

PH0356441

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED  
JAN 11 1977  
OCT 5 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

Grant A.M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4th and Washington Streets

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chesilhurst

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

New Jersey

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

34

COUNTY

Camden

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grant A.M.E. Church

STREET & NUMBER

4th and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Chesilhurst

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Camden County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall Annex

CITY, TOWN

Camden

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Labor and Industry Building

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grant A.M.E. Church is a frame basilican plan building of 3 bays with an entrance vestibule and a side tower, which is entered on the south. There is also a rear addition which effectively doubles the floor area. The fronted nave is entered through a smaller central vestibule under a separate gable. The tower is appended to the west side of the first bay. It has 2 stories and a steep pyramid roof surmounted by a wooden pinnacle. The second story has a round head louvered opening on 3 sides. The nave windows are conventional double hung type, with round head upper sashes. The rear addition is wider than the old nave. It continues flush with the east wall and protrudes about 5 ft. beyond the west wall. Its gable roof is slightly higher than the original nave. The addition contains a stage at the rear and a side stairway to the cellar. The old nave and the addition form one interior space which is decorated with a high chair rail above vertical beeded boarding. The gauge of the boards is wider in the addition. There is also a small lean to addition to the entrance vestibule which extends from east side of the vestibule to the west side of the church flush with the tower.

The peak of the frontal nave gable has a pair of gingerbread scrolls with a central cross.

# 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 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 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      1896      1936

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grant A.M.E. Church is probably the oldest extant building in Chesilhurst, a predominantly black community. As the town grew, the Grant Church served as the focal point for religious and social life for local blacks. As such it embodies much of the history of the town.

Named for Bishop Abraham Grant, the Grant A.M.E. Church, was conceived by Margaret Wilson, evangelist and member of the "Womens Might Missionary Society" in 1896. She was aided by 10 or 12 other citizens of Chesilhurst. Lots were purchased at Fourth and Washington, ground was broken, and the cornerstone laid in 1897.

Just prior to the construction of the church, services were held in private homes.

The church became a focal point in the community and surrounding areas. In 1936 additions were made to the original structure to meet the requirements of a growing congregation. Since World War II the town of Chesilhurst has expanded and with it came a need for a new and larger structure. In 1974 a new church was erected on a site next to the original church.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Existing Corner Stone  
Interview with Leanna Mason Harris, the churches oldest parishioner

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 1 0 3 3 0	4 3 9 8 1 5 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
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Labor and Industry Building

(609) 292-2024

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Trenton

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

Dec. 27 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

DATE

10/15/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-20-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER