

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **SEP 23 1980**  
DATE ENTERED **NOV 22 1980**

**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  
St. John's Episcopal Church and Burying Ground  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Chews Landing Road & Old Black Horse Pike  
CITY, TOWN Runnemede vic VICINITY OF 1st  
Gloucester Township  
STATE New Jersey CODE 034 COUNTY Camden CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 007

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
STREET & NUMBER  
Chews Landing Road and Old Black Horse Pike  
CITY, TOWN Gloucester Township VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Registrar of Deeds, Camden County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse Square  
CITY, TOWN Camden STATE New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Camden County Inventory of Historic Sites  
DATE  
1977, revised 1979  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN Haddon Township 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 checked="" 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint John's Episcopal Church, Chews Landing, was built in 1880 of granite-gneiss stone quarried from Ridley Park, Pennsylvania and brought on the scows of local shipyard owner Edmund Brewer to a point near the old landing on the Timber Creek. The church is in the Victorian Gothic style so traditional for churches of English origin but not part of the English Ecclesiological movement. It was designed by George Watson Hewitt, Philadelphia architect, whose former associates had included John Notman and Frank Furness. It was one of about a dozen churches which he had designed for the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey during the period. Others from the era still in use include The Church of Our Saviour, Broadway and Viola Streets, Camden; Trinity Church, Vineland, and Episcopal Church, Bordentown, New Jersey.

The church is constructed of irregular pattern granite and has a rectangular massing with a small apse to the south gable end. Off the apse is a small square entrance vestibule with a bell tower which has an open wood frame belfry.

The linear facade of the church has four small Gothic arch stained glass windows just beneath the eave of the long sloping gable roof. The roof was probably originally slate, but is presently covered with wood shingles.

The main front entrance to the north is protected by a wood frame portico over the double door entranceway. This portico, on a base of stone, has chamfered posts, open rafters, trefoil designs, and bracketing decoration.

The church is small by most standards being 30' by 60'. A long sloping shake shingle roof is relieved by a bell gable. The small scale of the building is enhanced by its placement on a knoll with the old burying ground behind and to the side. The total cost, including the value of the stones donated by Brewer was \$5,000.

The rose window in the west wall is original, the other windows having been replaced as memorials which were donated. According to Diocesan minutes, the money for the bell "...was raised by the zeal of the Sunday School and St. John's Guild.. lamps and other articles of church furniture, a good bell in the belfry."

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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\*DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior contains eleven rows of wooden pews on each side of a middle aisle. There is no side aisle here as there would be in most churches; the wooden pews are fitted into the walls on the side. The three sections of the church are in the Gothic style wherein each of the divisions, nave, chancel and sanctuary are on a higher level than the other. Another Gothic feature is also retained here: the ceiling is vaulted with open beams. The church is properly oriented, east-west, with altar facing east.

The burying ground behind and to the side of St. John's is an integral part of the total 1-3/4 acre property. It was staked off in a regular order in 1794 although it had been in use for some years previous. Many early founders of this church, including Lt. Aaron Chew, rest in this cemetery. The minutes of St. John's congregation clearly show that the little cemetery is as an important part to the congregation as the building itself.

Originally in a rural setting, St. John's is presently along a very busy highway which has been extensively developed commercially in the last thirty years.

# 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 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 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      1880      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      George Watson Hewitt, Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Episcopal Church is a good example of suburban Victorian Gothic architecture. Designed by architect George Watson Hewitt in 1880 this church is one of the few remaining Victorian Gothic style religious edifices in the township.

Located on the site of an earlier building, the present St. John's Episcopal Church was erected in 1881 after the original frame church had deteriorated beyond use. The architect was born in Burlington, New Jersey. Hewitt entered the office of John Notman as a young student and acquired a thorough training as a draftsman under him. In the six years preceding Notman's death, Hewitt was a principal designer in the former's office. In 1868 Hewitt executed the tower of Notman's Holy Trinity Church on Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia.

At the start of his career, Hewitt organized the firm of Fraser, Furness and Hewitt (1867-71) with John Fraser and Frank Furness. Among the structures designed by the partnership were Rodeph Shalom Synagogue (1869-1925), Broad and Mt. Vernon Streets, Philadelphia; alterations to the Athenaeum of Philadelphia; Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion and St. James Episcopal Church, both in Philadelphia. Rodeph Shalom was one of the earliest important commissions of the firm. It has been attributed to Hewitt's hand and, with its bulbous onion-shaped dome showed the influence of Arabic architectural motifs. However, the Gothic forms in combination with the Moorish touches were strong and certainly in the Gothic Revival style of the period. This structure marked a turning point away from the old Greek classical style prevalent in the first half of the 19th century. In 1871 the firm ended with Fraser's move to Washington where he became acting supervising architect of the Treasury Department.

Furness and Hewitt continued in partnership (1871-75) at 209 South Third Street, Philadelphia and added many new commissions to their work including the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (1871-6); St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Germantown with Hewitt in charge (1873); St. Timothy's Church and Parish House, Roxborough (1873); Church of the Holy Comforter, Philadelphia (1874); Gate-

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.75

QUADRANGLE NAME RUNNEMEDE

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 494580 4408940

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 132, Lot 9-YA - Gloucester Township Tax Maps

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

Revisions by T. Karschner  
Office of Historic Preservation

NAME / TITLE

Gail Greenberg, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission

DATE

2/13/80

STREET & NUMBER

Hopkins House, 250 South Park Drive

TELEPHONE

(609) 858-0067

CITY OR TOWN

Haddon Township

STATE

New Jersey 08108

## 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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Louise Schmitt*

TITLE

DATE 9/12/80

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Ann M. ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-22-80

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior  
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\*SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

house, Elephant House and Restaurant at the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, first zoo in America (1875-6); the old Jefferson Memorial College (1875-77); Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb additions (1875) (now the Philadelphia College of Art) and the Northern Saving Fund, Safe Deposit and Trust Company, Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia (1872) as well as numerous private residences. The work at the zoo coincided with the breaking up of the firm. The Gatehouses, still standing in part, have been credited to Hewitt alone. He later designed the Antelope House and Aviary under the firm of Hewitt and Hewitt.

Louis Sullivan worked briefly for Furness and Hewitt and in his 1920 autobiography described the two men. Of Hewitt he wrote: "...It was he who did the Victorian Gothic in its pantalettes...With precision...he worked out these decorous sublimes of inanity, as per the English current magazines and other English sources. He was a clean draftsman and believed implicitly that all that was good was English." Also, according to Sullivan, all of the Anglophile features of the Academy of Fine Arts should be attributed to Hewitt and French features reserved to Furness (quoted in O'Gorman).

In 1877 Hewitt established a partnership with his brother, William and they worked together until 1902. During this period Hewitt was identified with the design of The Bourse, The Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Hahnemann Hospital, the Mercantile Library, Church of the Holy Apostles, St. James Church and St. Martins-in-the-Fields. With his brother Hewitt designed more than 50 churches in Philadelphia and other cities. St. Johns at Chews Landing was among this number.

Although St. Johns is in the then-popular Victorian Gothic style of the period, its design certainly reflects Hewitt's adherence to the philosophy of the New York Ecclesiological Movement which developed after the mid-19th century. A schism developed between the Society and the English ecclesiological movement which had decreed rigid adherence to medieval Gothic architectural forms. In the design of St. Johns we see the American approach, "Churches should first be sound and proper structures; ornament could follow..." "No church should be pretty it should be simple, or

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\*SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

modest, or dignified..." The New York Ecclesiologists borrowed from A.W. Pugin, British architectural theorist the idea that "...architectural propriety as regards ecclesiastical buildings requires that they should be as good, as spacious, as rich and beautiful, as the means and numbers of those who are erecting them will permit." (Stanton). Hewitt was an important 19th century architect designing in an eclectic period who did not choose to imitate medieval monuments for their own sake but adapted the old architectural English principles for American tastes and needs. The structure is a true amalgam of the tenets, history and people of the Chews Landing area.

Historical

St. John's Church at Chews Landing was formally organized on November 14, 1789 although regular services had begun months earlier under Reverend Levi Heath. The original designation of the church was, according to carefully preserved minutes of that date, "...the Church of England at the head of Timber Creek, and places adjacent in the Township of Gloucester." The first church building was erected on one acre of land given by the executor of the estate of Samuel Wetherill. According to Church minutes of August 12, 1790, "The Protestant Episcopal Church formerly known by the name of Church of England, was raised this day near the Head of Timber Creek... and was named by some of the contributors present Saint John's after our Lords beloved Disciple..." This first building was a 2-1/2 story 24' by 30' red cedar clapboard structure. Many subscribers to the first building fund donated materials instead of money; Samuel Warrick hauled stone, Samuel Hillman gave 174' of seasoned cedar boards and the pulpit; William Ellis made two seats.

In 1791 funds fell short to complete payments for the Church and Aaron Chew, innkeeper of Chews Tavern and former Gloucester County Militiaman, determined to raise the needed money, used his influence and connections as a successful businessman and Revolutionary War hero. (Chew had been captured by a detachment of Queens Rangers in Gloucester County, was taken to New York and confined aboard a British prison ship until parolled in 1780). Chew went to Philadelphia for assistance. The result can be seen in the second subscription list which is a veritable "who's who" of the period.

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\*SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

And the names are Abraham Clark, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and member of the Continental Congress; John Page, Continental Army colonel, member of the first House of Representatives from Virginia and later Governor of that state; Elias Boudinot, president of the Continental Congress, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland Revolutionary leader, signer of the Declaration of Independence; George Reed, also a "signer" and member of the Continental Congress; James Madison, member of the Continental Congress, the Constitutional Convention and House of Representatives, later Secretary of State and fourth President of the U.S.; Philemon Dickinson, Commander in Chief of the New Jersey Militia; the Governor of New Jersey, William Paterson and the President of the U.S., George Washington.



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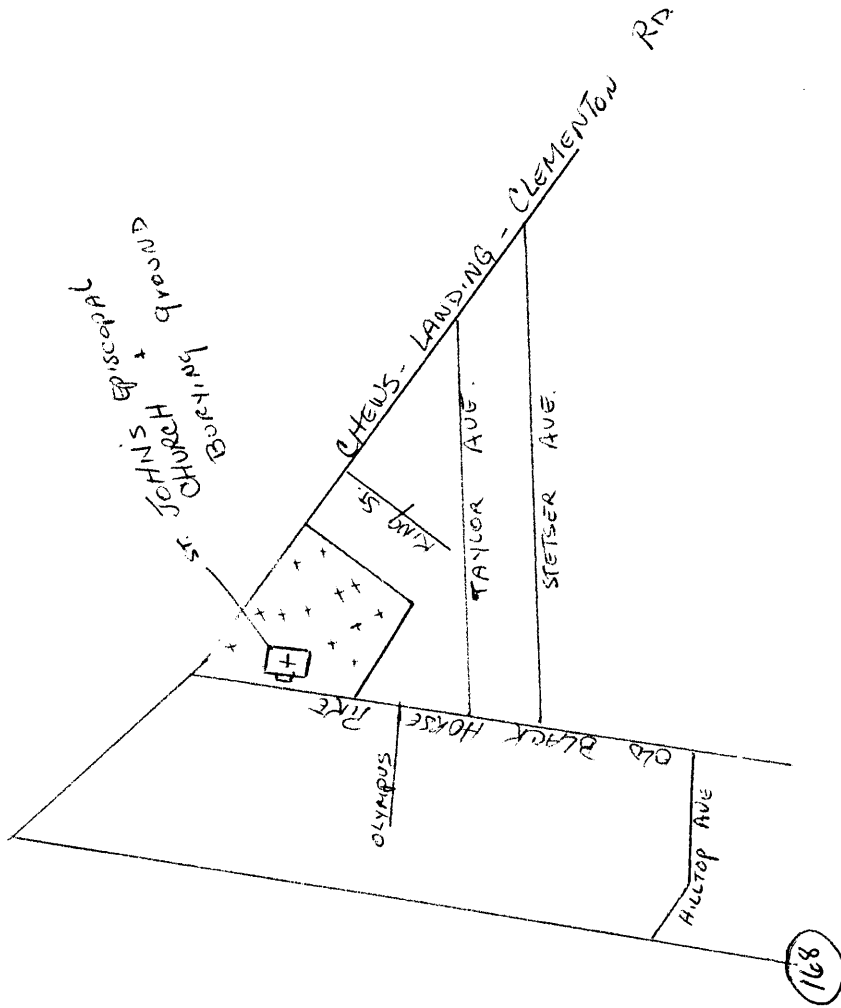
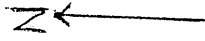
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Block 132  
Lot 9-1A

1.75 a  
Gloucester Twp

St John's Episcopal Church

+ Burying Ground  
Old Black Horse Pike + Cheaws 100 Rd.  
Gloucester Twp, N.J.