Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

New Jersey	
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Essex	

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brwonstone-faced

Despite destruction of steeple, recent enclosure of porch behind facade columns and minor interior alterations, the church is still a dignified, stately, relatively-intact representation of a Greek Revival facade in fine

condition, and a meetinghouse interior much in its original appearance:

Kenneth B. Schnall's Thesis gives a detailed account of the appearance:

Kenneth B. Schnall's Thesis gives a detailed account of the appearance: "The building is constructed of brick, the front and vestibule sides are dressed in a neatly cut ashlar stone in a plumb bond. The entire pediment and entablature is of a white-paneled brick similar to that used in the side and rear of the building. The front portico has two heavy Doric columns with wide fluting. These columns flank the central doorway and are in line with heavy pilasters that frame the vestibule's walls. A photo of the South Baptist Church before the turn of the mineteenth century shows that the facade of the building has not changed except for the complete removal of a large central tower and spire...(Leary reference) The tower was built directly over the peak at the building's front. It was built in four stages, with the bottom stage a square block with round side windows to support two lighter louvered belfrys and a sharp spire. The unadorned pediment is set under a raking cornice that extends beyond the line of the facade. The deep cornice and the simplified triglyphs panels along with a set of dentil-like projections over each panel produces a strong triangular area above the generally flat facade. The central door has a triangular pediment over the door with panels like those found in the entablature. Heavy consoles support the doors pedimented top by locking into the door jams. Doors to the side vestibules are at right angles to the central door. The side walls have long rectangular stain glass windows of a plain design. Windows in the side walls extend from a wooden wainscoting that surrounds the interior walls of the church to a distance of about five feet from the ceiling. The central audience room is entered through three doors. east side aisle leads to a stage that flanks but is lower than the pulpit stage. The upper gallery is made of wood. The gallery is built across the rear of the room and extends over both side aisles almost the full length of the church, to the pulpit and choir area. The gallery is supported on four cast iron metal pillars. Entrance doors to the gallery are approached through stairwells in the vestibules that flank the central door. The ceiling suggests the full rectangular shape of the room. It is made of tin with a deep coffer. A rectangular section is recessed and is set apart from the texture of the ceiling by a flat plain band of moldings. This center rectangle is the area for the main light fixture which is suspended into the middle of the room. The front pulpit area is a raised stage that is set back beyond the line of the rear wall. This rear wall is broken by a single stained glass window in a round arch with similar flanking closed shapes. These panels are probably boarded windows since they are set beyond the wall surface and are inscribed." (Ornamented 'Palladian Window' effect) "The stage area is framed by a wide lintel molding set with dentils like those in the facade. Side pilasters with braces and gold filigree hold a heavy 10 overhead lintel providing a central focus in the audience room. The pulpit stage is built so that a section of the floor will roll back to expose a large lead and concrete tank which is used for a baptism rite once a very

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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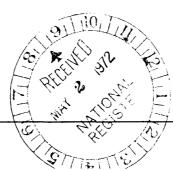
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also recorded, presumably c. 1863.

There are extant, in Newark, 4 other churches representing either, or both, simple Greek Revival or other Minard Lafever influence, all erected in the period 1848-1858.

Congressional Representation

Harrison Williams - U.S. Senator Clifford Case - U.S. Senator Peter W. Rodino, Jr. - Congressman (10th Congressional District)



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES