

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 2 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Broad Street Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The First Presbyterian Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad and Lawrence Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bridgeton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE:  
New Jersey

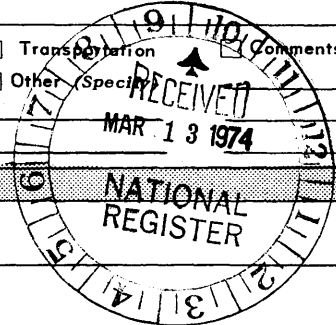
CODE:  
34

COUNTY:  
Cumberland

CODE:  
011

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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)



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Commerce Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bridgeton

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Cumberland County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad and Fayette Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bridgeton

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey NJ 272

DATE OF SURVEY:  
1936

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: Cumberland  
ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 2 1974  
DATE: DEC 2 1974  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a fine example of Church architecture and it remains practically unchanged since its erection in 1792.

Exterior:

The bricks, which were burned from native materials in a local kiln, are Flemish bond. The roof is gabled with wooden shingles. It is five bayed on the east and west elevations and three bayed on the north and south elevations. The windows have semi-circular brick arched openings with twelve over twelve sash. The original hardware still remains.

Interior:

Entrances are on three sides of the building. A high pulpit, about fourteen feet above the main floor, is on the fourth wall. It is reached by a curved stairwell that is interestingly carved. Behind the pulpit is a Palladian window. The aisles are brick with the pew floors slightly raised and of wide boards. The high, straight back pews have doors to the aisles. The square family pews are found in the front of the ground floor and in the gallery. The gallery runs across the rear and down both sides of the building. The walls are wainscoted with beaded boards painted white. Oil burning lights furnish the only illumination and heat is furnished by two old stoves which bear the name of "Jacob Downing, Atsion Furnace". The pipes from these stoves arch across the church to meet in the middle and then slant over the gallery and disappear in the chimney.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1792 1795

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <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

Religion:

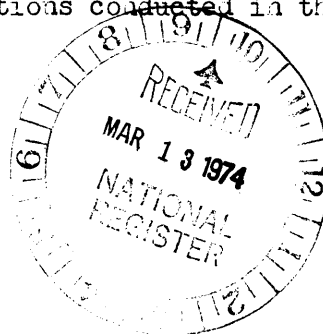
For forty-five years after Bridgeton became the county seat it had no houses of worship. Services for the Presbyterians were held either in the Courthouse or in the church at Greenwich. In 1744, subscriptions were made to purchase land and build a church on the east side of the river but, owing to the opposition of those living on the west side, at the time more numerous and influential, the design was abandoned.

In 1791, Mark Miller, a friend, deeded a two acre lot to be used for a house of worship and a burying ground. About sixteen hundred dollars was subscribed and the foundation stone was laid. Construction began in July of 1792. In 1793 the exterior was finished but the money ran out. A special lottery was authorized by a law of the State Legislature. By means of this money and money raised by the auctioning of the pews, the interior was completed. The church was dedicated on May 17, 1795.

The Reverend William Clarkson was the first minister and his services were shared by this congregation and the one at Greenwich. Until June 10, 1824 the Bridgeton and Greenwich churches were united. At this time the Bridgeton congregation called the Reverend Brogan Hoff as their separate pastor.

The church is still open to visitors but regular services have not been held since two newer and larger Presbyterian churches have been constructed. An annual meeting is held on Thanksgiving Day and services are held on all Sundays in July. There are also special events and anniversary celebrations conducted in this church.

(see continuation sheet (2))



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cushing, T., and Sheppard, C. Histories of the Counties of Salem, Gloucester and Cumberland, New Jersey, Everts and Peck, Philadelphia, 1883.

Mulford, W.C., Historical Tales of Cumberland County Evening News Company, Bridgeton, New Jersey, 1941.

Historic American Buildings Survey

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

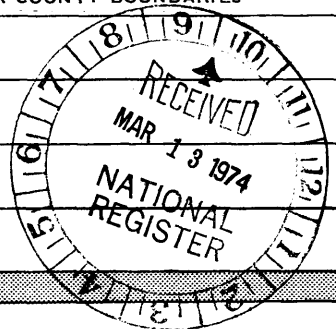
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		39 0 25 . 44 .	75 0 14 . 44 .	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

UTM  
12/479240  
436421L  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.8 acres

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: Staff of Historic Sites Section

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Department of Environmental Protection DATE: June 26, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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: December 27, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Richard W. ...  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/2/74

ATTEST: George Emery  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: Nov. 26, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Old Broad  
Street Church

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

Cumberland Co. 011  
New Jersey 34

(Continuation Sheet) - 2

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>DEC 2</b>	DATE <b>1974</b>

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED

The First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland County, New Jersey

**ARCHITECTURE:** The First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton has architectural significance in that it is representative of the larger churches erected in the decades immediately following the American Revolution. In all respects, the Church adheres to the classicism that dominated Federal architecture. On the exterior, the proportions of the building, the trim around the entrances, and the placement of door and window openings all exhibit the symmetry and balance associated with buildings of the Federal period. The large Palladian window, which overlooks the pulpit, is another characteristic that became increasingly popular after the Revolution. Although Paladian windows can be found on earlier churches such as Christ Church in Philadelphia, they enjoyed their greatest popularity in the post-Revolutionary era.

Inside, the wainscotting around the walls, the square family pews, and the carving on the stairwell are details that came into vogue during the Federal period.

Thus, in many respects, the First Presbyterian Church typifies religious buildings constructed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Furthermore, the similarities between this church and churches in Philadelphia attest both to the influence of the metropolis on surrounding rural areas and to the emerging nationalism and uniformity as expressed in American architecture after the Revolution.

