

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Dutch Reformed (Sleepy Hollow) Church

AND/OR COMMON

Sleepy Hollow Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Route 9

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

North Tarrytown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

CODE
36

COUNTY

Westchester

CODE

119

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

First Reformed Church of Tarrytown

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tarrytown

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Westchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Registry of Deeds

CITY, TOWN

White Plains

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1962

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress/Annex-Division of Prints and Photos

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

Constructed between 1697 and 1702, the Dutch Reformed Church at North Tarrytown is an excellent example of a typical Dutch Colonial octagonal-shaped church that also incorporates some 19th century alterations.

Built by Frederick and Catherine Philipse of Philipsborough Manor, the one-story Sleepy Hollow church is nearly rectangular in plan. Its high rubble-stone walls have a barn-like severity, and they are pierced by a door and six large windows framed in brick and shaped to a pointed arch--the result of a remodeling in 1837. The octagonal roof is a typical Flemish gambrel, shaped like a flared bell with curving sides. The roof is topped by an open octagonal belfry, with a bell cast in Holland in 1685, and this is surmounted by a wrought-iron weathervane that was donated by Frederick Philipse and is cut with his initials.

The interior is very plain and is arranged so that all eyes focused on the pulpit, which was located opposite the door. The first significant changes in the church occurred during the Revolutionary era when the special pews of the Lords of the Manor were removed and the plain oak tenant benches in the church were also replaced with high-back, soft pine pews. In 1837, in the course of repairing fire damage, more fundamental alterations were made. These included the removal of the original door from the south to the west wall, changing the old high-silled windows into low Gothic pointed arch windows, the removal of the heavy beams from the interior, removal of the old north gallery, enlargement of the west gallery, and the replacement of the original pulpit. Prior to the bicentennial observance in 1897, a partial restoration of the interior was undertaken. This consisted mainly of reproducing the original beams, quartered oak ceiling, and the pulpit. This restoration corrected much of the 1837 alteration.

The interior is barren of decoration and is somewhat bleak in character. However, the charm of much of the original design remains and the church is maintained in excellent condition.

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 checked="" 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 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 1697

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick Philipse

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dutch Reformed Church of North Tarrytown is a distinguished relic of Dutch America, notable for its architectural and historical associations with colonial life on the Hudson. As the social and religious center of public life on the Manor of Philipsburg the church provided a common meeting ground for landed proprietors and tenants, thereby helping to weld the manor into an effective economic and political unit of Dutch provincial society. While the exact date of the building's construction is not certain, architectural authorities are unanimous in dating it from the closing years of the 17th century. A rectangular stone structure, with a three-sided rear apse and a gambrel roof with an octagonal belfry, the Sleepy Hollow Church is located on Route 9 on the northern outskirts of North Tarrytown. Owned and administered by the First Reformed Church of Tarrytown, the church is used only on special occasions.

History

Settlement of the Tarrytown region began around the middle of the 17th century and a community burial ground was soon established on the north bank of the Pocantico River. When Frederick Philipse, First Lord of the Manor, built his country seat and mill at North Tarrytown, around 1683, he found a small Dutch community firmly established. Already there were at least 50 burials in the little cemetery. To provide his tenants with a place of worship Philipse built a church at the southern end of the cemetery, probably on the site of the present structure. In 1692, a year after the death of his first wife, Philipse remarried, and, tradition says, it was at the insistence of his second wife that the Lord of the Manor built a permanent stone church near his Tarrytown residence. Philipse died in 1702 and it appears certain that the present church was completed several years prior to his death. Church records show that the congregation was organized by 1697. In that same year a pastor accepted a call to the church and dedicated the building. A marble tablet placed on the front of the present church in the 19th century gives its date as 1699 although the date more generally accepted is 1697. Thereafter, the church served the succeeding Lords and Ladies of Philipsburg and their tenants until the outbreak of the Revolution.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>519558.0</u>	<u>451491.9.0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

3/31/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

10/12/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

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During the Revolution, the church was located in what was termed "Neutral Ground." Bands of Loyalists called Cowboys and patriots, called Skinners, roamed the countryside. Major John Andre was apprehended by a band of Skinners not far from the church shortly after his meeting with Benedict Arnold. An earthworks was also erected just north of the burial ground, in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Subsequent to the Revolution, the history of the church was peaceful and uneventful, save for the damage occurring around 1837 when the building was struck by lightning and partially burned. In 1820, following the publication of Washington Irving's Sketch Book, the church received a measure of popular fame as the Sleepy Hollow church in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Around 1840, a new church was built in the village of Tarrytown to serve as a branch of the older one. Shortly after the Civil War, however, it replaced the original building as the place of regular worship. From that time on the 17th century church has been used only for occasional services and special programs.

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- John K. Allen, The Legendary History of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, New York (Tarrytown, New York, 1891)
- Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt Hubbard, Historic Houses of the Hudson Valley (New York, 1942).
- Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).
- Helen Reynolds, Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776 (New York, 1929).
- Charles E. Shedd, "Dutch Reformed (Sleepy Hollow) Church," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form 10-317, September 13, 1961.
- Charles W. Snell, "Dutch Reformed (Sleepy Hollow) Church," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form 10-317, June 1, 1967.

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The Sleepy Hollow Church NHL boundaries are coterminus with the property lines of the church lot.

Beginning at a point on the eastern curb of U.S. Route 9, 650' north of the intersection of said curb with the northern curb of Sleepy Hollow Avenue, the entrance road to the church, proceed south along said curb of Route 9 to its intersection with said curb of the church entrance road, thence proceed northeasterly along said road for 520' to the granite monument marking the church property line, thence proceed northwest in a straight line to the point of origin. These boundaries enclose the Sleepy Hollow Church and its burying ground.