



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Nancy Todd, Neil Larson DATE: March, 1987

YOUR ADDRESS: E.S.P. Agency Bldg. 1 TELEPHONE: 518-474-0479

ORGANIZATION (if any): Division for Historic Preservation

See cover sheet, item 11

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Hillside Methodist Church (Component #19)
- 2. COUNTY: Dutchess TOWN/鎮: Rhinebeck VILLAGE: NA; Rhinebeck vic.
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Route 9
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Church Trustees ADDRESS: c/o Alice Boomhower, RD 2,
- 6. USE: Original: Sunday school/chapel Present: chapel Box 170, Rhinebeck
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain no; private property

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

See item #18

12. PHOTO: N. Todd, 1986;
Rhinebeck Historical Society, 1984

13. MAP: See continuation sheets
Acreage: 1 acre



1. Front (west) and south elevations

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: parish house: non-contributing
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

See continuation sheet

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

See continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1855

ARCHITECT: Potter

BUILDER: John Brown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See continuation sheet

21. SOURCES:

See cover sheet, item #9

XXXXXXXXXX
 22. THEME:

17. The Hillside Methodist Church is located on a small (one-acre) lot on the east side of Route 9 approximately three miles south of the village of Rhinebeck and one mile north of the Hyde Park-Rhinebeck town line. The church is located in a sparsely settled section of Route 9 in an area characterized by extensive, cultivated acreage, open meadows and thickly wooded areas. A few scattered, small-scale commercial and residential properties are located north of the church.

The church is oriented westward towards the busy thoroughfare on a steeply sloped, grassy lawn which drops sharply down to the road. A narrow, circular driveway provides access to the chapel and the parish hall (non-contributing) several hundred feet to the north. Thick woods surround the nominated property to the north and east. A narrow, private road, providing access to the Delano Drive-Reeder Road neighborhood to the east, defines the southern boundary of the nominated property. (The Delano Drive-Reeder Road neighborhood is a twentieth-century residential enclave which includes Evergreen Lands, [Individual Component # 33].) The western boundary of the nominated property is determined by Route 9.

The heavy black outline on the attached county tax map identifies the boundary of the nominated property.

Contributing buildings: 1
Non-contributing buildings: 1

18. The Hillside Methodist Chapel (ca. 1855) is a small, one-story, rectangular rustic stone building. Built into a hillside, the foundation is exposed on the west (front) elevation. It has a steeply pitched gable roof with broadly projecting, bracketed eaves embellished with scroll-sawn bargeboards. An open framed bell tower with decorative woodwork surmounts the apex of the front gable end. Fenestration is regular throughout the building.

The front (west) facade is three bays wide. A projecting frame entrance foyer occupies the center bay, sheltering the primary entrance. The foyer features board-and-batten siding, a segmentally arched entrance with double doors, rounded-arch, double-hung sash windows, and a gable roof with overhanging eaves embellished with scroll-sawn bargeboards. Tall, narrow rounded-arch windows flank the entrance foyer. A large round

oculus is centrally located in the front gable end.

North and south (side) elevations each feature three symmetrically placed, segmentally arched window openings containing paired, three-paned casement windows. Wide, simple wooden trim embellishes the window openings. The rear (east) elevation is blind.

The simple interior features survive substantially intact.

The parish house (early twentieth century) is a rectangular frame building, sheathed with novelty siding. Built into the hillside, the stone foundation is fully exposed on the west (road-side) elevation. The building faces southward towards the chapel on a north-south axis and is surmounted by a broad, low-pitched gable roof. Exposed rafters accentuate the projecting eaves. The front (south) facade features a centrally placed entrance with paired, six-panel doors enframed by wide, simple wooden trim. Symmetrically placed, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with simple wooden trim flank the entrance. A small, six-paned window is centrally located in the front gable end above the entrance. Side (east and west) elevations feature regularly placed six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Constructed after the close of the period of significance for the chapel, the parish house does not contribute to the significance of the nominated property.

20. The Hillside Methodist Chapel is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of mid-nineteenth century ecclesiastical architecture in the town of Rhinebeck. Built in 1855, the small stone chapel is an outstanding local interpretation of the picturesque taste introduced into the region's architecture by such nationally prominent architects and landscape architects as Alexander Jackson Downing, Andrew Jackson Davis and Calvert Vaux. In this case, an overlay of picturesque ornament, including elaborate scroll-sawn bargeboards and an open-frame bell tower, was applied to a traditional form derived from English rural parish church architecture. The use of irregularly coursed fieldstone as a building material contributes to the building's picturesque quality, while recalling the region's eighteenth-century vernacular building tradition. The design of the chapel is attributed to a local architect named Potter, about whom nothing is known. The congregation originated in a Sunday school started by Julia M. Olin in the woods of her family's

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York

Component 19, Hillside Methodist Church
Continuation sheet, page 3

estate Glenburn (Component #31). The Hillside Chapel was erected on land donated by the Olin family from Glenburn as a more permanent facility for worship and Sunday school. While services were always open to the public, the chapel remained directly associated with the Olin family until Julia Olin's death, at which point it was transferred to a board of trustees.

The Hillside Methodist Chapel is one of a number of outstanding examples of mid-nineteenth century, Picturesque style architecture included in the multiple resource area. The Picturesque style is related to the Romantic Movement, which was introduced in America in the second quarter of the nineteenth century by literary and artistic figures such as Washington Irving, James Fennimore Cooper, Thomas Cole and Asher B. Durand. Architects and landscape architects such as Alexander Jackson Downing, Andrew Jackson Davis and Calvert Vaux translated the ideals of the Romantic Movement into picturesque building and landscape designs derived largely from English sources. In Rhinebeck, the landed gentry, particularly along the Hudson River in the estate corridor, were quick to adopt and patronize the new taste during the 1840s and 1850s, providing models that influenced building traditions throughout the region during the subsequent decades. The Hillside Chapel reflects this influence, embodying a variety of distinctive characteristics associated with rural picturesque architecture including rustic stone construction, scroll-sawn ornament, open framed bell tower and Italianate windows. (A similar historic chapel is the Rhinecliff Methodist Church; Component #22.) The form of the building is based on traditional English parish architecture, befitting its rural setting. The chapel is additionally significant for its distinctive use of local building materials. The random course fieldstone construction contributes to the picturesque quality of the chapel and is reflective of the town's eighteenth-century regional vernacular building traditions.

The significance of the chapel is enhanced by the survival of a variety of intact interior features. Notable historic fabric includes plastered wall surfaces, a barrel-vaulted, plastered ceiling, a simple raised platform on the east end and original wooden furnishings including a pump organ.

The Hillside Chapel resulted from the efforts of Julia M. Olin of nearby Glenburn (Component #31), who started the congregation during the second quarter of the nineteenth century with a "Sunday School" in the woods on her family's estate. Mrs. Olin, married to Stephen Olin, was the great-grandmother of Olin Dows, a celebrated American artist of the Works Progress Administration and World War II periods. (Glenburn is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of estate architecture in Rhinebeck and historically significant as the house of

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York

Component 19, Hillside Methodist Church
Continuation sheet, page 4

Olin Dows.)

The chapel was erected in 1855. Little is known about the architect and/or builder of the chapel; however, according to local tradition, the chapel was designed by an architect named Potter and built by John Brown, both apparently local craftsmen.

Although worship services at the Hillside Methodist Chapel were apparently open to the public, the chapel remained associated with Glenburn and the Olin family for a number of years rather than functioning as a completely independent church and/or congregation.

Retaining a high level of integrity, the Hillside Methodist Chapel recalls the introduction and application of Romantic picturesque architecture in the Hudson Valley in the mid-nineteenth century.

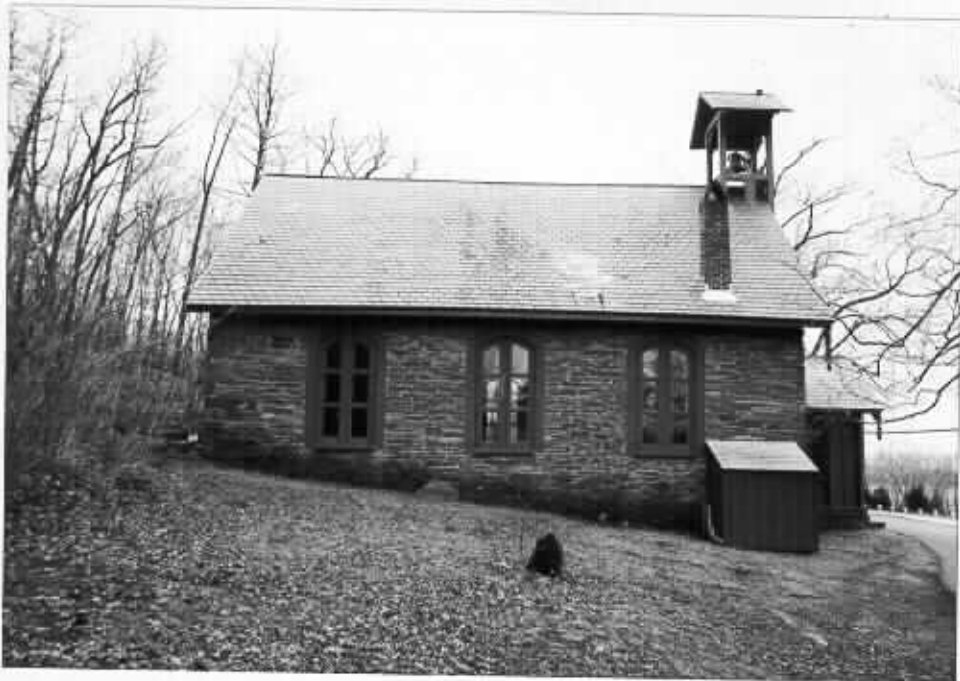
A frame parish hall, built in the early twentieth century, accompanies the church on the lot but does not contribute to the the property's significance because it was constructed after the close of the period of significance for the chapel.

CONTINUATION SHEET

RHINEBECK MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

BUILDING NAME: Hillside Methodist Chapel, Component 19

#12. Photo:



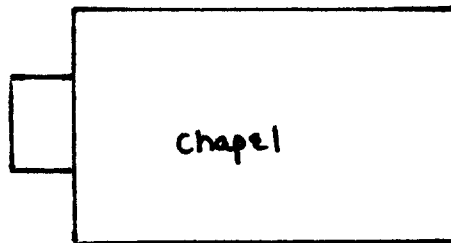
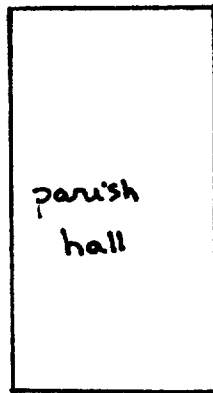
2 North elevation



3. Parish hall, south facade

(Glenburn Estate, Component 31)

Route 9

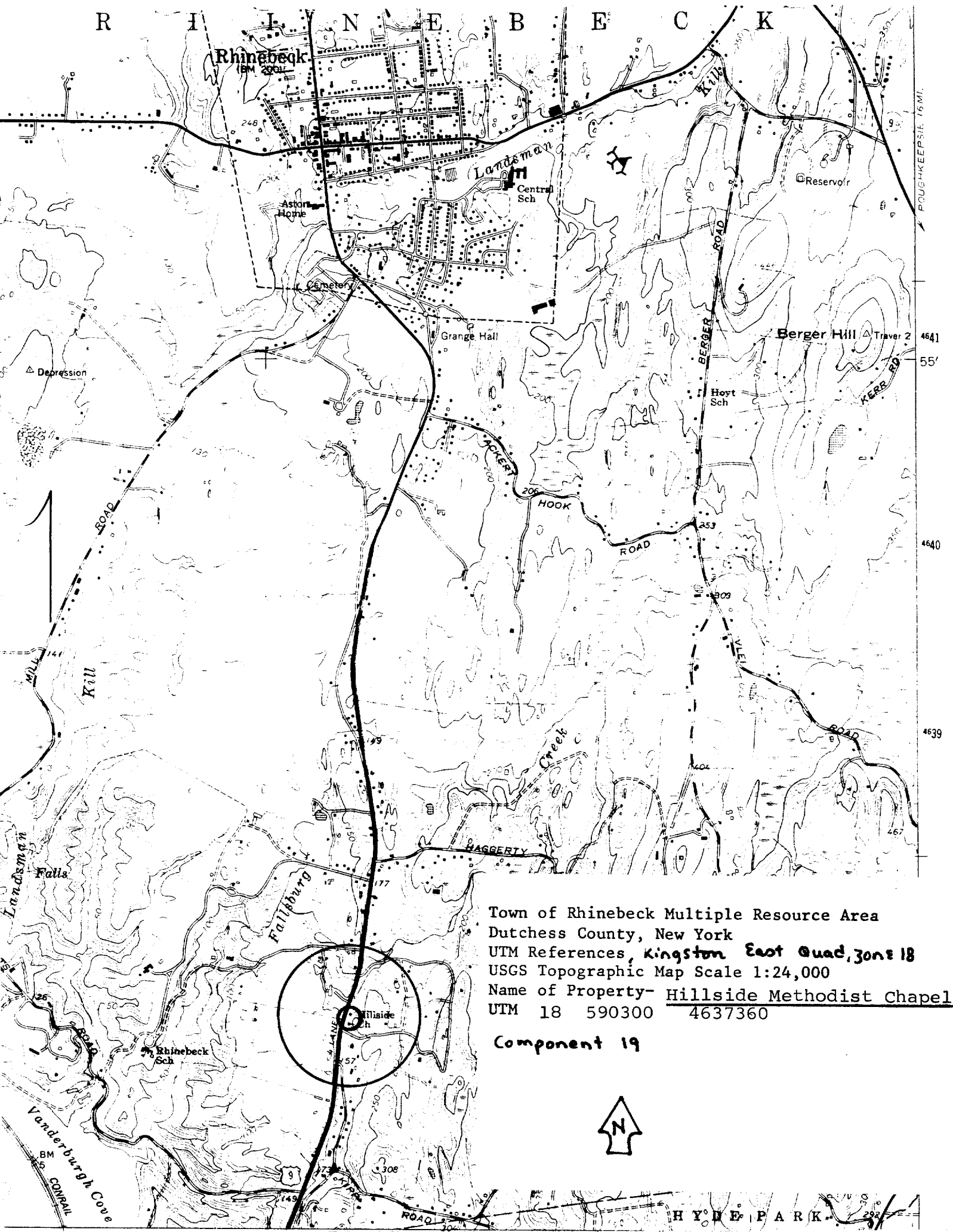


Rhinebeck Town Multiple
Resource Area, Rhinebeck
Dutchess County, NY

Photo key and
Site map; not to scale -
approximate location and
orientation of components

Hillside Methodist Chapel
Component #19



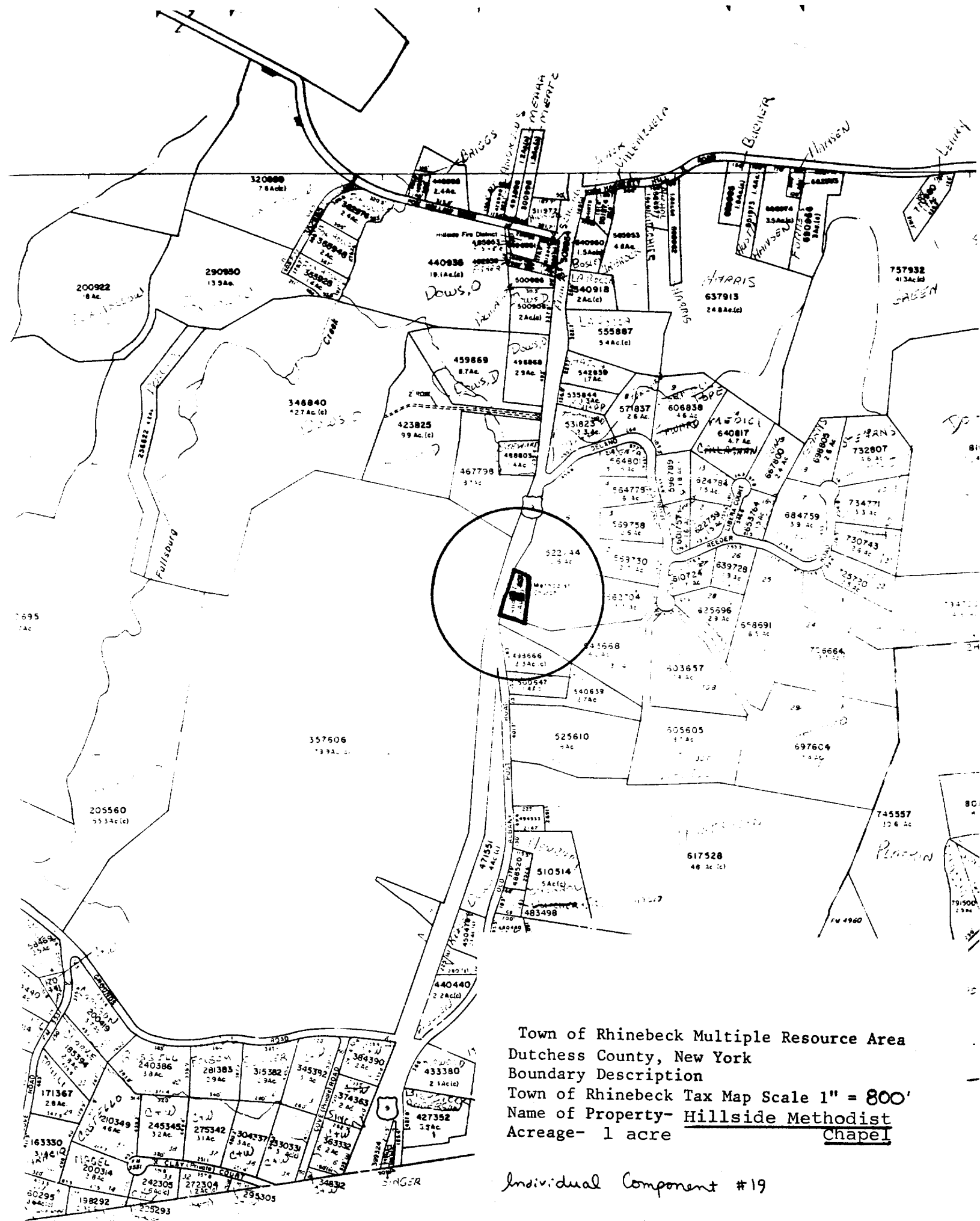


Town of Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area
 Dutchess County, New York
 UTM References, **Kingston East Quad, Zone 18**
 USGS Topographic Map Scale 1:24,000
 Name of Property- Hillside Methodist Chapel
 UTM 18 590300 4637360

Component 19



HYDE PARK



Town of Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area
 Dutchess County, New York
 Boundary Description
 Town of Rhinebeck Tax Map Scale 1" = 800'
 Name of Property- Hillside Methodist
 Acreage- 1 acre Chapel

Individual Component #19