

PH0356794

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 21 1977

DATE ENTERED NOV 10 1977

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 ******
 First Presbyterian Church of Hanover
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Livingston st*
 CITY, TOWN *Mt. Pleasant Ave. and opposite Hanover Avenue* — NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Livingston vic.
 VICINITY OF **5**
 STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
 New Jersey 34 Morris 027

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
 Trustees
 STREET & NUMBER
 First Presbyterian Church of Hanover
 CITY, TOWN STATE
 East Hanover VICINITY OF New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records
 STREET & NUMBER
 Court Street
 CITY, TOWN STATE
 Morristown, New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
 New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1364.2)
 DATE 1962 — FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
 Historic Sites Office, Dept. of Environmental Protection
 CITY, TOWN STATE
 Trenton New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION TAG

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first Presbyterian Church of Hanover, built in 1835, is a mixture of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles of architecture.

The structure might be termed "eclectic" in character; that is, there are significant elements in the building of both the Gothic Revival and the Greek Revival styles that were predominant in both urban and rural America during this early Victorian period (1820-50). Architectural historian, Alan Gowans, says "its chief characteristic is eclecticism of taste - that is, the "best" styles from the past were freely imitated for symbolic purposes"

But coupled with this "mix" is a holdover of the simple, straightforward uncluttered look of the 18th century New England meetinghouse, so eminently suitable as a place for the worship of God.

The exterior of the church embodies Classical Revival characteristics in its rectangular shape with entrance doors in the pedimented gable end; the projecting vestibule also with a pedimented gable roof; and a porch protecting the two entrance doors. The pedimented porch roof is supported by 4 clusters of 3 columns each...the columns being much more slender than the Doric columns used on so many buildings of this era. In fact, the porch seems more Federal than Greek Revival.

The Gothic Revival features are the graceful pointed-arch windows, 4 on each side with the original inside shutters, each topped with a delicate fan. There is a square tower, with belfry, rising above the pedimented vestibule; the windows in the tower are Gothic arched also. There is no spire but the belfry is topped with a railing and corner finials. There are handsome Classic dentil moldings outlining the belfry cornice, and simple corner pilasters, Classical in feeling, framing the Gothic belfry windows.

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1835 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Elijah Hopping, Master Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The First Presbyterian Church of Hanover in East Hanover Township was built in 1835 by Master Builder Elijah Hopping and is a representative example of transitional Greek Revival architecture in Morris County. Combining both Greek and Gothic Revival motifs the Hanover Church is an unacademic structure, but still projects an attractive appearance. Built by an excellent craftsman/builder, this church is a good companion edifice to the Whippany Presbyterian Church in Hanover Township which was erected a year earlier by the same builder.

Religion

Immediately prior to the armed conflict of the American Revolution in early 1776, Reverend Jacob Green, minister of the Hanover Presbyterian Church in Morris County, penned the first pamphlet in New Jersey that advocated secession from the British Empire and the creation of an independent nation. Widely discussed and circulated at the time (published in both New York and Philadelphia) it was the only publication written by a New Jersey resident during the years 1763-1776 in support of the protest - independence movement.

Green became pastor of the Hanover Presbyterian Church in 1746 and continued in the same pastorate until his death in 1790. When Reverend Green died the church had seventy-two members, but was in midst of a fervent religious revival and by 1808 there were over 300 members. As a consequence, and also as a result of a general population growth, by the 1830's the old 18th century church building, which was in a bad state of repair, had become inadequate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Morris County, New Jersey. W.W. Munsell and Company, New York. 1882. (pp 225-226).

Honeyman, A. Van Doren. Northwestern New Jersey. Volume 1. New York, 1927.

Green, Calvin. The Life of Calvin Green (1765-1847).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>553270</u>	<u>4516930</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the First Presbyterian Church of Hanover is shown as the green line on the accompanying map entitled "Tax Map, Township of East Hanover, 1970."

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry Karschner, Historian - Curator

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Office, Dept. of Environmental Protection 7/1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 1420

(609) 292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Trenton

New Jersey

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Terry Wilson

TITLE Assistant

DATE

Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

6/13/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

G. Muntz

DATE

10/10/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST Charlotte B. Cole

DATE

11-9-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. J. ...

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East Hanover Township

Morris County

New Jersey 034

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DESCRIPTION

Inside the building are two interesting features of construction, the floor which slopes gently downward toward the pulpit and the aisles and pew blocks which are slightly angled to give the congregation a better view of the pulpit and sanctuary. The entrance doors from the vestibule and the stairs to the galleries, with their slender, graceful handrails, appear to be original.

