

PH# 367770

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 17 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 10 1977

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
Orient Baptist Church, formerly Burrsville Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Baptist Church of Laurelton

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route #88 (1/4 mile N/E of Laurelton Circle to

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Point Pleasant)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Laurelton, Bricktown

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE 34

Ocean

COUNTY 029

CODE

New Jersey

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Laurelton

STREET & NUMBER

Rout #88

CITY, TOWN

Bricktown

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ocean County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Toms River

08753

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Labor and Industry Building Room 810

New Jersey

CITY, TOWN

John Fitch Plaza

Trenton

STATE

October 15, 1976

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The First Baptist Church is a simple Greek Revival Church with 3 bays and a frontal tower. It has a pitched roof with a frontal gable which is articulated in the manner of a Grecian Pediment, though the pitch is abnormally high.

The entrance facade consists of a pair of wide piers, surmounted by a heavy entablature and the aforementioned pediment. Between the piers is an entrance recess with a pair of thin free standing Doric columns. The ends of the facade are formed by wide corner boards articulated as pilasters. The pediment is surmounted by a square bell tower, with a roundhead opening on all 4 sides. The bell tower is also surmounted by a pediment, steeply pitched without entablature. The main entrance double door is surmounted by a pediment, whose pitch is also abnormally high. The upper panels of the door are glazed, with pointed arch motif mullions. This demonstrates a gothic aspiration, which also accounts for the verticality of the pediments.

The nave has 3 tall rectangular stained glass windows on each side. The chancel has 2 lateral windows and a round window to the rear.

The interior of the nave has chair-rails throughout, and the entrance to the chancel is framed in a full aedicule motif with Tuscan pilasters.

The exterior of the frame church is narrow gauge clapboard.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

1858 James L. Dorsett

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The later phase of the provincial Greek Revival in New Jersey was often characterized by thick proportions, and hesitant touches of other popular styles of the period. This builder-vernacular approach to fashionable styling, is exemplified by the First Baptist Church, with its Gothic touches. The church is a typical example of a regional phenomenon, which was far more pervasive than the few examples of high style architecture, which were built during the period.

Very little of old Bricktown Township survives. The town was centered around Laurelton Circle, which has since been completely redeveloped. As a result, First Baptist Church is probably the oldest church in town, and one of the oldest buildings.

The present church building is the original structure which the congregation occupied when it was organized, in the late 1850's. The church building can, therefore, be said to embody an old and continuing religious interest in the community.

Prior to 1858 there were in the Bricktown vicinity no church organizations of any kind. The nearest house of worship was the Manasquan Baptist Church.

The membership of the church at Manasquan was scattered over a large territory extending about 15 miles along the Atlantic Coast. A small group in the congregation resided in at Burrsville (now Laurelton).

In 1853, Reverend William F. Brown came to reside in Burrsville and preached regularly from that time until the organization of the church. At the same time he conducted the Sabbath School.

In 1854, Reverend Abraham O. S. Havens bequeathed a plot of ground and \$500.00 toward the erection of a Baptist Meeting House. A liberal response by the people resulted in the erection of the sanctuary which was dedicated in June, 1857. The building was erected by James L. Dorsett, one of the constituent members.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

First Baptist Church, Laurelton, New Jersey
1858- 100th Anniversary- 1958
 Compiled from the Church records

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	7	4	3	7	0	4	4	3	5	6	4	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see address

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Leland W. Downey

March 5, 1973

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

27 Goetz Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bay Head

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James J. Bond

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE Jan. 10 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/10/77

ATTEST:

Charles Stover

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 10 1977

(Number all entries)

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Page 2

In September, 1858, a church was organized consisting of the following persons: Reverend William F. Brown, John Smith, James L. Dorsett, David Pettit, William L. Chadwick, John G. W. Havens, Elizabeth A. Chadwick, Ann D. Havens, Julia A. Dorsett, Maria Pettit, Phebe Curtis, Sarah A. Clayton, and Caroline M. Wardell.

Reverend William F. Brown became pastor when the church was organized and served in that capacity until May, 1871, a period of 12 years and 6 months.

After that time, the church was presided over by a succession of pastors.

In 1893 the cemetery was expanded and lots sold for 10 dollars a piece. The church again expanded operations in 1899 when a committee was selected to solicit subscriptions to build a parsonage. The parsonage was completed and occupied in 1903. The following year the church was refurbished with a replastering job "where needed" and new window shades. James L. Dorsett the builder of the church was memorialized in 1910 with the installation of a commemorative window. Two years later the congregation voted to build a "house for entertainments and other church doings."

The church acquired its present bell in 1917. Also that year, the congregation received a number of sermons from Reverend Folson, the Director of Evangelism for the New Jersey Baptist Convention.

The last major refurbishment took place in 1956 when the interior walls were replaced. The exterior, however, remained in tact, as it does to the present time.

In view of its local architectural, as well as religious, importance First Baptist Church warrants inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

