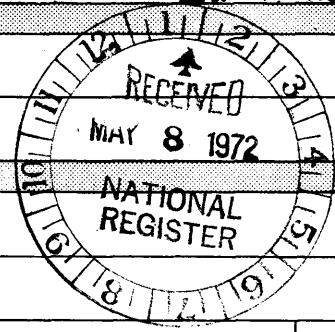


STATE:	New Jersey	
COUNTY:	Ocean	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	APR 9 1972	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



HB E 563620
Z 119 N 4394360

1. NAME

COMMON:
Manahawkin Baptist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Free Church of Manahawkin

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Main Street (Route #9)

CITY OR TOWN:
Manahawkin

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New Jersey	34	Ocean	029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>empty</u>
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No <u>no longer used for worship</u>			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Manahawkin Baptist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
65 Lafayette Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
Manahawkin

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square, Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Toms River

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 1880.1

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites Division, Department of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	New Jersey
COUNTY:	Ocean
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

6-18-73

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

The Manahawkin Baptist Church, or the Free Church of Manahawkin as it was known in historic times, is a wood frame building in good to very good condition. It is approximately 40'x60'.

The physical appearance of the building as it stands today is much the same size as it originally was when built. On February 3, 1864, a committee was appointed to start remodeling or rebuilding the existing structure. The original record book shows that the walls were weakening and the church as it stands today has the original church within it (floors under floors; walls within walls). The rebuilt Church was rededicated 2nd. week of July 1867.

The date of the deed is August 24, 1758 and from the deed it appears the Church was already built. From the best information available this church built prior to 1758 was the first church erected in what was then Lower Mornmouth County (Ocean County was not formed until a later date).

In later years a small addition was built on the back to house the baptismal pool and the spire, or steeple, was lowered to detract lightning after same was hit. The sides are now painted white instead of weathered.

The foundation has been examined and is sound. It is built of brick and mortar.

The roof was originally native cedar wood shingles. It has been replaced with asphalt shingles. It is again in need of a new roof and it is the hope of the Historical Society to restore it with native cedar shingles as close to the original as possible.

The interior is in very good condition. Original wide floor boards are in fact, as are the wooden pews and pulpit. On the underfloor (original) there are blood stains from the soldiers of the Revolutionary War. Walls and ceiling are sound only needing a fresh coat of paint. The kerosene chandeliers of the 1864 rebuilding are stored in the attic, and will be rehung.

Windows are high and narrow with 75% of the original panes in intact. The balance, due to breakage, have been replaced with new glass.

There is a vestibule with a winding stairway to a second floor gallery (this is mentioned under December 4, 1875 entry in the original record book) (showing it was there at that time) which overlooks the full sanctuary. This, too, is in sound condition.

Behind the raised pulpit area, the baptismal pool is located covered with removalbe floor boards and behind that are two small rooms used in the past as Sunday School rooms.

The bell in the steeple is the original church bell, cast in England. NOTE: Entries in the original record book read as follows: February 3, 1864, "...a committed was appointed for the purpose of remodeling our church". On April 8, 1864 "...a building committee was appointed to make a start in rebuilding our church".

Other entries show that in 1863 they worked on mending the roof and the fence; September 2, 1873 a committee was formed to repair the spire; October 2, 1875 partitions were put in the gallery and new coal stoves installed; April 29, 1876 plans were made for a new front fence and permission was refused to use the front yard for burial purposes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

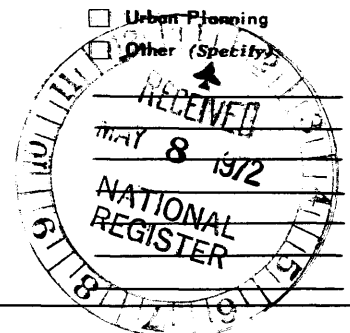
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From all information obtainable this Church was the first house of worship erected in the County. A deed for the land on which it was erected is dated August 24, 1758 and from the deed it appears the Church was already built. The lot is described as "Beginning at a stake 265 links north-west from the meeting house".

Manahawkin at that time was in the lower part of Mornmouth County. As the early settlers found it hard to get to Shrewsbury for the town meetings, a petition was drawn up from "The South Eastern Inhabitants of Shrewsbury for a Separate Township". This was circulated and presented to Governor Belcher and on March 3, 1749 a grant was received from King George II establishing the Township of Stafford. Stafford Township was formed even before this area became Ocean County.

This Church was originally known as "The Free Church of Manahawkin" providing a pulpit for circuit riders of any denomination. In 1770 Captain Thomas Webb visited the village, preached and formed or organized the Baptist Society with nine members.

During the earlier years this church was the only school for the children in Stafford Township and the only materials available for their teaching was the Scripture.

During the Revolutionary War, in the "skirmish at Manahawkin", the military and other wounded were treated and cared for in the Church. The blood stains are still visible on the under-floor boards. Soldiers from the Revolution are buried in the surrounding churchyard. (NOTE: The churchyard also contains the remains of all shipwreck victims from the disasters off the Coast of what is now Long Beach Island and many years ago the State of New Jersey placed a monument to all these unknown victims.)

A portion of the minutes in the original record book under the entry of Tuesday Evening, September 5, 1876 reads as follows: "The corporate name was adopted by a majority of the members present. The words to wit the Baptist Church of Manahawkin, New Jersey."

- Congressional Representation
 Harrison A. Williams - U.S. Senator
 Clifford P. Case - U.S. Senator
 Edwin Forsythe - Congressman (6th Congressional District)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Heston, Alfred M. South Jersey - A History Vol. I Lewis Historical Publishing Co., New York and Chicago 1924
 Salter, Edwin Salter's History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties Gardner and Sons, Bayonne, New Jersey 1890
 Manahawkin and Cedar Run Episcopal Churches Historical Directory 1935
 The Original Record Book of the Manahawkin Baptist Church. Entries from 1809 to 1880, together with Church History
 School children of Ocean County The Tides of Time

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.42

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Doris F. Cramer, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Stafford Township Historical Society, Inc. DATE: March 17, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 611

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

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, Environmental Protection

Date: May 1, 1972

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

Robert G. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/3/73

ATTEST:
W. M. Sullivan
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3.26.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS