

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No.

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 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name McColley's Chapel

other names/site number S150

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number _____ not for publication
city or town Georgetown vicinity X
state Delaware code DE county Sussex code zip code 19947

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, State Historic Preservation Officer
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- Determined eligible for the _____ National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the _____ National Register
- Removed from the National Register

- other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date
 of Action

=====

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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

N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religious
Domestic

Sub: Church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religious
Domestic

Sub: Church

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof Steel

walls Weatherboard

other

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

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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: 1858 - 1891

Significant Dates: 1858 – Date of initial construction - 1891- Date of Re-construction

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Architect: Unknown / Carpenters: ??????????

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
N/A previously listed in the National Register
N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register
N/A designated a National Historic Landmark
N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University: University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Design
- Other

Name of repository: Delaware Public Archives

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property <1 Acre

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

Zone	Easting	Northing
1 <u>18</u>	<u>467748</u>	<u>4262034</u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The property is bounded by ??????????????????????

Boundary Justification:

This is all the property historically associated with the McColley's Chapel building. The cemetery for the church is located directly behind and stretches around to the church on the south side of Redden Road and is not included in this nomination.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Dan Parsons, Sussex County Historic Preservation Planner

organization Sussex County Council date September 2, 2008

street & number 2 The Circle telephone 302-856-6138

city or town Georgetown state DE zip code 19947

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

Name Trustees of McColley's Chapel

street & number _____

city or town Georgetown state DE zip code 19947

=====

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 1

McColley's Chapel

name of property

Sussex County, Delaware

county and State

=====

Physical Description

Placed in the rural setting of Georgetown Hundred in Sussex County, Delaware, McColley's Chapel is a fine example of the vernacular stylistic expression of the 19th Century Colonial Revival, as well as a representation of the once common Methodist meeting houses that were virtually identical in size, shape, massing, and scale that were constructed throughout Delaware in the nineteenth century. Despite the application of asbestos shingle siding and paneling on the plaster walls of the interior, and the covering of the ceiling in acoustical tile, the building retains a high degree of integrity from the period of significance.

Located at the southwest corner of the intersection of McColley's Church Road and Redden Road (SR 40), five miles north of the Sussex County seat of Georgetown, the one half story, three bay by three bay, frame, asbestos shingle-sided church building has a gable roof a ridge that runs parallel to Redden Road. The building is covered with a metal roof.

The façade (south elevation) of the building faces McColley's Church Road, is three bays wide with a central double leaf entry flanked by attenuated 4/4 double hung sash windows in simple surrounds. The entry is surmounted by a sign for the church possibly in a transom light subsequently filled in. Lintels for the windows match the height of the transom for this central feature. The elevation is capped by a pediment composed of a raking cornice and gable returns.

The east and west elevations are identical. They are three bays long and display three regularly spaced and identically detailed double hung sash, 6/6 light windows. A narrow brick exterior chimney was placed on the south elevation between the western two bays. The rear (west elevation) displays a projecting, gable-roofed bay behind the altar, lit by a pair of 1/1 windows on the sides that are identical in style to those throughout the building but smaller in scale. The rest of the elevation is blank.

The interior retains its original volume and spatial orientation. The woodwork on the interior of the building displays classical revival detailing in the 19th Century Colonial Revival mode. Woodwork at the front of the altar displays decorative trim with a simple horizontal element emulating a capital, located 3/4 of the way up the side trim. These

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 2

McColley's Chapel
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====
pilasters support a narrow pediment placed above, on the rear wall. The rear of the altar displays similar pilasters supported a cornice with dentil molding. Although the original altar railings were replaced in the 1940s, the original benches survive. Historic hexagonal drop light fixtures still light the sanctuary. The knotty pine chair rail also dates from the 1940s period with later paneling covering the plaster walls. An acoustical tile ceiling completes the interior wall treatment. A sign painted on a black slate placed on the rear wall of the church states "Reverend T.P. McColley over remains of Burton J. Hart July 11th 1859. First funeral service preached in this church. When Christ who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Col iii c.4v."
=====

The church is surrounded by a graveyard that contributes to the significance of the property. Grave markers are generally of stone and date from the founding of the church. Markers display typical stylistic elements of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 1

McColley's Chapel
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====
Statement of Significance

Located at the intersection of McColley's Chapel Road (RD 213) and Redden Road (SR 40) in Georgetown Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, McColley's Chapel is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a well preserved example of the once common Methodist meeting house type that was constructed throughout Delaware in the late eighteenth and through the nineteenth century. The first church on this site was built in 1858 and the current building constructed in 1898 after the first church burned. Members of the Webb family and other families represented on the Board of Trustees continue to use and maintain the church. Services continue to be held in this chapel on a weekly basis. Because of the continuing use of the chapel, some minor finish changes have been made but despite them, McColley's Chapel retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Background

According to historians of the Methodist Church who documented the trends of American Methodism across the country, the founding and establishment of McColley's Chapel matches the prescribed pattern. John McEllhenney's general history of the Methodist Church describes it:

