

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 Bangor Episcopal Church

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of Main St. (PA Rt. 23) & Water St. <sup>N/A</sup> not for publication

city, town Caernarvon Township <sup>N/A</sup> vicinity of

state PA code 42 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Diocese of Central PA - The Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA

street & number 221 North Front Street

city, town Harrisburg <sup>N/A</sup> vicinity of state PA 17101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 50 North Duke Street

city, town Lancaster state PA 17602

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County Bureau for Historic Preservation

city, town Lancaster/Harrisburg state PA

# 7: Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 <u>          N/A          </u>

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

Bangor Episcopal Church is located at the northwest corner of Main Street (Route 23) and Water Street in the village of Churchtown, Caernarvon Township. Constructed in 1830, the church is Gothic Revival in style. Also located on the church grounds is an 1844 frame structure originally used as a school building, approximately 325 graves and markers dating from the Revolutionary War to present day, a stone wall that runs along the property line and a storage shed. The church building underwent repairs and improvements, including the addition of a steeple and art glass windows c. 1880. The church, school building, graveyard and stone wall are currently in excellent condition and retain nearly one hundred percent integrity. The nominated property contains two contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one contributing site. In addition, a small non-contributing storage shed is located at the northwestern corner of the property.

The Bangor Episcopal Church is a three bay, one and one half story church constructed of local brownstone. Rectangular in plan, the building has a steep gable slate roof. A decorative steeple, constructed c. 1880 is located on the south end of the roof. Architectural details include brownstone quoining and a watertable.

All the windows in the church are art glass windows in simple Gothic arches with voussoirs. The art glass was added to the church c. 1880. The art glass windows on the east and west elevations have large diamond and half diamond shaped panes with light colored floral designs inside the diamonds. A dark colored border design surrounds. The art glass window on the south elevation has small diamond shaped panes on the lower half of the window and decorative panes depicting religious symbols on the upper half of the window. A dark colored border design, with a floral motif at the top of the arch, surrounds this window. The central art glass window on the north elevation has a brightly colored figure of the Good Shepherd in the middle of the window with religious symbols above and below. A floral border surrounds the figure and symbols. The art glass windows to the east and west of the central window are similar to those on the east and west elevations. Presently, all the windows are faced by a large smooth-paned glass on the outside.

The facade (south elevation) of the church is three bays wide. A central Gothic arch window is flanked by wooden double entry doors in panelled Gothic arch recessed openings. Above the simple three panel doors are three art glass windows that form a Gothic arch transom. These art glass windows have large, light colored diamond and half diamond panes with a surrounding dark colored border. Between the bays, above the doorways and window, are two small round art glass windows with keystones and voussoirs. Gable details include exposed rafters under the eaves and a simple decorative collar beam at the peak of the gable.

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The steeple was added to the church c. 1880. Above the square steeple base are Gothic arch openings flanked by wooden pilasters. Steep pitched gables and an octagonal spire form the roof of the steeple. The roof of the steeple is covered with scalloped slate shingles.

The east elevation of the church is three bays deep. Several of the brownstone blocks on this elevation are inscribed with the names of early members of the congregation. These stones were reused from the 1756 stone church that was near the site of the present Bangor Episcopal Church. A narrow recessed entry with a simple wood panelled door and wood panelled transom is on the northern end of the east elevation. A wooden stair leads to this door. The west elevation duplicates the east elevation with the exclusion of the doorway.

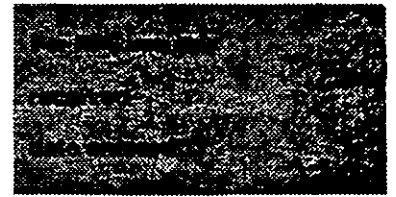
The rear (north) elevation is three bays wide. The central window is slightly narrower than the other two windows and is raised approximately three feet higher. This central window is the only art glass window in the church that depicts a religious figure. Gable details include exposed rafters under the eaves.

The doors on the south elevation of the church open into two small vestibules which in turn open into the nave of the church. Eight rows of pews with kneelers lead to the small recessed altar with Gothic arch opening. The inscription "Holiness Becometh Thine House O Lord, Forever" is found on the arch above the altar. A simple wooden altar rail with quatrefoil cutouts separates the altar from the nave. The fixed altar is newer than the c. 1880 improvements. Wooden panelled Gothic arch doors with simple wooden curved mouldings lead from the altar and from either side of the altar to small flanking rooms. Simple wood wainscoting covers all the walls in the church. The walls are plastered above the wainscoting. A denticulated cornice with quatrefoil cutouts runs along the east and west wall. Four decorative wooden roof trusses with quatrefoil cutouts support the ceiling and connect the cornices. The cornices and roof trusses were added c. 1880. The windows are deep set with wooden interior sills. The floor is covered with beige carpet. Two religious paintings hang on the side walls. Signed by the Philadelphia artist Robert Street (1796-1865), these paintings were stylistically influenced by the work of Carravaggio. Brass light fixtures with eight goose neck arms and etched glass globes hang from the ceiling. The age of these fixtures is unknown. An organ is located in the northwest corner of the nave. Little is known about the age or history of this instrument.

As mentioned, the church building was added to c. 1880. Additions included the roof steeple, and the art glass windows placed in the pointed arch window openings on the exterior, and, the addition of the cornice, the roof trusses, and the altar rail on the interior. The interior layout and form of the church remains the same as when originally constructed. These c. 1880 alterations add to the architectural character of the church building and do not impair the original architectural integrity of the building.

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Located northeast of the church structure is the clapboarded frame school building. This three bay, one story building with gable roof and returns was constructed in 1844 in the Greek Revival style. The facade (south elevation) of the building has a central double door entry flanked by four over four sash windows with panelled wooden shutters. Four simple wooden pilasters separate the bays. The east and west elevations are also three bays with windows and shutters identical to those on the south elevation. The north elevation is clapboarded. The belfry on the south end of the gable roof is octagonal in shape. Each side of the belfry has a round arch opening topped with a steep gable. The gables join in the middle where a large finial rises above. The interior of the building is one large room which has been sympathetically altered over the years to accommodate the needs of the church. The interior walls are presently wood panelled and the floor is carpeted. No original architectural features remain on the interior.

The major portion of the graveyard lies to the east of the church and school building, though some graves are located to the west and south of the church. The non-contributing storage shed is located behind the church, west of the school building. The entire church property is surrounded by a stone wall, partially covered with stucco.

## 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 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** 1830;1844;c.1880 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1830 Bangor Episcopal Church is significant as one of the earliest examples of a Gothic Revival style church in Lancaster County and as an outstanding example of an early Gothic Revival style church in the county. The graceful pointed Gothic arch windows and transoms as well as the steep gable roof accentuate the Gothic Revival style of this building. Later, c. 1880 additions further add Gothic Revival ornamentation to the church. The 1844 Greek Revival school building and the surrounding graveyard have been closely tied to the history of the church and the congregation that built the church.

The Bangor Episcopal Church derived its name from Bangor Cathedral, and Shire of Caernarvon in North Wales. The congregation of Bangor Episcopal Church was founded in 1722. A land grant and charter was secured in 1730. The first permanent church, a log structure, was built in 1734. A larger, rectangular plan church of stone was built in 1756. Many stones in the exterior walls of this 1756 church were inscribed with the names of donors to the building fund. These stones were reused in the construction of the present edifice. The church virtually ceased regular services during the Revolutionary War. In 1786, after peace returned a new charter was obtained. The church is still operating under this charter.

The present stone church was built in 1830, replacing the former stone church that was demolished for reasons unknown. According to the Vestry Book of the Church, the new church was first used in 1831 and formally consecrated in 1832. At present, neither the identity of the architect or master builder, nor the craftsmen for this 1830 construction seem to be documented. It is believed that the wealthy ironmaster, Cyrus Jacobs, a leading member of this church, was the chief financier and promoter for this building.

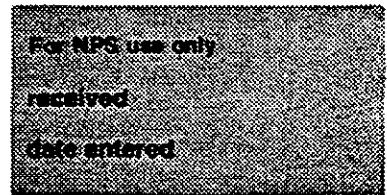
The small Greek Revival school building northwest of the church is a fine example of a modest Greek Revival structure. This building was constructed in 1844, according to the Vestry Book, through the patronage of the ladies of the church. Simple wooden pilasters, a low pitched roof with gable returns and a decorative belfry define the character of this building. The school, along with the surrounding graveyard, have been closely tied in history to the church and the congregation that built the church.

The church building was added to in c. 1880. Additions included the roof steeple and the art glass on the exterior and the roof trusses, the cornice and the altar rail on the interior. In 1886, the church was reconsecrated by Bishop Howe. Since the turn of the 20th century,

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the Bangor congregation has declined. This was due mainly to the closing of a nearby industry and leading employer in the area, forcing congregation members to move elsewhere to seek employment. Today, the congregation is still small. However, this small group has a strong commitment to preserve and maintain the church property.

According to the Historic Sites Survey of Lancaster County, conducted by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County between 1978 and 1985, the Bangor Episcopal Church is the oldest example of an extant Gothic Revival Church in Lancaster County. Also, according to the survey, it is one of the best preserved examples of an early Gothic Revival style church in the county. Similar examples of early Gothic Revival churches include the 1834 Pequea Presbyterian Church and the 1838 Saint John's Episcopal Church of Pequea, both in Salisbury Township. These churches were originally similar in appearance but have been much more greatly altered than the Bangor Episcopal Church has. Similarities include the original Gothic Revival style of architecture, and the period of original construction, 1830 to 1838. In addition, all three churches were originally constructed of local stone, and had a modest, rectangular plan, gable roof, gable end entry, and large window openings.

In 1901, the Pequea Presbyterian Church underwent a major renovation which enlarged and rebuilt the older church. Among the changes was the reduction of the large window openings from four windows to three and the reorientation of the entry from the gable end to a side entry ell. These renovations not only altered the appearance of the church but also altered its architectural integrity. Saint John's Episcopal Church, unfortunately, has also undergone a renovation project. In c. 1960, an incompatible one story addition with flat roof, one over one sash windows and stucco wall finish was added to the west elevation. In addition, a side entry with concrete ramp and iron railing was added to the east elevation, thus reducing the original architectural character and integrity of the church.

Fortunately, the Bangor Episcopal Church remains an outstanding example of an early Gothic Revival style church in Lancaster County. Its later architectural additions add to the Gothic ornamentation of the church. The 1844 Greek Revival school building and the Revolutionary War graveyard are important to the history of the development of the church and the congregation that built the church. The two contributing buildings, one contributing structure and the one contributing site are in excellent condition. The church is also deemed significant as one of the earliest examples of a Gothic Revival church in Lancaster County.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .90 acres

Quadrangle name Morgantown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	8	4	1	8	0	6	0	4	4	4	2	8	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 attached.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Wiley Myers

organization Historic Preservation Trust  
of Lancaster County

date December 1986

street & number 123 North Prince Street

telephone (717) 291-5861

city or town Lancaster

state PA

## 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 Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation

date

~~Officer~~  
For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

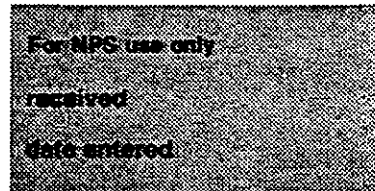
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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"Bangor Episcopal Church Founded 1722 Vestry Book 1751-1848", Churchtown, Lancaster County, PA. Microfilmed by Mennonite Genealogy Society, Salt Lake City, Utah at Churchtown, PA, March 10, 1966. (Lancaster County Historical Society Microfilm #204).

Ellis, Franklin and Evans, Samuel. History of Lancaster County, PA. Philadelphia: Evans and Peck, 1883, p. 688.

Klein, H. M. J., Ph.D. Lancaster County, PA, A History. NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1924, pp. 827-28.

Mast, C. Z. and Simpson, Robert E. Annals of the Conestoga Valley. Mast and Simpson: 1942, pp. 25-40.

Rambling Through Caernarvon: A Driving Tour, Elanco Chapter Bicentennial Committee, Lancaster County, c. 1975, pp. 9-11.

Snyder, John J., Jr. Lancaster Architecture 1719-1927. Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, 1979, pp. 26-27.

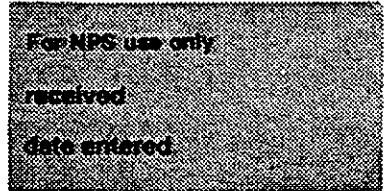
Survey Files, Historic Sites Survey of Lancaster County. Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Lancaster, PA. 1978-1985. (Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County).

The Episcopal Church of Bangor in Caernarvon, The Women's Guild of Bangor Church, c. 1953, reprinted 1972.



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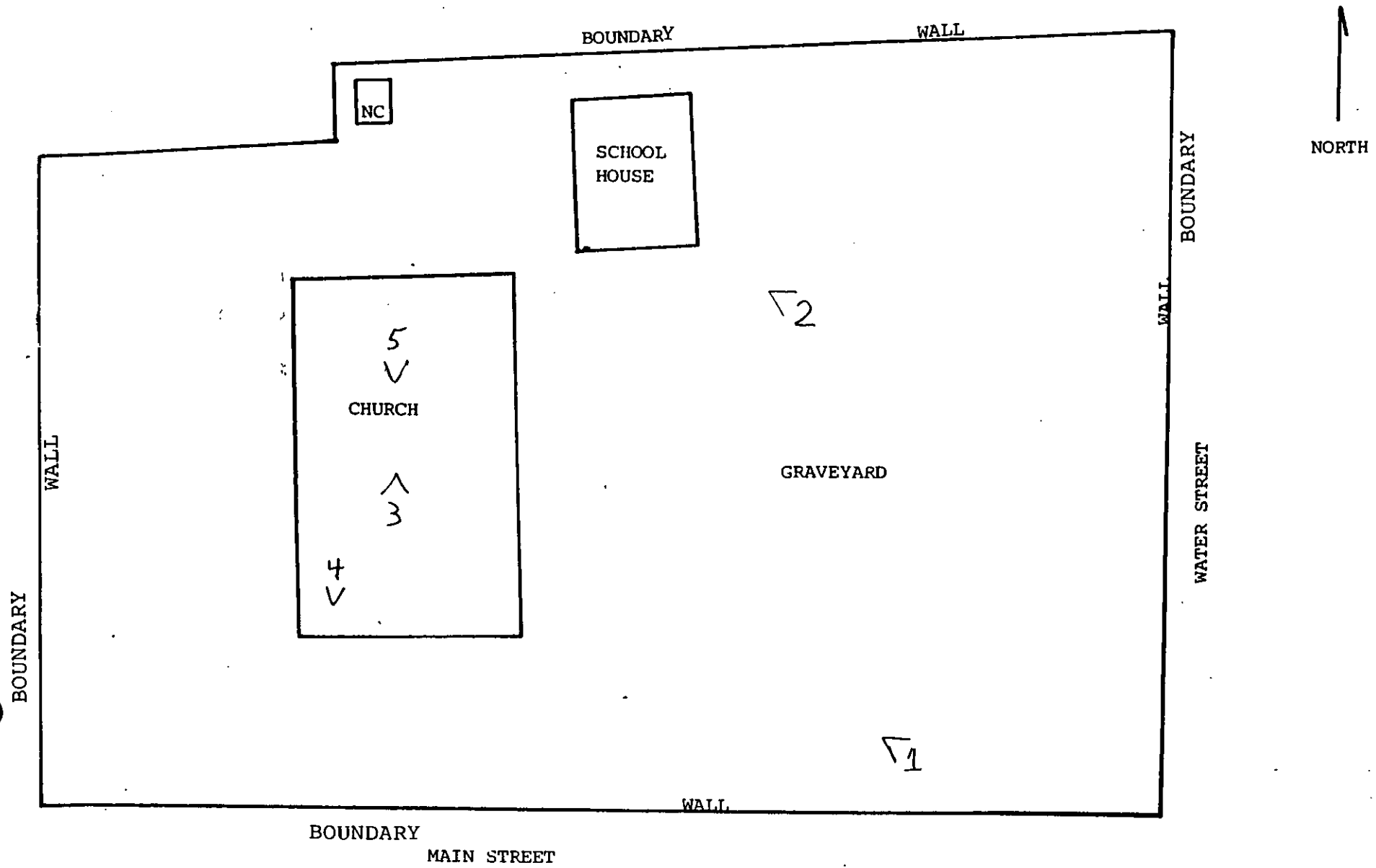
5

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Beginning at said northwest corner of Main Street and Water Street; thence along the north side of Main Street, westwardly, a distance of 280 feet; thence along the western boundary of said property, northwardly, the distance of 139.8 feet; thence along the northern boundary of said property, eastwardly, the distance of 61.1 feet; thence northwardly, the distance of 14.6 feet; thence eastwardly, the distance of 226.1 feet, to the west side of Water Street; thence along the west side of Water Street, southwardly, the distance of 155 feet to said northwest corner of Main Street and Water Street, the place of beginning.

