

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received **OCT 19 1982**
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Philetus S. Church House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number North Shore Road^{Pd.} N/A not for publication

city, town Sugar Island N/A vicinity of

state Michigan code 026 county Chippewa code 033

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Henry Webster

street & number 1849 Burrwood

city, town East Lansing N/A vicinity of state Michigan

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chippewa County Register of Deeds

street & number The Courthouse

city, town Sault Ste. Marie state Michigan 49783

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Eastern Upper Peninsula Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Michigan History Division

city, town Lansing state Michigan 48918

7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. DESCRIPTION

Located twelve miles below Sault Ste. Marie on Sugar Island at the upper end of Lake George, the narrowest point in the St. Mary's River, the Philletus S. Church House faces northeast toward Ontario's Squirrel Island. A two-story, end-gable structure with a one-story, flank-gable wing, the house is covered in white-painted clapboarding and rests on a fieldstone foundation. Greek Revival in style, the Church House was designed and built in 1862 by Philletus Church's eldest son, J. Wells Church.

Sited on a two-acre site sixty feet from the shoreline of the St. Mary's River, the Philletus Church House measures thirty-six feet in length and forty feet in width, and consists of two sections. The main section is a two-story, end-gable, clapboard-sheathed structure with plain entablature and returns. Its front contains four symmetrically placed openings with eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows, topped by architrave window heads and flanked by green-painted shutters. A triangular window (now closed up) appears in the front gable. The attached wing is a one-story, gable-roofed building with six-over-six windows and green shutters. A fieldstone foundation supports both the main section and attached wing.

The interior of the main section has six rooms, with living room, dining room and a kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor. The interior walls are plastered and the floors are of rough pine. The wing addition has a small bedroom and a utility room, with walls and flooring matching that of the main section.

A two-story, gable-roof section, originally attached to the rear of the house, has since been removed, resulting in the surviving L-shaped structure with its base or longest part facing toward the St. Mary's River. Two additional alterations include the replacement of an original entrance (fronted by a porch) located in the side wing with a sliding glass door and the enclosure of the back door within a wooden shed porch. However, these additions have done little to alter the basic appearance of the Church House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

American Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men: Michigan Volume. Cincinnati: Western Biographical Publishing Company, 1878.
 Bayliss, Joseph and Milo Quaife. River of Destiny: The St. Mary's River. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1955.

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property two acres

Quadrangle name Payment Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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7	2	0	7	4	0
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5	1	5	5	5	4	0
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B

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C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification. The Philetus Church House occupies a two acre site described as Lot 2, Churchville Point Subdivision, Sugar Island, Chippewa County.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Pilon/Charles C. Cotman

organization Michigan History Division

date April 29, 1982

street & number 208 N. Capitol Ave.

telephone (517) 373-0510

city or town Lansing

state Michigan - 48918

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Martha M. Bigelow

title Director, Michigan History Division

date 10/12/82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

11/24/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1862 **Builder/Architect** J. Wells Church (1838–1914) of

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Sugar Island, builder

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Sugar Island's Philetus Church House notes the site of Church's Landing, a commercial settlement on the St. Mary's River which thrived during the years 1845 to 1875, and the home of its founder, Philetus S. Church, Sugar Island trader and merchant. A rare example of the Greek Revival style in Chippewa County, the Philetus Church House was designed and built by Church's son, J. Wells Church, in 1862.

Sugar Island or Sisibakwatominiss ("Maple Sugar Island," its Indian name) is third in size among the many islands in the St. Mary's River. Prior to 1892 when the so-called Hay Channel west of the island opened to vessel traffic, all vessels passing between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes had to circumnavigate the additional sixteen miles around Sugar Island to reach Sault Ste. Marie. At the mouth of the North Channel, so-called because it was the early northern route around Sugar Island, the river passage narrows sharply between Churchville Point on the south and Payment Settlement one mile northeast. At this point, two river-oriented trade and merchant settlements emerged on Sugar Island in the middle decades of the nineteenth century: Church's Landing or Churchville, founded by Philetus S. Church, and Payment's Landing (Payment Settlement), established by Michael G. Payment.

Past Church's Landing and Payment Settlement sailed all vessels passing upstream to Lake Superior and downstream to the Lower Lakes. Both settlements provided necessary supplies and provisions for passing river traffic.

Philetus Church (1812–1891), a transplanted merchant from western New York, arrived in Detroit in 1841. Four years later Church moved his family to Sault Ste. Marie, and in June, 1846 settled permanently on Sugar Island. His arrival coincided with the advent of large-scale navigation on Lake Superior. Four hundred Chippewa Indians lived on Sugar Island; some worked at Church's sawmill, while others sold furs, crafts, and maple sugar through his store.

The ambitious Church and his sons, J. Wells and Philetus, Jr., sold and shipped everything: lumber and cordwood for wood-burning steamers, garden produce and agricultural products, raspberry jams and wines, nursery stock, tons of maple sugar, charcoal, ice, milk, meats, soaps, fish, and furs. Church sold no liquor to the resident Chippewa Indians, a practice based on strongly held belief in temperance. An 1878 biographical sketch lauded the Church family ". . . for the restraining and elevating influence. . . exerted over their wild neighbors. . ." A leader in political as well as economic life, Philetus Church also served as Sugar Island's first postmaster (1856–1861) and Churchville township supervisor (1869–1880).

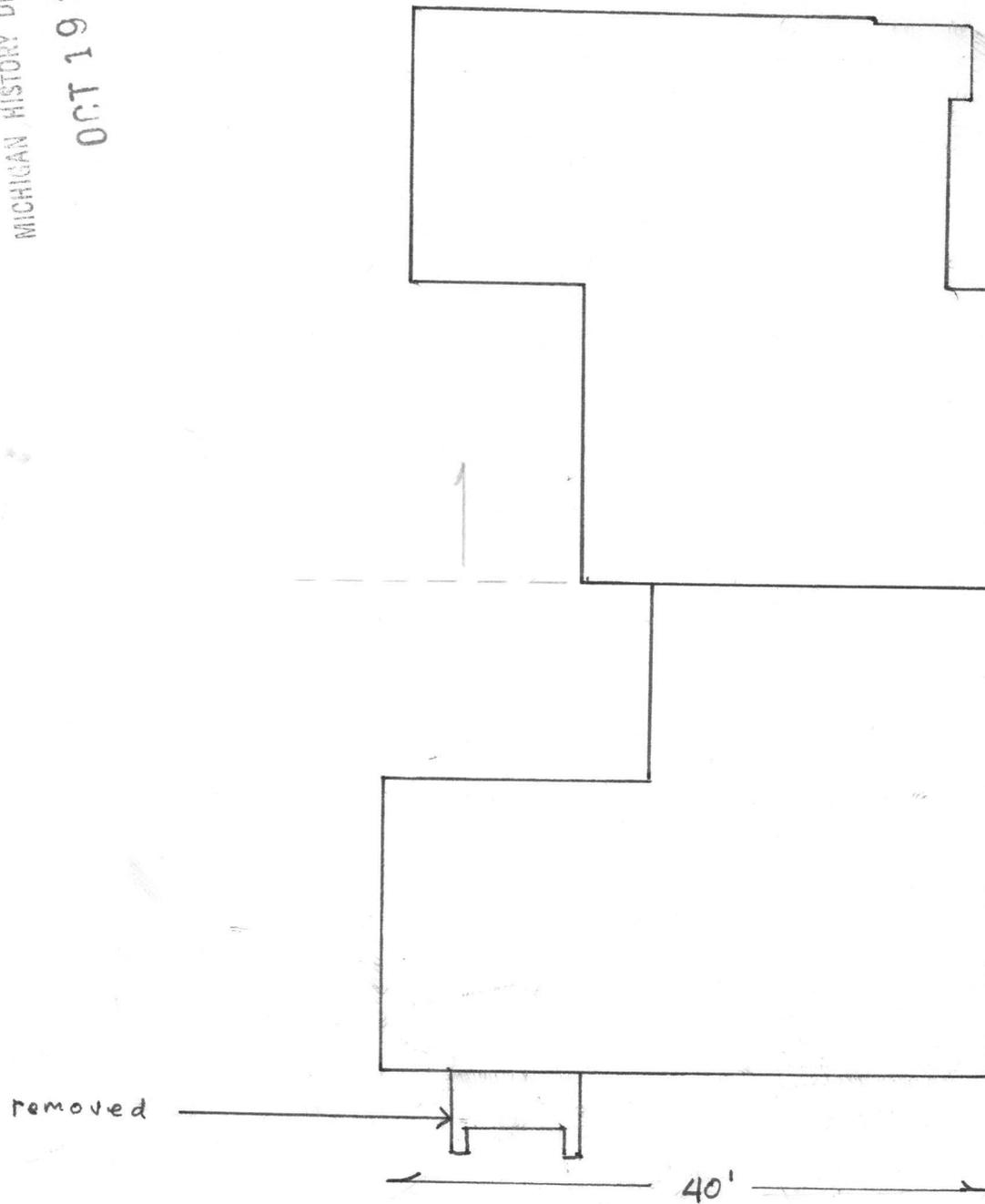
In 1862, J. Wells Church (1838–1914), eldest son of Philetus, built this frame, Greek Revival house for his father, mother and brother. The building materials came from the family sawmill. The primary entryway faced the water, since the present highway west of the house did not then exist. The rear section, since removed, served as a family domicile.