When places of worship were built during the last decades of the eighteenth century and the first years of the nineteenth, they tended to be rectangular meeting houses--"built plain and decent, but not more expensive than is absolutely unavoidable"--fitted out with benches, a pulpit, and communion table. The buildings that survive from this period are shrines of United Methodism, but what has not survived was perhaps more characteristic of the worship of the period: the camp meeting grove. Here people from miles around gathered to listen to preachers who stood on tree stumps or temporary platforms. They sang simple gospel songs and often responded to the singing and preaching by jerking, rolling, barking, dancing, and falling--with the result nevertheless that many gave themselves to Christ, put aside their undisciplined ways of living, and became responsible citizens. These camp meetings were a major means of United Methodist expansion as they followed the American frontier on its moves over the Allegheny Mountains into the valley of the Ohio, then into the Mississippi basin

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 2

McColley's Chapel
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

===== and across the Missouri, and finally to the Pacific.¹

In Delaware, the 18th Century Methodist foothold in the United States, the first wave of conversions to the faith was accomplished through the charisma of the early itinerant preachers who traveled across the countryside. According to E. C. Hallman, in his book The Garden of Methodism, published by the Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church circa 1950, the prominent 18th Century Methodist itinerant clergy, Freeborn Garrettson and Francis Asbury were actively preaching the Methodist gospel throughout the central southern Sussex County area in the 1780s.²

History of McColley's Chapel

James Redden donated the site on May 20, 1857 and the Church was completed by 1859 when the first funeral service was preached by Reverend McColley over the remains of Burton J. Hart, according to the painted sign on the interior of the church. Named for Reverend Truston P. McColley, it was through his efforts that the church building was constructed.³ According to Scharf's History of Delaware, by 1887 the church building was in need of repair and the congregation was deciding whether to repair or replace the facility. It appears that the decision was made for them because by 1898 the building had been destroyed by fire and this church building was then erected.

Early Methodist Church Design

According to Methodist Historian Paul Neff Garber, "the first Methodist Discipline of 1784 stated: 'Let all our chapels be built plain and decent; but not more expensive than is absolutely unavoidable: otherwise the necessity of raising money will make rich men necessary to us. But if so, we must be dependent upon them, yea; and governed by them. And then farewell to the Methodist discipline, if not doctrine too.'"⁴ Methodist churches, particularly rural churches continued this design philosophy well

¹ From "200 years of United Methodism in America, Electronic Version" Text by John G. McEllhenney, one hundred twenty-eight illustrations from the Archives and History Center of the United Methodist Church, from the book published by Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, 1984. Accessed on October 12, 2004 at <http://www.drew.edu/books/200Years/200UM/titlepg.htm>

² E.C. Hallman, The Garden of Methodism, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church: No Place, No Date (c. 1950). P. 325.

³ Frank Zebley, Churches of Delaware, 1947 p. 220.

⁴ Paul Neff Garber, The Methodist Meeting House. Board of Missions and Expansions, The Methodist Church. New York: New York. 1941, p. 34.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 3

McColley's Chapel
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====
into the late 19th Century. Examples that survive in Delaware that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places include: Griffith's Chapel, Kent County, (NR 1994); Thomas' Chapel, Kent County, (NR 1994); Union Church, New Castle County, (NR 1973); Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Sussex County, (NR 1978). Several more remain on the landscape but have not yet been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Architectural Significance

McColley's Chapel's design is a late, but important, example of its type. It displays the small size and scale promoted in early Methodist *Discipline* calling for their houses of worship to be "plain and decent." Although simple and older in form, the design is clearly late 19th century in time period as evidenced by the applied detail using Colonial Revival gable returns and 6/6 double hung sash windows on the side elevations, and the use of simple molded trim. The centrally placed entry surround displays dentil work and the paneled double leaf door retains its early screen door. Windows are attenuated in shape, and although Colonial Revival in detail, this shape places the building firmly in the 19th century architectural tradition.

McColley's Chapel Today

The McColley's Chapel continues to be used and maintained by a devoted group of Trustees who continue to worship there. Members of the founding church families, these people continue to care for and insure the investment in this rural community.

The chapel was once a thriving community center that hosted dances and other activities for children, as well as community suppers and ice cream socials. At the turn of the twentieth century more than 80 people attended the church every Sunday, today there are a little more than 20. For those who still attend, McColley's Chapel is a centralizing force for both place and time. Its function is much, much more than a place to worship; it is a center for community and a place to turn in times of need.

Benevolence toward the chapel is well deserved, as they all come together for one another as the focal point for the development of community. For example, there is a couple that attends the church, a husband and wife. The wife has Parkinson's disease, so members of the congregation take turns cooking for her, everyday. Also most everyday, the Reverend visits people

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 4

McColley's Chapel
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====

in the community and regularly goes to preach and pray with people unable to attend Sunday service.

Florence Webb and Reba Wells are lifelong members, and for them the Chapel stands as a resonating beacon of their social identity and is central to their lives; as they both dedicate so much of their time and energy to ensure the continuation of the legacy that is McColley's Chapel. "You just cannot explain all we do," says Reba;

"If someone is sick, or in the hospital, we take care of them. We have a church member who is 92 years old, his wife passed away, so we take him food everyday. We take care of one another. When things come up, we just do them."⁵

⁵ Narrative developed from an Interview by Dan Parsons (Sussex County Historic Preservation Planner) with Reba Wells and Florence Webb; both lifelong members of McColley's Chapel. Recorded 11.12.07 at McColley's Chapel, located at 18168 Redden Road near the hamlet of Redden

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 5

McColley's Chapel
name of property
Sussex County, Delaware
county and State

=====
Comprehensive Planning

Zone: Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp
Time Period: 1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
Theme: Religion
Property Type: House of Worship: Chapel

