

PH0660370

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 16 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

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 Wickcliffe Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON 13th Avenue Presbyterian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 111 13th Avenue (on the corner of 13th & Boston Streets)

CITY, TOWN Newark

NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 10th

STATE New Jersey

CODE 34

COUNTY Essex

CODE 013

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 First Presbyterian Church Colored Congregation~~

STREET & NUMBER ~~111 13th Avenue~~

CITY, TOWN Newark

STATE New Jersey

*Rev. Gibson
38 Boston St.
Newark 07103
NJ
per SHPO Office 2/8/78*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Newark City Hall

STREET & NUMBER Block #208 Lot #23

CITY, TOWN Newark

STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey

DATE April, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry

CITY, TOWN Trenton

STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the corner of 13th Avenue and Boston Street in Newark's Central Ward, the Wickcliffe Presbyterian Church is Richardsonian Romanesque Revival in style. The plan of the structure, though asymmetrical, is basically rectangular with a semi-circular apse at the southern end. On the ground floor, the building contains an auditorium, a library, the sanctuary and, in the apse, Sunday School facilities. The second floor has a gallery, classrooms, the church parlors and the Pastor's study. The kitchen is in the basement.

The main (west) elevation is dominated by a circular stone vestibule and stair tower, seventy-five feet high and sixteen feet in diameter. Like the remainder of the two story structure, the tower is laid up in two tones of rock-faced brownstone and brick, arranged in ornamental bands and string courses. A major pair of round arched stained glass windows are symmetrically placed beneath the peak of the gabled on the west elevation. The roofs of the structure, gabled on the west and east elevations, were clad with slate originally. The southern elevation, with the apse, is delineated by two cone shaped roofs of the tower and the apse itself.

The structure retains much of its original fabric and character of Romanesque revival style, but, mostly in deteriorated condition. The original slate roofs were replaced with composite tiles.

Toilets were added on the second floor and cellar. Heating system has been changed from hot air to hot water with radiators.

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 checked="" 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

1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Halsey Wood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wickcliffe Presbyterian Church, built ca. 1889, is significant for its historic associations with the oldest black congregation in Newark, in addition to being a good example of Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style architecture in New Jersey.

Religion/Social-Humanitarian

The black congregation which occupied the edifice from 1910 to 1966 is still the owner of the property. Old First Presbyterian Church on Broad Street was the church of origin of the Black congregation. Although slaves and freemen were allowed to worship at this predominantly white church, they were not permitted to participate in the administration of the church. In addition, they were only allowed to be seated in the upstairs gallery which presented a physical problem as the black congregation grew in numbers. By 1831, the black congregation had become so thoroughly dissatisfied that it left Old First Presbyterian Church and formed a mission. The congregation worshipped in the various homes of its members. In 1835, one year before the incorporation of Newark as a city, this congregation petitioned the Newark Presbyterian to be denominated as the First Presbyterian Colored Congregation and the request was granted. In 1836 a chapel was erected on Plane Street where the congregation worshipped until 1910.

In the meantime, the Wickcliffe Presbyterian Church was erected by a white congregation in 1889. This congregation continued to worship here until 1910. By this time, the neighborhood had begun to change dramatically and financial problems ensued. The white congregation moved and the Plane Street Black Congregation took over the building after their own building reached such a state of deterioration that it was condemned by the city. In 1921 the name "Wickcliffe" was changed through reincorporation to the 13th Avenue Presbyterian Church. Under the leadership of Reverend Lawrence B. Ellerson, one of the early pastors, the church became one of the earliest self-supporting Black Presbyterian congregations in the North. The church in its past has brought many national leaders and lecturers to Newark and also sponsored a variety of social programs. In 1966 the Presbyterian Congregation moved because of a planned Essex Heights commercial and housing project.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newark Evening News 3/2/1888, 6/13/1888, 4/13/1911, 3/29/1913,
10/26/1935, 10/18/1938, 9/30/1967, 5/28/1968

Incorporation Records of New Jersey, Volume 13, Pg. 64 and Volume
1, Pg. 360, November 22, 1910

Miller, R. Craig. The Domestic Architecture of William Halsey Wood
University of Delaware, 1972

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2058 *less than one*
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 68 84 0	45 09 18 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot seventy feet by one
hundred twenty eight point ten feet, bounded on the South by
13th Avenue and on the west of Boston Street in the City of
Newark, New Jersey.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Terry Karschner, OHP, Trenton, 609-292-2028)

NAME / TITLE

Gene Paul Pasinski

May, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Architects' Community Design Center

484-1344

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

370 Orange Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Newark

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE 12-19-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-27-78
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-26-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Wickcliffe Presbyterian Church
Newark
Essex County New Jersey 034

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However, the edifice was spared from demolition and was occupied by the Prayer Time Temple. The present tenant is the Freewill Baptist Church. Both congregations are black.

Architecture

William Halsey Wood (1855-1897) was a Newark, New Jersey architect best known for his Byzantine Romanesque style churches as represented by the First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church of Newark (1888-90) and the Carnegie Free Library of Braddock, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (1888-9). Another of Wood's significant designs was the rejected plan for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York. If accepted, St. John the Divine would have been three times the size of St. Peters in Rome. Wood primarily worked in the Romanesque style.

The Wickcliffe Presbyterian Church is one of only four extant religious edifices in Newark designed by architect Wood and exhibits Richardsonian Romanesque style architecture.