

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 UNION CHURCH and BURIAL GROUND

AND/OR COMMON Old Mud Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East Presqueisle Street,
S.W. of intersection with 7th Street

CITY, TOWN Philipsburg VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 23rd

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Pennsylvania 42 Centre 027

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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 Philipsburg Historical Foundation, c/o Mrs. Francis C. Stott

STREET & NUMBER 216 South Front Street

CITY, TOWN Philipsburg VICINITY OF STATE Pennsylvania 16866

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Centre County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER High Street

CITY, TOWN Bellefonte STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Building Survey

DATE 1936 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Philipsburg was settled in 1797, but it was not until 1820 that the 57 inhabitants of the settlement banded together and subscribed \$343 to build a meetinghouse. This small one story log building was used as a schoolhouse and church until 1842 when it was incorporated into the enlarged and remodelled Union Church.

The 1842 remodelling was influenced by Hardman Philips who wished to construct an Anglican country church. It is probably Mr. Philips, a staunch Episcopalian, who determined the distinct Gothic design of the church. During the remodelling, the original log building was incorporated into the 30' by 24' main sanctuary. To the rear of the sanctuary was added a 20' by 14' chancel and retiring room. A three story, 10' square entrance tower was added to the opposite gable end. All windows and door openings are pointed arch in design. Two pairs of tall multipaned windows are located in each side of the chancel and sanctuary sections. All windows have hand carved quatrefoil inserts in the cusp of each arch. Board and batten shutters flank all of the windows. The square entrance tower has louvered arches on the 2nd and 3rd stories. The flat roof of the bell tower is topped by small crenellations and four hand carved corner finials. The exterior of the church is finished in a rough cast mixture of plaster and clay. The general appearance of this stucco finish is responsible for the church's common appellation, "Old Mud Church".

The interior of the church is simple in design with box pews facing a carved balustrade across the chancel area. All of the interior appointments are original. There have been no structural changes and the original flooring, pews, window glass, even the tin wall sconces remain. Only the central tin chandelier is a reproduction.

The cemetery surrounding the church is decidedly integral to it both historically and aesthetically. It was the town cemetery up until 1874 with the earliest grave being 1819. The cemetery contains a monument to Hardman Philips and a huge tree known as "Fouders Oak" which is estimated to be 330 years old. The 200 foot square lot is surrounded by a three foot stone wall.

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/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 checked="" 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 1820 1842

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel Turner and William Kinnear

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Union Church is an outstanding example of rural American Gothic architecture. The remodelled 1842 building was one of the earliest Gothic style buildings in the area. It is remarkably well preserved and contains virtually all of its original appointments. The Union Church and Burial Ground are now maintained by the Philipsburg Historical Foundation.

The Union Church is also recognized locally as a landmark of early settlement and a monument to the principle of religious tolerance.

The history of the Union Church and Burial Ground begins in 1797 when John George Schultz, an immigrant from Lower Saxony, came to Philipsburg as one of the twelve original settlers. Mr. Schultz received the one town lot and four out-lots which were offered to each original settler as inducement to settle by Mr. Henry Philips. The lot here under consideration was one of Mr. Schultz's out-lots, and this he partially cleared. When the settlers came to need a burial ground, Mr. Schultz permitted them to bury on the lot. Some time after Mr. Hardman Philips came to Philipsburg in 1809, he sought a burial ground and accomplished an exchange of some properties with Mr. Schultz. In 1820 the settlers decided to build a meetinghouse on this land. A paper upon which is written "Subscriptions to Meeting House," the original subscriptions list is preserved at the Union Church and begins:

We, the subscribers, wishing to have a house built which will answer the double purpose of a school, and place of worship to be free for religious preachers of the gospel of all denominations do promise to pay William Kinnear & Samuel Turner the respective sums hereunto subscribed by us to be applied by them to this purpose.

Fifty-Seven inhabitants subscribed \$343.00.

Mr. Hardman Philips deeded the land in trust for this purpose on the 12th of November, 1820, according to letters of attorney of March 1st of the same year.

In 1841 repairs to the building were deemed necessary, and a second subscription was begun for the cost of repairs and improvements. The amount subscribed, however, was insufficient; and Mr. Hardman Philips stepped in, both to provide the necessary funds and to oversee

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UNION CHURCH AND BURIAL GROUND - Centre County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Significance (continued):

the completion of the project. Mr. Philips wished to claim the church as the Protestant Episcopal Church of Philipsburg and had planned it according to the needs and traditions of a Protestant Episcopal congregation. Other citizens, however, objected to Mr. Philips' intentions; and much ill feeling was aroused. The matter was taken to court; and after a tedious lawsuit, a decision was reached in favor of keeping the church as a Union Church.

The Union Church continued to shelter the services of Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, and worshippers of other denominations until the early 1920's when the Free Methodists were the last to hold regular services there. In subsequent years the Church served as a museum of Philipsburg heritage, but in 1971 the decision was made to keep the building as a church; and historical exhibits were confined to the vestry.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Illustrated Souvenir History of Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Williamsport, PA, Grit Publishing Company, 1909.

Linn, John Blair. The History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Philadelphia, Louis H. Everts, 1883.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	734380	4530960	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Gregory Ramsey - William K. Watson

ORGANIZATION

Centre County Registration Project - PHMC

DATE

February, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

203 N. Allegheny St. - P. O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte - Harrisburg

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William J. Wewer

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

3/16/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

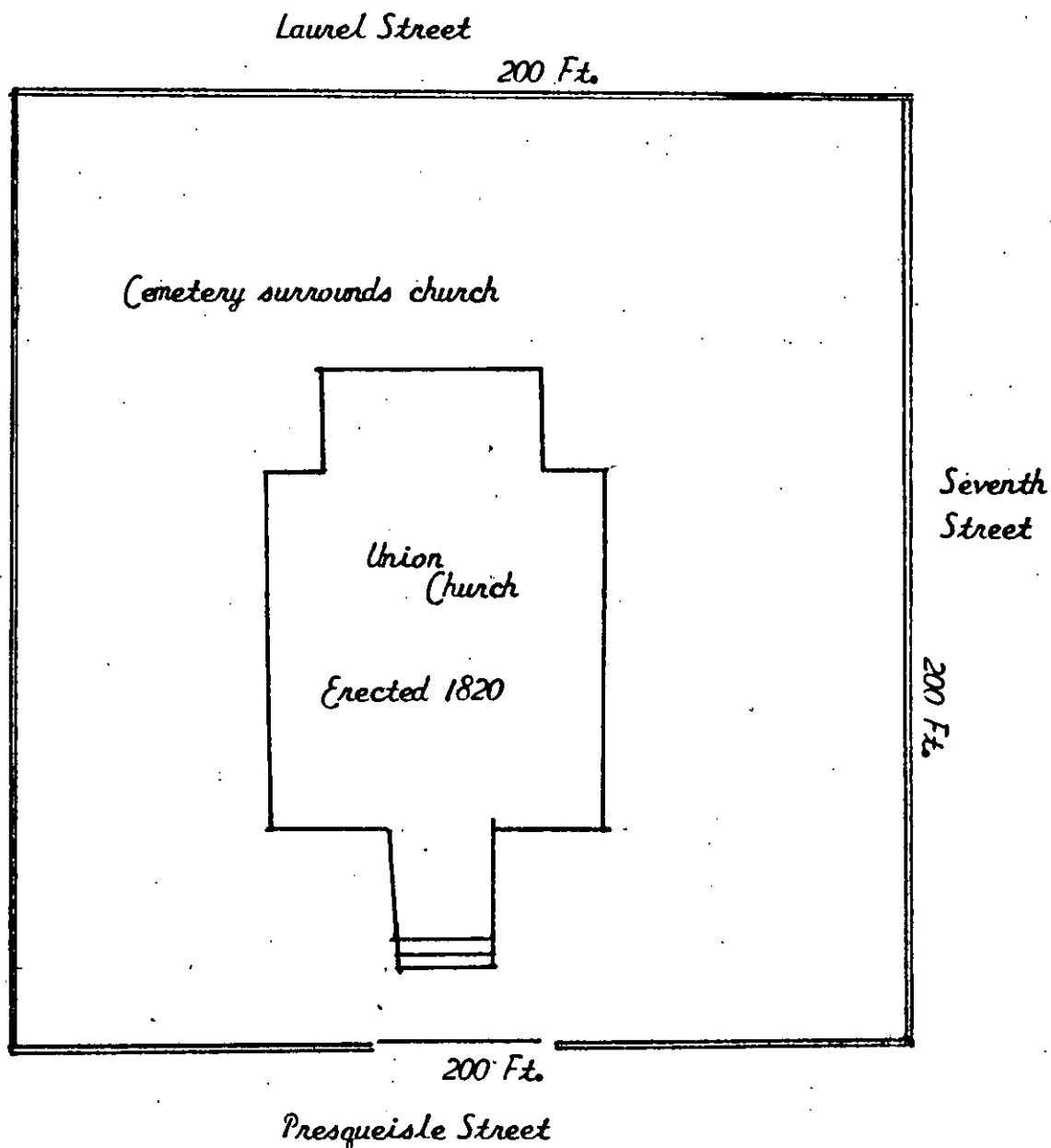
Union Church and Cemetery
Philipsburg, Pa.
Centre County

Cemetery established when need
arose when settlers established
the community in 1797.

Union Church built in 1820
when need for school, meeting
place, and church became
apparent.

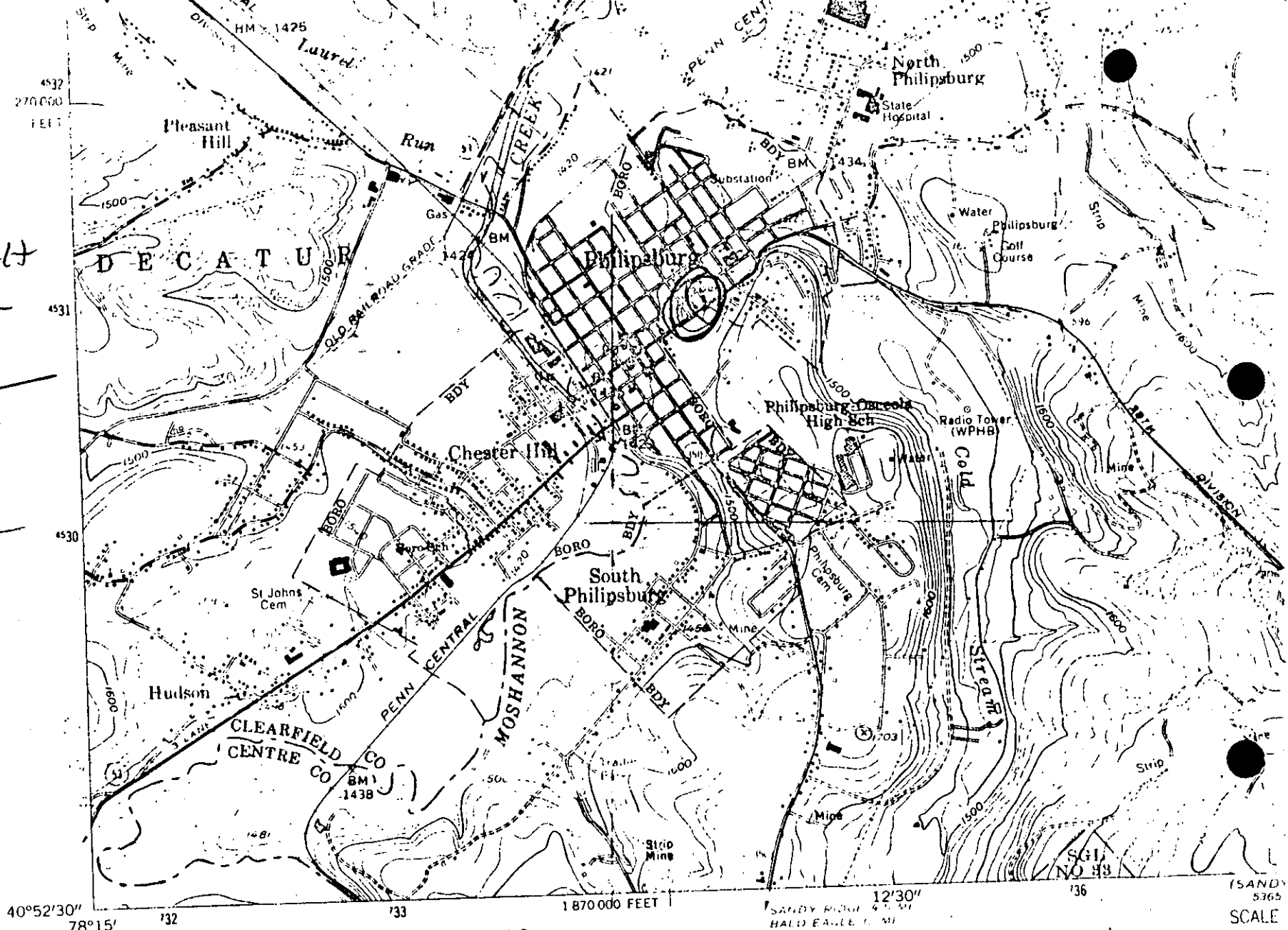
School - meeting house -
church was built of logs.
In 1842 outside was roughcast
of a plaster and clay mixture
that looked like mud. Hence,
name "Old Mud Church".

Sixth
Street
200 Ft.



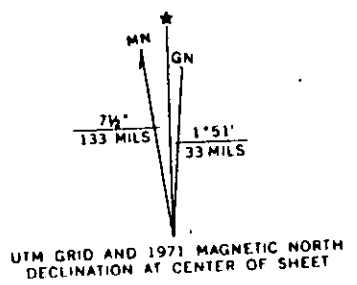
Entire 200' x 200' area surrounded by $\frac{3}{4}$ ' stone wall
built in 1909.

UNION CHURCH
 18/4530960
 734570
 Zone 17
 4530960
 734380



(HOUTZDALE)
 5365 IV SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
 Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1959
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,
 north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue



CONTOUR IN
 DATUM IS N

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NA