

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Philip G. Cochran Memorial United Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Howell and Griscom Street

~~N/A~~ not for publication

city, town Dawson

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 042

county Fayette

code 051

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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" 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 Trustees of the Philip G. Cochran Memorial United Methodist Church

street & number Howell and Griscom Streets

city, town Dawson

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Fayette County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Uniontown

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Fayette County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Fayette County Planning Commission(Courthouse)

city, town Uniontown

state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date

[N/A]

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

The Philip G. Cochran Memorial United Methodist Church is located on the northeast corner of Griscom and Howell Street in the borough of Dawson, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. It is a prominent element in the surrounding landscape and is a fine example of late Gothic Revival architecture of the early 20th century. A solid stone structure of cruciform plan, it has a crossing tower and steeple and was constructed between 1922 and 1927. During the same period, a south wing was built to provide additional facilities.

The building has uncoursed ashlar walls constructed of Beaver County limestone. It has stepped buttresses with a stone watertable between the basement and the first story. The roof is covered with blue and grey slate of diminishing courses, and is multi-gable with parapets and crosses on the gable ends. The central spire is 105 feet in height and is surmounted by a finial cross. Its basic shape is octagonal projecting from a shallow hip roof. There are two main entrances to the north and south of the narthex with Gothic Style wood double doors in enclosed gable entry porches. The windows are of two types segmented triple sash with stone mullions and quions, and double and triple sash with stone surrounds and quoins. The south wing contains classrooms, an auditorium and a kitchen. It is a two story stone and wood building which continue the style of the main church with a watertable, buttresses and gabled roof, except for the leaded glass windows.

In plan, the church measures 130 feet x 161 feet. It contains a narthex across the western end, shallow transept at the crossing, and a vaulted wood ceiling. The altar is located at the crossing under the spire. The three-bay nave has an arched ceiling without the intervention of a clerestory, resting directly on a oriade comprised of Gothic arches and piers of clustered columns. It is paved with hand made tiles laid in random range with inserts of ecclesiastical patterns. The transepts have no aisles; the crossing is lighted with windows in the cardinal faces of the tower. The western end of the nave is dominated by a large stained glass window composed of five lancets surrounded by intricate gothic tracery. Each transept end has a similar but smaller version of this window. All stained glass was done by Henry Hunt, with the exception of the window on the south-west side just off the chapel, which was removed from the preceeding brick church.

# 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 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 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

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed from 1922-27 at a cost of \$325,000, the Philip G. Cochran Memorial Church in Dawson, Pennsylvania is an important example of the High Gothic Revival mode of church design. The building reflects the design principles of Ralph Adams Cran, the period's foremost church architect, in its academic application of detail and judicious organization of volumes. It was erected as a memorial to one of Fayette County's most prominent industrialists (coal and coke industry).

The Cochran Memorial Church is the third church to be located on the same site and was the second erected by Cochran's widow Sarah (Moore) Cochran.

During the late 19th and early 20th century the borough of Dawson was a thriving and wealthy coal town with many handsome Victorian homes lining the streets. The Philip G. Cochran Memorial Church was locally unique for its quality and character and was one of the last Gothic style churches built in the area. The unusual cruciform plan with its large central tower and dramatic effect of the soaring spire at the crossing, furnishes a local reference to English and Scottish parish churches and to European tradition. The architecture is richly textured, with variegated limestone walls, heavy irregular roofing slates, ornate Gothic carvings and colorful stained glass windows. The tallest structure in Dawson, it dominates the landscape.

The architect for the Philip G. Cochran Memorial United Methodist Church was Thomas Pringle. A native of Scotland, Pringle worked in Pittsburgh and was connected with the offices of Alden and Harlow; and Janssen and Abott. By the time this church was designed, he was in business under his own name. Pringle was a very competent builder in the Gothic Revival style. Perhaps his most significant project is the Salvation Army building in Pittsburgh, a 9-story office building in the Gothic Revival mode. Other structures designed by him include, the first Presbyterian church, Natrona, PA; the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church at Knoxville, and the aluminum company of America, New Kingston, PA.

The Philip G. Cochran Memorial United Methodist Church is a beautiful and unusual example of Gothic Revival architecture patterned after the parish churches of 14th century England. It has been unaltered since its construction and has been well maintained by its congregation.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1 acre  
Quadrangle name Dawson

Quadrangle scale 1;24,000

### UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>614755</u>	<u>4433640</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the intersection of Howell and Griscom Street and traveling east along Griscom approx. 250 feet; then, on a 90° angle 250 feet south; then on a 90° 250 feet to Howell; then 250 ft. north to the starting point.

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

state	<u>PA</u>	code	county	code
state	<u>PA</u>	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Albert V. Mong, Jr.

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May 8, 1980

street & number Boyd Ave. telephone 412 529-7182


city or town Dawson 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 

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/29/84

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

date

Keeper of the National Register.

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Philip G. Cochran

Item number 9

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**Bibliographical Data:**

Fayette County by Ellis 1882 History

Fayette County by Jordan 1912 History

Dawson Centennial Anniversary 1872 to 1972 by Dawson Anniversaries Corp.

Centennial Directory 1872 to 1972 The Philip G. Cochran Memorial United Methodist Church

USA Bicentennial (Dawson History) Bicentennial Committee (D.A. Corp.)

Connellsville Daily Courier 1972 - 1976 - 1977 Connellsville, PA

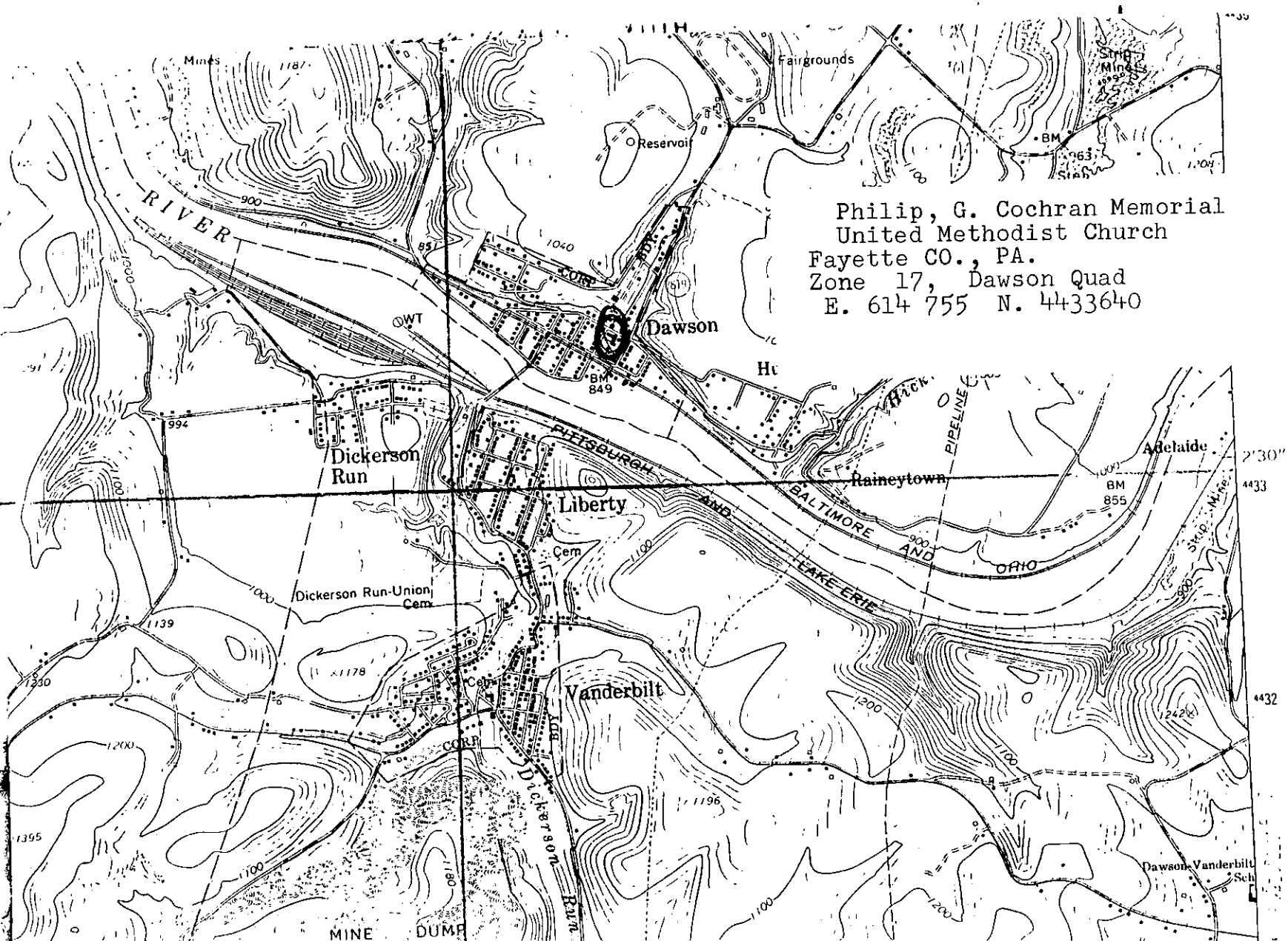
Morning Herald and Evening Standard, Uniontown, PA 1/27/1961

Tribune - Review Newspaper, Greensburgh, PA 1978 November 19, 1978

The Daily Courier, Connellsville, PA 11/19/1927

Methodist in Western Pennsylvania by Smetlzer Page 754

Focus, May 15, 1983, P.8



Philip, G. Cochran Memorial  
United Methodist Church  
Fayette CO., PA.  
Zone 17, Dawson Quad  
E. 614 755 N. 4433640