The box pews are narrow and straight backed with simply panelled hinged doors. Originally the interior woodwork, pews, ceiling moldings, and other trim, was stained a dark natural tone, in keeping with the mode of the day.

The arch over the pulpit was originally slightly pointed and vaulted in the Gothic manner, but the panel decoration on the front of the galleries has typical Classic motives of anthemions and moldings that seem to have been inspired by the Greek key or "meander". Close examination of an early photograph of the interior shows a border of what appears to be a stencilled stripe just above the wainscoting. If this is indeed such a border it is typical of the 1835 period, when such decoration was used on plastered walls, furniture and utilitarian tin-ware.

Since the turn of the century, changes, though not basic ones, have been made in the interior of the church. The recessed arch in back of the sanctuary has been greatly enlarged to accommodate a pipe organ and the choir. Heavy, fluted pilasters outline the sanctuary, and the interior woodwork including the pews (except for the top rails) has been painted white. The burying ground has been completely plotted and a large map is available for study.

While the architectural attractiveness of an edifice has significance from an historical viewpoint, the continuing social and cultural influence of the institution is of at least equal importance.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Accordingly in early 1835, a parish meeting was called to decide whether to rehabilitate the old church or build a new one. Calvin Green later wrote of the discussion, "We had a parish meeting and concluded to take down the old meetinghouse and build a new one 40 X 60 feet. We built the new one this summer" (Green, The Life of Calvin Green c. 1845)

Elijah Hopping was hired as the Master Builder of the new church edifice. On April 14, 1835, the carpenters began tearing down the old building which had served the congregation for 80 years.

Some of the timbers from the 1755 building were used in the new church; new timber came from the parsonage property on which grew some of the most magnificent oak trees in Morris County. The corner stone was laid on April 22; the people gathered to raise the frame on May 30th and the church was dedicated on December 10, 1835. According to Calvin Green "the meeting house was 8 months and 4 days in building and cost about \$5,000," although parish records state that bills amounted to \$3,802.66. In 1837 Green wrote "we got the bell for the church and hung it. It weighed 850 pounds and cost \$300." (Green, The Life of Calvin Green.)

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Reverend James Ferguson (minister 1869-1909), in writing the history of the first 150 years of the church, said "beginning 58 years before the Declaration of Independence and existing under circumstances not altogether favorable to rapid growth, she has had no mean history." Between 1700 and 1800 people were received into membership. This church was the "Mother" of the churches at Morristown, Madison, Parsippany and Whippany. Twelve members became ministers, two became distinguished educators, countless of her sons fought and died in the War for Independence and the Civil War and many of them lie buried in the churchyard.

During the period 1869-1909 three chapels were established - Calvary in Florham Park, Bethel in Hanover Neck and Olivet in West Livingston. The church membership grew to over 300 which was remarkable considering that in a community like Hanover, the population remained quite uniform.

During this period the church also contributed generously to a fund to help educate a Negro minister to work among the "freedmen" of South Carolina, and raised funds to aid in the building of a church and college for the Negro people of Abbeville, S.C. The Ladies Foreign Missionary Society supported a teacher in a school in Canton, China.

In the years following Reverend Ferguson's pastorate, after 1909, the church has continued to grow.. in membership and influence, because of its strategic position as the physical center of a parish that reached out in a two mile radius in all directions. There were three important anniversaries celebrated; in 1910, the 200th birthday of the first settlements in the area; in 1918 the 200th birthday of the founding of the church; and in 1935 the 100th birthday of the present church building. The long history of the church to this date can be best summed up by the words spoken by the minister at this celebration.. "the Church, beautiful in its simplicity, has stood guard over this and surrounding

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communities for a hundred years. Its influence for good, far reaching, cannot be estimated. We express our gratitude to the noble men and women who have worked so faithfully in the past. Their days were beset with difficulties as are ours. We hope the trust they passed on to us has been faithfully kept, and when our work is over, we know that you, our descendants, will carry on."

Today the Hanover Church with 362 members, continues as a viable part of the community. There are numerous active organizations that affect the lives of people at home - the Women's Association, with its many charitable pursuits; the Junior and Senior United Presbyterian Youth with its influence toward affirmative behavior of the young people of the parish. And through the World Church Service the members of the church continue to affect the lives of countless people all over the world.

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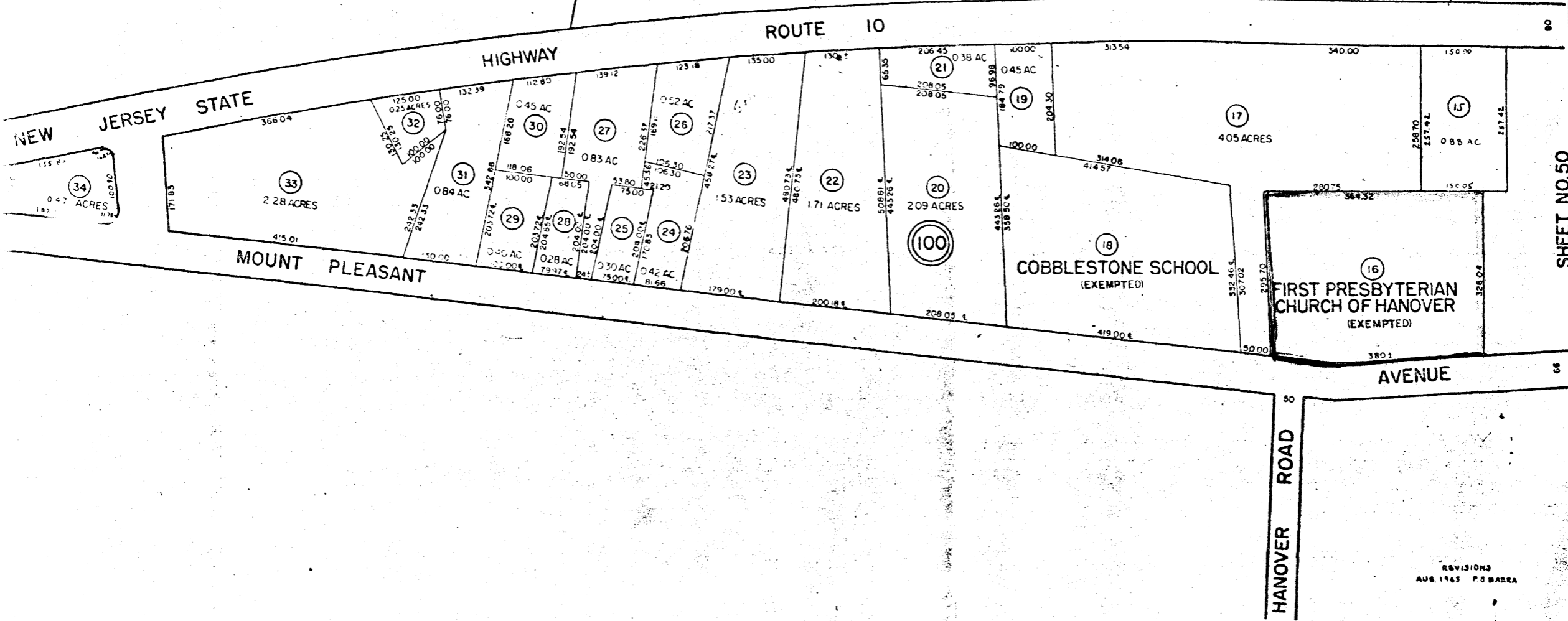
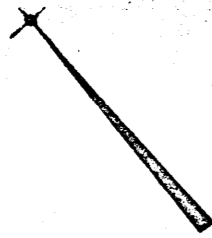
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ferguson, Reverend J.A. Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church of Hanover, New Jersey. Newark, 1877.

Biographical and Genealogical History of Morris County, New Jersey. Lewis Publishing Company. New York, 1899.

A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Hanover, 1718-1968. Edited and compiled by Reverend Oliver Chapin. Privately printed for the church.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 OF HANOVER
 EAST HANOVER TWP.
 MORRIS COUNTY
 NEW JERSEY 034



SHEET NO. 50

REVISIONS
 AUG. 1965 P. S. BARBA

RECEIVED
 JUN 21 1977
 NATIONAL REGISTER

NOV 10 1977
 Doc

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
 DIVISION OF TAXATION
 ENGINEERING & SURVEYING BUREAU
 APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PURSUANT TO THE
 PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 172, LAWS OF 1971, ETC.
 FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF TAXATION
C. J. ...

TAX MAP
 TOWNSHIP OF
 EAST HANOVER
 MORRIS CO., N.J.
 SCALE 1"=100'