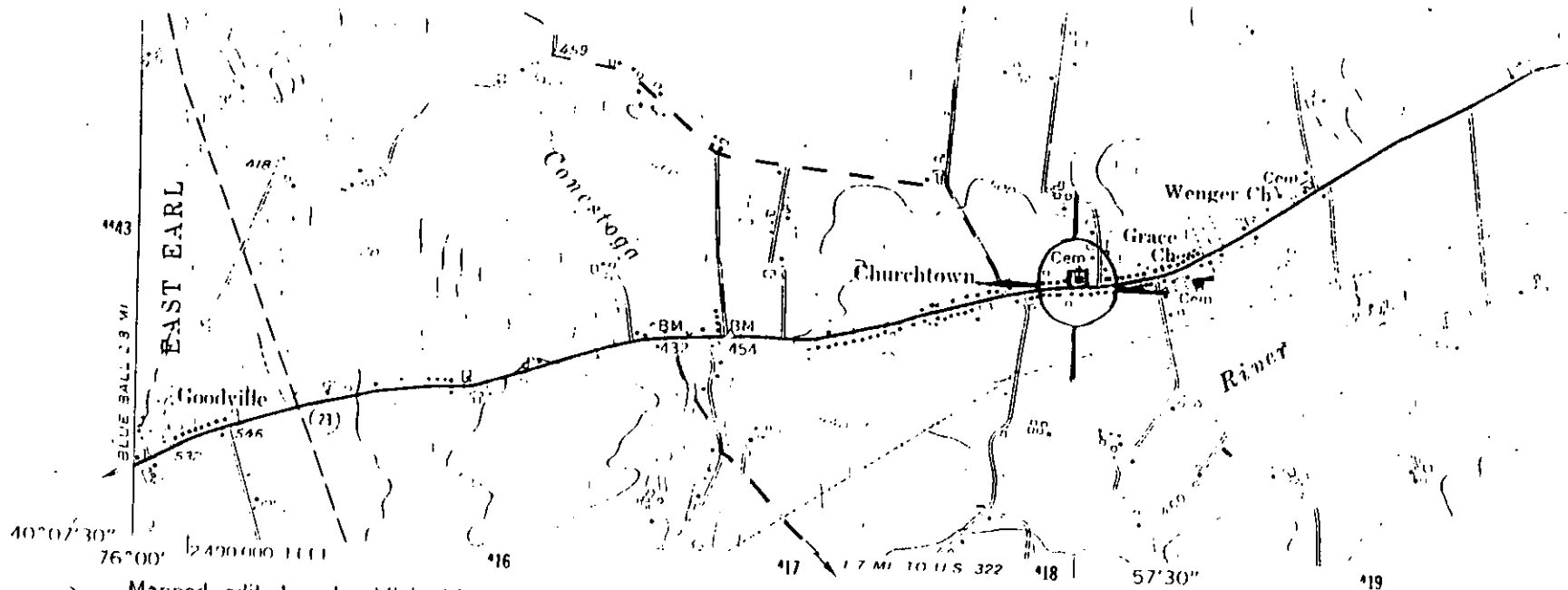
This boundary contains the nominated property and all historically associated land.



NC - NON-CONTRIBUTING STORAGE SHED  
 > - PHOTO VIEW

BANGOR EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 LANCASTER COUNTY

SITE PLAN



(NE 1/4 HOLLAND)  
5724 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USSCS

Topography from aerial photographs by Wild A. G.

Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1956

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000 foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system south zone

1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

Contours are shown in brown. Contour interval 20 feet.

Contours are shown in brown. Contour interval 20 feet.

Contours are shown in brown. Contour interval 20 feet.

**Bangor Episcopal Church**  
**Lancaster County**  
**Morgantown Quadrangle**  
**Zone 18**  
**E418060 N4442830**

ITEM GRID AND 1925 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLETES  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC