

PH0367818

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Salem	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 19 1977	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church

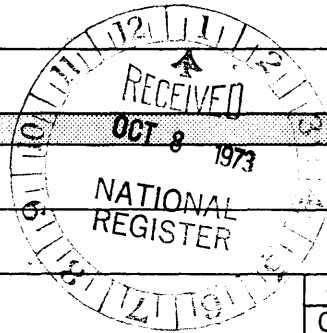
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church Complex

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street (Daretown-Aldine)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Daretown

STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34      COUNTY: Salem      CODE: 033



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Daretown      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Salem County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
92 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salem      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey NJ-213

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey  
COUNTY: Salem  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pittsgrove Church, built in 1767, is surrounded by tombstones of its past parishoners. These tombstones also separate it from the presently used Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church, built in 1864. Also located to the rear of the old church is a reconstructed log cabin similar to the one which housed the Pittsgrove Log College which flourished in the early nineteenth century.

INTERIOR:

The church is one story with side and rear galleries. The baluster is original. The wood floor of the first story covers the original brick floor. There are double entrance ways and a winder staircase on either side. The walls have wood panelled wainscoting and plaster above. There is a high pulpit and boxed-in pews. Both the pulpit and the pews have intricate design work. There are initials over the door and a 1767 date.

EXTERIOR:

The church is a two story gable roof, square shaped building. It is three bayed on all sides and the windows are twelve over twelve sash. The shutters are panelled and contain the original hardware. There are no shutters on the second floor. The door is five panelled.

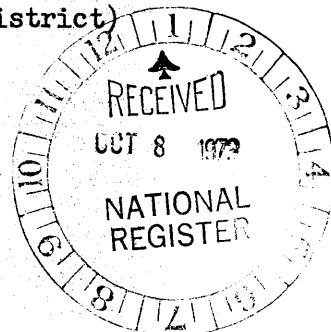
The Pittsgrove Church is typical of the buildings found in the Salem County area of New Jersey in that it is of Flemish bond brick. The arches over the windows are also typical of the area.

The church and the surrounding buildings are unusual because they are well preserved in the nineteenth century setting.

The revised Description is contained on the following Continuation Sheets.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Harrison A. Williams  
 Clifford P. Case  
 Charles W. Sandman (2nd District)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

1767 Church:

The 1767 Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church is a two story, square plan consisting of three bays on a side, with a shingle covered pitch roof. Surmounting this structure is a cove molded roof over hang, portions of which on the gable ends support a short pent roof. All windows in the church are twelve over twelve double hung, with an arch, radiating voussiors and keystone. The windows across the first floor contain beveled three panel shutters. Entrance to the church is obtained through two, ten panel doors, one of which is located in the northeast corner and the other in the southeast, under the second floor end bay.

The floor plan is basically that of one room, with a gallery extending across three sides, supported on enlarged turned ballusters. All walls are paneled fascia surmounted by a ballustrade. A box pulpit is the focal point of the nave, and is reached by a small stair. The pulpit front is paneled with a central three sided protrusion for the speaker, which resembles the traditional octagonal pulpit form. The entire box pulpit is surmounted by a tester which echoes the pulpit in plan. The interior also features a segmental barrel vault formed of plaster.

1864 Church:

Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church is a pitch roof basilican form, of five bays with a protruding, central, frontal tower. This Italian Romanesque building (which dates circa 1864) has a small pitch roof and a 20th century rear addition. The church is a common bond brick structure, the facade of which takes the form of a pedimented pavilion with an imposed square tower. Both the tower and edges of the front facade are decorated with wide brick pilasters, each with a long inset panel. Surmounting the tower is an octagonal wood pavilion, with a frame octagonal spire. Each bay has a large round head, arched opening, containing a double round head arch, surmounted by a central oculis. A pair of windows of this type flank the tower on the front facade. Entrance to the church is obtained through a round arch opening articulated with brick coining and voussiors. Features of the second floor are a Romanesque tri-part arch window, surmounted by an oculis.

The interior is not distinguished. Therefore, it is not felt to be noteworthy. The church is presently used for all church activities and services.

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

Outbuildings, etc.:

Situated to the rear of the 1767 church is a c. 1941, reconstruction one story log cabin. The logs are square hewn with dove tailed corners and rest upon wide bonds of chinking brick. All windows are six over six double hung. The roof is a medium shingle covered gable and the gable ends contain narrow gauge boards and batten.

The 1767 Pittsgrove Church is surrounded by a cemetery, containing the tombstones of early members of the church. Among the deceased members are twenty-six men of the Revolution, eight of the War of 1812 and eight of the Civil War. This cemetery also serves as a divider, isolating the 1767 church from the new 1864 church and the replica log cabin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1767

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>local history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

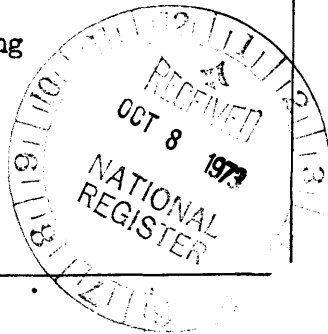
The Pittsgrove Church was organized on April 30, 1741. Situated in a log cabin, it was the first Presbyterian congregation in present Salem County. While the church is in Daretown, it takes its name from the township in which it is located. It shares with the Friends Meeting House at Hancock's Bridge the honor of being one of the two oldest houses of worship in Salem County.

The first pastor at the log church was the reverend David Evans. He was a man of great learning and he established a log school house on the grounds of the church. Evans died in 1751 and was replaced by the Reverend Nehemiah Greenman. He continued the Reverend Evans' work as pastor and schoolmaster when he was not fleeing from the British as he was an ardent patriot. It was during his pastorate that a permanent church was built in 1767.

William Schenck became pastor in 1780. He was a graduate of Princeton and stayed as pastor for seven years. It was during his ministry that the log school flourished. According to Sickler, in his history of Salem County, parents sent their children from great distances to be educated at the Log College as it had come to be called. The Pittsgrove Log College ceased after Schenck's pastorate ended, but during its brief term it educated such responsible citizens as doctors, historians, and even an Attorney General for the state of New Jersey.

The Pittsgrove Congregation grew rapidly during the early 1800's and by the time of the Civil War a larger church was needed. The cornerstone for the new church was laid in 1864. After the building of the new structure, the old one was maintained to be used to hold special services.

The newer church is noted for the bells that hang in the steeple. They were made from fifty silver dollars, melted and cast into bells. Another feature of this church is that there are two complete pipe organs in the sanctuary.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

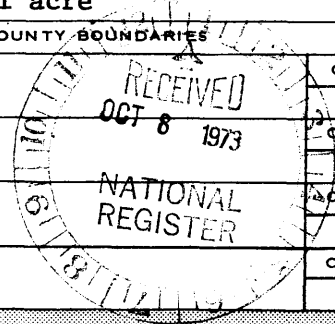
1. Historic American Buildings Survey, N.J.213, 1936
2. Sheppard and Cushing History of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties, 1883.
3. Sickler, Joseph S. History of Salem County, New Jersey, Sunbeam Publishing Company, Salem, New Jersey, 1937
4. Lars de Lagerberg, New Jersey Architecture, Walter Whittum Inc. Springfield, Mass., 1956
5. Cody, Edward The Religious Issue in Revolutionary New Jersey, N.J. Historical Commission, 1975

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY	O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
UTMs		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">18</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">477630</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">4383310</td> </tr> </table>	18	477630	4383310		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
18	477630	4383310				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 1 acre**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Revised: George A. Chidley IV, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Department of Environmental Protection      DATE: Jan. 1977

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1120

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 31

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name: *Richard J. Sullivan*  
Richard J. Sullivan

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: June 15, 1973

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

*Wm. H. ...*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date: 9/19/77

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9.19.77

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

The 1767 Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church exemplifies the phenomenon of a spread of dominant cultural forms (these being the Quaker vernacular architectural modes as the dominant form in this area) to a non-dominant culture (the Pittsgrove Presbyterians). The church is one of the finer pieces of rural Quaker type architecture. This is demonstrated in the plaster gauge molding, stone jack arches carefully proportioned bays; also in the interior paneling and turned columns.

The 1864 Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church is an example of "Italian Romanesque" Revival church architecture, which is demonstrated in the corble table, scroll brackets and Romanesque double arch windows. It also shows how the "Georgian" church form was dressed in fashionable garb. Furthermore it exemplifies the provincial architectural phenomenon in which new styles were not truly understood except in terms of details (above mentioned).

Both church buildings are fine surviving examples of the above described architectural types. The 1767 Pittsgrove Church is one of the two oldest houses of worship in Salem County.

Between 1712 and 1714 the region now known as Upper Pittsgrove began to be settled by Presbyterians from New York, Long Island, New England and East Jersey. The Presbyterian congregation at Pilesgrove (now Pittsgrove) was organized April 30, 1741 and consisted of 49 members (which was considered to be large, as from 8 to 14 was typical at this time). No record exists on where these people met prior to 1742, when a log church and school were erected. The church remained until 1765 when due to the deteriorating condition of the structure, a proposal for a new church was passed. In 1767 a new church structure (built in Quaker vernacular mode) was completed and replaced the log structure.

The school, which later became known as "Pittsgrove Log College", prepared young men for further study in the ministry, law, and medicine. Among the students of the school were Robert G. Johnson, who became Salem County's first historian, well known citizen and landowner. Pastors of the Pittsgrove Church also served as teachers in the school until 1786, when church law allowed others to teach. A replica of the Pittsgrove College now stands on the exact site of the original log school and serves as a monument to the religious spirit upon which the community was founded.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The Pittsgrove congregation, like many other Presbyterian groups, were activists during the War of Independence. Dr. Isaac Harris, a ruling elder in the Church, was a member of the first committee of Salem Patriots and represented the county at provincial meetings. John Dickenson, Jacob DuBois and Dr. Harris were members of the county committees of correspondence, and after war broke out Dr. Harris served as surgeon with the colonial troops.

During the Revolution, two companies were formed from the congregation of the Pittsgrove Church. The first company formed September 20, 1775, was the first detachment of Minutemen in Salem County. This unit was placed under the command of Captain Jacob DuBois and was used as a home guard to repel British raiders, out of Philadelphia. The second company commanded by Captain Cornelius Newkirk saw considerable action at Valley Forge, Brandywine, Mount Holly, Bordentown, Trenton and Princeton among others.

The bodies of those who fought during the Revolution and in each succeeding war are interred in the cemetery (surrounding the 1767 Church), which serves as a reminder of the patriotic support given by the members (past) of the Pittsgrove congregation.

During the 1800's the Pittsgrove congregation had grown sufficiently to warrant the building of a new and larger church. In 1864, the present Pittsgrove Church was constructed and the old church left empty, only to be used for special services. The newer Church, due to the strains of a growing congregation, made additions to the church which served to house Sunday school classes. This church is also reknowned for its silver toned bells which were cast in Troy and have contained in them fifty melted silver dollars.

The Pittsgrove Presbyterians have made a significant impact in the areas of education, religion, local history and architecture all of which have been mentioned in the above. The Pittsgrove Church Complex stands as a monument to these past outstanding achievements, and is viewed with pride by the citizens of Pittsgrove and, more over, those of Salem County.