

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 36-38 West Campbell Street N/A not for publication
city, town Blairsville N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Indiana code 042 zip code 15717

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Brent Glass, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structureReligion/church-related residence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structureReligion/church-related residence**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic RevivalQueen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls brickweather boardroof asphaltother wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory occupy adjacent lots in Blairsville's Old Town. The church is a small rectangular one story building constructed of brick in 1830, while the rectory is a two and one half story wood building erected in 1889. The buildings are connected by a breezeway. The church is in early Gothic Revival style and the rectory is a picturesque cottage of popular design with Eastlake elements. This complex stands on its original site in a residential and public use setting, where most of the houses date from the second half of the nineteenth century. The public buildings, such as the Blairsville Public Library and the fire department, are non-descript twentieth century structures.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is a one story, front gabled brick building with belfry centered above the entrance. The church possesses a symmetrical three bay front with panels of Flemish bond brick work separated by buttresses. The center bay contains slightly pointed arch entry doors opening into the narthex, which appears to be a slightly later addition and contains two pointed arch side windows of stained glass. Above the narthex in the original wall is a stained glass rose window dating from the 1890's. The two side bays contain pointed arch stained glass windows with simple wooden tracery. The three bay side walls contain similar windows separated by buttresses. The pointed arch openings are formed by cut, corbelled brickwork and the brick side walls are laid in common bond.

The roof is a moderately pitched gable roof with light colored asphalt shingles. Its front gable is decorated with paired brackets on the buttresses and gable apex, echoed by single brackets on the side elevations. The narthex roof has paired brackets on gable and side elevations. The belfry, rebuilt in 1939, contains a curvilinear wooden balustrade and modified trefoil arches and is surmounted by a hipped roof with a cross.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Peter's Church and Rectory

Section number 7 Page 2

The stone foundation is interrupted by the stone bases of the buttresses. The church contains only a partial basement under the rear of the building, apparently first dug out when the heating system was installed in 1892 and slightly enlarged when the furnace was replaced about 1972. The remainder is a crawl space.

The rear of the church has a protruding shed with slightly sloped roof in the center which houses the chancel. Above the altar in the rear of the church is a rose window that replaced a previous tall window whose sill remains. To the left of it is the doorway leading to the basement and the vestigial evidence of a pointed arch window which was bricked in. To the right of it is the vestry, which was added in 1884 and altered in 1903. The vestry contains a small pointed arch stained glass window on the west side and a shed roof. The vestry is entered by a plain square framed wooden door. Beside the addition of the vestry, other work done in 1884 included enlarging the chancel by extending it toward the nave, adding a new bishop's chair, in situ, and replacing the original roof.

The interior of St. Peter's was refurbished and remodeled during the 1890s. Because of deterioration a wooden ceiling was installed. The ceiling, made of Georgia pine and framed in oak, was installed under the direction of M.M. Dunlope from a design done by Antes Snyder, a parishioner associated with the Pennsylvania Railroad. The ceiling, still in situ, is an elliptical wooden vault. New windows of opalescent green and fawn colored glass were installed in the bays. The stained glass window on the west side nearest the chancel is an ornate memorial window with inscription, religious symbols and floral patterns. The rose window was also installed during the 1890s. The furnishings installed at this time remain, including from 1895 the oak altar and credence board, the wall hymn tablet, the chancel rail with brass trim, the lectern carved by A.B. Wynn of Harrisburg, the brass altar garniture, and the oak and brass front cover. In 1896, the new "antique" oak pews to provide space for side aisles, the wainscoting, and electric brass light fixtures, including probably the chandelier still hanging in the ceiling, were installed. The walls were also replastered. Almost all the exterior windows in the church date from the 1890s remodeling. Probably the only original glass remaining in the church is a small fanlight,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory

Section number 7 Page 3

slightly pointed arch in shape, over the doorway to the nave, originally the front door. This is made of small panes of clear leaded glass with a center orb-shaped medallion containing four pieces of opalescent glass. The floor, patched in places, retains the original random width pine boards.

The church appears today much as it did in the late nineteenth century. Most of the changes were dictated by deterioration caused by wear and tear over the years. About 1972 a new roof of asphalt shingles replaced the old, leaky one. In 1983, the rotting wood siding of the vestry was replaced with the current hand-made antique bricks of local manufacture. The deteriorating wooden piers under the vestry were replaced with a rough cut stone foundation. In 1983 the stucco applied to the building in the late nineteenth century was removed by hand. The bricks were cleaned by hot water under pressure by the Keystone Waterproofing Co., Inc., using the Kestro-Clean Machine, and repointed. The masonry walls were then treated with System 90 sealer. Changes to the interior since the late nineteenth century include ceiling light fixtures at the front of the nave, probably installed during the second quarter of this century, a small chandelier in the chancel dating from the 1960s, and replastering of the walls and repainting them an off-white color following the installation of insulation in 1983. These changes do not detract greatly from the church's nineteenth century appearance. The greatest change, the removal of the stucco, returned the exterior to its appearance for most of the nineteenth century.

St. Peter's Rectory is a two and one half story gabled building with balloon frame construction covered by clapboard siding. Although composed asymmetrically, the building has roughly a cross shaped plan formed by the intersecting volumes of its longer north-south (front to rear) axis and transverse east-west axis. Rising from a rough cut stone foundation, the walls are pierced by rectangular windows which typically have a single pane lower sash surmounted by multipane upper sash. Clapboard wall surfaces are varied by broad, flush boards running horizontally encircling the house at heads of first story windows and sills of second story windows, or horizontally, primarily at corners. More complex applied wood patterning is found in gable areas, namely above the front elevation of the house and in the gable sections above the building's front porch. The building's roof is an irregular composition of intersecting gable and jerkin-head shapes. At the northeast and southwest corners of the house rooflines continue steeply downward to form shelter for front and rear porches. Adding to the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory

Section number 7 Page 4

volumetric complexity, the transverse section of the house employs cantilevered second stories supported by brackets on both east and west elevations. The east elevation is linked to the church by a breezeway with gabled roof and wood floor. The west elevation has a second story entrance reached by exterior wooden stairs at the right side of its projected volume and an open one story porch to the rear.

The rectory possesses fair integrity. The exterior siding, the windows, and most of the interior wood work are original. However, in the early twentieth century the central staircase to the second floor and a central hallway were removed to provide for a large meeting room for Sunday School and other purposes. The exterior stairway on the west side was constructed about twenty years ago. Apparently during the early twentieth century the door on the east side was installed in place of a window, and the breezeway was constructed. The original balustrade and corner post of the front porch were also replaced with wrought iron railing and supports.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) N/A A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
 Architecture

Period of Significance
 1830, 1889

Significant Dates
 1830, 1889

Cultural Affiliation
 N/A

Significant Person
 N/A

Architect/Builder
 Gregory, Robert

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory is most important for its Gothic Revival style church building. This building is an outstanding example of its style in Indiana County. It compares quite favorably with the handful of other Gothic Revival style buildings in the county. The nominated property is secondarily important for its rectory, which is a representative example of late nineteenth century vernacular homes influenced by high styles or inspired by architectural pattern books in Indiana County.

St. Peter's Church was established as part of the trans-Alleghenies expansion of the Episcopal Church in post-Revolutionary America. The first Episcopal services were held on an organized basis in Blairsville as early as 1827. The parish received its charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1828. In 1830 Robert Gregory began construction of the church. The first service was conducted November 14, 1830. The congregation originally included many locally prominent citizens among its members, especially engineers and supervisors associated with the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal. The congregation was not large, perhaps numbering thirty families. The slowing of Blairsville's growth in 1834 following the completion of construction of the portage railroad on the Pennsylvania Canal led to a decline in the size of the congregation and in the fortunes of the parish from which it did not fully recover until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In the 1850's the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad began to encourage Blairsville's growth, and along with it renewed growth of the congregation. By the last quarter of the nineteenth century the congregation had increased greatly in size with an influx of Pennsylvania Railroad employees, and the parish showed vitality which it had previously had only in its early years. The major repairs to the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory

Section number 8 Page 2

church and the construction of the vestry, the erection of the rectory, and the remodeling of the 1890s stemmed from this renewed vigor.

This era of prosperity for the congregation ended about the turn of the century when the headquarters of the engineer of right of way of the Pennsylvania Railroad was moved from Blairsville to Allegheny City, now part of Pittsburgh. The loss of so many parishioners who were associated with the Pennsylvania Railroad was a blow from which the congregation has still not fully recovered. The history of the parish in the twentieth century has been one of general decline, until the 1970s when the the congregation became more active and took its first steps toward the restoration of the church.

The church building is a fine representative of its style in Indiana County. Only a handful of Gothic Revival style buildings were erected in the county, mostly in the Early Gothic Revival style or the High Victorian Gothic style. Several notable Early Gothic Revival churches were constructed in the county during the nineteenth century. Like St. Peter's Church, these other Early Gothic Revival churches are constructed of brick with pointed arch windows and restrained detailing. The Hebron Lutheran Church, the second earliest Gothic Revival style building in the county, was constructed in 1837 at West Campbell and North Liberty Streets in Blairsville. This church is a front gabled, three bay building with brick pilasters, and pointed arch windows with brick and stone trim and tracery. The entry is contained in a bell tower to one side of the front facade. The Hebron Lutheran Church was remodeled twice in the late nineteenth century (1887 and 1899), as well as in 1926, including the construction of a large addition to one side. The Lutheran Church of Saltsburg, on Salt Street in Saltsburg, is an Early Gothic Revival edifice built in 1878. This church is also a three bay, front gable building. A bell tower is located in the front center. A centrally located arched entrance is flanked by arched stained glass windows. The Saltsburg Presbyterian Church, erected in 1874 on Salt Street, features a three bay, gable front facade with one side bay being a tall, corbelled bell tower. The other two bays have a large central pointed arch window with delicate tracery and a smaller flanking pointed arch window. This building also has two rear and side additions.

The only other high style Gothic Revival buildings in Indiana County are a handful of late nineteenth and early twentieth century High Victorian Gothic Revival buildings. In keeping with their later construction dates and styling, these buildings have more exuberant, finer detailing than St. Peter's Church does. For example, the 1881 First Presbyterian Church on North Walnut Street in Blairsville is a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Church and Rectory

Section number 8 Page 3

three bay, brick building, with a high conical roofed steeple on one side and a shorter square tower on the other side flanking a central pointed arch window with elaborate tracery. Stepped buttresses and elaborate brick work under the cornice and over the windows also highlight this building. The First Christian Church of Indiana, constructed in 1910-1911 at Fifth and Water Streets in Indiana Borough, is a rectangular, brick building with a square, crenallated tower at the street corner and a gable roof above tripled pointed arch windows to either side. Elaborate window tracery and brick surrounds are featured in this building.

The secondary architectural importance of the nominated property stems from the representative appearance of the rectory. The vast majority of late nineteenth century homes in Indiana County are either very plain vernacular buildings with very little ornamentation of any kind, or vernacular buildings with elements borrowed from period revival styles or from architectural pattern books. Only a small minority of the county's late nineteenth century homes were built in high styles. St. Peter's Rectory is a good example of the vernacular houses that borrow high style or pattern book elements. These homes generally are two or two and one half stories tall and three to five bays wide. They are most often of frame construction with gable roofs. Queen Anne elements are among the features most frequently used for ornamentation of these buildings. Queen Anne elements generally take the form of cross gables and projecting dormers, decoratively shingled gables, and front and corner porches with turned supports. For instance, a two and one half story, three bay frame design with a projecting front gable and side, cross gable section is repeated throughout late nineteenth century neighborhoods of Blairsville. Like St. Peter's rectory, the projecting front gable of this design is often decorated with pattern shingles or cut wood. This projecting front gable shelters two stories of bay windows. A first story corner porch is often found at the intersection of the projecting gable and side gable. Examples of this design are located at 121 South Walnut Street, 205 North Brady Street, 31 West Ransom Street, and 18 North Stewart Street. Another example of a vernacular design with Queen Anne ornamentation is a c. 1895 house located at 138 South Walnut in Blairsville. This two story house features a two bay gable section with roof ridge perpendicular to the street, a projecting one bay, gable roofed front section, and a cross gable side section. The front gable ends have scalloped shingles above the clapboard covered walls of the house.

Thus St. Peter's Church and Rectory offers both a fine example of Early Gothic Revival architecture in Indiana County, and a good example of the county's late nineteenth century vernacular architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Unpublished Manuscripts and Materials

Blairville, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Parish Register, 2 vols.

Minute Book, 1892-1904, Ladies Guild

Indiana, Indiana County Courthouse, Register and Recorder's Office, Deed Book 7, p. 520

Interview with Mrs. Isabel Stitt, Treasurer, St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Journal of Rev. Samson K. Brunot, 1830-1831. Copied manuscript in possession of Hilary Brunot, Esq., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Research correspondence from Rev. E. Allen Coffey, Mr. John M. Leggett, and Rev. Victor Zuck.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.4

UTM References

A

1	1	7
---	---	---

6	4	7	2	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	7	6	9	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Royce E. Walters, Consultant to the Center for Community Affairs/William Sisson
organization Center for Community Affairs/PHMC date 1988
street & number 110 Stright Hall, I.U.P./State Museum telephone 412-357-2439/717-783-8946
city or town Indiana/Harrisburg state PA zip code 15705/17108

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory

Section number 9 Page 1

Secondary Works

- [Arms and White], History of Indiana County, 1745-1880. reprint. Newark, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1880.
- Blairsville Souvenir and Industrial Prospectus (Illustrated); Issued under the Auspices of The Blairsville Board of Trade. Prepared by Samuel Griffen. Reedsville, PA: Smith Printing, 1898.
- "Blairsville-Congregation Organized in 1828--Interesting Reminiscences of Long Ago," "Newsletter," St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Edited by Rev. David A. St. Clair. Blairsville, PA, 2 June 1970.
- Cridlen, Rev. M. Ellwood, "Appendix." The Flair & The Fire: The Story of the Episcopal Church in West Virginia, 1877-1977. By Eleanor M. Hamilton. Chesapeake, WV: Crowder Publishing Company, 1977.
- Davis, Vernon P. and Rawlings, James S. Virginia's Anti-Bellum Churches; an Introduction with Particular Attention to their Furnishings. Paperback. Richmond, VA: The Dietz Press, 1978.
- The IUP Center for Community Affairs. A Compilation of Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Forms for the Bourough of Blairsville, Pennsylvania. Indiana, PA 1984.
- _____. Historic Blairsville: A Summary of a Historic Resource Survey of the Borough of Blairsville, Indiana, County, PA. Indiana, PA 1985.
- Johnson, George B. Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal. Privately Printed, 1984.
- Stauton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival & American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-1850. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.
- Stephenson, Clarence D. History of Blairsville, Pennsylvania. Indiana, PA: IUP Center for Community Affairs, 1984.
- _____. Indiana County 175th Anniversary History. 3 Vols., Indiana, PA: A.G. Halldin Publishing Company, 1978-1983.
- _____. The Pennsylvania Canal: Indiana and Westmoreland Counties. Indiana, PA: A.G. Halldin Publishing Company, 1979.
- Stotz, Charles Morse. The Architectural Heritage of Early Western Pennsylvania: A Record of Buildings before 1860. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1966.
- Swetnam, George and Smith, Helene. A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1976.
- Wiley, Samuel T., ed. Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Indiana and Armstrong Counties, Pennsylvania. reprint. Philadelphia: John M. Gresham & Co., 1891.
- The Young Men's Volunteer Fire Department. Blairsville Historical Record, 1760-1947. Privately Printed, 1948.

Newspaper Articles

- "A Church Restored," Blairsville Daily Courier, 28 January 1896.
- "Re-opening Services," Blairsville Daily Courier, 25 January 1896.
- "St. Peter's P.E. Church," Blairsville Daily Courier, 30 July 1896.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Rectory

