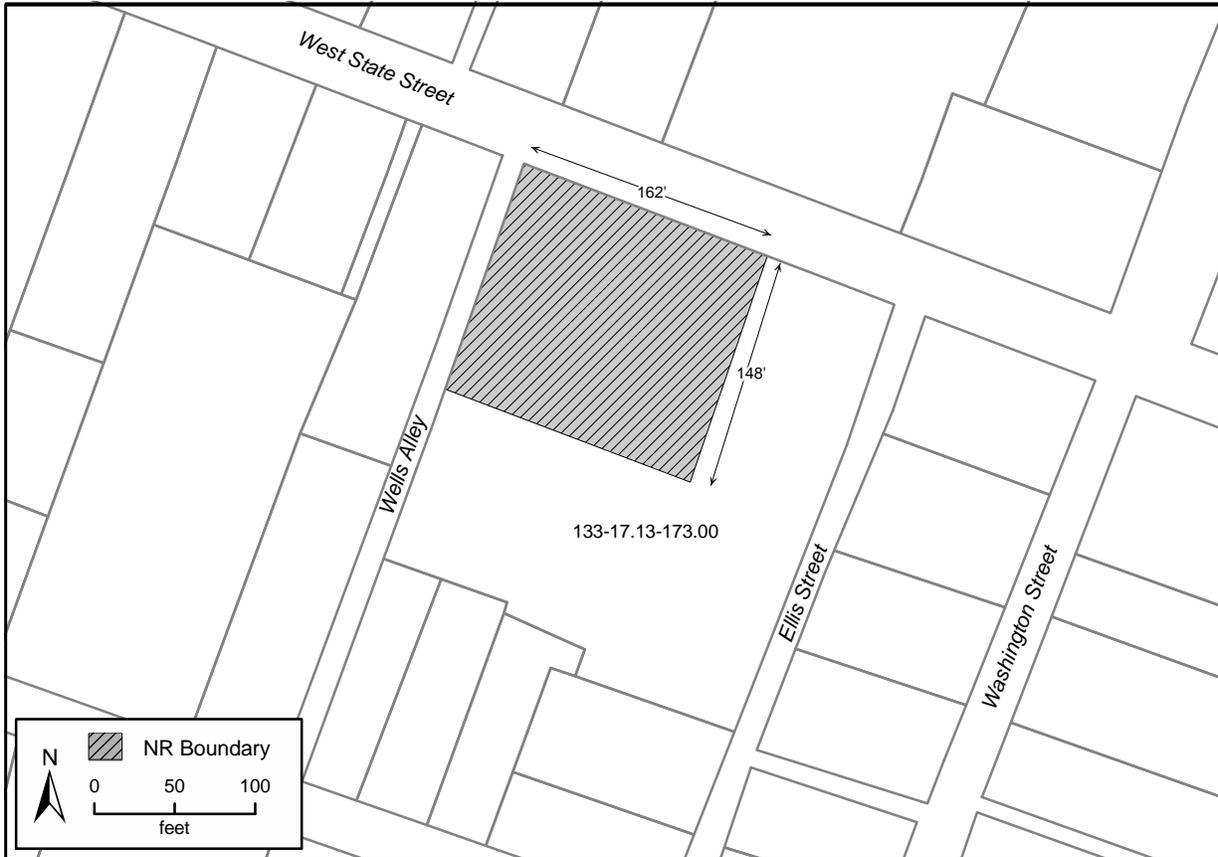
Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed National Register boundary consists of .56 acres in the northwest corner of tax parcel 133-17.13-173, encompassing the church and the cemetery surrounding it. The boundary is a rectangle that extends approximately 162 feet east-west and 148 feet north-south, originating in the northwest corner of the parcel.

Boundary Justification

The remainder of the legal tax parcel is excluded from the boundary because the landscape and architectural elements contained within it are modern and do not contribute to the significance of the church building and cemetery under Criterion C. The period of significance for this property is from c. 1848, when the first church was built and the cemetery was established, to the 1930s, when the cemetery's iron fence was replaced with a brick wall, which was arguably the last property improvement that was in-keeping with the church's architecture.





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Additional Documentation Page 3

St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery Sussex County, Delaware

Photographs

Photograph 1 of 8. View of façade and west side of church set within the cemetery, camera faces southeast. (10/2009)

Photograph 2 of 8. View of cemetery on the west side of the church, camera faces northeast. (10/2009)

Photograph 3 of 8. View of burial plot up against east side of church, camera faces west. (10/2009)

Photograph 4 of 8. View of historical marker for church, camera faces east. (10/2009)

Photograph 5 of 8. View of rear and east side of church, camera faces northwest. (10/2009)

Photograph 6 of 8. View of modern labyrinth and garden, camera faces north. (10/2009)

Photograph 7 of 8. View of memorial on east side of walkway behind church, camera faces southwest toward modern parish hall. (10/2009)

Photograph 8 of 8. View of north and east sides of modern parish hall behind church, camera faces southwest. (10/2009)

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Cemetery
Sussex County, Delaware

Photograph 1 of 8:



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Photograph 2 of 8:



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Photograph 3 of 8:



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Photograph 4 of 8:



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Photograph 5 of 8:



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Photograph 6 of 8:



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Photograph 7 of 8:



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Photograph 8 of 8:

