

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name New Kingston Presbyterian Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number CR 6

☐ not for publication

city or town New Kingston

☐ vicinity

state New York

code NY

county Delaware

code 025

zip code 12459

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____

New Kingston Presb. Church

Name of Property

Delaware County, New York

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls walls

roof slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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New Kingston Presbyterian Church
New Kingston, Delaware County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The New Kingston Presbyterian Church is located in the center of the small hamlet of New Kingston, in southeastern Delaware County. Constructed in 1900, the building is sited near the intersection of CR 6 with Faulkner Road, John Tuttle Road, New Kingston Road, Winter Hollow Road and Thompson Hollow Road. CR 6 runs north-south through the town of Middletown following the Platte Kill Creek. At New Kingston, a number of smaller creeks branch out into three deep hollows, thus accounting for the intersection of five or six smaller roads that provide access to farms and residences in these hollows. The hamlet of New Kingston is part of a five thousand acre land grant from Robert Livingston to Kingston residents who were displaced by the fire of 1777. The 1799 patent was surveyed into fifty-acre lots, which were awarded to one hundred property owners. A comprehensive historic resources survey of the entire patent has been proposed in order to evaluate its potential for designation as an historic district. The church, however, sits in the heart of the patent and has served as the only public meeting place for local residents for more than a century. The building is sited on a grassy knoll facing east. The nomination encompasses the small site that has been associated with this parish since the construction of an earlier church building on the same site in 1854. The nomination also includes two small wooden privies at the rear of the building; these were constructed in the 1960s and do not contribute to the significance.

The church is a one-story wood-frame building on a stone foundation; in a few places the stone has been repaired or replaced with concrete. It is surmounted by a steep gable roof with slate shingles and features overhanging eaves and a broad raking cornice. The building is clad in wooden clapboards and there is a wide frieze and corner boards with Doric capitals. The building is generally rectangular in form; however, each side elevation features a three-bay oriel window. Oriels feature hipped roofs with overhanging eaves resting on scrolled brackets. The façade is distinguished by a three-stage engaged corner tower. The first stage features an entrance; the next stage is characterized by three tall, narrow, round-arched stained-glass windows on three sides. The final stage features louvered vents on all four sides separated by pilasters; larger pilasters mark each corner. The tower is surmounted by a pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves supported on modillions and

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crowned by a weather vane. Adjacent to the tower at ground level is a one-story projecting vestibule with a hipped roof. The vestibule contains a second entrance and features a row of three rectangular windows on the front and a small horizontal window on the end. Both entrances feature wooden panel and glass doors and wooden surrounds. The enframing for the vestibule entrance is decorated with delicate swags, while the tower entrance is more elaborate and is distinguished by a broken pediment lintel. The small end window features a similar pedimented enframing. The rear elevation features a single, round stained-glass window and a ground level entrance, which is sheltered by a non-historic portico. There is a small wooden projection sheltering a basement entrance on the south elevation. There is one internal brick chimney located in the southwest corner of the building.

Window openings are generally regular and include a variety of types. Windows on the side elevations are set within rectangular wooden frames with projecting lintels and sills. Windows are double-hung wooden sash with stained-glass glazing and are protected by wooden storm sash with either two or four panes per window. The façade features a semi-circular wooden window with stained glass and a small, round louvered opening in the gable. Basement windows are small and rectangular with flat wooden frames and clear glazing.

The interior of the church is divided into the vestibule and a single large auditorium. The vestibule is several steps below the main floor. It is finished in beaded-board siding to the chair rail and plaster above. There are exterior entrances on each end. Just inside the tower entrance is a decorative Victorian-era light fixture. The tower entrance leads directly into the auditorium through double wooden panel and glass doors. At the opposite end, a single wooden and glass door provides a secondary entrance to the church and the entrance to the Sunday school room, which is located in the space between the two entrances. The Sunday school room is separated from the auditorium by wide, sliding pocket doors. With the sliding doors shut, the center vestibule space could be used for small classes; when the doors were open, the space could be incorporated into the auditorium. There

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is another single entrance door to the auditorium from the rear of the building; this is located adjacent to the platform in the southwest corner.

The auditorium is generally rectangular in shape, with the exception of the projecting oriels on the side walls. The ceiling follows the pitch of the gable to the purlin, where it flattens across the top. Pews are arranged in a semi-circular configuration with three rows separated by aisles. There is a raised platform at the front of the building. On the left end, a set of stairs provides access to the platform. Like the vestibule, the auditorium is finished in narrow beaded-board siding to the chair rail and plaster above. The middle of the platform, which projects slightly and is rounded in shape, holds a lectern. To the right is a choir section with several rows of pews facing the congregation. Floors are carpeted. The ceiling features elaborately patterned pressed-metal cladding with a large decorative chandelier, originally gas but now fitted for electricity. Window frames are narrow with projecting lintels. Curved pews feature scrolled end posts with carved panels. The lectern and platform furniture are similar to the pews in style but more elaborately executed. The majority of the stained glass is geometric or floral rather than figurative. The glass in the window behind the pulpit, depicting Jesus in the garden, was installed in the 1970s as a memorial. All of the interior furniture is original.

The New Kingston Presbyterian Church retains an exceptionally high level of integrity both interior and out. Exterior changes are limited to repairs to the original foundation, while the interior plan and decorative finishes survive as built.

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New Kingston Presb. Church

Name of Property

Delaware County, New York

County and State

Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture
social history

Period of Significance

1900

Significant Dates

1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

na

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

James A. Scott

Primary location of additional data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Kingston Presbyterian Church
New Kingston, Delaware County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The New Kingston Presbyterian Church is significant as a distinctive example of turn-of-the-twentieth century religious architecture and for its association with the history of the hamlet of New Kingston. The five thousand acre New Kingston Tract was set aside in 1799 by Robert Livingston for Dutch settlers who lost their homes when the British burned Kingston in 1777. However, not many Dutch actually settled in New Kingston. Rather, during the first half of the nineteenth century, the tract received a large influx of Scottish immigrants, who became New Kingston's dominant population group. Presbyterian in New Kingston dates to the mid-nineteenth century, coincident with the development of the small hamlet. In the early 1850s two congregations, serving different sects, were established. The original church was built in 1854 to support the Associate Reformed Church of Middletown. In 1858, the Associate Reformed Presbyterians merged with the other local congregation, the Associate Presbyterian Congregation of New Kingston; subsequently, the church was known as the New Kingston Presbyterian Church for the rest of the century. In 1900, the congregation built the current building to replace the older church. The new church was eclectic in design, distinguished by an irregular form and picturesque decorative elements characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Its form, with square corner tower, large vestibule and auditorium plan, also reflects current trends in Protestant architecture, which encouraged construction of churches with open comfortable interiors designed to enhance the congregation's interest and participation in the service. The New Kingston church was built by James A. Scott, a member of a family of prominent local builders, and displays finely crafted and stylish features and finishes throughout. The New Kingston Presbyterian Church survives with an exceptionally high level of integrity.

Town of Middletown

Middletown is located in a mountainous area of the western Catskills. Its topography is generally characterized by steep rocky hillsides traversed by numerous narrow river and stream valleys of the Delaware River and its tributaries. Originally part of Ulster County, Middletown was incorporated in 1789. It is one of the oldest towns in Delaware County and once encompassed most of the southern half of the county. The town falls within Great Lots 7, 8, 38, 39 and 40 of the Hardenburgh Patent, an enormous early eighteenth century land

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grant that encompassed much of the land between the Rondout and Delaware rivers. The earliest documented European settlers in Middletown were Dutch farmers, who arrived c1763. During the Revolution, the town became a Tory stronghold and most of the early settlers were driven off. Many returned after the war, however, and permanent settlement was established by the early nineteenth century.

New Kingston

The area known as New Kingston encompasses a five thousand acre land grant set aside by Robert R. Livingston in 1799. Livingston conveyed lots within this tract to residents of Kingston who had lost their homes when the British burned the city during the Revolution. The land was divided into one hundred lots of fifty acres each. This orderly, geometric pattern was imposed over an area that was characterized by three deep north-south hollows, thus making settlement within the original patent divisions difficult. Although New Kingston's initial settlers were Dutch, between 1807-1830 numerous Scottish immigrants settled in the valley and by 1880 New Kingston's population was largely of Scottish descent.

The hamlet of New Kingston encompasses a fifty-acre tract of the patent located in the most fertile part of the valley, where the three major hollows intersect and a number of smaller streams and roads branch out to the north. The hamlet developed as a service community for the surrounding agricultural region. In 1828 there was a store in the home of a Mr. Yapple, at the north end of the village; however, the hamlet was virtually undeveloped until the mid-nineteenth century. In 1848-49 Isaac Birdsall and William A. Swart opened a store, and in 1854 Birdsall was appointed postmaster. An earlier post office, established in 1840 at an unknown location, had been discontinued in 1842. An 1869 map of New Kingston shows thirteen residences, a store, wagon shop, blacksmith and storehouse, as well as the Presbyterian church. The school was just outside the village, near the site of a log school that had been established at an early date. In 1864-65 there were seventy children between the ages of five and twenty-one in the district (District 24). Although the predominant occupation in the town was farming, there were a saw mill and a grist mill down the valley (south) from the

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hamlet. Peddlers were frequent, selling cloth, pots and pans, tonics, fancy goods, etc. They usually spent the night at the home of a willing farm family.

New Kingston Presbyterian Church

Presbyterianism in New Kingston dates to c1833, when the Rev. John Graham of Bovina began traveling to the Platte Kill valley and preaching in the home of Thomas Elliott. Graham preached for twenty years before a congregation was established in New Kingston; however, in the early 1850s, two different Presbyterian congregations were established in the valley. Under the leadership of the Revs. John Gibson and James Laing, the Associate Reformed Church of Middletown was formed in 1853. In three years the congregation had grown from nineteen original members to thirty. In 1857 the Associate Presbyterian Congregation of New Kingston, Delaware County, with thirty-one original members, was formed by the Rev. Andrew Thomas. These two Presbyterian synods were both offshoots of the established Presbyterian church of Scotland; however, they differed slightly in their interpretations of theology. The two synods were established in America in 1753 and 1774, and members of each united and seceded a number of times over the course of the next century. In 1858, nearly all of the various splinter elements of the Associate and Associate Reformed synods in America were united as the United Presbyterian Church of North America. Almost immediately, the two New Kingston groups joined together as well, becoming the United Presbyterian Church of New Kingston in May 1858. The first pastor was the Rev. John W. Bain, called in 1860, who served the parish for less than a year. Over the next few decades, a series of pastors, along with some itinerate preachers, continued to support a stable and growing congregation. This parish served a large area, with worshippers coming over mountainous terrain from as far away as Bovina Center, Weaver Hollow and Hubbell Hill.

The first church building in New Kingston was constructed on a village lot sold by Henry P. Reynolds on 8 July 1854 for use as church site. William Campbell served as contractor and the building cost about \$1,000. This building was constructed for the Associate Reformed congregation. The Associate congregation did not

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New Kingston, Delaware County, New York

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construct its own church. Instead, services were held in the homes of various settlers, so when the two congregations united, the new entity continued to use the 1854 building. In 1869, now serving a large and prosperous congregation, this church was remodeled and refitted by carpenter James R. Scott. The Scotts were prominent builders in town of New Kingston and are known for constructing a number of residences and many barns up and down the valley. Church records describe the primary changes to the building as reorganizing the plan, moving the pulpit from the back of the church to the front, and constructing a new gallery seating 120. The remodeled church accommodated 360 people. A tower with a 75' foot steeple, built for \$400 by James A. Scott and Thomas H. Scott, sons of James R., was added to the church in 1877. In 1878 a one thousand pound bell purchased by the Ladies Aid Society (for \$325) was installed in a large public ceremony. By the 1880s, the church included nearly 150 members.

The first Sabbath school was organized by the Rev. J.B. Lee in 1858. For several years, the school was in session only during the summer. However, the Sunday school became quite successful, with 147 pupils attending in 1900. The Ladies Aid Society, which played a major role in fundraising, was founded c1871-75 and the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was established in 1890. Finally, the Ladies Missionary Society was organized in 1894.

In 1899, a committee, including James A. Scott, Andrew J. Thomson, E.D. Reynolds, John W. Elliott and J.H. Sanford, was formed to consider repairing or rebuilding the church, and in 1900 the decision was made to build a new church on the old site. Carpenter James A. Scott was again called upon as superintendent of construction and more than \$5,012 was raised. Other carpenters included James Chislom, Henry Coulter and W.D. Winter. John H. Sanford served as primary mason. The old church was moved back to a location behind the site, a new foundation was built and sheds (no longer extant) were pushed back so that they could be reused with the new building. Services were held in the old church while the new one was under construction. The congregation made efforts to sell or move the old church, advertising it in local newspapers and circulars. Eventually, the

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original church building was sold at auction and moved to a farm south of the village, where it was used for storage. This building is no longer extant. By December 1901, the new church had been built and paid for and the dedication was held on 7 February 1902.

The new church was 58' long by 38' wide, extending an additional 6' on each side for the bays. The tower was 12' square at the base and 63' high including the weather vane. Detailed records of the construction costs indicate that the five carpenters earned a total of \$557.07. More than half was paid to J.A. Scott, chief carpenter, while the lowest paid laborer earned only \$28.13. Of the \$5,318.71 spent on the building itself, nearly \$1,200 went for furnishings and the rest for construction costs and materials. The largest outlay was \$845 to purchase seats and pulpit furniture.

Over the next century, there were numerous small changes to the building, mostly related to maintenance and upkeep. In the late 1920s original carpet was taken up and replaced with rubber runners, the church was painted, windows were repaired and memorial names added. Records indicate that the foundation, with a chronic drainage problem, was repaired a number of times in the early twentieth century. During the 1940s, a number of improvements were contemplated. These included improving the Sabbath school room, bringing the pulpit and choir forwards, repainting and installing new carpet. The congregation also discussed replacing the original roof and even approved double thickness asphalt shingles. However, the only changes implemented during this period were painting and installation of new carpet. The original interior remains substantially unchanged. The original slate roof was repaired rather than replaced and it survives today. The most recent changes, in the 1960s-70s, were re-painting and re-plastering and constructing a ramp for handicapped access.

Architecture

The 1854 church was a typical example of the Greek Revival style popular for church designs throughout New York in the mid nineteenth century. The rectangular, wood-frame building covered about the same footprint as

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New Kingston, Delaware County, New York

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the contemporary building and was identically sited, as photos document its exact relationship to the same sidewalk and stairs. The earlier church featured clapboard siding, a gable roof, a wide frieze and a raking cornice. Fenestration was regular and included a center entrance. The 1869 tower was appended to the center of the façade, projecting from the entrance bay. The three-stage tower was apparently designed to complement the original church. Historic photographs indicate that the stages were separated by wide friezes and projecting cornices and the belfry was defined by narrow pilasters.

Despite its rectangular form, wood-frame construction and square tower, the 1900 church is considerably different in plan and style from its predecessor. The eclectic design exhibits an irregular form and a variety of picturesque classical elements that recall the Queen Anne style. The square corner tower and prominent vestibule also reflect an interior plan that was highly recommended for Protestant church architecture towards the end of the nineteenth century. Although many of these reforms are most closely associated with Methodist congregations, Protestant churches constructed in the period also show the influence of these ideas. In general, writers and architects advocated church auditoriums with open plans, unobstructed sight lines and circular seating oriented to a central pulpit. Popular plans often included clearly differentiated spaces for Sunday schools, usually designed so that they could be used as part of the auditorium or closed off by doors or partitions to accommodate classrooms or smaller functions. Many churches were laid out with three entrances into the auditorium, regardless of the number of exterior doors. Corner entrance towers were common, along with secondary entrances at the opposite end of the façade. In this case there are two end entrances and a wide center entrance to the auditorium that also accommodates the need for Sunday school space. The opening features sliding pocket doors that could be used to close off the space in the center of the lobby for Sunday school use. When the doors were open, the space could be incorporated into the auditorium.

Interior finishes often included decorative pressed-metal ceilings (or even walls). In general, these interior designs were intended to provide comfortable spaces with good acoustics that would enhance the congregation's

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inclination to worship and ability to hear the preacher. In the New Kingston church, the effects of the open plan and circular seating are heightened by the broad, complex ceiling and projecting oriel windows. Interestingly, the nearby Margaretville Presbyterian Church, built in the same period, is similar to the New Kingston church in its broad exterior form, engaged corner entrance tower, cross-gabled side bay and eclectic decorative embellishment. The builder of the Margaretville church has not yet been determined.

The New Kingston Presbyterian Church is especially distinguished by its exceptional level of integrity both exterior and interior. Historic photos reveal that the exterior of the building is unchanged today. On the interior, other than the cosmetic changes noted in church records, all finishes and furnishings survive as built.

☐ See continuation sheet

New Kingston Presb. Church

Name of Property

Delaware County, New York

County and State

0. Geographical DataAcreage of property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	526209	4673299
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Kathleen LaFrank, Program Analystorganization New York State Historic Preservation Office date November 2001street & number Peebles Island State Park, Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 x 3261city or town Waterford state New York zip code 12188**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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New Kingston, Delaware County, New York

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification

The nomination boundary was drawn to include the original property purchased for church construction in 1854. This coincides with the current boundary.

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New Kingston Presbyterian Church
New Kingston, Delaware County, New York

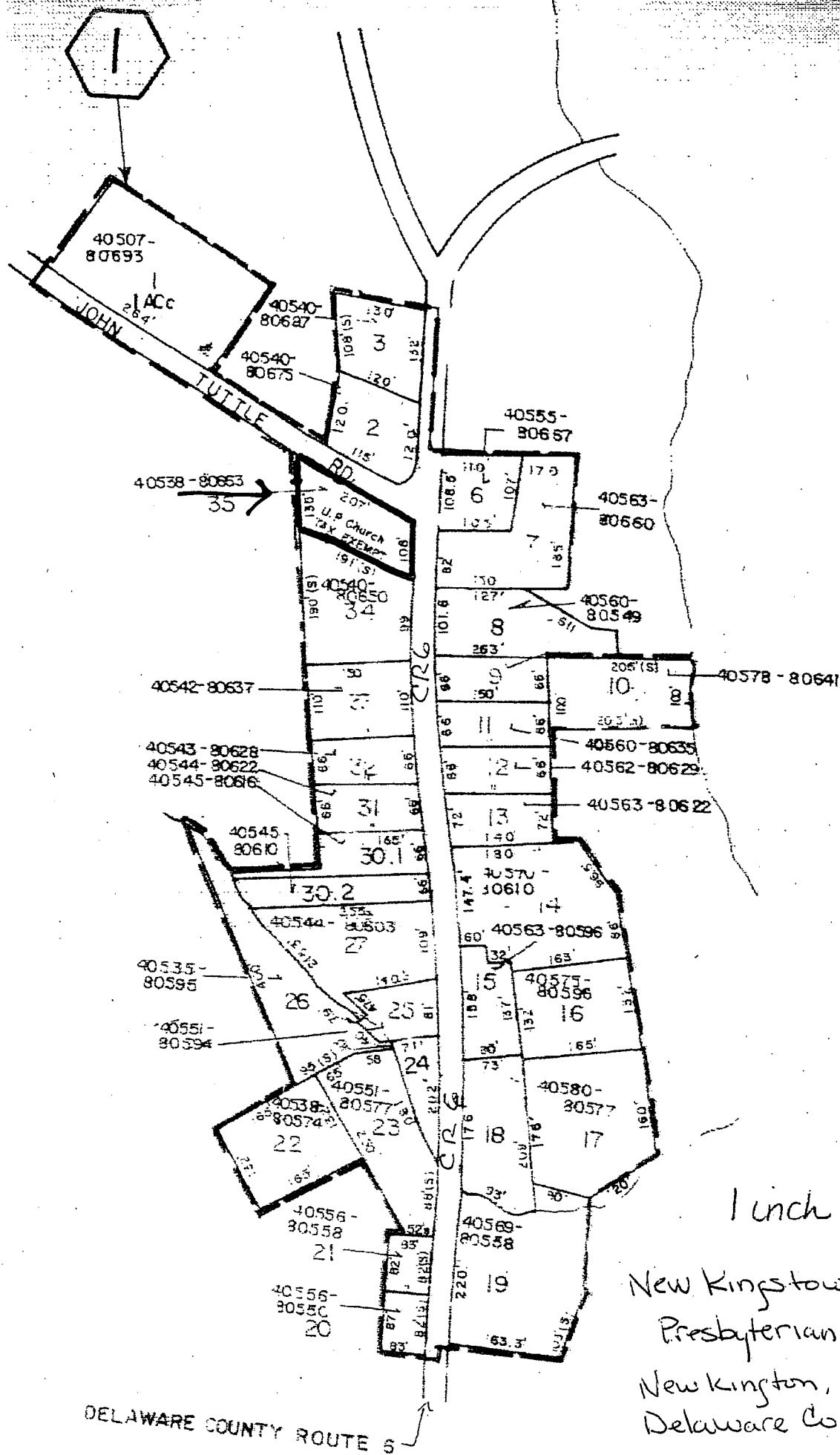
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Research and Documentation provided by:

Shirley Davis, Elder
Margaretville/New Kingston Presbyterian Church
301 Brook Road
Margaretville, NY 12455
845-586-4618

☐ See continuation sheet





New Kingston
Presbyterian Church
New Kingston, Delaware Co., NY
Marquerville Qued
18/526209 / 4673299

MAR