Section number 10 Page 1

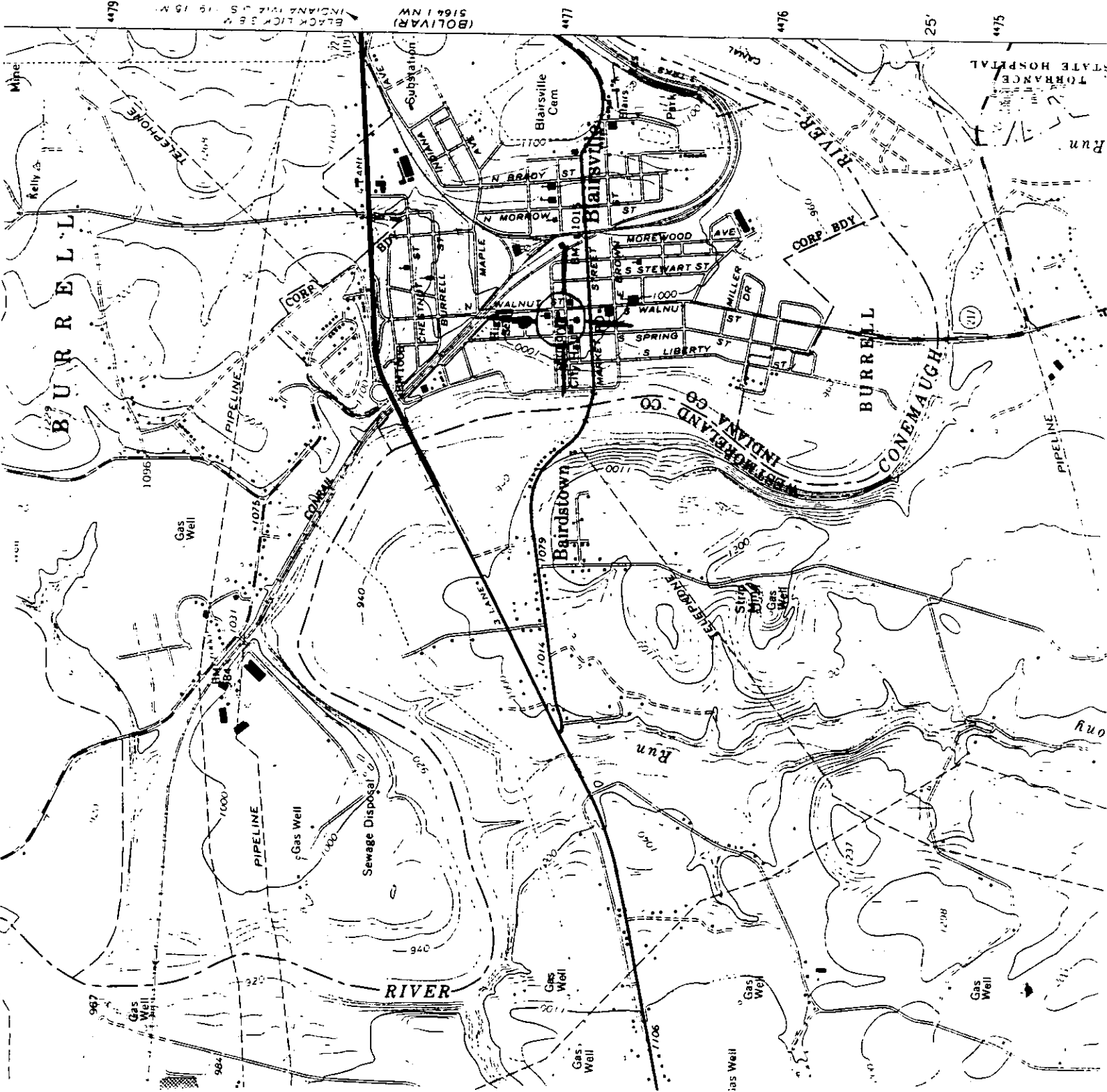
Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the north side of Campbell Street 175 feet west of the northwest corner of the intersection of Walnut Street and Campbell Street, then proceeding north 155 feet to the south side of North Avenue, then proceeding west 122 feet, then proceeding south 155 feet to the north side of Campbell Street, then proceeding east 122 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains the nominated buildings and all historically associated land.

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND
RECTORY**
 Indiana County
 Blairsville Quadrangle
 Zone 17
 E647150 N4475950



6475 25' 4475
 (BOLLIVAR) 51661 NW
 BLACK LICK S.E. 19 15 N.
 6475