

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received OCT 02 1979

date entered NOV 20 1979

**1. Name**

historic St. James Episcopal Church

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 215 South Main Street  not for publication

city, town Muncy  vicinity of congressional district 17

state PA. code 42 county Lycoming code 081

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Parish of St. James Episcopal Church

street & number 215 South Main Street

city, town Muncy  vicinity of state Pennsylvania

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lycoming County Courthouse

street & number 48 West Third Street

city, town Williamsport state Pa.

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 9, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pa.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. James Episcopal Church is a modestly large, Gothic Revival stone designed in 1856 by Richard Upjohn. Its construction was completed by various skilled members of the parish during the years 1857-59. The outer walls are of sandstone, set in an uncoursed and rough cut ashlar. The gabled roof retains its original cover. The nave measures 30 feet by 60 feet and can seat 300-500 people.

The tower, at the northwest corner of the nave, is 107 feet high. Buttressed at each corner, it has three basic stages: the lower is the church entrance; the middle has a belfry window with louvered boards on each side; and the upper is an octagonal spire with a floriated cross as a finial. The original slate roof on the spire has been replaced by an asbestos, tar shingle roof of complimenting texture and color. The entrance to the church is in the western side of the tower.

The western elevation of the structure has a large, centrally located rose window of twelve lights. Below this, and to either side, is a lancet window. In addition the wall is divided by a large buttress, which is directly in line with the center of the circular window and the peak of the gable.

The southern side is four bays. These windows are double lancet windows. The walls around the fourth bay have been extended some twenty-five feet to accommodate the works of a new organ. This addition took place in 1933. The northern side also has four bays, the first three being double lancet windows, the last a single. These sets of double windows are divided by buttresses.

The eastern side of the church presents a five-sided apse which measures 16 feet by 18 feet. The roof of the apse is in a direct line with the peak of the gable of the main roof and is approximately two-thirds its height.

The interior of the church possesses a striking ceiling, punctuated with dark braces vaulted. The ceiling was painted into stenciled squares in 1932, which were restored in 1979.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Committee: Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Richard Upjohn, Architect

St. James Episcopal Church (1856-59) gains its significance in terms of its architecture, its religious affiliations, and the fact that it is a key anchor in the Historical streetscape of Muncy.

Designed in 1856 by Richard Upjohn,<sup>1</sup> St. James Church is a well balanced, Gothic Revival stone structure. Indicative of Upjohn's architectural style with regard to high Episcopal churches, St. James is symmetrically well proportioned, creating an impressive visual effect. Although St. James is the only building designed by Richard Upjohn in this area, quite a number of structures which he designed have reached prominence for their architectural merits. Among these are Trinity Church NY, NY, St. Pauls Cathedral Buffalo, NY, R.H. Gardiner House (Oaklands) Gardiner, Maine, Samuel Farrar House (Symphony) Bangor, Maine, St. Peter's Church, Albany, NY, and Grace Church Newark, NJ.

Although it is considered to be one of the finest structures architecturally in Muncy, St. James Episcopal Church derives the major portion of its historical significance from its long religious affiliation with the community.

The first organized religious service in Pennsborough (incorporated as Muncy in 1826) was of the Episcopal sect in 1797.<sup>2</sup> This date marks the organization of St. James Parish, the second religious parish in Lycoming County. First held in a barn, these services were moved in 1819 to the Emmanuel Church of the Emmanuel Lutherans (first organized parish in Lycoming County) neighboring Muncy Creek Township. In the spring of 1832, the first St. James Church was erected on the site of the present church. This was a plain brick building measuring 36' X 40', built at a cost of \$1,946.<sup>3</sup> Future additions of a bell tower and an interior gallery in 1842-43 were made to this original structure. (The bell, bought and installed in the original church for \$137.50, was later moved to the present church and rings today.)<sup>4</sup>

The future growth of St. James Parish coincided with that of the Borough of Muncy during one of its most prosperous eras (1840-60). In the mid 1850's the construction of a new church was proposed because of the increased size of the parish. Initially a brick church of modest appearance was contemplated, the cost of which was not to exceed \$3,500. However, due to the protests of a Miss Susan Hall, a prominent member of the parish from Philadelphia, these plans were scraped and the firm of Upjohn was entertained to design what Miss Hall termed "a proper Episcopal Church, Gothic, and of stone."<sup>5</sup> On July 21, 1856, the plans for a Gothic stone church were received by the building committee of the Vestry of St. James Church from Richard Upjohn & Co.<sup>6</sup>

The construction costs incurred in the building of the church to Mr. Upjohn's specifications were kept to a minimum. The majority of the stone used in the exterior of the church was donated, cut, and sleded across the frozen Susquehanna River during the winter of 1857 by members of the parish. This method of aquisition of the necessary building materials reduced purchase costs and transportation costs (bridge tolls). The actual construction of the building was also undertaken by various skilled members of the congregation as donated services.

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St. James Church

Lycoming

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On November 15, 1859, the new church of St. James Parish was consecrated by the Rev. Samuel Bowman, Assistant Bishop.<sup>7</sup> The total cost of the structure was \$9,000, or nearly three times the amount the Vestry of St. James had intended to spend prior to Miss Hall's good natured intervention.

The impact of the new church on the community was significant in a number of respects. It was the largest and most costly religious structure at that time in the area, indicative of Muncy's domination of new ideas in Lycoming County. With most the labor involved in its construction having been provided by the local citizenry, St. James Church provided a tremendous sense of pride to the community, surpassing that which was relayed simply by its appearance.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .3

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

A 

1	8	3	5	0	2	5	0	4	5	6	2	4	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas B. Richey

organization Muncy Historic Survey Project date

street & number 14 North Washington Street telephone (717) 546-3952

city or town Borough of Muncy state, Pennsylvania

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Ed Weintraub, State Historic Preservation Officer

title Office of Historic Preservation

date 9/25/79

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 11-20-79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date Nov 20 1979

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Beginning at the point that is the southeastern corner of the intersection of Church Alley and South Main St.; thence in a southerly direction 100 feet along the east side of South Main St.; thence in an easterly direction 150 feet along the northern line of the lot of John C. Coppes; thence in a northerly direction 100 feet along the western side of Green Alley; thence in a westerly direction 150 feet along the south side of Church Alley to the place of the beginning.

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Architecture, Ambition, and Americans by Wayne Andrews. Harper Bros., NY 1949.

Architecture, 19th and 20th Century Henry-Russell Hitchcock Penguin Books. 1958

Minute Book of St. James Church Muncy, PA by Rt. Rev. Frederick Holmes, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first service of St. James Parish (1797). Muncy Luminary 1947.

Muncy Luminary, Muncy PA 1841-present

Now and Then quarterly magazine of the Muncy Historical Society 1966.

Official Minutes of the Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church Muncy, PA.

Richard Upjohn: Architect and Churchman by Everand M. Upjohn. Columbia University Press, NY 1939.

A Survey of Historical Sites in Lycoming County, Lycoming County Planning Commission 1971.

History of Lycoming County Megginess 1872.