

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED SEP 16 1980

DATE ENTERED

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**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  
High Bridge Reformed Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER SR  
Church Street and ~~County Road~~ 513 (Fairview Avenue)  NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN High Bridge VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
13

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
New Jersey 034 Hunterdon 019

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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  
Dutch Reformed Church of High Bridge

STREET & NUMBER  
23 Church Street

CITY, TOWN High Bridge VICINITY OF STATE  
New Jersey 08829

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hunterdon County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER  
Main Street

CITY, TOWN Flemington STATE  
New Jersey 08822

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation, 109 West State Street

CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE  
New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The High Bridge Reformed Church complex consists of the main Carpenter Gothic Church, the attached chapel and the parsonage in the rear.

The High Bridge Reformed Church is a one story rectangular board and batten structure with side tower. The building measures 41.6 feet by 68 feet and is 71 feet high at the peak of the steep pitched gable roof. The tower with spire reaches to 83 feet. The tower has a belfry and copper sheathed short steeple (in 1930 a storm destroyed a taller steeple). The gable roof has exposed rafters and the slate is alternating courses of straight and scalloped shingles. Two-thirds the distance up the roof are five triangular dormers piercing the severe roof line. These dormers have triangular stained glass windows in each.

The front and rear facades of the church have eight foot diameter Rose windows. The rear Rose window is in the box-like apse. Beneath the east Rose window is the main church entrance. This double door entrance is protected by a brief steep pitched overhang with collar beam. The side tower has an additional similar entrance vestibule. The linear sides have five gothic arch stained glass windows divided by five flying buttresses of wood set on cement bases.

The interior of the church is nearly completely original and features a simple center aisle and two rows of five wooden benches. The most impressive interior feature of the church is the massive open arched ceiling with collar beams in a stained wood. There is a small balcony in the rear of the church above the main entranceway.

The chapel was attached to the main church in 1905. Measuring 69 feet by 43 feet, it is of frame construction with shingles and is compatible with the design of the main church.

The parsonage was built around 1875 and is in the rear of the main church. This is a fine L-form frame dwelling. It is 2 1/2 stories with a low-pitched gable roof with returns. There is an entablature beneath the eaves. The street oriented windows have elaborate wood cornices. Other cornices are much simpler. A one story porch with round posts and square bases fills in the el of the building. A bay window is also on the front. The foundation is random fieldstone.

The complex is on a rectangular corner lot 250 feet long by 200 feet wide, located at Church Street and Fairview Avenue.

# 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	Church - 1870	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Possibly George B. Post, architect
	Parsonage - 1905		Joseph Fowler, Builder

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Architecture

The High Bridge Reformed Church, built in 1870, is one of the finest examples of Carpenter Gothic style of architecture in New Jersey.

There is some indication that noted architect George B. Post designed this church. A number of references document this. While the original papers pertaining to the construction of the church could not be located, church minutes of the dedication of the chapel in 1906 refer to Post as the architect of the main church. In addition, Helen M. Voorhees, daughter of Oscar Voorhees, pastor of the church from 1901-1905, writes that the architect of the church was George B. Post. Furthermore, Lewis H. Taylor, owner of the Taylor Iron and Steel Works in the third quarter of the 19th century was a prominent New Jerseyan industrialist with intimate New York connections while Post did have a summer home in nearby Bernardsville, New Jersey. Unfortunately, archival sources have not been located which clearly document this as a Post design although Leslie Ike, a Doctoral candidate in Fine Arts at Columbia University is preparing her Ph.D. dissertation on the career of George Post and is quite certain that this is a Post building.

If her research conclusively establishes the High Bridge Reformed Church as being one of George Post's, this would be the earliest surviving example of his work in the United States.

### Religion

Residents of High Bridge petitioned the Classic of Raritan to organize the Reformed Dutch Church in 1866. Almost immediately, its members created a committee to build the present church. The committee was made up of High Bridge's most prominent residents - Lewis H. Taylor, William S. Seals, Joseph Elton, Andrew Cregar, Jr. and Johnson Hummer. In its spiritual influence, the High Bridge Church had a major impact on the development of the town.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.1 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME High Bridge, NJ

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 508890 4501960

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 11, Lot 7 - High Bridge Borough Tax Map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Revised by T. Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation)

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Repka

ORGANIZATION

High Bridge Historical Commission

DATE

3/5/1979

STREET & NUMBER

41 Beaver Street

TELEPHONE

(201) 638-8186

CITY OR TOWN

High Bridge

STATE

New Jersey

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

*Lance K. Smith*

TITLE

Deputy SHPO

DATE

8/15/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Barbara Repka*

DATE

11/21/80

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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High Bridge Reformed Church, High Bridge, Hunterdon County, NJ

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Snells' History of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. 1881 (Pg. 529-530).

Northwestern New Jersey, A. V. Honeyman. 1927, Volume II (Pg. 865).

Centennial Booklet High Bridge Reformed Church. 1966.

Centennial Directory High Bridge Reformed Church. 1966.

Records of the High Bridge Reformed Church located in Pastor's Office.

Lithographic view of High Bridge. 1886.

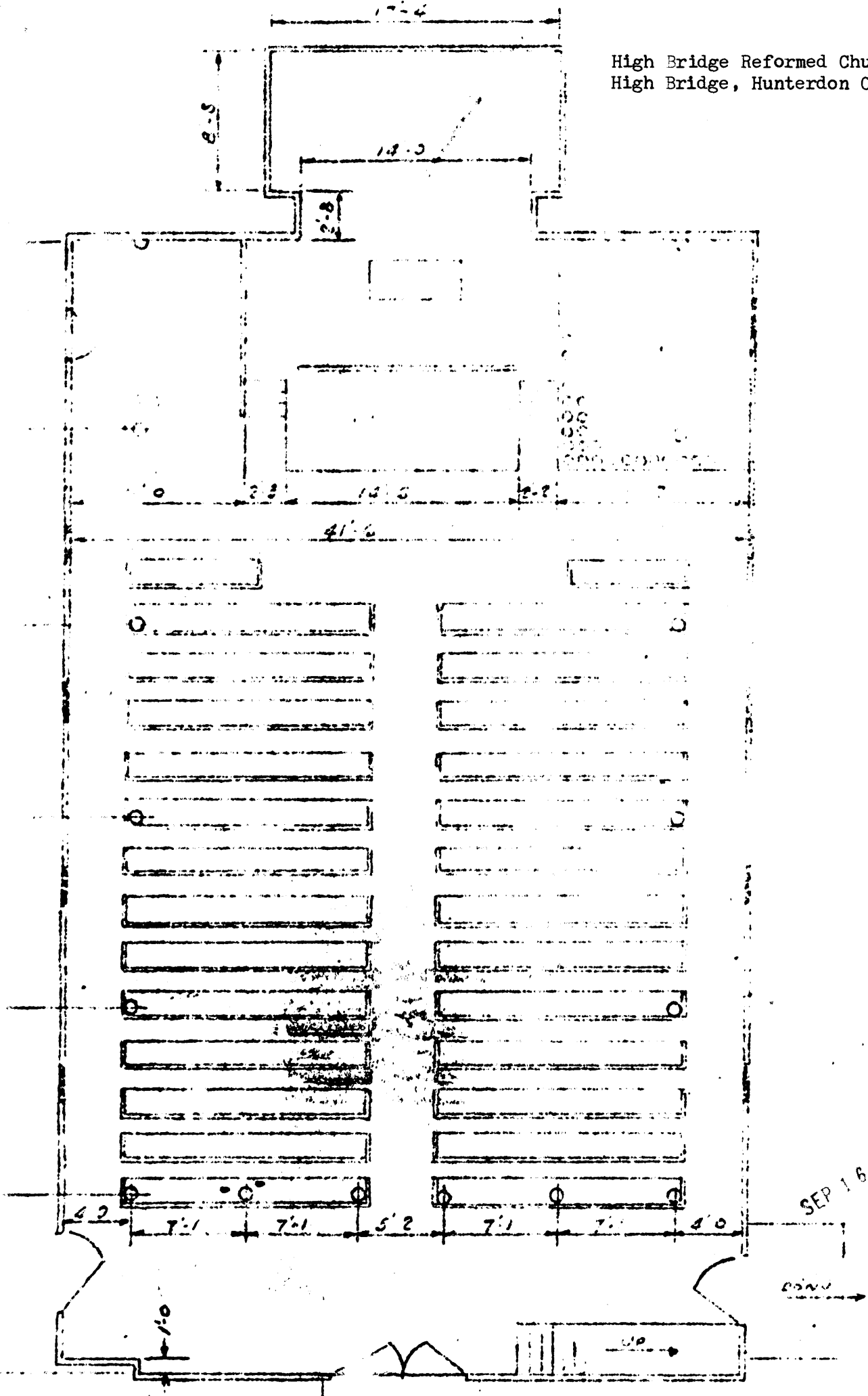
Withey, Bibliographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased).  
(pp. 482-484).

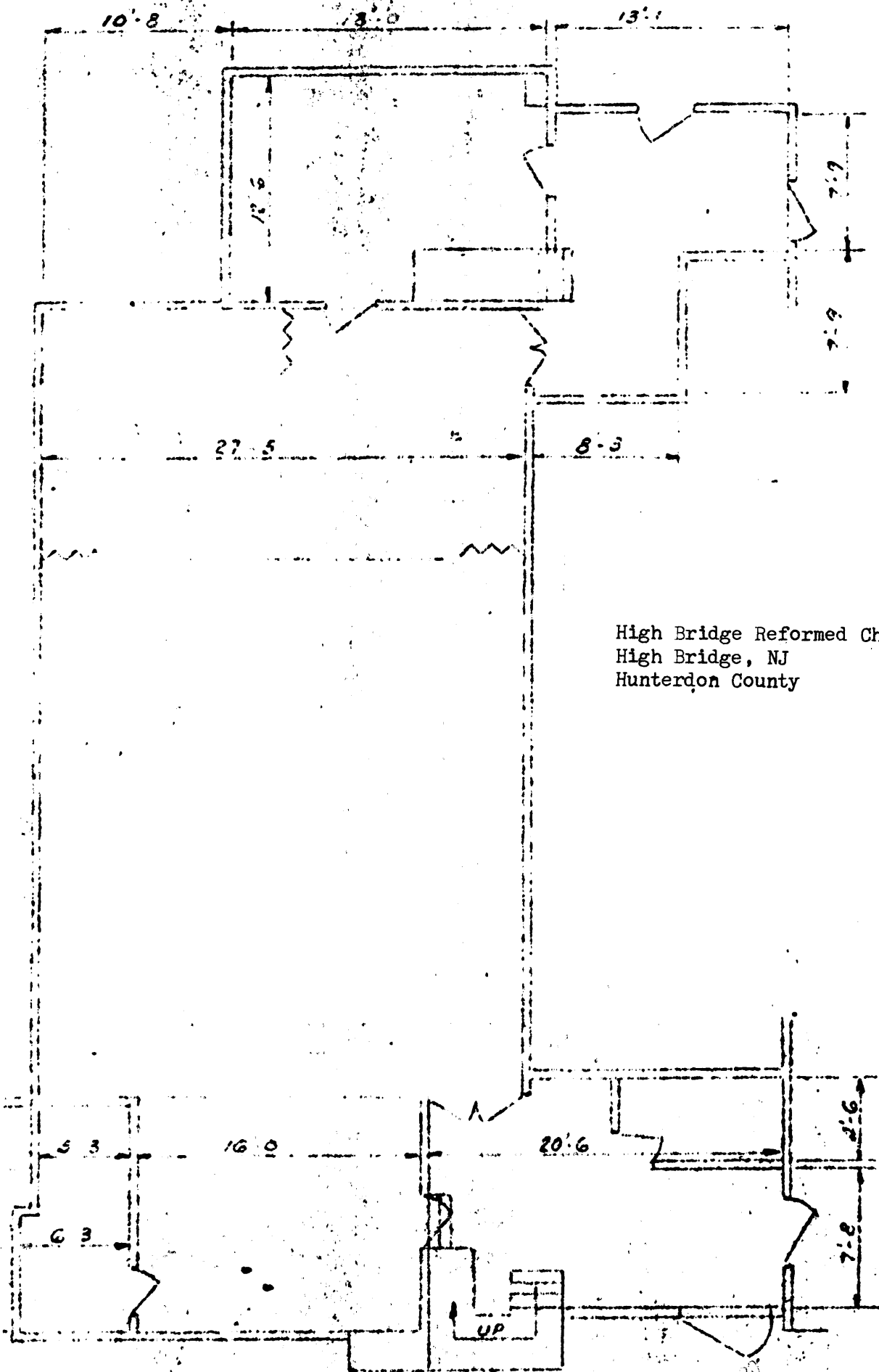
"Dedication of the Chapel of the Reformed Church of High Bridge, New Jersey". May, 1907.

Clinton Democrat. 2/2/1872, 7/14/1872.

Hunterdon Republican. 7/7/1870.

High Bridge Reformed Church  
High Bridge, Hunterdon County NJ





High Bridge Reformed Church  
High Bridge, NJ  
Hunterdon County

CHURCH CHAPEL

SEP 18 1937