Philetus Church retired from active trading in 1876, moved to Bay City, and died there in 1891. Of the farm fields, the docks, the sawmill, and other outbuildings, only the frame house still remains at Church's Landing.

DEC 22 1981

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

OCT 19 1982



removed

36'

40'

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Church, Philetus S., House
Chippewa County
MICHIGAN

82000495

Working No. 10/19/82-2891
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 11/24/82 — 12/3/82
Action: ACCEPT 11/24/82
 RETURN
 REJECT
Entered in the National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Philetus S. Church House
North Shore Road
Church's Landing, Sugar Island
Chippewa County, Michigan
Roger Pilon
July, 1982
Michigan History Division
Lansing, Michigan 48918
Camera facing East
Photo # 1 of 4



Philetus S. Church House
North Shore Road
Church's Landing, Sugar Island
Chippewa County, Michigan
Roger Pilon
July, 1982
Michigan History Division
Lansing, Michigan 48918
Camera facing North
Photo # 2 of 4



Philetus S. Church House
North Shore Road
Church's Landing, Sugar Island
Chippewa County, Michigan
Roger Pilon
July, 1982
Michigan History Division
Lansing, Michigan 48918
Camera facing West
Photo # 3 of 4

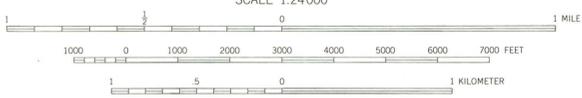
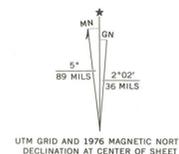


Philetus S. Church House
North Shore Road
Church's Landing, Sugar Island
Chippewa County, Michigan
Roger Pilon
July, 1982
Michigan History Division
Lansing, Michigan 48918
Camera facing ENE
Photo # 4 of 4

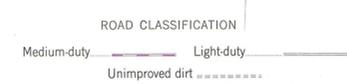


Philetus Church House
Church's Landing, Sugar
Island
Chippewa County
Michigan
UTM Reference:
16/720740/5155540
UTM correction 1/23/08
16/720718/5155762

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by US&GS, USCE, U. S. Lake Survey
and International Boundary Commission
U. S. topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1950. Field check 1951
Canadian topography from Army Survey Establishment, RCE,
dated 1954
Hydrography compiled from U. S. Lake Survey chart 62 (1955)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET IN THE UNITED STATES AND 25 FEET IN CANADA
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS RIVER SURFACE AT
FOLLOWING STAGE: LAKE HURON 578 FEET



PAYMENT, MICH.—ONT.
N4630 — W8407.5/7.5
1951
PHOTOREVISED 1976
AMS 4177 II SW—SERIES 8862

THE U.S. PORTION OF THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
from aerial photographs taken 1976. This information not
field checked. Canadian portion not revised

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING
MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS
RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES
208 N. Capitol Avenue

STATE ARCHIVES
3405 N. Logan Street

STATE MUSEUM
208 N. Capitol Avenue

October 5, 1982

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are National Register nomination materials for the Philetus S. Church House on Sugar Island, Chippewa County, Michigan. I certify that the intent-to-nominate notification requirements have been fulfilled. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register. All waiver-of-right-to-object forms, notarized statements of objection, and written comments concerning this property submitted to us during the commenting period are enclosed.

Please direct all questions, concerning this nomination to Charles C. Cotman, Historian. (517) 373-0510

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha M. Bigelow".

Martha M. Bigelow
Director, Michigan History Division
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MMB/ROC:tj
Enc.

