Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET
STATE:
New Jersey
COUNTY:
Bergen
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections) FEB 2			
1. NAME	5 1975		
COMMON:			
Paramus Reformed Church Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
Old Paramus Church (Peremis Kirk)			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
660 E. Glen Ave. at Franklin Turnpike & Route #17			
CITY OR TOWN: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:			
Ridgewood 7th			
CTATC			
Nov. Torono	CODE		
	1003		
3. CLASSIFICATION			
I OWNERSHIP I STATUS I	CCESSIBLE		
(Check One)	THE PUBLIC		
District Building Public Public Acquisition:	Yes:		
Structure Invale Invale Unoccupied	Restricted		
Object Both Being Considered Preservation work	Unrestricted		
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PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)	VA .		
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Educational Military XX Religious			
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7.	DESCRIPTION							
					(Che	ck One)		
	CONDITION	☐ Excellent	🔀 Good	☐ Fair	☐ Det	eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	1e)			(Ch	eck One)	
		— Alter	ed	☐ Unaltered			Moved	XX Original Site

Church: The only description of the 1735 building is hypothetical. Rev. Aaron B. Winfield wrote (c. 1853): "Like all early Dutch churches it was built of stone, with an octagonal roof, and steeple in the center." However on a detailed early map (Watkins 1780) it is shown as a rectangular building approximately 38' x 50'.

A 1784 resolution said "that the church was much dilapidated and must be repaired" and it was done after a meeting on June 23, 1785. However it again fell into "deplorable condition" and in 1799 it was decided to do a major rebuilding job by leaving three of the walls standing and lengthening two of them 30'. According to the Doop Boeck (baptismal record), a second decision was made "that all the old walls be entirely taken down, and new ones erected. That a new church be built, its extent to be sixty-five feet in length and fifty in breadth; that it be fronted toward the East, and be placed South of the old church." While the new building was being built, a large barn across the Saddle River served as a temporary church. The old stones and other materials were incorporated into the new church which was more or less complete in 1800. The Classis of Paramus was organized here on September 2, 1800, and Dutch Bibles were used and the language spoken until about 1811.

The present building, measuring 50'-6" x 65'-6", was erected in 1800 using some of the material from the old church. It is a Neo-Gothic 3-bay by 3-bay one-story structure built of native sandstone and has a U-shaped balcony and vaulted ceiling. The tower in center front is topped by a tall octagonal steeple. The bell within has the inscription: "Thos. Mears. Fecit London 1801". There is a rose medallion window in the tower and three-feather Prince Albert design windows. The gable roof is now covered with slate and has a small "kick" where it meets the Carpet was put down on the wood floors in 1851 but in 1859 it was decided to put down new floors and raise them 8". Also in that year the two windows flanking the front door were changed into doors. In 1874 the building was remodelled and "modernized", and the galleries were enlarged increasing the seating capacity to 500. In 1892 an addition was made to the apse to accommodate a pipe organ. This area was further enlarged in 1969. A tablet on the outside of the front wall commemorates the Revolutionary encampment and burial site, and there is also a Bergen County Historical Society marker.

Present Parsonage: The house is an elongated "L", roughly 31' x 70 1/2" one and a half stories and of frame construction covered with narrow clapboards for the most part. The front faces east toward the brook and old road, away from the present entrance road. The basement is of cut sandstone except for later changes made in brick and cinder block. Incorporated into

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	16th Century	XX 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	XX 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) 1776,	1778, 1799, 18	374
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	TReligion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
XX Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	X Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Religion/Philosophy: In the Colonial period "Paramus" was the name given to a large area which was served by this church. It was located at the crossroads of two important thoroughfares the Clove Road from Hackensack through the Ramapo Pass to Goshen and beyond, and another from Tappan, N.Y. through Hoppertown (now Ho-Ho-Kus) to Pompton and beyond. church was one of the first stone Dutch Reformed churches in Bergen County to be built outside of Hackensack, and became the mother church of the Saddle River Reformed in Upper Saddle River, the Ramapo Reformed in Mahwah, the Pascack Reformed in Park Ridge, the Ridgewood Reformed, and the True Reformed in Ridgewood (now First Presbyterian Church). According to "Ecclesiastical Records of N.Y." a call was issued by the "Churches of New Barbadoes, Schraalenburgh and Peremes" for a minister on September 3, 1725. On November 17, 1726 Peter Fauconier, one of the proprietors of the 42,500 acre Romopock Tract (Ramapo) offered to give the congregation 45 acres "just over the Saddle River adjoining to John Boskirk's land there. for the encouragement of their erecting of a protestant Church and the procuring of a minister to serve same." Apparently no regular minister was obtained until 1730 and Fauconier repeated his offer on December 26 of that year. (This document is in the church archives). Finally the first stone of the building was laid (inscribed "Den 21 Dagh van April is de Eerste steen van de Kirk Gelegt.") on approximately 3 acres of Fauconier In 1748 Paramus had their own minister and on April 13, 1750 received the deed to 45 acres of the parsonage farm promised them by Fauconier, from Mrs. Magdalene Valleau, his daughter.

Military: Bergen County became involved in the Revolutionary War when Cornwallis invaded in Novembr 1776. The church became a strategic post and at different times was used as a barracks, hospital and prison and was even proposed as the nucleus of a strong fortification (Watkins 1780). Gen. George Clinton and the New York militia encamped here in December 1776 (Papers of George Clinton, Vol. I). The Pennsylvania and North Carolina Regiments also spent time as well local

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES				
	rch	Pecord Rook) Classic of		
Het Doop Boeck 1740-1850 (Chu Paramus 1902	ı cn	Record book) Classis of		
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Paramus Church Manual and Bap	tis	ms. Records 1858-59.		
Manual Record. Published by	Ord	er of the Consistory, 1859		
History of Bergen and Passaic	Co	unties. Clayton and Nelson 1882		
The Revolutionary War in the	Hac	kensack Valley. Adrian C. Leiby		
Revolutionary Days in Paramus		Willard De Yoe.		
Paramus, a Chronicle of Four	Cen	turies. Frederick W. Bogert		
Background of Ho-Ho-Kus Histo	гy.	Sue Huason		
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES		LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES		
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY		
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I. FORM PREPARED BY				
Claire K. Tholl, architectural historian				
organization	T U	1Storian		
Old Paramus Church 250th Anni	ver			
STREET AND NUMBER:		3 3 7 7		
660 East Glen Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN:	1	STATE CODE		
Ridgewood		New Jersey 34		
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION		
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-	- 11	I hereby certify that this property is included in the		
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public La	- 11	National Register		
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion	!!	A COMMANDE		
in the National Register and certify that it has been	11	apworleusen		
evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures a forth by the National Park Service. The recommend	- 11			
level of significance of this nomination is:		Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation		
National State Local XX		, ,		
		Date 3/25/75		
		Date		
Name David I Kandin		ATTEST:		
David J. Fardin	1	_		
Title		al later		
Commissioner Dept. of	-	Keeper of The National Register		
Environmental Protection				
Date November 13, 1974		Date 2.27. >5		
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Paramus Reformed Church Historic District Ridgewood Bergen County, 003 New Jersey, 34

2. Location (Continued)

Beginning at the intersection of Route 17 and Saddle River proceed south along Saddle River 250 feet. Thence, proceed west 50 feet, south 100 feet, west 400 feet, north 175 feet, west 350 feet, north 125 feet, and west 100 feet. Thence, proceed north to Glen Avenue. Thence, proceed west 1,625 feet. Thence, proceed southeast along Franklin Turnpike to the point of beginning.

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7. RESTRIPTION/(contd.)

a later foundation wall is a date stone (now concealed by a brick porch) marked "D.A. 174" (last digit obliterated) which could be correct for some part of the house. Tradition says the house was built by John C. Bogert in 1833 and certainly much of the work was done at that time period but parts of it are obviously older. main section measuring 18' x 40' has the appearance and construction of an 1800-10 building but has the cosmeticizing of the 1830's; added frieze with false eyebrow windows, added over-window mantels, and the gable-end fireplaces have mantels of that period but have fireplace supports of an earlier period. There is a center hall with a transomed and side-lighted door. Wide floor boards run throughout. A lean-to enlargement is to the rear (now front) of this section. The wing contains the oldest part, measuring approximately 14' x 22', which is now the dining room. Pre-Revolutionary features are the heavy, finished and widely spaced beams, low door heads and H & L hinges. A section to the south has been added on and the roof raised. The present building probably comprises two separate dwelling houses joined together, possibly one being the old schoolhouse in front of church.

Old Paramus Schoolhouse Museum: This is a frame and clapboard one and a half story, 3-bay by 4-bay building measuring 32' x 60' (which cost \$4,600 in 1872). It has a brown sandstone foundation (no basement), high ceilings, a large attic, a double front door, Gothic windows, a wing in the rear that contained the original restrooms, a large globe stove, which is original but no longer in its center-of-the-room location. The original wainscote remains on the plaster walls. Much of the school equipment remains and the building is basically unaltered except for the removal of a cumbersome square belfry tower. A descriptive Bergen County Historical Society marker stands on the front lawn.

Cemeteries: The oldest burial place in the area is adjacent to the church on the tract donated by Peter Fauconier in 1730. It was in use from about 1735 until about 1852 when it was filled (although it contains a monument with the date 1896). Many Revolutionary soldiers of both armies are buried here, besides early settlers, and most of their graves are marked with crude stones. Victims of a British raid on the church area in March 1780 are here, as well as Captain John Hooper, a Bergen County militia officer. In 1853 burials were made across the street in what is now the 32.37 acre Valleau Cemetery, a section of which is part of the 45 acre farm turned over by Magdalene Valleau in 1750. This cemetery was incorporated in 1859 and early ministers are

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DESCRIPTION (contd.)

interred in the front or southeast corner. The old cemetery was enclosed with a wood fence but now both have an iron spindle fence. An area on the north side of the church defines the site of the early church with similar and post-1800 headstones.

Parsonages: When Benjamin Van der Linde became pastor of the church in 1748 the Elders and Deacons agreed to furnish him with a suitable farm and parsonage. On April 13, 1750 Magdalene Valleau gave the deed for the 45 acres of land and a parsonage was built across the highway about where the sexton's house (c. 1880) stands. A little further north a second parsonage of brown sandstone was built in 1791 in the Dutch style. It was repaired in 1859 but razed in 1872 and a large Victorian house built which lasted until the early 1960's when it too was razed after being sold on December 3, 1962 to a developer. To the southeast of the church is another old house which has now become the parsonage. The earliest known possessor of this tract was John Boskerke and on August 23, 1743 it was leased from the Proprietors by Johannes Davidse Ackerman (1711-1751). had no children, his brother Gerret Ackerman's son Jon Hannes probably occupied the house afterwards, hence the designation on Erskine's maps that this was the house of "J. Ackerman". He had a "Smith's Shop" on the road near the river, toward the front of the house. Recent owners were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert G. Wahle who renovated and altered the house in 1948. On August 3, 1965 the Congregation of the Paramus Church bought the house and 3.09 acres for use as a parsonage and therefore it is included in the district.

Other Former Buildings: In the summer of 1851 horse sheds were built on the church property to the west of the church and they lasted until a fire destroyed them on January 30, 1954. In 1874 a building called the Union or Republican Hall, which had been designed by William Ranlett, (the architect of the Hermitage remodelling in 1845), was moved onto church property and used as a Sunday school and social center. It became known as the Chapel and even served as a church at the times when work was being done in the church. It was remodelled at least twice and in 1909 it was raised and a basement added. It was torn down in 1959 after the present Education Building was completed.

General: The Paramus Church Historic District has four extant buildings on the premises: the church (1799), the parsonage (c. 1833), the schoolhouse (1872), and the education building (erected in the 1950's). Only the education building is less than 100 years old.

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7. DESCRIPTION

In addition to the extant buildings there are several other building sites which are marked by depressions or foundations.

The Valleau Cemetery, which was not begun until 1853 after the original cemetery was filled, is included as part of the nomination because of substantial documentation indicating it was a Revolutionary encampment for Continental soldiers.

There are no other buildings on the nearly 40 acres of land.



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (contd.)

militiamen. Gen. George Washington established headquarters at Paramus several times and wrote 27 letters from here, at least one bears the heading "Pyramus Church" (to Gen. Horatio Gates, July 11, 1778). Washington was here from July 11-15 for the continuation of the court-martial of Gen. Charles Lee. Gen. Lord Stirling presided over the court-martial and Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton was one of the witnesses. Other famed figures were Gen. Richard Henry Lee and his Light Horse, Col. George Baylor and his Virginia Dragoons, Gen. Anthony Wayne, Col. Aaron Burr and the Marquis de Lafayette. Washington spent a total of 10 days here during 1778-1780 and was at Paramus when work of the arrival of the French fleet and forces to aid the Continental Army, came.

Education: Since about 1730 a school has always been connected with the church. The location of the first one is not known but stood close to the original church. The schoolhouse during Revolutionary times was a building approximately 22' x 40' formerly a dwelling, located just east of the present church, and a depression marking its site still exists. In 1810 a small stone building was erected across the highway just south of the sexton's house (c. 1880). In 1820 a second stone building was constructed about 200' east of the 1872 schoolhouse (which is included in this survey). In 1845 that gave way to a frame building almost on the same spot. This last building remained until about 1958 but was succeeded as a school when the present school #45 was built in 1872-3. Since April 23, 1955 it has been used as the museum of the Paramus Historical and Preservation Society and is still owned by the church. The society came into being to preserve the early furnishings of the church and has items such as the 18th C. communion table, church chairs, a Carolean-type chair 1660-1685, footwarmers, Bible, communion service, etc. Other exhibits include room settings of various periods, and school and occupational items. It also has an excellent small historical library. It was rented by the Board of Education as a school until 1905 and is the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in Ridgewood.

Architecture: The Paramus Reformed Church is typical of the numerous Dutch Reformed churches constructed in thelate 18th - early 19th century in Bergen County, New Jersey.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (contd.)

Apparently the Dutch Reformed hierarchy adopted this rectangular plan with projecting central front tower from the First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth (1784). One differing characteristic of the Paramus Reformed Church is that, unlike most of the Dutch Reformed churches built during the period in New Jersey the Old Paramus Reformed Church does not have a pedimented gable roof. Instead the roof ends with a slight sweep -- an unusual and distinct feature.

Although the church spire, the windows, and the doorways have been altered and a one story wooden porch added during the Victorian era the exterior form of the church has been little changed.

There are only six late 18th - early 19th century Dutch Reformed Churches remaining in Bergen County.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (contd.)

Turkey Feathers by Rosa A. Livingston



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Paramus Reformed Church Historic District Ridgewood
Bergen, 003
New Jersey, 34

7. Description (cont.)

The education building, erected in the late 1950's is a two story red brick building with a gable roof and an auditorium. The brick is trimmed in white. The building was designed in a 20th century neo-colonial style.

Paramus Reformed Church District represents a late 18th-19th century religious complex which was associated with the Dutch community in New Jersey.

The church property is nearly completely surrounded by modern development, but still presents quite an isolated appearance in and of itself. The property is bordered on the south and west by modern housing, on the north by the Franklin Turnpike (Route 17) and on the east by the Saddle River and the highway.

8. Significance (cont.)

Now known as Ridgewood in the 18th century this area was a large vaguely defined farming settlement called Paramus, or Peremis. A number of isolated 18th century Dutch sandstone farmhouses still extant in the area in addition to a number of known foundations on or near the property indicates the probability of a small, but never extensive, settlement.

In the late 18th and 19th centuries the influence exerted by the church was not limited to the religious life of the settlement. It was a vital force in providing a basic education, also, as evidenced by the foundations of three previous schools on the church property. Further, the 1873 schoolhouse was the 5th school organization under the supervision of the Paramus Church since 1730.

The present parsonage, possibly built by John C. Bogert in 1833, was not part of the original church property, but, being closely contemporary to the church, fitsinto the district quite neatly.

