

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

RECEIVED

AUG 27 1979

PH & MC

Historic Preservation

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER Bossardsville Road (LR 45008) 0.3 Mile East of Intersection
with South Easton Belmont Pike (LR 949)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hamilton Square

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Monroe

CODE

095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER

Star Route

CITY, TOWN

Sciota

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION *See AttachedCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Stroudsburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

Unknown Date C. 1955

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED *see below*

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. Current Description

A. Church

1. Exterior

Constructed in 1829 of native field stone with raised joints, the church is 50'x40' and rises 2½ stories. The walls are 2' thick above ground with a foundation thickness of 4'. Lime mortar was used for all masonry. The roofing material is slate and there is a rectangular steeple with delicate spire. Four electronic sound reproducers for the automatic carillon are cut into the steeple. Present within the steeple, but not visible, is a 30" diameter cast bell. Entrance to the church is by two steps onto a flagstone porch of 7'x25', and access into the building is by two sets of double doors.

2. Interior

Entering into the narthex of 5' depth one sees curved stairways to the balcony which are located on left and right. Passing through the narthex by way of two additional sets of double doors, one enters the nave. The height from floor to ceiling is 28'. There is a wide variety of colors (30+) employed on the frescoed ceilings and walls. The interior walls are plaster on stone with no insulation or barrier. There are single lamp sconces on the walls downstairs. The balcony is lighted with four small five-light chandeliers. The majority of illumination is from the C. 1885 kerosene converted-to-electric chandelier of 12 globes which hangs at a height even with the balcony. The balcony has two full sides equipped for seating. The tracker-action organ and organ chamber are located on the remaining third side of the balcony directly above the narthex. The pews downstairs and in the balcony are original with straight backs. The aisles downstairs, balcony, stairways, and front chancel area are all carpeted. The original wide floor boards of yellow pine are exposed and painted beneath all pews. The original chancel area with elevated pulpit and its two gently curved stairways is located on the front wall of the nave. Above the interior ceiling area is the superstructure and roof support consisting of 10"x14" hewn and pegged beams. The heating system is forced air ducted in through floor registers. All of the window wells are 24" in depth and all 27 contain stained glass.

B. Cemetery

The cemetery is approximately 180'x210' totally enclosed with a field stone wall 3' high and 2' wide. There are 105 limestone headstones mainly in German with some in English. There is an oral tradition which cannot, of course, be verified of Indians interred in unmarked graves. Eight revolutionary war soldiers are buried here as well as some civil war combatants. There is an historic stone commemorating the revolutionary war soldiers.

The church exists under a variety of names; most frequently being Lutheran and Reformed Congregation of Hamilton Township. From its beginning until 1975, this was a Union Church comprised of both a Lutheran and Reformed Congregation. The congregations were incorporated in December, 1816 as the German Reformed Congregation of Hamilton and the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Hamilton. Subsequent land acquisitions and the entire plot of property is recorded in Monroe County Courthouse, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

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B. Cemetery

Date of burial on earliest existing stone is 1793, and the date of burial on latest existing stone is 1875. Burials in the cemetery were discontinued primarily because of high water tables which developed in mid 19th century as well as dwindling space.

II. Originally

A. Church

1. Exterior

Due to the threat of Indians, solid shutters were placed on the bottom windows. The windows were of clear glass not stained and were 12 over 12's on the balcony level. Hitching posts and a very few trees dotted the landscape. In approximately 1875 the exterior stone was stuccoed for insulation and humidity factors. The exterior stucco was removed in 1954 and the stones were blasted and joints repointed.

2. Interior

Each pew downstairs had a door on it which was closed to conserve heat. Parishioners often brought foot warmers, dogs, and animal (often wolf) skin capes to keep their feet warm. There were no lights as services were not held in the evenings. Tallow candles were the first step at illumination. In 1860 kerosene lamps were first used and electricity followed c. 1925. The church was originally heated by two stoves located approximately 20' apart. The stoves were connected with a round pipe approximately 15" in diameter and channeled to a drum and stove pipe. The pipe was used as a heating surface. In 1924 a coal furnace was used and was replaced in 1941 by an oil furnace. There were originally no rugs and musical instruments were forbidden. In the early 20th century a piano was used, and in 1930 the tracker-action organ arrived. The walls and ceiling of the church were not colored until 1870.

B. Cemetery

Originally the cemetery was not enclosed and the earliest burials were in close proximity to the first log church. In 1821 a wooden fence enclosure was first added and was replaced by the field stone enclosure in 1825.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW						
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION					

SPECIFIC DATES 1829

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Background History

The 1740's was generally considered the beginning of the settlement in this area of Monroe County. The earliest settlers were immigrants from Germany who arrived primarily with farming skills. This area with its fertile land and adequate water and peaceful Indians was an attraction. In 1737 the Walking Purchase was made with the Indians for land along the Delaware River. Unfortunately the early settlers took advantage of the Indian's generosity and the Indians called it the Running Purchase. From this time on the Indians were hostile to the early settlers and conflict and turmoil were the result. About 1745 Philip Bossert arrived from Germany. His home became a place of refuge for many of the early settlers and later on he would donate land for the church, cemetery, and school. He is buried in the church cemetery.

The job of transplanting the Lutheran faith from Germany to America became the responsibility of Dr. Henry M. Muhlenberg. Dr. Muhlenberg sent German-trained pastors to the Pennsylvania area to begin congregations. One of Dr. Muhlenberg's young pastors was Rudolph H. Schrenck. He was assigned to four specific congregations and also charged with developing congregations above the Forks of the Delaware and beyond the Blue Mountains. Although there is no official list of his work in the Blue Mountain region, it is probable that the congregation owes its genesis to him. During the French and Indian Wars, it was not perceived prudent to erect a church. However, subsequent to the uprising the congregation officially began public worship under the leadership of John A. Friederici in 1768. By 1775 a log church of 20'x30' was in use and also served as a sometimes school. By 1793 a separate schoolhouse was built in association with the church. A sexton's house was also present, and the schoolmaster was frequently the sexton who also had choir duties in the church. By 1780 the cemetery was in use. As the area grew in population it was decided that a more appropriate edifice be constructed for the purpose of worship. By 1825 the project to erect the new church was solidly underway.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Architecture

Christ Church at Hamilton Square was designed by Henry Fenner and Peter Kester who were each appointed architects by their respective congregations. Levi M. Slutter was employed as builder. Early records show a desire to erect the building out of brick. For unspecified reasons but probably cost, native field stone was then chosen. The cornerstone was laid in 1829 and the church was completed and first used in November, 1830. The total cost of the project appears to be \$4,300. Funds for the church were generated primarily from the selling of approximately 250 acres of church lands to area farmers. We feel its architecture is an accurate and substantially unchanged representation of its period.

Education

The school at the church was the first in the area. Instruction was taught in English and German. One of the schoolmasters, Jacob A. Eyer, was a noted and respected scholar. A man of independent means he was given great prominence in church affairs and given the task of developing articles of cooperation between the congregations. Mr. Eyer also had exceptionally fine handwriting and made his own primers, songbooks, and awards of achievement. Some of his fracture exists today and is considered an excellent example of the art.

Religion

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church is the second oldest congregation in the county if you consider 1768 as its formal beginning. It might be considered the oldest if its existence under Rudolph Schrenck could be substantiated. The present church is the oldest church building in active use in the county. It is recognized to be the mother church of the Lutheran and Reformed (United Church of Christ) denominations in the county. Several congregations in the county were also begun as an outreach ministry and served by the pastors of the congregation.

Social

This region of the county was well populated by seemingly affluent people as seen in the ability to generate funds for the erection of stone buildings and houses which was not routine. The adjacent village of Kellersville was seriously considered to be the natural location for the county seat. Until 1830 when an official county vote located the county seat in Stroudsburg, the assumption of its location in Kellersville was so strong as to warrant the premature erection of a suitable courthouse building. In addition to the seemingly routine transaction with local Indians, General Sullivan's march came within two miles of the Church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES *See Attached

History of Monroe County by Robert Brown Miller Published 1929 Monroe County Publishers

A Bicentennial Return to the Monroe County Frontier Published by Monroe County Historical Society 1975

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.36

QUADRANGLE NAME SAYLORSBURG

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 47 5 58 0 4 53 0 36 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Starting at a point on the northside of L.R.45008 moving north along westside of church for 125 ft, then west for 105 ft, then north for 185 ft, then east along cemetery wall for 220 ft, then south for 185 ft, then west for 75 ft, then south for 125 ft to L.R.45008, then west

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		along northside of L.R. for 150 ft to starting point.	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Rev. David L. Ritterpusch, Pastor

ORGANIZATION Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church

DATE August 7, 1979

STREET & NUMBER Star Route

TELEPHONE (717) 992-4085

CITY OR TOWN Sciota

STATE Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

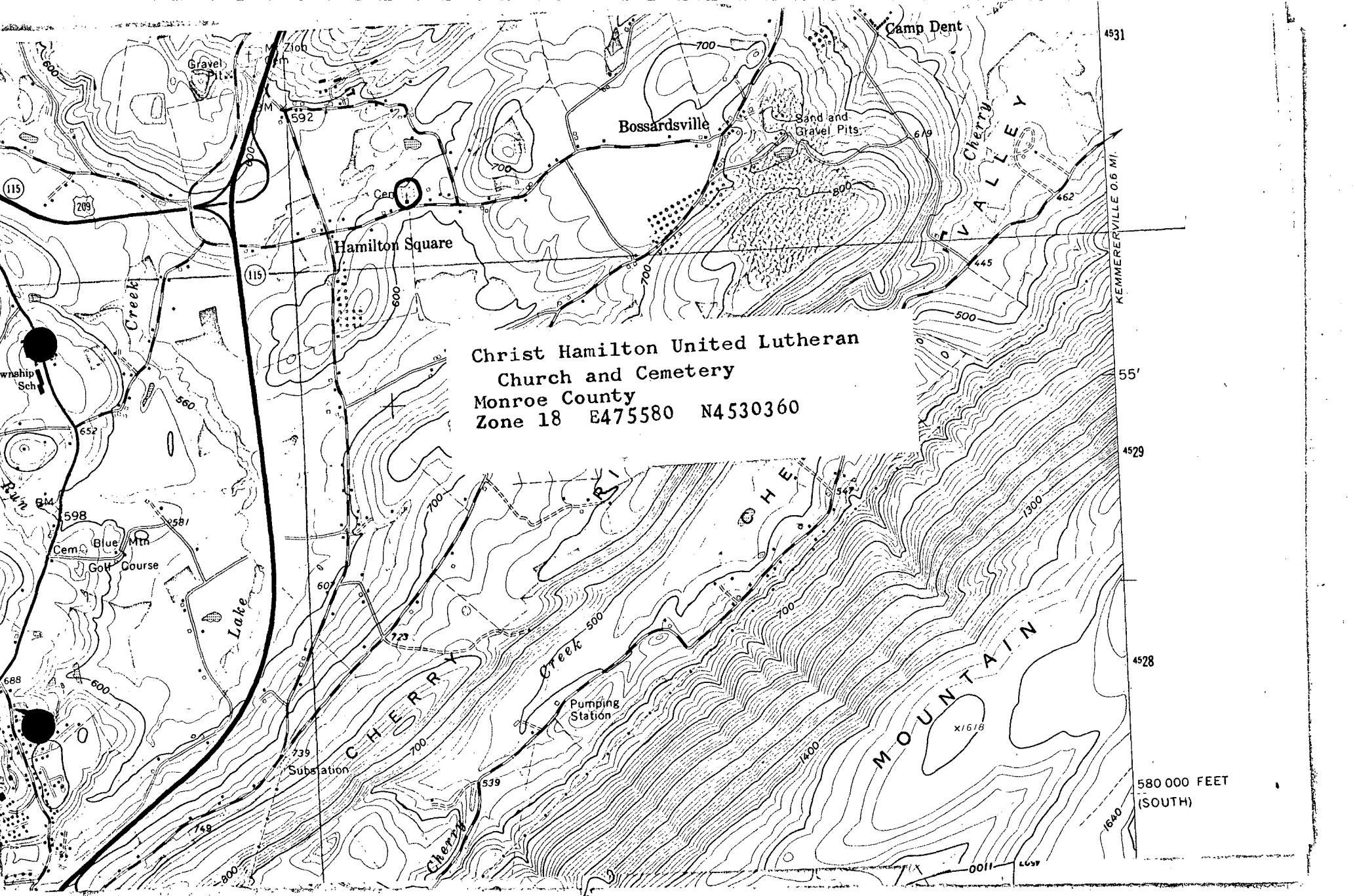
Continuation Sheet
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History of Monroe County Pennsylvania 1725-1976 By: Apple, Groff,
Keller, Knapp, Knepp, Neuman, Ponder Published 1976 by Pocono
Hospital Auxiliary

Unpublished Manuscript by William Lesh, a Local Historian of Monroe
County

Independent Study and Research by Rev. Fred Wiser, Pastor St. Paul's
Lutheran Church, Biglerville, Pa. and Former Archivist of Lutheran
Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa.

Independent Study and Research Dr. Charles Gladfelter, PHD., Professor
of History, Gettysburg College



Christ Hamilton United Lutheran
Church and Cemetery
Monroe County
Zone 18 E475580 N4530360

580 000 FEET
(SOUTH)