NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

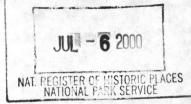
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

OMB No. 10024-0018

RECEIVED 2280

579



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and 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 from 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.

. Name of Property	
nistoric name Christ Episcopal Church	
ther names/site number_Christ Church, Christ Church Wellsburg	1
. Location	
treet & number 117 Main Street	[] not for publication
ity or town Wellsburg	[] vicinity
tate New York code NY county Chemung	code zip code14894
. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Signature of certifying official/Title New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Regist	nmissioner for Historic Preservation 20 June Date
comments.)	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
. National Park Service Certification	
hereby/certify that the property is: [Ventered in the National Register [] see continuation sheet [] determined eligible for the National Register [] see continuation sheet [] determined not eligible for the National Register	of the Keeper Bold date of action 8 · 2 · (
[] removed from the National Register	
[] other (explain)	
[] other (explain)	

Christ Episcopal Church		Chemung County, New York	
Name of Property 5. Classification		County and State	
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include prev	ources within Property riously listed resources in the count)
[x] private [] public-local [] public-State [] public-Federal	[x] building(s) [] district [] site [] structure [] object	Contributing 1	Noncontributing buildings sites structures objects TOTAL
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of con listed in the Na	tributing resources previously tional Register
Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York		N/A	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)		Current Function (Enter categories from	그 요그리고 있다. 그는 그 없이 가지 않는데 얼마가요? 그런 사람들이 되었다. 나는 사람들이 가게 하고 있다면 하다면 하다.
RELIGION/ religious facility RELIGION/ religious facility		religious facility	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
Mid-19 th Century- Gothic Revival		foundation <u>s</u>	tone with cement veneer
		roof <u>asphalt</u> ,	slate

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Christ Episcopal Church	18 × 18 × 18
Name of Property Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

7. Narrative Description

Christ Episcopal Church occupies a small lot on the east side of Main Street in the village of Wellsburg, Chemung County, New York. The building is situated on a major artery in a predominantly residential area. The church is less than one block south of Front Street, a small commercial area. With a largely intact village setting, the church retains a high degree of integrity. The nominated lot includes the property historically associated with the church. There are no other buildings located on the site.

The wood frame Gothic Revival church, completed in 1869, is oriented along a east-west axis with its front gable end facing Main Street. The building exhibits asymmetrical massing and fenestration and has a transverse gable plan with an engaged corner tower and a projecting central bay. Tall proportions and elaborate trimwork dominate the west façade of the church. The spired tower on the southwest corner of the building, coupled with the slender front gable wall on the west elevation, contribute to the vertical emphasis of the structure. The building maintains its original massing of four bays in length and three bays in width. A small addition (contributing) was added in 1922 to the northeast corner of the building, and a larger addition (non-contributing) added behind it in 1959. The entire structure rests on a stone foundation with a cement veneer. The church has clapboard siding and asphalt shingles on the roof. The spire has slate shingles that are consistent with the original roof material. A molding with pendant-like elements runs along the cornice of the building including the raking frieze. The pendant molding has a cinquefoil arch profile.

The primary front elevation of the church consists of a three-part plan. Moving from north to south, the first bay is a cross gable that is stepped back from the center gable. The second bay is the front gabled central block that houses a pair of tall triangular arches filled with stained glass. The square tower is situated in the third bay on the southwest corner of the structure. The tower projects slightly from the central block. A triangular-arched doorway is located on the first story of the tower. The panels of the double door have a herringbone pattern, and a small hood shelters the door. The pendant-molding frieze band runs above the entrance. A small window with stained glass sits on the cornice of the frieze band. Above the window a wide board projects from the surface of the clapboard, delineating the third story of the tower. The belfrey is located in the top story of the tower. A

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

triangular arched opening sits between two smaller triangular arches. The three openings house wide, movable louvers. An octagonal spire rests on the cross-gabled roof of the tower. A cross adorns the finial of the tower and the ridge of the center block at the west and east facades.

A small addition was built in 1922 to provide a vesting area for choir members that could also serve the needs of the Sunday school. The one-and-one-half-story structure is a cross-gable wing at the rear of the central block. Many of the architectural features of the church are replicated on the choir room. Triangular arches are used for doors and windows and the pendant frieze continues below the eaves. The gabled roof exhibits a similar slope as the main block. Clapboard siding continues around the addition. The single room addition serves as a choir room and office space.

The parish hall was constructed in 1959 and houses restrooms, a kitchen, a dining area, and a classroom. The structure was built adjacent to the east façade of the choir room, and extends to the southeast corner of the apse. The building has a single room on each floor and bathrooms on the second floor. The newer building is distinguished from the original church by its cinder block construction, which is sided in clapboard.

The tower entrance leads into a small vestibule. The nave is accessed through a triangular arch doorway. The interior of the church is characterized by curving arch braces and kingpost trusses. Walls and ceiling are lath and plaster above paneled wainscoting. The nave of the church has a central aisle with pews on each side. The original pews were built into the side walls and had straight backs and sidearms. The pews were replaced in the 1960s. The wood plank floor was carpeted in the early 1970s. Two steps onto an asymmetrical platform reach the chancel area. To accommodate the choir stalls the chancel extends into the seating area and along the south wall. A small room is located to the north of the chancel area that is accessed by a triangular arched door. Before the addition of the choir vestry a room of similar dimensions existed on the south side of the chancel area. On the south side the organ is situated within an arched opening, with the side of the organ facing the congregation. The choir room is accessed through an archway and then a triangular doorway located behind the organ. The alter area is raised one step above the chancel and sits behind a curved altar rail made of carved oak. The wall behind the altar is painted with faux wood paneling. The interior of the church has elaborate stenciling that was

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National	Register of	f Historic	Places
Continua	ation Sheet		

Section 7 Page 3

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

added in the 1920s. Some of the furniture, including the carved oak Bishop's chair and the choir stalls, are original.

	Episcopal Church of Property	Chemung County, New York County and State
	ement of Significance	County and Otato
Applic	able National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance:
	in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property anal Register listing.)	(Enter categories from instructions)
V1 A		Architecture
X] A	Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Religion
, ,	Durananti in accominated with the lives of negacine	Settlement
] B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
x] 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	Period of Significance:
	distinguishable entity whose components lack	1869-ca. 1940s
	individual distinction.	
] D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates:
	important in promotory of motory.	1869
	a Considerations " in all boxes that apply.)	
() A	owned by a religious institution or used for	
	religious purposes.	Significant Person:
] B	removed from its original location	N/A
] C	a birthplace or grave	
] D	a cemetery	
		Cultural Affiliation:
] E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure	N/A
] F	a commemorative property	
] G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder:
	within the past 50 years	Inggo O. Porny prohitost
		Isaac O. Perry, architect
		George W. Fishler, Builder
Explain . Ma Biblio	ive Statement of Significance the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) jor Bibliographical References graphy	
Cite the	books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one o	r more continuation sheets.)
	ous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:) [x] State Historic Preservation Office
ſ 1	has been requested. previously listed in the National Register	[] Other State agency
11	previously determined eligible by the National Register	[] Federal Agency
į į	designated a National Historic Landmark	[] Local Government
į į	recorded by historic American Building Survey	[] University
	#	[] Other repository:
l l	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	
	#	

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Christ Episcopal Church is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Built in 1869, it is a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival style church embodying the Episcopal Church's increasingly coherent architectural program based on liturgical and structural function. The building gains additional significance as the work of Binghamton architect Isaac O. Perry. Christ Church is also historically significant under Criterion A in the areas of religion and of settlement. It represents the expansion of the Episcopal Church as emigration to Central New York continued during the middle of the nineteenth century. Additionally the church is historically significant for its documentation of the spread of the Episcopal Church during the diocese of Western New York period. Christ Church is representative of the parishes founded and the churches built through the efforts of Bishop DeLancey, local clergy, and laymen in the communities that flourished along developing transportation corridors in the mid-nineteenth century.

The village of Wellsburg is located in the Town of Ashland in Chemung County. Ashland was the last township to be formed in the county in 1867 and Wellsburg was incorporated as a village in 1872. Wellsburg was named after one of its first settlers. Abner Wells arrived in the area with two sons in 1789 and thereafter built a home and trading store. In 1803, a schoolhouse was built for the community. In 1830, the first sawmill was constructed. The 1842 *Gazetteer of New York* described the town, "[Wellsburg] contains one Baptist church, one store, one tavern and fifteen or twenty dwellings." In the next few years, Wellsburg had several steam mills, a hotel and a tannery, in addition to its earlier establishments. The streets of Wellsburg were plotted in 1848 and in the years following, it grew as a trading post and a small industrial center with the introduction of the Erie Railroad in 1849.

Beginning in the winter of 1866, the first Episcopal services were held in Wellsburg. The Reverend Mr. Myers preached to a group in the Methodist Meetinghouse during the first year. By the summer of 1867, Horatio

¹ Christine Lozner, *Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York*. (Syracuse: Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, 1996), 39.

² History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, New York. (Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1879), 306.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

Evans, a member of the new Christ Church Mission Society, invited the Rev. Dr. William Paret of Trinity Church in Elmira to come to his home and hold an evening prayer service. Evans was a retired businessman from Binghamton who had recently moved to Wellsburg to salvage a general store run by his son and son-in-law. Rev. Paret held evening prayer at Mr. Evans's home on subsequent Sundays until the gatherings grew too large for the home. The Episcopalians then began to hold services in the afternoon at the Methodist Church. The services were soon moved again to R.C. Lockwood's Hall in October 1868. On May 29, 1869, church members decided to purchase a lot and build an edifice for the church. On June 19, 1869, Horatio Evans and John Lowman purchased the lot on Main Street and presented it to the Society. John Lowman was a farmer and resident of Chemung. The adjacent town was later named for his family.

The architect for the new church was Isaac O. Perry of Binghamton. Perry (1822-1904), a well-known Binghamton architect of the nineteenth century, successfully captured the essence of the Episcopal Church during this period. His use of the Gothic Revival style is consistent with other churches built during the first years of the diocese of Central New York. For many years Perry was the most influential architect in Binghamton. Perry is known for his contributions to the plan for the Albany State Capitol building as well as several buildings in the Binghamton area. Trained in New York City, Perry moved to Binghamton in 1863. His design for Christ Church Wellsburg reflects a stylistic and professional approach to the Gothic Revival building. A newspaper report indicates that Perry donated the design to the church in Wellsburg.³

The builder of the church was George W. Fishler, a resident of Wellsburg who was recognized for the suspension bridges he constructed in the area. The cornerstone of the church was laid on July 29, 1869. Bishop Huntington was present for the ceremonial consecration of Christ Church Wellsburg. Huntington had recently been appointed first Bishop of Central New York, one year after the Episcopal Church created the third diocese in 1868. The consecration of Christ Church was the Bishop's first ceremonial consecration as the new bishop. The first church service was held in Christ Church on July 21, 1870. The church building was finished on

³ Star Gazette. "Steeplejacks Repair Lightening Damage to Wellsburg Spire." August 22, 1937.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

November 29, 1870. The building debt was reported at \$1732.34 and three members of the church assumed responsibility for paying the church debt.

Despite the church's active beginnings as well as numerous baptisms and confirmations recorded in its early years, the church closed in 1880. Six years later, the Rector, Rev. William Wright of Grace Church in Elmira assisted in the re-opening of the church. The Rectors from Grace and Emmanuel Episcopal Churches helped to serve the needs of the church in Wellsburg until 1909 when the Rev. Charles T. Raynor of Grace Church in Waverly assumed the parish duties.

On April 1, 1871, John and Fanny Lowman and Horatio and Abigail Evans gave the church property to the Corporation of Christ Church. On October 25, 1952, the deed was transferred from the vestry of Christ Church to the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. The congregation took this action as a result of a vote, Christ Church therefore becoming a Mission Church of the Diocese. Today Christ Church is united with Grace Church in Waverly and Emmanuel Church in Elmira as the members of the Chemung Valley Cluster.

The Episcopal Church was the third religion to organize in the village, yet it occupies the oldest church structure in the community. A fire destroyed the 1812 Baptist Church building in 1965, and a 1972 flood destroyed the second Methodist Church building, which had been built in 1874. Today Christ Episcopal Church is the oldest church building in Wellsburg.

Gothic Revival style Episcopal churches in Central New York document the expansion of the Church during the administrative period of the Diocese of Western New York, 1838-1868, and the first two decades of the Diocese of Central New York. [Gothic Revival style churches also profile] a parallel growth of interest among regional parishes, in fine religious architecture as espoused by the New York Ecclesiological Society.⁴

⁴ Lozner, 39.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

Standing resolute and remarkably unchanged, Christ Church in Wellsburg maintains an impressive presence on the residential street. The vertical thrust and details of the Gothic Revival structure convey the intent of the early Episcopal mission to establishing itself in this community.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

9. Bibliography

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Chemung County. . . Its History. Elmira: Chemung County Historical Society, 1961.

Christ Church Archives, 117 Main Street, Wellsburg, New York.

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Foote, Keith G. Binghamton Architects 1863-1916. (paper, SUNY Binghamton, 1980).

<u>History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties, New York.</u> Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1879.

Lozner, Christine. <u>Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York</u>. Syracuse: Episcopal Diocese of New York, 1996.

Miller, D.L. Atlas of Chemung County, New York. Philadelphia: D. L. Miller & Co., 1904.

Smith, Sylvia. Hisotry of Christ Church Wellsburg, New York 1869-1994. n.p.

Star Gazette. "Steeplejacks Repair Lightening Damage to Wellsburg Spire." August 22, 1937.

Towner, Ausburn. <u>Our County and Its People: A History of the Valley and County of Chemung</u>. Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., Publishers, 1892.

Christ Episcopal Church Name of Property	Chemung County, New York County and State
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property less than one acre	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 8 3 5 6 9 5 1 4 6 5 2 6 6 2	3 1 8
2 .1 8	4 1 8
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 By: (see continuation sheet)	
name/title Stacia L. Partin, Historic Preservation Specia	alist
organization NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau	date <u>February 22, 2000</u>
street & number Peebles Island	telephone (518) 237-8643 ext. 3265
city or town Waterford	state NY 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) indicat A Sketch map for historic districts and proper	ting the property's location ties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photograph	s of the property.
Additional items (Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO of	or FPO)
name The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Central N	New York
street & number 310 Montgomery Street, Suite 200	telephone
city or town Syracuse	state NY zip code 13202

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, D.C. 20503

NPS Form	10-900a
(8-86)	

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property comprises the rectangular lot as shown on the attached property tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to coincide with the legal lot lines of the land currently and historically associated with the building.

NPS Form	10-900a
(8-86)	

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 1

Christ Episcopal Church	
Name of Property	
Chemung County, New York	
County and State	

11. Form Prepared By:

Pilar B. Yeakel 406 East Eighth Street Elmira Heights, NY 14903

Christ Episcopal Church

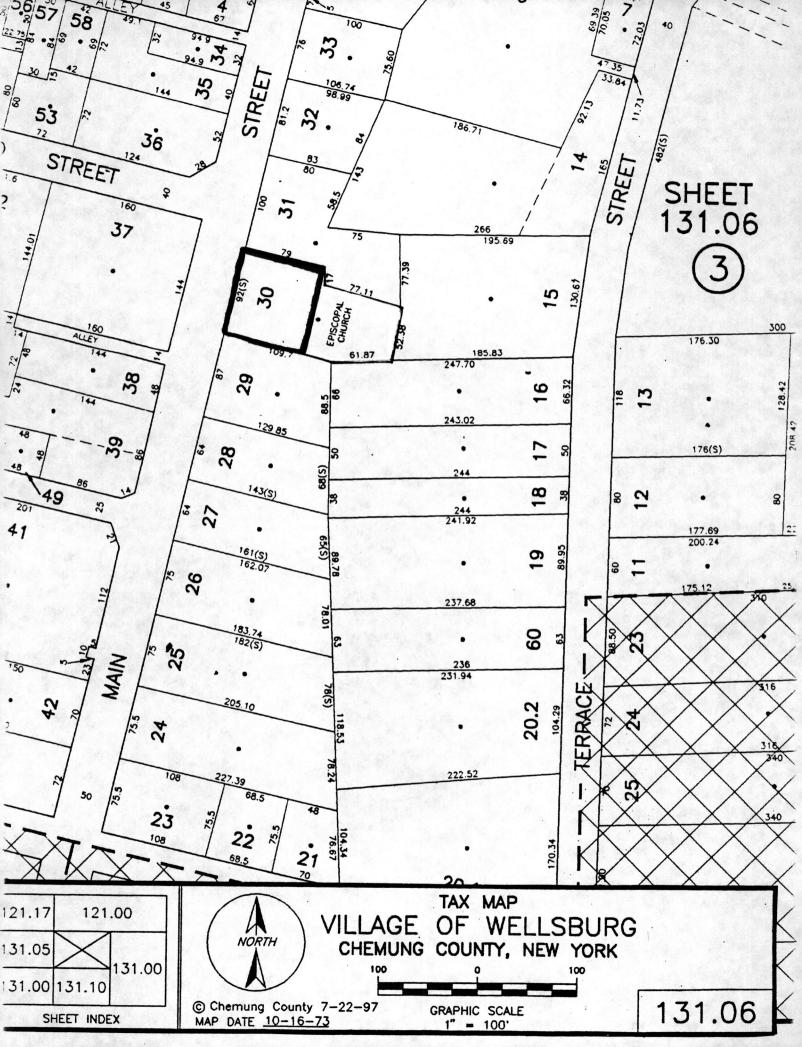
Wellsburg, Chemung County, New York

Photographer: Pilar B. Yeakel

1998

Negatives: NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau

- 1. Christ Episcopal Church, looking east.
- 2. Christ Episcopal Church, looking north.
- 3. Christ Episcopal Church, looking southeast.
- 4. Christ Episcopal Church, detail, front door.
- 5. Christ Episcopal Church, contributing addition, looking east.
- 6. Christ Episcopal Church, interior, facing west.
- 7. Christ Episcopal Church, interior, facing east.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Christ Episcopal Church
MULTIPLE Historic Churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New Young
STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Chemung
DATE RECEIVED: 7/06/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/14/00 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/20/00 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000879
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N DTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9-2.00 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: Entered in the National Register
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE DATE
OCCUMENTATION see attached comments V/N see attached SIR V/N



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