

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAR 18 1982**
DATE ENTERED **APR 15 1982**

**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

New North Reformed Low Dutch Church

AND/OR COMMON

Saddle River Reformed Church - "The Old Stone Church"

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Saddle River Road at Old Stone Church Road ^{Rd. N/A} _{NOT FOR PUBLICATION}

CITY, TOWN

Upper Saddle River

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

~~39th~~ 770

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Bergen

CODE

003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- N/A

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Saddle River Reformed Church

STREET & NUMBER

500 East Saddle River Road

CITY, TOWN

Upper Saddle River

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bergen County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

has this property been determined
eligible? yes no

DATE

1935

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"The Old Stone Church" is of a simple rectangular plan, 56' long by 54' wide, three bays wide with a south facing entrance, typical of the early churches. Centered on the south front is a spire, approximately 100' in total height, and projecting from the front to create a pavilion. All of the exterior walls are of stone. The lower portion of the center spire is finely faced and coursed red sandstone, with the upper part of the spire of a more rusticated finish. Except for well cut and coursed quoins at all corners, the outer walls are of random sized, uncut and uncoursed field stone.

The original main entrance doors are extant; however, in 1898 the original windows in the side bays of the south front were replaced by doors. The arch keystones carry the date of the change. There is some uncertainty as to whether these pointed arches are original (18th Century), but no physical or documentary evidence exists suggesting an earlier window listed.

The restoration included replacing the "art glass" windows with small pane clear glass windows patterned after the early photo. Interior partitions, later stairways in the side bays, and later pews and pulpit were removed and replaced with reproductions to recreate the plan referred to above. Church records refer to the pulpit as being "massive" towering above the heads of the congregation, and having been imported from Holland. The pulpit installed is a "barrel" or "wine-glass" design with a testor (sounding board), patterned after the original in the North Church in Albany, New York and similar to the Sleepy Hollow Reformed Church.

High backed square shaped pews were installed to create the feeling of the original, although lower for practical reasons. Doors are installed on the "elders' benches" to the sides of the pulpit. The original balcony or loft, which was used by the slaves to attend services, and later served as the first Sunday School, is intact, with only minor work required to restore its original appearance.

On the Church property remains one of the very few privys in the area. Still functional, it is often a welcome "convenience" to those who spend a casual hour or so enjoying the tranquility and beauty of an early country church-yard. Truckers and other passers-by can often be seen on a pleasant day enjoying a placid lunch, or just taking a break from the routines of the day.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1789

BUILDER/ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Functioning continuously as a religious facility for nearly 200 years, the New North Reformed Low Dutch Church is an important example of early church architecture in Bergen County and was the center of social and educational activity for the entire area.

The Old Stone Church was established in 1784 as the New North Reformed Low Dutch Church, as a "spin-off" of the Reformed Church of Paramus (National Register - 1975), whose Pastor, the Rev. Benjamin Vanderlinde, donated the original two acres of land for the Church site. The original of the deed from Rev. Vanderlinde hangs in the Church's lounge.

Local legend has held that a smaller structure was constructed in the 1784-89 period, and that the present structure was erected in 1814-19, since local records seem to indicate construction activity at that time. During the restoration of 1971-72, no evidence of an earlier structure, or of the present structure having been enlarged, was found. Since the keystone in the arch over the main entrance appears to be original and is dated 1789, this date is accepted as the date of construction of the present edifice.

The significance of the Old Stone Church is based upon its typical architecture for a vernacular country church of the late 18th to early 19th Century. There remain within Bergen County about fifteen similar stone churches, of somewhat earlier or later vintage. The Old Stone Church retains much of its original appearance, and is one of the best preserved, in relatively unchanged configuration, of the extant group.

The social impact exerted by the Church on the lives of the early settlers of the area was substantial. The Dutch, and other settlers who were assimilated into the Dutch culture, were devout worshippers, and the Church functioned not only as the center of religious life, but also as the center of all social and educational life. All organized activities were structured around the early church. It became social hall, meeting house and school. As the earliest church, and for many years the only church, in the Saddle River Valley during the 18th and early 19th Centuries, the Old Stone Church was a central part of the life of the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Church Records - Saddle River Reformed Church
Reformed Church of Paramus

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.5
QUADRANGLE NAME Park Ridge Quadrangle

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A <u>18</u>	<u>576700</u>	<u>4946750</u>	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 212, Lot 9 - Upper Saddle River Tax Map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>N/A</u>			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Albin H. Rothe, A.I.A., Vice President

ORGANIZATION

Saddle River Reformed Church

DATE

4/7/1980

STREET & NUMBER

500 East Saddle River Road

TELEPHONE

(201) 327-5242

CITY OR TOWN

Upper Saddle River

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Lauren Schmidt Deputy SHPO

TITLE Chief, Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

DATE 1/21/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

4/15/82

Delores Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

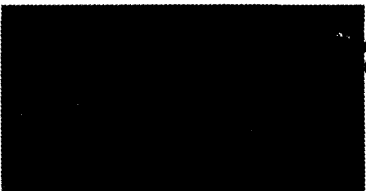
DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New North Reformed Low Dutch Church
Bergen County, NJ
Continuation sheet



2

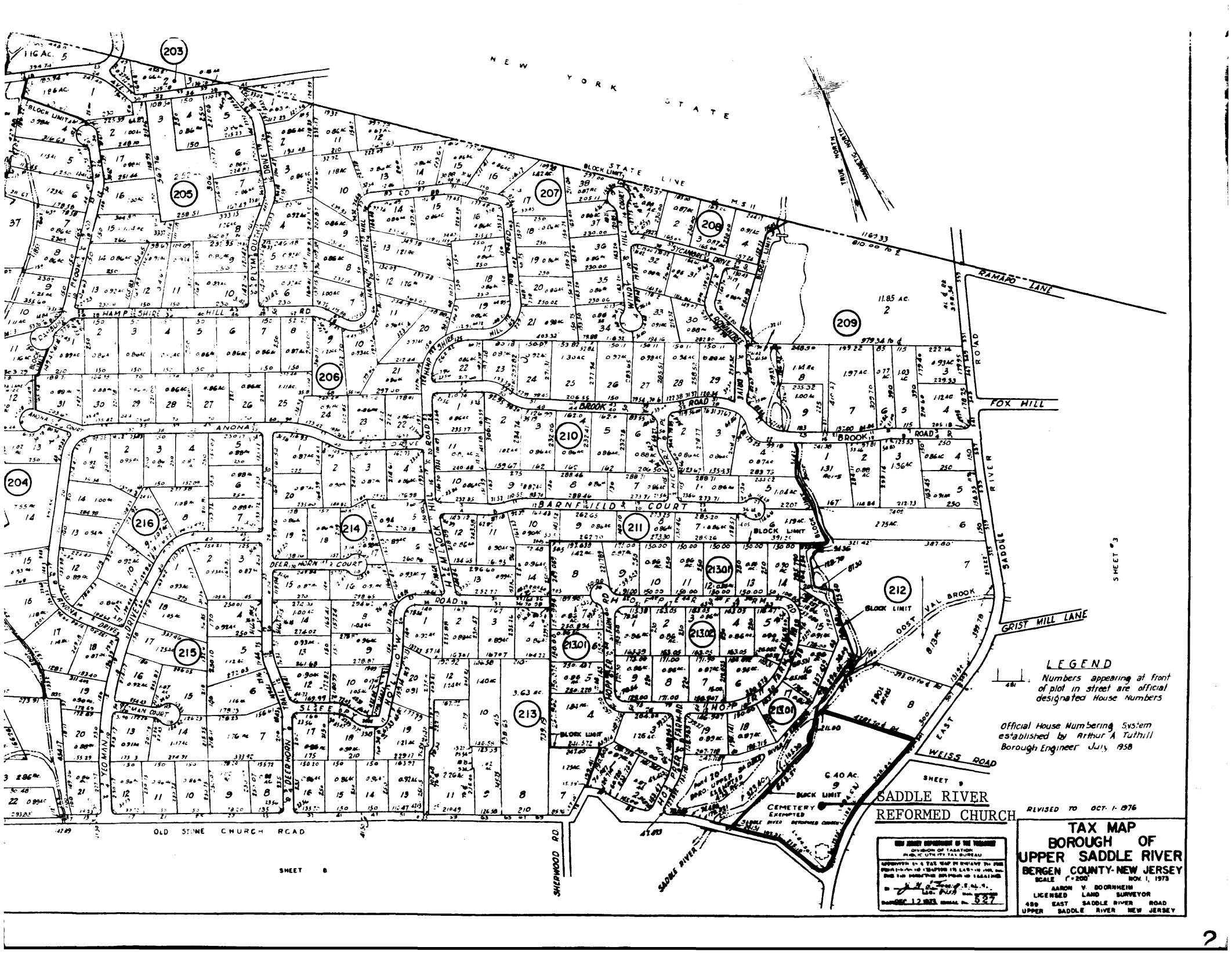
Item number 8

Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The cemetery, still in active use, became the burial place of many of the early settlers, and weather-beaten grave stones of a few Revolutionary War veterans may still be seen.

The Church will celebrate its Bi-Centennial Anniversary in 1984.



NEW YORK STATE



LEGEND
 Numbers appearing at front of plot in street are official designated House Numbers

Official House Numbering System established by Arthur A Tutthill Borough Engineer July 1958

SADDLE RIVER REFORMED CHURCH

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
 DIVISION OF TAXATION
 PLAT OF UPPER VALLEY BUREAU
 APPROVED TO A TAX MAP BY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TAXATION OF THE BOROUGH OF UPPER VALLEY BUREAU
 SCALE 1"=200'
 NOV. 1, 1973
 AARON V. DOORNHEIM
 LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR
 489 EAST SADDLE RIVER ROAD
 UPPER SADDLE RIVER NEW JERSEY

TAX MAP OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER BERGEN COUNTY-NEW JERSEY
 SCALE 1"=200'
 NOV. 1, 1973
 AARON V. DOORNHEIM
 LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR
 489 EAST SADDLE RIVER ROAD
 UPPER SADDLE RIVER NEW JERSEY

SHEET 8

SHEET 9

REVISED TO OCT. 1, 1976